



# ACDP Perspectives

The Associate Community of the Congregation of Divine Providence  
Melbourne, Kentucky, 41059



Volume 27

Fall 2017

**From the Director: Donna Esposito, ACDP**

Fatima - A Way of Peace

This year is the centennial anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to the three shepherd children in Fatima. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 when Pope Francis visited Fatima to open the celebration, he canonized Jacinta and Francisco, who are among the youngest to become saints. What a joyous occasion!

In July, I was blessed to join a group from Rhode Island to travel to Fatima. The experience was awesome! It is the only word that can even come close to describe my being there and it still doesn't do it justice. Each evening there was a rosary and candle-light procession in the Cova da Iria. Try to picture thousands of people sitting on the steps of the Basilica, standing or sitting on the walls in the Cova, praying the rosary in their native tongue, and raising their lighted candles to the heavens as their voices rang out with the beautiful Fatima Ave.

On Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, our tour group assembled at 9:30 am in the Cova for the rosary, procession and Liturgy in remembrance of the Fatima Apparition. Once again this holy ground vibrated with the voices of the crowd, singing and praying in many languages. Approximately 300 priests, deacons and bishops formed a procession followed by the statue of our Blessed Lady. The statue used on the thirteenth of each month is a special one because it has the bullet in its crown that was removed from St. Pope John Paul II upon his attempted assassination in St. Peter's Square on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1981. (Note the date! He attributed the saving of his life to Our Lady.) Being present at Fatima on this day was something I cannot describe in words. I felt especially blessed and loved by God and my spiritual mother.

The next day we boarded the bus and visited the life size "Way of the Cross" donated by the people of Hungary in thanksgiving for keeping their country from harm. Among the stations was a statue of Mary when she appeared to the three children on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1917. The 19<sup>th</sup> was different because the children were in jail on the 13<sup>th</sup>. As our group walked along and prayed the rosary, I was struck by the considerable number of pilgrims stopping and praying at each station.

**Con't on page 3**

**Steering Committee**

Donna Esposito, ACDP  
Director of Associates

Sr. Rose Ann Menke, CDP  
Sister Companion

Mary H. Bertolini, ACDP

Ginny Kane, ACDP

Anna Miller, ACDP

Colleen Smith, ACDP

Cindi Tischner, ACDP

Mary Lee Vennemann, ACDP -  
Communications

Cathy Brunner, ACDP  
Perspectives Editor

Article Submissions to:  
[mcbrunner10521@gmail.com](mailto:mcbrunner10521@gmail.com)

**Dates to Remember!**

**ACDP Meetings**

Sept. 16 - 1:30-3:00pm

Oct. 14 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Providence Hall

**Gathering**

Oct. 28 - 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Providence Hall  
RSVP to Ginny  
(859) 250-8313

***From Our Mentor, Sr. Rose Ann Menke, CDP***



From July 29 to August 5 many CDPs joined other women religious for a retreat at Mt. St. Joseph entitled “Heart to Heart – Biblical Women in Conversation.” Each day participants reflected on two women from scripture: Naomi and Ruth, Miriam and Esther, Mary and Martha, Elizabeth and Mary, and Women of the cross and tomb. Each day the two women directors creatively portrayed two biblical women that we were invited to prayerfully reflect upon during the day.

For example, the first day we were invited to read the book of Ruth and encouraged to ponder these questions: Who are the people who have accepted to journey with us? When in our lives have we had to wait upon God’s providence? What happened in the waiting? What are we coming home to at this moment in our lives?

Perhaps you may want to ponder some of these same questions or raise other questions as we journey together in the coming year. Let us keep our hearts open to God and to each other.

Recall that Naomi was Ruth’s mother-in-law and she encouraged Ruth to return to her own people of Moab when Ruth’s husband died. But Ruth said: “Do not ask me to abandon you for wherever you go I will go, where you lodge I will lodge, your people shall be my people, your God, my God. Wherever you die I will die and there be buried.” Ruth was providence to Naomi and vice versa. Naomi encouraged Ruth to work in the wheat fields of Boaz who was a relative of hers. Eventually Ruth and Boaz married. They had a child and called him Obed. He became the father of Jesse who was the father of David. Hence Naomi became the grandmother to Obed and the great, great grandmother of King David. Ruth became the ancestress of King David and of Christ.

“Let us keep  
our hearts  
open to God and  
to each other.”

