

PROVIDENCE FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF PROVIDENCE MAGAZINE

Volume 02 | Issue 02 • 2024



**THE
ENDURING LEGACY**
of Mother Joseph

**FAIRWAYS, FRIENDSHIPS
& FUNDRAISING**
2024 Argo Golf Tournament

**ARGOS
UNITE**
Fun, Tradition & Community



Friendship Rock:

“Dedicated by the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity in 1968, the Friendship Rock supports world peace, understanding, and friendship among all people everywhere without regard to race, creed, or political beliefs in the hope that it will help inspire these qualities throughout the world.”



Photo By Eric Visocan

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Decked out in red, white, and blue and a lot of Argo pride, University of Providence faculty, staff, and families help Father Oliver Doyle and Jason the Argonaut deliver some serious Independence Day sweetness during the Great Falls 4th of July Parade!

Cover Photo: Ryan Marsik

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Message from the President

By Father Oliver J. Doyle



From the early contributions of John Field, born in Dublin in 1792 and widely credited as the creator of the classical piano nocturne, to the global success of contemporary icons such as Bono and U2, Ireland's influence on the development of popular music has been profound and far-reaching. Artists such as the late Shane McGowan and The Pogues, with their timeless classic Fairytale of New York, as well as Bob Geldof, The Chieftains, Van Morrison, James Galway, and many others, have further cemented Ireland's pivotal role in shaping the global music landscape.

Among these esteemed figures, Enya, a personal favorite, is one of the most successful Irish solo artists in history. With an estimated 80 million albums sold worldwide, she ranks as Ireland's second best-selling musical icon, following only the legendary U2. Her dreamlike instrumental arrangements evoke the mysticism of Celtic heritage, steering clear of predictable refrains and resonating with a unique, timeless quality. A line from her song Anywhere Is particularly touches my spirit:

"The shells upon the warm sands have taken from their own lands the echo of their story..."

We all carry stories that echo throughout our lives, whether we find ourselves grounded on warm sands or caught in the harsh grip of freezing snowbanks. These personal narratives shape who we are, just as the collective history of our institution shapes the University of Providence community.

The Summer '24 edition of Providence Forum seeks to capture these echoes of UP's past and present. A particularly meaningful moment is the rededication of Providence Hall as The Mother Joseph Hall. This rededication invites us to reflect on the legacy of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and the pioneering sisters who journeyed from Montreal to the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s. Their courage and dedication established the foundations of education and healthcare ministries in this region. UP alum Clay Vermulm, captures the joy of this occasion and reminds us of the enduring strength and determination of these remarkable women.

The Friendship Rock, also featured in this edition, is a symbol deeply rooted in our university's history. In 1968, as America grappled with the tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy, the turmoil of the Vietnam War, and widespread social unrest, our UP community etched a message into stone with the Friendship Rock—a call for a different, more harmonious path for humankind. Though born from a turbulent time, this message resonates with us today as a reminder of our enduring commitment to peace and unity.

In A Rose by Any Name, Colter Pedersen draws attention to one of our campus's often overlooked treasures—the stained-glass window in the library. This piece of art, formally known as a "rose window," also bears the name "Catherine window," after the martyr, Saint Catherine of Alexandria.

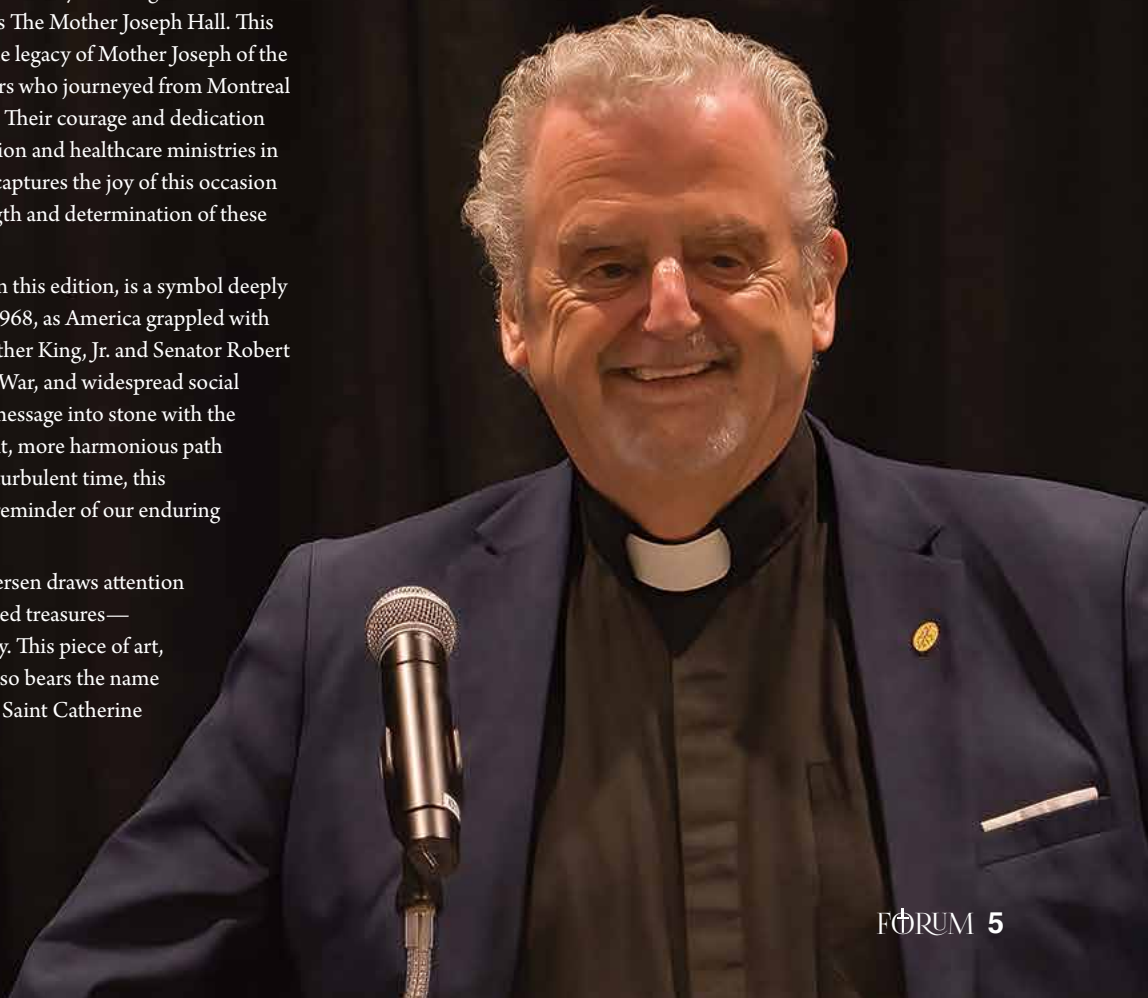
This edition also celebrates the vibrant 4th of July festivities and reflects on UP's longstanding relationship with the Johnson Brothers, a partnership that has brought much pride to our community. Additionally, we highlight our university's athletic and academic achievements, which continue to inspire both current students and alumni alike.

The generous gift from Frank Malensek, a student in the 1970s, reminds us of the lasting bond between our alumni and the University of Providence. It is humbling and inspiring that so many choose to support their alma mater in exciting and unexpected ways. These gifts, whether financial or otherwise, reflect the profound gratitude alumni feel for the transformative experience they had here at UP. I view each contribution as an investment in the future, ensuring that today's students can enjoy the same life-changing experiences. Thank you for your continued generosity, and I look forward to your ongoing support as we move forward together.

As I reflect on the significance of stained glass as an artistic expression, the words of the late Elisabeth Kübler-Ross come to mind: "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

I hope that we all continue to sparkle and shine in the sunshine and reflect inner beauty when times are dark.

Blessings and happy reading, *Fr. Oliver J. Doyle*





"We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to add the name Mother Joseph to our daily conversations going forward. This ensures that while gone, the legacy of Mother Joseph and the Sisters of Providence that came after her will always be recalled", states Fr. Oliver Doyle, President.

From Providence Hall to Mother Joseph Hall

A Tribute to Legacy and Growth at the University of Providence

By Clay Vermulm | Photos By Eric Visocan

The Sisters of Providence have significantly expanded their influence in the American Northwest since Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart first established their modest convent in the attic of a building in Fort Vancouver, Washington. This legacy of growth is mirrored by the ongoing development of the University of Providence. As the institution continues to evolve, its leadership, guided by Father Oliver, has wisely turned to the enduring legacy of Mother Joseph for inspiration. In a nod to her pivotal role in the expansion of the Sisters' mission in the early 19th century, the university has honored her by renaming its former administration building, now known as Providence Hall.

The renaming of Providence Hall to Mother Joseph Hall does more than honor the legacy of the local Province's founder; it also addresses a pressing need for additional student housing on campus. "Last year, we were very near capacity for on-campus housing," noted Dr. Joel Bluml, Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletics. "If it weren't for the fifty new beds that these renovations bring to Mother Joseph Hall, we would be in danger of turning people away, and we never want to do that." This transformation of the hall into student accommodations is a fitting tribute to Mother Joseph's life mission—to provide shelter, education, and spiritual guidance to those in need. The revamped Mother Joseph Hall will stand as a lasting testament to her enduring legacy.



A newly refurbished common area awaits residents of Mother Joseph Hall.



Photo by Ivette Barrera-Pollard

"Cultivating community by providing space for organic congregation is a key goal for the future of Providence." - Dr. Joel Bluml.

"The exciting thing for me is how much growth we are showing at this University. We're blessed to have this space to accommodate the needs of our students," said Kylie Carranza, Vice President of Advancement. She noted that the name change adds a meaningful dimension to the project beyond just a renovation. "In the spirit of the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Hall has always adapted to the changing needs of the University. Changing the name makes this more than a renovation; it makes it really meaningful, and as Father Oliver so eloquently said in his dedication, 'It's important to remember who came before us.'"

