



SUMMER 2026
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ISSUE 2

Providence Moments

CONGREGATION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE | MELBOURNE, KY



Pictured: Provincial Superior Sister Barbara Rohe with Jubilarians Sister Mary Carol Henggeler, Sister Carolyn Marie Betsch, Sister Grace Ann Schmersal, Sister Elizabeth Wehri, Sister Gladys Macke, and Sister Claire Osburg. (Not pictured, Jubilarian Sister Susan Baumann.)

“A GARDEN OF FAITHFULNESS”
Our Jubilarians share their stories, wisdom, and faith (story on pages 4-7).

INSIDE— A retrospective on Beyond the Oaks, memories of our departed Sisters, a reflection on gratitude, and more!

Responding to Pope Leo XIV's Call for Human Dignity

Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), asks a fundamental question for our age of rapid technological change: How do we ensure that progress remains at the service of the human person? Written particularly in response to the rise of artificial intelligence, the encyclical places those questions within the broader tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, emphasizing human dignity, the common good, solidarity, care for creation, peace, and particular concern for those who are most vulnerable.

That concern for human dignity is also at the heart of the work of the Intercommunity Sisters Justice and Peace Committee, composed of Sisters and Associates from three religious communities in the Diocese of Covington: the Sisters of Divine Providence, the Sisters of Notre Dame, and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg. The committee has planned several opportunities this fall to pray, learn, and reflect together.

On Sunday, September 27, at 2 p.m., a prayer service at Mother of God Church in Covington will commemorate the Vatican-sponsored World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This year's theme, "Even just one of these children," focuses particularly on minors involved in migration. The service will also be livestreamed.

The committee will then turn its attention to *Magnifica Humanitas*. On Monday, October 26, Monsignor William Cleves will lead a presentation at Bishop Howard Auditorium in Covington exploring Pope Leo's new encyclical and its relationship to Catholic Social Teaching. A second session will follow on Monday, November 30.

In introducing the encyclical, Pope Leo called the Church to engage the challenges of artificial intelligence not simply as technical questions, but as questions about what it means to be human. His challenge is ultimately one of hope: to ensure that the choices we make today help build a society in which every person's dignity is recognized and protected.



Providence Moments

is the newsletter of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Melbourne, Kentucky. "As Sisters of Divine Providence we have a mission to be living witnesses to the Providence of God. God's love becomes real in us as we go out to be Providence to others through the works of mercy."

— Constitutions of the Congregation of Divine Providence

Providence Moments is published three times a year. To subscribe, please contact Maria at secast@cdpkentucky.org.

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Seeing with Grateful Eyes

Several years ago, during a retreat, a missionary priest shared a greeting common in parts of Africa. Rather than simply saying hello, people greet one another by saying, "I see you."

That simple phrase has stayed with me ever since. The more I've reflected on it, the more I've come to believe that those three words express the very heart of gratitude.

Gratitude is always about relationship. We first learn this as children. When a parent reminds a toddler to say, "Thank you," it is about much more than good manners. It is an invitation to recognize another person—to acknowledge that someone has touched our lives with kindness, generosity, or love. Gratitude begins by truly seeing the other.

Throughout our lives, countless people help shape who we become. Some relationships bring joy, others challenge us. Even difficult encounters often teach us something about ourselves, our faith, and our dependence on God. As we look back over our lives—especially during milestones such as jubilees—we begin to see our memories differently. We remember places we've lived, ministries we've served, and responsibilities we've carried, but what gives those memories their deepest meaning are the people who shared those moments with us.

Over the years, our gratitude grows as our relationships deepen. Childhood friends become lifelong companions. Classmates become colleagues. Students become teachers. Neighbors become dear friends. Family members, community members, mentors, benefactors, and fellow travelers all leave lasting impressions on our hearts. Birthdays, graduations, professions, ordinations, jubilees, weddings, anniversaries—even moments of sorrow—become occasions to celebrate not only events, but the people who walked beside us.

A dictionary may define gratitude as "the quality of being thankful," but gratitude is richer than a definition. It is more than saying thank you. It is recognizing those whose presence has shaped our lives, whose love has sustained us, and whose faith has strengthened our own. Their stories become woven into ours.

Perhaps that is why the simple greeting, "I see you," continues to resonate so deeply with me. To truly see another person is to recognize the image of God reflected there. It is to acknowledge the gifts they have shared, the burdens they have carried, and the blessings they have brought into our lives.

It may be one of the deepest expressions of gratitude we can ever offer.

I see you.

—Sister Janet Carr, CDP

— A —

GARDEN

of Faithfulness

— —

Rooted in faith and nurtured by God's Providence, the Sisters of Divine Providence have sown seeds of love, service, and hope that continue to grow and flourish in the world.



SISTER

Susan Baumann

60 YEARS

"Hope grows through relationships and shared mission."



