

Meet the newest member of the Vocation Team:

Deling Fernando, SP



Sister Deling Fernando, who moved to Mother Joseph Province last April after many years in the Philippines, has joined Sisters Clare Lentz, Beatrice LaFramboise and Maria Lourdes Cleto on the Vocation Team for Mother Joseph Province. Here is what she has to say about her new ministry:

I affirm that God gives special gifts to everyone to share with for the common good.

I am thankful to God for giving me some gifts to be shared with people that I encounter in my daily life who need my help. When I was in the Philippines, I discovered a gift that had not fully been tapped and that is the ability to invite women who might have the vocation to religious life but who had not been asked.

By the grace of God, it was very life-giving for me to just approach women who are lectors and members of the choir with a great smile after Mass on Sunday in the Philippines. They were very receptive to my message. I was comfortable going to different colleges and parishes to talk about vocation to religious life.

When God called me back to the United States after being in the Philippines for more than 12 years, I already had in mind to help out in vocation ministry. On January 16 I attended a meeting of the Vocation Team for the first time as an official member of the team. I hope and pray that I will have the same opportunity to do the same type of activities in the United States as I did in the Philippines.

It will take time for me to learn how the vocation ministry operates in the Archdiocese of Seattle and elsewhere, but with the help of the other members of the Vocation Team I believe I will be on the right track. Meanwhile, I have begun giving vocation awareness talks in the parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

I know this ministry is not an easy one without the help of God. God is the One who gives the call and we are the ones to do the rest with His help. ●

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Do you long for a life in community, sharing daily prayer and Eucharist?

Does devotion to our Mother of Sorrows move you?

Not every woman is called to this life.

To explore whether you are, "Come and See" the Sisters of Providence.

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Seattle high school dedicates The Dillman Center in Sister's honor

Sunday, February 8, was an unusual day for Sister Rose Marie Dillman. As the reader board outside Kennedy High School proclaimed, that was the date for the dedication of The Dillman Center created and named in her honor by the past and present alumni, students, faculty and administration of the high school where she has been a cornerstone for 64 years. She admitted to having butterflies in her stomach the morning of the dedication, which was unusual. "I've had three Jubilees here but I've never had that feeling," Sister Rose Marie said.

A standing room only crowd turned out to participate in the Mass, brunch and open house held to dedicate the transformation of the former home ec room into a 2,800-square-foot

student lounge and gathering area for alumni and parents. It is equipped with wireless Internet access, a full-service kitchen, a hot chocolate bar, all the latest technology for meetings and presentations, and a gas fireplace. Above the brick fireplace rests a portrait of this beloved teacher.

"We are here to celebrate a special teacher's legacy," Principal Michael Prato told the guests in his homily during the Mass. He described Sister Rose Marie as an elementary teacher in her early years in ministry who became restless and prayed to find meaning and purpose in her work. She found that meaning and purpose at Kennedy High School, where she knew each student by name and had no favorites. "The gifted, the talented, the strugg-

gling, the popular, the not so popular," she cherished them all and formed relationships with many of them that extended long beyond high school. The principal said her greatest gift was her unceasing prayer. What made her successful as a teacher was intimacy, availability, love and the grace of God, he added.

Retired from teaching since 1995, Sister Rose Marie still is a daily presence at the high school and is its official No. 1 fan at athletic events.

Following the Mass celebrated by Father Michael Batterberry, the guests moved from the chapel to The Dillman Center for the blessing ceremony. "Sister has the last word," the principal said, and Sister Rose Marie told her audience, "I won't apologize for the time this will take." She took them back to the origins of Kennedy High School, giving a mini history lesson many had never heard before. They applauded at her observation that "this center may have my name, but it is a tribute to all the Sisters of Providence who have ministered here and left their footprint."

When she was first approached with the idea to create the center, so students would have a place to go when they had time on their hands, she had no dream that



A host of Sisters of Providence turned out for the celebration, including (front row from left) Sisters Irene Charron and Claire Gagnon and (second row from left) Sisters Therese Kohles, Helen Brennan and Wilma Fitzgerald.





