



Global Connections

Volume 6, Issue 1

Mission: *“The Spirit of the institute is, above all, the Spirit of Jesus Christ himself.”** We, the Sisters of Divine Providence are an international congregation rich in cultural diversity and united in our trust in and openness to the Providence of God. We embrace the Spirit of Jesus in our mission to be God’s loving face to all creation in its joys and sufferings.

[*words of our founder, Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, to our Congregation]



IF BISHOP KETTELER WERE ALIVE TODAY: TO REVIEW THE OLD AND LEARN THE NEW

Sister Rosa Kim

On Ketteler’s Day, *He says*
by Sister Othilia Gyeongja Cho

*“...In his robust spirit
that advocated social justice without hesitation,
contained clear consideration for fragile vulnerability,
We have seen through his great vessel of heart...”*

I read an article saying that the world in which we are living is divided into pre-Covid-19 and post-Covid-19 times. The pandemic has reminded us that the ways of life lived by all human beings, in all walks of life, as well as in the whole world, must be changed. It has also contributed to accelerating changes which have been put off, and to surfacing some matters which have been ignored, such as the crisis of ecology and of the poor.

In fact, as a crisis arises, the poor become the first victims in the systems and environments in which we currently live. In these global crises caused by the pandemic, we have seen it again. In a video message posted on Vatican News on marking the 7th anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si* on May 2021, Pope Francis emphasized all of our duties and responsibilities for living in a safe and healthy environment. He pointed out that we are not only focusing on our rights, but we are indifferent to the cries of the earth and the poor.

The Pope said that the global, ecological crises are interactive, that it has effects on the soil, water, air and all ecosystems. He reminded us that the economically weak and the disadvantaged become the first victims of the unbalanced structure of society and that they are exposed more easily to ecological risks than are the rich. He added that the earth is ‘our common home’ and all human beings are like members of the family dwelling in one common home. It would mean that all

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human beings on the earth – no matter their race or economic status – are living in the community where people interact with the earth, sharing a bond among them, and facing the same fate.

At this moment, I would like to invite you to think of Bishop Ketteler, our founder, who was a pioneer of social justice and who had exceptional compassion for the poor. We all know that the worldwide structural problems have not basically been changed when it comes to considering the disadvantaged. For instance, at the time of Ketteler, there were so many disadvantaged people as the result of the industrial revolution, such as the poor, laborers, abandoned children and the sick. In the 21st century where we are living, the disadvantaged still are found in refugees, the homeless, the unemployed, the urban poor, the victims of war or natural disasters, LGBTQ and those who are disabled.

I believe that if Ketteler would be alive today, he would stand by the poor and the marginalized, becoming their voice as he did in his time. I also believe that he would be with the marginalized, with compassion, toward those who have no power to protect themselves and he would strongly criticize the structural inequality, as well as those selfish and stingy because of their stubbornness. Bishop Ketteler followed Jesus who was always taking care of the poor and the sufferer with compassion but fighting against injustice. The bishop also had something in common with the Pope who has shown his love and mercy for the poor, urging towards reforming the unfair economic, political, and social structures that oppress and exploit the poor.

In these days, we are considering our future more seriously than ever, as we are preparing for the Congregational Chapter. Smaller numbers, aging sisters and decreasing vocations have brought about the necessity for estimating and discerning availability and sustainability of human and material resources of the Congregation. In addition, we need ongoing efforts to make provision for aging sisters, while considering how, and in what areas, we should focus to transform ourselves for our future. Therefore, I would like to invite you to go back to my belief that if Ketteler would be alive today he would be taking care of the poor and the marginalized.

It is crucial to stress the importance of exploring and implementing ways to change by making creative and revolutionary approaches to the future of the Congregation. However, as we are looking to the future, it is also significant *to review the old and learn the new*, that is, try to find a guide into tomorrow by taking lessons from the past. In other words, it means thinking outside the box and creating new ways of life based on what we have learned, enough for the future. For that perspective, I believe, not only helps us constantly reinterpret and discern the spirit of the founder, who believed and implemented that service to the marginalized and the poor, as was the response to the needs of the time but also it helps us meet the evolving needs of our times.