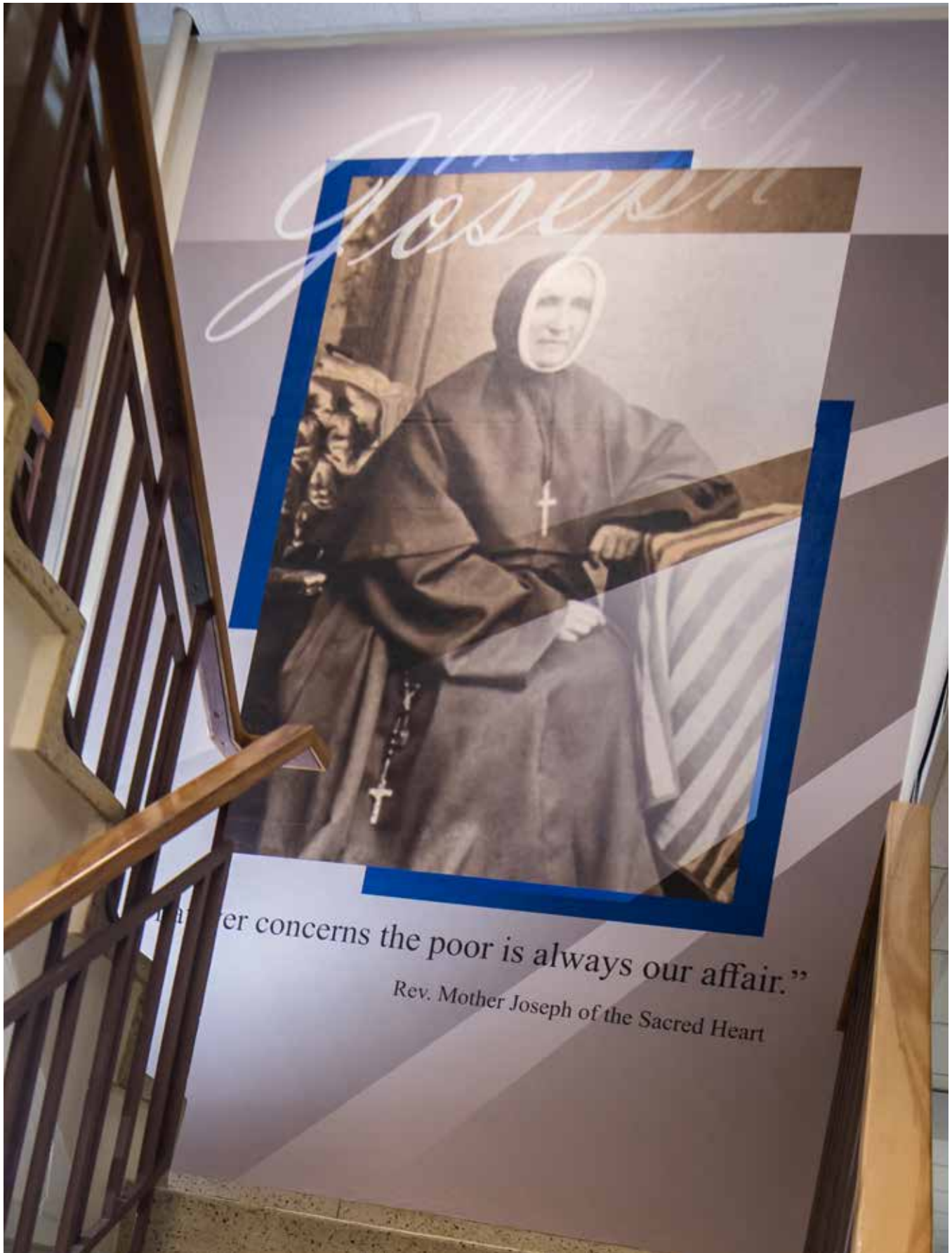


Photo by Ivette Barrera-Pollard

One of fifty new beds for much-needed on-campus housing at the University of Providence.



Christened with a new decal, Mother Joseph Hall honors its patron pioneer.



This mural inside Mother Joseph Hall honors Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, celebrating her enduring legacy as a pioneering figure in Northwest history and a woman of remarkable compassion and vision.



The communal kitchen area promises to cultivate community and togetherness in the hall.

The Mother Joseph Hall renaming ceremony took place on August 8th and was graced by esteemed visitors, including members of the Providence Health Mission Team, the Providence Health Sponsors Council, and the Sisters of Providence themselves. Among the attendees was Sister Barbara Schamber, Provincial Superior of Mother Joseph Province and author of *Gifts of Water and Mountains*, a book chronicling the Sisters' history in the West from 1856 to 2006. Sister Barbara offered poignant words during the dedication, underscoring the enduring legacy of Mother Joseph and the Sisters of Providence.



Members of the University and Sisters of Providence honor Mother Joseph during the dedication opening ceremony of the new on-campus dormitory. Front row: L-R Sr. Jacqueline Fernandes, Sisters of Providence; Bill Cox, Providence Sponsor; Mark Koenig, Providence Sponsor. Middle: Sr. Maggie Pastro, Providence Sponsor. Back row: L-R Sr. Barbara Schamber, Provincial Leader; Sisters of Providence; Dougal Hewitt Providence EVP/Chief Mission & Sponsorship Officer; Fr. Oliver Doyle, University of Providence President; Sr. Mary Therese Sweeney, Providence Sponsor; Sr. Cecilia Magladry, Providence Sponsor; and Sr. Sharon Becker, Providence Sponsor. *Photo by Steve Pehanich*

In addition to providing 50 new beds, Mother Joseph Hall features a striking wall mural of its namesake, Sister Joseph, accompanied by her memorable last words: "My sisters, whatever concerns the poor is always our affair." These words resonate deeply with anyone striving to embody Christ's teachings and the university's founding principles. The renovated building's location, near the Trinitas Chapel, offers students easy access to a space for spiritual reflection. The hall also includes a courtyard, historically used by the early Sisters for contemplation and prayer. This addition not only honors the missions of both the University and the Sisters of Providence but also offers students a place to explore their inner selves while fostering organic, communal interactions with peers, mentors, and friends. 🌿



This statue of Mother Joseph with two children is located on the University of Providence campus and serves as a reminder of her enduring legacy. As a pioneering leader, architect, and compassionate advocate for the underserved, Mother Joseph's influence continues to shape the university's mission of connecting students to their communities, opportunities, and potential. *Photo by Steve Pehanich*

Fostering Collaborative Learning

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

When Dr. Sarah Spangler joined the University of Great Falls in 2011 to teach Integrated Learning Courses (ILCs), she was particularly enthusiastic about the prospect of interdisciplinary collaboration. Thirteen years later, as a seasoned member of the University of Providence faculty, this collaborative approach remains a cornerstone of her teaching philosophy.

“The way I was trained in grad school was as a generalist, so you could teach almost anything in theology,” Spangler reflects. “But what we really learned was that theology is by nature meant to be in dialogue with the other disciplines, especially in the academy. So, when an opportunity to have that be a primary focus arose, I was very excited.”

Dr. Spangler’s academic journey began with an undergraduate degree in English and a minor in philosophy from Seattle University. She then pursued her master’s and doctorate in theology at Fordham University. A native of Montana, Spangler was thrilled to return to her home state to continue her career.

“I had come to terms with the possibility that I would never be able to live back in my home state,” Spangler shares. “There aren’t many job opportunities for theology in Montana, so when I saw it advertised, I was very excited.”

Since becoming a professor of ILCs and Theology, Dr. Spangler has made an incredible impact on the university. She has developed a curriculum, served on committees with advanced educational programs, and, most recently, spearheaded the initiative to create a minor in service leadership.

“I really wanted to focus on building something around ideas Matthew Pietropaoli and I had been talking about since he started here in 2022,” Spangler notes. “So, I sent an email out gauging interest around an idea for a service-oriented minor. I got a lot of positive response from it and started building the curriculum.”

For Dr. Spangler, the most rewarding moments at the University of Providence have come from working closely with her colleagues.

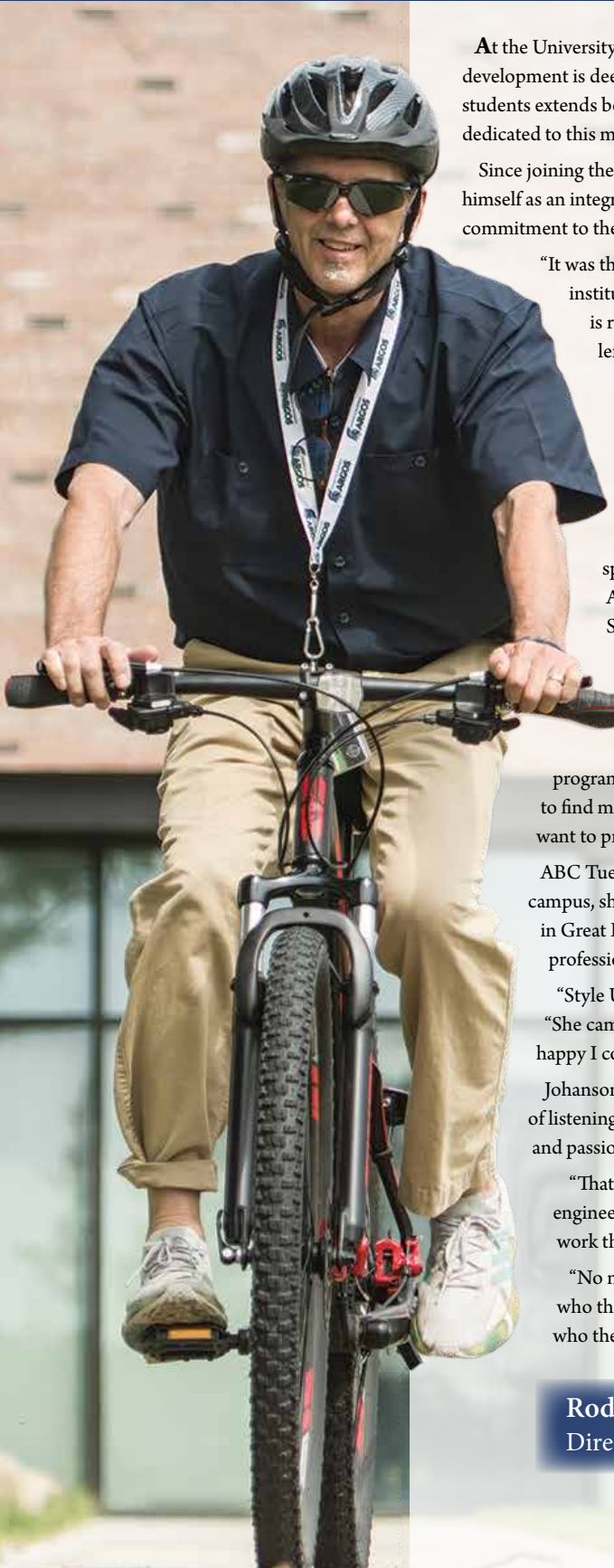
“Everything I have worked on building has been collaborative, and it’s always just fun and amazing working with people to bring together something special for the students,” she remarks.

