

# Providence

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES & FRIENDS



## CANADA WEST

Winter 2003/2004  
— Issue 7 —



### Sharing the Story of Mother Gamelin with Students

Every Catholic school in the province of Alberta

received a copy of the book *Mother Gamelin, the Best Friend of the Poor* on the second anniversary of the beatification of Mother Gamelin. This effort was initiated by Sister Toyleen Fook as part of her vocation promotion plan to highlight the history and works of the Sisters of Providence.

"The children's books are a great way to share the story of Mother Gamelin with our youth. The story is presented in a way that appeals to a younger audi-

ence and we knew that this resource could benefit religious educators and libraries in our schools," according to Sister Toyleen. The book, printed in 1999 was well received and appreciated by the 375 schools it was sent to, she said. Where applicable, a copy of the French or Spanish edition was also presented.

In a letter to each school, Sister Carla Montante, Provincial Leader wrote - "The legacy of Mother Gamelin continues today through the works of our Sisters around the world. In October 2001 we celebrated her beatification and

we are delighted to have the opportunity to share her with your students through this book. I am sure your young readers will enjoy learning about the history of our congregation, our foundress and some of the early works of the Catholic Church."

This initiative became a Community project with many of the Sisters helping to collate the materials. The Sisters gathered to apply labels to each book, fold and insert the letter from Sister Carla and put each book in an individual envelope for distribution.

*The Sisters thank all the Catholic school districts in Alberta for ensuring each of their schools received a copy of the book. ☩*



*The Sisters hard at work*



*Sitting (l-r) Sisters Yolande Jutras, Dorothy Dechant, Madeleine Joyal, Florida Duhamel, Thecla Becher. Standing (l-r) Sisters Alice Hurtubise, Orietta Belanger, Alice Dancause, Toyleen Fook, and Rosa Roshau.*

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humility

simplicity

charity



## May God's Peace Unite Our Earth Family This Holy Season

## Women are invited to “Come and See”

What can a woman do if she is interested in exploring life as a woman religious? She can pray, she can talk to Sisters, she can ask questions, and she can participate in days of discernment and exploration to help her during this process. She can also contact the Sisters of Providence to spend time with them in a nurturing environment.

The ‘Come and See’ House, located in Edmonton, provides a place where women can witness and experience life as a Sister. It is an opportunity to live in community and minister to the poor.

“It is often difficult to tell women what our life is like – a better way is to share our lives with them,” said Sister Toyleen Fook, Vocation Director. “By showing them who we are, by including them in our daily routines, and by sharing our spiritual life, we provide the best insight to what it may be like to be a Sister of Providence.”

The ‘Come and See’ House opened in 1999 and has since welcomed young women to observe and



participate in works of Providence. The length of time each woman stays is dependent on their own personal circumstance, and the works they are involved in are decided together with the community at the House. The experience is individually tailored to each woman’s needs.

Joining Sister Toyleen in the community are Sister Mary Zadnik, Sister Marie-Paule Vinet, and Novice, Sister Maggie St. John. Although not essential, candidates of the Sisters of Providence are encouraged to spend time at the ‘Come and See’ House before entering the congregation.

Women considering a vocation to religious life or those who are interested in more information about the ‘Come and See’ House are invited to contact Sister Toyleen Fook at (780) 436-7250.✠

*Sister Toyleen Fook (r) sits beside Tackyung Cha who spent time at the ‘Come and See’ House last winter. Sister Eileen Beach and Sister Marie-Paule Vinet are also pictured*

## Catherine Chan enters the Novitiate

On August 25, 2003, Catherine Chan took the next step in her spiritual growth and formation when she entered the Novitiate. In the Chapel at Providence Centre in Edmonton, and in the presence of her parents and her Community of Sisters, Catherine asked to be received as a novice of the Sisters of Providence.

After spending a year as a candidate, studying and learning from the Sisters in Edmonton, she now lives in Spokane at the Novitiate House, under the guidance of Sister Liz Cole, Novitiate Director.

Catherine viewed her entrance as a day to thank God for the gifts she has been given. “The past year has been very rewarding and now I look forward to continuing my studies. The Sisters have helped me to grow in my faith, and I now feel more prepared to take this next step. Faith is important – it gives you courage and strength to keep you moving along the path God has chosen for you,” Catherine shared.

