

Meet the board of Providence Pariseau Corporation

Nine people, vowed religious and lay people, women and men, gather quarterly with a mission in mind: to support, strengthen and enhance the sponsored works of the Sisters of Providence that are a lifeline and a godsend to the women and children they serve. The newly constituted group, which held its first meeting in March 2006, is the board of directors of the Providence Pariseau Corporation.

The ministries involved are:

- **Building Bridges**, a network founded and directed by Sister Katherine Smith, Ph.D., RN, that benefits medically fragile children and their families by helping organizations “collaborate, network, share innovations, advocate, and promote excellence in the continuum of care;”
- **Providence Hospitality House**, a Seattle shelter for homeless mothers with children in crisis, with Megan McArthur as director; and
- **Sojourner Place**, a Seattle haven for women in transition to independence, with Barbara Murphy as director.



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Providence Pariseau Corporation

was formed in 2000 by the Sisters of Providence to guide and support the growth and development of the sisters’ small and unique ministries, which at that time included The Upper Room and WomanSpirit Center, as well, says Sister Charlotte Van Dyke, who chairs the board. The Provincial Council served as the corporation’s governing body at that time, but it was determined that a special board with a broader range of members would better be able to move these ministries forward. Although four sisters still are active members of the board, adding the lay people brings a greater breadth of knowledge, experience and influence.

Board members began their first meeting with a prayerful missioning ceremony to bless

their efforts. In subsequent meetings they have listened to updates from each director, and have engaged in brainstorming and strategizing to ensure the future viability of the ministries. The sharing helps board members stay in touch with each ministry, as does more hands-on involvement like supporting last September’s *Cause To Dine For* fundraiser which raised about \$46,500 for each of the two Seattle ministries. (Be sure to save Saturday, September 29, on your calendar for this year’s gala event.) ●

Meet the board members of the Providence Pariseau Corporation:

Margaret Botch, SP: Sister Margaret was born in Great Falls, Mont., and has been a Sister of Providence for 50 years. Her principal ministries have been in teaching, prayer, spiritual direction and discernment. She has served on the

formation team, preparing young sisters for religious life, and has served many years on the provincial councils of both the former St. Ignatius and Sacred Heart provinces. She served as a member of the Provincial Council of Mother Joseph Province when it was formed in 2000 and she was elected provincial superior in 2004.

Anita Butler, SP: Sister Anita was born in Los Angeles. Her initial ministry in the Sisters of Providence was teaching in grade and high schools. However, her skill in financial analysis and management led to her service as provincial treasurer of the former Sacred Heart Province and to administrative positions in short- and long-term care in Portland. She was development coordinator for the Providence Medical Foundation in Portland and chaired the board of trustees for the Providence Health System Cash Balance Retirement Plan Trust. Sister Anita was superior at St. Joseph Residence, a long-term care facility for retired sisters in West Seattle, before being appointed provincial treasurer in 2004.

Al M. Camosso: Al has 35 years’ experience as a health care executive in the Providence Health System (now Providence Health & Services). He was vice president of the system from 1988 to 1996, after serving as chief executive officer of Providence Hospital in Anchorage from 1976 to 1988. His background and training include fiscal management, philanthropy, interpersonal skills, human relations, public relations, general management, planning, marketing and development/implementation of new programs and services. He retired in 1966.

Celia Chappell, SP: Sister Celia has been a Sister of Providence for more than 37 years. She has a bachelor’s degree in education from Seattle University, a master’s degree in applied spirituality from the University of San Francisco, and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Denver. She was a volunteer, then the program developer and acting director with the *Ignatian Resource Center* in Seattle from 1999 to 2002. Prior to that she was an administrative team member with Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life from 1992 to 1999. She also served as vocation director for the Sisters of Providence and was a social worker with Catholic Charities in King County, Wash.



Members of the board of trustees of Providence Pariseau Corporation are (from left) Margaret Botch, SP; Joyce A. Semradek; Charlotte Van Dyke, SP; Jerry Hunter; Celia Jo Chappell, SP; Linus L. Tumbleson; Al M. Camosso; and Anita Butler, SP. Not pictured is Roberta E. Sample, PA.