In line with her collaborative professional approach, Dr. Spangler’s classroom style is deeply rooted in dialogue. Students who attend her classes are expected to engage meaningfully with the material.

“Good teaching is really providing a curricular framework for the students to drive the exploration,” Spangler explains. “For ten years, I have taught two classes: the magical, mystical universe class and the law and minorities class. In both of those, I have learned that no year is ever the same.”

We have always learned in those classes it works best to frame them around what students are interested in,” shares Spangler. “We really want to become dialogue partners, not dialogue leaders to the students, and I really think that is how you learn. If I can help students see themselves as contributors, I have been successful in the classroom.”

Dr. Sarah Spangler
Professor ILC Theology



At the University of Providence, the mission to foster academic excellence and personal development is deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. This commitment to nurturing students extends beyond the classroom, preparing them for life after graduation. Among those dedicated to this mission is Rod Johanson, the university's Director of Career Services.

Since joining the University of Providence in 2019, Johanson has quickly established himself as an integral part of the institution. His deep connection with students and commitment to the school's mission has made him a vital member of the UP team.

"It was the mission that drew me here," Johanson shared. "The mission of this institution is so powerful. Everything the Sisters of Providence were about is really Christianity at its best, so I was attracted to the heritage they had left behind. It also felt like a time in the school's history that something was going to move forward in a big way."

Indeed, Johanson's intuition proved correct, as significant advancements have been made under his leadership. He has been a driving force behind some of the most successful new community outreach programs at the university.

During his tenure as Director of Career Services, Johanson has spearheaded the creation of three notable vocational programs at UP: Argos Building Careers Tuesdays (commonly known as ABC Tuesdays), Style UP, and a series of professional development classes for seniors preparing to graduate. While Johanson has been instrumental in launching these initiatives, he humbly describes himself as more of an "infrastructure creator."

"Really, my job is bringing good people together to create lasting programs," Johanson explained. "I build the infrastructure, but then I always try to find motivated students to take on the project and make it their own. I really want to provide opportunities to let the students here use their gifts and talents."

ABC Tuesdays serve as a unique platform where community members can visit the campus, share a meal, and engage with students about potential career opportunities in Great Falls. Style UP is a campus clothing provider offering both casual and professional attire for students in need, whether for job interviews or personal use.

"Style UP was really a product of Grace McKerrow," Johanson remarked.

"She came to me with an idea and motivation and really made it her success. I was happy I could provide support for such a good project."

Johanson's focus remains firmly on the students. He emphasizes the importance of listening and helping students discover and develop their inherent talents and passions.

"That really is who I have always been," Johanson reflected. "I used to work as an engineer, but even then, I would be listening to my coworkers and helping them work through what they thought was their vocational calling."

"No matter what job title you give people, they will always default to being who they are," he continued. "That's my job for students—helping them find who they are." 🦋

Rod Johanson
Director Career Services

Early Lessons Yield Lifelong Service

By Travis Vermulm | Photo By Eric Visocan

Chris Christiaens' lifelong dedication to volunteerism was sparked early in life, deeply rooted in the values instilled by his upbringing in Valier, Montana. Reflecting on his childhood, Christiaens recalls his mother's unwavering commitment to helping others in their close-knit, high-line community.

"My mother always invited guests to sit down and enjoy a meal with us if they were visiting, and I remember when WWII had ended, and there was an increase of homeless traveling out in the countryside of Montana, my mother would be able to make sandwiches or quilts, whatever was needed to help," Christiaens shared.

These early experiences left a profound impact on Christiaens, shaping his journey into a lifelong volunteer and current member of the University of Providence's board of trustees. However, it was during his time at the College of Great Falls that his passion for volunteerism truly ignited.

"I was at the College of Great Falls at that time when both Sister Trinitas and Sister Providentia were still on campus," Christiaens recounted. "Sister Providentia's work with the local community, particularly the Native American population, was something that was brought into


every student's experience. If you went to that school while she was still present, you got involved in some sort of volunteering."

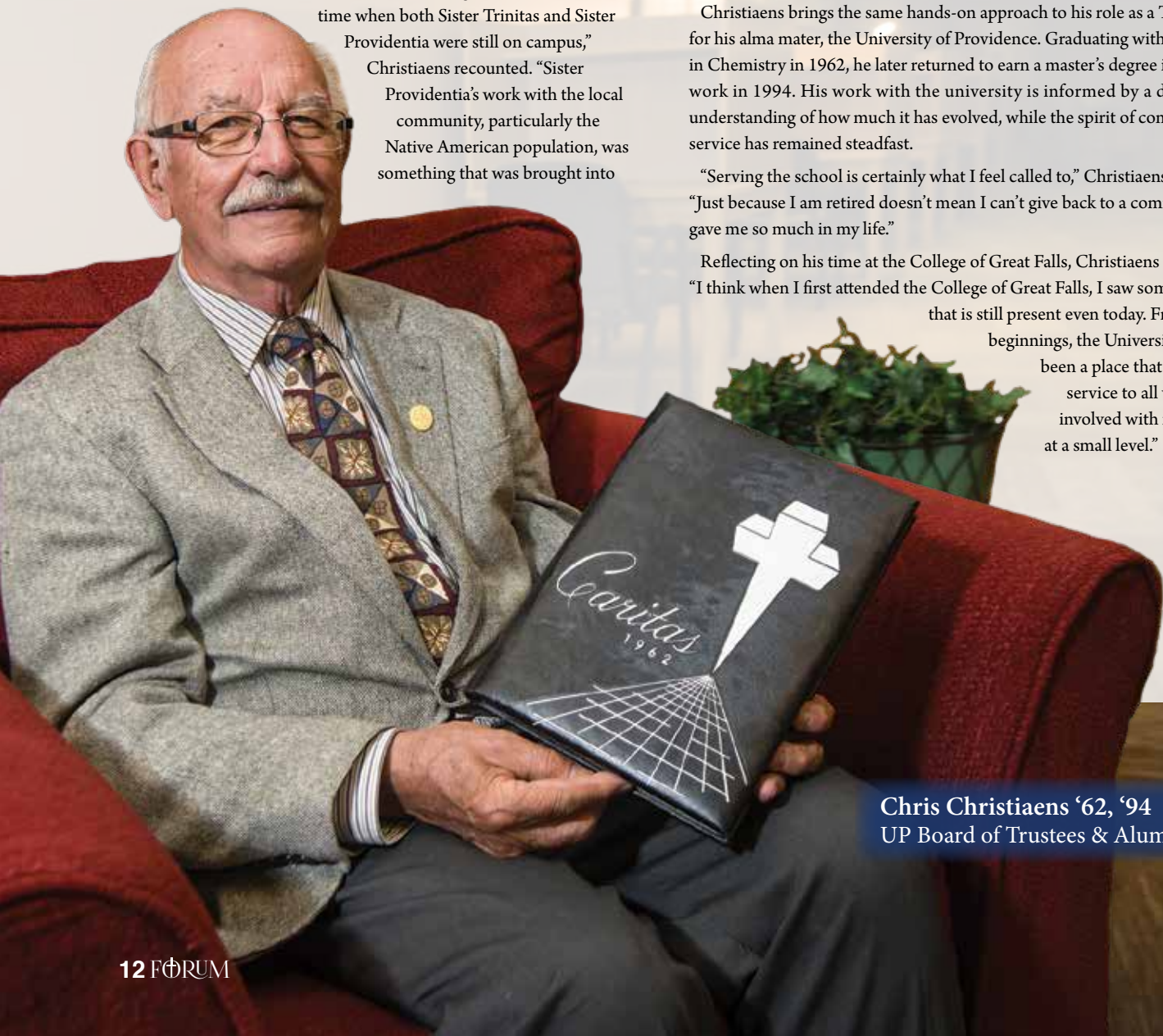
This education, deeply influenced by the Sisters of Providence, launched Christiaens into a life dedicated to public service. Over sixteen years as a Montana state senator, he consistently integrated his passion for social services into his political career. Now in retirement, Christiaens remains as active as ever in volunteer work. He serves as a board member for St. Vincent DePaul, a nonprofit organization providing food, shelter, and other resources to the homeless population of Great Falls.

"I have loved working with St. Vincent DePaul," Christiaens stated. "I work with the senior commodity program, delivering food to the more elderly homeless every month. I have three gardens, and all the food I grow in the largest of the three is given to the elderly and special needs housing around the community through that program."

Christiaens brings the same hands-on approach to his role as a Trustee for his alma mater, the University of Providence. Graduating with a degree in Chemistry in 1962, he later returned to earn a master's degree in social work in 1994. His work with the university is informed by a deep understanding of how much it has evolved, while the spirit of community service has remained steadfast.

