

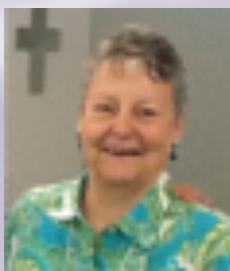
# Briefs

## A birthday celebration for Mother Joseph

### Providence Vincent House hosts the sisters

For at least the third year in a row, Sisters of Providence were invited to tea at Providence Vincent House in Pike Place Market to celebrate Mother Joseph's birthday, which was April 16. Vicky Smith, recreational therapy coordinator for St. Joseph's Residence, praised the enjoyable afternoon tea on April 27 which included prayer, chatting over homemade sweets, fruit and tea, playing a Mother Joseph trivia game, and touring the garden and an apartment. What really made the event special, Vicky said, was a presentation given by Kristine, a resident who explained that she has a mental illness and then read a multi-page, handwritten speech of gratitude to the Sisters of Providence for her home at The Market. Vicky described it as "articulate, heartfelt and wonderful!"

The sisters were so moved by Kristine's presentation that they invited her to the local community meeting at



► Providence Vincent House resident Kristine, accompanied by her partner Keith, visited the sisters at St. Joseph Residence to say thank you.

▼ A room full of sisters were happy to welcome them and listen.



St. Joseph Residence on April 25 to share her thoughts with the sisters there. Some of her words are excerpted below. To read the full text, go to the Sisters of Providence website at [www.sistersofprovidence.net](http://www.sistersofprovidence.net)

*My name is Kristine and I live with my partner Keith, and cat Monkey.*

*I met Keith while standing in the free lunch line at the Pike Place Market Senior Center 3 years ago. We've been together since that day.*

*I have lived in essentially subsidized housing most of my adult life; 9 years at the Josephinum and 11 years at the YWCA on 5<sup>th</sup> and Seneca. I was always aware that I was "this close to being homeless."*

*Keith had been homeless for 40 odd years when he came to me at Vincent House, and I've had a chance to see for myself up close the ravages that homelessness have added to a person already disabled and handicapped from a young age. It can be crippling. I've seen it takes a very long time in a safe and loving refuge to overcome all the various miseries of homelessness. It takes persistence and patience. Some of us are never able to override this damage and our own personal conflict, and so we carry this in our minds, even into this loving refuge. We continue to perceive this conflict all around us.*

*But we continue our fight, continue to snap and snarl, and continue to make war, not knowing the storm is inside us.*

*We find fault where there is only impeccable loving service delivered to our doors. We grouse and complain. We are battle worn, angry, and depressed.*



Smile





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## Providence Vincent House hosts the sisters ...

*And the homeless are homeless for many good reasons, and we've not been able to procure homes for ourselves. Some of us will probably continue to scratch and bite the hands that minister to us, but oh, please bear with us. We are some of us feral and cannot be easily domesticated. But we need care even if we don't know that we do.*

*It's often hard to give service to us in the heat of our battles. And staff is right in the line of fire, standing in the breach to even give help we would refuse.*

*Our staff does this service for us. They wake up in the morning and come here to do their work, and to continue delivering thoughtful kind services to us. In spite of their work having some rewards, service such as this is often very hard work to administer. But our Vincent House staff treats us with care and kindness, backed with loving service, in spite of our fight. Thank you for persevering...*

*I'm standing here not only to thank you all with a grateful heart, but also to pray you will keep giving us this mighty service...*

*I believe our Vincent House is the ongoing ministry that Mother Joseph envisioned and the very embodiment of God's will in action. We have our refuge here and I pray all of you Sisters and staff have this kind, loving refuge to come home to.*

Thanks, Kristine, and  
God bless. ●



Rev. Harriett Walden, PA

## Providence Associate praised for active witness for justice in Seattle

A Seattle Times story in May praised the Seattle City Council's passage of "historic police-accountability legislation" that will strengthen civilian and community oversight of the police department's internal disciplinary system. The article also noted: "But the most emotional moment came just before the vote, when (Seattle City Councilmember M. Lorena) González asked the Rev. Harriett Walden, an African-American woman and co-chair of the Community Police Commission, to stand in recognition of her decades of work as a founder of Seattle's Mothers for Police Accountability. The packed council chambers erupted in cheers and a standing ovation."

For a quarter-century, Rev. Walden has been a vocal advocate for social justice in Seattle. She has been a Providence Associate since the late 1990s. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! ●

## Providence Associate honored as oldest active Catholic deacon on West Coast

Ninety-five-year-old Providence Associate Emile Adams Jr. was honored in May as the oldest active deacon on the west coast in the Roman Catholic Church. Deacon Emile was presented with certificates of appreciation by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

A member of St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Baldwin Hills, he was ordained as a deacon in 1979. He serves at weekly and daily Masses, leads the Stations of the Cross and the Morning Office, and co-chairs the Bereavement Ministry. "You continue to touch the lives of others in countless ways," the mayor's certificate read.

Congratulations, Deacon Emile! ●



Deacon Emile Adams, Jr., PA