



Caritas

Summer 2026

A publication
for the Sisters
of Providence
and Friends

A Gift to Respond

*The Demanding, Rewarding
Ministry of a Hospital Chaplain*

*Sr. Fe Sumalde at MultiCare
Yakima Memorial Hospital
in Yakima.*

*Sr. Phuong Ha Nguyen at
Providence Cedars-Sinai
Tarzana Medical Center
in Los Angeles.*

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Two Diocese of Yakima retreat attendees (right) listen as **Sr. Marisol Avila** speaks. Joining them, from left to right, are **Srs. Ana Dolores Orellana, Fe Sumalde, Josefina Ramac, and Hong Nga Nguyen**.

The Presence of Providence, On-The-Go

Sisters of Providence are often on the move to encourage young people in their faith journeys – from religious retreats to preparation for Confirmation.

The Sisters also have a dedicated system to support women who are interested in exploring a call to religious life, and travel to assist a robust and growing network of Providence Associates.

Here are three examples from this spring:

Connecting Before Confirmation in Diocese of Yakima

Five Sisters – **Marisol Avila, SP, Hong Nga Nguyen, SP, Ana Dolores Orellana, SP, Josefina Ramac, SP, and Fe Sumalde, SP** – convened in Wenatchee, Washington for an event to support young people preparing for their Confirmation into the Catholic Church. Parishes from the nearby communities of Moses Lake, Ephrata, Quincy, and Royal City combined to send 250 young people to the retreat. The Diocese of Yakima Bishop, Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, was also in attendance.

Srs. Hong Nga Nguyen and Josefina Ramac led a warmly received session on the theme of vocations during the retreat.



A Destination with Great Meaning in El Salvador

El Salvador-based **Sr. Vilma Franco, SP**, and Core Group Leader **Sr. Marcia Gatica, SP**, led a group of 16 young people on a vocational outreach to Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador.

(Left) **Srs. Vilma Franco** (center), and **Marcia Gatica**.

The location is a meaningful one: St. Óscar Romero was born in Ciudad Barrios in 1917. The group visited a statue dedicated to the heroic defender of human rights in the town's plaza.

In Support of Providence Associates in the Philippines

For **Sr. Julie Macasieb, SP**, a trip to her native Philippines was spent serving alongside the 17 Filipino Providence Associates, who are located in three distinct regions of the island nation: the mountainous peninsula of Bataan, the coastal and river-rich Dagupan City, and the urban Punta Santa Ana neighborhood of the capital city Manila.

Providence Associates are compassionate laypeople who desire to share the mission and spirituality of Providence. They are drawn by the same spirit and charism as the Sisters of Providence, and serve from 19 U.S. states in addition to these three Filipino districts, plus an Associate who lives in Tanzania.

"I'm grateful for the chance to be with the Providence Associates in their ministries," said Sr. Julie, who is the liaison to the Associates in the Philippines.



Sr. Julie Macasieb assists with an Associate-operated health care clinic serving underserved populations in Dagupan City.

Congregational Leadership Team Heads West for Canonical Visit

Five members of the Montreal-based Sisters of Providence Congregational Leadership Team visited Sisters and staff members throughout the Mother Joseph region this spring.

Congregational Leader **Sr. Alba Letelier, SP**, along with congregational counselors **Srs. Hilaria Suzette Bautista, SP, María Antonieta Trimpay, SP, Hélène Mamert Nga Amogo, SP, and Anne Hemstock, SP**, met with each of the Mother Joseph local communities and with the administrative center staff during the canonical visit.

As Congregational Leader, Sr. Alba Letelier also personally met with each Sister in a one-on-one meeting.

“One of the key questions I ask when meeting with a Sister is about her health: her physical health, spiritual health, mental health, community health, and ministry health,” said Sr. Alba Letelier. With those insights gained, she then considers, “what we can do now for helping the needs of the Sisters, and of the body of the congregation.”