"Serving the school is certainly what I feel called to," Christiaens affirmed. "Just because I am retired doesn't mean I can't give back to a community that gave me so much in my life."

Reflecting on his time at the College of Great Falls, Christiaens remarked, "I think when I first attended the College of Great Falls, I saw something that is still present even today. From its beginnings, the University has been a place that provides service to all who are involved with it, even at a small level." 



Chris Christiaens '62, '94
UP Board of Trustees & Alumni

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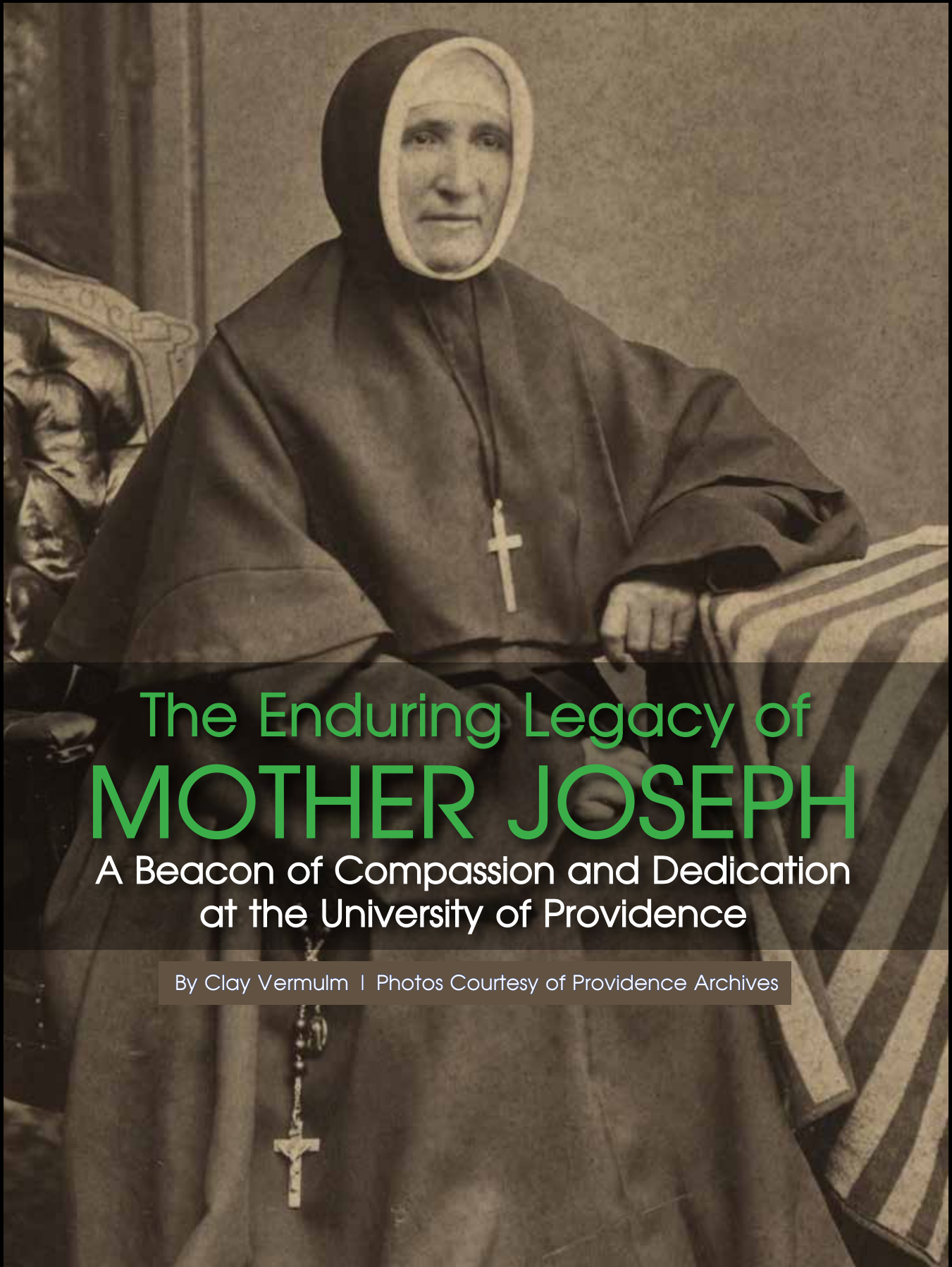
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UNIVERSITY OF
PROVIDENCE

Great Falls, Montana



The Enduring Legacy of **MOTHER JOSEPH**

A Beacon of Compassion and Dedication
at the University of Providence

By Clay Vermulm | Photos Courtesy of Providence Archives

Mother Joseph made her first vows in Montreal in 1845 and went on to be foundress of the Northwest mission in 1856, and the first Superior of Sacred Heart Province, 1864-1866. *Photo by Frank G. Abell (Portland, OR)*

Students at the University of Providence are introduced to the legacy of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart long before graduation day. From their earliest days on campus, her influence is evident, reflected in the institution's very foundation. The university, shaped by her teachings and compassion, is epitomized in its mission statement: "We connect people with each other, people with their communities, people with opportunities, people with God, and most importantly, people with their potential."

Much like the college's ongoing efforts to forge strong community connections through education, philanthropy, and faith, Mother Joseph exemplified these principles throughout her 76 years. Her life was a testament to these values, actively pursuing their realization and leaving the world profoundly enriched by her presence.

"Mother Joseph was known as a deeply spiritual woman with a divine faith in God's providence and that came from the teachings of Emilee Gamelin. She had a deep compassion for the poor, for the uneducated and for those in need," stated Sr. Barbara Schamber, Provincial Leader for the Sisters of Providence in the now aptly named Mother Joseph Province.

Mother Joseph's path to leadership within the Sisters of Providence began at a remarkably young age. In her early teens, still known by her birth name, Esther Pariseau, she was introduced to Blessed Emilee Gamelin by her father. He boldly declared to the foundress that his daughter would "make a good superior one day." Reflecting on this moment, Sister Schamber chuckled and remarked, "That was quite a funny thing for him to say to Emilee Gamelin herself."

Funny or not, Mr. Pariseau's words proved prophetic. Mother Joseph immediately embraced the mission of the Sisters of Providence, eventually becoming the personal nurse to Superior Gamelin during her final days. "Mother Joseph was able to work with our foundress for eight years before Mother Gamelin passed on," Schamber explained. "She was the early sister who really carried that mission of the Sisters to the



Sister Barbara Schamber, Provincial Superior for the Mother Joseph Province, shares some words during the Mother Joseph Hall dedication ceremony. Photo by Steve Pehanich, Sisters of Providence staff

west." Thirteen years later, Mother Joseph was chosen by Blessed Emilee Gamelin's successor, Mother Caron, to lead four other sisters on a 6,000-mile journey westward. Their mission was to establish a new province in response to a petition from the local bishop at Fort Vancouver.

Mother Joseph's journey marked the second attempt by the Sisters of Providence to establish a presence in the American West. The initial attempt had reached the Oregon Territory but struggled to find the necessary support for their charitable work, eventually leading to the establishment of a separate province in Chile. True to her determined nature, Mother Joseph was undeterred by obstacles. As Sister Schamber proudly stated, "She never took 'no' for an answer."

Under Mother Joseph's leadership, she and her sisters arrived in Fort Vancouver and immediately began their work, conducting their early activities from the limited confines of Bishop Blanchet's attic. The grueling 6,000-mile trek had not diminished their resolve, nor did the initial hardships they faced in establishing their mission.



My Sisters, whatever concerns, the poor is always our affair,
--The final words of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart in January 1902.

Sisters gather at the grave of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart at St. James Acres Cemetery (now Mother Joseph Catholic Cemetery) in Vancouver, Washington, 1972. Providence Archives, Seattle



The Providence Academy Building in Vancouver, WA (1960s) was constructed and designed by Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart --one of many architectural feats she accomplished in her years of service.

Providence Archives, Seattle

Tasked with tending to the local community of French-Canadian trappers and the surrounding indigenous and pioneer populations, the Sisters' impressive charitable work quickly garnered local and, eventually, national recognition. Their accomplishments under Mother Joseph's guidance solidified the new province's reputation for dedication and service.

True to her father's promises, Mother Joseph was a skilled hand at carpentry and a trained architect. These skills gave her a unique ability to establish hundreds of schools, hospitals, and places of worship over her 46 years of service.

"She was known for quality work. If something wasn't built to her standards, she tore it down and started over, but it led to some truly marvelous structures," Barbara Schamber explained. This commitment to excellence is evident throughout the Pacific Northwest. Today, the name Providence is virtually synonymous with healthcare, education, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. With hospitals spanning from Portland and Seattle to Alaska and Montana, Providence boasts an expansive and highly regarded



A composite of Mother Joseph and her pioneering sisters who founded the Sisters of Providence Northwest mission in Washington Territory. Front row: L-R: Praxedes of Providence, Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Mary of the Precious Blood. Back Row L-R: Vincent de Paul and Blandine of the Holy Angels.

Providence Archives, Seattle



Dedication of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart statue at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, AK -1982. L-R: Sculptor Felix de Weldon, Sr. Evelyn Bergamini, Sr. Ursula Emily Beaulieu, Sr. Claire Gagnon, and Sr. Mary Shearer. *Providence Archives, Seattle*

network of healthcare facilities and higher education institutions. These continue to carry on the legacy of their esteemed leaders, such as Mother Joseph and Blessed Emilee Gamelin.


In the early days of their mission in Vancouver, the Sisters of Providence focused on forging partnerships with community leaders and local businesses, such as Hidden Brickworks, which enabled them to construct the first building of their new province. One notable building was the Providence Academy, which served as both a base for the Sisters and an institution of education. The Sisters also embarked on arduous ‘begging campaigns,’ traveling to local mines, mills, and other industrial centers, often far-flung, to raise money for their various charitable endeavors. Their ministries concentrated on tending to the elderly, the sick, the uneducated, and the poor—a mission originally inspired by Emilee Gamelin and carried on by Mother Joseph until her dying breath.