“The support of the community has also made a difference – I have watched and learned from all the Sisters and they give me hope.” Catherine said. She sees the Community as a place where the Sisters support each other and grow together. She says there is an appreciation of being together, doing things with and for each other and working toward common goals.

Catherine knows she will face challenges in her novitiate years, but welcomes the chance to continue her studies while living life as a Sister. Her philosophy is to take it ‘one day at a time’ as she continues on her journey. ✠



*Catherine is blessed by Sister Liz Cole, her Novitiate Director and Sister Carla Montante, Provincial Leader.*

*Oh God, bless Catherine with vision so that she may see how you have gifted her.  
Bless her with courage so that she may stand in love with those who suffer.  
Bless her with compassion so that she can be tender with the young and compassionate with the aged.  
Bless her with joy so that she may proclaim the Good News and bring hope to those who need it.*



*Sister Laurette looks right at home in front of the class.*

## Back to the Future...

Grade three students at Ecole St. Stanislaus in Edmonton were treated to a history lesson from former teacher, Sister Laurette Belanger. Sister Laurette, who once taught grade three, agreed to speak with the class about the many changes in the classroom since her own experiences nearly 55 years ago.

The students were attentive as they listened to Sister Laurette share stories of the past. As part of the social studies curriculum, the French Immersion class studies their community and the events of the past century.

Sister Laurette felt right at home in the classroom and appreciated the efforts of the children. “It was so nice to hear all these students speaking to each other in French. Having the opportunity to learn a second language is so important and these children seem to be doing very well.” Although Sister Laurette said she enjoyed being a guest in the classroom, she’ll leave the everyday teaching to their current teachers. ✠

## ...and now there are four

Sister Betty Kaczmarczyk has been named to the Leadership Team of Holy Angels Province. The term of her appointment, effective November 17, 2003, coincides with the other members of the team until June 30, 2005.

The decision to add another member to the Leadership Team came after much discussion within the province and with the General Council. With the unique nature of adding a new team member during an existing term of office, it was decided that a modified process would be put in place to fill the vacant position.

Sisters who had served on the Leadership Team during the past ten years were invited to consider letting their name stand to join the current team of Sister Carla Montante, Sister Germaine Chalifoux and Sister Mary Lei Gordon. A voting process took place and

Sister Betty was selected by the community as the new member.

Sister Betty said she looks forward to this new opportunity, “I am fortunate to have been given the chance to work with such gifted individuals. Each of us brings our own perspective and skills to the table and I am excited to be able to complement the many talents and graces this leadership team demonstrates each day.” Sister Betty knows that although she has been involved in this ministry before, there is still much to learn. “This is a time of transition for all of us, but we trust God’s Providence to guide us, knowing we are not alone on our journey.”

Sister Betty is sure to be kept busy. In addition to this new role, she will remain co-director of the Formation for the Ministry of Spiritual Direction program and continue as Candidate Director for Holy Angels Province. ✠



*Sister Betty Kaczmarczyk at Catherine Chan's Novitiate Entrance ceremony.*

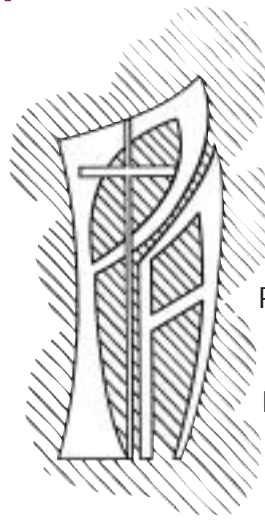
# Sisters Welcome Seven New Providence Associates.



*Sisters, Associates and friends gathered at Holy Name Parish in Calgary. The three new Associates (front row l - r) Terry Sanderson, Kathleen Mitchell and Jessie Borromeo are joined by Sisters Lorraine Mongeau, Joan Wigbers, and Carla Montante.*



*The new Associates in Edmonton with their sponsors. (l - r) Sister Ellen Brunt and Talya Shea, Sister Augustina Stark and Pia Cesero, Christina Wong with sponsor John Lynch, PA, and Anne Pavelich with Sister Lucienne Bedard.*



At two separate celebrations, the Sister of Providence received seven lay women as Providence Associates.

