

Caritas

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Christmas Blessings



during a recent discussion about future leadership, one of the newest sisters of Mother Joseph Province exclaimed, "I keep picturing the widow who gave two coins—all she had to live on. I want leaders who will challenge us to give everything we've got!"

Christmas presents such a challenge to "give all we've got" when we see a provident and self-emptying God "born in the likeness of human beings." (Philippians 2:7) Finding new life in God's gift, people feel challenged to return the gift. Shepherds bring lambs. Kings haul in treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. According to songs and stories of the season, every manner of creature offers a gift made valuable, not by its magnificence, but by what it cost the giver.

For those of us in the Providence community, such giving is not a once-a-year phenomenon. Wherever we Sisters of Providence serve the poor, we are daily witnesses to the truth that when something is coming alive it is because others are sharing their lives and livelihood to make it happen. It may sound hackneyed to say this, but where people see a pattern of others "giving all they've got," they recognize the face of Providence and celebrate something like Christmas where they would never expect it.

Thank you for your continuing friendship and for sharing our mission. At this Christmas and throughout the coming year, we invite you once again to join us in "giving all we've got." We promise mutual support and we pray that you may enjoy a blessed—and unexpected—Christmas!

The Leadership Team/ Mother Joseph Province

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Co-recipients share 2003 Mother Joseph Award

Sisters of Providence will present two recipients with the 2003 Mother Joseph Award at receptions in December – Chuck Hawley, of Seattle, vice president of government affairs for Providence Health System, and Betty Harrington, of Spokane, a retired nursing administrator and a Providence Associate for 18 years.

The award is named in honor of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the first Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Providence in the West, and is given to a person who "exemplifies the values and courage of Mother Joseph." It is presented by the Provincial and the Leadership Team on behalf of all the Sisters of Provi-

dence in the province, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana and El Salvador.

Chuck Hawley's award will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at Mount St. Vincent in Seattle. Betty Harrington will receive her award at 6 p.m. Monday, December 8, at Mount St. Joseph in Spokane. The presentation dates coincide with the arrival in the Northwest of Mother Joseph and her sister companions on December 8, 1856. ●



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Betty Harrington, PA

Betty Harrington wears the mantle of pioneer well – first as a leader in health care and nursing education for 35 years and secondly, as one of the originators of the Providence Associate movement, a role she continues in 18 years later as a charter member.

Just ask Dr. William H. Barber, a former member of the board of directors of Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, and a former psychiatry staff and faculty member. “Like Mother Joseph, Betty Harrington is a visionary and a pioneer,” he says, recalling that Betty anticipated the need for nurses to receive college-level training.

“She is a visionary who lives the Providence way of life to the fullest, nurturing and encouraging others to do the same,” agrees Betty’s fellow Providence Associate Phyllis Silva-Keith, another nominator for the Mother Joseph Award. “And just like Mother Joseph, she answers the call to serve, sees what needs to be done and searches out the gifts to fulfill those needs.”

Mary Butler describes how Betty’s “leadership and ideas have provided the structural framework and underpinnings” of the Providence Associates. Betty “has personally mentored or ‘birthed’ several associates through their study and discernment process,” says Mary, who received that same type of mentoring and guidance from Betty when Mary became a vice president at Sacred Heart in 1982.

A native of Butte, Mont., Betty received her diploma in nursing from St. James Hospital in Butte in 1944 and served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1944 to 1945. After eight years as a nursing supervisor in San Francisco, she entered Gonzaga University’s nursing program, receiving a bachelor of science in nursing education. She returned to Gonzaga and received a master of education degree in 1964. She joined the faculty at Sacred Heart School of Nursing in 1956 and served as director from 1961 until the school’s closure in 1973. In 1972, she joined other administrative staff at Sacred Heart in establishing a department of educational services and was its director until her retirement in 1989.

Innovation and change were hallmarks of Betty’s nursing career, her nominators said. New technologies and medicines demand updated skills, but she was up to the challenge. “Change is a given,” Betty has said. “Each generation experiences both the benefit and the unrest that comes from it – new information, new problems and challenges. I view change as an opportunity to improve.

“We integrated the technology into our teaching and practice as it evolved, but above all we strived not to allow the machines to replace the art and compassionate touch of nursing.”

Betty’s past professional associations, many of which she held leadership positions in, include the Montana, California and Washington state nurses’ associations, the Inland Empire Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the Washington State Board of Nursing, and the Community Health Education Consortium. Betty’s former community activities, again many in leadership roles, include the Pregnancy Care Center, the Holy Names Academy School Board, and the boards of Catholic Charities and Providence Services. She is a past co-director of the Providence Associates of the former St. Ignatius Province and she has been a member and chair of the board of Immaculate Heart Retreat Center.

