2008: A Year of Providence Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following facilities celebrating anniversaries as part of Providence Health & Services!

- $ 135 years
  - Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage, Alaska

- $ 15 years
  - Providence Centralia Hospital, Centralia, Washington

- $ 70 years
  - Providence St. Francis Hospital, Olympia, Washington

- $ 25 years
  - Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Spokane, Washington

- $ 10 years
  - Providence Benedictine Nursing Center, Mount Angel, Oregon

- $ 20 years
  - Providence Extended Care Center, Anchorage, Alaska

- Providence Hospital, Spokane, Washington

The Results Are In...

Every once in a while it is a good idea to assess or reassess the effectiveness of any outreach tool. For Providence Archives, the time had come to check in with our newsletter audience. We wanted to see who was reading Past Forward and what they liked, or didn’t like. We also wanted to make sure that those who appeared on our distribution lists still wanted to receive the publication. Furthermore, we wanted to find out what format of the newsletter (paper or electronic) would be most useful to whom.

The survey results helped us, as a staff, refocus our attention on the content of the newsletter. Most importantly it reminded us that we don’t write the news, history, and other tidbits of information, in a vacuum. Rather, we are part of a community who shares an interest in the rich history of Providence Health & Services and the Sisters of Providence. The response to the survey was very positive. We sent out 200 surveys to individuals as well as a blanket survey to the broadcast e-mail distribution list of approximately 300 Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and others associated with the Mother Joseph Provincial Administration. We received 136 responses overall. Of those who responded, 65% said that they had either a high or medium rate of interest in Past Forward. 66% responded that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or satisfied with the content. The remaining respondents hadn’t read the newsletter.

As to the areas of most interest, the “Did You Know?” and “Picturing Providence” columns were most highly rated at 21% and 20% respectively followed by Providence Health & Services and the Sisters of Providence, Providence Archives Associates, and others associated with the Mother Joseph Provincial Administration. We received 136 responses overall. Of those who responded, 65% said that they had either a high or medium rate of interest in Past Forward. 66% responded that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or satisfied with the content. The remaining respondents hadn’t read the newsletter.

The survey results helped us, as a staff, refocus our attention on the content of the newsletter. Most importantly it reminded us that we don’t write the news, history, and other tidbits of information, in a vacuum. Rather, we are part of a community who shares an interest in the rich history of Providence Health & Services and the Sisters of Providence. The response to the survey was very positive. We sent out 200 surveys to individuals as well as a blanket survey to the broadcast e-mail distribution list of approximately 300 Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and others associated with the Mother Joseph Provincial Administration. We received 136 responses overall. Of those who responded, 65% said that they had either a high or medium rate of interest in Past Forward. 66% responded that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or satisfied with the content. The remaining respondents hadn’t read the newsletter.

As to the areas of most interest, the “Did You Know?” and “Picturing Providence” columns were most highly rated at 21% and 20% respectively followed by Providence Health & Services and the Sisters of Providence, Providence Archives Associates, and others associated with the Mother Joseph Provincial Administration. We received 136 responses overall. Of those who responded, 65% said that they had either a high or medium rate of interest in Past Forward. 66% responded that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or satisfied with the content. The remaining respondents hadn’t read the newsletter.

As to the areas of most interest, the “Did You Know?” and “Picturing Providence” columns were most highly rated at 21% and 20% respectively followed by Providence Health & Services and the Sisters of Providence, Providence Archives Associates, and others associated with the Mother Joseph Provincial Administration. We received 136 responses overall. Of those who responded, 65% said that they had either a high or medium rate of interest in Past Forward. 66% responded that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or satisfied with the content. The remaining respondents hadn’t read the newsletter. **continued on p. 2**

What’s New in the Archives?

Check out these new additions to the Providence Archives website (providence.org/archives):

NEW in History Online:
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Foundresses: a translation of written documents regarding the 1856 trip to Vancouver, Washington
- Providence Find
**Sister Ethel Richardson**

**Spotlight**

**Date of Birth:** March 29, 1917  
**First Vows:** Feb. 28, 1944  
**Final Vows:** Feb. 28, 1947

Sister Ethel Richardson didn’t grow up knowing she would enter religious life. Raised Methodist in East Helena, Montana, it wasn’t until she entered the Columbus Hospital School of Nursing in Great Falls, Montana, in 1935 that she was introduced to Catholicism and the Sisters of Providence. She made the decision to be instructed in the Catholic faith and was baptized in 1939. A short two years later, she made application to enter the Sisters of Providence. She entered the novitiate in 1942, professed her first vows in 1944 and her final vows in 1947.