The first ceremony took place at Holy Name Parish in Calgary, AB in the presence of the parishioners during the Mass on September 13,

2003. The three women; Jessica Borromeo, Kathy Mitchell and Terry Sanderson, were presented with their Providence pin by Sister Carla Montante and Sister Lorraine Mongeau gave each a copy of the booklet *Our Mother of Sorrows*.

On September 28, 2003 four Providence Associates were received in the Chapel at Providence Centre in Edmonton. Pia Cesero, Anne Pavelich, Talya Shea, Christina Wong were welcomed by the Community and presented with their pin by Sister Josephine Mainka and were given a Pieta from their respective sponsor.

In addition to the commitment and welcoming celebration for the new Associates, current Associates in both the Calgary and Edmonton regions had the opportunity to participate in a renewal ceremony. The Associates in attendance were missioned to reach out with caring, compassionate hearts to share our Providence spirituality.

Providence Associates are involved in a variety of ministries, depending on the needs in their own region. Sister Josephine Mainka, who is the Providence Associates' Liaison to the Leadership Team said, "As a Community we welcome and support the Providence Associates in their desire to live out the Charism and Mission God has given to all of us. Their desire to share our spirituality supports and encourages us as Sisters of Providence. Together we pray for and with the Associates and we try to help them in any way we can to strengthen and deepen their spiritual life." ✚



*Sister Celina Touchette and Sister Juliette Larose at one of the many displays at Providence Centre to celebrate Blessed Emilie.*

*Displays were placed throughout Providence Centre, giving the many visitors to the Centre an opportunity to learn more about Mother Gamelin and her works and the continued ministries of the Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates.*

# Celebrating Blessed Emilie on her Feast Day

The Sisters at Providence Centre in Edmonton celebrated a special liturgy on September 24 to recognize the feast day of Blessed Emilie Gamelin. In his homily, celebrant, Father Michael Mireau said:

...when we look at Blessed Emilie, we see not only a woman with an extraordinary capacity for charity, a seemingly boundless energy, a zeal to do God's work, we also see a human being, who knew hardship, disappointment, sickness, profound sadness and mourning. We find ourselves not only inspired by her charity, but also by the context from which such charity originates; not opulence or luxury or abundance, but struggle – the same struggles that we face. And in spite of her struggles and difficulties, she continued to be thankful for God's Providence even in her most difficult times.

As we honour her today, we also honour those that she touched, the Sisters of Providence in their work throughout the last 160 years. May we seek to honour her best by ourselves continually seeking to become the vehicles of Providence – from God, the source of all love, to Jesus, as he remains in those most in need. ✚



*Father Mike Mireau at the relic of Blessed Emilie as Sister Rita Schiller and a parishioner look on.*

# Blessings for a Safe Journey

A special blessing was bestowed upon members of the General Council before they returned to Montreal after meeting with our Provincial Leadership Team in mid-November. The Sisters gathered in the foyer of Providence Centre after Mass for the send off. On this particular day, Edmonton experienced its first severe winter storm of the season, making the blessing even more meaningful. All arrived safely home and our Sisters are looking forward to their next visit. ✚



## Providence Residence Celebrates its Open House

On October 8, 2003, in celebration of the anniversary of the beatification of Mother Gamelin, the Sisters at Providence Residence in Calgary held an open house to highlight the works of the Sisters, the many missions they are involved in and to share a piece of their history in the Midnapore area of Calgary.

Not only did the Sisters open the doors of the residence (formerly Providence Convent) to the visitors, but they also opened the original house the Sisters lived in to begin their ministry at Midnapore. The cottage, used by the Sisters when they arrived in 1909, is located on the property that now houses Father Lacombe Care Centre, Providence Residence and the Sisters of Providence Cemetery. Visitors to the cottage were treated to a history lesson from Sisters Mary Zadnik and Orietta Belanger.



*The cottage was opened to visitors during the Open House on October 8, 2003.*

Staff, residents and families from Father Lacombe Care Centre attended the open house as well as faculty and students from the neighbouring Saint Mary's College. Visitors from the community surrounding the picturesque residence also took the opportunity to learn more about the Sisters and their rich history.

