

# Caritas

A publication for the Sisters of Providence and Friends ● SPRING 2009

## HISTORIC CELEBRATION



### *Nurses* – religious and lay – take the spotlight at legacy dinner

*Dedicated lay nurses  
continue the healing  
ministry that was  
pioneered by the  
Sisters of Providence.*

**S**isters of Providence who have served in ministry in nursing and their counterparts in the healing arts broke bread together at a gathering in January in Seattle. “In Our Hands: The Providence Nursing Legacy” was held at Salty’s restaurant. Its theme was that the same love, compassion, courage and commitment to serving the poor and disenfranchised that women religious brought to creating the healing ministry of Providence Health & Services is alive today in the lay nurses.

→ →

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## Nurses – religious and lay – take the spotlight at legacy dinner...

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*Sisters of Providence: “As nurses and religious women, their actions have significantly changed the face of history ... all for the better.”*

*Debbie Burton and Mother Joseph (Charlotte Van Dyke, SP) share the prodiium.*

**D**ebbie Burton, recently appointed chief nursing officer, reflected: “The early Sisters of Providence were called to the West to share their values, and their own special gifts of compassion and blessedness to address the causes and consequences of human suffering. As nurses and religious women, their actions have significantly changed

the face of history ... all for the better. Through their nursing care they became the hands, the feet, and the heart of Jesus; and brought the light of his presence to those whom they served.” She added that the legacy of those sisters has been “deeply enriched” over the years by other women religious who served in nursing ministries. Among them, some of them present at the gathering, were Sisters of Little Company of Mary, Dominican Sisters, Benedictine Sisters, Sisters of Holy Cross, Sisters of Reparation of the Sacred Wounds of Jesus, Sisters of Holy Names, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, and the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“Your dedication has been unwavering,” Debbie continued, “and your lasting success is a reflection not

just of your courage and compassion, but also of your humility and grace. I stand before you deeply grateful that we, the nurse leaders of all of Providence in this room, have each of you, and Mother Joseph and Mother Gamelin, as lasting role models for how we must lead: with unwavering compassion, courage, humility and grace.”

A highlight of the evening was an appearance by Mother Joseph (Sister Charlotte Van Dyke), in a closing offering “a special blessing of the hands of our lay nurse leaders” in a ritual transfer of the sisters’ legacy of nursing to all Providence nurses. “We all take leave from one another this evening, as people of Providence, knowing we are all strengthened by our common calling – to bring compassionate care to those in need.” ●

### Editor’s note:

*This newsletter is printed by Graphics Plus Inc., an eco-savvy Seattle printer, using soy-based inks on Endeavor 80 lb. gloss book by Advantage Grades. This paper is Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC), elemental chlorine free (ECF) and features high recycled content compared to both foreign and domestic grades (50% overall/15% post-consumer). The paper mill is a “clean mill” with a sustainability charter.*

OPENING EYES ...

## Sisters launch human trafficking awareness

# BUS AD CAMPAIGN

### Seattle-area residents

are being jolted out of their comfort zones by vivid anti-human trafficking public service announcements on the sides of public buses. And if organizers of this awareness campaign have their way, Spokane and Portland residents will not be far behind. This may even become a model for a national campaign.

The "Stop the Demand" bus campaign was launched March 8, the United Nations Day for Women's Rights. It is sponsored by religious communities in the Pacific Northwest in collaboration with the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC). Funds have been raised to develop the ads, and monies still are being raised to implement the strategy in King and Pierce counties. The goal for the Seattle-area campaign is \$25,000.

Three Sisters of Providence serve on the awareness campaign committee: Sisters Judy

Desmarais, Charlene Hudon and Provincial Councilor Charlotte Van Dyke; along with Sister Susan Francois, CSJP, an IPJC staff member. A fundraising letter signed by Sister Charlotte observes: "This modern form of slavery destroys the dignity of the human person and degrades all people - those trafficked as well as those who do the trafficking." To make a contribution or to receive further information, please contact Sister Charlotte at (425) 525-3394 or by email at [charlotte.vandyke@providence.org](mailto:charlotte.vandyke@providence.org).

Committee members hope the vivid image of the bus ads and the website address for the campaign ([www.stopthedemand.org](http://www.stopthedemand.org)) will motivate people to get involved to end human trafficking. Another way to get involved in Seattle is to participate in monthly prayer vigils planned for the first Sunday of every month, from 1:30 to 2 p.m. at Westlake Park, in downtown Seattle. ●

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