“My Mothers and my Sisters, permit me to recommend to you the care of the poor both in our institutions and outside them; have no fear to assist the poor and to receive them—you will not have any regrets. Do not say, ah! this does not concern me; let others attend to them. My Sisters, whatever concerns, the poor is always our affair,” --The final words of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart in January 1902.

In addition to the spiritual impact, wisdom, and exemplary life she left behind, Mother Joseph has been commemorated in

various significant ways. Her statue stands in the National Statuary of the Washington State Capitol as one of the state’s two historical representatives. Furthermore, a province (regional governing body within the Sisters of Providence) is named in her honor. The Mother Joseph Province, now includes 101 sisters and spans Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and California, along with missions in El Salvador and the Philippines. Additionally, her birthday is recognized, though unofficially, as a holiday in Washington State.

Whether you are religious, a builder, a community organizer, a philanthropist, a scholar, or an activist, Mother Joseph stands as a shining example of what one individual can achieve in a lifetime. Her life illustrates the far-reaching impact of goodwill, charity, and compassion, and underscores the importance of always caring for our fellow humans, regardless of their circumstances. It is also important to remember that, though great people pass on, their legacies endure, guiding future leaders to continue their noble work. With this in mind, consider the words of Sister Mary Olive, who chronicled Mother Joseph’s final days.

“Our hearts bleed at the thought (of Mother Joseph’s passing). It seems to us impossible to be separated here below from our foundress, our Mother who has so zealously labored for nearly a half-century in the work of our mission. But, in order to reach Heaven ... one must leave the world; hence, let us not be selfish with regard to the one whom, so it seems to us, deserves a well-earned rest in Paradise.” 

A photograph of Francis "Frank" Malensek, Jr., a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue striped shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling and holding a large, ornate silver chalice with both hands. The background shows a garden with purple flowers and green trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

A Gift of Thanks and Remembrance

Giving Back to UP's Inspiring Sisters and Priests

By Holly Matkin | Photos By Ivette Barrera

It was a breezy yet temperate, pleasant summer day when Francis "Frank" Malensek, Jr. strolled onto the University of Providence campus on July 1. His alma mater had grown and evolved extensively since he called the campus home in the 1970s, but for him, the fond memories and life-changing friendships catalyzed there decades ago remained unaltered by time.

The University of Providence (UP) was still known as the College of Great Falls (CGF) when Malensek, a proud member of the class of 1974, was earning his bachelor's degree in business administration.

"My years at CGF are memories of good friends, strong educational opportunities, and the sharing of religious and human values that continue to sustain me some 50 years later," he says. "I am profoundly thankful for my time at CGF and truly appreciate the education I received."

But Malensek, who was born in Butte, grew up in Billings, and now lives in Berlin, Germany, didn't journey back to the UP campus in July with the sole intent of reminiscing about those long-ago, formative days. He came with a very specific purpose – to endow the university with a remarkable gift he'd carried with him for more than 40 years.

Not only was it important to Malensek that his gift be placed into the care of those who understand its true significance and meaning, he also intended to present it as a tribute to honor and memorialize the Sisters of Providence and the priests he knew during his time as a student.

A Serendipitous Discovery

After completing his college studies, Malensek attended St. Francis School of Pastoral Ministry in Milwaukee and then wrapped up his seminary studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in Nebraska in June 1978.

"In 1980, a friend came to visit, and we decided to go to Kansas City as tourists," Malensek recalls.

"My friend was an antique collector, so we spent time looking around in antique shops while we were there."

University alum Francis "Frank" Malensek, Jr.



Bold ruby-hued backgrounds accentuate each enameled scene.

They were exploring Windmill Square in the Overland Park area when a gilded silver and French enamel chalice and paten displayed in a storefront window caught Malensek’s attention. He immediately stepped into the shop and asked to have a closer look at the work of liturgical art.

“I was struck by the beauty of it,” he says. “It captivated my eye because of its qualities as an art piece, but also because it is a unique ceremonial sacred vessel.”

Little is known about the chalice’s history or origin. It is believed to date back to the 1800s and bears French duty marks and the maker’s mark on the bottom. It stands just under eight inches tall and is slightly larger than six inches at the base and five inches at the top of the cup.

The chalice is comprised of six enameled scenes. Three are depicted on the base – the Annunciation, the Nativity, and the Crucifixion. The remaining three scenes, the Baptism of the Lord, the Agony in the Garden, and the Resurrection, appear on the cup portion of the chalice. Each of the scenes contains a striking, dark ruby-red background.

Stippled silver areas surrounding the scenes are decorated with shafts of wheat and grape clusters. The stem features images of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

A ring of Latin writing circles the outer rim of the base. “The chalice is inscribed with the words of Christ at the Last Supper,” explains A.J. Hoy, Vice President for Mission Integration at University of Providence.



Pearls and diamonds adorn the border surrounding the Resurrection scene.

“This is the chalice of my blood, of the new and eternal covenant,” it reads.

The stunning work of art is accented with twenty-five faceted diamonds, twenty-one pearls, one faceted ruby, and one faceted sapphire.

Malensek initially left the chalice at the antique store but arranged to purchase it two days later.

“I was really quite enamored with it,” he says. “I knew it was an investment, but that it would also be very useful in my life and would mean a lot to me.”



Four evangelists adorn the stem of the nearly eight-inch-tall chalice.

A Gift of Honor and Remembrance

Malensek, now retired, often used the exquisite antique chalice during Mass throughout his priesthood. He stored it in his brother’s safe in Portland when he moved to Berlin in 2017, but he knew the vessel needed to be placed somewhere where it would continue to be used as intended.

Gifting the chalice and paten to UP in honor of the Sisters of Providence and priests who helped guide his path forward years ago was the logical choice.

“My years at CGF were really good. I learned a lot about people, about life, and about faith, and I can attribute that to many of the Sisters of Providence and the priests who were there on staff while I attended,” Malensek says. “I’m very humbled by the history of the university and for what the Sisters did throughout the entire northwestern United States and California. I’ve always been inspired by how they shared their faith and demonstrated so much kindness and goodness. I was impressed by their generosity and, ultimately, their trust in the Providence of God.”



Father Oliver Doyle accepted Frank's generous gift during his visit to the campus on July 1, 2024.

As a gesture of gratitude, Malensek says either a display plaque or the chalice itself will be inscribed as follows:

This Chalice and Paten are presented to the University of Providence on the Fiftieth Anniversary of my graduation with gratitude and in recognition of the efforts and the ministry of the many Sisters of Providence who have taught and served since its founding in 1932.

In special memory and in honor of:

**Sr. Julian Moran, Sr. Marguerite O'Connor,
Sr. Mary Michelle Holland, Sr. Roberta Rorke,
Sr. Providencia Tolan, Sr. Lucy Villanova, who shared
with me their faith and trust in the Providence of God.**

**Remembering also the priests who lead by
example and in faith:**

**Rev. Jerry Connolly, Rev. Robert Fox,
Rev. J. D. Dobbins, Msgr. Anthony M. Brown.**

**Francis A. Malensek, Jr.
College of Great Falls • Class of 1974
July 1, 2024**


Malensek's only contingency in gifting the vessel was that it be given to the Bishop of Great Falls-Billings for use at the Co-Cathedral of St. Patrick in Billings in the event UP was ever to become a non-Roman Catholic institution.



Christ's words from the Last Supper encircle the chalice's base.

"This chalice is a work of art and a ceremonial sacred vessel," he notes. "I think it should be proudly and joyously used and not kept in a private collection."

Hoy says the chalice will be available for presiders to use during Masses on the UP campus.

"This gift will be cherished and used by our community for the sacrament that calls us into communion with one another, the Eucharist," he says. "It will foster our community's worship where at once we give thanks for all of God's providence and are also nourished to go out and become the Providence of God for others." 

FROM NOTES TO NUMBERS

The Life of Arlyn Johnson, an Unplanned Composition

By Colter Pedersen | Photography By Eric Visocan

Arlyn Johnson openly admits, “I never did like accounting,” despite having built a career in it. With a hint of irony, he explains, “I didn’t like accounting, and now I’m an accountant. That’s kind of the story of my life.”

Arlyn’s roots trace back to a small Nebraska town during the 1950s, where his early passion for music flourished. Arlyn, alongside his brother Milburn, was tutored in the accordion by an elderly farmer who held a deep affection for polkas and waltzes. This introduction to music during their formative years led them to eventually embrace rock and roll. Arlyn transitioned to drums and Milburn to keyboards as they sought to stay in tune with the evolving music scene of their adolescence.

Arlyn pursued a finance degree at the University of Nebraska and initially embraced a career in music, performing full-time, marrying his love, Susan, and welcoming their son, John. However, the financial demands of family life led him to accept a bookkeeping job. This career pivot took him to Great Falls, where he sought to enhance his skills through accounting courses at the local university.

“I really had no intention of becoming a CPA,” says Johnson. Yet, the coursework revealed an unforeseen aptitude for accounting, prompting a shift in perspective: “I actually started to understand it,” Arlyn reveals. “I realized that I can do this. I passed the exam and it’s provided a career for me now for 43 years in addition to music. I’m very thankful for that, and really,” Arlyn adds, “I attribute a significant



Arlyn Johnson navigates his sound and lighting equipment at the University of Providence’s commencement ceremony, expertly enhancing the celebratory atmosphere for the graduates.



Arlyn Johnson (right), alongside son Matthew (middle) and brother Milburn (Left), continue their storied musical journey, still performing polkas and waltzes. Now in their 70s and with the addition of Matthew, they balance about 80 shows a year with their work in production, lighting up stages with their talents and technical expertise.



Photo Courtesy of the Johnson Family

Arlyn with his wife Susan and one of their children on a trip to Fort Benton.

part of it to the teachers at the University of Providence (formerly University of Great Falls). I sound like a cheerleader for the University, and I am. I think it's one of the best-kept secrets in Great Falls."