One visitor attending with her two children said she always knew the Sisters were very involved in the area and at



*Sisters Teresa Langi and Madeleine Joyal greeted the visitors as they arrived*



*Displays lined the hallway for visitors to view and learn more about the Sisters of Providence.*

Father Lacombe, but said she was not aware of the extent of their works. "I guess I just assumed this was the only place these Sisters were involved in. I was surprised to see all the displays and see everything they have done and are still doing. These are strong women."

Sisters from throughout Holy Angels Province joined in the celebration to help share the story of the Sisters of Providence. †

*Sister Patricia Vartanian shares a conversation with Dennis Stabber, Executive Director of Father Lacombe Care Centre.*



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In 1910, Lacombe Home opened its doors to care for orphans and the elderly. The 1920s saw the expansion of the Home and the installation of such modern conveniences as electricity and running water. The 1960s were a time of great change at Lacombe Home – changes in government policy regarding the care of children greatly reduced the number of children at the Home and its principal work became the care of the aged. The building by this time was not up to current standards for a nursing home, and a new one, called Father Lacombe Nursing Home was built on the south-east part of the property. The patients moved in March 1966. Major renovation took place at the Nursing Home in the early 1990s to address the changing needs of the residents. With acuity levels increasing and more outpatient services being introduced, the Board of Father Lacombe Nursing Home suggested a new name to better reflect the work being done. In the fall of 2003, the name was changed to Father Lacombe Care Centre. †



*Sister Teresa Langi (l) and Sister Rose Muskoluck with one of the residents of Father Lacombe Care Centre.*

## Lacombe Home

In 1888, while at Providence, RI, Father Albert Lacombe, O. M. I., was shown a beautiful private home and estate that had been donated by its owner as a home for the aged and orphans. He was inspired to build a similar home near Calgary as a refuge for the poor in the Canadian northwest. He persuaded Senator Patrick Burns, a wealthy Calgary landowner, to donate land and funds for buildings. Father Lacombe then approached the Sisters of Providence to take on this work of charity, and after much prayer and discussion, he was successful in getting four Sisters of Providence to come to operate the facility. On June 22, 1909, Sister Maxima, Sister Georgie and Sister Louis de Gonzague arrived in Calgary and were joined by Sister Marie-Clarisse on July 3.

While the Lacombe Home was under construction the Sisters lived in a tiny three-room cottage, and it was here they carried on the works of charity as best they could until October 3, 1910, when the home was ready for occupancy. In these cramped quarters they accepted first a destitute blind man, who died after about a month and an orphan who was with them when they moved.



*Sister Orietta Belanger explains how the wood burning stove kept the Sisters warm in the cold winters.*

From its opening day, and even before, there was a waiting list of children and elderly needing the services of the Sisters. In the first five months, the Sisters received 51 persons, and by June 1914, there were 78 orphans and 13 aged persons at the Home. In 1921, Sister Marie Felix, Assistant General wrote:



*One of the two bedrooms in the cottage. The Sisters today continue to use the cottage as a place of retreat.*

*This Mission, founded twelve years ago, has become well established. The difficulties and sacrifices which marked its beginnings were the seeds of blessing for the work being done now. The eager and loving care received by the numerous orphans and aged since the opening of the house has gained the sympathy and confidence of the population in most of Alberta. The Providential help which surrounds the home is proof of it, and makes this work one of our more flourishing ones.*

Sister Marie-Clarisse and Sister Maxima died at Lacombe Home after many years of service at various Providence Missions in western Canada. Sister Georgie and Sister Louis de Gonzague returned to the Motherhouse in Montreal after their time at Midnapore. Father Albert Lacombe also returned to the Home to end his days with the poor whom he loved. †



*Father Lacombe's heart is now buried in the cemetery behind Providence Residence.*

*Editor's note – The original Lacombe Home was destroyed by fire on April 1, 1999.*

## Sister Evelyn Dechant recognized for over 30 years as a Nurse

On October 14, 2003, the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) hosted a long service award tea for Registered Nurses in the Calgary/West Region. The invitation was extended to individuals involved in the nursing profession for more than 30 years.

