

Summer vocation retreat planned in Seattle

How do you know if you are hearing God's call? If you feel in your heart the urge to consider religious life ...if the thought keeps coming back to you and you wonder ... these may be signs that you are called. We can help you clarify your life choices.

"Living the Vowed Life as Consecrated Religious" is the theme of the summer Vocation Discernment Weekend, August 19-21 at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle. The Sisters of Providence welcome women ages 18 and over who are discerning a religious vocation to attend.

The retreat will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, with registration followed by evening prayer. It will conclude following lunch on Sunday, Aug. 21.

For further information or to register, please contact the Vocation Office in Seattle at 206-923-4028 or in Spokane at 509-474-2323. You also may e-mail vocations@providence.org. ●



Ministries bid farewell to longtime leaders



Dona Taylor, SP



Megan McArthur



Bea LaFramboise, SP

Sister Dona Taylor is leaving the position she has held since 1996 as coordinator of WomanSpirit Center.

Sister Bea LaFramboise recently ended the ministry she began in 1984 as team member and then team leader at Providence Hospitality House.

WomanSpirit is a gathering place for women in Issaquah that provides "an environment and experiences that free the spirit and deepen growth." The center, 20 minutes from Seattle, offers classes, workshops, retreats, book discussions and a place to relax and

reflect. A new coordinator has yet to be named.

Providence Hospitality House (PHH), located in Seattle's Central District, celebrated its 25th year last summer. It is a shelter for homeless women and their children, providing basic food and clothing, medical, legal, employment and housing referral services, advocacy services through the aid of volunteers, and a friendly, supportive, family-like atmosphere during the family's time of crisis.

The new director is Megan McArthur, who was a volunteer at PHH while a student at Seattle University.

She also worked with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in 1996. Megan graduated from Seattle University in 1998 with a B.A. in ecological studies. She received the university's top service award in 1997-98.

She has been co-director of outdoor ministries at the Catholic Youth Organization in Seattle since December 2002. Other work experience includes administrative assistant of young adult programs at the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center and outdoor education director at Camp Fire USA in Snohomish County. ●

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Phil Pizelo, husband of Marie Pizelo, PA, died January 6 in Spokane.

William Conley, former administrator from Providence Medical Center, died January 6 in Portland.

Ellen Clausen, sister of Ellen Elizabeth Kelly, SP, died February 25 in Issaquah, Wash.

Hilda Gallagher, mother of Joan Gallagher, SP, died March 2 in Puyallup, Wash.

John Davis, grandfather of Jessica Taylor, SP, died March 15 in Seattle.

James Hull, brother of Marleen Hull, SP, died March 31 in Chester, Mont.

Therese Tremblay, sister-in-law of Lucille Tremblay, SP, died April 20 in Montreal.

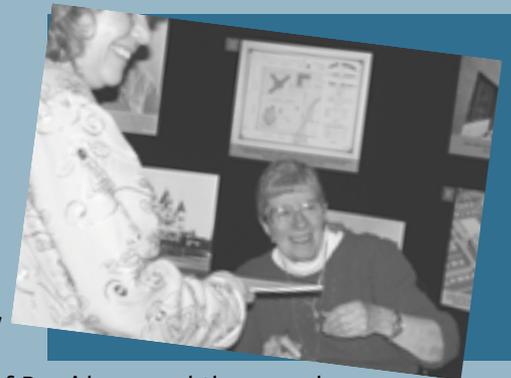
Margaret Moberly, sister of Liz Gress, SP, died May 8 in Spokane.

Octavia Bayless, sister-in-law of Georgette Bayless, SP, died May 16 in Belmont, Calif.

Hector Troncoso, brother of Silvia Troncoso, SP, died May 21 in Santiago, Chile.

Everett Centennial Celebration

Providence Everett Medical Center is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. In its first year, 11 Sisters of Providence and three employees cared for 435 admissions. In 2004, there were 21,876 admissions cared for by 2,860 employees and one Sister of Providence, Sister Dorothy Klingele, who is shown here signing copies of the centennial commemorative book. ●



Rest in Peace

Sister Catherine Palmatier, SP

(Sister Mary Francis)

Sister Catherine Palmatier died February 24 at the age of 89. She was well-known for her ability to accept and carry out various responsibilities for the Sisters of Providence for many of her 71 years in the religious community. Her ministries included companion, teacher, bookkeeper, treasurer, prefect, dean of women, receptionist, secretary and pastoral minister. "I changed once eight times in quick succession; just time to get settled and unpacked, then it was time to move again," she recalled. Even when she had little education or preparation for the work she was given, she did the best she knew how to do. "I enjoyed anything that was given to me."