The Kennedy Chamber Orchestra provided music for the gathering.

it would be something of this magnitude, Sister Rose Marie has said. "I said just don't call it Rosie's Corner," she quipped. She did not realize the scale of the project until she was invited to celebrate her birthday by knocking down the wall to create the large room.

Her former students took charge of the planning, fundraising, design and construction of The Dillman Center. More than \$130,000 was raised from about 225 donors, including about \$20,000 netted from the annual school auction. There also were many in-kind gifts from alumni. People still have the opportunity to contribute to a scholarship fund in Sister Rose Marie's name. One scholarship is fully funded and a second is being worked on now. ●

Father Michael Batterberry, Sister Rose Marie Dillman and Kennedy High School Principal Michael Prato prepare to bless The Dillman Center.



Sister Rose Marie Dillman serves communion to one of many Dillman family members in attendance.

A portrait of Sister Rose Marie, Kennedy High School's official No. 1 fan, rests above the gas fireplace in The Dillman Center.



Sisters of Providence who have served at Kennedy High School include:

- Michaeleen Begley, SP
- Margaret Bischoff, SP
- Anita Butler, SP
- Rose Marie Dillman, SP
- Violet Dufault, SP
- Judith Edwards, SP
- Mary Gleason, SP
- Pauline Higgins, SP
- Lucy St. Hilaire, SP
- Naomi Hurd, SP
- Rosemary Kistner, SP
- Yvonne LeBlanc, SP
- Dorothy Lentz, SP
- Anna Maureen Lynch, SP
- Hazel Mason, SP
- Reda Perrault, SP
- Armella Tessier, SP
- Patricia Vartanian, SP
- Lucy Villanova, SP
- Mary Wilson, SP

Two more Daughters of Mary join the family at SJR

There is always music in the air when the Daughters of Mary gather at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, whether singing or drumming. Two Ugandan sisters who recently moved to Seattle, Antony Tebendwa (left) and Maria Gorreth Nassali (center) joined veteran SJR resident Sister Jane Frances Nabakaawa in song at a recent party. Their gifts were enjoyed by many, including Provincial Administration staffer Christina Kobbevik (right). For nearly 50 years, Daughters of Mary have traveled from their native country to live at SJR while pursuing their education at Seattle University. They then return to Uganda to take leadership roles in nursing, education and other fields. ●



10



Sister Anna Loan makes temporary return to Vietnam

On January 4, Sister Anna Loan Nguyen left for Vietnam to serve in ministry in her native country until June. She is teaching at the Inter-congregational Dominican Institute of St. Thomas in Ho Chi Minh City and also gave a workshop on spiritual direction to the Holy Cross Community Sisters in Thu Duc. She also was invited to give a workshop in April on the spirituality of the gospel to the Holy Cross Community Sisters in the Diocese of Hung Hoa in North Vietnam.

Sister Anna Loan also visited the handicapped and the poor children in Ho Chi Minh City to bring them monetary gifts collected by the religious education students of St. Cecilia's Parish on Bainbridge Island. For a two-week period, she was accompanied by Orysia Earhart, one of her catechists at St. Cecilia. Together, they served as volunteers at the Pro-Life Center, where aborted fetuses are given a Christian burial.

"My mission is a call from God," Sister Anna Loan says. "I love the poor and the disadvantaged. I want to help those who are in need. This is what God wants me to do. I feel it very strongly. Please pray for me to do the best I can for God. I count on your support and prayers. Thank you very much." ●

UNANIMA International Committee on Environment

Sister JoAnn Showalter is one of two members of the new UNANIMA International Committee on Environment from the state of Washington. Representatives from various parts of the world began their focus on issues of sustainable development in November. The other Washingtonian is Sally Duffy, a Sisters of the Holy Names associate. ●

