
PAST FORWARD

The Newsletter of the Sisters of Providence Archives, Seattle

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THREE CHEERS FOR *PAST FORWARD*!

In January, we started the new year with *Past Forward*, our new Archives newsletter. In February and March a flood of phone calls and letters poured into the Archives with inquiries about the collections. We'd like to share some of the wonderful responses we received following distribution of our first issue. The responses far surpassed our expectations! We are delighted that the newsletter was so well received.

"Thank you very much for..the beautiful, informing circular...It carries such hopeful notes...that I am running off a copy to send...back home to our Archivist." A Daughter of Mary, Spokane, WA

"It will serve as a nice vehicle for keeping those of us in the institutions up to date on your activities and what the Archives contain for us in reporting significant accounts of the Sisters." Providence Hospital, Centralia, WA

"Your newsletter reminded me I have a responsibility to forward to you information that is pertinent to Providence - Centralia."

"Thank you for sending me your first issue of *PAST FORWARD*. It's a great name; it reminds me of "Back To The Future"!" Providence Medical Center, Portland, OR

Special Thanks To Richard McFarland

The Archives staff is especially pleased to thank Richard McFarland, a former Systems Office employee, for designing *PAST FORWARD*'s masthead. Talented and creative, Richard produced several imaginative titles from which we selected our favorite!

Archives from Providence, Everett, WA

PAST FORWARD prompted Sister Dorothy Klingele S.P., Sister of Providence Representative at Providence Hospital, Everett to inquire about

donating historic materials from the hospital. In the wake of recent hospital renovations, Sister Dorothy was seeking a safe harbor for old Everett treasures. On February 26, the Archives staff traveled to Everett to talk to Sister Dorothy and returned to West Seattle with numerous historic objects and records.

Everett items transferred to the Archives include:

- Registers of baptisms, marriages, and Visiting Priests who celebrated Mass at the Hospital's Chapel
- Artifacts: including an altar stone, a porcelain commemorative basket with a picture of the Monte Christo Hotel, plaques of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, and 12 copper stations of the cross
- Manuals and publications from the hospital administrator's office
- Portraits of administrators and Sisters who ministered at the hospital over the years
- Photographs of the Sisters of Providence institutions in Sacred Heart Province

The materials from Everett will be added to the Providence Hospital, Everett, WA collection in the Archives. Hospital staff, members of the Community, and all Sisters of Providence employees have access to the historic documents and artifacts here at the Archives.



**WELCOME BACK
SISTER RITA!**

A dream come true! On January 11, after an extended vacation, Sister Rita Bergamini, S.P. rejoined the staff as Archival Assistant for Sacred Heart Province. In this part-time position, Sister Rita will work on the never ending projects in the Archives. Sister Rita brings to this position 20 years experience as Archivist and 50 years as a Sister of Providence which includes ministry in nursing supervision and education, and

Administration as Provincial Councilor and Secretary.

Sister Rita's first project was to sort, identify and arrange the photographs of Providence Hospital, Oakland, CA. Approximately five linear feet of black and white photographs were transferred to the Archives after Providence merged with Merritt Peralta Hospital in March 1992. The photograph collection alone for Providence Hospital, Oakland is now eight linear feet making it the largest photograph collection in the Archives for any institution in Sacred Heart Province.

Following the photographs, Sister Rita delved into the reorganization and sampling of collections relating to the Sisters of Providence community. These collections include: Community government, Constitution and Rules, spirituality and meditation, charism, Reflection Study, traditional habit, devotions, anniversaries, and publications. Sister Rita's background and experience gives her unique qualifications for arranging and describing these archival collections. The reorganization of these collections and preparation of inventories makes the historical materials more accessible for research and gives the archives staff better intellectual control.

Needless to say, Sister Rita's work in four short months is very valuable indeed! Welcome back Sister Rita!



HISTORY ILLUMINATES 150TH

History was used, befittingly, to enrich the 150th anniversary of the Community in March. Our staff members were particularly busy that month filling numerous requests for photographs and records to add an historic element to celebrations.

One interesting research request came from Yakima, WA where plans for a 150th commemorative quilt are taking shape. The quilt will weave the story of the Sisters of Providence, particularly in the Northwest and in the Yakima Valley. To gather design ideas, a Sister from Yakima traveled to the Archives to view historic photographs of institutions and Sisters who ministered in Yakima over the years. A lot of meticulous handwork and considerable research is going into the quilt. It should be magnificent and historically accurate too!

Later in the month, members of the System Office Public Relations Department accompanied a

television producer filming a program featuring *Northwest Corporations Over One Hundred Years Old* to the Archives to videotape photographs and artifacts for the show. The program will appear on the Discovery Channel June 25, at 7:10 a.m.

The Sisters of Providence traditional habit, an archival item, was worn by several Sisters at celebrations for the 150th. Preparations for loaning a habit are extensive. They include cleaning and ironing the garment pieces and insuring that the habit is worn correctly.

The Archives exhibit was displayed in March to honor the Sisters' 150 years of service. From March 1 - 10, it appeared at the System Office. It was exhibited at the reception following the Liturgy of Thanksgiving at the St. James Cathedral, March 27th. We hope many had the opportunity to see the exhibit and, perhaps, to learn a little more about the history and mission of the Sisters and the corporations.

SAINT IGNATIUS AND HOLY ANGELS ARCHIVISTS TOURS

A picture truly is worth one thousand words and so it is with describing archival activities. In February and March, three distinguished Sisters received orientation to the Sacred Heart Province Archives: Sister Betty Kaczmarczyk, S.P., new Provincial Superior, Holy Angels Province; Sister Anne Piche, S.P. and Sister Margaret LaPorte, S.P., newly appointed archivists for Holy Angels Province and St. Ignatius Province respectively. With their professional backgrounds and keen interest in history, these Sisters will be strong supporters of and valuable assets to their Province Archives.

Because these orientations were more detailed than the usual Archives tour, the Sisters were introduced to many facets of archival administration including: policies and procedures, manuscript and photograph collection arrangement and description, reference and access, Community and institution historical resources, environment, and security.

We look forward to working with these Sisters in preservation of the Sisters of Providence heritage.

**For more information about the Archives
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