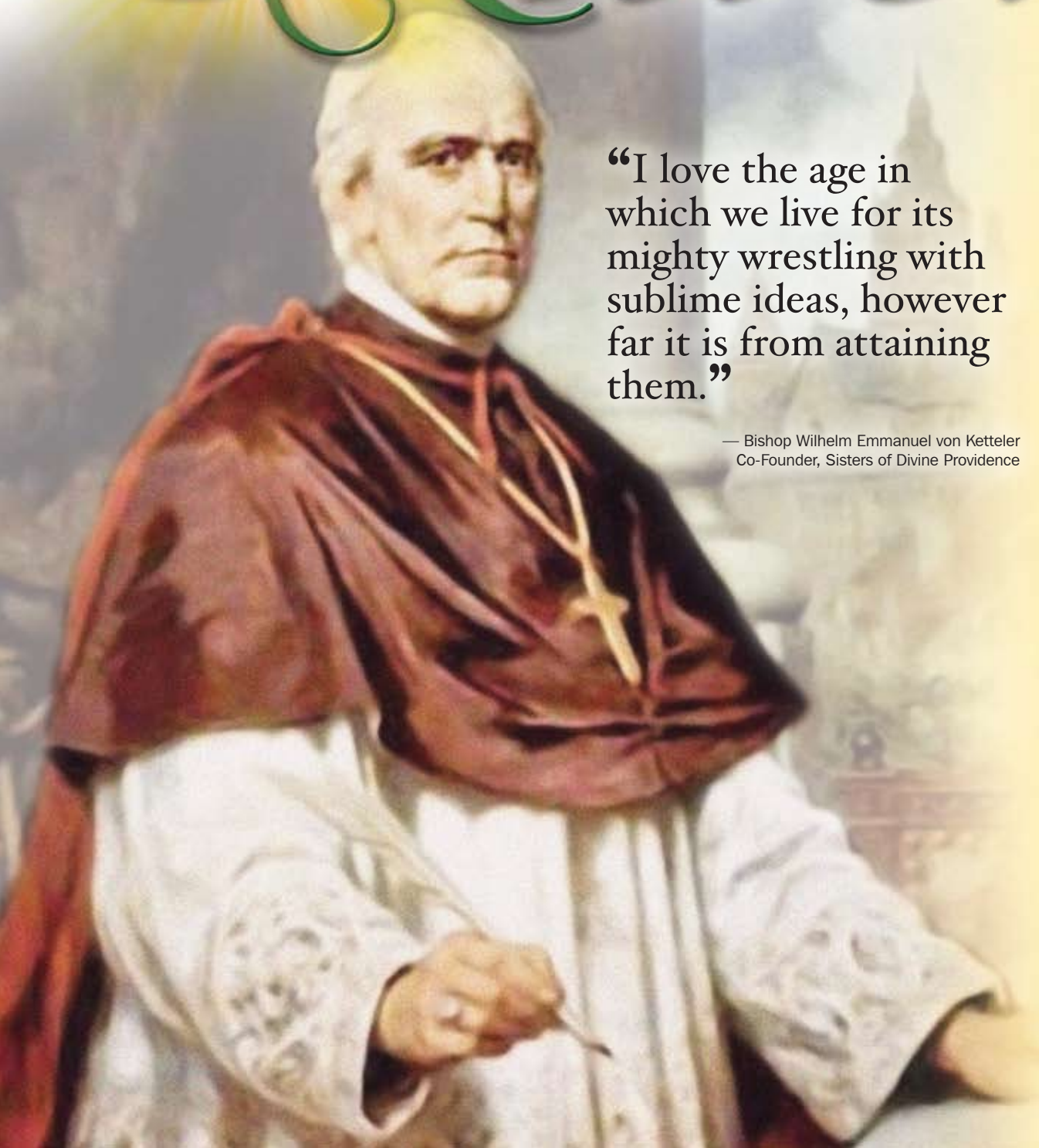


PUBLISHED BY THE
SISTERS OF
DIVINE
PROVIDENCE

PROVIDENCE

Alive!



“I love the age in which we live for its mighty wrestling with sublime ideas, however far it is from attaining them.”

— Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler
Co-Founder, Sisters of Divine Providence

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**Marie de la Roche Province
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP
Provincial Director

Barbara McMullen, CDP
Asst. to the Provincial

COUNCILLORS

Marilyn Bergt, CDP
Maria Fest, CDP
Lisa Paffrath, CDP
Ann Paim, CDP
Carol Stenger, CDP

EDITOR

Jean Dennison
Executive Director
Office of Mission Advancement

Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101-2713
412-635-5428
Fax 412-635-5406
cdppgh@aol.com
www.divineprovidenceweb.org

The Ketteler Legacy

By Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial Director

THIS YEAR, 2011, THE Sisters of Divine Providence are celebrating our founder Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler. Born on Christmas day in 1811, we remember Bishop Ketteler's birth 200 years ago and, more importantly, we recall the legacy he left us and the ways he lived his vocation as a priest and used his personal qualities to help and provide for others.

As we celebrate our founder, we also celebrate each one of you. We appreciate your concern for us as you pray with us that our lives may witness God's Providence through our service of others in presence and compassion. Joining in our efforts to meet others' needs through our ministries, many of you offer your presence and skills with us while others give donations to help us reach out to others. For all you do and all your care, we are most grateful!

Bishop Ketteler was a man of faithfulness and commitment, a leader who prayed daily, who regularly preached and wrote about the social concerns of his day, and who took action by finding ways to respond to these issues. He was an advocate for the rights of the workers at a time when industry itself

was evolving, an orator who helped people to know Christ's call to Christian living. He was a man humble enough, after exhausting his own resources, to beg from others to obtain what was needed, whether it was food for the hungry, or land and bricks for buildings to meet the evolving social realities.

Wilhelm Ketteler, after only six years as a priest, was consecrated Bishop of Mainz [in what is today Germany], at the young age of 39. He dedicated his life to service, focusing on relieving the suffering of the poorest people. Ketteler invited religious communities of women and men into the diocese to begin ministries in response to the unmet needs. When those groups were too few, the bishop decided to found his own community of religious women.

In their first decades, the Sisters of Divine Providence taught in small village schools, and opened an orphanage to care for children whose parents had died because of sickness, accidents, or war. They provided a home, a safe place to live, for vulnerable young women leaving the farms for the cities so they could work in the factories. The Sisters educated poor women

and went to the homes of destitute families, offering basic health care, especially during times of hunger, epidemics, and ordinary illness. When we came to the United States, it was the same! The Sisters tried to meet the basic needs of the immigrants who came seeking better lives for themselves and their children.

Today, the Sisters continue to be aware of the many social ills of our day. We continue Bishop Ketteler's legacy of care and service and, like our founder, we need resources to carry on our good works. We are grateful to each of you for your interest and support, your prayer, service, and donations, which make it possible for us to do more than we could ever do on our own. Like Bishop Ketteler, your generosity allows our legacy of service, of Providential care for others, to continue into the future. For those who can, we ask you to consider joining the Bishop and the Sisters in leaving a legacy of financial support so that we can continue to touch the hearts and improve the lives of the children, the women, and the men whom we serve.



Bicentennial Celebration

By Jean Dennison, Executive Director, Office of Mission Advancement

ON DECEMBER 25, 2010, THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, MARIE DE LA ROCHE Province, began to celebrate the 200th anniversary of their founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Mother Marie de la Roche. Bishop Ketteler was born on December 25, 1811; his 200th anniversary is December 25, 2011. Marie de la Roche was born on October 28, 1812; her 200th anniversary is October 28, 2012.

As we begin the Bicentennial Celebration of our founders, we reflect on the founding spirit of our congregation as well as the legacy of our founders, which challenges us to be open to the ever present Providence of God in our lives. The theme of the Bicentennial is “Rooted in the past ... reaching toward the future.” This two-year time of celebration provides an opportunity to reflect more deeply on our call to mission, to justice, to peace and compassion lived in our daily lives. It also calls us to look forward to the ways in which we can be Providence into the future.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence was founded by Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler in 1851 in Mainz, Germany as a response to the needs of the times. The urgent need at the time of the Industrial Revolution in Germany was for education and the care of the sick. Adequate education and training of children in the Catholic way of life was woefully lacking. Ketteler was determined to aid the families in his Diocese of Mainz. Ketteler wrote in the first Chapter of the Constitution of 1852: The Goal of the Institute: “The Institute of the teaching and nursing Sisters has, first, the goal to bring about the education of young women from the rural areas, to instruct them in the holy religion, and in essential knowledge for living, and second, to nurture an attitude of caring for the sick poor.”

