

2011-2014

God tricked me into serving as novitiate director this third time. When I agreed to participate in a discernment to find a novitiate director, I thought I would help by bringing experience to the process. I saw that we had excellent nominees, and with them I prayed for direction from God. When, at the end of our beautiful weekend of prayer, it became clear that everyone involved saw me as the person to serve at this time, I could only say, "Yes! I now see that, too." What I saw was that "God isn't finished with me yet." I am most grateful that this time around I am part of an intergenerational, intercultural, international novitiate which truly is one of the places where God is bringing about a lifelong and worldwide cycle of transformation for the Reign of God.

Each time that I have circled back to the novitiate, I have found myself part of a new world which challenged me to become a new Sister of Providence. I expect that when future novitiate directors say yes, they, too, will find that change is the only constant and that they, too, will embrace the challenges of their time. ●

Sister Celia Chappell to serve as bi-province novitiate director

The provincial superiors and councils of both Holy Angels and Mother Joseph provinces have appointed Sister Celia Chappell as novitiate director for the Bi-Province Novitiate, beginning August 1, 2014. Her three-year term will end July 31, 2017.

"We thank Sister Celia for her willingness to accept this important ministry of service for the future of the religious community," MJP Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais said in a letter to the sisters. "We assure her of our prayers and full support." ●



Two Chilean sisters profess perpetual vows in Seattle ceremony

Two Sisters of Providence from Bernarda Morin Province in Chile professed perpetual vows in a liturgical celebration at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle on November 24. Sisters Marcia Elizabeth Gatica Aguila and Marisol de las Mercedes Avilá Pacheco first came to Mother Joseph Province for about three months on the way to Montreal for a 3 ½-month international formation experience in early 2011. They returned to Chile and it later was announced by the General Leadership Team in July 2011 that they would return to Mother Joseph Province to continue their formation and discernment while remaining members of Bernarda Morin Province.

Sister Marcia was born in the Patagonia, in the far south of Chile, and met the Sisters of Providence at their mission in Coyhaique. She entered the religious community in 2002. Her ministry in Chile had been serving as a campus minister while going to school in the evening to earn a psychology degree. Sister Marisol, born in Linares, Chile, also entered the religious community in 2002. Prior to that, she had been a member of another religious community for 17 years. She met the Sisters of Providence while working in one of their schools in Chile, teaching history and religion, and later spent three years in parish ministry in Argentina. The two sisters were postulants and novices together. They renewed their temporary vows while attending the Religious Education Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in the spring of 2012.

The liturgical celebration and the reception that followed in November in Seattle were truly international, intercultural and intergenerational. Father Eric Watson, SJ, was the presider for the event at which Sister Alba Letelier, a General Council member from Montreal, gave the homily in English and Spanish. "This reign of God is not of this world, but it is for this world," she said, describing the introduction of a "new way of loving and serving." The prayers of the faithful were offered in English, Spanish,



Sisters Marisol Avilá (left) and Marcia Gatica admire the cake that bears their likenesses.

Tagalog and Vietnamese. Among the attendees was Sister Isabel Cid of Holy Angels Province in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Chilean sisters' perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience were received by General Superior Karin Dufault, SP. Part of the response of the community and the congregation was: "We promise you our prayers as you live out your vows and extend the Reign of God through compassionate caring and love for all. As you walk in the footsteps of Jesus, may blessed Emilie Gamelin, Mother Joseph and Mother Bernarda be your constant companions and support." ●



My heart is full of gratitude for those who were present, and for those who sent their greetings, prayers and gifts. I am especially grateful for

those who helped with the numerous preparations of this celebration. My heart is filled with gratitude to the Sisters of Providence for their love, support and prayers.

I pray that the peace, joy and love of Providence be with all of you always. – Sister Marcia Gatica

Our good God has spilled joy on this beautiful party. Thanks for what each one contributed to this celebration so it could be a celebration of the Community. I ask our provident God's blessing on each and for all in the Providence Community. – Sister Marisol Avilá



Sisters reflect on tragedy in the **PHILIPPINES**

On November 7, a devastating typhoon hit the Philippines, where Sister Clare Lentz from Mother Joseph Province was serving in ministry, offering spiritual direction and retreats. MJP Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais, SP, reported that there were four Sisters of Providence in the Philippines at the time. Sisters Julie Macasieb, Lucy Vasquez and Clare Lentz were living in Quezon City, a suburb of Metro Manila, and Sister Beth Rayray was living in Manila itself. Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,000 people with 1,800 still missing.

“This morning I spoke with Sr. Julie Macasieb in Metro Manila, Philippines. “She said that the sisters are fine,” Sister Judith wrote. “The typhoon made its path across the central part of the Philippine islands, and Manila is north of that, so they were not affected as much. Julie is offering to go with a group to help in any way they can. Let us pray for the loss of life and livelihood for thousands in the Philippines.”

Sister Marita Capili, who arrived from Mother Joseph Province around Christmas to visit family and the sisters, also went into the typhoon impacted area with Sister Lucy and Sister Beth to help the victims.

Back in Mother Joseph Province, Sister Felma Cerezo anxiously waited for news from family members in the Philippines. “None of us expected this enormous damage of their family homes. Our hearts go out to them,” she wrote in a broadcast email message to the sisters and associates.

Sister Felma’s brother Max and his wife Ester had gone to the Philippines for a family member’s funeral. They headed south out of Manila and went into the midst of the chaos and sent photos and reports of the devastation and of the problematic rescue and recovery efforts. Seventeen family members in Tolosa, Leyte, abandoned their homes and traveled to Manila and then to the Cerezo family in Pangasinan. Sister Felma said the Cerezo family would house them as long as they wished to stay. All except two of the family members are American citizens, Sister Felma said. Max and Ester Cerezo returned to Seattle in late November. ●



Sister Clare Lentz

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The following is a reflection on the events from Sister Clare, who since has returned to St. Joseph Residence in Seattle.

Dear Sisters, Associates, and Friends:

So first, we sisters in the Philippines are fine. It was a devastating typhoon for sure, and we still have no idea how many lost their lives and all their homes and possessions.

I was at EAPI (East Asian Pastoral Institute) when it began here on Friday. Yes, my anxiety rose. I quickly took a taxi home to be with the others. Here it was only a Level 1 storm, which means we only had wild wind and torrential rain. In the Visayas, the central part of the Philippines, it was Level 5. The total devastation won't be known for some time. The T.V. pictures have been horrible. We have been glued to the T.V., getting any news we are able to receive. It was shocking and I had nothing to write because I felt numb.

Both Sr. Julie and I do spiritual accompaniment for some seminarians whose families lost their homes and all their possessions. They are so grateful because their family members are still alive. As you now know, this is not true for many. Tomorrow, Sr. Julie and I will take all of our used clothes to a receiving station near the airport for the victims. Today we hope to hear from the religious of the Philippines about how we can respond collectively. It's very much a time of mourning and especially prayer. The people of the Philippines continue to inspire me with their deep faith and trust in God. For many in the Visayas, the typhoon was on top of the 7.2 earthquake!" ●

“Let us pray for the loss of life and livelihood for thousands in the Philippines.”

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We deeply appreciate your kind and generous donations to the Sisters of Providence and the ministries in El Salvador, the Philippines and the United States. We acknowledge the contributions that were received through the Development Office from **January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013**. If you note any error in these records, we apologize and ask you to please contact us at (425) 525-3019.

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