***Reflection on the Trials We Suffer by: Barbara Hagedorn, ACDP***

At the end of May, 2017 I was admitted to the hospital for a bulging disc pressing on the nerves in my spine. After 5 days the doctor scheduled surgery for my back and it turned out to be a 20 day stay, which included Rehab.

It’s been over two months now and the surgeon says I still have a way to go to get rid of the pain and recover. Then I got an infection and was allergic to the medicine. Now my Rheumatoid Arthritis is flaring up. It’s getting better with increased prednisone.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and words of encouragement. It has meant so much to me and I’m sure Jesus heard you all pounding on the door of heaven.

Some time back I gave control of my pain and crosses to Jesus. I know He knows what’s best for me. I don’t know His reasons and I’m not sure I always agree with Him, yet I can only offer my pain and suffering for His intentions. After all, He did suffer and die for us, FOR ME! Just a little reflection on the trials we suffer.

Barbara

***Photo's from Fatima by Donna Esposito, ACDP***



***Con't from page 1, Fatima by Donna Esposito, ACDP***

As my days in Fatima passed, I became very moved by the faith and devotion of so many people. In my reflection on those days, I thought of the many shrines to Our Lady throughout the world: Fatima, Lourdes, La Salette, Knock, Guadeloupe and many, many more. The number of pilgrims who visit and pray at the shrines and those who pray the rosary all over the world is a sign of hope especially today. I know this experience has changed me in many ways. I quote Our Lady's words to the children "Pray the rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world" and to these words, may I add peace, love and joy to our own lives.

Every day during Mass, rosary and adoration while I was in Fatima, I prayed for all the intentions of the Associates, Sisters, family, friends and all the people I have known throughout my whole life. May all of you feel the peace, love, mercy and presence of God in your life.

***“My Provident Moment” by Amy Ihde, ACDP from Solomons, Maryland***

June 11<sup>th</sup> started out with a beautiful but very warm and humid day. I woke up with a sense of excitement and a little nervousness. After all, it was the day I was to make my official commitment to the Associate Community of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Before leaving my house that morning, I plucked a necklace out of a small jewelry box on my dresser. It was a thin, silver chain with a pendant of a smiling clown affixed to it. This necklace, tarnished and worn as it was, was one of my most prized possessions. It had once belonged to the most amazing and God loving woman I had ever known in my life; my dearest, lifelong teacher and spiritual role model. It had belonged to my mother. Mom had been heavy on my mind that morning and wearing this particular necklace always had a way of making me feel closer to her. As I held the cool, metallic pendant in my hand, I silently wished to myself that she was still alive. I wished she could be there in person to share this wonderful day with me.

“The necklace will have to do,” I thought as clasped the chain together behind my neck.

My husband Tom and I made our way to Sunday Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea church (Solomons, Maryland). Our plan was to stop at the Convent to drop off a silver chain I had bought to be used later in our commitment ceremony and then head to 10:45 a.m. Mass.

After Mass, Tom and I headed back to the Convent. We were both excited to meet up with everyone.

When we arrived, we were greeted with much excitement from the whole gang and the enticing aroma of lunch. There was, however, a bit of a problem. Donna and the Sisters looked very concerned. We stepped into a guest room where Donna had been preparing all of our new Associates’ chains and medals. Donna explained that she had been trying to prepare my necklace for the ceremony when the chain broke. The ladies had made several attempts to fix it and poor Donna had even driven to the only jewelry store nearby, on a Sunday morning, with the hopes they might be open. Of course, it being a small shop on a Sunday morning, the chances of it being open were slim, and when she got there, she was greeted by a pair of locked doors.

After Donna finished explaining these events to me, my hand moved, as if by itself, to the smiling clown resting on my chest. As soon as I felt the necklace under my fingers, I knew that there was a reason I chose that piece of jewelry earlier that morning. I unclasped the chain and removed the clown pendant. With the other hand, I took the new Associates medal and began trying to feed the chain through the loop at the top of the medal. *It fit.* In one fluid motion, the medal slid onto the chain. I handed the chain back to Donna and said “looks like this was meant to be.” In those few seconds, I could feel Mom there and I knew, without a doubt, it was a moment of Divine Providence.



I had the original chain repaired afterwards, but it sits in its box to this day. I have kept the medal on the same silver chain my mom and the Lord provided for me and I wear them every day. I know both God and my Mother are walking with me as I live my life in the way of Providence.