Jerry Hunter: Jerry received a bachelor of science degree from Oregon State University, Corvallis, and an MBA from the City University, Bellevue, Wash. He has served in various positions in Providence Health System since 1978, beginning as director of food and nutrition services at Providence St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center, Portland. He also served as director, logistics services; director of outreach facilities, acting administrator of Providence Seaside General Hospital; and operations administrator for home and community services in the Oregon Region. He currently is executive director for the latter.

Roberta Sample, PA: Roberta has bachelor of science degrees from Seattle Pacific University and the University of Washington. She also has pursued graduate studies in theology at Multnomah Bible College and Seminary, Portland. She has held staff nursing and supervisory positions through nursing recruitment to administrative positions in Providence Health System. She was a captain in the U.S. Army and was head nurse in medical/surgical nursing, maternity and newborn nursery and trained licensed practical nurses. She has been involved in many outreach ministries including Project Mercy, Yetebon, Ethiopia; the Pine Ridge Project, Project Return, Raphael House, Rose Haven, fundraising to educate students in El Salvador, and foot care for older adults.

Joyce Semradek: Joyce has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in nursing from Duke University. She has been a research assistant, instructor and teaching assistant at Yale University, and an assistant professor, research associate and associate professor at the University of North Carolina. More recently, she was an associate professor and research coordinator, then director and full professor at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing, Portland. She has been a professor emeritus of the school's Community Health Care Systems Department since 1992. Joyce currently is director of the Benedictine Institute for Long Term Care in Mt. Angel, Ore.

Linus Tumbleson: Linus has more than 15 years of management experience in private industry and more than 10 years' experience in self-employment and non-profit management. He most recently was director of development and public relations for Presbyterian Counseling Service, Seattle. Prior to that, he was executive director of the Washington State 4-H Foundation in Puyallup, Wash., and has provided consulting services for agricultural properties, including financial and operational analysis through Tumbleson and Associates. He formerly was assistant vice president of Glacier Park Company in Seattle and was director of agricultural development for Burlington Northern, Inc.

Charlotte Van Dyke, SP: Sister Charlotte taught in the schools of the Sisters of Providence for five years before completing her nursing education at the University of Portland. She received her MBA from The George Washington University and then served in administrative positions at Providence Hospital, Oakland; Providence Medical Center, Seattle; St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Yakima; and St. Joseph Hospital, Aberdeen, Wash. She also was director of corporate relations for Providence Health System. She has been chairman of the Washington State Hospital Association and of the Washington State Catholic Hospital and Health Care Association. She also was a commissioner of the Washington State Hospital Commission and governor for District 7 of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1992 and practiced law for 10 years in Seattle's Pioneer Square, serving predominantly poor clients. In 2004 she was elected to the Provincial Council of the Sisters of Providence for a five-year term. ●

Briefs

Hope House honors Sr. Loretta Marie Marceau

Marilee Roloff, president and CEO of the Volunteers of America, made a visit to Mount St. Joseph in November to present a special award to Sister Loretta Marie Marceau. The signed, limited edition bronze medallion created by sculptor Steve Gevurtz in Sister Loretta Marie's likeness will be given to "really special people," Marilee said. Sister Loretta Marie was a member of the original board of directors of Hope House, a women's shelter in downtown Spokane. The first award recipients also were two founding board members, Lynn Everson, of the Spokane Health District, and retired Spokane police officer Mike Yates.

Marilee expressed gratitude to all the Sisters of Providence for their help, but especially to Sister Loretta Marie. "She literally kept Hope House open during its toughest times. We looked to Sister Loretta Marie to keep our spirits high plus to pull everybody's hands out of

their back pockets to fund the shelter." ●



Sr. Loretta Marie Marceau (left) and Marilee Roloff

Farewell to Jack Marceau

In October, the Sisters of Providence in Spokane said a fond farewell to Jack Paul Marceau, the first man to live in the infirmary with the sisters. He was the brother of Sister Loretta Marie Marceau



and the father of Sister Ida Mae Marceau, who earlier had taken a sabbatical for three

years to be his primary caregiver in a nursing home. When Sister Ida Mae was called by the local community to become superior at Mount St. Joseph in 2004, she felt she could not leave her father. Sister Barbara Schamber, then provincial, and other members of the Leadership Team met with all the sisters of Mount St. Joseph and Emilie Court for an open discussion about Mr. Marceau coming to the infirmary floor. One of the questions considered was whether the female nursing staff could care for a man. That was answered when a nurse responded that they are trained to care for anyone, and sisters began to tell stories about excellent care they have received from male nurses. The response was unanimous that Mr. Marceau would be welcome, but a few wondered if he would be lonely as the only man on the floor.

