

**T**he members of the Providence Services Eastern Washington leadership council unanimously agreed to nominate Dr. Ken Kapstafer for the 2002 Mother Joseph Award. This highly regarded Spokane pediatrician has dedicated the last 36 years of his life to the mission, values and vision of the Sisters of Providence, his nominators wrote.

From the beginning, Providence has played a significant role in Dr. Kapstafer's professional career. He graduated in 1957 from the College of Great Falls (Mont.) with a degree in chemistry. After receiving his medical degree from Creighton University

School of Medicine in 1961, he completed his internship at Sacred Heart Medical Center in 1962. Since 1966, he has served on the medical staffs of Sacred Heart Medical Center and Holy Family Hospital, both in Spokane.

"Ken is a wonderful senior statesman for all of us," said Skip Davis, president and CEO of Providence Services Eastern Washington. Dr. Kapstafer chaired the pediatrics department at the hospital from 1967 to 1971 and was president of the medical staff from 1979 to 1980. He served on the Sacred Heart board of directors from 1984 to 1987, including a term as its chair. He also served on the Sacred Heart Development Fund board of trustees from 1984 to 1991 and as its president. From 1985 to 1991 he also served on the board of directors of the College of Great Falls and received the institution's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002. He and his wife Marie have established an endowed scholarship to benefit students at the University of Great Falls, as it is known today.

Dr. Kapstafer is a past chair of the board of Medical Service Corporation and he currently serves on the board of Providence Services and was its chair from 1996 to 2001. Most recently, Dr. Kapstafer has provided leadership for creation of the children's hospital that is under construction on the Sacred Heart campus. "He has provided advice to management and leadership to the physicians in developing the services within the Children's Hospital," the nominating letter states. The 154-bed hospital will include a new neonatal intensive care unit, a pediatric oncology unit, a pediatric outpatient unit, "rooming in" rooms for families, family and sibling support centers, a pediatric surgery center, an education center, and a hospice room for families.

In addition, Dr. Kapstafer has served on the steering committee of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile for the past year and was instrumental in bringing that service to Spokane. The Care Mobile, which arrived in Spokane the first week of October, visited schools in low-income areas to provide health screening for children and referrals to healthcare providers when needed.

Perhaps Dr. Kapstafer is best and most fondly known for his work with medically fragile children. "Dr. Kapstafer has dedicated his life to the care of the smallest and, in some cases, the most compromised of God's creatures both in his private practice as a Spokane pediatrician as well as volunteering his time caring for children at St. Anne's Children and Family Center," his nominators wrote. St. Anne's, located in Spokane, houses three separate, interwoven programs, assisting low-income, vulnerable parents and young children. It is there that Dr. Kapstafer acts as advocate, physician and supporter of these children. "Dr. Kapstafer emulates the Sisters of Providence in his work at St. Anne's by bringing hope and caring to the sickest children," his nominators wrote.

Dr. Kapstafer has been a leader in the Catholic community, including service on the Sister Peter Claver Award Committee at Sacred Heart and on the board of Gonzaga Prep High School in Spokane. He is a past recipient of the Bishop's

Medal presented by Bishop William Skylstad for his involvements that include St. Joseph's Children and Family Center and Catholic Charities.

In a letter of support for Dr. Kapstafer's nomination for the Mother Joseph Award, Bishop Skylstad wrote: "As the Medical Director at St. Anne's Children and Family Center, Dr. Ken made weekly 'housecalls' to visit the medically fragile, multiply handicapped children residing there. Dr. Ken truly was the 'grandfather' to each child and the 'Godfather' to their parents.

For our staff, he was a collaborator, a leader and, perhaps most importantly, a friend."

Mary Ann Marciel, former director of St. Anne's Children's Home, worked with Dr. Kapstafer on a daily basis and was awed by the depth of his commitment. "Those children without involved parents had a consistency of treatment that was fiercely protected by Dr. Kapstafer. Many times I was amazed at his willingness to attend meetings away from his office practice to 'be there' for something important to a child. Our staff often mentioned how readily available he was to them regarding the children. His weekly 'home visits' to St. Anne's were an amazing gift of dedication. He offered the gift of time and presence."

Working with Dr. Kapstafer brought a sense of being part of a team because of his "humility and candid approach to leadership," the former children's home director wrote. "I believe all of us at St. Anne's were better professionals and individuals because of having worked with him. I have great respect for him and I am grateful to have been associated with such a prayerful, compassionate, humble, loving man and physician."

Like Mother Joseph, Dr. Kapstafer "embodies the spirit of selfless giving of one's gifts and is tenacious in his work serving the poor. He is always looking out for others and never counting the cost. He cares only about service and has used his God-given talents most effectively."