This uncertain time demands that we think in the spirit of the founder, constantly reinterpreting with agility, and keeping it within the tide of change, as we read the bible, reflect on it and try to live it out in our lives.

So, as Sr. Othilia says in her poem, “...in his robust spirit that advocated social justice without hesitation, clear consideration for fragile vulnerability was contained...” I would like to emphasize once again that making the spirit of the founder continually alive in us is the mission and ministry that we should remember and maintain. For this spirit is the common heritage of all of us, which was lived out by the sisters before us, is being lived out by us, and will be by the women after us.



Marie de la Roche Province

Days of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

The Sisters always mark the days of November as a special time for remembering and thanksgiving; however, due to Covid-19, it was necessary to alter our plans in 2021 and pause any visiting of our family and friends at Providence Heights, including attendance at our annual Mass of Remembrance. As an alternative, all Sisters, Associates, employees and friends were invited to join with the Sisters, via livestream, from our Mother of Divine Providence Chapel, as we remembered those Sisters and Associates who died during this global pandemic. Each Sister who died was remembered on a designated day in November at a daily weekday liturgy. Following the evening meal on each designated day, the Sister's Memorial Letter was read and storytelling about the Sister was shared.

Days of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Associate Thomas Doris J. DeLoach 1924-2021 4:30 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	4  Marie Libonati 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	5  Hazel Lison 8:30 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	6
7	8  Alice DeLoach 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	9  Margaret Rose 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	10  Claudia Caluso 5:00 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	11  Thelma Steele 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	12  Constance 8:30 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	13
14	15  Josephine Arnold 8:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	16  Ann Grace Lennet 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	17  Pat Mills 5:00 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	18  Anne Arnold 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	19  Ann Theresa Corbett 8:30 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	20
21	22  Tom Casaret 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	23  Margaret Mary Wagner 4:30 p.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	24  Just Louis Martore 5:00 a.m. Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Dinner	25	26	27
28	29	30	<p>Visit cdpsisters.org/DaysOfRemembranceThanksgiving to read more</p> <p>***</p> <p>Visit each Memorial Photo Album by clicking on the names</p>			

Connect with Our Blog

Beginning in 2018, the Sisters of Divine Providence have offered a WordPress blog on their website available to all Sisters, Associates, employees, friends and supporters of the community. The purpose of the blog, a type of online journal, is to enhance the connection among all of these groups. During different seasons and events throughout the year such as Advent, Lent and Sisters' funerals, informative content, reflections, creative videos, images and photos are posted on the blog. In turn, readers are invited to share their comments, experiences and observations. We invite you to participate with our blog at cdpsisters.wordpress.com. See the November 29th entry below.



SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE
 Making God's Providence more visible in our world.

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- Advent Reflections
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NOVEMBER 29, 2021

November 29, 2021

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

LENT & EASTER

Our Lady of Tenderness

The icon portrays the bond of intimacy between the Mother of God and her son Jesus. Their cheeks meet in loving embrace, and their eyes in a gaze of mutual compassion.



Icons are often described as "windows" to the divine. They invite us to deeper pondering to a meaning that might not be immediately obvious with just our sense of sight. We might choose to just silently observe, basking in wonder.

Let us pray:

Mary, tender mother, you and your child are cheek to cheek and heart to heart. He shares your humanity. I am drawn to your compassionate gaze. What is it that you want me to hear? May I also learn to love tenderly. Amen.

How is today's image/reflection a "window" into the mystery of the Incarnation?

29 de noviembre de 2021

Nuestra Señora de la Ternura

Emmanuel von Ketteler Province

Mission Sending as Honorary Hospital Chaplain

First Sunday of Advent, University Hospital, Mainz. Introduction and Motivation.

My name is **Sister Angelika Hufgard** and I am a member of the community of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Mainz, Stefansstraße 8.