A primary theme of the trip was open dialogue on the Journey to Oneness governance model, which took effect on January 1, 2025. The configuration has arranged the Sisters of Providence congregation into three administrative areas (Mother Joseph in the United States, El Salvador, and the Philippines; Emilie Gamelin in Canada and Haiti; and Bernarda Morin in Chile). Each zone has a Core Group of leading Sisters, along with an administrative team. A key goal of the model is to open space for collaboration and partnership throughout the full congregation.

The Leadership Team’s first leg of travel included visits to Sisters in Seattle, Renton, Ephrata and Spokane in Washington; and to Burbank and West Covina, California.

In May, the Congregational Leadership Team also made a canonical visit to the Bernarda Morin area in Chile, which was followed with a visit to the Mother Joseph Sisters based in El Salvador.



*A group photo while visiting St. Rosa of Lima Catholic Church in Ephrata, Wahington. Included in this picture, from left to right, are **Srs. Hilaria Suzette Bautista** (second from left), **Marisol Avila**, **Hélène Mamert Nga Amogo**, **Josefina Ramac**, **Anne Hemstock** (third from right), **María Antonieta Trimpay**, and **Alba Letelier**.*



Meeting with the Mother Joseph Administrative Team in Renton, Washington. Administrative professionals based in Spokane were present via a video conference.



Visit our website to view more pictures from the Canonical Visit and other featured stories in this issue of *Caritas*, at [Sistersofprovidence.net](https://www.sistersofprovidence.net).

“A Gift to Respond” – the Demanding, Rewarding Ministry of a Hospital Chaplain

In today's ever fast-paced world, the ability to bring a sense of calm, comfort, and spiritual support into any setting is becoming a rare trait. Now, imagine having that gift within the halls of an active emergency department. This is the calling of a hospital chaplain, who enters the rooms – and the lives – of people amid what could be their highest or lowest points. On any given day, a chaplain may interact with trauma victims, then serve at the bedside for people nearing death or those who have just given birth; all while helping the families of these individuals receiving care. The vocation brings with it an unpredictable schedule and requires exceptional poise and balance, and two Sisters of Providence are celebrated for their ability to serve this demanding ministry with grace.

Sisters Fe Sumalde, SP, and Phuong Ha Nguyen, SP, are building onto the legacy of several Sisters who have served before them as hospital chaplains. Their hospitals are part of differing health systems and separated by more than 1,000 miles, yet they both serve diverse populations who worship in many faiths (or who are not religious). Both Sisters are also beloved presences in their communities for what they bring to the ministry.

Sr. Fe Sumalde: Consistent service among change in Yakima

This spring, Sr. Fe Sumalde was spotlighted in a newsletter shared to the MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital staff by hospital president, Tammy Buyok. In the message, Sr. Fe is recognized as a bright spot in Buyok's day, and who's chaplain office is “a little space full of peace.”

Sr. Fe works to bring that same sense of peace to every corner of MultiCare's 238-bed hospital in central Yakima, where she is the only chaplain on the staff. She's served as a chaplain at four medical facilities in total throughout the city, beginning at the former Providence Yakima Medical Center in 1997.

She started at her current post just before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, combining the challenges of learning a new health system with a medical crisis that forced her to find new ways to

connect with her patients from a distance. Sr. Fe persevered, bringing tranquility to people through a point in time marked by upheaval and fear, and was recognized by her new system as a COVID Hero in August 2021 for being a “ray of light in this dark time.”

“For me, service to others is really the highest human calling,” said Sr. Fe. “You have to have a gift to respond.”

“God understands, and God chooses a person for ministry – your gifts, your talents – and you respond and say ‘yes.’”

Sr. Fe's also witnessed a great deal of change within her Sisters of Providence community throughout her 29 years in Yakima. When she arrived in the city, she joined a community of 12 Sisters. Currently, only she and **Sr. Ana Dolores Orellana, SP,** reside in Yakima – although both are well-connected to their supportive Horizon Community, with local leader **Sr. Marisol Avila, SP,** a relatively close drive away in Grant County, Washington.

