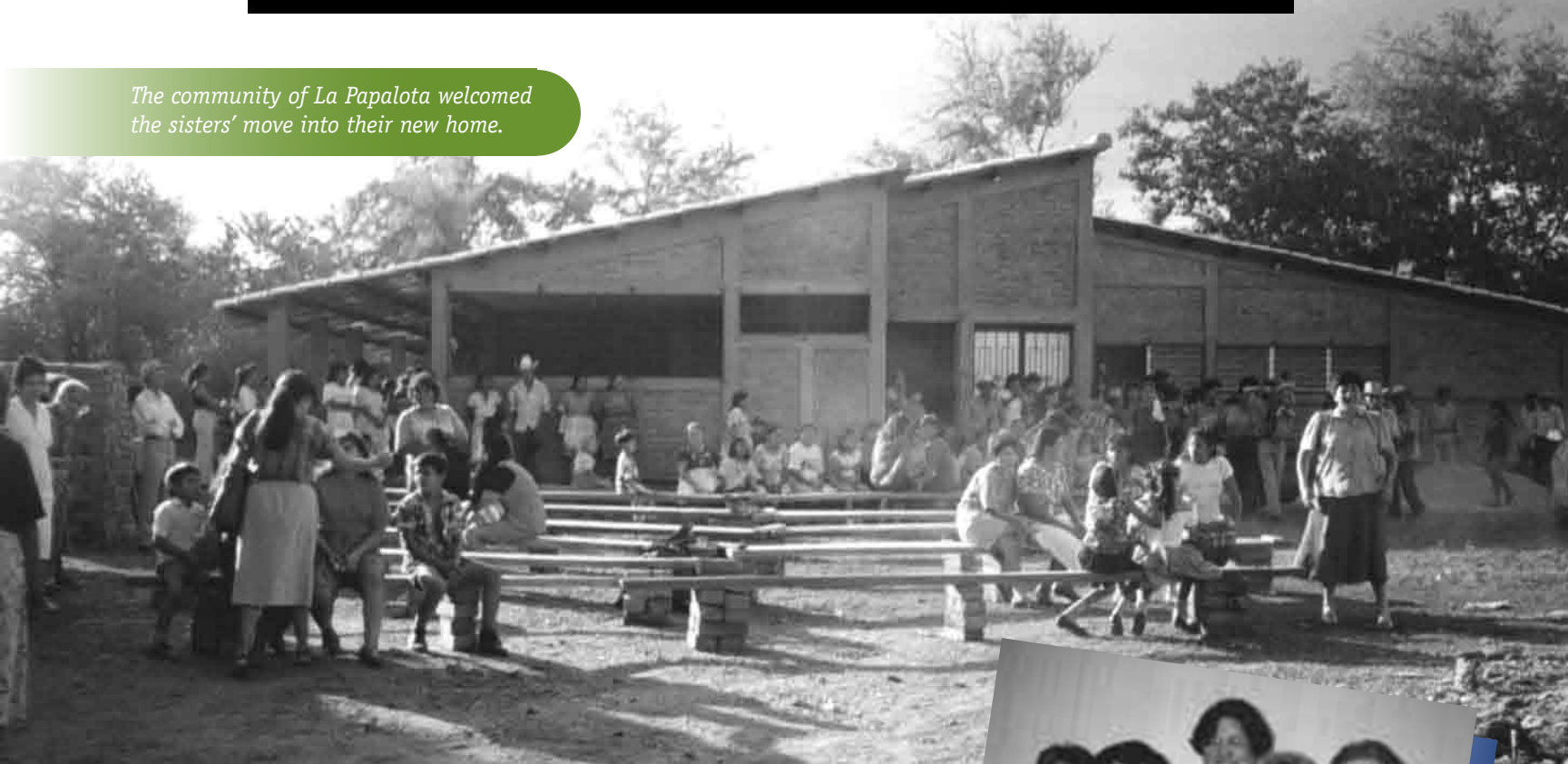


# Caritas

A publication for the Sisters of Providence and Friends ● SPRING 2005

*The community of La Papalota welcomed the sisters' move into their new home.*



*Missionaries, shown in a 1995 photo, are (from left) Srs. Isabel Cid, Ema Maureira, Frances Stacey, Marilyn Charette and Kathryn "Kitsy" Rutan.*

## 10th Anniversary EL SALVADOR MISSION FOUNDRESSES RETURN TO CELEBRATE

**I**n 1995, the long-running civil war in El Salvador that led to thousands of deaths and the destruction of the nation's economy and infrastructure had ended. The Salvadoran people were struggling to rebuild their country and their lives. It was then, 10 years ago, that Sisters of Providence were impelled by the charity of Christ to establish a mission in El Salvador. They sent five sisters: Isabel Cid, Marilyn Charette, Frances Stacey, Kathryn "Kitsy" Rutan and Ema Maureira.

