

Rest in Peace



Margaret Beaulieu, SP
(Sister Dolorine)

Sister Margaret Beaulieu died

September 4 at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, at the age of 78. She had been a Sister of Providence for 59 years.

The tenth of 16 children, Margaret was born February 11, 1925, in Spokane to Paul Beaulieu and Josephine Anderson. Margaret received her grade school education in Spokane-area Catholic schools taught by the Sisters of the Holy Names. She and her siblings grew up during the depression years, when food and clothing were scarce. During the summer the entire family caught the early bus to the Spokane Valley to work harvesting vegetables and berries. As pay, they usually were given half of what they picked. When they arrived home, all the girls helped their mother can the fresh food and put it away for winter. For entertainment, they enjoyed picnics and outings. At the annual Catholic picnic, held at Franklin Park, the Beaulieus always won the prize for the largest family.

Margaret was enrolled in boarding school at St. Joseph Academy in Sprague, where she was taught by the Sisters of Providence. She graduated from there in 1943. During summer vacations she worked at Sacred Heart Hospital, serving meals to patients and cleaning rooms. She entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Providence in Seattle in 1943 and became a novice in 1944. Margaret professed first vows in 1945 and received Sister Dolorine as her name in religion. She professed final vows in 1948. She received a bachelor's degree from the College of Great Falls in 1957 and a master's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., in 1962.

Her ministry assignments as a teacher included: St. John Academy, Colfax (1945-46), St. Francis Xavier School, Missoula (1946-47, 1956-61), Providence Mary Immaculate School, DeSmet (1947-48), Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Wallace (1948-50), St. Thomas Home, Great Falls (1950-56, 1965-66), St. Patrick School, Walla Walla (1961-64),

St. Alphonsus School, Wallace (1964-65), and St. Gerard School, Great Falls (1966-73).

Sister Margaret served at the College of Great Falls as professor of education from 1973 to 1981 and from 1982 to 1990. She taught methods of teaching to future teachers and also was a student advisor and supervised teaching interns. She had a lasting influence on many of her students as well as with the other faculty members. On her retirement from the college, she was honored with the title of professor emeritus.

Sister Margaret moved to Spokane and attended the CREDO program at Gonzaga University. She then became a member of the Community Life Team at Mount St. Joseph. She enjoyed being at the service of the retired sisters and took special pleasure in preparing decorations for special occasions.

Sister Margaret retired to Mount St. Joseph in 1990. Once, when she was nearing the end of her teaching career, she was asked to be on a committee that helped prepare sisters for retirement. One of the points she made was that a sister be encouraged to have a hobby so her life would be happier. Upon her own retirement she kept up several hobbies and never wanted to waste a minute. Even just shortly before her death, she continued her many hobbies, like watercolor painting or making cards. She also enjoyed listening to music and reading.

Survivors include two sisters, Eloise McGrath and Shirley Beaulieu, both of Spokane, a brother, Daniel Beaulieu of San Dimas, Calif., and many nieces and nephews. ●



Louise Lebel, SP
(Sister Louise Aline)

Sister Louise

Lebel died September 10 at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle, at the age of 84. She had been a Sister of Providence for 58 years.

Loving service was at the heart of Sister Louise's call as nurse, administrator and pastoral caregiver. Drawn at a young age to the ministry of healing, she approached her work with single-mindedness and tireless energy. She was well known for her

hospitality, wisdom, sensitivity, prayer and joy.

The sixth of 12 children, she was born Marie Fernande Alma Lebel on April 26, 1919, in Cacouna, a small Catholic farming community in the province of Quebec. She was the child of Marie Louise Beaulieu and Emile Lebel.

The close-knit farm family provided for their own needs with homegrown vegetables, eggs, cream and meat. Every day they said morning and evening prayer and the rosary together. First Fridays and Forty Hours devotions never were missed. Mrs. Lebel was a schoolteacher prior to her marriage and taught her children the alphabet, simple arithmetic and the catechism before they began school with the Grey Nuns.

