

Rest in Peace

Simonne Bégin, SP (Sister Laure Angeline)

Sister Simonne Bégin died June 25 at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, at 87 years of age. She had been a Sister of Providence for 65 years.

She was born in 1918, the 11th of 16 children (nine boys, seven girls), to the family of Napoleon Bégin and Laura Couture Bégin in Makamik, Abitibi, Quebec, Canada. She received her early schooling in Quebec.

Sister Simonne entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence in the Motherhouse in Montreal in January 1941. She professed first vows in July 1942 and final vows in 1945. Two of her sisters also became religious: Sister Paul Aurele, SP, and Sister St. Paulus of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Fluent in four languages – English, French, Vietnamese and Creole – she took studies at eight universities. She became an RN at St. Patrick Hospital School of Nursing, Missoula, Mont., 1950, and received a BS in Nursing from the College of Great Falls, Mont., 1961. She also studied administration at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. She holds a rare degree in “Rice Production in the Far East” from a research center in Kauai, Hawaii. Sister Simonne also attended many state and national hospital association meetings and conferences.

She could enthral listeners with stories about her unique ministries, including favorites, in Vietnam as health care advisor in the war zone at Kahn Hoa General Hospital in Wha Trang, 1968-70; in Washington, D.C., as director of the Vietnam Program under Msgr. Murray, 1970-71;

and as a nurse in the East Coast Migrant Health Project, working with Haitian, Central American and Mexican migrant populations on the east coast in the 1980s.

Sr. Simonne’s first ministry when she came West was working in the kitchen at Sacred Heart Hospital (now Medical Center), Spokane, from 1942 to 1945. She served as a nurse in surgery, 1958-60, and supervisor of OB/GYN and delivery, 1968. Other ministries included St. Joseph Academy, Sprague, Wash., working with boarding students, 1945-47; and St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Mont., as officer on 5th floor in 1950, supervisor of the surgical floor, 1956-57, supervisor of medical floor, 1962-63, and supervisor of operating room and emergency, 1971. She also was administrator and operated Holy Family Hospital,



St. Ignatius, Mont., as a satellite, 1975-80; Columbus Hospital (now Benefis Healthcare), Great Falls, maternity department, supervisor of surgical floor, 1950-56; Providence Hospital, Wallace, Idaho, supervisor of 3rd floor, 1957-58, supervisor administrator, pharmacy, 1963-68; and St. Clare Hospital, Ft. Benton, Mont., supervisor in surgery and maternity 1961-62. She was administrator of Holy Family Hospital, St. Ignatius, Mont., 1971-75; and a volunteer in needs assessment for the poor, sponsored by Columbus Hospital, for the City of Great Falls, 1989-91.

Sister Simonne retired at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, in 1994 and performed various services for the sisters there. She enjoyed doing crafts, sewing and traveling. One of her quilt wall hangings is displayed at Emilie Court.

In 2001 Sister Simonne was nominated for the Flame of Life Award at the Inland Northwest Seniors’ Wellness Conference, for a lifetime of achievement and service to others.

She established a health clinic for migrant farm workers and their families in Nash County, NC, in the early 1980s. In recognition of her efforts there, she was invited to participate in the dedication of the Harvest Family Health Center on October 1, 2002, in Elm City, NC.

Also in 2002, she represented Emilie Court and was named queen for a year from the Spokane chapter of the Washington State Association of Activity Professionals.

She is survived by her brothers, Louis Paul Bégin, Remi Bégin (Gabrielle), Montreal, Quebec; sister, Soeur Jeanne Eva Bégin, Sherbrooke, Quebec; niece, Doris Crawford, Vancouver, BC, her community of the Sisters of Providence, and many other friends.

Vigil Service was held June 30 and the Funeral Mass was celebrated July 1, both at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane. Arrangements were handled by Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home, Spokane. ●

Florida Hinse, SP (Sister Marie Rita)

Sister Florida Hinse, age 91, died July 7 at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle. She had been a Sister of Providence for 71 years.

The sixth of 14 children, she was born April 26, 1915, in Tingwick, Quebec, Canada, child of Joseph Hinse and Alexandrina (Roux) Hinse.

Sister Florida entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal in 1935. She professed first vows in 1936 and final vows in 1939. She received her nursing degree from the School of Nursing at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia in 1943. She received her Pastoral Care Certificate from St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, CA, in 1978.

Sister Florida spent 38 years in nursing ministry, 18 of them as an operating room supervisor. She described

her mission at the hospitals as “... to serve the people, and to serve the doctors and patients.” These experiences kept her full of life.

