

HOPE

BREAKING BOUNDARIES, CREATING

Volume 22 • No. 1
Fall 2026

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana



Sisters of Providence
OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
Breaking boundaries, creating hope.®

Letter from the General Superior

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this issue of HOPE Magazine, the Providence Community will have experienced quite a season of change!

Following our General Chapter in June-July 2026, a new leadership team has been elected and a Vision Statement to guide the path of Providence for the next five years has been created and embraced.



*Sister Dawn
Tomaszewski*

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the General Superior of the Congregation for the past 10 years and to have the opportunity to be in regular communication with all of you in our extended Providence Community.

It has also been a grand adventure in Providence! You only have to read the stories of our sisters and associates in this and past issues of HOPE to know why. For example:

- Sister Leslie Dao, SP, and her ministry with women in Chicago are indicative of our sisters' response to those most in need,
- The presence of our Providence Associates in their desire to partner with us in being Providence in our world, wherever they may be, spreads hope into our world,
- The impact of White Violet Center for Eco-Justice stands as a tangible sign of our care for creation, and
- The ongoing devotion to Saint Mother Theodore Guerin provides further evidence that the work we do can make a difference.

As you read about our General Chapter, I hope you will see in us the continued desire to sow and tend seeds of hope in our world. As I have often told the Providence Community in the past 10 years, the world needs us for this.

And we need you to continue walking by our side, holding us up and giving us courage through your support and encouragement. Together, let us embrace whatever seasons of change may come to us, confident in that Providence, which always promises growth and fresh perspectives from new beginnings.

Let us continue to meet each other in prayer.

With a heart full of love for this adventure and for each of you and ...

In that Providence that has never failed us,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, SP".

Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, SP

HOPE Magazine
Volume 22 No. 1
Fall 2026

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Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates gathered during their annual meeting for their group photo.





General Chapter: Seeds of Hope



By Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp, SP

In late June-early July, the 41st Chapter of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods took place. We were confident that our work would empower us to embody our Chapter theme: “Sowing Seeds of Hope.”

For the Sisters of Providence, Chapter takes place every five years. According to our Constitutions, “Chapter members, representing the entire community, assemble in a spirit of prayer to direct the life and mission of the Congregation.”

For the beginning of our Chapter of Affairs, the sisters were joined by some of our Providence Associates so that they could provide their insights to the delegates, particularly about our vision statement and possibilities for its implementation, to share in the report of the State of the Providence Community and to thank our staff for their exemplary service to the Congregation.

The General Chapter Vision Statement for 2026-31 adopted by the Chapter delegates, was a call to tend the seeds we have already sown and will continue to sow for the life of the world.

SP Vision Statement: We will co-create a world where every person’s dignity is honored and the sacredness of all creation is upheld.

The vision statement complements the Sisters of Providence purpose and mission statements, which follow here:

SP Purpose Statement: “The purpose of this Congregation is to honor Divine Providence and to further God’s loving plans by devoting itself to works of love, mercy and justice in service among God’s people.” (Constitutions, article 3)

SP Mission Statement: “The Sisters of Providence are a community of Catholic women religious who collaborate with others to create a more just and hope-filled world through prayer, education, service and advocacy.”

At the Chapter of Affairs, the sisters were also provided answers to questions about the financial report of the past five years. Chapter delegates also accepted a proposal to call the new leadership team to engage in a governance study.

As is our custom each year at annual meetings or Chapter, Sisters and Associates joined in prayer to recognize and honor our Sisters and Associates who have gone to God this past year. The Providence Community also honored and thanked the 2022-26 leadership team for their service.

Festivities included an introductory procession of sisters on walkers, scooters and wheelchairs decorated for the party; cartoons from *The New Yorker* to add humor; a beautiful blessing; and a handmade wall plaque for each general officer.

New Leadership, Vision

At the Chapter of Elections, delegates prayerfully reflected on the gifts and qualities needed for leadership of the Congregation for the next five years. After nominations and prayerful discernment, the following team was chosen:



Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp, General Superior

I entered the Congregation on August 23, 1975. I served in Congregation leadership for the past 10 years, first as general councilor and more recently

as vicar/general treasurer. Prior to that, I had spent my entire professional life in education as teacher of math, physics, computer science and leadership. I was also in educational leadership positions in high schools and universities for more than 30 years.



