



PROVIDENCE

Alive!

Celebrate our Jubilarians!

**Rooted in our Past
Risking the Unknown
Transitions
Jubilarians
Ketteler Award for Social Justice
In Memory
Congregational Leadership**



**Marie de la Roche Province
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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COVER :

**Some of our 2011
Jubilarians, including,
top row: Sisters Maria
Torres Meléndez and
Lu Haidnick (25 years);
Sisters Patricia Ann
Moffett and Rose Michele
Seiber (60 years), Sisters
Kathleen Angel, Mary
Jane Beatty, and Kathleen
Hoerster (50 years);
Bottom row: Sisters Mary
Salvatore Leo, Irma Mae
Boonie, and Genevieve
Brandstetter (75 years).**

Rooted in our Past

by Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial Director



OUR COMMUNITY IS grounded in the Providence of God, as this year we remember the 200th birth anniversary of our founder Bishop Wilhelm von Ketteler, born December 25, 1811. Our holy founder sought to live with thoroughness and perseverance and to extend God's reign through his social concern and his fearless defense of what is true and just. Bishop Ketteler's faith vision continues to be a source of guidance and inspiration as we face the evolving local and global realities of our own day.

This month, during our Provincial Chapter, our Sisters and Associates celebrated the lives and Jubilee anniversaries of 33 Sisters who, together, have been in the Community for almost 2,000 years. As a Community, we celebrate the presence and promise of our Provident God witnessed through their lives of generosity, faithfulness, and loving service.

Reaching toward the Future

Our summer has been filled with the presence and action of our God of Providence, especially in and through our two Chapters, during which every five years, future directions are set and new leadership is elected.

The General Chapter unfolded during two very hot July weeks in

Pittsburgh. Sisters from Provinces in Germany and Korea, and our Region in Peru, joined Sisters from our own U. S.-Caribbean Province, to consider God's call for the next five years and to elect our General Leadership Team. Always seeking to deepen our understanding and relationship with our God of Providence, throughout the international congregation, we committed ourselves to seek through prayer, education, and conversation to deepen and celebrate our common theological understanding of God as the God of Abundance, and to explore how this theology intertwines with the spirit of the Community. Since our beginnings in 1851, that spirit has been identified as the spirit of Jesus Christ, a spirit of service and total self-giving for the healing of our world. Holding to the source within, both individually and communally, we committed ourselves to collaborate and share justice efforts, reaching toward the future aware of God's Providence in the abundance that is ours and in sharing that abundance with all people and all creation.

Risking the Unknown

The Provincial Chapter unfolded less than two weeks later, also in Pittsburgh, with about 140 vowed members as delegates committed to prayer, presence, and

participation, as we also considered the direction to which God invites us in the next five years and as we elected our Provincial Leadership Team. The Chapter delegates realized that our ability to "risk the unknown" is made possible through deep trust in the God of Providence. We are freer to walk into tomorrow by living today in openness, availability, and creativity, while seeking to promote life as witnesses of compassion, justice, and peace.

As a Community, we are ever grateful for the ways in which you, our friends and supporters, share this journey with us. During these summer events, we have felt your prayers and your generosity as you companion us on this faith journey into tomorrow. Believing that we are all God's beloved, loved by Providence even before the moment of our birth, may we allow our Provident God to open our hearts, hands, and minds as we receive and share the abundance of our earth, the generosity of God to each of us, and experience God's faithful presence among us. A Community saying that ever renews and assures us is, **God did provide; God does provide; God will provide.**