The University's emphasis on faith struck a chord with him, especially during an encounter with his professor, Hank Smith. Recounting a memorable visit to Smith's office, he shares, "I went into his office to ask him a question, and he had a bible lying there on the desk." This sight was novel to him; he reflects, "I had never seen anything like that before. At the University of Nebraska, I'm sure there are people there that believe, but they don't put a bible on their desk."

The influence of Arlyn's music professor was profoundly significant. Johnson vividly recalls, "Dr. Jack Cabbage, the man forgot more about music than I ever will know," highlighting Cabbage's deep knowledge and skills in music. "He was a very accomplished musician, knew music theory and composition," Johnson adds, underscoring his respect and admiration for his mentor.

During an event where Arlyn was performing, he spotted Dr. Cabbage in the audience. When he finished playing, he went over and greeted his professor. Johnson recounts, "He said to me, 'You know, Arlyn, I just want you to know that you were one of the best piano students that I've had.'" Regardless of their absolute truth, the sincerity behind those words struck a chord with Johnson. "Whether he really meant that or not, I have no way of knowing. But he said it, and I believed it. And it really was encouraging."

Johnson reflects on the broader implications of such moments of affirmation, especially in the competitive landscape of the music industry. "It's probably this way in a lot of different professions, but in the music business, you are always wondering if you've got what it takes to be good at something," he muses. "I'll never forget that!"

Hearing the right words at the perfect moment can profoundly influence one's life. During a family road trip, Arlyn found contentment in the simplicity of traveling with his wife and son, thinking, "This is nice, just the three of us. We can go anywhere we want to go." This moment of satisfaction hinted at a pivotal change in his mindset, reminiscent of his earlier reluctance to embrace accounting.

It was his wife, Susan, who voiced her desire for a larger family, leading them to welcome two more biological children into their lives. Yet, they felt capable of offering even more love and care. Johnson praises his wife's nurturing abilities, saying, "My wife is an excellent caregiver, particularly to infants." This recognition fueled their decision to become foster parents and then to adopt.

The demand for homes for children was immense, and after reaching out to various adoption agencies, they started receiving children from across the country. Johnson highlights their openness, "We didn't put any restriction on if we wanted a blonde-haired, blue-eyed baby. There's nothing wrong with that. Nothing wrong with being specific about things, but we said we would take high-risk children; it didn't matter what color their skin was, it didn't matter what their background was, it didn't matter what their physical or emotional needs were."

Their family grew to include 16 adopted children, with a bustling household that once had 13 children living at home, eight of whom were under six years old. Johnson recalls the frequent calls for children in need, "It wasn't like the phone rang every day, but it rang a lot."

Johnson describes their diverse family, "We're a multi-cultural, multi-ability, multi-faceted family. We don't look alike. We don't act alike. We love each other, and we're a family, and it's kind of cool." This uniqueness extended to their educational choices, with six of his children, Alden, Sherann, Holly, Jonah, Isabelle, and Andrew,



Photo Courtesy of the Johnson Family

The Johnsons welcomed children from all across the country and from all different backgrounds into their home.

choosing to attend University of Providence, influenced by their father's positive experience. "We're part of the flock there," Johnson says, advocating for the university's personalized attention and spiritual foundation.

The challenges of parenting a large, diverse family were significant, but Johnson credits their faith for their endurance and ability to face both joys and trials. "We were blessed," says Johnson. "And I would never be able to do it without the Lord in our life. It would probably drive you insane. I don't mean kids drive you insane; I just mean it would be too big of a job."



Photo Courtesy of the Johnson Family

Johnson family vacation.



Arlyn Johnson's skilled hand masterfully navigates the complex array of slides, buttons, and digital screens on his sound and lighting board, orchestrating a flawless audiovisual experience.

Arlyn reflects on the profound challenges some of their adopted children faced, "We've had some children that were very, very special needs." He shares the heartbreaking story of one child who suffered from a devastating condition. "Our one little daughter Julia was born with a condition that caused her skin to come off. A rare, rare disease, but she had it. Every day, it got a little worse. Every day, we wrapped her up like a little mummy, with gauze and gel on her skin." Amidst the daily struggle to provide care, a moment of realization hit him. "After she was about three months old, I realized we forgot to get her baby picture taken. We were so busy taking care of the everyday needs that we forgot to call the photographer. So, I called him on a Saturday morning, and he said bring her down to the studio."

"She was in a tremendous amount of pain, wrapped up, and all you could see were her little eyes and her nose and mouth. Her hands and everything, the skin was all gone. And she smiled for that picture," he shares. Arlyn emphasizes children's deep awareness, even in moments of great adversity: "So don't tell me kids don't understand, because they do. She knew it was important." Sadly, Julia's struggle ended less than two months later, leaving a poignant reminder of her resilience and the meaningfulness captured in that smile.



"It's an interesting thing, and I've thought about it a lot, but there is a certain mindset that the study of music and accounting share," says Johnson. "It isn't as far apart as one might think."



Photo Courtesy of the Johnson Family

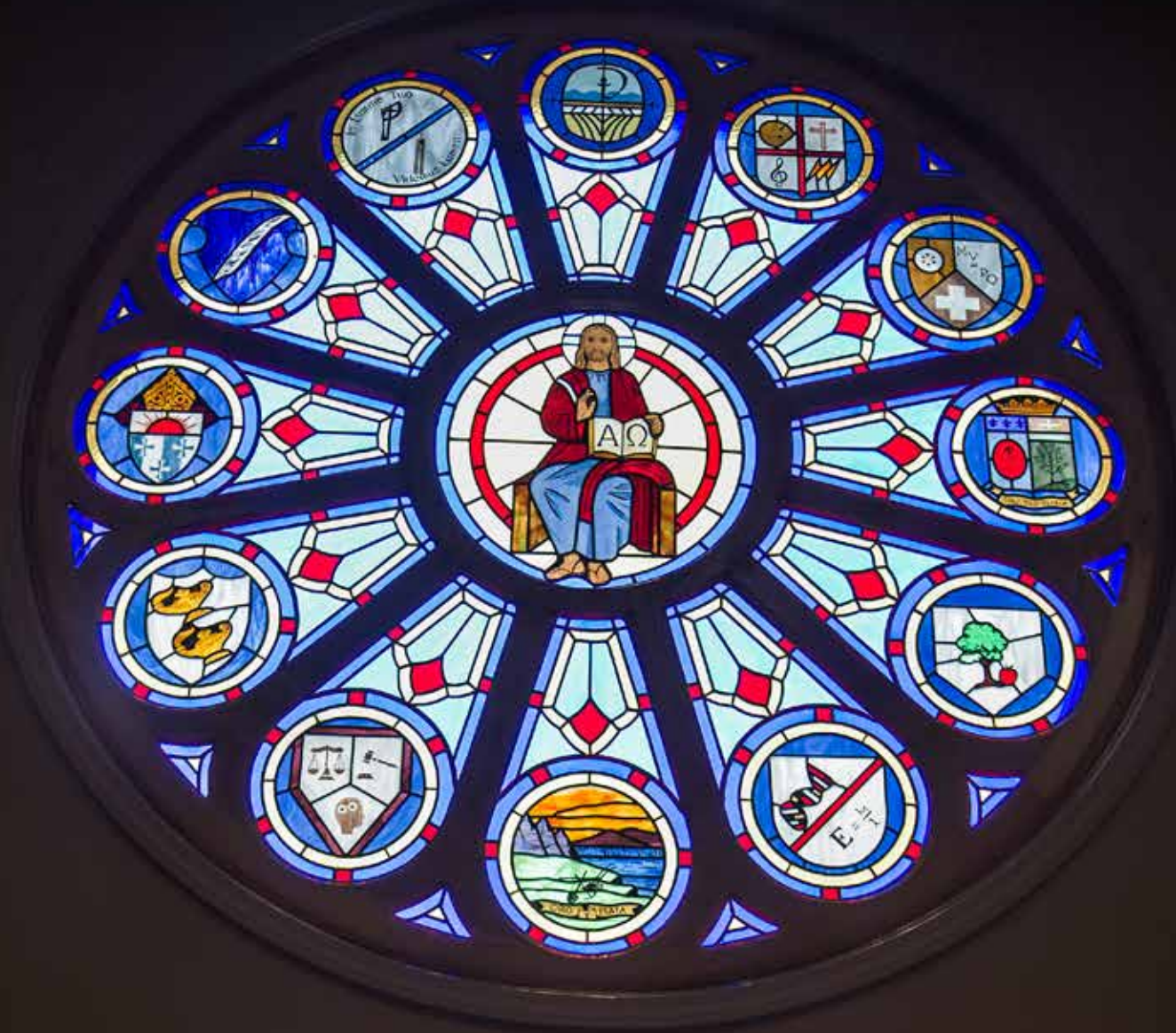
The Johnsons dreamed of having a large family, and it's still growing.

"Once stuff like that starts to happen, you realize that we're playing for keeps here," says Johnson. "This isn't just a walk in the park. This is the good and the not-good, the fun and the not-so-fun. It's all part of parenting. I think we've managed to walk that walk, but it's been a faith walk. It hasn't been just us."

Arlyn and his brother Milburn embarked on their musical journey together at the tender age of eight, and decades later, into their 70s, they continue to share the stage. Johnson reflects on the current pace of their performances, noting, "We don't do as many shows as we used to, but we probably still do 80 a year, maybe 90. Now, 60 years later, we play the accordion still quite a bit, and we're still playing polkas and waltzes, so the circle has kind of come around now." Beyond performing, they've expanded into production, handling lighting and sound for various events.

Arlyn draws a parallel to his life's broader themes by describing the nature of his work in production. Johnson elaborates, "It's a fairly thankless job, and if you do your job right, you kind of disappear. And once you get that, you are ok. You are never going to be the star; they aren't going to call you out and have you take a bow. It's good work, and it's honest work."