Sister Evelyn Dechant was one of the recipients honoured at the celebration. Sister Evelyn began her nursing ministry over 45 years ago, soon after her first profession as a Sister of Providence in 1955. She knew early on that working in the health ministry was where she belonged. Her first assignment was at St. Joseph Hospital in Dawson Creek, BC where she saw first hand the work of the nursing Sisters. She was later assigned to Sacred Heart Hospital in McLennan and a year later was sent to St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver to begin formal nursing training.

The majority of Sister Evelyn's nursing career was spent in Community Nursing, working with the Victorian Order of Nurses and with Calgary Health Services Home Care division. "I always felt that nursing was an extension of the work of Mother Gamelin. As a nurse in the community I was sent wherever the need was and often I did not know exactly what I would encounter. What I did know, was that these people needed help and I felt my call to the healing ministry was put into action," Sister Evelyn shared.

Sister Evelyn officially retired in December 1999 however she continues to be a tireless volunteer in the community. †

*One thousand four hundred and seventy-one nurses from 1951-1973 were recognized for the Long Service Award. A celebration was held at the Canmore Opera House in Heritage*



*Sister Evelyn holds her certificate of recognition from the AARN.*

*Park, Calgary where 278 of the recipients were in attendance. AARN president, Jeanne Besner, brought greetings on behalf of the association and greetings were also received from a representative of the Calgary Health Region. The recipients had the opportunity to visit with their nursing colleagues while enjoying the tea sponsored by the AARN.*



Sister Maria Labrecque  
(Sister Laura Marie)  
May 20, 1917 –October 23, 2003

Sister Maria Labrecque died peacefully in the Infirmary at Providence Centre on October 23, 2003. She had been a Sister of Providence for sixty-six years. Her long life in the Community was marked by her life of compassion and service in the health care field. She was born in Lambton, Quebec and raised in northern Alberta, part of the strength and tradition of a pioneering community carving out homes in the Peace River Country. This strength carried her through many challenging times over the years.

She entered the Sisters of Providence in Seattle, WA in 1936 and made first profession in 1938. Following her final profession in 1941 she began her varied ministries in health care.

Sister Maria graduated from St. Paul's School of Nursing, Vancouver, BC in 1942 and in 1954 completed a degree in Nursing Education from Seattle University. She continued with other courses and programs in Hospital Organization and Management which prepared her to offer strong leadership wherever she went. Through the years she served in many Providence hospitals in British Columbia and Alberta. Everywhere she went she was concerned about the welfare of patients, families and staff.

She was a member of the Provincial Council during the construction of Father Lacombe Care Centre, Calgary and Providence Centre, Edmonton where her expertise was very much appreciated.

Sister Maria's favorite song was "You are My Sunshine" – in keeping with her warmth and hospitality.

The prayer vigil on October 26, 2003 and the Mass of Christian burial on October 27 were celebrated by Reverend Michael L. Storey in the Chapel at Providence Centre in Edmonton.



Sister Leonie Lavigne  
(Sister Denise-Marguerite)  
February 12, 1909 – November 19, 2003

On November 19, 2003, Sister Leonie Lavigne died peacefully in the infirmary at Providence Centre. She was a woman of vision and faith and was deeply committed to her religious community during her sixty-eight years as a Sister.

Before entering the Sisters of Providence, Sister Lavigne had earned a diploma in nursing and worked for five years as a public nurse at a local school, visiting the homes of absentee children. It was this experience, working with the poorer families, that stirred a professional conscience in Sister and sparked an inner desire to meet the needs of these individuals more effectively. Sister Lavigne shared this with her mother's cousin, who happened to be Sister of Providence, and learned that "serving the poor was exactly what the Sisters of Providence do."

After making inquiries to the Providence Motherhouse, she was invited to enter the novitiate. Following her profession in 1937, Sister Lavigne was sent to serve in the Canadian West. Her many gifts and talents were recognized immediately and her leadership skills were evident from the beginning. In her many years in the health care field, Sister filled various roles at Providence hospitals in the west. She served on the Provincial Leadership Team and continued to assist the Community for many years after her professional retirement.