Three years ago, I retired as a parish assistant of the Diocese of Mainz. Through a fellow sister, who had worked here in hospital chaplaincy for many years, I received a flyer for enrollment to this training course and I decided to attend. The meetings were a good preparation for the visiting service and a good opportunity to get to know each other as a group.

My motivation to take on this service is: as a religious sister and a chaplain to meet people in need and in difficult, life situations and to offer them love and care, to lend an open ear and to witness to God's love and care, supported by my faith.

With my practice experience, thus far, I feel I am able to fulfil this task and I enjoy doing it!

Mainz, November 12, 2021

Community through Networking and Mutual Appreciation

When I visited loved ones in a retirement home last week, I thought I would take this opportunity to share the following thoughts with you. Sister Liberata Ricker

Thoughts on the topic of older and younger persons "together, instead of lonely".

Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker was once asked what he considered the most important thing in a person's life. His answer was: "The relationship with your fellow human beings, especially the younger ones!" Afterwards he shared the following personal story. When his mother died at the age of 94 and he came to her apartment a week after her death, he was presented with a cake that the deceased had baked for her great-grandson just one day before her death. The aristocratic old lady saw a lot of meaning in it, a kind of life fulfillment, to be there for younger people, to bake them cakes, to help them and just be there for them.

This experience touched me very much and fascinated me at the same time. Not the baking or the smell of a fresh cake. No, it shows me the high openness of this lady, who at 94 was in joyful expectation of her great-grandchildren. It was for her the personal question: "How can I meet this young generation in love and care, in openness and appreciation, joy, affection, love and attention in their own world?"

The ancient world speaks of the wisdom of old age. The older people have the capacity for special knowledge and insights. They live without the pressure of our society to perform, without the need to be able to do things, without being dependent on career and success. Each one has the chance to really see things as they are. Our society is performance- and success-oriented. It is often overlooked that every phase of life, every age, holds its secret and that the phase of life of the elderly person also has its own beauty.

In the Christian understanding, the elderly person is also an image of God in his/her autonomy and in his/her relationships and being. See also the sentence in the congregational mission statement, where it says: "*We embrace the Spirit of Jesus in our mission to be God's loving face to all creation in its joys and sufferings.*" From this perspective, the person as the living face of our God receives his or her inalienable dignity.

Therefore, it is significant to perceive the human being also in his/her being old in our society, not for what he/she can do, but for what he/she is: a human being, created in his/her uniqueness, in his/her relationships, in the common togetherness within his/her living spaces, in the connection with older people, with family, with people who are significant for his/her life and for the life of his/her life companions.

To this end, I would like to list three possibilities that can lead to mutual affirmation, fellowship and deepening of networks among us:

1. Networking through digital opportunities.

Covid-19 pandemic times have helped us seize opportunities, especially where older people can build their lives together. They can create connections and not live in isolation. With the support and help of the younger generation (volunteers), the opportunities to use digital offerings have been expanded. Older people were thus given the chance to enter into networking with family and friends, e.g. through video calls. For us sisters, this is also the





opportunity to connect to a worldwide network of our congregation and other congregations. Certainly, this generation still needs help to find its way through the linguistic terms of the IT world, with guidance. For the next older generations, this will probably already be a matter of course.

2. Create participation in public life.

Another opportunity to strengthen the community is to establish ways of participation in public life. I can think

of "senior rickshaw rides", for example, which are offered in many cities in Germany in cooperation with senior citizens' homes. During the rickshaw rides you can go across the city, perhaps past your own house or look at what has changed in the city, in the immediate vicinity, marvel at a world heritage site, or be driven to a favorite place by rickshaw.

The rides are possible thanks to a network of volunteer rickshaw drivers organized by the Malteser project. The integration of the elderly in the public cityscape, the participation in public life, is thus taken into account by society.