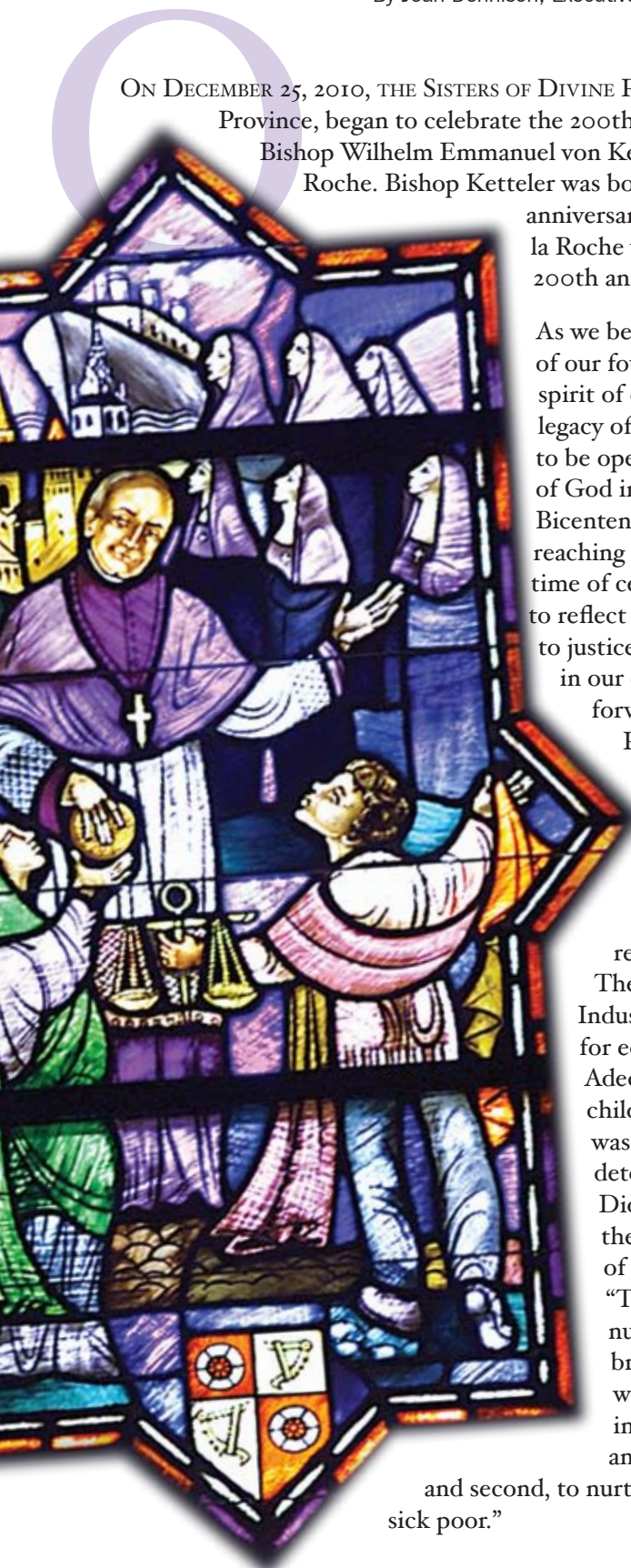
The Ketteler Window

The “Ketteler Window” is one of ten stained glass windows in the nave of the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel at Providence Heights in Allison Park, PA. It depicts Wilhelm Emmanuel Joseph Hubert Maria Baron von Ketteler-Alt-Assen Harkotten (1811–1877), Bishop of Mainz, and co-founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Wilhelm followed his father into the legal profession, practicing law as a government minister; however, he soon recognized the call to religious life, and in 1844, he was ordained a priest. He became known as a champion of the poor, living and working with the peasants.

