

Caritas

A publication for the Sisters of Providence and Friends ● SUMMER 2006

Celebrating God's Favor

Sisters of Providence

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN THE WEST

AT SEATTLE EVENT



▲ Provincial/Leadership Team Coordinator Margaret Botch addresses the gathering.

large and small, are being held throughout Mother Joseph Province, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, California and El Salvador.

Sister Margaret Botch, provincial/Leadership Team coordinator, welcomed the friends of Providence gathered in the cathedral. "In this beautiful and sacred space, we are a splendid crowd of worshippers. And we are surrounded by a hidden cloud of witnesses – the saints, recognized and unrecognized, who preceded us. Saints whose lives showed humility, simplicity and charity – courage, compassion and caring – God's gracious Providence ... Let the favor of the Lord be acknowledged; Let us, in this liturgy, recall God's glorious presence and deeds over 150 years – and dear Jubilarians – during 60, 50 and 25 years so that a future full of hope may come for all – especially the poor and the vulnerable."

Sister Margaret was joined in the entrance procession by General Superior Kathryn Rutan and General Councilor Judith Desmarais, who came from the Motherhouse in Montreal to participate. A reception at the Yesler Community Center followed the Mass. →→



▲ Joining Sister Margaret Botch (center) in the entrance procession are General Superior Kathryn Rutan (left) and General Councilor Judith Desmarais.

Hundreds gathered at St. James Cathedral in Seattle on April 22 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Providence in the West. Mother Joseph and four sister companions journeyed from Montreal to the Washington Territory in 1856, arriving 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 the many others who have continued their legacy of compassion, courage and caring. Celebration events,

Provincial Councilor Charlotte Van Dyke carries a picture of the first sisters to arrive in the West. She is flanked by Sister Maureen Newman (left) and Geri Ann Johnson, PA. ►



Celebrating God's Favor

“Celebrating God's Favor” was the theme of the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett. It also included the renewal of vows by some of the 14 Jubilarians marking 70, 60, 50 and 25 years of religious life this year. “Words cannot express how much we as a state and we as a Church owe to your ministry and dedication,” the archbishop told the sisters in his homily. “We rejoice in your presence and thank God each day that you will continue to be a living sign of the spirit of God among us.”

The symbolism of the Mass was rich with meaning. The lace on the altar cloth, more than a century old, was from the sisters' first school in the West, the former Providence Academy in Vancouver. Sister Karin Dufault wore the traditional habit to present the archbishop with a donation to The Chief Seattle Club, which provides social service programs that assist urban American Indians, Alaska Natives and First Nation Peoples. In addition, the gifts of bread and wine were brought forth by sisters in the dress of their countries of origin, including Chile, Vietnam, El Salvador and the Philippines. Historic symbols carried in the entrance procession reflected the sisters' ministries to native peoples, at a clinic in Haiti, in health care, in education and in housing for the elderly.



▲ Jubilarians (from left) Sisters M. Michelle Holland, Clarella Fink and Joan Campbell renew their vows.



Archbishop Alex J. Brunett celebrates Mass at the altar covered with a cloth with lace more than 100 years old that was used at Providence Academy, Vancouver. ►



► Those attending the Mass included Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, Providence Health & Services employees, and many other friends of Providence.

Sisters of Providence

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN THE WEST AT SEATTLE EVENT



▲ Choir members, directed by Wally Larsen, lift their voices to heaven.

Sister Karin Dufault, wearing the traditional habit, gives the archbishop a donation to The Chief Seattle Club. ►



◀ Sister Vilma Franco, wearing traditional Salvadoran dress, presents a gift to the archbishop.

150 Years in the West

The 150th anniversary celebration continues on Saturday, August 5, with an 11 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane, followed by a reception at the historic Davenport Hotel. On Saturday, September 23, there will be a celebration at 9:30 a.m. at St. James Church in Vancouver, Wash., followed by an open house at Providence Academy. Events closing the year of celebration will be held throughout Mother Joseph Province on December 8.