With some of his children still under his roof, the youngest being 15, Arlyn muses on the enduring nature of parenthood, "So we're not completely done, you know what I mean? And I don't know if you ever really get done. Parenting is a lifetime job." 🌿



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

The Illuminating Legacy of the Winters' Stained-Glass Masterpiece

By Colter Pedersen | Photos By Eric Visocan

As sunlight pours through the stained-glass Rose Window in the University of Providence Library, each intricate image springs to life with an ethereal glow. This iconic feature of Gothic architecture, with roots tracing back to the Roman oculus, is circular in nature and designed to resemble flower petals. Historically, these windows were especially popular in cathedrals, often gracing the western wall.

While Michael and Barbara Winters worked on many stained-glass projects in their nearly 40-year career, the Rose Window was one of their favorites.



The way light interacts with the colored glass creates an engaging dynamic that shifts over time, with direct sunlight creating the most compelling experience.



Barbara and Michael reflecting on their work.

This particular window was crafted by Michael and Barbara Winters, the talented husband and wife duo behind Winters Stained Glass and College of Great Falls alumni.

Michael, who graduated in 1974 and 1976, served in the military and worked in the postal service before becoming the mayor of Great Falls from 2010 to 2015. Barbara graduated in 1973. She pursued a degree in education but always had a deep passion for art, particularly stained glass. Her interest blossomed when Michael surprised her with \$100 worth of supplies and books. The couple quickly took to studying and experimenting, developing a deep appreciation for the craft.

On a lark, Barbara made some petite stained-glass angels that sold well at a local craft fair, fanning a creative fire that led to a deeper dive into the medium.

The Winters were mostly self-taught. “It was just kind of trial and error to begin with,” Barbara recalls. Working together, she created the

designs while Michael focused on construction. “Mike was good with the glass, and I was good with the pencil,” she adds. To refine their skills, the couple attended seminars around the country, including in Boston, New York, and Portland. They eventually built a shop and studio on their property to focus on their craft. Their work spread largely by word of mouth, leading to numerous commissions from churches seeking custom creations and repair work. Their projects spanned the state, from a floor-to-ceiling piece in a Great Falls mausoleum to work for a Catholic church in Fairfield and an outdoor fused glass mosaic outlined in brass in Augusta. While religious imagery dominated their work, they also incorporated animals and landscapes into their designs upon request, often in a realistic style. As Barbara explains, “They want Jesus to look like Jesus and water to look like water.”

The Winters made a great team, with Barbara creating patterns and presentations while Michael brought the designs to life. They typically kept negotiations short and didn’t interfere in one another’s role. “It turned out very well, a good 35, 40 years we did that,” offers Michael. “And it was profitable. It was a business; it wasn’t hobby land. The product that Barb designed and that we put together was a quality piece of artwork.”

One of their most cherished projects was the University of Providence Rose Window. Commissioned by the Corontzos family to highlight the school’s history and heritage, the window features Jesus, the Teacher, at its center, surrounded by twelve radial images representing different aspects of the University. The far-right symbol represents the Ursulines, the far-left depicts the Bishop, and the bottom displays the Seal of Montana with the Oro y Plata state motto. Other images showcase the University logo and depictions of various campus programs, ranging from forestry to literature.

Round windows are among the most technically challenging to construct but are often the most visually striking. The way light interacts with the colored glass creates an engaging dynamic that shifts over time, with direct sunlight creating the most compelling experience. Barbara and Michael Winters created a piece that honors the University, celebrates craftsmanship, and glorifies faith. And like many things in life, it’s best enjoyed when the light is shining on it. 🌿



Barbara kept detailed notes on their projects and liked to document them with photography as well.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Patricia Farmer

Marich Outstanding Faculty Award:

The Outstanding Faculty Award recognizes high-quality classroom performance, deep dedication to teaching, and service to the University.

Teaching Excellence Award:

UP's Teaching Excellence Award honors a faculty member who demonstrates outstanding teaching skills, innovative methods, and a commitment to student success. The recipients are selected based on their creative teaching strategies, significant contributions to their discipline, and positive student feedback.



Katelyn Marsik & Sara Worrall

Outstanding Staff Award:

The University's Outstanding Staff Award honors exceptional non-faculty employees who demonstrate extraordinary commitment, professionalism, and performance. Recipients of this award consistently go above and beyond in their duties, contribute significantly to the university community, and embody the core values of excellence, integrity, and service. Their dedication and hard work enhance the university's mission and create a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the broader academic environment.



Ann Redinger

Sisters of Providence Mission Award (Staff):

The Sisters of Providence Mission Award is given in recognition of someone who demonstrates a high level of character and integrity and is committed to continuous learning and improvement in their area. This person also helps wherever needed and has chaired and served on numerous search committees across campus.



Naomi Zurba

Mentor Award:

The University of Providence's Mentor Award is presented to a distinguished faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to mentoring students and fostering their academic and personal growth. This award recognizes their dedication to guiding students through their educational journey, providing invaluable support, encouragement, and inspiration. The recipient has shown exemplary mentorship through their willingness to share knowledge, offer constructive feedback, and help students navigate challenges. Their contributions have significantly enriched the learning experience and positively impacted the university community.



Monica Thackeray

Staff Contribution to Academic Excellence:

This award recognizes a university staff member whose dedication and commitment have significantly contributed to the holistic development of students. This esteemed individual has demonstrated exceptional investment in students' academic success, physical health, vocational growth, and emotional well-being. Their unwavering support, innovative approaches, and tireless efforts have not only enhanced the academic environment but also fostered a nurturing and empowering atmosphere for all students. Through their exemplary service, they have set a high standard for educational excellence and have profoundly impacted the lives of those they serve.



Mykal Gernaat

The Sisters of Providence Mission Award (Faculty):

The Sisters of Providence Mission Award is given in recognition of positive contributions to the campus community as a whole, personifying the University's mission in character, competence, commitment, and contributing to the overall morale of the campus community.



James Gretch

Marich Longevity of Service Award:

The recipient of UP's Marich Longevity of Service Award is recognized for the length of dedicated service and high quality of performance at the University.



Since becoming the University of Providence men's soccer head coach in 2022, Coach Will Hander has transformed the team with a philosophy rooted in athletic rigor, humility, and ancient biblical wisdom. Hander's commitment to shaping well-rounded athletes both on and off the field has revitalized the team's competitive spirit and academic excellence.

Purposeful Possession

Coach Will Hander's Transformation of UP Men's Soccer

By Travis Vermulm | Photos By Eric Visocan

When Coach Will Hander stepped onto the UP soccer field for the first time in March 2022, he became the third head coach for the men's team in just four years. Such frequent coaching turnover presented a host of challenges. Nevertheless, Hander was ready to tackle them head-on, armed with the steadfast coaching philosophy that has always defined his career.

"I have always tried to have a mix of athletic rigor and preparation for what the world is like outside of the short time in college," Coach Hander remarked. "I do a lot of this from a biblical perspective. For example, we have a team manual that, if you were to look at it closely, is almost entirely pulled from the Book of Proverbs."

Coach Hander has a unique gift for extracting age-old philosophies from scripture and transforming them into valuable lessons on athleticism, humility, and competition. He recognizes that not every player will be a Christian but believes that the challenges they face are universal and can be addressed through biblical teachings.

"I look to the letters of Paul a lot," Hander elaborated. "Many of our guys had forgotten how to win and how to be competitive. I think we live in a time when a lot of men are told to suppress that competitive spirit, but I always look back to that figure of Paul. He had a zeal and a competitiveness for understanding the message of Christ, but he did it with humility and dignity and I really want my team to understand they can do the same."

Hander has made significant strides in attracting new talent by being transparent about his expectations for team members. Prospective players are fully informed of the demands and standards they will face. "I tell all the guys on the recruiting trail; I want you to bring that spirit to the team, and I promise I will give you the space to compete every day, but it will be tough," Hander stated with conviction.



Coach Will Hander discusses strategy with the University of Providence men's soccer team during practice. Since 2022, Hander's competitive coaching style and offensive 'purposeful possession' play have led the team to new heights, all while maintaining a 100% graduation rate for his athletes.

Under Hander's leadership, the team's motto has become: "We win with humility, and we lose with dignity." This principle extends beyond the soccer field; Hander expects the same level of commitment and excellence in his athletes' academic performance. His holistic approach aims to develop well-rounded individuals who excel both in sports and in their studies.

"At the end of the day, my goal as a coach is to have every player who plays for me walk across that graduation stage," Hander expressed. "I want them to go into the world and be great employees or employers, great husbands, and great fathers because those are the things men should strive to be."

The University of Providence Men's Soccer team manual contains the usual expectations: rigorous weightlifting, intense practices, and strict diets, all typical of collegiate-level sports. However, Coach Hander's handbook also emphasizes academic excellence, underscoring his commitment to developing not just athletes but well-rounded individuals prepared for life beyond the field.

"We run on what I call Argo-time," Hander commented. "That means you are ten minutes early to everything: class, practice, and work. If you are on time, you are late; if you are early, you are on time. They have to keep a 3.0 GPA or sign up with a tutor and get grade checks done, and I always expect them to be in the first two rows of each class."



Sophomore Teddy Benbow showcases quick footwork as he moves the ball down the field with precision. His agility and ball control are key elements in the team's dynamic offensive strategy, constantly keeping the opposition on their toes.



During practice, Coach Will Hander (far right) strategizes with players (L-R) José Gonzáles, Marcus John, Tomeu Nebot Schmalfeld, and Vincent Stoppel, emphasizing teamwork, ball control, and offensive play. His leadership focuses on developing well-rounded athletes who excel both on the field and in their personal growth, fostering a culture of discipline and competitive spirit.




Under Coach Hander's guidance, Geovanni Lugo (5) and his teammates have embraced a fast-paced, offensive play style, focusing on precision and control.