She was a surgery nurse at St. John Hospital, Port Townsend, WA (1943-44); nurse at St. Joseph Hospital, Fairbanks, AK; St. Elizabeth Medical Center (Providence Yakima Med. Center), Yakima, WA, and St. Mary Hospital (Providence Medical Center), Astoria, OR (1944-53); surgery nurse at St. Mary Hospital (St. Mary Medical Center), Walla Walla, WA; Sacred Heart Hospital (Providence Medford Medical Center), Medford, OR; Providence Hospital, Anchorage, AK; St. Joseph Hospital, Vancouver, WA, returning to Providence Medford Medical Center (1953-69); staff nurse at St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank; Shoreline North Convalescing Hospital, Alameda, CA, and Esther Pariseau Pavilion, Burbank (1969-1978). She also served in pastoral care at Providence Hospital, Everett, WA (1978-82). She became a member of the Formation Team of the Sisters of Providence, Seattle, WA (1982-85), and Assistant Manager of Emilie House, Portland, OR (1986-2002) where she enjoyed relating to the people and meeting their needs.

She retired to St. Joseph Residence, Seattle, in 2002. She helped in the province library and enjoyed sewing for the sisters.

Sister Florida is survived by her brothers Romio Hinse, Tingwick, Quebec, and Conrad Hinse, Asbestos, Quebec; sisters Germaine Tanguay, Rejeanne Roberge and Rita Lapointe,

Asbestos, Quebec, and sister-in-law, Margaret Hinse, Greenfield Park, Quebec, her community of Sisters of Providence and many other friends.

Vigil Service was July 10 and Funeral Mass was celebrated July 11, both at St. Joseph Residence, West Seattle.

Arrangements were handled by Bonney Watson Funeral Home, Seattle. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, Seattle. ●



Therese Eugenie Belisle, SP

(Marie Simone Belisle)

Sister Therese Eugenie Belisle died July 21 at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, at 94 years of age. She had been a Sister of Providence for 78 years.

She was born in 1912 at St. André-Avellin, Quebec, to Maurice Belisle and Eugenie Charlebois Belisle. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence at the Motherhouse in Montreal in August 1937, professed first vows in February 1939 and final vows in 1942. She became a U.S. citizen in 1944.

Sister Therese Eugenie graduated from St. Joseph Academy, Yakima, Wash. Other educational opportunities included diplomas in religion from Seattle University and from Gonzaga University, Spokane; an RN diploma from St. Joseph Hospital, Vancouver, Wash., in 1947; an RN diploma in the State of Oregon, 1948; and an RN diploma in the State of Montana, 1962.

Her ministry assignments included: Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, infirmary staff, 1939; and Providence Hospital, Seattle, domestic duties, 1939-40, and nursing, 1958-59. She also served in nursing at Sacred Heart Hospital, Medford, Ore., 1947-50; Providence Hospital, Portland, 1950-52; St. Mary Hospital, Astoria, Ore., 1952-57; St. Joseph Hospital, Vancouver, Wash., as local assistant, 1957-58; St. Mary Hospital (now Medical Center), Walla Walla, Wash., 1959-61; Holy Family Hospital, St. Ignatius, Mont., with medical and surgical patients, 1961-63;



and St. Clare Hospital, Ft. Benton, Mont., 1963-64. She was supervisor of medical and isolation patients at Sacred Heart Hospital (now Medical Center), Spokane, 1964-66; coordinator of patient services, 1966-84; and pastoral care associate, 1984-94.

Sister Therese Eugenie retired at Providence Convent, Spokane, in 1994, but

continued until 1996 as a volunteer, collecting and preparing clothes for the needy upon discharge from the hospital. Then she moved to Mount St. Joseph, where she continued to collect and distribute clothing for the poor for several years.

Survivors include her sister, Valentine Nadeau; nephew, Maurice Nadeau, Montreal, Quebec; and niece Louise Lalonde, St. Eustache, Quebec; her community of the Sisters of Providence, and other friends.

Vigil Service was held July 23 and the Funeral Mass was celebrated July 24, both at Mount St. Joseph. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery. Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home, Spokane, was in charge of arrangements. ●

She dedicated herself to the fulfillment of her greatest ministry – the challenge of teaching and high school administration at the following schools: St. Joseph Academy, Yakima, WA (1930-33; 1938-47; 1965-68), principal (1953-59); St. Michael School (Providence St. Amable), Olympia, WA (1933-35); Providence Academy (Providence of the Holy Angels), Vancouver, WA (1935-37 and 1947-53); Central Catholic High School, Portland, OR (1960-61); Providence Heights, Issaquah, WA (1961-64), secretary pool (1969-72), research assistant (1972-75); North Catholic High School, Portland, OR (1964-65); provincial councilor as executive secretary of the Education Board, Issaquah, WA (1968-69); volunteer at various grade schools (1975-1977), Seattle; and volunteer receptionist in medical library at Providence Medical Center, Seattle (1977-78).