In years past, she says late-night calls to minister in her hospitals often overlapped with gang activity unfolding in the Yakima streets.

“I would go outside, hear gunshots nearby, get in the car and drive to the hospital,” said Sr. Fe. On several occasions, she recalls encountering young people on the street: “I'd tell them, ‘Go home – you should be in bed.’”

When asked where she finds her perseverance for her ministry, Sr. Fe says she loves the people she serves and finds her own comfort in classical music and in prayer, reciting this powerful affirmation:

“Where there is love, there is life.
Where there is life, there is hope.
Where there is faith, miracles happen.
Where there is peace, there is God.
And where you have God – you have everything.”



Sr. Fe Sumalde in her office at MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital in Yakima, Washington



Sr. Phuong Ha Nguyen with her Spiritual Care team at Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Sr. Phuong Ha Nguyen: “A calling and a love” in southern California

There’s a clear theme throughout Sr. Phuong Ha’s Friday morning rounds through the sprawling, 204-bed Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center: an abundance of smiling faces. Sr. Phuong Ha pauses to make meaningful conversation with hospital staff members in a variety of departments and specialties, equipping them with a dose of positivity to help them through an active day on duty in the rapidly growing San Fernando Valley.

Sr. Phuong Ha’s typical day begins before 6 a.m. and will often continue as she’s needed, in service to the families of patients admitted to the often-full emergency department or in the neonatal intensive care unit. Her six-person spiritual care team, which includes two chaplain residents learning through her example, ministers to a richly multicultural community indicative of the giant metro area that the hospital serves. Despite the scope, Sr. Phuong Ha thrives in making her interactions intentional and personal.

“As a chaplain, you need to observe and use your senses,” said Sr. Phuong Ha. That starts by meeting her patients and their families at a human level, then sensing how she can be most helpful – whether that’s through religious support or in another form of guidance. “We are there for the patient.”

Sr. Phuong Ha has served in Burbank since 2021, finding a home ministry in spiritual care soon after completing her transfer from the Lovers of the Holy Cross community, whose ministries had initially brought her to the United States from her native Vietnam. She was introduced to the Sisters of Providence when making pastoral visits to Vietnamese parishioners at Providence Portland Medical Center – and felt a calling to the Sisters’ charism and mission. It’s been a rewarding journey for Sr. Phuong Ha, who relishes the challenges of her calling.

“Every single patient teaches me a lesson,” said Sr. Phuong Ha. “It’s a calling and a love... what I do is a gift from God.”

Sr. Phuong Ha also enjoys the benefits of living in the close-knit Providence SoCal Community made up of **Srs. Rosa Sen Nguyen, SP**, retired chaplain **Teresa White, SP**, and local leader **Mary Alice Miller, SP** – with **Sr. Lang Tran, SP**, also close by in West Covina, California.

Sr. Phuong Ha is engaged in parish life at St. Finbar Catholic Church in Burbank, where she sings in the choir and is a mainstay in organizing ceremonial events throughout the year (read more about her contributions to the church’s floral offering celebration to Mother Mary on Page 10).

“I do choir to listen to my own voice,” said Sr. Phuong Ha. “In the hospital, I need to listen to others’ voices.”



Providence Mount St. Vincent resident Marjorie Prince's (left) roadside movement has gained supporters – including **Sr. Charlene Hudon** (right).

Sending a Message on the Mount

Every Monday this year, rain or shine, a consistent presence of demonstrators has made their presence known in front of Providence Mount St. Vincent in West Seattle.

Among the passionate group is often **Sr. Charlene Hudon, SP**, who's ministries involve supporting her fellow Sisters living at St. Joseph Residence, which sits directly west of the facility nicknamed "The Mount." One day late last year, she witnessed the catalyst of this movement – Providence Mount St. Vincent resident Marjorie Prince – demonstrating on her own, while sitting in her walker alongside the road. Sr. Charlene knew then that this was another place that could use her voice.

