



The state capitol in Olympia was a tour stop so that sisters could touch the statue of a kneeling Mother Joseph or take a picture with her, as did the tour's Spanish-speaking contingent.



The travelers looked in on Sr. Dolores Ellwart (second from right) in DeSmet, Idaho.

Sisters at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle welcomed their guests with open arms. Sisters in Yakima brought out their hankies in traditional greeting.



In a dinner for the pilgrims at Providence Portland Medical Center, Providence Associates were delighted to pose for a photo with one of the young Salvadoran women they have raised funds to help educate, Sr. Margarita Hernandez (center). Sr. Katherine Smith (left), liaison to the group, joined in.



The tour also gave Sisters Ida Mae Marceau, Maryann Benoit, Ann Dolores Ybarrola, Lillian Deslauriers and Eileen Croghan the opportunity to revisit the first house that the sisters occupied in St. Ignatius, Mont., in 1864.

LOOK FOR MORE pictures of the tour and the 150th anniversary celebration events on the website at <http://www.sistersofprovidence.net>



Jubilee Celebration

14 Sisters of Providence
mark 25 to 70 years
of religious life

Fourteen Sisters of Providence marking 25 to 70 years of religious life were honored earlier this year at gatherings in Seattle and Spokane celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Providence in the West. Jubilarians and their current residences are:

- 70 years** – Sister Cecile Denis, Seattle, and Sister Dorothy Zimny, Spokane;
60 years – Sister Inez Arkell, Great Falls, Mont.; Sisters Lily May Emert, Clarella Fink, M. Michelle Holland and Marie Emmeline Ladd, Spokane; and Sisters Imelda Flynn and Lorraine Hofmeister, Seattle;
50 years – Sisters Joan Campbell, Mary Grondin and H el ene Maynard, Seattle; and Sister Lillian Deslauriers, Spokane;
25 years – Sister Susan Orlowski, Portland.

Some of the Jubilarians are spotlighted here. The others were featured in the Summer 2006 issue of *Caritas*.

Sister Dorothy Zimny

(Sister Margaret Yvonne), born in Wells, Minn., met the Sisters of Providence as a sophomore in the sisters' boarding school at St.



Joseph Academy in Sprague, Wash. She entered the novitiate in Seattle in 1935 and made first vows in 1937. Her first ministry was teaching fifth and sixth grades at

St. Thomas Home in Great Falls, Mont. Her 17-year career in teaching also took her to Missoula, Sprague, Colfax and Wallace, Idaho. Other ministries included bookkeeping, hospital patient accounts, secretarial duties and medical records administration. ●

Sister Inez Arkell

(Sister Victorine) was born in Minneapolis in 1925. She met the Sisters of Providence as a high school student in Missoula and entered the religious community in 1945. From 1948 to 1965 she took care of boarding school girls in Sprague and Missoula, then entered training to become a licensed practical nurse. She served in that role in hospitals in Fort Benton and Great Falls. She later turned to pastoral care and was a chaplain at Columbus Hospital in Great Falls from 1977 to 1996. An active volunteer, she works with Providence Associates in Great Falls, at the Benefis Health Care,



West Campus, and at St. Luke's Parish with the Legion of Mary as spiritual director. ●

Sister Lily May Emert

(Sister Rose Theresa) was a pharmacist at St. Mary Hospital in Walla Walla for 20 years. Born in Seattle, she spent most of her youth in Spokane County and entered the religious community in 1946, making first vows in 1948. As a young sister, she was sent to help in the pharmacy at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula when the pharmacist there became ill and needed assistance. She later was sent to Creighton University in Omaha for pharmacy training. While a student, she returned to St. Patrick to work during the summers before going to St. Mary Hospital after graduation in 1958. She occasionally substituted at St. Ignatius, Mont., and Colfax, Wash., hospitals. She later was a volunteer chaplain at St. Mary's,



then completed clinical pastoral education training. Today she is a member of the Community Life Team at Mount St. Joseph, the residence for retired sisters in Spokane. ●

