

# Celebrating God's Favor

That flavor was echoed by the colorful native dress worn by sisters in the processional of the Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, Bishop of Spokane, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. A reception followed at The Davenport Hotel.

The Mass also honored 14 Jubilarians marking 25, 50, 60 and 70 years of religious life. (See Pages 6-7 for information on some of these remarkable women.)



▲ General Superior Kathryn "Kitsy" Rutan, SP, bears a Native American peace pipe given to Sister M. Michelle Holland when she was provincial superior in the 1970s.



▲ Sisters Gabrielle Nguyen (left) and AnnMary Vu represent the province sisters from Vietnam.



◀ "As the kids would say as you look over these 150 years, awesome!" says Bishop William S. Skylstad.

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## Sisters of Providence

# CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN THE WEST AT SPOKANE EVENT



▲ Novices Margarita Hernandez (left) and Vilma Franco wear their Salvadoran dress.

Cec Sheoships, director of Kateri Northwest Ministry Institute, accepts a donation from the Sisters of Providence. ▼



▲ Wally Larsen leads the choir of sisters, associates and friends in glorious song.

# 150 Years in the West

## The first Sisters to begin ministry

in the West were true pioneers, journeying from Montreal to the Washington Territory in 1856. After a 36-day journey, they arrived on December 8 at what is now Vancouver, Wash. For one year, culminating with the actual anniversary date, the Sisters of Providence are celebrating not only the legacy of those first five sisters, but also the many others who have continued their legacy of compassion, courage and caring. An earlier celebration was held in Seattle. Look for highlights of the Vancouver celebration in the next issue of *Caritas*. ●

## Many thanks to sponsors of the 150th anniversary celebration events:

- Bouten Construction Company
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## Thanks, also to the following:

- Alan Bisson, photographer
- Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes staff
- The Very Rev. Steven Dublinski
- Gonzaga Preparatory School
- Karen Lauby, conference coordinator, PH&S, Wash./Mont. Region



▲ Sister Margaret Botch, Provincial/Leadership Team Coordinator, welcomed guests to "a praise of God's providence."



▲ Sisters Myrta Iturriaga (left) and Silvia Troncoso represent the province sisters from Chile.



◀ The Very Rev. Thomas Connolly, SJ, of Sacred Heart Mission in DeSmet, Idaho, wears a beaded buckskin vestment. He recalls that Sr. Providencia was known as Sister Buckskin when she ministered in DeSmet in the 1930s.



◀ The 2006 Jubiliarians renew their vows, then are showered with applause for their many years of faithful service. ▼





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# HE HERITAGE TOUR

was a truly wonderful way to renew old friendships and to make new ones. From the time our Sister guests arrived until we put the last one on the plane to return home, it was obvious that we are all Sisters of Providence in the best sense of that term. There were daily opportunities to pray together, to visit, to laugh, to learn and to rest. As a result of our time together we can affirm that what motivates us is surely constant and consistent. I think Mother Gamelin would be proud to know that the common virtues of humility, simplicity and charity continue to be evident among us. Our Sisters from Emilie Province, Bernarda Morin Province, Holy Angels Province, the Philippine Sector and the Novitiate did get a good (and an accurate) picture of how the Mission is alive and thriving among us. If there is any regret about the tour, it is only that the geographic expanse of the province did not allow opportunity to experience more of it---the wheels of the bus didn't even touch ground in Alaska or in California. Maybe when the 200th Jubilee is planned and celebrated ...

*Lucille Dean, SP*



- A total of 44 Sisters of Providence
- from five countries made a tour of
- 4 days and 3 nights around Mother
- Joseph Province. Tour committee
- chair Sr. Barbara Schamber (center),
- aided by Srs. JoAnn Showalter (left)
- and Lucille Dean, prepared for their
- arrival in Spokane.

# Province Tour

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- The enthusiastic group gathered in front of
- Providence Academy in Vancouver, built under
- Mother Joseph's supervision.



Three languages – French, English and Spanish – were spoken everywhere on the tour, including the chapel at PAV.



Sisters gathered at Mother Joseph's grave to place flowers and to pray.



Sister Susanne Hartung and Monte Hidden, whose family owns PAV today, were the tour guides there.

