



Sister Maureen Newman

Sister Maureen told her provincial, Sister Barbara Schamber of Mother Joseph Province, that she might cross the line.

By Saturday night, on the eve of the protest, she had made up her mind. But first, she

wanted to make sure that the protest was nonviolent and that there was no destruction of property. Then, satisfied with the integrity of the statement the protest group was making, she stepped through the hole in the fence and onto the base property.

She and the other 90 protesters, including nine women religious, were arrested by young soldiers. Their arms were bound behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and they were told to strip down to their lowest full layer of clothing. Sister Maureen complied and watched as the soldiers threw away her SP Peace Community T-shirt (probably because it said "Close the School of the Americas" on the back), and also her origami peace crane made from a demonstration song sheet. The protesters were fingerprinted and photographed, and subjected to a 'pat-down' search. Then, wearing leg chains, they

were led to the county jail, where Sister Maureen would spend the next two nights awaiting her turn to be arraigned.

The first night was the worst for most because of the cold and only having one thin blanket. Thirty to forty protesters were housed in a holding tank that was 10 cinder blocks by 7½ and had a bench that would only seat 10.

"My 12 years working with women inmates at the King County Jail had prepared me somewhat for the experience," Sister Maureen said. "Without that, I would have been more frightened, but I had a better idea of what to expect with incarceration." That was not true of some of the more fragile young people, who were unsure of what to expect, had no money to post a cash bail and worried about getting to see a lawyer.

In court on Tuesday, the lawyer talked to 20 protesters at the same time for about 20 minutes before the arraignment. Calling bail "necessary in these times," the judge set the

amount at \$5,000, requiring the payment of \$500 cash for each protester to be released until trial January 27. This was the first time protesters had not been released on their own recognizance, without having to pay bail.

Clearly, the stakes are being raised by the authorities, making it harder for the protesters to grab the world's attention. For 13 years, protesters have gathered in Georgia, but the media tends to view the annual protests as business as usual, and worthy of little if any news coverage. That is despite the fact that these have been some of the largest demonstrations in the United States since the civil rights movement until the recent anti-war protests.

Today, it has to be something sensational to get in the news, Sister Maureen claimed. Perhaps that something sensational at the School of the Americas protest can be the arrest of a Sister of Providence from Seattle. ●



Seattle –
Ann Buchanan (sister of Margara Botch, SP), Kirkland

New Providence Associates

The new year began with a bumper crop of Providence Associates, lay individuals who share the mission and charism of the Sisters of Providence. Today, there are more than 1,000 Providence Associates worldwide – about equal to the number of Sisters of Providence.



Burbank – *Debbie Learned, Judy Umeck and Irene Mullen*



Great Falls – *Dixie Hromcik, Barbara Mechels and Jeanette Day*

Spokane – *(Front row) Betty Weber, Mary Butler, Marilee Hedemark, Kate Smith and Susan Keyes; (back row), Crystal Johnson, Karen Wormell, Buck Rogers, Bob Wormell, Blanche Hill and Marty Bishop*



Not pictured: Portland – *Ramona Raffael, Darlene Moore and Suzanne Davis*

General Council Visits



6 ●

Regional Conference Held in Spokane

In January, the provincial superiors and councils of Holy Angels and Mother Joseph provinces joined the Superior General and the General Council for a Western Regional Conference in Spokane. In addition to visiting the Spokane provincial administration office and Mount St. Joseph/Emilie Court, some General Council members stopped in Seattle to tour that provincial office, the archives and St. Joseph Residence. The informal visits were a wonderful opportunity to make face-to-face contact with people heretofore known only by mail, telephone and e-mail. ●

A group photo from the conference includes (standing from left) Sr. Germaine Chalifoux, Holy Angels; Albert Beaudry, translator from Montreal; Sr. Carla Montante, provincial, Holy Angels; Sr. Donna Burkhart, Mother Joseph; Sr. Barbara Schamber, team leader/provincial, Mother Joseph Province; Sr. Claudette Chenier, Secretary General/Councillor; Sr. Kathryn Rutan, Superior General; Sr. Jacqueline Fernandes, Mother Joseph; Sr. Margaret McGovern, Holy Angels; Sr. Mary Lei Gordon, Holy Angels; and Rollande Malo, General Treasurer/Councillor. Also pictured are (seated from left) Sr. Lynn Chappell, Mother Joseph; Sr. Yolande Gagnon, General Councillor; Sr. Judith Desmarais, General Councillor; Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz, General Councillor; Sr. Roberta Rorke, Mother Joseph; Sr. Margaret Botch, Mother Joseph; and Sr. Patricia Vartanian, Holy Angels.

Seattle entertainer Beau Dobbs (right) entertains Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz, Sr. Donna Burkhart and Sr. Paula Cosko.



Washington



Superior General Kathryn Rutan, SP, (second from left) clarifies information about Emilie Court to Sr. Judith Desmarais, Kathleen Schlicht, director of Emilie Court, and Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz.



Mary Cosner (right), a longtime administrative assistant in the Spokane office, greets Sr. Claudette Chenier; Sr. Yolande Gagnon; Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz; and Sr. Judith Desmarais.



Loretta Greene (second from left), archivist for Mother Joseph Province, shows photographs to Sr. Yolande Gagnon, Sr. Judith Desmarais, and Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz.



Joan Silling (right), System Office operations director at Providence Health System, makes a presentation to Sr. Maria-Inelia Munoz, Sr. Claudette Chenier, Sr. Yolande Gagnon and Sr. Judith Desmarais.

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We deeply appreciate your kind and generous donations to the Sisters of Providence and the ministries in El Salvador and the Philippines. We acknowledge the contributions that were received through the Office of Development from **January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002**. If you note any error in these records, we apologize and ask you to please contact us at (509) 474-2311.

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