He was anything but lonely. Mr. Marceau was loved by the sisters and by the nursing staff. Every weekend, a couple of family members came to visit him, from Missoula, Great Falls and Omaha. Appreciative of the care Mr. Marceau received, they became faithful donors to the ministries of Providence.

More than 40 guests attended Mr. Marceau's 100th birthday party at Mount St. Joseph, including many of his grandchildren. He died October 22, just one month shy of his 101st birthday. ●

Sr. Teresa White graduates

Sister Teresa White is now able to say – with great joy – that she is a fall 2006 graduate with a master's degree in pastoral studies



from Seattle University. It has been a long journey since what was supposed to be a one-year endeavor turned out to be a three-year process as the requirements for chaplaincy certification changed midstream. Sister Teresa also took some time to care for her mother when she broke her hip. She is now preparing for the oral exam, Passing the oral exam before a three-member board from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains is required for certification as a Catholic chaplain.

Sister Teresa is grateful to the Sisters of Providence, her family and all who have supported her in prayer and companionship on this journey. She asks for continued prayer as her process continues and looks forward to a time of vacation, retreat and a visit with her family before she applies for ministry. ●

Fairbanks photo exhibit

Denali State Bank, in Fairbanks, Alaska, occupies what used to be a portion of St. Joseph's Hospital. The remodeled lobby includes an exhibit that highlights the history of the hospital building, which was established by the Sisters of Providence in 1910 and transferred to Fairbanks Community Hospital in 1968. Artifacts in the exhibit include photographs, a bill for \$400 for a 65-day hospital stay in 1917 and a doctor's head reflector from the hospital's surgery unit. ●



Fairbanks bank exhibit

New PAs in Spokane and Los Angeles

In the words of the Providence Associates' covenant: "My desire is to unite with the Sisters of Providence to be the human face of Providence in the world." Spokane welcomed three new Providence Associates – (from left) Brenda Velasco and Larry and Jan Grayhek -- in a retreat and Mass in November. They are joined by Karen Wormell, PA, Sister Charlotte Van Dyke and Father Stan Malnar.



The Los Angeles area welcomed Vickie Sheri Race, shown here as she is given a blessing by (from left) Lillian Rouzan, PA, Sister Charlotte and Deacon Emile Adams, PA. ●



St. Cecilia parishioners Pat Dwyer (left) and Rita Rockstad (right) celebrate with Sr. Anna Loan Nguyen.

Celebration for Sr. Anna Loan Nguyen

St. Cecilia Parish, on Bainbridge Island near Seattle, enthusiastically celebrated Sr. Anna Loan Nguyen's graduation with a certificate from the Institute of Formative Spirituality in Pittsburg last October. In January, Sister Anna Loan returned for a second time to the intercongregational Dominican Institute of St. Thomas in Vietnam to teach spirituality to seminarians and sisters in formation. She will return to Seattle in June. ●

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Michael L. Schons, Jr., brother of Kris Schons, PA, died June 8 in Omak, Wash.

Arlene Vartanian, sister-in-law of Patricia Vartanian, SP, died December 7 in Visalia, Calif.

Joan Rorke-McClure, sister of Roberta Rorke, SP, died December 30 in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Karen (Kraus) Cosgrove, formerly Claudette Kraus, SP, died January 14, 2007, in San Diego, Calif.

Jane Benoit, sister-in-law of Maryann Benoit, SP, died January 28 in Yakima.

Rose Voth, sister of Anne Bouffard, SP, died February 12 in Anchorage.