In the past few years, with her diminishing health, Sister Lavigne had the opportunity to fully indulge in prayer and spiritual reading. She loved to laugh and tell jokes, she found enjoyment in music and discussing a good book. But most importantly, Sister always had time for family and close friends and she especially enjoyed the enthusiasm of young children.

The prayer vigil was held on November 23 and Father John McNeil celebrated the Mass of Resurrection on November 24 in the Chapel at Providence Centre.

## Walking for a good cause

It was a beautiful sunny day on October 5 as six of our Sisters gathered to participate in the CIBC Run for the Cure – an annual fundraising event for Breast Cancer Research. Breast Cancer has touched the lives of many of our Sisters and in a show of support, Sisters Carla Montante, Maggie St. John, Germaine Chalifoux, Orietta Belanger, Andrea Arsenault, and Toyleen Fook laced up their runners and raised over \$1000.00 for the cause. This is not only an annual event across the country, it has become an annual event for members of Holy Angels Province. †



*Sister Carla, Sister Maggie and Sister Germaine cross the finish line*



*Sister Orietta and Sister Andrea look fresh after their 5 Kilometer walk.*

# A BRIEF HISTORY

## PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

*'A Brief History' section is written by Eloi DeGrace, Archivist of Holy Angels Province*

*Editor's note: We introduced the 'A Brief History' section in our first issue of Providence Canada West and it has become one of our most popular features. In sharing information about the Sisters' rich history, we thought you may want to know a bit of history on how the Archives came to be such a valuable resource.*

### Mother House

At the General Chapter in the summer of 1970, a recommendation was passed that "the General Council study the feasibility of organizing an archives department, separate from the general secretariate, at the Mother House."

On September 14, 1970, the General Council put into effect the 1970 General Chapter resolution and began organizing, little by little, the archives department at the Mother House. Sister Jeanette Frenette was named its first archivist.

### Holy Angels Province

In Holy Angels Province, Sister Hortense Quesnelle was invited by Sister Juliette Larose, then Provincial Superior, to come to Edmonton to organize the archives. In September 1972, she became our first Provincial Archivist. She set up the archives with the help of Sister Marie-Ange Loiselle who was her assistant from March 1973 to October 1975.

During her years as archivist, besides answering letters of inquiry, she was able to complete and index 61 photo albums, organize

the archives and set up the museum. Sister Ann Conroy replaced her. "On June 1, 1979" Sister Quesnelle wrote in her autobiography, "I left the Archives to take my place with the Senior Sisters. I had spent seven happy years in the Archives."



*Sister Quesnelle (r) in the Archives with Sister Murphy*

### An ongoing work...

The work in archives is never ending. There are always new documents to be classified: correspondence, reports, photographs, audio and video cassettes. After Sister Quesnelle and Sister Conroy, four other Provincial Archivists took up the responsibility of preserving the community treasures that were entrusted to the archives. Sister Laurette Dancause served from 1980 to 1994, Sister Anne Piche in 1994-1995 and Sister Therese Carignan from 1995 to 1998. Eloi DeGrace, the present Archivist, was hired in May 1999.

For twelve years, the archives shared a room with the museum on the first floor. In 1994, they were moved to a special and more spacious room downstairs. By

2000, additional space was again needed to store the increasing documentary heritage of the Sisters of Providence in the West. Mobile shelving was installed to create enough space for many years in the future.



*Sister Laurette Dancause and Sister Alice Dancause in the Museum at Providence Centre in the mid-80s.*



*Sister Anne Piche in her Archives office in 1990*

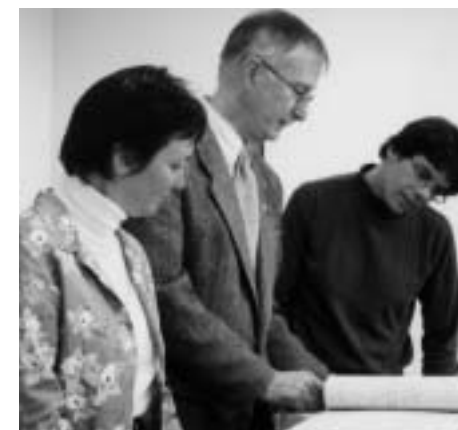
### Bi-Province cooperation

Many Sisters of Providence have studied, missioned or spent their retirement years in more than one province. Wherever they were, they created documents that found their way to the archives. This is why Provincial Archivists like to keep close contact with each other.