The central panel of the window depicts Ketteler’s concerns for justice and his advocacy and service to those in need. The Cathedral of Mainz, the diocese in which Ketteler served, is in the background. The upper portion of the window illustrates the missioning of the six Sisters of Divine Providence to the United States in 1876. The lower section of the window replicates Ketteler’s coat of arms. The red ground and silver wheels are symbols of the city of Mainz.

ARTIST: NICK PARRENDO, HUNT STUDIOS, PITTSBURGH, PA (2001)



continued on page 7

Investments Working for the Common Good

By Maria Fest, CDP, Investment Committee Secretary

Like many other religious communities, the Sisters of Divine Providence started a Charitable Trust for the express purpose of continuing Community support for our retired, aging, and ill members. While we are far from being fully funded, we are working hard to maintain this Trust so that it will last well into the future. Our hope is that the Trust will support not only present members, but even our future members in their retirement years. This goal becomes increasingly important because the community of the future will be smaller, with fewer members working in salaried positions.

We have policies governing our investments. We engage in socially responsible investing. In other words, we have guidelines that we give to our investment managers and consultants to ensure that our investments support human life, as well as the ecological life of the planet.

Owning stocks and exercising responsibilities as shareholders allow us to influence the boards of Corporate America. Our influence, along with others who engage in socially responsible investing, requires corporations to examine their policies related to

working environments for their employees, just wages, health care, and the environment. In general, the action of shareholders, such as voting proxies, engaging in shareholder meetings, and filing resolutions, compel companies to adopt practices that honor human dignity, embrace family values, and protect the environment.

Further, the social screens that govern the stocks and bonds purchased for our portfolios exclude companies that discriminate against women and children, pollute or damage the environment, generate

significant revenue from products dangerous to health or activities that weaken the family unit, or from military contracts.

We want our investments to support the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence. As such, the companies in which we invest should demonstrate a corporate commitment to promote a consistent ethic of life. The Sisters have an Investment Committee that oversees our investments. Has our portfolio suffered that much in its return because of a socially responsible portfolio? As we benchmark our returns over the years, we have found that companies that care about workers, the environment, and the common good, are generally better managed. So, YES, we can invest our retirement funds in socially responsible investments and have a portfolio that performs comparably to the broad market, as measured by the S & P 500 Index and/or other benchmarks.

So, our investments not only contribute to our retirement needs, but also work for the common good.

Sister Melanie Kambic takes the Eucharist to residents of a local assisted living community.



Leaving a Legacy: It's Within Your Reach

By Ana G. Schulz, Development Director, St. Louis Office of Mission Advancement

As the Sisters of Divine Providence look forward to the bicentennial celebrations of our founders' birth anniversaries, we have devised a way for you to create a legacy of your own. You, too, can continue to "meet the needs of the time" well into the future when you make a planned gift to the Sisters of Divine Providence.

You've probably already heard of "gift planning," sometimes called "planned giving." These are the terms most often used in philanthropy when referring to estate planning. Possibly, you are familiar with the terminology from other charitable organizations and/or from your financial planner. Last year, the Sisters of Divine Providence began building a gift planning program to sustain the Providence Mission into the future.

We know that during challenging financial times, it's hard to consider balancing your charitable goals with your budget. But there is an important fact about gift planning that we want

you to consider: While the primary purpose of a planned gift is to help your favorite charitable cause, these gifts may also allow you and your family to enjoy financial benefits. We've all been told that it's better to give than to receive; we've come up with a way for you to do both at the same time! Several ways, in fact!

We have created a page on our website, www.divineprovidencewebsite.org, that will show you how. Go to the "Support Us" page and select "Ways to Give." There you will find an array of gift options to explore, tools to use to help you get started with estate planning, and instant access to free, up-to-date information related to tax law changes, estate planning, and ways that will enable you to leave a legacy that perpetuates acts of making God's Providence more visible. You can think of our new "Ways to Give" page as your own "go-to reference" for gift planning. And, as a complement to the go-to reference, we've initiated a free monthly e-newsletter that provides up-to-date information,

researched by the experts, on a variety of estate planning issues. To receive a free monthly e-newsletter and to learn more about our gift-planning program, please contact Pat Serafini at 412-635-5401 or serafini.patricia@gmail.com.