Sister Lisa Stallings, Vicar

Sister Lisa entered the Congregation on August 23, 1975. She previously served in Congregation leadership for 10 years (2011-21), first as general councilor and then

as vicar/general treasurer. Most recently, she has been Director of Liturgy and a musician for the Congregation. Prior to her service at the Woods, she taught English for several years and subsequently ministered primarily as Coordinator/Director of Liturgy/Worship at parishes in Illinois and Kentucky.



Sister Anne Therese Falkenstein, Second Councilor

Sister Anne Therese entered the Congregation on August 27, 1979. She has served in Congregation leadership as general councilor for the past five years. She has spent

most of her ministerial life at Providence University in Taiwan, where she was a professor, special assistant to the president and director of the Office of International Affairs. Previously, she taught at the elementary and secondary level in the U.S.



Sister Tracey Horan, Third Councilor

Sister Tracey entered the Congregation on September 8, 2014. She most recently served as Associate Director of Education and Advocacy for the

Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona. Prior to that, she served as a community organizer for two different groups in Indianapolis.



Sister Norene Wu, Fourth Councilor

Sister Norene entered the Congregation on September 1, 1982. Most recently, she has served as Director of Novices for the Congregation. Her previous

ministries were primarily at Providence University in Taiwan, where she worked in the Department of Social Work and Child Welfare.

We ask that you hold us in prayer so that, as a Providence Community and with the help of those who walk with us, we can work courageously and tirelessly to tend the seeds of hope that have been sown to make our vision become a reality in our Congregation, in the Church and in the world.



Join us

October 11

Celebrating 20 years of sainthood for
Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods invite you to join us for a day of pilgrimage, prayer and a picnic as we celebrate our foundress and the 20th anniversary of her canonization.



Her Spirit Prevails © Jody O'Neil, SP, used with permission

- Communal Pilgrimage | 9:30 a.m.
- Eucharistic Liturgy | 11 a.m.
- Community Picnic | 12 p.m.

People of all faith traditions are welcome.
Bring your family and friends! Register at
SistersofProvidence.org/Events.



Look to the Future: Spread the Word

By Sister Ann Casper, SP

As a regular reader of HOPE, you have been celebrating along with the Sisters of Providence the 20th anniversary of Mother Theodore Guerin's canonization in Rome, Oct. 15, 2006. In this third and final HOPE article remembering the people, places and moments that have shaped her life and legacy, we look to a future that will see her feast placed on the national liturgical calendar.

Evidence of Devotion

Evidence of worldwide devotion is found in testimonies given and relics requested from the Philippines, Portugal, Brazil, Madagascar, France, Nicaragua, Poland, Argentina, India, Israel, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Vietnam and throughout the United States.

Religious brothers and sisters, educators, parish leaders, healthcare workers and families alike have written to express how Saint Mother Theodore's example of trust in Providence continues to guide their lives. Her story resonates across cultures and languages, demonstrating the universal appeal of her courage, perseverance and faith.

Continuing to Inspire

Beyond stories of healing and family life, Mother Theodore's witness continues to inspire creativity, service and faith in new generations. A writer from the American Midwest recently shared that she is working on a novel exploring the lives of such resilient women.

(Right) Sisters Jan Craven and Paula Damiano in the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.

She has drawn inspiration from the values embodied by the Sisters of Providence and the example of Saint Mother Theodore, which demonstrate how her legacy continues to shape lives in ways both visible and unseen.

Our sisters continue to make efforts to spread knowledge of and devotion to Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, seizing every opportunity to do so. Three sisters have more intentionally done so, and once again, we need our readers to “spread the word” about their ministries.

On the Road

During her ministry as Director of the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, Sister Jan Craven, SP, now retired from that position, welcomed thousands of pilgrims to the Woods. Yet, she is keenly aware that there are many people who know little about the eighth American saint. Many, many thousands more may never come to her Shrine due to distance or a variety of reasons.

Sister Jan pondered Mother Theodore’s words: “We cannot do our work if we all stay in the nest.” She came up with an idea: Take Mother Theodore on the road!

She asked Sister Paula Damiano, SP, also recently retired from her ministry, if she would be interested in joining her. So, together they wrote a proposal, had it approved by the General Council and ventured outside the “nest.”

They’ve received invitations already from a variety of groups: Parishes, prayer gatherings, senior groups, alumni from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and other schools where the Sisters of Providence taught or parishes where they ministered.

The duo offers your choice of three programs, varying in length from 90 minutes, a full morning or afternoon or a day-long retreat.

