

From the Archivist
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repositories, holdings and clientele, as well as receive new institutional numbering procedures developed by the General Secretary and Treasurer.

Professional networking continued the next day when MJP staff met with Marie-Claude Beland, General Administration archivist, and Karen Simonson, Holy Angels Province archivist. This tri-archives meeting had been dreamed about for several years. No one was disappointed in the outcome. The group's long agenda included discussing common administrative issues, policies, project collaboration, sharing resources and information, and providing assistance to the smaller archives within the community.

On other days, Marie-Claude welcomed Peter and me to conduct research in the archival collections. Peter

surveyed early photographs from institutions and sisters. He was elated to find some photographic jewels: a daguerreotype of the 1852 sisters first intended for the Pacific Northwest but who later established the mission in Chile; photographs of Native Americans from eastern Washington and Montana; and dates and names for unidentified images in the MJP collection. I explored the early history of our province through correspondence, ledgers and chronicles. I was overjoyed to find documents that will enhance our understanding of the sisters' early ministry: previously unknown correspondence by Mother Joseph; 1863 to 1879 letters from Sister Paul Miki, a foundress of the mission to St. Ignatius, Mont., to her family in Montreal; and the 1858 mandate from Washington Territory's Bishop A.M.A.

Blanchet to the Ladies of Charity, the auxiliary group in Vancouver.

The cap off the successful visit, the MJP Provincial Administration staff walked in the footsteps of Mother Gamelin in old Montreal, visiting churches and places that were intimate parts of her life. Our appreciation of our Montreal heritage was enhanced by stops at the generalate's museums, at the old motherhouse on Fullum Street, and at the Emilie Gamelin statue in the Berri subway station.

The intense week ended all too fast. Perhaps the most valuable outcome was the unity that developed among the archivists. We may speak different languages and hold unique records but we are united in our efforts to preserve and make known the history and ministry of the Sisters of Providence.

Yakima exhibit
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post-war boom and advances, and the changes in modern health care leading to a "new era" under HMA. Wendy Saiki, the project's writer and manager, says that it "conveys from the sisters' viewpoint the care they have for the people of Yakima." That long history is an indelible part of Providence and of the people of Yakima Valley who, through this exhibit, can look back in time, as well as anticipate what lies ahead.—N.D.



The restored chapel at the former motherhouse on Fullum St., Montreal.

Pioneer sisters helped tame the West.

The Sisters of Providence have created a new 13-month 2006 wall calendar in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Mother Joseph and her four sister companions. Black and white historical photographs of the sisters, quotes from their chronicles and color images of their artifacts tell the story of 150 years of compassion, courage and caring. Suggested donation is \$5 per calendar, which includes mailing. To order, send your mailing address and a check or money order to:

Sisters of Providence
Attn. Carol Stephan
9 E 9th Ave., Spokane, WA 99202
For information, call (509) 474-2300

verbatim

All life must be played by ear—no one has the script.

—Sister Loretta Marie Marceau,
Provincial Treasurer and Auditor,
St. Ignatius Province
May 14, 1965

PICTURING PROVIDENCE

by Peter F. Schmid, C.A., Visual Resources Archivist

A column 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.

Bearerers of Gifts



Sister Rose Lulay (then Sister Mary Caroline, her religious name) at St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, California, around 1965, leading preparations of Christmas baskets for the poor. Sister Rose was hospital treasurer from 1956 to 1973. Happily retired at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, the only accounting she does these days is on her winnings from playing bingo and Skip-Bo.

2006: A Year of Providence Anniversaries

Congratulations to facilities and ministries celebrating anniversaries of their founding or of sponsorship under Mother Joseph Province!

150 years

Arrival of the Sisters of Providence in the West

120 years

Sacred Heart Medical Center
Spokane, Wash.

40 years

St. Joseph Residence
Seattle, Wash.

25 years

Providence Seaside Hospital
Seaside, Ore.

20 years

Emilie House
Portland, Ore.
Providence Milwaukie Hospital
Milwaukie, Ore.

15 years

Providence House
Oakland, Calif.
Providence Mother Joseph Care Center
Olympia, Wash.

10 years

Benefis Health Care
Great Falls, Mont.

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center
Mission Hills, Calif.

Providence St. Elizabeth Care Center

North Hollywood, Calif.

Providence Marianwood Care Center

Issaquah, Wash.

Providence Seward Medical Center

Seward, Alaska

5 years

Providence Peter Claver House
Seattle, Wash.

New in 2006

Providence Elizabeth House
Seattle, Wash.

Joining of Providence Services and Providence Health System



Sacred Heart Hospital, Spokane, 1903

Christmas Past

Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Wallace, Idaho

In the booming Idaho panhandle town of Wallace during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, silver ore was driving much of the local economy. Surrounded by majestic mountains in a valley ringed with chain lakes, the rough-and-tumble town soon realized the need for a hospital and school. Thus followed the Sisters of Providence after a petition from the miners' union. The sisters founded a hospital in 1891 and a school, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, in 1903. The academy's first teachers, Sisters Mary of Bethany and Patricia, opened classes to 18 pupils in the hospital's basement. The school gradually closed its doors during the 1960s; its building was converted to apartments for the elderly in 1971.

In the academy's chronicles for Christmas Eve 1907, a sister relates the following, plus a message still relevant to our times:

"Wishing to make the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord as impressive as possible for His little congregation at Burke, a small town about seven miles from Wallace, Rev. Father Verbrugghe obtained from our good Mother Provincial [Hilarion] permission for some of the sisters to go to sing during midnight Mass. Accordingly we went, five from here and three from the hospital. During the two Masses which were offered up for the first time in the history of that place the sweet old Christmas hymns floated out over the quiet valley and re-echoed by the surrounding hills.

The joy and the gratitude of the people was unbounded and Father Verbrugghe declared that he was satisfied to die then, since his fondest desire had been fulfilled.

"Those who are surfeited, as we may say, with the good things of their Father's house... cannot understand the hunger of heart felt by those who must be satisfied by the crumbs... Yet perhaps these crumbs bring as much joy to us as the abundance brings to others."



A Lourdes academy student skiing the mountain slopes above Silver Valley, Idaho. c. 1932.

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