

“Sisters, whatever
concerns the poor
is always our affair.”

– MOTHER JOSEPH OF THE SACRED HEART



2016 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Prepared for the Congregation
for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life










ON THE COVER: A child plays at Providence Wellness and Activity Center in Southern California. The center received our 2016 Mission Leadership Award for improving health in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. (See page 10.)

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As part of our commitment to improving health for the poor and vulnerable, Providence employees installed clean-burning stoves in the remote mountain village of Capilla Chiquita in Chicamán, Guatemala. (See pages 10-11).





August 15, 2017

Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz
Prefect, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life
Piazza Pio XII
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Eminence,

On behalf of the members of Providence Ministries, the Sponsor of Providence Health & Services, I am honored to present you with the seventh annual report of activities since our establishment on Jan. 1, 2010.

Providence Ministries is pleased with the progress we made during 2016. In this year, we focused on building a relationship with St. Joseph Health Ministry sponsors and system leaders and on working together to create our new parent organization: Providence St. Joseph Health. We also devoted time to understanding how we can best carry out our roles and responsibilities in Mission-focused collaboration with governance and management.

We spent considerable time in prayerful reflection and formation on our calling and on our Catholic heritage and tradition. We are especially attentive to carrying out the hopes and aspirations of the Sisters of Providence for the ministries they entrusted to us. There are many challenges ahead, but the sponsors and people of Providence are guided by faith and seek God's blessing as they endeavor to lead Providence Health & Services into the future.

We ask your blessings for Providence Ministries and our service to the continuing legacy of the Church. Providence Ministries truly appreciates the opportunity to present this report to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Lovingly in Providence,

Sister Barbara Schamber, SP
President, Providence Ministries

INTRODUCTION



PROVIDENCE MINISTRIES: Continuing the Mission, Celebrating Milestones and Coming Together

In 2016, Providence Ministries celebrated three foundational milestones: the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Providence in the United States; the seventh year of Providence Ministries serving as the sponsor of Providence Health & Services; and the creation of a new parent organization, Providence St. Joseph Health.

OUR ROOTS

As a young widow living in Montreal, Canada, in the 1840s, Emilie Gamelin dedicated herself to the city's many poor, sick, orphaned and elderly people. She became the foundress of a religious community known as the Sisters of Providence and inspired others to carry her Mission of compassion to new worlds. Her last words as she was dying of cholera on Sept. 23, 1851, continue to guide us today: "humility, simplicity, charity." On Oct. 7, 2001, Mother Gamelin was beatified during a ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. She is now known as Blessed Emilie Gamelin.

Five years after Blessed Emilie's death, A.M.A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nesqually, asked Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and four other Sisters of Providence to leave Montreal and serve pioneers in the Pacific Northwest. In December 1856, the five women arrived at Fort Vancouver, Washington. As their ministry grew, they crisscrossed the Northwest, establishing schools, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions of care.

On their 6,000-mile journey from Montreal to Fort Vancouver in 1856, five pioneering Sisters of Providence, led by Mother Joseph (center), persevered amid frontier hardships. Inspired by their fortitude, Providence presses on through today's challenges as we advocate for the poor and vulnerable.





Mother Joseph and her companions went on begging tours, travelling hundreds of miles by horseback, riverboat, stage coach and wagon to collect donations for their ministries (c. 1896).



The Sisters incorporated their works of charity in 1859, creating the structure for the current network, known today as Providence Health & Services.

Mother Joseph died on Jan. 19, 1902. Her dying words were: "Sisters, whatever concerns the poor is always our affair."

In 2016, we celebrated the 160th anniversary of the Sisters' arrival in the Pacific Northwest. Providence Health & Services continues a tradition of caring that the Sisters began. Since those early days, Providence Health & Services has grown to serve many more communities across the West.

OUR COMMITMENT

In 2016 we also celebrated the seventh year of Providence Ministries. The organization was created in 2010 as a new sponsorship model to continue the charitable works initiated by Mother Joseph and her four companions. Providence Ministries is composed of both lay and religious persons who oversee the ministries of Providence Health & Services. As sponsor, Providence Ministries oversees health, social services and educational ministries that are adapting to changing times and growing to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

HUMILITY • SIMPLICITY • CHARITY

Providence Ministries provides an enduring foundation to:

- Continue the healing ministry of Jesus and to provide educational and social services
- Continue the heritage, hopes and aspirations of the Sisters of Providence
- Enable lay Catholic leaders to more fully participate as sponsors
- Address the increasing complexity of health care delivery in the United States

COMING TOGETHER WITH OUR CALLING AND OUR PROMISE

The highlight of 2016 occurred in July when Providence Health & Services and Providence Ministries came together with California-based St. Joseph Health to create a new parent organization: Providence St. Joseph Health.

The sponsors of Providence Ministries and St. Joseph Health Ministry spent the year together in Mission-focused collaboration. By combining their efforts and resources, the entities will now serve more people in a partnership that joins two remarkable organizations with rich heritages.

When the Sisters of Providence began their tradition of caring 160 years ago, their ministry greatly depended on collaborating with like-minded partners. This same pioneering spirit continues today as our calling and our promise.