After graduation, Louise traveled to Montreal and earned twenty dollars per month working as a maid for two families for six years. She sent the money home for books, shoes and clothing for her brothers and sisters who were still in school. Three of her brothers became priests. When Louise expressed to her Jesuit brother her desire to join a religious community that cared about the sick, elderly and children, he enthusiastically recommended the Sisters of Providence. Louise paid a visit to the motherhouse and was granted admission, but she postponed entrance for a year to help her mother care for an elderly aunt who was suffering with cancer.

Sister Louise entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal in 1944. She became a novice in 1945 and professed first vows in 1946, taking the name Sister Louise Aline in religion. She professed final vows in 1949.

Sister Louise's first mission was in Winooski, Vt., where she served as a teacher. In 1947, she was asked to go to Sacred Heart Province in Seattle, becoming the last one to be assigned West.

Far from home and isolated by language barriers, she worked in the kitchen of Sacred Heart School in Tacoma and studied English under the guidance of Sister Edyth Borthwick. After receiving her high school diploma at St. Joseph Academy in Yakima, Sister Louise began nursing training, her heart's desire.

While in Yakima, Sister Louise experienced a miracle through the intercession of Mother Gamelin. Suffering from serious burns on

the face and hands, she was taken to St. Elizabeth Hospital, where she remained for four days, wrapped up in bandages. On the fourth day, the doctor said the badly injured fingers would need a skin graft. Louise turned to Mother Gamelin and asked for her help. Two days later, the doctor removed the bandages and, to his amazement, the fingers were healing faster than any burn he had ever seen. In less than three weeks there was no sign that she had ever been burned. Louise wrote, "Mother Gamelin has done her work beautifully. I shall be thankful to her always."

Sister Louise was sent to St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, where she received a bachelor's degree in nursing. Thus, she began a journey of caring for the sick, especially the dying. In 1961 she earned a master's degree in health administration from St. Louis University. From there, she went to Providence Hospital in Everett as administrator.

"Sister Teresa Lang took me there and said, 'little sister, your job is to finish the fourth wing of this hospital,'" Sister Louise recalled. Determined to fulfill the duties she had been asked to complete, she immersed herself in the unfamiliar world of building codes and blueprints. In her twelve years in Everett she built in stages a completely new hospital to replace the old building constructed in 1924. Her goals accomplished, she again felt the call to be with the sick.

After a brief period caring for retired sisters at St. Joseph Residence, she completed clinical pastoral education and served in pastoral care at Providence Hospital in Oakland from 1973 through 1987. Sister Louise next moved to Spokane, where she participated in the CREDO program at Gonzaga University, followed by a tour of the Holy Land plus stops in England and France to visit family and her ancestral home.

Sister Louise was on the formation staff of the province for a year before spending more than a year serving seniors at Holy Rosary Parish in Seattle. In 1990 she became superior at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle, where she retired in 1994.

Surviving family members include two sisters, Emilienne Jones of Vancouver, B.C., and Aline Michaud of Quebec, and two brothers, Bernard Lebel and George Lebel of Quebec. ●

“Angels” bless Great Falls

**Providence Associates
offer furniture, clothes
and love in the**



The Angel Room is chock full of donated furniture, apparel and household items for the needy. Volunteers, including youth from nearby Conrad shown painting, have helped get the room in shape.



Karen Lathrop (left) and Sister Inez Arkell apply their skills to sanding the walls.

Angel Room

Five days a week, “angels” measure, label, fold and hang up clothing in Great Falls, preparing to welcome those who can make use of donated apparel, furniture and household items. “We only give clean, neat, useful things,

and we treat our clients with dignity and respect,” says one of those angels, Providence Associate Karen Lathrop, paraphrasing

They move easily through the aisles to peruse the furniture, bedding, clothing for women, children and men, household goods, toys, books, mattresses and bed frames stocked in the big open room. Most find a way to transport the items they want, but if they cannot, the husbands of some of the angels are pressed into service, Karen adds.