Betty’s many honors include the Outstanding Nurse Award from the Inland Empire Nurses Association, 1980; Woman of the Year from the Lilac City Business & Professional Women, 1986; Lifetime Achievement Award from the Inland Empire Nurses Association, 1988; Washington State Nurses Association Excellence Award, 1989; the Sacred Heart Honor Award and the Gonzaga University Alumni Merit Award. In 1994 she became the second recipient of the Sister Peter Claver Award, which honors individuals who reflect the leadership and faith of Sacred Heart’s president from 1964 to 1987.

In nominating Betty for this year’s Mother Joseph Award, friends, former co-workers and colleagues offered enough accolades and praises to put her name forward for sainthood. Perhaps this quote sums it up best: “Betty is the face of Providence to all she meets, and in a deeply compassionate way, brings joy into those lives.”

Co-workers felt honored to work alongside Betty, according to Dorothy A. Ruzicki, Ph.D., RN, whom Betty hired as an instructor in 1980. Now director of educational services at Sacred Heart, Dorothy says Betty became her mentor, teacher, coach and role model. She “nurtured me in strong interpersonal, leadership and management skills, especially those related to objectivity, fairness and compassion,” she recalls. “I have always sensed that recognition is not important to her because she sees herself as an instrument of God’s work. She is happiest when she is helping others.”

Nursing students loved her. Just ask Eloise Thomas, who describes herself as “the first married student (and the oldest) to graduate from the School of Nursing. Eloise explains, “She provided me the opportunity to realize my lifelong dream by allowing me to enroll in the Sacred Heart School of Nursing in 1961. I was 37 years old, married with three children. She permitted me to live at home, as she knew the importance of family. This was new ground for her to break.” Eloise says she will be forever grateful for Betty’s “support and understanding.”

Ditto, says Providence Associate Liz Pearce, who met Betty in 1957 when she came from



Montana to the School of Nursing, where Betty was a clinical instructor for student nurses. “She was someone who very promptly won the respect and love of the students through her kindness, understanding and acceptance of each individual, while exemplifying absolute dignity and professionalism.” That carried over into Betty’s

participation and leadership in “the very difficult discernment that resulted in closing the school,” Liz adds. “Betty’s ability to see future trends and needs helped give confidence in the decision to those of us who loved the school so much. She was, in a way, a pioneer, trusting in Providence to lead the way into a new era for nursing education.”

Hospital patients, then and now, have been especially blessed to find Betty at their bedside. Says recovered cancer patient Susan Hammond: “As I look back on that year in my life and how I survived it, I think of my friend Betty”. She adds, “Betty’s tears of joy are legend, as are her twinkling eyes of friendship.”

Even people facing severe challenges knew they were in the hands of someone exceptional when they encountered Betty. Says Cary Sprecher, “Often people say, with good intentions, they’ll pray for you. It’s a one-time event or even a forgotten statement,” said the mother who struggled for years with “the difficult challenge of parenting and being in relationship with” an alcoholic son. Not so with Betty. “When Betty said she’d pray for us, she said she committed to an ongoing relationship of daily prayers and frequent conversations with me. Her compassionate faithfulness has made a tremendous difference in our lives and in the life of our son.”

Now in her 80s, there just is no stopping Betty, who one supporter described as “the gift that keeps on giving!”

“BETTY DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO SAY ‘NO,’” says former student, employee and close friend Joyce Bennett. Thirty years after the nursing school’s closure, Betty remains in touch with students and faculty, attends the annual alumni banquet and personally funds a scholarship to help Sacred Heart graduates further their education. But even more noteworthy, Joyce says, is the fact that Betty opened her home to a pregnant teenager to ensure that she received proper prenatal care and also welcomed a Montana family to stay with her, thus cutting down costs while their preschool daughter was treated for leukemia.

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Award Recipients

that keeps on giving!" After years of volunteering at shelters for women and teenagers, advanced loss of her sight has severely limited her activities. Yet she still is driven to Sacred Heart once a week so that she can rock babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Betty's healing touch calms both the babies and the nurses, and she prays for the infants and their families, says Marilee Hedmark, an RN for 18 years in the unit. It was in part due to Betty's

influence that Marilee says she became a Providence Associate.

Betty keeps helping others achieve their dreams and goals. Just ask Cheryl Kadmiri, who calls Betty, whom she met when both were volunteers at the Women's Drop-In Center, "my providential gift."

"She entered my life during a time I lacked any maternal guidance or wisdom," Cheryl recalls. "I had separated from my family and

most recently my husband. I found myself a single parent raising three incredible boys. I had the sole responsibility of them on my shoulders. Betty became my confidant, my friend, my family. She has helped me financially, emotionally and spiritually."