SPONSORSHIP REPORT



Introduction to Providence Ministries, the sponsor of Providence Health & Services

In 2016, Providence Ministries was led by:

- Sister Juliana Casey, IHM, president and sponsor
- Johnny Cox, vice president and sponsor
- Sister Anita Butler, SP, treasurer and sponsor
- Sister Barbara Schamber, SP, secretary and sponsor
- Barbara Savage, sponsor
- William "Bill" Cox, sponsor

The key responsibilities of the sponsors of Providence Ministries are to:

- Maintain Mission, heritage and Catholic identity
- Build relationships with the Church
- Act in accordance with our stated values
- Build relationships with governance and administration
- Exercise reserved powers
- Engage in education and formation



TOP ROW

Sister Juliana Casey, IHM, president and sponsor
Johnny Cox, vice president and sponsor
Sister Anita Butler, SP, treasurer and sponsor

BOTTOM ROW

Sister Barbara Schamber, SP, secretary and sponsor
Barbara Savage, sponsor
William Cox, sponsor



The Co-Sponsors Council, representing Providence Health & Services and St. Joseph Health Ministry, signed an operating covenant unifying their partnership as Providence St. Joseph Health.



COMING TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

Providence Ministries spent significant time over the last year collaborating with St. Joseph Health Ministry as our health systems came together to create Providence St. Joseph Health. As part of this Mission-focused collaboration, the two separate sponsor groups (public juridic persons) formed a Co-Sponsors Council and signed an operating covenant.

Our priorities are three-fold: honoring our heritages, caring for the poor and vulnerable, and excellence in ministry formation. The Covenant's preamble is:

FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

We, the Sponsors of Providence St. Joseph Health, agree to the Covenant of Service that follows. Standing in the Judeo-Christian tradition as expressed by both Mother Bernard, CSJ, and Mother Joseph, SP, and all those who have followed them, we do so for the sake of others. We join together that we may serve more people in need, increase our care for the most vulnerable among us, and be a sign and witness of God's healing presence in our world.

Our goal is service. Our guide is our respective traditions. Our vision is an even greater, more compassionate community of care, of healing.

We covenant together not for our own sake. We covenant together always and only for the sake of others.

As a Co-Sponsors Council, we concluded that combining Providence Health & Services with St. Joseph Health was not being pursued in order to create a larger system. The purpose of this partnership was to strengthen Catholic health care. By bringing Providence and St. Joseph together, we believe we can reach deeper into our communities to respond to critical needs, including our country's growing mental health care crisis.

On July 6, we announced our vision and committed to a daring and audacious goal – to improve mental health and wellness in America. We celebrated both ritually and publicly when the two systems officially became one. What our founders began as a courageous journey and a daring adventure more than a century ago continues today as we respond to the increasingly complex environment of health care, wellness and end-of-life services.



PHOTOS:

Left: Four Sisters of Providence bask in the sunset glow in Providence Academy chapel. Mother Joseph designed the academy, which opened in 1873, and hand-carved the chapel's wooden altar. (c. 2006).

Center: A bronze statue of Mother Joseph is displayed in National Statuary hall in Washington, D.C., as one of two Washington State representatives.

Right: Sister Katherine Smith, SP, cares for an infant at Our Lady of Providence Child Center (c.1970).

ONGOING FORMATION ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, the sponsors participated in prayer and reflection upon our call to the communities we serve. Time was set aside in every meeting of Providence Ministries for formation dialogue to strengthen our vision of the Church and our role as sponsor.

The sponsors of Providence Ministries and St. Joseph Health Ministry enjoyed shared formation opportunities in 2016. We traveled to Rome together to meet with the dicastery at the Vatican to present our reports in person. Both sponsor groups also attended the Providence Health & Services annual Mission and Spiritual Care Leaders Summit. This provided the opportunity for Mission and spiritual care leaders from both systems to meet for the first time and reflect on common elements of our heritage and culture. On Dec. 8, we attended a celebratory Mass at Providence Saint Joseph Residence in Seattle, Wash., to commemorate the 160th anniversary of Mother Joseph and her four companions' arrival at Fort Vancouver. And finally, we organized missioning ceremonies for several key leaders across the organization.

MEETINGS WITH THE BISHOPS

An early commitment of the sponsors was to meet with the bishop in each diocese where Providence has sponsored ministries. The sponsors were accompanied in these visits by the regional chief executive and the Mission leader of the local ministries. We welcomed the newly appointed Bishop Thomas Daly, Diocese of Spokane, Wash., in January 2016.

SPECIAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE SPONSORS

The sponsors identified specific strategic issues that will require priority attention and ongoing discernment. These include:

- Keeping informed on the continuous and rapid changes occurring in United States health care, the resulting new opportunities that may arise to extend the Mission into new services and communities, and the challenges these changes may pose
- Working with the board of directors to strengthen our mutual formation and our understanding of the evolving role of Providence St. Joseph Health to provide services that are both excellent and compassionate, especially in service to those who are poor and vulnerable, in the context of changes in health care delivery systems and finances
- Continuing to explore models of partnering between Providence Health & Services, Providence St. Joseph Health, and other Catholic and community-based organizations to serve our communities more effectively and remain faithful to our identity as a Catholic health care ministry
- Partnering with Catholic bishops in California to develop and implement the Whole Person Care Initiative, which offers a dignified alternative to physician-assisted suicide by bringing together health care leaders, priests, hospice nurses, legal experts and chaplains to provide Catholic moral teaching and clinical information that empowers terminally ill patients and their families, and which can be replicated in other states