It is these qualities that inspired the leaders of the institutions that form Providence Services Eastern Washington to nominate Dr. Kapstafer for the 2002 Mother Joseph Award. ●



## Dr. Kennard Kapstafer

**"In my memories, the children and 'Dr. Kap' are forever joined in holiness and love. Dr. Kapstafer was an anchor for all of us as we lived and worked with the uncertainty that surrounds a medically fragile person. His focus was always on the child and not on a 'patient.' I was carefully made aware of the personality and history of each individual by Dr. Kapstafer's amazing ability to remember details of a child's family, school issues and medical history. Just like a proud grandpa, he loved each child deeply. The competent physician that he is gave each child a more full life. Parents felt relieved to entrust their child to his care and were able to place their burden of fear regarding good care aside because their medical needs were placed into his compassionate hands."**

*Mary Ann Marciel, former director of St. Anne's Children's Home*

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

# Spotlight on some new faces in the province



Tina Vo

### Meet Tina as she meets the sisters

**T**hat warm smile gracing the “Come and See” house in Yakima these days belongs to Trang Vo, 23, who likes to be called Tina. Her

time with the sisters in central Washington is a real change for her because it is her first experience away from home and her first outside the Vietnamese community.

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, Tina has been living with her parents, two younger sisters and a younger brother in Orange County, Calif. She has been dividing her time between working in her parents’ store and taking college classes at Golden West College in Westminster, Calif. While in Yakima, she is enrolled as a part-time student at Yakima Valley College and studies scripture with Sister Clare Lentz.

Right away, Tina hit the ground running. Her mother accompanied her to Yakima on the evening of Saturday, September 14, then left after spending the night. The following Monday found Tina in Oregon, visiting the sisters there. Already she has been reading the religious community’s history and its traditions and she has been sharing some traditions of her own by preparing Vietnamese recipes.

In all, Tina will spend about nine months with the Sisters of Providence to learn about the community and its values and charism. She has visited Spokane and Seattle, and plans a second visit to Portland, says Sister JoAnn Showalter. Sisters in those cities who play the card game “Skip-Bo” had better brush up on their skills, Sister JoAnn says, because “Tina already is giving the sisters who play a challenge.” ●

### Vilma Franco-Calles, 23, Mother Joseph Province – Candidate

**V**ilma was born in the department of Chaletenango in El Salvador, and is the youngest of nine, including seven brothers and one sister. During the civil war in El Salvador (1980-92), Vilma’s father and seven brothers were killed. Vilma and her sisters relocated after the civil war to the department of Usulután in the coastal zone of El Salvador.

Vilma was living with her mother, sister and niece in the community of Angela Montano when Sister Fran Stacey moved there in 2000. While assisting with the youth ministry, Vilma expressed her desire to be a sister and Sister Fran encouraged her to pray and to explore this call. Vilma participated in a “Come and See” experience in La Papalota and in the SP pre-candidate program in San Salvador. ●



Vilma Franco-Calles

Margarita Hernández Alfaro



### Margarita Hernández Alfaro, 22, Mother Joseph Province – Candidate

**M**argarita was born in the city of Puerta Parada in the department of Usulután in El Salvador. She is the fourth child in a family of eight children, including four boys and four girls. When the Sisters of Providence were welcomed

## Candidates' medal



**Margarita and Vilma were the first to receive the new medal that will be given to all Sisters of Providence candidates.**

**On one side (above) is "Nuestra Senora De Los Dolores" (Our Lady of Sorrows) and on the other side (below) is "San Vicente DePaul" (St. Vincent de Paul). Sisters Kathryn Rutan and Margaret Botch presented the medals on behalf of the Leadership Team of Mother Joseph Province.**



by the community of La Papalota, Margarita and her family were among the many people who gathered. She and her sisters and brother were among the first to become active in the groups of children and youth the sisters worked with. Margarita and her sister, Rosa, became youth ministers and leaders in the children's catechesis. From the time that Margarita met the Sisters of Providence, she was attracted to their life and their work.

Margarita participated in a "Come and See" experience in La Papalota and in the SP pre-candidate program in San Salvador. During this time, Margarita's mother, Delmy, died. Even though Margarita is missed very much at home, her father continued to support her in her desire to be a Sister of Providence. ●

**A**ccompanied in their discernment and entrance process by Sister Monica Campillay, both Vilma and Margarita asked to be accepted as candidates in the Sisters of Providence. Their reception liturgy was held at the Casa Emilia formation house in San Salvador on Sept. 8, the Feast of the Birth of Mary. Vilma and Margarita wore matching dark blue denim dresses they had made for the occasion. Vilma's mother and niece were present, as were Margarita's father, three brothers, a sister, two nephews and a niece.

Sisters Fran Stacey, Monica Campillay and Maria Antonieta Trimpay prepared the liturgy. Providence Associates Transito Ruano Castro and Anibal Castro, as well as Anibal's mother, prepared and served a delicious Salvadoran meal.