My mom always told me that God was always there with me and, even now, she is still pointing out the little miracles He provides.

May God Bless you and Keep you, your fellow Associate, Amy

Your fellow Associate

Amy Ihde

***“Prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops” Submitted by: Deborah Bartlett, ACDP***

## **PRAYER FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?” –Romans 10: 13-15*

Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ  
so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth  
and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit

I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith,

grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness

to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



***“Blessed Bags” Submitted by Carol Wuest, ACDP***

About two days ago I received a post on “Facebook” from a friend who has come up with an idea that I found so endearing. I am sure you all have seen similar posts but I wanted to share this with you in case you have not. She says that she named her project “Blessed Bags” (“Blessed Bag” is written on the bag with a smiley face.) She carries them in her car and if she sees someone in need she offers them a bag of much needed items. I could not see all that was in the bag but this is what I observed.....



Hat, gloves, snacks, toiletries. \$5.00 bill, (I am not sure about putting money in the bag but there was money in her bag). Of course if you decide this is a project you would embrace you will be able to fill your bag with the items you feel would be helpful for a person who needs everything.

I am super glad to share my life journey with so many wonderful associates. May God bless each and everyone of you!!!

Carol

***“An ACDP Commitment to Providence Activities” by Marilyn Schleyer, ACDP***

I was on a spiritual high last winter. I loved everything about the process of my ACDP formation. I was immersed in Providence spirituality, wisdom, and a way of life that have great meaning for me. For many months I read, prayed, studied and discerned with my mentor, Debbie Bartlett, ACDP. I spent time with many of the Holy Family Sisters socializing and praying. As a part of ACDP preparation we are asked to really hear the Providence call of service within the context of the CDP charism and virtues.

After discussion with Sister Juanita, Sister Carlene and Debbie it seemed like a natural fit that I would help the Sisters and staff in the Health Care Center as my ACDP commitment to Providence service. I am an Advanced Practice Nurse and psychotherapist.

What more can we do to enhance and beautify the lives of our Sisters in the Health Care Center? How can our Sisters have an even greater quality of life? What can contribute to peace and meaning? Ongoing study and investigation to answer these questions have always been a priority of the Holy Family Sisters, staff and administration. In the spirit of ACDP commitment to service I was invited to join this quest for answers.

Research has shown that the Montessori approach to learning can be used at all levels of education and life. Although Maria Montessori spent most of her years in “brain science” research as it affects children she was also convinced that this brain science was also applicable to the elderly.

***Con't on Pg. 7***

**Con't from page 6: An ACDP Commitment to Providence Activities by: Marilyn Schleyer, ACDP**

So, with the expert education and experience in Montessori Methods, Sisters Mary Bezold and Theresa Falkenstein are mentoring Debbie Bartlett and me as we prepare the Providence Activities Room and environment for this innovative approach to elderly care.

Although many kinds of activities, such as an Irish tea party, trips to the horse farm and Hawaiian Day are offered by the Health Care Center and Providence Activities staff a Montessori approach helps to stimulate the whole person, mentally, physically, emotionally, artistically and socially. The Providence Activities Room has a prepared environment and Sisters can be assisted individually or as a small group with activities set up in categories to include religious, daily living, sensorial, math, language and cultural.

I never believed that I could experience such joy in the service to the elderly. My professional life has been totally focused on acute care. I love working with the Health Care Staff in their total devotion to the Sisters.

We are experiencing a high degree of participation by the Sisters in Providence Activities. **We need help** to provide consistent morning and/or afternoon coverage in Providence Activities. If you believe that you are called to help the frail elderly Sisters in Providence Activities please email or call Sr. Juanita Nadicksbernd at [jmnadicksbernd@gmail.com](mailto:jmnadicksbernd@gmail.com) or 859-781-0712 Ex. 17. You do not need a professional background in nursing or healthcare. Loving devotion to and interaction with the Sisters in multimodal activities and a consistent commitment of your time and talent is required. You will be provided with the expert mentorship of Sisters Mary Bezold and Theresa Falkenstein.

There is a beautiful saying in spiritual psychology, "When you find God you find yourself; when you find yourself you find God". I rest in God as I walk through the doors of the Health Care Center each morning. I discover a different part of me when I walk out of the Health Care Center at the end of the day.