In his homily at a Mass on the occasion of the sisters' arrival, Bishop Rodrigo Orlando Cabrera presented them to the people, saying, "I give you the Sisters of Providence as a gift of God."

"It was very moving," an excerpt from the sisters' mission report noted. "At the offertory we presented our constitutions, the framed text of our Providence song, an image of Mary at the foot of the cross, and a little tree. At the end of the Mass, we planted the tree in front of our house to symbolize our insertion in this land and our desire to root and grow here. While Bishop Cabrera blessed the house, we sang our 'Hymn to Divine Providence.'"

**Last January, the Sisters of Providence celebrated 10 years** in solidarity with the people of El Salvador with a gathering of the sisters who pioneered the mission and the people who welcomed them. "Being in El Salvador for 10 years has had a great effect on Mother Joseph Province, on the sisters and on the others who have had the privilege of being there," says Sister Margaret Botch, Team Leader/Provincial. →→

# 10th Anniversary

EL SALVADOR MISSION

FOUNDRESSES RETURN TO CELEBRATE

*This is the residence the Salvadoran community helped build for the sisters.*

become a part of the big social change and development. We have been welcomed and forgiven, and hospitality has been extended to us.”

Sister Ema Maureira, from Bernard Morin Province in Chile, happily joined the choir from San Marcos church to lead the music for the celebration. After the Mass, she and Father Pedro Declercq, pastor of the parish, sang together as they had many years ago.

Sister Marilyn Charette, from the former

Sacred Heart Province, was the only sister who was present in all the first communities. She was delighted to greet so many old friends from Mata de Piña, where she worked for nearly five years. She and Vicenta Rajo of Mono presented the calendars of the Emergency Fund for Health Care that was established in the first year of the mission by the Christian Base Communities. Sister Marilyn was treasurer of that fund for five years.

Sister Kathryn Rutan, from the former St. Ignatius Province, was greeted with smiles and hugs from people all over. Known as “Kitsy” to the people of El Salvador, today she serves as General Superior in Montreal. She helped to found the Christian Base Community in Cruzadilla, but also visited with Sister Isabel in San Marcos Lempa and participated in the community of La Papalota with the other four sisters. She led the responsorial psalm for the Mass.

The fifth foundress, Sister Fran Stacey from the former St. Ignatius Province, now lives in Angela Montano and serves in Sector Rutilio. Sister Fran led the intercession praying for continued rootedness in El Salvador. She made an offering of a branch taken from a tree started from the original tree planted during the blessing of the house in La Papalota 10 years ago.

Providence Associates Transito Ruano and Anibal Castro offered bread and wine with a prayer that the God of Providence will continue to touch and serve, teach and heal through Providence people in El Salvador. They also prayed that God would bring

hope and nourishment in the Providence community’s struggle with and for the people for the Reign of God: justice, life, truth, liberation and loving solidarity.

Sister Vilma Franco, a native of El Salvador and a canonical novice in Mother Joseph Province, was unable to leave the novitiate in Chile to attend. Her presence was felt, however, because she sent a colorful and symbolic stole she embroidered with Salvadoran design. Sister Margaret presented the stole to Father Pedro at the beginning of the Mass.

Sister Mónica Campillay, of Bernard Morin Province, along with postulant Margarita Hernandez, had prepared the site for the Mass in front of the La Papalota house, hauling the 150 chairs that were needed. Sister Monica works with the young people who presented dances from El Salvador, Chile and Argentina after the Mass, as well as serving the Christian Base Communities in San Marcos Lempa.

Sister María Antonieta Trimpay, also from Bernard Morin Province and who works with the people of La Papalota, helped prepare the choir for festive song and also assisted the people in preparing the refreshments of chicken sandwiches with a fruit drink.

Sister Fran says the spirit and image of Monseñor Oscar Romero, pastor, brother, prophet and martyr, was present throughout the celebration: embroidered on the stole sent by Sister Vilma, in Father Pedro’s homily, in the songs afterwards, and always in the hearts of the people who love him for his total gift of self in truth and in compassion with the poor of El Salvador. This, she adds, is the spirit in which the Sisters of Providence hope to live in the years to come.

On Sunday, January 16, the sisters accompanied the people of the area to a big celebration of martyrs that was held in San Salvador, at the crypt of Msgr. Romero. Speakers at the Mass included representatives of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation) and a local human rights activist. “The people have been through the war and were the resistance. They still have that spirit,” Sister Margaret attests.

Beginning on Monday, January 17, the sisters participated in an evaluation process for the El Salvador mission that continued through Wednesday. In March, Sister Margaret will return for a planning session with the pastoral team. ●

“We went to help resettle and rebuild the community after the war, but what really has happened is that the hospitality of the people has changed us.”