Sister Clarella Fink

(Lois May Fink) was called to be a missionary to the Philippines when the former St. Ignatius Province sent sisters there in 1989. She remained for 12 years, including three years as the Philippines' first superior and more than nine years as treasurer. She returned to the United States in 2001. Born in Minneapolis in 1927, she grew up in Hyshum, Moore, Libby and Missoula, Mont. She entered the Sisters of Providence in Seattle in 1945 and made first vows in 1947. She taught at St. Francis Xavier and St. Anthony schools in Missoula, St. Thomas Home in Great Falls, and on the Indian reservation at DeSmet, Idaho. ●



Sister M. Michelle Holland (Sister Mary Michelle) is a foundress of Women of Providence, a collaborative group of 15 Providence congregations throughout the United States and Canada. She also provided the inspiration for the Providence



Center for Faith and Healing and its garden on the Sacred Heart Medical Center campus in Spokane. Born in Bovill, Idaho, she entered the novitiate in Seattle, making

first profession in 1948. She taught science and math for nine years to girls who boarded at Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula, Mont. She later taught science and religion at Great Falls Central Catholic High School for five years. She also has been province director of education, a provincial councilor, provincial superior from 1974 to 1980, and director of mission and values at Sacred Heart Medical Center and a member of its administrative council. ●

Sister Marie Emmeline Ladd (Lois Francine Ladd), a nationally recognized pioneer nurse-midwife in Washington State, was born in 1927 in Kellogg, Idaho. For more than 30 years she practiced and taught in Santa Fe, New York City, Chicago and Spokane. She entered the novitiate in Seattle in 1946. She professed first vows in 1948 and completed nurse's training at Columbus School of Nursing in Great Falls, Mont., in 1952. She earned a bachelor's degree from Seattle University in 1954. She was director of the School of Nursing at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Mont., from 1956 to 1958, later returning as director of nursing service and as in-service director. She also supervised the maternity department at Sacred Heart Hospital, Spokane. She received her nurse-midwifery certificate in 1965 and her master's in maternal and infant health in 1966. She estimates that she has delivered about a thousand babies. When midwifery became legal in Washington State, she helped open a birth center in Spokane for out of hospital births. She retired in 1995. ●



Sister Lillian Deslauriers (Sister Jean Martin) was chaplain at Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, for 18 years. Born in 1932 in Greensboro, Vt., she went to Montreal to enter the Sisters of Providence in 1955. She professed first vows in 1957, then became a nurse's aide in Verdun, Montreal. She graduated from nurse's training in Hull, Ontario, in 1961, then served in Timmins, Ontario, before being transferred to the former St. Ignatius Province in the West in 1966. As a registered nurse, she served in St. Ignatius and Fort Benton, Mont., and at Columbus Hospital in Great Falls. She also was a nurse and counselor at Linger Longer, a Jesuit summer camp in Idaho, and was a nurse for Spokane's Expo '74 world's fair. In 1975 she received a religious studies/psychology degree from Gonzaga University, then took graduate classes in counseling and psychology and later studied clinical pastoral education. While a chaplain at Sacred Heart, she also served for a few years in part-time jail ministry. Other missions included the Washington State Penitentiary, Raleigh Hills Rehabilitation Center for Drug and Alcohol, and as a volunteer with the homeless and at Transition Center. ● ● 7



Provincial Chapter

The Provincial Chapter in Spokane, with its gathering of Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates, offered a great opportunity for a group photo to mark the occasion.

15-year ministry

ESL CLASSROOM provides teaching and learning experience

Sr. Paula Cosko (left) and her ESL students at North Seattle Community College gather for a potluck to share their cultures' traditional foods, artifacts, music, native clothing and pictures.

by Brenda L. Velasco

Many people experience the richness of the world by traveling to different countries and seeing the different sites. Sister Paula Cosko, however, experiences the richness of the world in a much different way.