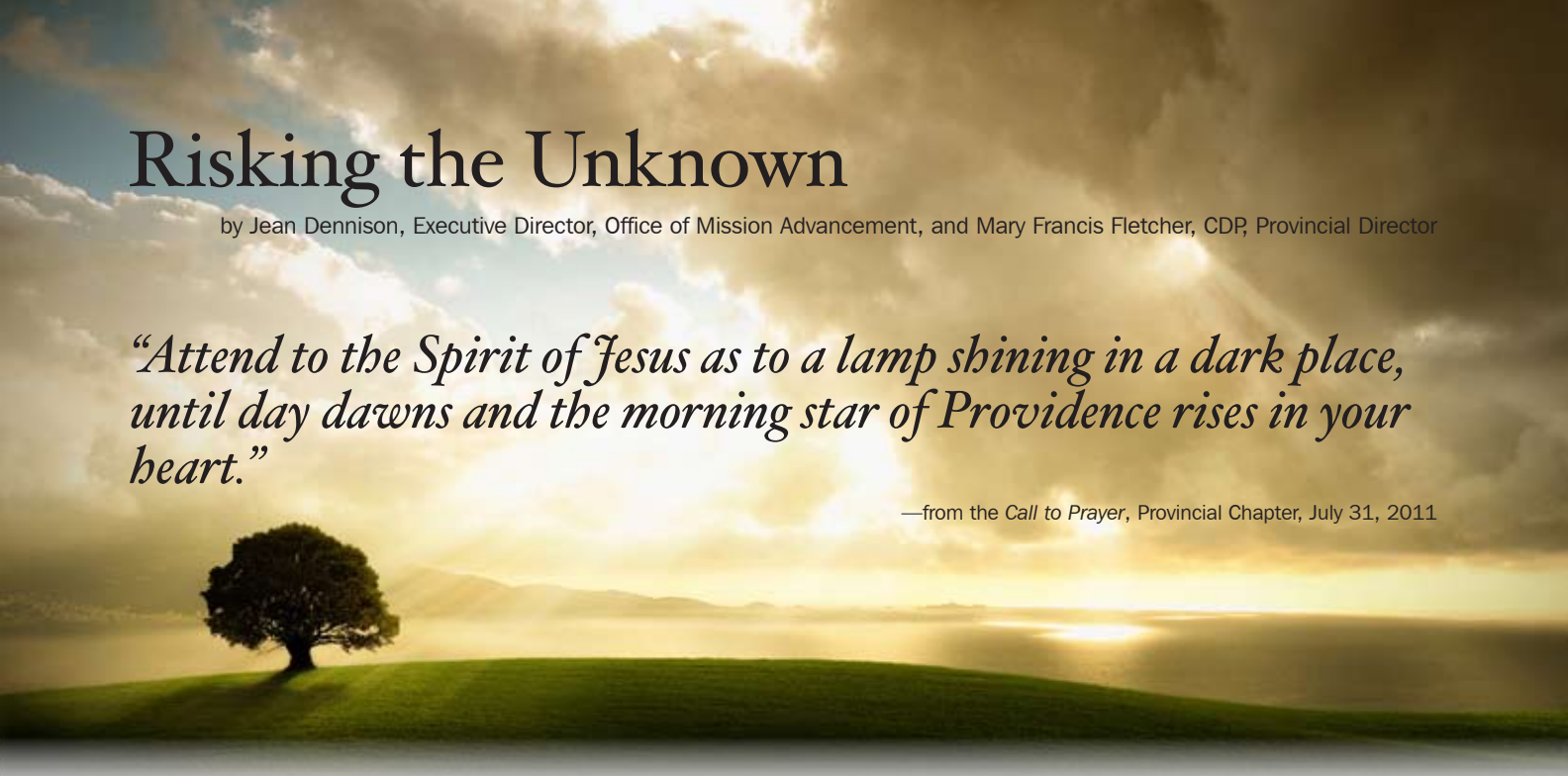


Risking the Unknown

by Jean Dennison, Executive Director, Office of Mission Advancement, and Mary Francis Fletcher, CDR, Provincial Director

“Attend to the Spirit of Jesus as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star of Providence rises in your heart.”

—from the *Call to Prayer*, Provincial Chapter, July 31, 2011



THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, Marie de la Roche Province, gathered together recently to begin a new journey to “risk the unknown.” The theme for the Provincial Chapter, the highest decision-making body of a religious community, was selected to deepen awareness among all the Sisters of the challenges and invitations of this time in history, a time where the ways of living religious life within an ever-changing society continue to evolve at a rapid pace. The deepest essentials of God’s call and the Sisters’ commitment to their lives of vowed consecration, in Community, for the service of others’ needs, remain constant, even as the God of Providence is a consistent, faithful presence, supporting decisions for the future.

As the Community is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of their founder, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, their theme has been “rooted in the past, reaching toward the future.” The Chapter theme, “Risking the Unknown,” flows naturally from that bicentennial theme, reflecting the Community’s openness to face the uncertain future together, trusting in the God of Providence. The Chapter process was also an unknown. The Chapter Planning Committee was concerned that the format might not

address the needs of the province at this time or might not help move it toward the future in a meaningful way. According to Sister Myra Rodgers, who served as chair of the committee, “As we spoke about the ‘unknowns’ around the proposed Chapter, we decided to call it what it was for the committee—risking the unknown.” The Chapter process involved a willingness of the delegates to let go of previous proposal-driven format and to call forth and consider the issues that arose within a contemplative process.