Continued on page 8

Two common reactions from participants: “Why haven’t we known about this amazing saint?” and, “I’m taking her as ‘my saint.’”



Portraying Mother Theodore

Another of our sisters, Sister Susan Paweski, SP, has been portraying of Mother Theodore for nearly 25 years. She brings to life the saint's story, complete with a Breton accent, and tailors the presentation to her audience: school children, church-sponsored adult events, nursing home residents, etc.

Sister Sue's has given portrayals in the Midwest and from coast to coast. Tina Proctor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Yorba Linda, California, noted, "This is without exception a 'must see' performance."

In her presentation, the audience gets a sense of Mother Theodore's determination, her dedication to mission and her deep love and care for her sisters, students and all whom she encountered.

Following a performance by Sister Sue, Lorraine Kirker in Langley, Washington, had this to say, "Hearing the saint's own words and the story of her journey and struggles, as well as never faltering trust in Providence, resonates for our lives today."

Persons interested in having Sisters Jan and Paula come to their group may contact them at LegacyOffice@spsmw.org or the Legacy Office of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin at 812.535.2926. To schedule a performance, contact Sister Sue at 312.909.7492 or at spaweski@spsmw.org.

About the Author: Sister Ann continues to spread knowledge of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and her deep devotion to the Congregation's foundress.



Sister Sue Paweski dressed up for one of her many performances as Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.



Cozy Up this Season

At Linden Leaf Gifts and at the Farm Store at White Violet Center, you'll discover beautifully crafted alpaca socks, scarves, gloves, hats and other cozy essentials made from the luxurious fibers of our alpaca herd. Naturally warm, incredibly soft and made to last, these unique gifts are perfect for crisp autumn days and cozy winter nights.

But every purchase offers something even greater. When you shop at our stores, you're helping sustain a place where the care of Earth, compassionate living and thoughtful stewardship come together.

Whether crossing names off a holiday gift list or shopping for yourself, you'll discover gifts that reflect comfort, craftsmanship and purpose.



LindenLeafGifts.com

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LEAF
Gifts 

Located in Providence Spirituality & Conference Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

Change of Season:

Falling for the Woods

By Lori Strawn

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin once wrote, “... *nature unfolds in our forests and along our rivers in so grand and marvelous a manner that describing even with the greatest simplicity seems an exaggeration to those who, not having seen it, cannot form an idea of its splendor.*”

She wasn't kidding.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods is home to a wide variety of trees, some native, some from as far away as Asia. Together they form a strange orchestra, each one playing a note in its own musical scale. In autumn, they crescendo.

Seeing Things for the First Time

I had never truly experienced autumn before I came to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for the first time at age 18. Oh sure, growing up in Southern California, I understood what Fall was supposed to look like. But my imagination paled when faced with Saint Mother Theodore's woods.

The colors took my breath away. Ruby, rust, crimson, chocolate, burnt umber, gold, canary, pumpkin, copper, tangerine. Leaves speckled, freckled, blotched and spotted. And the shapes! The smell! I ran from tree to tree seeking the perfect specimen to mail home to my parents, little thinking that autumn leaves rarely survive a trip through the postal service in an envelope.

My Spiritual Home

I knew Saint Mary-of-the-Woods would be forever my spiritual home from the first time I stepped onto the grounds. But in autumn ... oh, in autumn, I grew my own roots. No matter how far away I go, part of me belongs in Saint Mother Theodore's beloved woods.