Because of Betty's caring, compassion and devotion to serving others – traits exhibited by Mother Joseph — Cheryl met a long-awaited goal this fall – entering nursing school. ●

Charles E. "Chuck" Hawley

He was just a high school student, helping a church group organize worship services in nursing homes, when Chuck Hawley first found his passion for working on behalf of the elderly. Later, while enrolled at Seattle Pacific University, he aspired to a Protestant ministry, majoring in biblical literature and political science. In 1973 he founded and became executive director of the non-denominational Sonshine Society, a ministry for nursing home residents. On any given Sunday today, that program can be found in operation in more than 2,000 nursing homes across the United States and Canada.

"I always felt called to work with the elderly ... in ministry to them," says Chuck, Providence Health System's vice president of government affairs. His tenure at Providence began in 1987 as its first director of continuum development and long-term care. In his current, newly created role, he is charged with responsibility and oversight of federal regulatory issues, integrity, federal advocacy and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) implementation.

Hank Walker, president/CEO of Providence Health System, and Karin Dufault, SP, vice president for mission leadership, are among those who nominated Chuck for the Mother Joseph Award for "groundbreaking work he has done on behalf of elderly people." "Chuck has in many ways redefined care for the aging, especially vulnerable and physically fragile seniors," his nominators say. "His efforts have improved the lives of thousands of people in the communities where Providence serves."

In his nomination form, they write: "Chuck is a Christian man of deep faith and a model of being spiritually grounded. Inspired by the motivation and work of our foundresses, he draws on those long-standing traditions and sacred stories whenever he provides his meaningful reflections at meetings and other gatherings. He shares great understanding of scripture as it influences his work and his life. Clearly, health care is both a calling and a ministry to him. Gospel values guide his way of being and relating. As such, Chuck lives out the Providence mission and core values in a way that exemplifies the best of what Providence has to offer to its communities and is an inspiration to his colleagues."

Chuck has become a leader in legislative and regulatory advocacy for Providence Health System, Providence Services, Peace Health, and Swedish Health Services. His nominators say he has been a mentor, educator and professional colleague, sharing knowledge and understanding of the needs of the elderly. "At the same time, he challenges us to constantly reassess how we can do more for these vulnerable populations."

"Chuck has in many ways redefined care for the aging, especially vulnerable and physically fragile seniors..."

Charlene K. Boyd, administrator at Providence Mount St. Vincent, says Chuck has been a mentor to her for 20 years. He is nationally known for his advocacy work in elder issues, strategic planning and integrated models that benefit the individual. He is grounded in the values of Catholic health care: "promote and defend human dignity, the poor and vulnerable, and justice and concern for the common good," she says.

In the spirit of Mother Joseph, Chuck works in a collaborative mode, acting as an advocate, a lobbyist, an educator and a champion of the needs of the elderly to health care professionals, community and church representatives, and local and federal officials. The result has been good legislation and meaningful state and federal regulations that establish partnerships and joint ventures to build facilities and create new levels of service, and to foster innovative options for elder care.

Chuck, who holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington, has been a member of the Long Term Advisory Committee to the Washington Health Services Commission and has chaired the Budget and Finance Committee for the Long Term Care Commission. He also has served on a number of task forces with the National Academy of State Health Policy. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and was one of ten



national leaders serving on the Health Care Reform Task Force for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. He also has been a lecturer and clinical associate professor at the University of Washington and is co-chair of Catholic Health Association's Partnership in Synergistic Implementation (PSI) initiatives to reduce the number of uninsured

individuals throughout the United States.

"He definitely walks the talk of Providence and we are privileged to be colleagues in his work," says Greg Van Pelt, chief executive of the health system's Washington region. Chuck works "tirelessly, unselfishly and passionately," says Greg, who credits him with helping to build the Washington management team and utilizing his legislative and regulatory contacts to help with recent health care transitions in Yakima.

Sister Christopher Querin also praises Chuck's "extraordinary knowledge of state and national politics", and lauds him for the "profound Christian commitment and values" he brings to his work.

Chuck, 52, born in a Navy hospital in Oakland, Calif., shares a blended family of four children in their mid to late 20s with his wife, Gail. Providence, he says, has been with him every step of his professional journey. "I felt God led me to where I am," Chuck says today. "The thread that runs through my life must be a reflection of where God is calling me."

For example, he relates, while looking for work in a slow economy in 1976, he called to apply for a job as head of a maintenance department of a large retirement home, but was disappointed when he did not receive a call back. He followed up with a call of his own and was told by the hiring official that, with his degree in biblical literature and political science, "you don't really want this job." From that person, Chuck learned that the Washington Association of Homes for the Aging was looking for an executive director, a position he soon filled.