The youngest of three children, Sister Catherine was born March 5, 1915, in Corsica, S.D., to Loren and Susan (Winner) Palmatier. Soon after her birth, the family moved to Miles City, Mont., where Mr. Palmatier worked for the Milwaukee Railroad until his retirement. The Sisters of Providence literally came knocking on her door in Miles City. "The Sisters used to come around and beg, soliciting funds for the orphans' home. I thought that was something very special – going door to door to ask for money to keep the children going. I said, 'When I grow up, that's what I want to do.'" Mrs. Palmatier impressed upon her children, "Always remember, no matter how bad a person may be – there is always a little good about them – and you be the one to always look for that good."

Her parents experienced the hand of God upon them at the time of Catherine's

baptism. "When I was about to be baptized, the priest asked my mother if she didn't have something to offer. My mother thought he was talking about money. Her reply was, 'You said it cost \$2 and I gave you the money.' Finally, after the third time he asked her, he told her it had nothing to do with money. I'm sure the Holy Spirit stirred within my mother, when she exclaimed, 'You mean my baby? You want me to offer her?' Father smiled and nodded his head. My mother put me down on the communion rail and said, 'Well, God, here is my baby, take her and do what you want with her.' Then she looked at Father and said, 'Now may I have my baby baptized?'

Father nodded to her very pleasingly and smiled. Years later, when I made my decision to enter religious life, I shared it with my mother. Her

immediate response was: 'God did answer my prayer after all these years!' Then she told me the story of my baptism. My mother had great faith, love and trust in God. From her I learned to turn to God and seek his help through prayer."

Right after graduation from Sacred Heart Academy, Missoula, in 1933, Catherine entered the postulancy in Seattle. She became a novice in 1934 and professed temporary vows in 1935, receiving Sister Mary Francis as her name in religion. She professed final vows in 1938. She received a bachelor's degree from the College of Great Falls in 1978, and a clinical pastoral education certificate from Providence Oakland Medical Center in 1984.

Sister Catherine taught at Providence Mary Immaculate School, DeSmet, Idaho (1935-36), St. Francis Xavier School, Missoula (1936-42, 1963-69), St. Thomas Home, Great Falls (1942-50), Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Wallace, Idaho (1961-62), and St. Raphael School, Glasgow, Mont. (1962-63). She was bookkeeper at Sacred Heart Hospital, Spokane (1950-51), St. Ignatius Hospital,

Colfax, Wash. (1951-52), and St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula (1952-58). She was prefect of resident women at the College of Great Falls (1960-61) and dean of women at St. Patrick Hospital School of Nursing, Missoula (1969-74). She was receptionist at Provincial Administration, Spokane (1974-76) and at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula (1980-82). She served as secretary at Columbus Hospital, Great Falls (1976-79). It was at St. Patrick in 1982 that Sister Catherine found the ministry that would have special meaning in her life – pastoral care. It offered "an ideal opportunity for serving others, especially the poor and the indigent," she recalled.

She retired to Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, in 2001. Vigil Service was held February 26 and the Funeral Mass was celebrated February 28, both at Mount St. Joseph. Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Donations in memory of Sister Catherine 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. ●

Jim Nibler, PA

James E. "Jim" Nibler, 75, a Providence Associate and an oblate of the Benedictines at Mount Angel, died April 19 at his home in Milton-Freewater, Wash.

He was born February 16, 1930, in Walla Walla to Mervin and Lillian Hancock Nibler and graduated in 1948 from Umapine High School. He received an education degree specializing in social studies and Spanish from the University of Portland.

Mr. Nibler served with the U.S. Army Canine Corps during the Korean War, then taught at Weston-McEwen High School. He also taught at David Douglas High School, Portland, and at Madras (Ore.) High School

before retiring in 1989 and returning to Milton-Freewater.

He was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus, Michael Flohr Council 766.

Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Sharon



and Charles Loosveldt of Kennewick; two nephews, Mark and Brad Loosveldt, both of Kennewick;

niece Lisa Stoetzel of Pasco; a great-nephew and two great-nieces; and numerous cousins including Mary Jane Fehrenbacher, PA, and Kay Prest, both of Milton-Freewater.