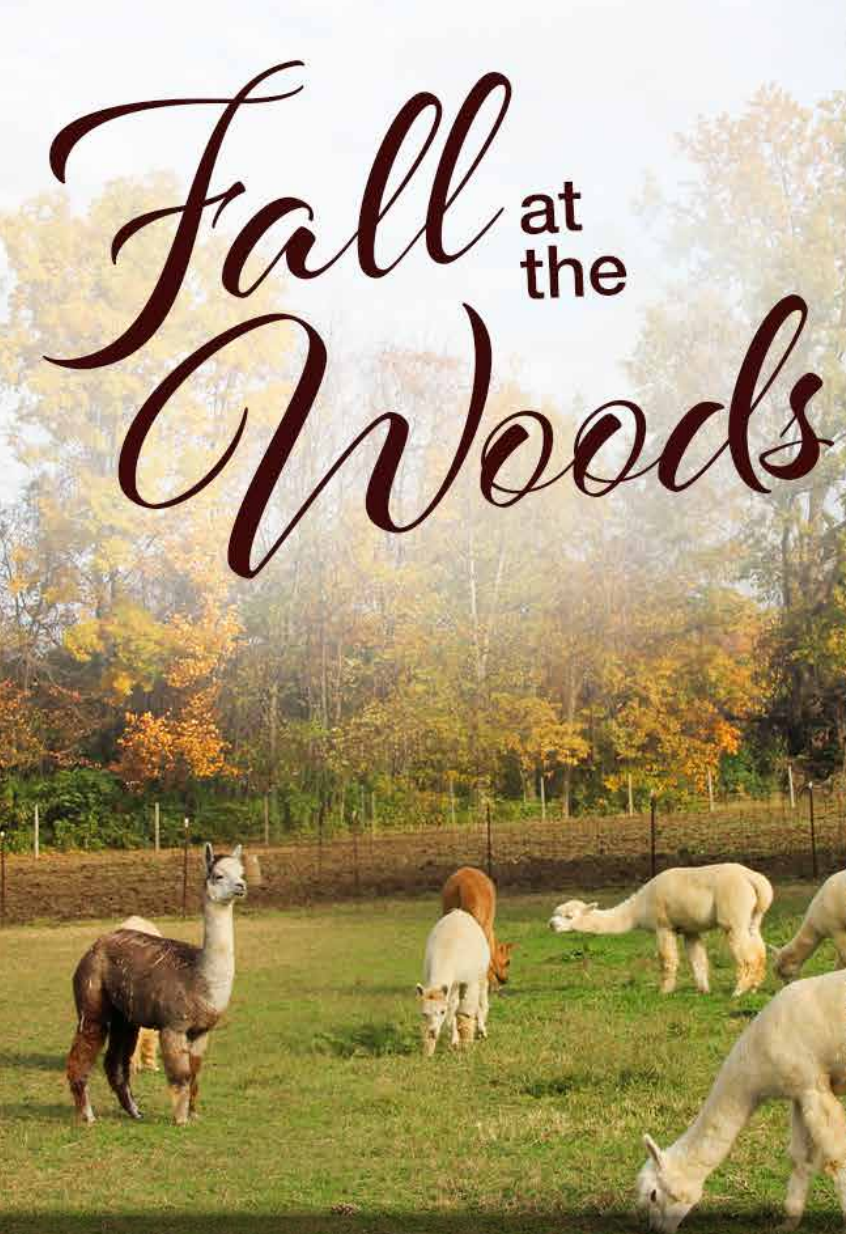
When's the last time you saw a Woods autumn? Maybe it's time for you to fall again for one of the most beautiful and sacred places on earth.

“As to our garden and yard, we have all the woods. And the wilderness is our only cloister, for our house is like an oak tree planted therein.” – Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

About the Author: Lori is a Providence Associate who lives in Kansas, where autumns are fine, but not exactly spectacular.



Fall ^{at the} Woods



White Violet Center Alpacas



Saint Anne Shell Chapel



Stations of the Cross



Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Statue



Church of the Immaculate Conception



Log Cabin Chapel



Freedom in Serving Others: Sister Leslie Dao

By Amy Miranda

Sister of Providence Leslie Dao's immigration story begins in 1975, before she was even born. The city of Saigon fell to the communists, marking the end of the Vietnam War. Leslie's older brother was forced to flee, seeking safety and freedom. For a long time, the family had no news of whether he was even alive. They were so thankful to eventually learn he had reached the United States safely and was starting a new life.

Leslie is the youngest of 15 children. As a child, her older sister cared for her during the day while her mother worked. Each day when her mother returned home, Leslie remembers learning prayers from her mother and singing hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary with her.

"We prayed together every day, and those moments laid the foundation for my Catholic faith. My parents are devout Catholics, and they nurtured our family in faith from a very young age," Sister Leslie said.

(Above) Sister Leslie Dao

Coming to America

In 1990 her brother in the United States sponsored the rest of the family to come join him.

"Our family's decision to leave Vietnam was motivated by one hope: to find true freedom — the freedom to practice our faith openly and to pursue a better future," Sister Leslie said.

So at 13 years old, speaking no English, Leslie found herself in the United States.

"Although we had very little financially, we were grateful simply to be together again. During our first two years in California, my family worked long hours at difficult jobs that paid very little. Despite these hardships, we supported one another and cherished the time we spent together."