Opening Ritual and Remarks

Sister Janet Schaffran offered some introductory words at the opening prayer service, comparing the work of the spider, daily spinning its web, to the “spinning” done by each of us as we create the web of our lives.

“The webs of spiders are often beautiful to see and are, at the same time, functional, practical, and ingenious in design. The construction of each web is different, depending upon the place where it is built and the obstacles the spider encounters as it spins. What spiders do by instinct, we do more deliberately, using our intellect and all the other gifts we have to fashion the web that we call our life. Our results are

often as beautiful, practical, and ingenious as those of the spider, but the webs of our lives are, of course, very different in appearance. That difference is partially because we are rational creatures who can make many decisions about how we choose to spin the web of our life, where we will make it, with whom we share it, and how we will use it.

“But a very significant difference between our webs and those of the spiders is that we are not making them alone. We have the gift of knowing that our Provident God is spinning it with us. So, as we begin our Provincial Chapter, during which we will together consider how we will spin the web of our community life for the next five years, we are together challenged to risk the unknown.”

The Chapter was convened formally by Provincial Director Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, who welcomed the Sisters and Associates and invited them, graced by our Provident God, “to spin out from within our deepest selves, from our bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits, God’s evolving call to mission. We are challenged to discover ways to link the threads we each spin so creatively, into interconnected strands, so that a new web is created.

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Risking the Unknown

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Sister Mary Francis further encouraged:

“We do not start with nothing; we do not begin in thin air! We know and live out of the essentials of our communitarian, consecrated lives. We also know that the ways we have structured our lives for Community and ministry don’t work as well as in the past. What we don’t know is how, now, the essentials can be reconfigured for a way of life which is new, creative, and energizing.

“The essentials of our life ground, support, and strengthen the web of our relationships, our witness, and our service in Community. We may not see the whole new web we are creating as we spin the strands toward new realities, but in these days, we can anchor the strongest strands, connect the essentials in new images, and add the rest in time.”

The Work of Chapter

Much of the time and energy of the 140 delegates was spent in developing

a new governance model for the province. The conversations began with a focus on God’s Mission and the call to be disciples who bring “Good News” through efforts to dialogue, witness, and bring healing to the brokenness of people’s lives. The new governance model is framed by that call to Mission, which is the focus of the Sisters’ lives of faithful witness and service. The new model is more feminine, more circular and organic than the earlier model, which was designed as the new province was formed in 2001. The model encourages greater participation, collegiality, responsibility, and mutual accountability by all members.

The Chapter delegates discussed other issues related to Mission and governance, including the evolving needs of new members as they are incorporated into the Community, the structures that support their shared communal, ministerial, and spiritual lives, and the reality of the personnel and financial resources that are available for Mission. The

Provincial Chapter discussions were also supported and guided by the two directives that were recently adopted by the 22nd General Chapter (held in Pittsburgh in July and including delegates from the worldwide Congregation of Divine Providence).

The first directive of the General Chapter is to work toward a deeper common theological understanding of our Provident God as a *God of abundance*, and to explore how this theology intertwines with the spirit of the Community, which is the spirit of Jesus Christ. The hopes and desire of the participants in the General Chapter were to continue to cultivate an attitude of abundance and to reframe their thinking to realize that, even though the Community is smaller and older, God always gives what is needed, and there is exactly enough.

The second directive is to commit to live in true interdependence with all creation by sharing more fully the abundance of the gifts in



Chapter Planning Committee: Front row: Facilitator Sister Cheryl White, CSJ; Sisters Roberta Grzelak, Lu Haidnick, Mary Ellen Rufft, Myra Rodgers, Ann Pairn, Secretary Sister Danielle Jacob, CSFN. Second row: Sisters Stephanie Turck, Kathleen Matz, Alice Marie Lyon, Lisa Paffrath, Veronica Gumja Kim, Mary Francis Fletcher.