## Margarete "Maggie" St. John, 50, Holy Angels Province – Novice

**O**n August 22 in Edmonton, Alberta, Maggie St. John was welcomed as a canonical novice.

Born on Prince Edward Island, off the eastern coast of Canada, Maggie is the youngest of five sisters and two brothers, all of whom live in Canada. Her father, a government official, died in 1995 and her mother, an RN, in 2000.

Maggie will complete her canonical year at the novitiate in Spokane in studies including the vows, the Constitutions and rules, theology and other topics. It also will be a time for prayer and discernment, and learning about community life and more about the foundress of the Sisters of Providence and the religious community's history.

She grew up around the congregations of the Notre Dames and the Marthas on her small island, but she had not heard of the Sisters of Providence until she moved to Alberta in the 1990s and discovered the Providence Renewal Center. Maggie was hired to work there on weekends and met Sister Carla Montante, who was in charge of retreats. It was Sister Carla's compassion, generosity and gentleness to all that inspired Maggie to become a Sister of Providence.

Today, Maggie is a "sister mom" with three grown sons, ages 23, 25 and 27, and her interests include sacred circle dancing, music of all kinds, ice skating, reading, tai chi and especially laughter. Her children are supportive of her interest in religious life because they grew up seeing how important God is in her life. "Mom, when God calls, you answer," one of her sons told her.

The day Maggie entered as a candidate, November 28, was the anniversary of the day that God first made her a mother, Maggie says. "It was a gift from Emilie (Gamelin), because she was a mother, too." ●



*Maggie St. John*

## Catherine Chan, 41, Holy Angels Province – Candidate

**O**n September 23, Catherine Chan entered as a candidate. Born in Hong Kong, she has lived in Canada for the past 10 years. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Chan, continue to live in Calgary.

Catherine, who has two sisters, is interested in reading, listening to music and watching soccer. For the past few years she has taught Sunday school at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Calgary.

When the time comes for Catherine to enter the novitiate, she will travel to Spokane and get to know the sisters of Mother Joseph Province, just as Maggie is doing now. ●



*Catherine Chan*

## Lay people help the sisters keep

# Mother Gamelin's mission alive

**T**hese are tough economic times for everyone, and no one feels it more than those who had

little or nothing to begin with, and who find themselves homeless and/or helpless. In the true spirit of Mother Emilie Gamelin, the Sisters of Providence continue to reach out to the poor and those in need through ministries that benefit women and children, the poor and the elderly.

The sisters have always worked in collaboration with others; increasingly, lay people help to give their mission life. That's especially true of the lay people who serve on advisory boards for the sisters' sponsored works. Profiled here are just a few of them and the volunteer hours they donate, along with their funds. These lifegiving programs welcome your contributions of money and/or time, as well.

There are many, many more works sponsored in whole or in collaboration by the Sisters of Providence. This is just a sampling. Watch for others in future issues of *Caritas*. ●

## Sojourner Place

**In October 1987, the Sisters of Providence donated a house** for a non-denominational program providing homeless women with a stable, secure living environment in a quiet residential neighborhood in Seattle while they work towards independence.

Sojourner Place was named after two women: Mother Joseph, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence in the West who sojourned among those cast aside by pioneer society; and Sojourner Truth, a woman of faith and former slave who was a champion for civil rights for blacks and women.

Through its unique setting, Sojourner Place inspires and encourages self-sufficiency, self-esteem and independence in women who seek to permanently break the cycle of poverty, despair and homelessness. Sojourner Place provides a "bridge to the future" to these homeless women in transition. Its residents strive to achieve marketable job skills and job placement, continuing education, emotional stability, reconciliation and financial security, as well as other goals.

Financial support for Sojourner Place comes from grants, donations, an annual "Cause to Dine For" fundraiser put on by its advisory board, and \$250 per month that the residents pay toward room and board, laundry, utilities and local telephone calls. Volunteers are always welcome. For further information, call the director, Polly Irish, at 206-545-4200, or visit the website at [www.sojournerplace.org](http://www.sojournerplace.org) ●

Advisory board members are (front row, from left) Gemalee Morrison, Charlotte Van Dyke, SP; Dave Bosworth and (back row, from left) Sarajane Siegfriedt, staff; Cindy Zemann, Carol Bosworth, Polly Irish, staff; and Maury Sheridan, chair. Not pictured are Nancy Cunningham and Lisa Hernandez.



## Providence Hospitality House

**Since 1979, Providence Hospitality House has welcomed homeless women and children** to its

location in a house in central Seattle. It is a haven that provides temporary lodging while the staff works with the mothers to find permanent housing, jobs and educational opportunities. These moms know their children are safe and cared for as they work to establish a focus and direction for their lives.

Advisory board members are (top row, from left) Paul Earnheart, Karen Flanagan, vice chair; Greg McNabb, secretary; Rich Stockinger and (bottom from left) Jo Anne Earnheart, Tara Smith, chair; Beatrice LaFramboise, SP; and Judy Johnson, SP, treasurer.