Another providential nudge came when he had been serving in that position for 10 years and had an opportunity to become vice president of a similar national association headquartered in Washington, D.C. "But I just didn't feel called to it," Chuck says. A friend suggested that he consider instead a position as director of long-term care for the Sisters of Providence in Seattle. Chuck made up his mind to call the recruiter, but was amazed to first receive the → →

recruiter's call seeking a reference for someone else applying for the Providence position. The two talked about Chuck's interest in the job and three months later he was hired.

Today, Chuck works more with policies and policy makers than with individual elderly people, but he remembers well and fondly his years of working in low-income housing, assisted living and other services. What has meant most to him in his work on behalf of the elderly? "(It is) being able to see the difference that advocacy can make in the lives of the elderly person and the people who serve them," he offers.

Of the Mother Joseph Award, he says, "I am humbled by it and honored." "In no way do I compare myself to Mother Joseph," says Chuck, who has read the letters of this visionary pioneer. One of the things he appreciates most about her is her reliance on Providence. "The best 'successes' I have had have been at times when I was at a loss, and I have seen that in Mother Joseph's letters – Providence and trust." That is particularly true in direct service areas, when the success of new programs was uncertain. "When I was the least capable, I was enabled because of God's power."

The second facet of Mother Joseph that stands out for Chuck is her ability "to be a voice for the poor and to serve the poor specifically and preferentially." "A lot of people don't have that commitment or share those values," he says. In services like the low-income housing work, for example, he says, "but for Providence – the big 'P' and the little 'p' – that would not have happened."

When lobbying in Olympia or in Washington, D.C., he has found a source of strength in visiting the likenesses of Mother Joseph in both capitols. Chuck says he also draws inspiration from other Sisters of Providence, "people who follow in her footsteps." He recalls the time spent "cramming" through volumes of facts and figures for the job interview at Providence. He quickly was brought back to what was most important by Sister Yvonne LeBlanc's two interview questions: "Tell me about your journey of faith" and "What have you done in your life to serve the poor?"

Similarly, he recalls being asked by Sister Barbara Schamber, team leader/provincial of Mother Joseph Province, "If we don't do this, will it be done?" Chuck says he thought he was being asked whether there was a demand, but Sister Barbara actually was saying, "Tell me why we should be the ones to do it." It was at that point, Chuck says, that he learned about unmet need. "She was asking me what Providence brings to the table that the others will not serve."

"The mission of Providence is unique," he says. "A lot of groups deliver service to the elderly, but I am pleased to work for an organization that is doing it for the right reasons." ●

TWO VIETNAMESE SISTERS



Pictured in front from left are Sisters AnnMary Vu and Lang Tran. Behind them are Superior General Kathryn Rutan, SP, and Team Leader/Provincial Barbara Schamber, SP.

Sisters Lang Tran and AnnMary Vu, both natives of Vietnam, completed their transfer into the Sisters of Providence in a ceremony on October 18 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seattle. The presider and homilist was the Reverend Patrick Brennan, vicar for clergy and judicial vicar for the Archdiocese of Portland. American and Vietnamese priests served as co-celebrants and the Our Lady of Lavang choir provided the music.

"These two perpetually vowed women are bringing their gifts and talents and are now going to live out and express the charism of Providence in their lives. That charism is in service to the poor," says Team Leader/Provincial Sister Barbara Schamber. She and Sister Kathryn Rutan, Superior General of the international community headquartered in Montreal, participated in the transfer ceremony which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Both women joined the Adorers of the Holy Cross in their native country. Sister AnnMary Vu was born in 1947 to a family of 12 children in the northern part of Vietnam, five of whom lived beyond infancy. In 1954, when the Geneva Treaty divided the country into North and South Vietnam, her family was among the nearly one million Catholics who moved from the North to the South to be able to continue practicing their faith. Those Catholics who remained in the North faced death or arrest by the Communists. In the summer of 1957 she was sent



Sister Ana Dolores Orellana-Gamero began a formal process of transfer with the Sisters of Providence in a prayer service attended by family and friends in Yakima in September. Sister Ana Dolores, a Salvadoran citizen, is a sister of perpetual vows in the religious community Mothers of the Orphans in Rome, Italy.

She has been living in Spokane since August 2002, where her mother and most of her sisters and brothers live, having spent years as part of a sanctuary program at St. Ann's Church before becoming documented.

Sister Ana Dolores currently is studying English and ministering with the Hispanic community in Yakima while living with the sisters at the candidate house. She also has completed a "Come and See Program" that included five months living with sisters in El Salvador to experience the life of prayer, community and ministry with them. ●