PHOTOS: [Top right] Sister Mary Francis Fletcher convenes the Chapter of Elections. [Bottom] Sister-Sisters Jeanine and Marietta Ruhe celebrate Sister Marietta's 65th jubilee. [Bottom right] Associate Nuala Filberg at the opening ritual. [Bottom left] Sister Jacklyn Pritchard inserts her delegate pledge card into the "web," illustrating the interconnectedness of each delegate's participation in the Chapter.



each province and region through more international collaboration, communication, and shared justice efforts.

Another important responsibility of the Chapter delegates was to elect the Provincial Leadership Team, which will take office in January 2012 for a term of five years. There was time for each candidate to be questioned and to present her vision for the future. Sisters Rose Marie Lipke and Florita Rodman listened carefully to all the presentations. "It is good to listen to all the various opinions on issues that were raised," said Sister Florita. Sister Rose Marie agreed that doing so afforded them an opportunity to hear differing views on matters important to the Community. The election resulted in the re-election of Sister Mary Francis Fletcher as Provincial, Sister Maria Fest as Assistant to the Provincial, and Councillors Sisters Donna Marie Gribshaw, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, and Mary Traupman.

and celebrated the call of Providence in their lives. They celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of the province, the death anniversary of their foundress, after whom the province is named, the anniversaries of the 33 jubilarians who have reached nearly 2,000 years of combined witness and ministry, and the election of their new leadership. There were festive dinners, an ice cream social, and lots of time to reconnect with Sisters from afar who returned for the Chapter.

Looking to the Future

"There is no question that the future is a big unknown for all religious communities at this point, and ours is no exception," said Sister Myra. She believes that judging whether the theme of this year's Chapter was carried out with success will be known "only as we live out our foray into the unknown over the coming years."



Time to Celebrate Community

Every day, the gathered group of Sisters and Associates prayed together



Transitions

by Patricia A. Malinowski, Director of Development

THE *AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY* defines “transition” as “movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc. to another.” In this issue of *Providence Alive*, we celebrate the Jubilees of Sisters who have transitioned from one ministry to another over the past 25 to 75 years. Throughout the years, the Sisters have always found a way to make God’s Providence visible to others. Appreciation and thanks for the Sisters who serve on the current Provincial Leadership Team (PLT) and congratulations to the newly elected PLT, who will take office on January 1, 2012.

The jubilees and election signify transitions of time and position within the Community, but the mission of the Sisters remains the same. Earlier this year, through the Office of Mission Advancement and combined Development Office efforts, changes occurred in how we recognize our benefactors as leaders in supporting the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence through the *Marie de la Roche Giving Society*.

While anyone who makes a contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence in any amount is automatically a member of the *Society*, the *Giving Society* also provides the Sisters with an opportunity to acknowledge longtime supporters and annual donors. One of the ways that we will do this is through prayers for our benefactors and enrollment in the *Providence Book of Life*.

One more change will be a transition for the memorial and tribute programs referred to as the *Book of Friends* or *Little Book of Prayer*. To ensure that we offer the same benefits to all the supporters throughout the Marie de la Roche Province,

we will offer the same enrollment opportunities to our supporters wherever they reside. This means that each local area will have the *Providence Book of Life* for the living and the *Providence Memorial Book* for the deceased.

The Sisters, especially those in prayer ministry who reside at Providence Heights in Allison Park, PA, Lourdes Center in Kingston, MA, St. Clare’s Villa in Alton, IL, and Sisters throughout the Province, will be remembering your loved ones in prayer. The cards used to enroll loved ones in prayerful remembrance will be the same and available in each area.

The newly designed cards include the image of the Mother of Divine Providence (see below).

If you are interested in receiving a packet of tribute and memorial cards, please contact your local Development Office (page 6). If you send a donation to enroll a loved one in either of the books, you will automatically receive a packet of cards in return.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity exemplifies trust and faith in Divine Providence and in the Sisters’ call to witness Providence into the future.



Oktoberfest 2011

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SISTERS' RETIREMENT NEEDS

Saturday, October 15, 2011

9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA

(Rain or Shine—event held indoors!)