There are more than 20 Providence Associates in the Great Falls area, including nine that joined the group in the past year, says Sister Inez. The Great Falls associates stay busy. One of their projects was fixing up a prayer room at the women’s pre-release center in conjunction with Sisters of Providence foundress Mother Emilie Gamelin’s 200th birthday. Since then, the associates have kept the room stocked with seasonal and spiritual items and reading material. Some of the women who meet the associates there later come to the Angel Room for clothes and furnishings after they are released, Sister Inez says.

Other Providence Associate projects include putting together Easter baskets and Christmas sacks for prisoners with goodies supplied by St. Vincent de Paul, and gathering camp necessities for a program called Camp Sky Child, for the children of incarcerated parents.

What is special about working in the Angel Room and helping out elsewhere in Great Falls is that the volunteers are “living out their commitment to what God wants us to do,” Karen explains. “Each volunteer has their own talents to give, whether it is cleaning or it is decorating the Angel Room’s two window displays.”

The rewards for this work are many – in thank yous, hugs, and “God bless you,” she adds. ●

the mission of the aptly named Angel Room.

This ministry of Great Falls Providence Associates was launched in November of 2002 when St. Vincent de Paul’s charity manager Larry Ballantine asked if the associates could come and organize the agency’s former digs across the street. Karen and Sister Inez Arkell were quick to say yes and began clearing out unusable items and reorganizing the space to make it work for both clients and volunteers. It seemed that everyone wanted to have a hand in making the place special. Volunteers from the Pre-Release Center stripped and waxed the floor, volunteers patched holes and prepared the walls, and then public school students from Conrad, Mont., 60 miles away, came in to paint.

Today, more than a year later, the Angel Room is chock full of donated items waiting for needy people to bring their vouchers and shop. But having no voucher is no barrier at the Angel Room. “Priests sometimes bring people in from their parishes or homeless people just drop by,” Karen says.

Mission Statement

We of the Angel Room are dedicated to live the Saint Vincent de Paul Mission.

**As a Christian organization, our concerns are for the poor and imprisoned, the hungry and homeless.
(Matt. 25:35-45)**

We will act out our faith by treating all those that walk through our doors with respect and dignity.

We will have a listening ear.

We will be God’s hands and feet.

**We will be His servants and pass on the love that God has for each of us.
(James 3:14-17)**



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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Quinn, driver for the Sisters at St. Joseph Residence, died August 25 in Seattle.

Janet Crow, former Mount St. Joseph employee, died August 26 in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Richard (Dick) O'Neill, a long-time friend and benefactor of the Sisters of Providence and a member of the Development Cabinet of the former St. Ignatius Province, died August 31 in Spokane.

Roland R. Mason, father of Sister Helen Mason, SP, died September 18 in Dixie, Wash.

Lody Formeloza, brother of Avelita Formeloza, PA, died September 20 in the Philippines.

Steve Dzendzel, brother-in-law of Sister Therese Kohles, SP, died September 21 in Pennsylvania.

Hermine Boudreau, sister of Sister Lillian Deslauriers, SP, died October 4 in Morrisville, Vt.

Marie Finer, mother of Regene Hudson, PA, of Yakima, died October 8 in Bellevue.

Mary Helen Meier, mother of Colleen Seed, PA, of Portland, died October 25 in Salem, Ore.

END OF ERA in Toppenish and Yakima



Bishop Carlos Sevilla is surrounded by Sisters of Providence at a gathering in Yakima in September to commemorate the legacy of the sisters' leadership in health care in the Yakima Valley dating back to 1875. A similar event was held in Toppenish. In mid-August, Health Management Associates, a private for-profit corporation, took ownership of Providence Yakima Medical Center (formerly St. Elizabeth's Hospital) and Toppenish Hospital from Providence Health System. ●