She retired to St. Joseph Residence in 1978, where she enjoyed reading.

Sister Margaret is survived by her sister, Sister Pauline Higgins; nephew, Robert Higgins and wife, Judy, Seattle, niece



Margaret Higgins, SP

(Sister Loretta Clare)

Sister Margaret Higgins, SP, age 95, died August 8 at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle. She had been a Sister of Providence for 77 years.

Sister Margaret was born Maebelle Margaret Higgins. She and her twin brother Joseph were the eldest in a family of six children. They were born August 8, 1911, in Sunnyside, Wash., to Louis L. Higgins, Jr. and Hannah M. (Puthoff) Higgins. Two and a half years later, a second pair of twins was born: Paul and Pauline – the latter who also would become a Sister of Providence. Two children were born singly: Agnes and Edward.

Sister Margaret entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, in 1929. She professed first vows in 1930 and final vows in 1934. She received her bachelor's degree in home economics and liberal arts from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., as well as her master's degree in high school administration from Seattle University and her master's degree in chemistry from Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Ind.

Ann and husband Joe Turner, Seattle; several other nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews; her community of Sisters of Providence and many other friends.

Vigil Service was held August 11 and the Funeral Mass was celebrated August 12, both at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle. Arrangements were handled by Bonney Watson Funeral Home. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, Seattle. ●

Donations in memory of Srs. Simonne Bégin, Florida Hinse, Therese Eugenie Belisle and Margaret Higgins, to support the ministries of the Sisters of Providence, may be sent to: Sisters of Providence, Office of Development, 9 East 9th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202-1209.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Linda Scott, daughter-in-law of Kathleen Scott, PA, died March 17 in Yakima.

Margaret "Mickie" Bochsler, sister-in-law of Maryann Bochsler, SP, died June 29 in Keizer, Ore.

Leonard Jean, brother of Georgette Jean, SP, died June 29 in Three Rivers, Quebec.

James Vlcek, 27-year employee of Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, Calif., and first recipient of the Mother Joseph Award, died in July in Bend, Ore.

Natalia Iturriaga, mother of Myrta Iturriaga, SP, died July 9 in Temuco, Chile.

Bob Hudon, brother of Charlene Hudon, SP, died July 25 in Yakima.

Maggie Plampin, daughter-in-law of Dorene and Jim Plampin, PAs, died July 26 in Olympia.

Dorothy Schumacher, half-sister of Rose Lulay, SP, died July 28 in Sublimity, Ore.

Larry Bettsworth, 35-year employee of Sacred Heart Medical Center, died August 13 in Spokane.

Betty Nolan Bochsler, sister-in-law of Maryann Bochsler, SP, died August 14 in Mount Angel, Ore.



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Briefs

Mother Joseph Service Award winners



Joan Gallagher, SP, congratulates David Otten and Katie Devaney, recipients of the Mother Joseph Service Award at Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle. The awards for outstanding service were presented to the two sophomores in May. Bishop Blanchet, first bishop in the Northwest, wrote to Montreal in the early 1850s, seeking sisters to come to the West and help meet the needs of the sick, the poor and the orphaned. The sisters who came in 1856 were an answered prayer. ●



Gathered for the 120th birthday and blessing ceremony for Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, are (back row from left) Father Michael Venneri, chaplain, Michael Wilson, president and CEO, and (front row from left) Sisters Loretta Marie Marceau, Rosalie Locati, Pam White and Eileen Croghan.

SHMC celebrates 120th; historical display unveiled

A pictorial display of the history of the Sisters of Providence in the West was commissioned by Sister Rosalie Locati for the Main Floor hallway at SHMC. Sister Pam White provided archived materials that staffers at the medical center designed, produced and installed in three panels near the main elevators. Sister Margaret Botch, Provincial/Leadership Team Coordinator, helped Mike Wilson unveil the display mural, which was blessed by Father Venneri. ●



Bi-Province New Members Gathering

Nine women in formation and in the process of transfer from Mother Joseph and Holy Angels provinces participated in a three-day gathering in Spokane in June. Topics included cultural diversity and presentations of the vows of chastity, obedience and poverty. Pictured from left are Srs. Margarita Hernandez, Jessica Taylor, Maggie St. John, Vilma Franco, Christina Wong, Gabrielle Nguyen, Suzette Bautista, Ana Dolores Orellana and Catherine Chan. ●