Rest in Peace

Claudia McMillan, SP (Sister Claudia of Providence)

Sister Claudia McMillan died November 20 at 91 years of age. She had been a Sister of Providence for 66 years.

She was born Gertrude M. McMillan in 1915 to the family of John Myles and Annie (O'Shea) McMillan, in Superior, MT. She was the youngest of three children. Her mother was ill and frail, yet never complained. Sister Claudia had a happy childhood, and much of the time she spent outside enjoying nature. She said, "I loved nature, and in later years I found God easily in the beauty of the outside world..."

She graduated from Superior High School, Superior, MT, in 1933, entered nurse's training at Columbus Hospital School of Nursing, Great Falls, MT, and graduated with an RN diploma in 1937. After working in Fresno and Santa Barbara, CA, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence in Seattle in August 1940. She professed first vows in February 1942 and final vows in 1945.

Sister Claudia shared that it was only in the novitiate that she learned and fully understood many of the truths of Catholicism. She said, "The first sisters I knew were from St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula. While I admired their devotion to work, I had little desire to know more about them..." While traveling with a classmate to California to work and sight-see, they were employed by the Holy Cross Sisters in Fresno. The superior asked Claudia if she had a desire to become a sister. She said, "With all of this began the first known stirrings of God's call to religious life..."

Meanwhile, she heard that her classmate and good friend Lucille Thomas (Sister Peter Claver) was planning to enter the Providence novitiate, and this gave her the impetus to seek admission to the Sisters of Providence.



Sister Claudia earned her BS in nursing from the College of Great Falls (now University) in 1961. She earned a certificate from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in 1971. Her years of ministry, chiefly in health care, included: Sacred Heart Hospital (now Medical Center), Spokane, 1942-45, 1965-68 surgery supervisor; St. Ignatius Hospital (now Whitman Community Hospital), Colfax, WA, 1945-46, 1950-58, administrator 1961-64; Columbus Hospital (now Benefis Health Care), Great Falls, 1948-50, administrator 1964-65, assistant administrator 1977-87; St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, MT, 1958-60; Provincial Administration, Spokane, Provincial Councilor for health and social service 1968-73; Holy Family Hospital, St. Ignatius, MT, administrator pro tem 1971-73; Providence Hospital (now Swedish Medical Center, Providence Campus) Seattle, pastoral care 1973-77; St. Brendan Nursing Home (now St. Joseph Care Center), Spokane, pastoral care 1987-1997.

It was at Columbus Hospital that she spent most of her nursing years, enjoying the people contact and the challenge of the job. Sister Claudia said, "There is a need for people to receive a message of personal dignity. Mother Joseph must have made others feel that their work was important in establishing God's plan. At Columbus, employees must see the importance of their contribution to the whole hospital and how their work fits into the notion of a Catholic hospital. Such a vision must become an achievement if we are not to pay lip service to the objective of this hospital, which is to reflect 'Christian compassionate concern' for others..."

In 1979, Sister Claudia was named "Boss of the Year" by the Copper Chapter of American Business Women in Great Falls. However, her greatest satisfaction was during her 10-year ministry in pastoral care at St. Joseph Care Center. She enjoyed reading and also walks—with a continued appreciation of the wonders of nature. She also found knitting a relaxing pastime.

She retired in 1997, then spent two years in California caring for her ill sister until they both came to Spokane. Sister Claudia resided at Mount St. Joseph until her death. She is survived by her cousins, Rita Barrett and Betty McDonald, both of Ontario, Canada; the community of Sisters of Providence and many friends.

Vigil service was November 24 and Funeral Mass was celebrated November 25, both at Mount St. Joseph. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Spokane. Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions in Sr. Claudia McMillan's memory may be made to Sisters of Providence Retirement Fund, 9 East 9th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202-1209. ●

Blanche Dufault, SP (Sister Denise of Providence)

Sister Blanche Dufault died December 4 in Seattle at 91 years of age, after 71 years as a Sister of Providence.

She was born Blanche Mary Dufault in 1915 at the family home at White Swan, WA, to Joseph Dufault and Anna Marie (Menard) Dufault. She was the fifth of six children. One of her sisters, Cecilia Violet Dufault (Sister Dolorosa, SP), died at Providence Hospital, Seattle, in 1995.