- 3. Focusing on the Elderly.** This year, Pope Francis has proclaimed the "World Day of Grandparents and Seniors" for the first time. In his address for the day of action on July 25, 2021, he emphasized, among other things, that today there is a need for a new alliance between young and old people to share the common treasure of life and to prepare together the future for all. Literally he said: "Let us learn to spend time with them (note: the elderly), because they are the bread that nourishes our life". He describes young people as prophets of the future and the older people who pass on their experience to



the young people without blocking their way: "young and older people together are a treasure of tradition and the freshness of the spirit".

In conclusion, I would like to share with you an excerpt from the Pope's prayer of the 1st World Day of Grandparents and Seniors on this subject. "I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence, even in times of loneliness. You are my hope and confidence and my fortress since my youth! [...] Strengthen O Lord my faith, make me an instrument of Your peace. You are my rock. Teach me to embrace those who suffer more than I do, never to cease dreaming and to share with the new generation the wonders you have performed. Send out your Spirit to renew the face of the earth [...]. Amen. (<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/de/homilies/2021/documents/20210725-omeliagiornatanonni-anziani.html>)

Jubilee Celebration

On Sunday, September 12th, eight Sisters from Finthen and Mainz were able to celebrate their Jubilee of Profession together in the Motherhouse Chapel. In the festive service, only Sisters participated as guests because of the Corona regulations. At 3:00 p.m. the Eucharistic celebration began with Father Markus Konrad, who offered very encouraging words in his homily.

The renewal of the profession vows was the focus of the service and was a touching event for the jubilarians.

Afterwards, all present were invited to the banquet. Sr. Liberata passed on the special wishes of the General Leadership Team. The blessings of our Bishop Peter Kohlgraf were conveyed by Sr. Helena Hopf, the Representative of the Religious in the Diocese of Mainz.

On Sunday, October 30, Sisters Myriam Kochhafen and Magdalena Dürk celebrated their 65th and 60th Jubilees respectively. In the afternoon, the festive service was held in the chapel in Aschaffenburg, celebrated by Father Heim of the collegiate parish. Some relatives and jubilarians participated in this celebration. Sr. Clementine invited all the Sisters to renew their vows during this service. After the festive service, all guests were invited to share a meal.

Sr. Hildegard Ewald



[From left to right: Sisters Illuminata Theisen (70), Daniela Metz (60), Theresita Molls (60), Maria Cruz León (25), Mary Peter Soonja Lim from Korea (25), priest celebrant, Sisters Friedburga Hohenwarter (60), Siegfrieda Wildner (60), Hildegard Ewald (60)]
Not able to be present in Mainz: Sisters Magdalena Dürk 60 and Myriam Kochhafen 65]

St. Joseph Province



Providence Companions

Ten of the fifteen Providence Companions who had made their final commitment participated in their retreat at Damul retreat center on September 11-12. The retreat was directed by Father Kim, Gwiwoong, who is a director of Centering Prayer. The participants learned and practiced some ways of prayer such as walking prayer, Lectio Divina, and Centering Prayer itself.

170th Anniversary Foundation Mass

On September 29, 2021, we celebrated the 170th anniversary of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Joseph Chapel in the motherhouse. The celebrant of the mass was Father Kwak, Jinsang, the president of Suwon Catholic University. During the Mass, local director Sisters offered symbols that expressed thanksgiving to our Provident God and showed some of our history.



오 주님 저희는 주님의 섭리를 드높이며
세상에 주님의 섭리가 더욱더 드러나도록
헌신 하겠습니다.

Picnic

The sisters at the motherhouse have grouped into teams of six or seven. Each group went on a picnic to wherever they wanted, enjoying especially beautifully-colored leaves in the fall of Korea. After spending a few hours of walking and having friendly conversations, the Sisters had a joyful dinner at restaurants on their way back home. It seemed all the Sisters really enjoyed the day and time together outside.

The Provincial Chapter



The first meeting of the St. Joseph Provincial Chapter delegates was held on December 13, 2020 by Zoom with the theme, *“Impelled by the Spirit of Jesus Christ: Shaping our Future Courageously.”* The facilitator was Sr. Martha Lee DC. During Zoom meetings, reports according to the apostolates were given and discussed among the delegates from April to September 2021.