Young Life Experiences

Sister Leslie's childhood experiences have shaped who she is today: From the deep faith of her family, to the Catholic sister in Vietnam who prepared her for First Communion and got

her thinking about religious life, to the support of her school counselor when she first arrived in the U.S.

“My school counselor was a social worker who recognized my struggles. She encouraged me, helped me build my self-confidence, and reminded me that my voice and experiences mattered. Through her kindness, compassion and unwavering support, she helped me discover my identity and introduced me to the profession of social work. Her example inspired me to pursue a life dedicated to serving others with the same empathy and care that she so generously showed me.”

Today Sister Leslie has bachelor’s degrees in sociology and in social work.

Life in Ministry

Before she joined the Sisters of Providence in 2021, Sister Leslie ministered in immigrant and refugee ministry at St. Pius V Parish in St. Louis.

“The refugee families I served shared many of the same hopes and experiences that my own family had when we came to America,” she said. “Immigrants enrich society by bringing diverse cultures, languages, traditions, art, cuisine and perspectives, creating stronger and more vibrant communities.”

Today Sister Leslie ministers in the Learning Center at Deborah’s Place in Chicago. Their mission is to “open doors of opportunity for women who are homeless in Chicago.”

“My goal is to provide a safe and welcoming environment where the women feel supported, valued and understood. Above all, I want every woman to know that she is not alone and that she is deeply cared for. I feel called to journey alongside, support and accompany the women we serve. Growing up in poverty, I experienced firsthand the hardship of

lacking basic necessities. Those experiences have given me a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by women who long for compassion, dignity, a warm welcome and a kind smile,” Sister Leslie said.

Living the Legacy

Sister Leslie finds fulfillment in living out the legacy of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, who also came to this country as an immigrant not able to speak English.

“Saint Mother Theodore Guerin reminds us that holiness is found not in a life free from hardship but in a life faithfully offered to God each day. I am especially inspired by Mother Theodore’s zeal, courage, compassion and loving spirit.

“Being part of this community has been a tremendous blessing in my faith journey. Through shared prayer, worship and genuine fellowship, I have grown not only in my love for God but also in my love for others. Witnessing the faith, kindness and generosity of the Sisters has challenged me to become more patient, compassionate and trusting in God’s plan.”

About the Author: Amy is a Providence Associate and has worked in Mission Advancement for the Sisters of Providence for the past 26 years.

Sister Leslie Dao (far left) leading the “Prayer of Reunion” in Vietnamese alongside Sisters My Huong Pham and Ann Duong, during Chapter 2026.



White Violet Center: Looking Forward

By Mary Riley

Nourishing the spirit, body and mind.

Wow! Thirty years! Depending on where you are in this life, 30 years can mean different things. To a 5-year-old, that's ancient, but ask an 80-year-old and they'll say that you're just getting started. It's amazing to think that White Violet Center for Eco-Justice (WVC), a ministry of the Sisters of Providence, is celebrating this pivotal anniversary. So, what's next?

Forging Ahead

First and foremost, our goal is to grow food in an ethical and sustainable way so that we can continue to feed people in our community. Our team is honored to not only provide Certified Organic produce and fresh eggs for people shopping at our farmers market booth and farm store, but also each year to deliver thousands of pounds of nourishing, healthy food for distribution by our local food banks.

This recently expanded effort, initially funded by a USDA grant that is no longer available, is now made possible through the generosity of our supporters. To say we are grateful is an understatement. Feeding the underserved truly feels like privilege and we hope to be able to do this for many years to come.

An Educational Tool

The WVC team is also deeply committed to providing education through outreach, programs, workshops and field trips. Each year, we welcome individuals, schools, churches, college groups, volunteers and organizations to experience White Violet Center for Eco-Justice.

White Violet Center partnered with the Vigo County Public Library West Branch for a fun new summer program, "Snackin' with the Alpacas." Vigo County community gathered for the first of three summer programs.

We tell the story of why the Sisters of Providence started this ministry in 1996 and the important role we all play in caring for all creation and being good stewards of the home that God has provided. We also get to take this message outside our walls by attending community events where we often bring our "Ambassadors of Sustainability," aka our alpaca friends. We find that people are much more open to learning when they are in the presence of 150 pounds of fluffy cuteness.

And we can't forget about our farm intern program, which is at the heart of our teaching ministry. Through the years, as times change, we anticipate that it also will continue to evolve.



But one thing that won't change is that at the end of their tenure, interns will carry forward their experiences and knowledge from their time with us. What a joy it is to know we have made an impact that reaches different parts of the country, if not the world.