At the age of 5, Blanche moved with her family to Moxee City, WA, since it had a Catholic school system. She graduated from Holy Rosary High School in 1933 and did post-graduate work in science at St. Joseph Academy in Yakima before entering the Sisters of Providence in Seattle in 1934. She entered the novitiate in 1935 and made final vows in 1939.

Sister Blanche earned her BA degree in education from the College of Great Falls in 1943 and her MA degree in education from Seattle University in 1955.

Her sister Violet entered the Sisters of Providence





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Blanche Dufault, SP...

first, and Sister Blanche felt entering the religious community would give her the most opportunities to serve. And serve she did. She felt her real calling was to the nursing profession, however, because of her success in teaching, she was told she was a "born teacher." Sister Blanche stayed in the teaching ministry for 33 years, teaching in the following schools: St. Michael School, Olympia, WA; (1936-40); St. Catherine School, Seattle (1941-44, 1947-50, 1955-58, and 1965); Providence Academy, Vancouver, WA (1944-47 and 1953-54); St. Joseph Grade School, Yakima, WA (1950-53; 1965-66); St. Finbar School, Burbank, CA (1953), Holy Family School, Seattle (1954-55); Holy Rosary School, Moxee, WA (1958-61); and Central Catholic High School, Portland, OR (1961-64). She also served as principal in some of these schools; and in other ministerial capacities at Providence Medical Center, Seattle (1964-65), Carroll High School (1965-70), and St. Joseph Residence, Seattle (1970-88). She wrote: "My students gave me the real highpoints of my life, from moment-to-moment, as I went about the daily chores of living."

Sister Blanche's years in the community were full of important experiences. She said, "I do realize I have lived through changes, much growth over those years."

She felt the Second Vatican Council made a tremendous difference in her life. She and Sister Jeannette Benson were the first two Sisters of Providence given permission to remove the veil. "We went right upstairs, took off our veils, and went into the classroom. It was quite a shock," she said.

In later years, Sister Blanche lived with longtime caregiver and friend Anna Burris, SP, at Caritas Court, Seattle, where she enjoyed playing bridge, watching sports, knitting, reading, and sewing.

Sister Blanche is survived by her sister-in-law, Wanda E. Dufault (Maurice) of Wapato, WA, and many nieces, including Dona Taylor, SP, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; her community of Sisters of Providence and many other friends.

Vigil Service was held December 7 and Funeral Mass was celebrated December 8, both at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery. Bonney-Watson Funeral Home, West Seattle, was in charge of arrangements.

Donations in memory of Sister Blanche Dufault 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. ●

Editor's note:

- Since 2001, Providence Associates have been welcoming women from the streets of Spokane to a day of spiritual renewal and to experience God's everlasting love. These women are struggling with domestic violence, sexual abuse, mental illness, chemical dependency, or a combination of these things. They are taking their first steps toward healing and fulfillment by participating in transitional programs.

Remembering a life...

- **Her name was Melanie.** She touched our hearts because we could see ourselves in her, in her struggle for stability in her life, her simple joy of beautiful flowers, her fear of tomorrow and what it would hold, her delight in God's goodness in her life. She loved to garden and cared for the flowers at a local business. She was quiet and a little shy.
- She struggled with her demons. She died one day this summer, alone and questioned because of the circumstances of her death. At first she was just a blurb in the newspaper, not identified, unknown. When her name was finally released on a TV broadcast, there was no picture of her, only a silhouette like a paper cutout. She was much more than that and her death stunned those of us who knew her.



- She was a daughter, a mom, a friend, a treasured child of God. She was on the brink of pulling the pieces of her life back together. She came to a first retreat given by the Spokane Providence Associates and then to a follow-up retreat. She was deeply touched by God's love and her enthusiasm for how this affected her radiated from her face and gave promise to her conversation. I grieved for her then; I grieve for her now, because I still don't know why she had to go.
- There still is a picture of her on the wall at the Women's Hearth. It is there to remind us of how much we cared for her and also so we won't forget her impact on our lives. Her name was Melanie. - **Becky Ward, PA**