SPECIAL DRAWING TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PRIMARY PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

- Adult Dinner Ticket \$ _____ for ____ tix @ \$10/EA.
- Child Dinner Ticket (under 12) \$ _____ for ____ tix @ \$5/EA.
- Windowpane Queen Size Quilt (hand quilted by Sr. Rose Anne Krantz) \$ _____ for ____ tix @ \$5/EA.
- Crocheted Queen Size Bedspread (handmade by Sr. Joan Wolf) \$ _____ for ____ tix @ \$5/EA.
- From Germany with Love*, Limited Edition Stein and 28-piece StudioHummel Christmas Collection \$ _____ for ____ tix @ \$5/EA.
- Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Return completed form and check made payable to the Sisters of Divine Providence to Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101. You can also purchase tickets online at www.divineprovidencewebsite.org. Just click the "Donate Now" link. Online tickets must be purchased by Friday, October 7. Major credit cards are accepted. If you can't join us for this year's event but would like to make an online donation, again, just click the "Donate Now" button on our website. For those who do not have internet access, call 412-635-5401.

Special drawing ticket items are not tax deductible contributions. Also, in order to comply with postal regulations, we must inform you that participation in the drawings is not necessary; however, since this is a fundraiser and a unique opportunity to support the Sisters of Divine Providence, we hope you will participate with us in one of the above ways. Thank you for your support.



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**Setting up a fund
to honor or remember
a Sister can begin
by making a phone
call to one of
the Development
Directors listed
above.**



Jubilarians

“This is what God asks of you, only this: To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.”

—Micah 6:8

THIS YEAR, WE ARE HONORED TO celebrate 33 jubilarians with a combined 1,955 years of “walking the walk.” The Sisters who are celebrating this year minister in pastoral care, education, healthcare, vocation work, leadership, internal ministry, or in the ministry of prayer.

Sister Lu Haidnick is the pastoral associate at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Aurora, Ohio. Reflecting on her 25 years as a religious, Sister Lou is grateful for the opportunity to live the spirituality of Providence daily and share it with the people she meets. “I help raise people’s awareness of God’s Providential love and care for us,” said Sister Lu.

Golden jubilarian Sister Hilary Hooks began the Community’s ministry for immigrants and asylum seekers, La Posada Providencia, in Texas in 1989. She served as the shelter’s director from 1990-95. Upon leaving that position, she was liturgist for the

Franciscan Sisters of Mary in St. Louis (1997-98). Sister Hilary currently teaches English as a second language. Quoting the words of Bishop Ketteler, who founded the Sisters of Divine Providence, “The spirit of the Sisters of Divine Providence is, above all, the spirit of Jesus Christ himself.” This spirit, which Bishop Ketteler embodied in his life, is what has thrilled and motivated her as a Sister of Divine Providence for the past 50 years.

Like many Sisters, 75-year jubilarian Sister Mary Salvatore Leo began her ministry as a teacher. But on weekends and during the summers, she pursued her nursing degree. Once graduated, she began working at then Braddock General Hospital. Sister “Sal,” as she is known, held down a number of jobs during her 50 years at the hospital (1955-2005). She became the head of the IV team and was very accomplished at the task. Caring for children and babies in the pediatric department was one of her most

rewarding assignments. “I think those were the happiest years of my life,” she said. “Children and babies are so precious and innocent.” Since her retirement from active ministry, Sister has been a seamstress for the Sisters at Providence Heights.

The lives and ministries of our 33 jubilarians varied, but the constant that runs through each life is their faith and trust in our Provident God and their steadfast commitment to live a life of integrity consecrated to God and the mission of the Congregation. They have accomplished this and much more!

Congratulations, Sisters!

(To read more about our 2011 jubilarians, visit our website at www.divineprovidenceweb.org.)



Please remember the Sisters of Divine Providence
in your will or estate planning.

25 Years



Lu Haidnick



Maria Torres Meléndez

50 Years



Kathleen Angel



Mary Jane Beatty



Kathleen Hoerster



Hillary Hooks



Ann Grace Lennex



Ann Pairn

75 Years



Irma Mae Boonie



Genevieve Brandstetter



Mary Salvatore Leo

Also celebrating...