Throughout her religious life, Sister Susan Baumann has combined thoughtful leadership with a deep commitment to the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence. As Provincial Secretary and later Superior General, she fostered collaboration across cultures while advancing the congregation's commitment to justice, peace, care for creation, and trust in Divine Providence. ~

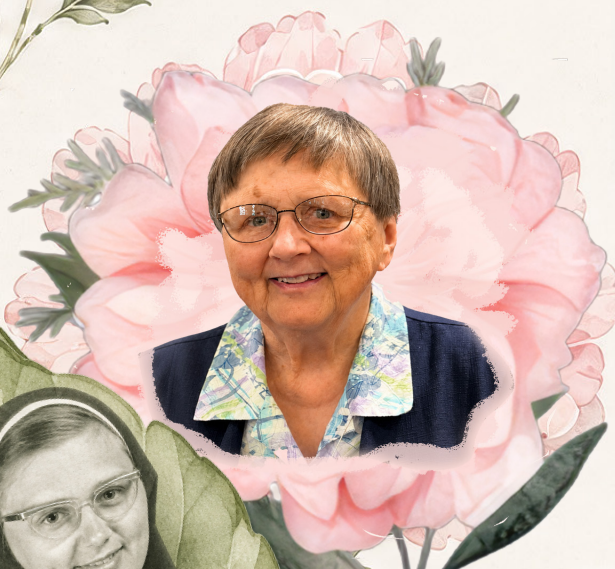
SISTER

Carolyn Marie Betsch

60 YEARS

"Just a little candle whose light brightens another's life."

Inspired by the Sisters of Divine Providence who taught her at Assumption School, Sister Carolyn Marie Betsch entered St. Anne Convent at age 14. For more than five decades she has served as a teacher, principal, and mentor in schools across the country. Known for her quiet humor and steadfast faith, she hopes to be remembered as "a little candle" whose light brightened the lives of others. ~



SISTER
Mary Carol Henggeler

60 YEARS

*"Life has been
a string of pearls."*

For Sister Mary Carol Henggeler, life has been "a string of pearls," each blessing shaping her vocation. After 45 years in Catholic education, she treasures helping struggling students discover their gifts. Through a life enriched by faith, friendship, and lifelong learning, she strives to reflect God's Providence through simple kindness and gentle presence. ~

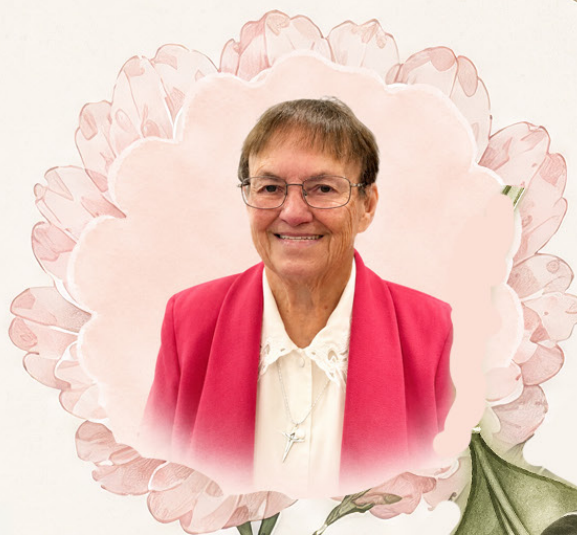


SISTER
Gladys Macke

60 YEARS

*"Every day is another
blessing of Providence."*

A native of northern Kentucky, Sister Gladys Macke has spent much of her religious life in ministries of hospitality, serving convents, seminaries, and retirement communities. After overcoming Stage III uterine cancer, she returned to ministry with renewed gratitude for the prayers that sustained her. She continues to serve with generosity and joy. ~





SISTER

Grace Ann
Schmersal

60 YEARS

*"Think outside
the box—
and trust Providence."*

Raised in a large Ohio farm family, Sister Grace Ann Schmersal has brought creativity, joy, and compassion to every ministry. During 30 years coordinating activities in nursing homes, she developed innovative programs for older adults. Her ministry has also included serving in a women's crisis center, retreat work, parish service, and pilgrimages. Known for thinking "outside the box," Sister Grace Ann continues to inspire others through her creativity, generosity, and trust in God's Providence.



SISTER

Elizabeth Wehri

60 YEARS

*God's Providence is
revealed through the
people we meet."*

Growing up on a farm near Kalida, Ohio, in a family of twelve, Sister Elizabeth Wehri learned early the values of faith, hard work, and community. After beginning her ministry as a teacher, she became a missionary, serving more than three decades in Ecuador. She formed lay leaders, taught Scripture, and discovered new gifts while embracing another culture and language. Her love of Scripture has shaped a ministry rooted in hope, trust, and the conviction that God's Providence is revealed through those we encounter each day.