Rosary was recited at Chapel of Herring Funeral Home, Walla Walla, on April 24. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Walla Walla, on April 25, followed by burial in the East Garden at Mountain View Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Mary Regional Cancer Center or Walla Walla Catholic schools through the funeral home. ●

Are you hearing God's call?

We are an international community of joyful women of faith who dedicate their lives to serving and defending the poor. We are ready and waiting to answer your questions and tell you more about religious life.

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More than 70 direct descendants from Ottawa, Chicago, San Diego, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria attended the dedication ceremonies in honor of Lee Mong Kow.



A red plaque in the shape of an open book with gold script marks the newly dedicated Lee Mong Kow Way, visited here by Sister Jacqueline Fernandes (right) and her sister Patricia Fernandes Parker, of Ottawa.

Chinese-Canadian pioneer

SISTER'S GRANDFATHER HONORED IN VICTORIA, B.C.

Sister Jacqueline Fernandes traveled to Victoria, B.C., in February for festivities attended by three levels of government to honor her grandfather, Lee Mong Kow, a recognized pioneer of the Chinese community in Greater Victoria.

Lee Mong Kow's command of English, learned in a white household in China where his widowed mother was housekeeper, made him a valued interpreter when they emigrated to Canada in 1882. He became a naturalized Canadian in 1886 and married Seto Chang Aun, a Canadian-born Chinese girl from another pioneering family. They had 17 children, the youngest of them Sr. Jacqueline's mother, Rosalind Fernandes of Vancouver. He later became Chinese counsel-general and was a founder and the first chairman of the board of trustees and first principal of the Lock Quun Chinese Public School in 1899. He also established a Chinese herb and medicine store.

More than 70 direct descendants from Ottawa, Chicago, San Diego, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria attended the dedication activities conducted by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society. Mayor Alan Lowe, Victoria's first mayor of Chinese ancestry, proclaimed February 13 as Lee Mong Kow Day in the city.

"We would be honored by your presence at this important event recognizing one of our City's great leaders and philanthropists," the mayor said in the letter of invitation to family members. "Your

family's history and legacy will be forever memorialized through this Dedication. Mr. Lee's contributions to his community and to his country are an important reminder of the power of personal integrity, leadership and compassion."

A portrait of Lee Mong Kow was unveiled and the walkway between Fisgard Street and Centennial Square was dedicated as Lee Mong Kow Way, marked by a street sign and a plaque. Officials said this is the first street in Canada named after a Chinese immigrant. A reception at Victoria City Hall, a lion dance through Chinatown and fireworks were part of the celebration.

At the time that Lee Mong Kow arrived in Victoria, discrimination against Chinese immigrants was commonplace. "Unfortunately, there was racism, there was segregation, and there was intolerance," Mayor Lowe acknowledged, adding that the Chinese Immigration Act of 1885 required every person of Chinese origin entering Canada to pay a tax of \$50 that increased to \$100 in 1900 and to \$500 in 1903. Then, in 1923, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. "It wasn't until May of 1947 that the government repealed the Chinese Immigration Act and subsequently abolished many discriminatory laws and regulations against the Chinese," the mayor continued.

Lee Mong Kow returned to China with his family in 1920 aboard the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Russia. He served as manager of Canadian Pacific in Hong Kong until his death in 1924. He has been the recipient of three other prestigious awards: the Imperial Honourable Governorship, (one of China's highest civilian awards), the Imperial Decoration of the First Grade, and China's Canada Peace Medal of the Sixth Grade. ●



Lee Mong Kow



Lee Mong Kow Way is in Victoria's Chinatown, between Fisgard Street and Centennial Square.

¿Oyes la llamada de Dios?



Somos una comunidad internacional mujeres llenas de alegría y fe, que dedicamos nuestras vidas al servicio y defensa de los pobres.

Deseamos y esperamos poder contestar a tus preguntas y contarte más sobre la vida religiosa.

Hermanas de la Providencia
Provincia de la Madre José

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AFRICA REVISITED

Despite life's hardships, the children of Kenya find joy in their gathering.



▲ Pictured (from left) are Pete Barry, Father Emmanuel Mbock Mbock, Sister Roberta Rorke, candidate Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, Sister Réjeanne Turcotte, Dr. Janan Markee, Joanne Koenig and Mark Koenig.



▲ This is one of the many villages where Sister Roberta was welcomed with flowers.



◀ Father Emmanuel (right) is joined by village women he has organized in Cameroon for a celebration in honor of the Providence visitors.

Photos from Africa courtesy of Joanne Koenig.