

# Salvadoran woman enters novitiate at prayer service at Provincial Chapter



*Vilma Franco enters novitiate.*

**S**isters of Providence welcomed Vilma Franco, 25, a native of the department of Chaletenango in El Salvador, as a novice in a prayer ceremony Sunday, August 15, at their annual Provincial Chapter in Spokane. This occurred at the end of a whirlwind 15-day tour around the province with traveling companion Margarita Hernandez, who is a candidate for the religious community. In addition to Spokane, their travels included stops in Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Yakima and Great Falls, as well as a trip to Yellowstone National Park.

Vilma has since joined other Sisters of Providence novices in Chile for the canonical year to explore in depth the call to vowed life in the religious community.

Sisters of Providence have been in El Salvador since January 1995. In February 2002, for the first time, the sisters hosted their international General Conference there. The Sisters of Providence have a mission about 90 minutes from San Salvador and have been helping to rebuild homes that were destroyed in the earthquakes of early 2001 and by Hurricane Mitch.

"We call on the God of Providence to continue to inspire our sisters in ministry in El Salvador with love

of the poor as they carry out the mission there," says Sister Barbara Schamber, Team Leader/Provincial of Mother Joseph Province. "We are grateful that young Salvadoran women continue to be interested in the Sisters of Providence. Our ministry to the poor in El Salvador is a joy and a support to the people there."

Vilma lost her father and six brothers in El Salvador's civil war from 1980 to 1992. After the war, she and her sisters relocated with their mother to the department of the Usulután in the

coastal zone of El Salvador.

She was living with her mother, a sister and a niece in the community of Angela Montano when Sister Fran Stacey moved there in 2000. Sisters Monica de Lourdes Campillay and Maria Antonieta Trimpay join Sister Fran on the formation team in El Salvador.

While assisting with the youth ministry, Vilma expressed a desire to be a sister and was encouraged by Sister Fran to pray and explore this call. Her involvement in ministry with the sisters led Vilma to want to learn more about the Sisters of Providence and how to become a member of the religious community. She participated in a "Come and See" experience in La Papalota and in the Sisters of Providence pre-candidate program in San Salvador. The latter included basic community living skills, personal development and group skills. She also attended the Jesuit university in San Salvador. ●



● *blessing Margarita Hernandez*

● *visiting Mother Joseph's grave in Vancouver with Sister Monica de Lourdes Campillay*



● *picking up medical supplies at Sacred Heart Medical Center to take back home*



# Briefs

## Zonta Club honors Lucille Dean, SP

Sister Lucille Dean was recognized as Zonta Club of Burbank Area's 2004 Woman of the Year at a luncheon on November 6. She has



Lucille Dean, SP

been an educator for 50 years, 25 of them at Providence High School in Burbank, including 18 years as its principal. "Sister Lucille's tireless, dedicated 50-year service for Providence is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished," the award presenters noted. "She has made a real

difference to so many. We are proud to honor such a remarkable woman." ●

## Mother Joseph Statue presented to Bouten Construction

At the recent blessing of the renovation of St. Joseph Residence in Seattle (see pages 8/9), the province Leadership Team presented the Mother Joseph Statue to Bill Bouten, president and owner of Bouten Construction, Spokane. "When we are in Bouten Construction's hands, we are always assured of work of the highest quality that



Bill Bouten, PA

is on time and within budget," said Sister Lynn Chappell, province treasurer

and a Leadership Team member. In addition to the renovation of SJR, Bouten's recent work on behalf of the sisters has included remodeling of

Mount St. Joseph and Emilie Court in Spokane and other inspections, repairs and upgrades in Spokane, Yakima and Seattle. ●

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Dolores Lyons, sister of Maureen Hurley, SP, died August 15 in Walla Walla.*

*Morris Landry, brother-in-law of Georgette Jean, SP, died September 6 in Quebec.*

*Ken Wiltse, father of Marian Julum Weaver, PA, died September 21 in Auburn.*

*John Byrne, brother of Rose Byrne, SP, & Philomena Byrne, SP, died October 2 in Ireland.*

*Fred Weis, brother-in-law of Rose Lulay, SP, died October 23 in Sublimity, Ore.*

# Seattle, Portland and Spokane WELCOME NEW PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES

**Spokane:** (from left) Marie Raschko, Omer and Carolyn Entel, Toni Cooley, Valerie Carlton, Fran McDonald and Marty Markarian



**Seattle:** Keith Abrahams



**Portland:** Annie Hulme (left) and Pam McKenna



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A life-changing ministry:



## Sister Nancy MacLean finds her home and her heart on the reservation

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*“Come and love the children.”*

Those are the words that enticed Sister Nancy MacLean to the Fort Belknap Reservation near the little town of Harlem, Mont., to begin a ministry 15 years ago. Today, in her 48th year as a Sister of Providence, she still can become teary eyed at the memory when her thoughts turn to the words of a hymn: “Here I am Lord ... I will hold your people in my heart.”

Everywhere she goes here there are greetings, hugs and smiles. She is “mauza waka uze weh” (holding sacred iron woman), the Assiniboine Nakota name she was given by a spiritual leader at a healing ceremony. The sacred iron is the cross she wears. The name “implies strength and willingness to suffer with the people,” Sister Nancy explains. She has embraced the people and their history, traditions and culture. Asked

what that means, she responds in the manner in which Native peoples do: “I am like an eagle, circling; follow me and you will finally get to what I am saying.”

Her days and nights are full of prayer requests. Throughout her trailer home on the reservation are pictures of the children, families and seniors who are the heart of her prayers. “I am crying in joy with them, and in pain and in birth with them.” She recalls and



Sister Nancy (left) with the “grandmas”

shares the thoughts expressed by a holy man, “Sister, the people are heavy.”

“I belong here and this is my home,” Sister Nancy says she has come to realize. “I like partnering up with God. He shows me what is needed and I respond if I can. I am His servant.”

Coming to this place as a missionary was not easy, she says. “You have to come and lay down your baggage – the need to be in control, to organize, to structure ...” Once she was able to do that, Sister Nancy says, she was free to just be human.

“One of the biggest, most wonderful gifts (of this experience) is to start moving toward the spirituality of the Native people,” she adds. Her familial roots are Catholic, Protestant and agnostic, but on the reservation she has learned that the Native people are “very Catholic in the most profound meaning: we are all one.” ●



All ages enjoy the pow wow