"I thought, 'I've got two good knees,' and so I wanted to join her and proclaim justice in the world," said Sr. Charlene, who is Chair of the Sisters' Earth Committee. "As a Sister of Providence, we carry on what we have been called to do: to stand up for the poor, the marginalized, and those who can't speak."

Thankfully, Sr. Charlene wasn't alone in lending support for Prince's cause. Organizers of the West Seattle-based group Postcards 4 Democracy were also inspired to raise their voices alongside Prince, who says she first began to demonstrate with signs in front of the facility in June 2025. What was once a movement of one now frequently draws dozens of supporters every Monday afternoon.

"It's inspiring to see the heritage live out in action right here," said Sr. Charlene.



Sr. Gabrielle Nguyen with her 2025 Sunday school class.

Teaching and service are Sunday traditions in Happy Valley

Sr. Gabrielle Nguyen, SP, is a celebrated mentor at Our Lady of Lavang Catholic Church in Happy Valley, Oregon – a nearby suburb of Portland, where she ministers as a registered nurse for Providence ElderPlace. She also has a growing list of alums from her Sunday school ministry.

This is Sr. Gabrielle's eighth year teaching Sunday school at Our Lady of Lavang. She has 28 students in her class this year.

On a rare Sunday this spring without Sunday school, Sr. Gabrielle made the most of her extra time by joining a parish family to support and distribute food to a community of people experiencing homelessness in Vancouver, Washington.



Sr. Gabrielle Nguyen meets with community members experiencing homelessness in Vancouver, Washington this spring.

Sisters Support the Spark

Sr. Bea LaFramboise, SP, gave the Blessing and Land Acknowledgment at the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center's spring benefit, "Spark Hope."

Sr. Bea serves on both the Board of Directors and Board of Members for the IPJC, and the Sisters of Providence are one of seven communities of women religious that co-sponsor the Center – which also has 17 affiliate religious communities.

Throughout its 25-year history, the IPJC has collaborated alongside a wide variety of groups and organizations for social justice reform, and more than 12,000 women have participated in its empowerment, spirituality, and justice programs.

A standout IPJC program highlighted at the benefit was the Youth Action Team Internship (YATI), which empowers and instills skills for female high school juniors and seniors to create social change in their communities. After completing internships, YATI participants can continue as Fellows in the program.



Fellows in IPJC's YATI program (back) with (left to right) Srs. Bea LaFramboise, Judith Desmarais, Charlene Hudon and Beverly Dunn at the "Spark Hope" benefit. The event was held at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in north Seattle.



An Angelic Gathering of Associates

In mid-May, the California Angels (southern California) region of Providence Associates and Companions gathered at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank.

Nicolas Estrada, PA – associate university minister for liturgy at University of San Diego – gave the primary address of the meeting, outlining the relationship of the Sisters and Associates. Providence Associates Executive Director **Kathe Boucha, PA**, and Secretary **Margaret Bauer, PA**, traveled from Alaska to contribute to the summit.

Srs. Rosa Sen Nguyen, SP, and **Teresa White, SP**, were also in attendance.



Senior Program Manager Ana Olazabal-Foma'i (left) and **Sr. Susanne Hartung** distribute fruit at the Providence Regina House in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle, Washington.

Mission Service Opportunities ministry expands to 32 sites

For **Sr. Susanne Hartung, SP**, an effort to connect people with more opportunities to live the mission of the Sisters firsthand is reaching new milestones. The Mission Service Opportunities program provides Providence St. Joseph Health (PSJH) caregivers with a variety of ways to directly serve people facing homelessness or food insecurity in their local communities. The program partners with local organizations that include social centers (e.g. Catholic community services sites), women's and children's shelters, food banks, and even community farms.

As of this summer, the program has grown to 32 sites across Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, and Alaska – ensuring that an opportunity to make an impact is close by for many throughout the health system ministry's geographic footprint. The most rapid growth has come over the past two years, with 20 sites added in that time.