Details on all of the events, plus monthly prayer services, an historic photo gallery and more are available on a special website for the 150th celebration. It can be accessed from the Sisters of Providence website at www.sistersofprovidence.net. ●



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

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Donations brought to Holy Hour delight (from left) Sisters Ida Mae Marceau, Annette Seubert, Liz Gress and Peggy Alcorn.

Holy Hour in Spokane

One of the 150th anniversary events is a monthly Holy Hour in Spokane. At a recent one, Sunday, March 12, about 35 gathered in the chapel at Mount St. Joseph for prayers and reflection. Sister Dorothy Byrne said the Hope Community hosted the event as a time of reconciliation and healing during Lent. Donations of food and other items for the poor are collected at each Holy Hour. This collection was for Our Place and included food, diapers and toiletries. Other recipients have been St. Vincent de Paul, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Women's Hearth. ●

Founded on diversity

PSVMC reflects on the SP mission

Employees of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland explored development of the mission of the Sisters of Providence in diverse settings and with various cultural groups in an event in March. A panel including Srs. Karin Dufault, Rita Ferschweiler, Blanca Sagles and Lucy St. Hilaire, along with visual displays, brought the story to life. ●

A display board captures the attention of (from left) Sisters Lucy St. Hilaire, Karin Dufault and Rita Ferschweiler.



Roger Chase, PH&S attorney, serves soup to guests including Sister Annette Seubert.

Celebration Week in Spokane Washington/Montana Regional Office Mission Leadership Team hosts events

Providence Health & Services staff members were treated to three events featuring food, friendship and reflections from the Sisters of Providence during the week of April 17. Sisters shared stories and reflections at a continental breakfast, a buffet lunch and a soup luncheon benefit for Hope House women's shelter. ●

A gift of history

Sisters treated to premier screenings of "Sisters of Providence: 150 Years in the West"

Providence Health & Services executives John Koster, MD, president/CEO, and Rich Umbdenstock, executive vice president, presented the Sisters of Providence with a gift in April in recognition of the 150th anniversary celebration. The DVD, "Sisters of Providence: 150 Years in the West," captures the spirit, passion and deep commitment of the religious community through interviews with several sisters. The Sisters of Providence Library has copies for viewing in Seattle and Spokane. ●

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 are being honored 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 Orłowski, Portland.

Some of the Jubilarians are spotlighted here.
Look for the others in the next issue of *Caritas*.

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Sister Cecile Denis

(Sister Emile Isidore), born in 1918 in Fournierville, Ontario, entered the religious community in Montreal and was sent west when she made first vows in 1937. She worked with babies at St. Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver, Wash., during the 1940s wartime baby boom, then was a nursing supervisor at Providence Hospital, Seattle; St. Peter Hospital, Olympia; and St. Elizabeth Hospital, Yakima. She was administrator and superior at St. Mary Hospital in Astoria, Ore., when it was sold in 1970. She later worked in pastoral care at St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, then returned to Providence Medical Center, Seattle, where her passion and her love for the mission are legendary. She retired in 1986. ●



Sister H el ene

Maynard (Sister Marie-H el ene) was 23 when she entered the novitiate in 1956 in Montreal. After a year teaching knitting, sewing and cooking to schoolgirls, she was sent to nursing school, then to a Montreal hospital as head nurse. She later earned a bachelor's degree, then was a nurse at Quebec hospitals. In 1972, she was sent to Cameroon in Africa to join three other sisters and two priests. Sister H el ene worked alone in the dispensary for three years. Later, in the 1980s, she went to Haiti for 10 months to help organize an infirmary. After returning to Montreal she became director of nursing for five years. In 1994, when the Providence Associates



held an international meeting in Montreal, Sister H el ene was invited by the provincial to come to the former Sacred Heart Province to learn English. She went to Portland, enrolling in language classes at Clark College in Vancouver. Today she lives in Seattle, where she has continued her studies with a yearlong computer class. She also has made home visits for Catholic Community Services. ●

Sister Imelda Flynn

(Sister Alice Mary), born in Tacoma in 1925, entered the Sisters of Providence in Seattle after graduation in 1945 in Sprague, Wash. After profession, she taught science and math at Central Catholic High