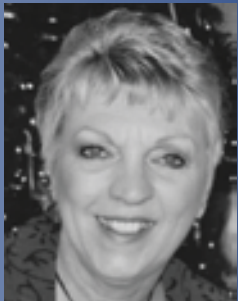
The anniversary events began Friday, January 14, with a picnic and prayers as part of a day of celebration on the beach. One of the highlights was watching a video of the sisters’ arrival in 1995 and sharing memories of those days.

On Saturday, January 15, about 150 people who worked with the first five Sisters of Providence to arrive in El Salvador turned out for a celebration of thanksgiving in La Papalota, where the welcome ceremony was held 10 years before. Sister Isabel Cid, from Holy Angels Province in Edmonton, was instrumental in the initial invitation of the congregation to El Salvador through her work with Salvadorans in exile. She acted as mistress of ceremonies for the celebration, pulling all the threads of the old and new together. Sister Isabel expressed the desire of the Sisters of Providence for reconciliation for any ways the sisters may have offended the people over the years, and she voiced their gratitude for the people’s call, which has changed all of their lives.

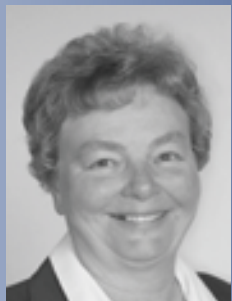
“We marvel that the people are very forgiving of the fact that our country destroyed theirs through our support of the war,” Sister Margaret explains. “We are in El Salvador in such a time of transition. We have

# Provincial Secretary and Treasurer appointed

**T**he Leadership Team of Mother Joseph Province has appointed Alaine Qualls of Spokane as provincial secretary and Sister Anita Butler of Seattle as provincial treasurer. While the two are members of the Leadership Team that appointed them, they are not provincial councilors.



*Alaine Qualls*



*Anita Butler, SP*

**Leta Alaine Qualls** was born at St. Joseph Hospital in Chewelah, and was hired as a receptionist for the Sisters of Providence in the former St. Ignatius Province in 1988. She later became staff secretary for the province and most recently served as administrative assistant/office manager for Mother Joseph Province.

She is the wife of James D. Qualls, a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, and the daughter of Irene Leliefeld, who lives with them. They have two children living in Seattle, Matthew, 24, a recent graduate of the Seattle Film Institute, and Arnelle, 21, a junior at Seattle University.

In her leisure time, you'll find Alaine playing the accordion or piano or singing Karaoke. She also loves traveling and collecting shells on the beach.

**Sister Anita Butler** was born in Los Angeles and entered the Sisters of Providence in July 1954 in Seattle. She made first profession in 1956.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from the College of Great Falls and a master's degree in higher education administration from Loyola University in Los Angeles. Graduate-level classes in the School of Finance at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana gave her training in investment, budgeting and finance.

Sister Anita has served in a variety of ministries, including teaching for 23 years in K-12 schools in California and Washington. She was treasurer of Sacred Heart Province from 1980 to 1989, and later served as regional director of long-term care for the Portland service area of Providence Health System. She also was development coordinator for Providence Medical Foundation in Portland and chair of the trustees for the Providence Health System cash balance retirement plan trust.

Most recently, she served for five years as superior administrator at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, where she oversaw a \$6 million, 20-month renovation project. Her hobbies are reading and playing computer games. ●

## LEADERSHIP INSTALLATION

*The 2005-09 Leadership Team for Mother Joseph Province was formally installed in ceremonies in early January in Seattle and Spokane.*

*Leadership Team members are (seated from left) Srs. Kaye Belcher, provincial councilor for personnel and future ministry planning; and*

*Annette Seubert, provincial councilor for spiritual renewal and formation; and (standing from left) Srs. Anita Butler, provincial treasurer; Charlotte Van Dyke, provincial councilor for mission outreach; Mrs. Alaine Qualls, provincial secretary; and Sr. Margaret Botch, team leader/provincial. ●*



**\$6.3 million project**



## *HUD funds renovation and rent subsidies at Providence Vincent House*

*This page: Providence Vincent House is located near Pike Place Market in Seattle.*

*Page 5: Dan Smerken, housing developer for Providence Health System, was presented with a Mother Joseph statue in thanks for his leadership on the Vincent House renovation project. He is shown here with Sr. Lynn Chappell, former provincial treasurer.*

**O**ne of last year's final events was a reception in thanksgiving for the allocation of \$6.3 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to preserve and rehabilitate Providence Vincent House in Seattle. The four-story, 61-unit building near Pike Place Market offers low-income housing and supportive services to the homeless, disabled and frail elderly. The HUD funds will ensure the continuation of subsidized, supportive housing for this population for the next 40 years.