NTIAE TUAE
COMMITTO



SISTER

Claire Osburg

70 YEARS

*"Providence has been
my constant companion."*

For 70 years, Sister Claire Osburg has walked faithfully with God's Providence, saying yes to the mission in every season of her life. She worked as a classroom teacher, administrator, and counselor. Her quiet strength, prayerful presence, and steadfast love have been a blessing to countless people and a witness to the goodness of God. ~

Called to *Eternal Life*

*"Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them."*



SISTER GEORGIANNA ABPLANALP, CDP 1943–2026

Sr. Georgianna Abplanalp (formerly Sr. Raymond Anthony), CDP, died peacefully at Holy Family Home on June 2, 2026, after 63 years as a Sister of Divine Providence. Born in Dayton, Kentucky, she entered the congregation in 1963 and professed final vows in 1968.

Sr. Georgianna devoted her life to education and service. She taught in Winchester, Kentucky, Takoma Park, Maryland, and Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1994 she joined the finance office at St. Anne Convent, while also tutoring students and teaching at the College of Mount St. Joseph.

Known for her cheerful spirit, generosity, and quiet strength despite physical challenges, Sr. Georgianna was a trusted friend, a supportive presence for her community and family, and a beloved teacher whose kindness touched countless lives. 🌸



SISTER DOLORES ANN GOHS, CDP 1942–2026

Sr. Dolores Ann Gohs, CDP, died peacefully at Holy Family Home on April 28, 2026, after 66 years as a Sister of Divine Providence. Born in Dayton, Kentucky, she entered in 1960 and professed final vows in 1965.

Sr. Dolores served as both teacher and principal in Catholic schools throughout Kentucky. She led and taught at schools in Lexington, Paintsville, Covington, Camp Springs, Dayton, Newport, Frankfort, and Melbourne, guiding students with wisdom and compassion. She later served as Province Archivist while continuing to tutor students, assist in the St. Philip School library, and teach English as a Second Language.

Sr. Dolores inspired curiosity and encouraged students to pursue scientific projects and competitions. Remembered for her gentle spirit, warm smile, faithful friendships, and generous heart, she enriched both her community and all who knew her. 🌸



SISTER MARY ANN NADICKSBERND, CDP 1933–2026

Sr. Mary Ann Nadicksbernd (formerly Sr. Mary Baptista), CDP, died peacefully at Holy Family Home on April 28, 2026. She was a Sister of Divine Providence for 75 years.

Sr. Mary Ann devoted herself to elementary education, teaching primarily second grade in schools throughout Kentucky. She especially cherished preparing children for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Her ministry included long years at Holy Family School in Ashland, St. Francis de Sales in Newport, St. Agatha Academy in Winchester, St. Philip School in Melbourne, and Holy Trinity School in Bellevue.

Known for her kindness, generosity, and remarkable memory, Sr. Mary Ann delighted in reconnecting with former students, many of whom she could still name decades later. Her gentle presence and lifelong dedication to Catholic education remain a lasting legacy. 🌸



Evening of *Gratitude*

*A celebration of 25 years of friendship,
generosity, and shared mission*

BY SISTER BARBARA ROHE, CDP

On the third Saturday evening of May, benefactors and friends gathered with the Sisters of Divine Providence for a very special occasion. After twenty-five years of Evening Under the Oaks—and, more recently, Beyond the Oaks—we came together not to raise funds, but simply to say thank you.

When the first Evening Under the Oaks was held outdoors on the grounds of St. Anne Convent in 2000, it raised approximately \$20,000. Last year's Beyond the Oaks celebration at the Syndicate generated more than \$160,000. However, the success of these events cannot be measured in dollars.

Through the extraordinary generosity of our benefactors, the dedication of members of our Development Board, the leadership of successive provincial administrations, and the guidance of Sr. Emerita McGann and the Development Office, these annual events helped make countless ministries and important projects possible. Together, we strengthened the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence in ways that will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

We have also been blessed by careful stewardship. Your generosity, coupled with prudent investment of those gifts, has placed the congregation in a position where we no longer depend on an annual fundraising gala as we once did. That is a testament not only to thoughtful planning, but to the remarkable commitment of those who have supported the Sisters of Divine Providence through the years.

Our Evening of Gratitude was both joyful and bittersweet. Together we celebrated a quarter century of friendship, generosity, and shared mission while acknowledging the close of a beloved tradition. Through photos, stories, and memories, we reflected on the history of our Province and the countless ways your support has strengthened the ministries of our Sisters and enriched the lives of those we serve.

Although Evening Under the Oaks and Beyond the Oaks have come to an end, our gratitude—and our friendships—



continue. We look forward to gathering with benefactors, family, and friends in new ways through smaller events that offer opportunities to reconnect, share updates on our ministries, and celebrate the mission we continue to carry forward together.

To everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, served on the Development Board, or supported these events over the past twenty-five years: Thank you. Your generosity has helped write an important chapter in the story of the Sisters of Divine Providence, and its impact will continue to be felt for generations to come. ~

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MELBOURNE, KENTUCKY



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A Walk Down Memory Lane



An Evening
Under the Oaks
(and Beyond)
2001-2026