Sharing Ideas, Resources

This summer, the Sisters of Providence approved the 2026-31 General Chapter Vision Statement, which reads, "We will co-create a world where every person's dignity is honored and the sacredness of all creation is upheld."

WVC, which is now under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Woods initiative, which includes

Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, will work to share ideas and resources as we further develop.

Our vision statement for Ministry of the Woods says it best: "Rooted in the values of love, mercy and justice, Ministry of the Woods cultivates meaningful connections to nourish and enlighten individuals by offering experiences that are engaging, relevant and inspirational."

Moving forward, WVC will continue to align with both of these visions and be a space for all those seeking inspiration and guidance to connect with each other and our home, planet Earth.

***About the Author:** Mary is the Executive Director of Ministry of the Woods. Previously, she served as the Director of White Violet Center for Eco-Justice.*





Providence Associates: Furthering the Mission

By Sister Cathy Campbell, SP

As the Sisters of Providence begin a new era with a newly elected leadership team in place, they also are strengthened by a growing Providence Associate community of women and men who have committed to joining with them in prayer and furthering the mission of Providence through acts of love, mercy and justice.

An Attracting Relationship

Karen Goehl, a Providence Associate since 2015, said she was attracted to the relationship by sisters whom she got to know in a Pax Christi group to which she belonged.

"I was impressed by Sisters Ann Casper and (the late) Rita Clare Gerardot and what the Sisters of Providence seemed to be about," Karen said. "Sister Marsha Speth became my companion as I learned more about the Associate relationship. I liked that it was a separate vocation rooted in lay

spirituality as a complement to the mission of the Sisters of Providence."

Karen lives her ministry by weekly visiting residents in Providence Health Care as well as participating in her parish and other activities where she can express her faith.

"Being an associate is a separate vocation in which I am able to continue to develop my lay spirituality and relationship with God," she said.

True to the Mission

In her report for the 2026 General Chapter, Providence Associate Director Debbie Dillow wrote: "Our Associates are true carriers of the charism, living love, mercy and justice within their families, workplaces and local communities."

According to Debbie, 15-20 new Associates each year are welcomed into the relationship after a period of learning more with a mentor about Providence Spirituality, the history of the Sisters of Providence and the mission of Providence.

(Above, from left) Providence Associates Carol Woodfall and Judy Jaberg.

At the end of their study, the candidates are invited to live out the Providence mission in a manner that fits their individual choice. Associates may choose to renew their commitment annually.

Currently, there are 317 committed Providence Associates.

Deepening Connections

Debbie said Providence Associates reside in 27 states, Canada and Taiwan. She noted in her report that “a significant milestone of this year” was that she was sent to Taiwan to welcome new Providence Associates there.

“Such visits, like mine, deepen our global connections and inspire hope by reflecting the reach of the global connections of our Providence Community,” Debbie noted.

The Providence Associate relationship is now guided by the Providence Associate Board, consisting of five committees: Spiritual Life, Sustainability, Welcoming and Hospitality, Charism, Purpose and Mission, and Engagement, each led by co-chairs.

Associates also volunteer at many activities at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and enjoy opportunities for spiritual refreshment such as online prayer groups and days of renewal.

About the Author: Sister Cathy ministers as a staff writer for Mission Advancement and has companioned Providence Associates.

For more information on becoming a Providence Associate, visit ProvidenceAssociates.org or email paooffice@spsmw.org.



Providence Associates' meetings and gatherings during the 2026 Chapter meeting. Providence Associates Lorrie Scheidler (left), Regina Hartman (middle) and Diann Neu.

Leave a *Legacy* of Love!

Perhaps you've spent a lifetime caring for your loved ones, serving your community and living out your faith.

Those values do not have to end with you!

Through a simple gift in your will or estate plan, you can help ensure that the mission of the Sisters of Providence continues for many years to come.

Your Legacy in Action

Your gift will help our sisters respond to the greatest needs of our time, supporting ministries of love, mercy and justice by caring for those in need and stewarding creation, wherever we are called to serve.

A Lifetime of Caring

Establishing a will is one of the most important ways to care for the people and causes you love. By including the Sisters of Providence in your estate plans, you can make a difference while preserving your assets now.

You Do Not Have to Be Wealthy

You do not have to be wealthy to leave a meaningful legacy! Every planned gift is an expression of faith, hope, and love that will continue to bless others for generations!

Put *value* into your values!