Are you a Member of the Providence Legacy Society? Remembering the Sisters of Divine Providence in your will is one way to establish your personal Providence Legacy. To learn more, please contact your local development office.

Sister Margaret Mertens planting seeds at La Posada with a little friend.



Radiating Possibilities for the Future

By Patricia A. Malinowski, Director of Development

Illuminating ... risk-taking. These words fittingly describe the co-founders of the Sisters of Divine Providence. From now through the end of 2012, the Sisters will be commemorating the bicentennial birthdays of their founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (December 25, 1811) and Marie de la Roche (October 28, 1812).

Since 1851, when the community was founded, the Sisters of Divine Providence have made God's presence evident through their work in education, healthcare, and social justice advocacy for those who are poor and marginalized in society.

Bishop Ketteler believed that "a Sister of Divine Providence must make her heart ready to be willing and sympathetic to follow the example of Jesus Christ to help others." The ability of the Sisters to meet the needs of the times is based on their desire to follow the example of Jesus and carry the light of God's Providence to others. To do this often meant having the ability to do more with fewer resources.

With an eye toward the possibilities for the future, The Bishop Ketteler Society will be inaugurated this year through the Office of

Mission Advancement. The Bishop Ketteler Society offers an opportunity for the Sisters to acknowledge long-time supporters (people who have contributed consistently to the Sisters for ten years or more). Beginning with the current fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011), The Bishop Ketteler Society will also recognize annual donors at various levels of giving whose support provides the Sisters with additional funds to continue their work into the future. Membership is open to all. Won't you join with the Sisters?



More information on The Bishop Ketteler Society will be enclosed with the Annual Spring Appeal coming in March 2011.



The annual strategic planning meeting of the Office of Mission Advancement was held at Providence Center on November 16-17, 2010. Present at the meeting were (seated, from left) Therese Meyerhoff, Sister Mary Francis Fletcher; (standing, from left) Patricia A. Malinowski, Sister Barbara McMullen, Ana G. Schulz, Jean Dennison, and Colleen Price. (Missing from photo is Sister Marjorie Nickel (Kingston), who participated in the meeting via telephone.)

In Memory



Sister Willemene Krise
October 19, 2010

A Providence Woman
lives forever
in the hearts
of those who **remember...**

Memorials in honor of Sister Willemene Krise can be made through the Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101 or the website, at www.divineprovidenceweb.org, by clicking on Donate Now.

The Sisters of Divine Providence also remember Associates ...



Nancy Merrill
February 11, 2010



Aida Rivera
June 1, 2010



Shirley Meehan
September 27, 2010



Carmin Rivera
November 11, 2010



Bicentennial Celebration

continued from **page 3**

Bishop Ketteler was known for his fierce determination to make things right. He died in 1877, but his name is still renowned in Germany. In the Cathedral of Mainz, where he is buried, there is an eternal flame, placed there by the workers' unions to honor the man who upheld their right to organize and fight for better working conditions.

There will be many special events, exhibits, gatherings, and other projects to mark these two years of celebration. Visit our website at www.divineprovidenceweb.org for a calendar of events. We invite our friends and benefactors to celebrate with us at the public events and, when this is not possible, to join us in prayer for the continuance of the mission and legacy of Bishop Ketteler to serve the needs of the times.





Sisters of Divine Providence
Marie de la Roche Province

c/o 9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101-2713
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2877



KINGSTON, MA

PITTSBURGH, PA

PUERTO RICO

SANTO DOMINGO, DR

ST. LOUIS, MO



Save The Date!

Champagne Brunch and Auction

Saturday, January 29, 2011
9:30 to Noon
Texas State Technical College
1902 North Loop 499
Harlingen, TX 78550

Sponsored by La Posada Providencia

For more information:
956.399.3826

Lenten Breakfast

Ash Wednesday, March 9
7 to 9 a.m.
Kearns Spirituality Center
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101

*Sponsored by the Sisters
of Divine Providence*

For more information:
412.635.5408

Breakfast With The INN Crowd

Friday, April 29
7 to 9 a.m.
Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel
10700 Pear Tree Lane
St. Louis, MO 63134

Sponsored by Room at the Inn

For more information:
314-209-9181

www.divineprovidencewebsite.org