**Photos of the Associates of the Solomons, Maryland: Submitted by: Donna Esposito, ACDP**



**Top Row:** Mary Helen Bertolini, Jennifer Thompson, Cheryl Ware, Donna Esposito, Joe Suarez-Murias and Phil Wengloski

**Middle Row:** Monica Ginese, Marilyn Voigt Ann Marie Wengloski

**Bottom Row:** Rita Haas, Kathy Wolfe, Anne Etzel, Amy Ihde, Joanne McCoy



Singing the Gathering Song



Top:: Donna  
Sister Peggy - Sister Paula  
Amy Idhes - Joanne McCoy  
Joe Suare-Murias  
Insert: Jan Beil



Back: Sr. Paula, Joe Suarez-Murias, Jo Anne McCoy, Amy Idhes





***News from the Maryland Associates: Submitted by Anne Etzel, ACDP from the Solomons, Maryland***

On a lovely somewhat warm Trinity Sunday/ Providence Sunday in Solomons, Md. Amy Idhe, Joanne McCoy, Joe Suarez-Murias and Jan Beil were welcomed into the Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence. We were happy and blessed to have Donna Esposito, Director of ACDP and Mary Helen Bertolini here to celebrate with us. In addition, Associates Marilyn Voight from Silver Spring, Md. and Ann Marie and Phil Wengloski from Landenberg, Pa. and friends joined us in our celebration.

After an abundant pot-luck lunch (more dinner than lunch), we walked across the street from the convent to Our Lady Star of the Sea historic church for the induction ceremony. Donna presided over the ceremony; our pastor, Msgr. Michael Wilson was invited to join us and was seated on the altar with Donna. After our welcoming song, "Bring Forth the Kingdom", and our opening prayer, Marilyn read the Gospel of the Day (Luke 12:22-34). Donna then invited Amy, Joe, and Joanne to come forward and affirm their intention to become Associates. Then all Associates present renewed their commitment. Sr. Paula, Sr. Peggy and Sr. Grace Ann prayed their support of us in our efforts to be faithful to the charisms of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Msgr. Mike followed with words of encouragement and inspiration to live out our call to proclaim God's truth in whatever situation we find ourselves. The ceremony concluded with everyone praying the Act of Abandonment together. And our closing hymn "How Can I Keep from Singing" was sung with much joy and enthusiasm. We then walked back to the convent for delicious desserts.

Later, several of us visited Jan Beil who was recovering from a severe fall, and Donna invited her to affirm her commitment to become an Associate. Led by Sr. Peggy we joined in singing the lovely opening hymn we had sung earlier. Sadly, Jan, who had suffered poor health for quite some time, died on August 6th. Jan was overjoyed to become an Associate and we are confident she is enjoying the presence of God's unfathomable love now. There were many Allelulias sung that day expressing our joy and gratitude to God. We pray Amy, Joe, and Joanne feel the presence of God's Spirit in their lives and experience God's love deep in their hearts.

***"Abba God Prayer" Submitted by Anne Etzel, ACDP from the Solomons, Maryland***

ABBA GOD PRAYER

ABBA GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF THIS NEW DAY.  
LET ME GIVE IT BACK TO YOU AT DAY'S END WITH YOUR WILL COMPLETE.  
AND, DEAR GOD, LET ME BE KIND.  
LET ME NEVER BECOME DISCOURAGED OR FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF  
BECAUSE YOU STAND BESIDE ME EVERY DAY.



**Associates Retreat and New ACDP Associates in KY: Submitted by Donna Esposito, ACDP**

Northern  
Kentucky  
Associates  
at the Annual  
Retreat



Sr. Fidelis  
Tracy, CDP  
Presentation  
on the  
"Woman  
at the Well"



Entrance into Sacred Heart Chapel



L: Marilyn Schleyer, R: Chrissy Bezold



L: Ann Horgan, R: Vickie Crawford



L to R: Sr. Alice Gerdemann, CDP, Sr. Rose Ann Menke, CDP, Mary Helen Bertolini, ACDP, Ann Horgan, ACDP, Ginny Kane, ACDP, Vickie Crawford, ACDP, Chrissy Bezold, ACDP, Sr. Mary Bezold, CDP, Marilyn Schleyer, ACDP, Sr. Margie Verhoff, CDP, Debbie Bartlett, ACDP, Donna Esposito, ACDP

Our New Associates and Sponsors