The face-to-face Provincial Chapter was held from October 19 to 23, 2021, with the opening mass celebrated by the bishop of the Diocese of Suwon. We set the directional statements and elected the Provincial Leadership Team members who will lead the community for the next five years. These are given below:

The Directional Statements

We courageously become good news to all creation.

- Through ecological conversion and transformation.
- Through responding to the urgent cries.
- Through intercultural interaction.



The New Provincial Leadership Team

Provincial Leader
Assistant to the Provincial
Provincial Councillors

Sr. Stella Changsoon Chung
Sr. Wilma Enjoo Kim
Sister Columba Insook Kim
Sister Monica Hyesook Jeong
Sister Theresa Junga Bin

The members of the Province gave thanks to the outgoing team who had served in Leadership over the past five years and wished the new team members the grace and blessings of Providence.



Celebrating their Beginning as a New Leadership Team

The team members assumed their official responsibilities on November 28th, with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Lee, Jaewook SJ, a professor of Suwon Catholic University. The Sisters at the motherhouse and La Roche Hall and some from local communities joined together at the Mass. Sr. Stella Chung, the Provincial leader, in her speech, shared some main decisions discussed by the delegates and entrusted tasks and the direction that the Province should move forward in the next five years, committing to implementing them step by step. She referred to the directional statements, stressing that in order to be good news to all creation, we should go beyond boundaries and cultural differences within individuals and nations, seeking diversity and cooperating with each other. The members of the Province gave thanks for their willingness to be of service for the Province at this challenging time and promised their prayerful support.



[from left to right: Sisters Columba, Wilma, Stella, Monica, Theresa

San Miguel Mission

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

In the parish church in Huamali, St. Cristobal, the parishioners take time to remember and celebrate the appearance of Our Lady in Mexico to St. Juan Diego in December 1531, almost five hundred years ago.

The youth of the parish provide activities for the children with the support of Sister Guillermina Nieto Fernández, who has recently been joined by Sister Monika Mrosek.



Sacramental Celebrations

In Huamali, families gather together with join their children in celebrating First Holy Communion.



Confirmation in the parish in Huamali was held on December 4th.



A Baptismal celebration was also held during this special season.



Feast of St. Nicholas

Sister Guillermina Nieto Fernández and the youth of the parish celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas, following the German custom of the visit of St. Nicholas.



Youth Activities

The St. Cristobal parish youth are singing Christmas Carols, “villancicos” on the day before Christmas for their families and friends.

Sister Guillermina invites the parish youth to the convent to enjoy times of activity and also to share prayer and continue learning about their faith together.



Diocese of Ayacucho – Hogar Juan Pablo II in Huancapi



Archbishop Salvador Piñero, Archbishop of the Diocese of Ayacucho confirmed the young people and visited the Hogar Juan Pablo II.

In recent weeks, the preparation for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation came to an end in Huancapi. We celebrated First Communion with our girls and Confirmation together with the young students of the secondary school.

The girls and teenagers at Hogar Juan Pablo II finished the time of classes and the school year this week. They will visit their families and begin their holiday season until the beginning of the new school year in March 2022.



CONGREGATIONAL
CALENDAR

2022

June 11-24 – Congregational Chapter in
St. Louis, USA

July 31-Aug 5 – Marie de la Roche
Provincial Chapter of Affairs,
Pittsburgh, USA

Sept. – Emmanuel von Ketteler
Provincial Chapter, Germany

Nov. 11 – Marie de la Roche Provincial
Chapter of Elections, Pittsburgh, USA

NOTE: The 2022 theme for “Global Connections,” flows from our Chapter:

Impelled by the Spirit of Jesus Christ:

Shaping our Future Courageously;

Looking to the Future with HOPE

Articles for the spring issue are due by March 1st. Publication will be mid-April.