In October of this year, two archivists from Mother Joseph Province met with Holy Angels' Provincial Archivist. Loretta Greene,

Provincial Archivist, and Peter Schmid Assistant Archivist, Visual Resources, were in Edmonton for a two-day meeting.

When they meet, archivists talk about preserving documents, classification, collection inventories, handling photographs, exhibits and making documents accessible to Sisters and community historians. The meeting proved to be valuable because the archivists were able to see that they share common views on many issues concerning the preservation of the Sisters' documentary heritage for generations to come. †



*Archivist Eloi DeGrace (center) shares information with Loretta Greene and Peter Schmid.*



*Eloi DeGrace at the display set up at Providence Centre to celebrate Archives Week, October 5 - 11, 2003.*

# WINGS of Providence Officially Opens its New Facility

The new WINGS of Providence facility is a reality – it was officially opened on November 21, 2003 in the presence of over 100 people. The building, which has been occupied since September of this year, has been a labour of love for many. \$4.75 million was raised in gifts and pledges for the land, the building and the furnishings for the new 20 suite apartment complex.

November is Family Violence Prevention Month and this year's theme – It's Your Business – was very much at the forefront of the afternoon event. Sister Germaine Chalifoux, who is a board member of WINGS started the program with a prayer for the residents, staff, volunteers and board.

*As we gather today to bless this sacred space – our new "Home" – we pray that all who enter be truly welcomed in our hearts and be received with kindness and respect.*

*Grant, O Provident God, that this new dwelling place be a source of peace and happiness, for the residents, the staff and the volunteers.*

*May peace and joy abide here,  
May goodness and mercy live here.  
May patience and courage shine here  
May safety and trust remain here.  
And may the fears and apprehensions we experience  
Be left outside these doors.  
So all may find true shelter here and feel "at home"  
with each other.*

*O Welcoming One, grant that all our "comings and goings" be under the seal of your loving protection and may we experience the blessedness of your gracious presence.*

Prior to the public event – a traditional blessing of the building was done by two aboriginal elders.

There were remarks and presentations from dignitaries from all levels of government, from the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. The highlights of the event were a song, composed and performed by Roland Majeau, in honour of WINGS and an emotional tribute by Board Chair, Marta Burns to Eileen Waterhouse, the benefactor whose bequest of one million dollars was instrumental in the success of the capital campaign. †

*WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) of Providence is a second stage shelter in Edmonton providing women and children, who have experienced family violence, with independent living in a safe, secure, supportive environment. Since opening its doors in April 1987, WINGS has accommodated 576 families – 576 women and 1303 children, totaling 1879 persons.*



*Sister Germaine gives the blessing with Elder Eva Bereti standing beside her in unity.*



# HAPpenings

HAPpenings is a regular feature, highlighting events and celebrations in Holy Angels Province.



1

*1 – The Grey Nuns, the Oblates and our Sisters enjoyed a day of fun and games at a picnic at Laurier Park in Edmonton in late August. Everyone had a great time, just ask Sister Alice Dancause – she found rest and relaxation on a beautiful summer day. How nice of Sister Lucienne Bedard to bring a hat for Sister Alice so she does not get too much sun!*



2



3

*2/3 – The group's next outing was to Jackfish Lake in mid-September. After a boat ride to the cabin, great food and good conversation, the Sisters found time for a quick game of lawn darts, or should we say sand darts, on the shore of the lake. Sister Therese Belanger shows great form as Sisters Madeleine Joyal and Gloria Keylor wait their turn. The event is captured on film by Recreation Coordinator Ann Johnsen.*



4

*4 – Ah, the taste of the first strawberries from the garden at Providence Centre was worth the wait for Sister Rose Dettling. She managed to get a couple more before Sister Therese Belanger took her back to her room.*



Providence Canada West is published by the Office of Communications, Sisters of Providence, Holy Angels Province

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