Throughout her over 50 years in religious life, Sister Ethel was very active as a nurse, and hospital and nursing school administrator. The majority of her years were spent working at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane in a variety of positions including nursing assistant (1944-1946), supervisor of the OB department (1946-1954), director of pastoral care (1978-1992), and part-time administrative representative (1993-1996).

She held other posts at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Mont.; St. Mary Hospital, Walla Walla, Wash., and Columbus Hospital, Great Falls, Mont.

Besides her health care ministry, Sister Ethel also served in leadership roles as Provincial Superior of St. Ignatius Province (1968-1974) and as General Councillor in Montreal, Quebec (1974-1978).

Though technically retired, Sister Ethel worked nearly to the end of her life doing what she loved to do: tending to the spiritual and physical health of those around her.

---

**Picturing Providence**  
by Peter F. Schmid, CA, Visual Resources Archivist

A columnist highlighting archival photographs and other resources that provide visual documentation of the Sisters of Providence. Peter selects notable materials from the collection of over 50,000 photographs. He can be reached at 206-923-4012 or peter.schmid@providence.org.

**Final Vows: Feb. 28, 1947**  
**First Vows: Feb. 28, 1944**  
**Date of Birth:** March 29, 1917  
**Number in Religion:** 4886

**Catholicism and the Sisters of Providence that she was introduced to Great Falls, Montana, in 1935.**

**Sr. Francis Michael (née Catherine Stephanie, born December 29, 1878, taken in the early 1960s).**

**The majority of her years were spent working at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane in a variety of positions including nursing assistant (1944-1946), supervisor of the OB department (1946-1954), director of pastoral care (1978-1992), and part-time administrative representative (1993-1996).**

**She held other posts at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Mont.; St. Mary Hospital, Walla Walla, Wash., and Columbus Hospital, Great Falls, Mont.**

**Besides her health care ministry, Sister Ethel also served in leadership roles as Provincial Superior of St. Ignatius Province (1968-1974) and as General Councillor in Montreal, Quebec (1974-1978).**

**Though technically retired, Sister Ethel worked nearly to the end of her life doing what she loved to do: tending to the spiritual and physical health of those around her.**

---

**Verbatim**

[We must] keep uppermost in our minds that this is a ministry and not a business.  
—Sister Ethel Richardson reflecting on the goals of Providence hospitals.

From an article by Tom Safis in the 1997 issue of Heart Beat, the quarterly publication of Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane.

**Last December the Archives was pleased to receive 300 photographs, most in the form of original 4” x 5” negatives, by Seattle photographer Bill Stephens, taken in the early 1960s. The images were transferred to the Archives courtesy of the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), Seattle, since they document four Sisters of Providence ministries: Providence Seattle Medical Center, Providence Mount St. Vincent, Seattle; Ozanam Nursing Home, Tacoma; and Providence Heights, Issaquah. The images were given to MOHAI by Stephens’ widow, and are the second such transfer: MOHAI gave Providence Archives a set of Stephens’ photographs in 1996. The practice is not uncommon, since archives and libraries sometimes find themselves in possession of material that would be better housed and referenced at a different repository.

This accession was particularly relevant because Providence Archives already has many of the prints that were made from these negatives. It was gratifying to be able to pair the negatives with prints in the various collections. Our Ozanam Nursing Home collection, however, did not have any of the negatives, so those 20 images constituted an important addition to our documentation of that ministry.

A group of 54 negatives shows an early event at the Heart Center of Providence Seattle Medical Center, which had been established in 1959 by Dr. Lester R. Savage, a pioneer in the field of cardiovascular surgery (it later grew into the current Hope Heart Institute).

A small group of images belong to the Providence Mount St. Vincent collection, and show novices and postulants in class and recreation, sisters at a jubilee celebration, and socializing in the community room.

Ozanam Nursing Home was established in 1929, dedicated to Frederick Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833. In addition to the charitable mission of the institution, the dedication makes sense in view of the fact that the building which housed the home had previously belonged to the Tacoma chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The photographs illustrate residents’ lives in the home and the work of the sisters.