

# N<sup>3</sup> National Novitiate Newsletter

*Getting to know Providence House Issue 9 July 2006*

## What is in store for the Novices as they head back to their home Provinces??

**Sr. Jennifer Marie:** Upon my return to the Toledo Province, I will take a Christian Ethics class at Lourdes College, while at the same time work with various sisters in order to have more exposure to the ministries that we are involved in. I just want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Sisters of the Thousand Oaks Province. Your warm welcome, generous sharing, wisdom, and support will never be forgotten. Also, thank you to all the sisters back home and from Chardon and Covington for their support through emails, cards, letters, and phone calls. I truly have experienced what everyone means when they say that the Notre Dame spirit is the same no matter what province we are in!!



**Sr. Sandra Maria:** I am sad to see my time in California come to an end. This year has gone really fast. I am however, looking forward to returning to Chardon. This year has been amazing. I have been thankful for the opportunity to be here for this year. This has been a year of adventure and growth. Next year I will be going to Lakeland Community College full time to work on finishing my Special Education degree. I am thankful to all of the sisters in all four provinces for your prayers and support! We couldn't have done it without you!



**Sr. Mary Judine:** I will remember this year as truly wonderful in that it was packed with challenges, lessons learned, and enriching experiences. Most of all, however, I will remember how spirit filled it has been and how that has been evidenced in the relationships we have formed, not only with each other here at Providence House, but with all the others we met. I've been able to spend time with many of the sisters of this province who have been so generous in sharing their hospitality and wisdom. Likewise, I found the people of our parish and neighborhood to be truly amazing in their witness. And, I experienced an incredible level of support from my home province. When I return, I will resume work on my Masters in Pastoral Ministry degree and participate in formative ministry activities in our province.



**Sr. Valerie Marie:** This has been an incredible year full of many blessings as well as challenges. I am very grateful to God and to my community for the National Novitiate. It was extremely beneficial for me to share my canonical year with my fellow novices. This year has helped me gain a better grasp of how a Sister of Notre Dame is to live the life of Jesus and integrate prayer into every part of my life. Next year I will be completing my Associate degree in Business Management, I will be in ministry at St. Cornelius parish, and continuing my formation and theology classes with Sister Mary Kathleen.



**Sr. Lauren Marie:** This year has been full of many blessings that God has graced upon me and he threw in a few challenges to help me grow! It has been a year of prayer, study and community bonding. I am so grateful to all the Sisters of Notre Dame for their love and prayerful support during this year. What a powerful experience it has been to journey with the other novices and Sr. Kathleen. As I return to Toledo for the second year of my novitiate, I look forward to reconnecting with all the sisters! I will be taking a Christian Ethics class at Lourdes College and I will also be involved in various ministries with our sisters to help give me an idea of what their ministries are like. I am looking forward to deepening my life in Notre Dame through our sisters and learning about their lives and ministries!



**Sr. Mary Kathleen:** This year has been a year of grace for me. I have had the joy of walking with five women who are responding to God's call to follow him in Notre Dame. We have all grown in many ways and I am deeply grateful for this experience. I think what I have enjoyed the most is entering into the lives of these women, watching the Spirit move within them and seeing their response. It is such a great privilege and they have been a great joy for me! In the coming year our province will be welcoming two new women to join Sr. Valerie Marie who will be a second year novice. Sister Mary Rosaria will be joining us as a canonical novice and Kris Fuller will be a pre-novice. So, we'll have one person in each stage of formation!



**To All the Sisters of Notre Dame:**

We would like to express our gratitude to each province and all the sisters for their prayers, love and support as we journeyed through the year. The amount of prayers coming our way has been so immeasurable. This year has allowed us to see that the world is a much smaller place and the connection among the provinces is great. Thank you in a special way to the Thousand Oaks Province. You welcomed us with open arms and that welcome was unending. Thank you for opening your lives up to us and for all your love and support you have shown us. We know that we will always be at home anywhere in Notre Dame and we thank you for showing us this is indeed true!



**Sequoia National Forest:**



On our final trip to Our Lady's Lodge, the members of Providence House took the opportunity of a free day to journey to Sequoia National Park. After enduring some long, very winding roads to get to the second oldest National Park, we were able to see some amazing redwood trees. One tree in particular, the General Sherman Giant Sequoia, is 275 feet tall, with a circumference of 103 feet at its

base. It's officially considered the largest tree in the world and is estimated to weigh almost 1400 TONS. Other trees in the forest are dated back as many as 3200 years! This day trip truly reminded us of our smallness in the world as we viewed God's amazing creation!

***What are we doing in Instructions?***

- We are concluding our year by looking at the final articles in the Constitutions, covering the Apostolate and Formation chapters.

***What are we doing in Theology?***

- We are in the process of concluding our in depth study of the book of Genesis.

***What are we doing in Seminar?***

- We just completed our study of Vita Consecrata. We read the entire Church document, broken into sections, with each member of the house teaching one section.

***Upcoming events:***

- July 23-Parish Farewell Party
- July 25-Beach Day
- August 1-Official End to Canonical Year
- August 2-Sr. Mary Judine returns to Covington, and Sr. Sandra Maria returns to Chardon.
- August 6-Sr. Jennifer Marie returns to Toledo
- August 6- 12 Stretch Your Heart, Los Angeles
- August 8-Sr. Lauren Marie returns to Toledo