60 Years

- Sister Jean Anthony Alexandrunas
- Sister Elizabeth Apel
- Sister Mercedes Berbach
- Sister Ann Catherine Fuchs
- Sister Marie Dolores Griffith
- Sister Constance Kuttenkuler
- Sister Marlene Luffy
- Sister Patricia Ann Moffett
- Sister Helen Plivelic
- Sister Alicia Schweitzer
- Sister Rose Michele Sieber
- Sister Lucille Suttelle

65 Years

- Sister Antoinette Basis
- Sister Assumpta Capaccio
- Sister Patrice Hessman
- Sister Mary Thomas Jirach
- Sister Grace Jones
- Sister Natalie Marchetti
- Sister Miriam Therese Rubeo
- Sister Marietta Ruhe
- Sister Margaret Mary Wagner
- Sister Anne Winschel
- Sister Bernadette Young

70 Years

- Sister Rosemary Micka

Ketteler Award for Social Justice

“To heal the social evils, it is not enough to feed and clothe a few poor people ... that is the smallest part of our duty. We must bridge over the vast abyss that yawns between the rich and the poor.”

–Bishop Ketteler



The Sisters are talking about today's social justice issues online.

Join the conversation at <http://justiceforlifecdp.wordpress.com/>

IN 1998, THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE INSTITUTED THE Ketteler Award to honor individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice. The award was named for Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, Bishop of Mainz, Germany, and cofounder of the Congregation. Bishop Ketteler, honored in Germany as the “Worker Bishop,” was a tireless fighter for the rights of the working class.

This year, the award was given at a special presentation on September 5 to Carol Keehan, DC, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, for her longstanding commitment to advocacy for healthcare reform, often being the voice for the voiceless. Through her courageous leadership and compassionate care for the poor, especially women and children, Sister Carol reflects Bishop Ketteler's justice work for the marginalized and oppressed in Germany in the nineteenth century.

Past Ketteler Award recipients include Helen Prejean, CSJ, Betty Sundry, CDP and Fr. Don McIlvane, Monsignor William Kerr, Joan D. Chittister, OSB, Bishop Emeritus Leroy Theodore Matthiesen, Roberta Grzelak, CDP and Jim and Kathy McGinnis, Anita Green, CDP and Miriam Therese MacGillis, Edwina Gateley and the late Elizabeth Vines, CDP, and Liguori Rossner, SFCC.



Congregational Leadership

PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL PROVINCES (GERMANY, KOREA, UNITED STATES/Caribbean) and the region of Peru came together from July 5–19 to review the implementation of the decrees of the previous Chapter and to look to the future. The theme, *Loaves & Fish: The Dream & Practice of Interdependence*, was applied to the Sisters' conversations in discerning the direction for the whole congregation for the next five years. An election was held to name three Sisters for General Leadership, whose charge it will be to implement that direction. The present team (from left, General Councillors Sister Monika Mrosek and Martha Yang, and General Superior Sister Janet Folkl), was re-elected for a five-year term.



In Memory



Sister Roseann
Holden
February 3, 2011



Edwarda Biss
June 14, 2011



Marion Steiner
July 5, 2011



Sister Anna Maria
Karrenbauer
August 12, 2011

Contributions in memory of Sister Roseann Holden can be sent to the following address: Development Office, 363 Bishops Highway, Kingston, MA 02364

Contributions in memory of Sisters Edwarda Biss, Marion Steiner, and Anna Maria Karrenbauer can be sent to the following address: Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101

To make contributions in memory of these or any of the Sisters, you can donate online at www.divineprovidenceweab.org.



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



Sisters of Divine Providence
Marie de la Roche Province

c/o 9000 Babcock Boulevard
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Mission Statement

We, the Congregation of Divine Providence, impelled by the Spirit of Jesus, commit ourselves to co-create a world of compassion, justice and peace. Guided by the legacy of Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche, we nurture in ourselves and in others a trust and confidence in God's faithful presence.

We further commit ourselves to making God's Providence more visible in our world.

The Sisters of Divine Providence is an international congregation of three provinces (Germany, American-Caribbean, Korea) and one region (Peru) with approximately 750 vowed members and 300 Associates. Since its founding in Finthen, Germany in 1851, the Congregation has expanded its ministries to meet the needs of the times in education, health care, pastoral care, social work, campus ministry, work among those who are poor or homeless, and peace and justice concerns.

Save the Dates

OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, October 15, 1—6 p.m.

9000 Babcock Boulevard
McCandless Township

For more information: 412-635-5401

MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 2, 4 p.m.

Mother of Divine Providence Chapel
9000 Babcock Boulevard
McCandless Township

Join us in remembering your deceased loved ones. RSVP to
Patricia Malinowski at 412-635-6315
or email patricia.malinowski@gmail.com.

For more information, or to submit the names
of your loved ones, visit our website.

www.divineprovidencewebsite.org