“Interaction and conversations with our most vulnerable brothers and sisters bring to life the message of the gospel,” said Sr. Susanne. “To know the poor is to serve the poor.”

All service opportunities within the program emphasize support for people experiencing homelessness, giving those who serve a direct connection with the Sisters' practice of charism.

Sr. Susanne, who is Executive for Mission Initiatives for PSJH, was inspired to build the program about a decade ago, when her ministry in health system leadership began to involve a significant amount of time spent at the administrative offices of Providence's Shared Services department in Renton, Washington.

“I had lots of conversations with people who were sitting at computers all day, and some expressed that they felt they weren't fulfilling the mission of serving the poor and vulnerable,” said Sr. Susanne. She conducted a community needs assessment that validated the need to support services within our communities for those who are homeless.

While she assured those around her that every action and role in the organization ultimately does strengthen the mission, the message was clear to Sr. Susanne: there was a growing desire to personally serve the most vulnerable.

The first step was to expand the existing presence with a handful of programs in the Puget Sound region. Then came expansion, which has involved outreach to programs in locations that the health system's hospitals and clinics serve, and building a system in which



Caregivers prepare hygiene kits for the homeless at Blanchet House in Portland, Oregon.



Sr. Susanne Hartung with Providence Regina House volunteers Roberto Ramirez (left) and Ricky Bell.

monthly slots are made available for PSJH caregivers to contribute their service. Opportunities include clothing drives, food bank distributions, assembling hygiene kits, and providing meals and community support.

“Interaction and conversations with our most vulnerable brothers and sisters bring to life the message of the gospel,” said Sr. Susanne. “To know the poor is to serve the poor.”

Sr. Susanne also met with the health system’s human resources department to ensure caregivers could serve during their work hours. This collaboration resulted in an app that’s easily accessible to PSJH caregivers, in which they can conveniently sign up for service opportunities. After registering, caregivers then receive

updates for their service from a network of more than 60 service leads who manage the program at a local level (if you’re a caregiver and interested in serving, scan the QR code in this story). Ana Olazabal-Foma’i works alongside Sr. Susanne to operate and help expand the program as Senior Program Manager.

“It has been such a privilege for me to have received a vision for how the mission of Providence can be expanded to the most vulnerable in our society,” said Sr. Susanne.

Providence St. Joseph Health caregivers can scan this code to visit the Mission Service Opportunities portal (requires sign-in).



*From left to right: Ana Olazabal-Foma’i, Traci Green, **Sr. Susanne Hartung**, Eva Foma’i, and Stacey Wolever-Welch during service at the Federal Way Day Center in Federal Way, Washington.*

Sisters Share Insights, Encouragement with Caregivers in the Rose City

Five Sisters joined the Providence Women's Caregiver Resource Group for a fireside chat in honor of Women's History Month. Providence Portland Medical Center hosted the open mic-style event, and participants came ready with insightful questions for the Sisters about staying grounded during challenging times, striving for compassion, and being sources of hope.

"Compassion lives in our heart," said **Sr. Margaret (Maggie) Pastro, SP**, during the discussion. "We get better at compassion by practicing it. It is a discipline... it softens our heart and restores hope."

Sr. Josefina (Josie) Ramac, SP, spoke about gratitude, saying it is "a powerful tool that can be enhanced."

"Practicing gratitude regularly can strengthen our ability to appreciate," said Sr. Josie. "It involves recognizing the good things in our lives and understanding that many of these good things come from outside ourselves."

"Be authentically who you are," said **Sr. Beverly Dunn, SP**. "Share, on a very deep level, with people – and be authentic in that."

Srs. Marisol Avila, SP, and **Gabrielle Nguyen, SP**, were not speakers on the panel but also attended the event and met with caregivers.



(Left to right) **Srs. Beverly Dunn, Josie Ramac, Maggie Pastro, and Marisol Avila.**



Celebrating Mother Mary at St. Finbar

The month of May is a time to celebrate Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church. At the St. Finbar parish in Burbank, California, the annual celebration includes vibrant gifts of flowers and choreographed dancing.