Remember the Sisters of Providence in your will or list us as beneficiary on your bank or retirement account and help continue a mission that changes lives!

To learn more, contact Cami at
812.535.2807 or cpritchett@spsmw.org

PlannedGiving.spsmw.org



**Sister Mary Lois Hennel**

April 18, 1927 – April 3, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 79 years

"You have prayed for those you served and for all of us for the same 80 years."

Sister Mary Lois served for 20 years as a teacher in schools in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. She also ministered in administrative work in Indiana, Illinois and California. She served in the Congregation's business office for 17 years and at the Providence Food Pantry for eight years.

**Sister Eileen Rose Bonner**

May 29, 1932 – May 5, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 76 years

"She was a light to our world when we needed it most. We loved her."

Sister Eileen Rose ministered in education for 25 years in schools in Indiana and Illinois. After becoming a certified chaplain, she served for 30 years in three different medical centers in Louisville, Kentucky. After retiring, she stayed in Louisville, serving in a variety of ways, including as a GED tutor, an ESL teacher, soup kitchen volunteer and a bereavement minister.

**Sister Mary Jeanine Schubert**

January 16, 1942 – May 14, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 64 years

"Your Spirit of love, kindness and wisdom will always be alive within our hearts."

Sister Mary Jeanine ministered in elementary schools for 16 years in Indiana and Illinois. Following that, she served as a survey operations assistant for the American Medical Association and later as an employee contractor for more than 20 years. She then began ministering by creating many items for Linden Leaf Gifts.

**Sister Eileen Dede**

April 16, 1931 – May 25, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 78 years

"You stand now with the love of God poured out in your heart."

Sister Eileen, formerly Sister Anita Therese, ministered as a teacher/tutor for 33 years in schools in Indiana, Illinois and Massachusetts, and for four years as a principal. She also ministered as a chaplain in California for four years and as pastoral associate in healthcare at the Woods for seven years. For 12 years she volunteered in nursing homes, hospitals, and at Saint Vincent de Paul.



Sister Ann Paula Pohlman

August 12, 1935 – June 2, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 73 years

“She listened and she responded to call after call – with all her heart.”

Sister Ann Paula ministered as a teacher for 27 years at schools in Massachusetts, Illinois, New Hampshire, Indiana and Florida. She served as a principal for 10 years. She then served as an activity director in Florida for several years and stayed in Florida ministering in other capacities before returning to the Woods, where she served on the activities team for six years.



Sister Marie Grace Molloy

June 12, 1932 – July 12, 2026

Sister of Providence

for 75 years

“Clearly, her faith was firm; God was her constant companion.”

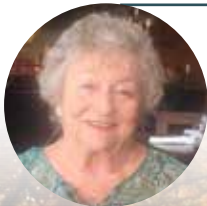
Sister Marie Grace ministered for 48 years in schools in Indiana and Illinois, including 20 years at Nativity School in Indianapolis. She also served as a tutor for Dyslexia of Indiana for nine years and as coordinator of the alumnae associations of St. Agnes and St. John Academies, both in Indianapolis. In 2010, she moved back to the Woods and ministered for 15 more years in the Congregation’s Archives Department.



