


We are interested in women with strength and conviction to serve those in need with the same compassionate care demonstrated by our foundress, Blessed Emilie Gamelin over 150 years ago. We invite you to explore life as a Sister of Providence.

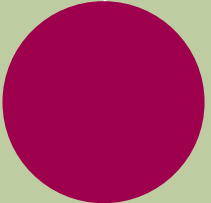
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 *Providence Associates in Holy Angels Province are women and men who want to make a difference in their world. They serve on a variety of committees and work in their daily lives to make Providence known in association with the Sisters of Providence.*

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Humility



Simplicity



Charity



Sisters of Providence

*Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin
 ...foundress of the Sisters of Providence*



Emilie Tavernier was born in Montreal on February 19, 1800. Although not wealthy, young Emilie and her family generously responded to those in need. In 1823, she married Jean-Baptiste Gamelin, a successful Montreal businessman who shared her concern and love for the poor. By the time Emilie was 28, her husband and three children had all died. In dealing with her loss, Emilie found strength and comfort in Mary, Mother of Sorrows, who became a model and source of compassionate charity for her. She connected with others who were

experiencing grief, by visiting those who were imprisoned, by caring for the elderly who had no place to live and by giving food to the poor. She consecrated herself completely to serving these people, trusting in Divine Providence. On September 23, 1851, Mother Gamelin died, one of the hundreds of victims of the cholera epidemic that swept through Montreal. She was beatified in Rome by Pope John Paul II on October 7, 2001. Her legacy of compassion continues today by those called to share their lives as Sisters of Providence.

The Founding of the Community

In 1843, Ignace Bourget, Bishop of Montreal, established a religious community to ensure that Emilie's initiatives would continue. The congregation officially began in March 1844 when Emilie and six other women pronounced their vows. Emilie was elected superior. The religious community was officially named Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor, but because of their reliance on Providence to provide for those in their care, the people called them the 'Sisters of Providence'.

An International Community

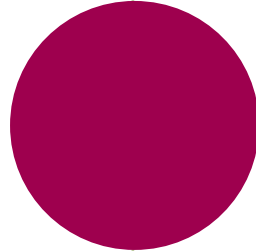
Emilie Gamelin's legacy of faith and charitable works continues today in the ministries of the international community she inspired and founded. Today, more than 1200 Sisters and over 1000 Providence Associates, serve people in Canada, the United States, El Salvador, Haiti, Chile, Argentina, the Philippines, Egypt, and Cameroon. While each culture is unique and the needs vary, the Sisters of Providence are united by their profound faith, total confidence in Providence and compassion for those they serve.

Sisters of Providence in Western Canada

The Sisters of Providence first arrived in western Canada in 1886 and established two hospitals in British Columbia. From there, they were called to serve at many other locations in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon, caring for the basic needs of children, the sick, and the elderly. Today, the Sisters in western Canada provide for the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable by working together with existing social, education and health care organizations.



The Sisters of Providence in the 21st Century continue to be inspired, shaped, focused and energized by their understanding of the original call: to care for the poor, the rejected persons of society, and those with special unmet needs. The emphasis today is on leadership to promote justice through effective social change and by providing direct service to those in need.





Share your life with the Sisters of Providence



Deepen your relationship with God and others.



Share your skills and talents with people who are in need.

Join others in proclaiming God's presence in our world,

Share our Providence spirituality and our Mission as a vowed member of the Sisters of Providence or as a Providence Associate.



Sisters of Providence

You can respond to the contemporary needs of God's people as a Sister of Providence.

As a vowed member you will be part of a vibrant community of dedicated women who live our Mission and Charism in their daily lives. In sharing your life as a Sister of Providence, you commit yourself to proclaiming God's Providence through your work in various ministries, supported in community and prayer.

Women who choose to become Sisters of Providence represent diverse cultures and backgrounds and bring with them many life experiences.

Each is looking for a life that leads to a deeper relationship with God, living in community, and ministering to society's most vulnerable.



Challenged in Ministry

Our ministries are diverse and fulfilling. They continue to evolve and change to address the needs in our society.

- Education
- Parish Ministry
- Healing Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Spiritual Direction and Retreats
- Food Banks
- Working Against Family Violence
- Deaf Community Service
- Foreign Missions
- Refugee Sponsorship
- Service within the Providence community

Nourished in Prayer

Our life of prayer includes quiet moments and faith sharing in our journey to seek a deeper relationship with God, with people, and with the earth.

Supported in Community

Living in community enables us to love, support, challenge, and encourage each other. Through personal and communal growth, we live our Gospel values.

Transition into Religious Life

Candidate

- one to two years living in community while involved in ministry and learning about the Sisters of Providence.

Novice

- two years to explore in-depth the call to vowed life in community

Profession of temporary vows

- three to six years living in community under temporary vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and sharing in full-time ministry.

Profession of permanent vows

- full membership in the religious community.



Providence Associates

Providence Associates are individuals who desire to share the Mission and spirituality of the Sisters of Providence, but do not seek vowed membership in the congregation. They are lay women and men who hold Gospel values as the compelling force in their lives.

They are people from different cultures and walks of life who come together regularly to deepen their knowledge of the life and spirit of Emilie Gamelin and the Sisters of Providence. In faith and spirituality, they affirm and empower one another in compassionate service to those in need.

Providence Associates and Sisters of Providence enrich each other and the people of God through their sharing and growth in Providence spirituality. Through getting to know each other in social, spiritual and ministerial activities, they become supportive communities for each other.

Providence Associate membership is for those who feel called by God and share the same Mission as the Sisters of Providence. They are individuals gifted with the same Charism as the Sisters of Providence, who serve God while remaining in their own chosen state of life and profession.