"I taught children for 21 years and was looking for something different to do," Sister Paula says. "I wanted to stay in teaching because teaching is the ministry God has called me to do. I also wanted to be with people of other cultures."

This led Sister Paula to North Seattle Community College, where she has been teaching English as a Second Language for the past fifteen years. She has taught students from every major continent and land mass. "It is exciting to travel the world through my students!" she says.

"History changes the groups of students that come into the classroom," Sister Paula explains. For example, when she first began teaching ESL, many of her students came from Southeast Asia. A few years ago, many of her students came from Bosnia and now many are coming from Middle Eastern countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. There are also students from China, Japan, Taiwan and South America.

The students range in age from 19 to 80 and come from a variety of backgrounds and professions. They all have a similar goal: to learn and improve their English. Some of the younger students want to learn English so they can get jobs or go to college. Others want to find jobs to support their families and send money back to family members in their home countries. The older students simply want to learn enough English to go to the post office or grocery store.

"I try to make my ESL class a safe environment without consequences for the students," Sister Paula says. "This helps with their confidence."

She encourages her students to share their cultures with one another during class time. They often have potlucks where students bring their traditional foods and share their artifacts, music, native clothing and pictures.

Many of her students find it interesting to see the amount of diversity in the United States. Students who come from countries where several languages are spoken are also amazed that most U.S. citizens only speak one language. Topics such as voting or even freedom can sometimes be surprising or overwhelming to students from countries where such things are not the norm.

Sometimes students encounter situations where they are confronted by classmates from a country that has a conflict or is at war with their home country, Sister Paula says.

"The challenge for them is to interact in a peaceful way," she explains. "It takes a while and the students choose to stay aside and not interact with one other. Eventually they work it out."

Some of the most rewarding aspects of being an ESL teacher are the stories students share with her about life in their home countries, Sister Paula says. Sometimes the stories are tragic, especially those told by students who had to flee their country due to war.

"I remember there was a woman from Bosnia who came shortly after the fighting in that country broke out. When she first came to class she sat and said nothing for two months,



only silent tears fell from her eyes," Sister Paula recalls. "Now she is a manager at a local JC Penney's store."

The stories that her students write are also powerful for Sister Paula.

"Students use writing as a way of healing," she says. "I learn a lot about what has happened to them through their written stories. A Vietnamese student wrote about the fall of Saigon in 1975 and how he got his family out of the city. Another student didn't know he was coming to the United States and thought he was going to the Philippines. There are so many stories of families being separated among my students. I am very privileged to read their stories and share their pain."

"It is important to see where they have come from," Sister Paula says. "So many of them make it by themselves and get into school or find a job."

A challenge that Sr. Paula faces as an ESL teacher is to assess the needs of every student and find the areas in which they need the most help. Sometimes, when teaching a beginning level class, she has students who are illiterate in their own language and do not have a concept of reading or writing. Sister Paula relies on volunteers to give these students one-on-one attention as they begin to understand the concept of reading and writing. Many of these volunteers are retirees who want to give back to the community.

One of the rewards of being an ESL teacher includes the interactions Sister Paula has with the students outside of the classroom. "Students will invite me to share their culture in their homes," she says. "An Ethiopian student invited me over for a ceremonial gathering. It was an honor to experience that with her."

She shares both joyous and sad occasions with her students. "A young woman invited me to attend a memorial service on the anniversary of her daughter's death. Another young woman invited me to her wedding. The Mass was all in Vietnamese and it was so special to witness that."

Sister Paula hopes to continue teaching ESL for at least another ten years. She says she is inspired by the work and perseverance of her students. "In spite of what they've been through, they have a remarkable and positive attitude. It is hard for them to come to school, work and take care of their children or elderly parents, but they hang in there. I admire their stamina. It is an honor to walk with these students, and to do it as a Sister of Providence is special."

"I feel that I am keeping with the works of Mother Gamelin with this ministry," Sister Paula says. "I feel the charisms of Mother Gamelin, Mother Joseph and Mother Bernarda in teaching refugees and immigrants." ●