Jean Smith

September 22, 1928 – June 8, 2026
Providence Associate for 11 years

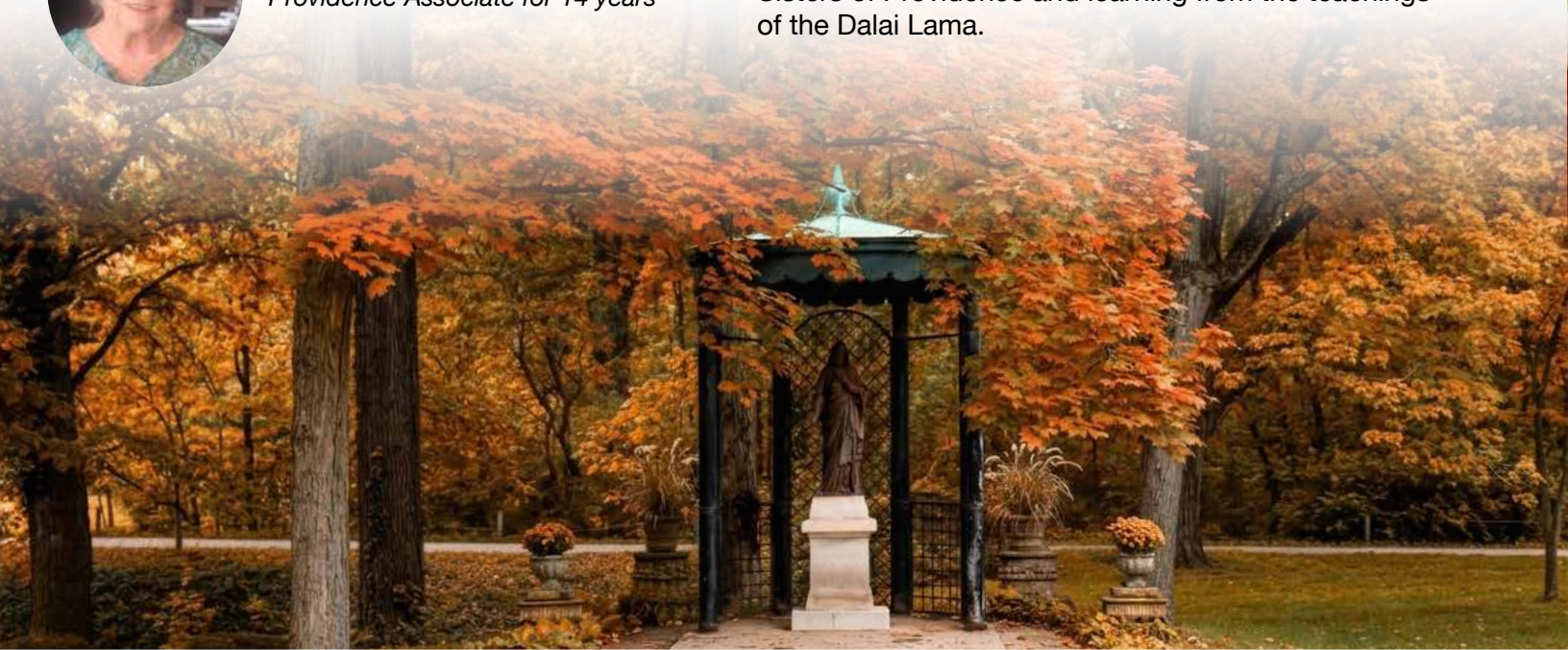
Jean was a visiting nurse, hospice nurse, accompanist and member of the choir and bell choir at Robin Run Church in Indianapolis. She was a member of the Miracle Place Circle.



Lynn Gatti Boyd

November 13, 1941 – July 12, 2026
Providence Associate for 14 years

Lynn was a hospice care nurse. She was also inspired by many faiths, including her support for the Sisters of Providence and learning from the teachings of the Dalai Lama.



Events at the Woods



Tending to Grief Retreat

November 6-8 |
Register by November 1

Discover a sacred space to rest, reflect and honor grief through nature, creativity and compassionate community. Join Sister Corbin Hannah, SP, for a restorative weekend exploring loss, love and renewal with guided practices, ritual and reflection.



Christmas Fun at the Woods

December 12 | 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Spend the afternoon at the Woods making crafts, visiting the adorable alpacas, storytelling, singing Christmas carols and satisfying your sweet tooth at the bake sale!

Events at the Woods 2026

September

- 26 Teen Volunteer Opportunity
- 29 Connecting Link Job Fair

October

- 3 Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Feast Day
- 7 Discernment Lounge
- 11 Celebrating 20 Years of Sainthood
- 13 Taizé Prayer
- 17 Teen Volunteer Opportunity
- 22 Sisters of Providence Foundation Day
- 23-25 Come & See Fall Retreat

November

- 6-8 Tending to Grief Retreat
- 7 Discernment Lounge
- 10 Taizé Prayer
- 21 Teen Volunteer Opportunity

December

- 7 Discernment Lounge
- 8 Taizé Prayer
- 12 Christmas Fun at the Woods
- 12 Teen Volunteer Opportunity



**Stay up-to-
date with our
events**

SistersofProvidence.org/Events
or call 812.535.2800.

Upcoming Alumnae/i Events

September

- 19 MTG Class of '72 & '86
- 26 St. Rose Academy Alumnae

October

- 10 MTG Class of '76
- 17 Ladywood-St. Agnes Class of '76

For more information on upcoming alumnae/i events, visit SistersofProvidence.org/Alumni.



Immaculata Prep School Class of '74 gathered for their 70th Birthday Extravaganza in Bethany Beach, Delaware, in 2026.





Mission Advancement

1 Sisters of Providence

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