St. Finbar parishioners perform a traditional flower ceremony dance.

May flower ceremonies honoring Mother Mary follow a Vietnamese tradition that dates to the late 18th century. St. Finbar, which is celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese-language Masses this summer, continues to serve a flourishing Vietnamese American community in southern California.

Sr. Phuong Ha Nguyen, SP, choreographed this year's ceremonial dances, which featured girls and women of all ages in colorful robes. A near-capacity crowd of parishioners attended the ceremonial Mass on Saturday, May 9.

Sr. Rosa Sen Nguyen, SP, is also involved in parish life at St. Finbar Catholic Church, including planning and design work for its semicentennial celebration of Vietnamese heritage.



Sr. Hong Nga Nguyen (front, left) and **Sisters of Providence Communications Manager Zach Garcia** (back, left) joined fellow **Women of Providence in Collaboration** leaders and administrative professionals at the **Transforming Grace** social justice conference.

100+ Communities of Women Religious Convene for Social Justice Strategies

Core Group Leader **Sr. Hong Nga Nguyen, SP**, represented Sisters of Providence at a Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) gathering, which brought elected leaders, justice officers, and communicators together for three intensive days of social justice collaboration.

The sessions were held in St. Louis, Missouri, and included several impactful sessions led by educator, author, and 2015 Lantos Human Rights Prize winner Irshad Manji.

The occasion also provided an opportunity to collaborate with fellow congregations of women religious who bear the name and charism of Providence, who, alongside the Sisters, contribute to the organization **Women of Providence in Collaboration**.

The tools and resources created during the gathering will be a source of reference and inspiration in social justice involvement.



Coming in the Fall 2026 edition of *Caritas*:
Jubilant stories for the five Sisters of
Providence – Mother Joseph Jubilarians

Congratulations, 2026 Jubilarians!

Sisters of Providence – Mother Joseph

Jubilee: July 18, 2026

Celebrating 60 Years

Sr. Paula Cosko, SP
Sr. Beatrice LaFramboise, SP

Celebrating 50 Years

Sr. Patricia Glen, SP
Sr. Josefina Ramac, SP

Celebrating 25 Years

Sr. Jessica Taylor, SP

Sisters of Saint Dominic of Tacoma

Jubilee: August 15, 2026

Celebrating 70 Years

Sr. Madeleine Farrell, OP
Sr. Kathleen Reilly, OP

Celebrating 60 Years

Sr. Patty Beattie, OP
Sr. Philomena McCarthy, OP
Sr. Patty Morisset, OP

Celebrating 25 Years

Sr. Teresa Montes Lara, OP



SP/OP Covenant
Embracing the Future with Hope

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A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus,
you conquered death without weapons or violence:
you shattered its power with the strength of peace.
Grant us your peace,
as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning,
as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear.
Send forth your Spirit,
the breath that gives life and reconciles,
that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters.

Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother,
who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart,
firm in the faith that you would rise again.
May the madness of war cease
and the Earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still
know how to bring forth, protect and love life.
Hear us, Lord of life!

Amen.

Pope Leo XIV, April 11, 2026



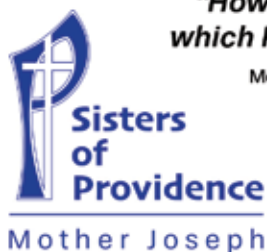
Community, Spirituality & Ministries

Discerning a vocation to become a Sister of Providence is a journey
of prayerful reflection and spiritual exploration. It involves seeking
guidance, participating in community life, and engaging in ministries.

If you feel called to explore this path further, please contact us at
vocations@providence.org or call/text us at 509-901-6627.
We're here to support and guide you on this beautiful journey.

*"How admirable are the ways in
which Providence directs our lives!"*

Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 1864



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**"This I command
you, that you love
one another."**

—John 15:17