Coach Hander's competitive and rigorous coaching style has yielded impressive results, boasting a one-hundred percent graduation rate for his athletes—a statistic he is determined to maintain. The team's performance on the field has also seen rapid improvement. Under Hander's direction, they have adopted a play style he calls "purposeful possession," a much more offensive approach to the game.

"I really like our guys to have the ball and the other team not to," Coach Hander joked. "Really though, what it means is we try to control the offensive movement of the game. There are a lot of successful teams out there who play safe defensive control and win by one point, but I find that boring, to be frank. I think the competitive spirit we bring to everything really lends itself to a fast-paced game plan."

The shift in play style and discipline has paid off, leading the team to the Cascade Conference Tournament for the first time since 2018 and earning two athletes all-conference honors. Despite these achievements, Hander remains focused on his primary mission as a coach and leader.

When asked about the highlight of his coaching career, he simply answered, "Watching those guys get handed diplomas, that's what it's about."

Coach Will Hander's unwavering commitment to both athletic excellence and academic success is not just transforming the University of Providence Men's Soccer team; it's setting a new standard for what it means to be a collegiate athlete. His holistic approach prepares his players to excel on the field and thrive in life, ensuring that every victory is earned and meaningful. 

Fairways, Friendships, & Fundraising

2024 Argo Golf Tournament Drives Community Spirit

Eagle Falls Golf Course came alive at precisely 9 a.m. as the sharp blast of an air horn signaled the start of the 2024 Argo Golf Tournament. With 34 teams spread across the course in a shotgun start, all 18 holes were instantly in play, setting the stage for a day of spirited competition.

Initially scheduled for the spring but postponed due to rain, the event found its ideal moment on this rescheduled date. Under clear skies and a whisper of wind, conditions were perfect, and spirits were undeniably high.

The Argo Golf Tournament is one of the primary fundraising events for Argo athletics, offering a unique opportunity to bring together coaches, student-athletes, administrators, and the community's most dedicated supporters.



Beyond the competition, it's a day that forges connections, builds camaraderie, and strengthens the ties that sustain the program throughout the year.

The University of Providence's athletics department meets yearly to assess its most pressing needs, shaping its fundraising strategy around that cause. The annual golf tournament plays a pivotal role in these efforts. "It always supports athletics in some facet, but this year, student scholarships are a big need," says Dannette Swift, Director of Athletic Advancement. With a roster of over 350 student-athletes, the push to secure scholarship funding is a constant priority for the department, ensuring the program can continue supporting its athletes and their academic pursuits.



Under perfect skies at the 2024 Argo Golf Tournament, (L-R) Mark Schulte, Judy Schulte, Holli Schulte, Rory Schulte stop for a quick photo during the event.



Taking a swing for the win, this golfer tees off in great form during the Argo Golf Tournament, where every drive, chip, and putt supports Argo student-athlete scholarships.

“Scholarships are the number one need for most universities right now,” notes Kylie Carranza, Vice President for Advancement. “And really, that goes such a long way for a small ministry like ours,” Carranza adds. “Athletics is a gateway for a lot of our students who may not have wanted to come to school and continue their education.”

Since its debut in 2003, the Argo Golf Tournament has steadily evolved into one of the university’s most anticipated events. “It’s grown every year,” notes Dannette Swift, who played a key role in spearheading this year’s effort. Although relatively new to the Argo team, having joined the University of Providence in March, Swift hit the ground running, collaborating closely with Sara Worrall, the Business Operations Manager, to ensure the tournament’s success.

Community engagement remains a top priority for the University of Providence, and Carranza was onsite at the start of the tournament to personally greet and thank participants. “These people are signed up to play golf but also to support the University,” Carranza explains. “So, I just like the opportunity to connect with everybody and thank them for supporting our Argo athletes.”



Doug Hashley, the voice of Argo Athletics, brought his A-game to the Golf Tournament awards ceremony! With booming enthusiasm, he kept the energy high, wrapping up a day where birdies and bogeys took a backseat to camaraderie and community spirit.

Cold drinks became a welcome relief for participants as the day progressed and temperatures climbed. Lunch was provided at the clubhouse, with teams making quick stops to grab refreshments and half-pound burgers before heading back out on the course. The mood was electric, with everyone visibly enjoying the day’s festivities.

Gratitude was a constant presence on the course as Athletic Director Doug Hashley made his way from hole to hole, personally thanking participants and offering encouragement where needed. “The course is in awesome shape,” Hashley noted. “We just got back in from ten holes, and everyone is having a blast. And they know what it’s for. We’re giving away good prizes, but that’s not why they are here. When we gathered this morning, I knew 75% of everybody just by their involvement. They are here for the student-athletes, and that’s why they’re having so much fun.”



This foursome is here for all the right reasons—fun, friendship, and a little bit of ‘fore!’ Whether they’re bringing their A-game or just here to par-tee, this crew knows how to have a blast with a stick!”

golf tournament embodies that spirit of friendly competition, making it the ideal platform for athletics fundraising. This year’s event added an extra layer of excitement, with a 2024 Chevy Equinox—courtesy of Van Motors in Conrad—offered as the prize for anyone hitting a hole-in-one on the 14th hole. Though the coveted vehicle went unclaimed this year, it has happened in past tournaments.

As the day drew to a close, golfers turned in their scorecards and gathered for the awards ceremony hosted by Hashley. Teams were split into two flights based on their handicap, and special acknowledgments were given for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Team Carranza secured third place in Flight B, while Team Naccarato claimed second. The top honors went to Team Birdies and Bogeys, led by UP Human Resources Director Tom Carlson.

Flight A saw fierce competition, with Team QB Ortho taking third

place and Team Priority Clean finishing as runners-up. Leading his team to victory, Ron Simonsen of Simonsen Flooring claimed first place, along with teammates Jackson Widhalm and Trenton and Teagan Olson.

“It was a lot of fun today,” said Simonsen. “We started off slow, but we pulled together.” The win felt particularly meaningful for Simonsen and his teammates, as this was their first time playing in a tournament together. What made it even more special was that the group also serves as the maintenance crew for Eagle Falls Golf Course. Their day began at 5 a.m., prepping the course for the event, and they arrived just ten minutes before the opening tee-off. Trenton Olson, a former University of Providence golfer, was especially eager to participate. “I golfed with them for two years, so I was just trying to give back to the scholarship,” he explained.



Tucker Pietrykowski, Chet Pietrykowski, Doug Spence, Brian Lindgren mean business! With game faces on and clubs in hand, they’re all about the competition. It’s serious golf for a great cause!



With bright smiles and even brighter spirits, UP staff members Dannette Swift, Sara Worrall, and Melissa Bluml check-in teams and set the stage for a day of fun and friendly competition on the Eagle Falls course.

The spirit of giving was on full display throughout the day. Erin Legel, soon to be inducted into the women's basketball hall of fame this October, won the 50/50 drawing but, in a gracious gesture, donated the winnings to her teammate, Eliannah Ramirez, whose home had recently been damaged in a fire. "She's my host-daughter. She's a good student-athlete. I just want her to be able to get the education that she needs," Legel explained. The host-daughter relationship typically offers stability and support, and Legel's actions embodied that ethos, showing her deep commitment to Ramirez's well-being.



Finding a little 'beach time' on the course! Dave Smith's sand wedge is getting a workout as he tries to escape the bunker.

Scott Wilson, a third-generation electrical contractor and manager of Cascade Electric, shared his long-standing connection to the tournament, offering both a player and sponsor perspective. "We've been a part of representing Providence and supporting Providence going back to my dad and my granddad," Wilson proudly said. His family's legacy of involvement spans decades, as he has sent teammates and coworkers to the tournament for years. This year, Wilson took to the course for the first time in 15 years, continuing the tradition of supporting Argo athletics both on and off the field. "I had a blast," he continues. "It supports not only the University but all of the sporting programs, and it's great for the community of Great Falls. I see a lot of people out here who are fellow contractors and suppliers and just good people and good friends. It's just a Great Falls Community event. It's really wonderful!"



Dressed to par-fection, Kathy Johnson, Karen Venetz, Sherry Oswood, and Cari Yturri are ready to slay the course in style! With fashion as sharp as their swings, this all-women foursome proves you can have fun and look great while conquering the greens!

Wilson was quick to praise the course, complementing its immaculate greens and superb fairways. "The course was in great shape," he said, underscoring the satisfaction that comes with playing on such meticulously maintained grounds. There's a certain majesty to golfing on a course like Eagle Falls, even more so when that experience is shared with friends and teammates for a great cause that goes beyond the game. By all measures, the 2024 Argo Golf Tournament was a resounding success, raising the most funds yet.



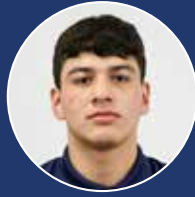
When the scorecard takes a backseat to the shenanigans! Ron Simonsen, Teagen Olsen, Trenton Olsen, and Jackson Winhalm may not be leading the leaderboard, but they're definitely winning in the 'having too much fun' department. Golf balls? Check. Laughter? Check. Serious golf? Well, there's always next year!

Athletic Director Doug Hashley wrapped up the awards ceremony with his signature enthusiasm. "From Argo Athletics, thanks for golfing and thanks for being a great sponsor!" he boomed, closing out a day that brought the community together for sport, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to supporting student-athletes. 🏌️

University of Providence All-Americans



Nina Janjic
Volleyball



Abel Nava Jr.
Men's Wrestling



KC Buday
Men's Wrestling



Erin Hikiji
Women's Wrestling



Paige Morales
Women's Wrestling



Alyssa Randles
Women's Wrestling



Waipuilani Estrella
Beauchamp
Women's Wrestling



Sadie Atogue
Women's Wrestling



Ashlee Maldonado
Women's Basketball



Jakob Stevenson
Hockey



Tatiana Martinez
Track and Field



Allyson Conner
Track and Field



McKenzie Clark
Track and Field



University of Providence NAIA National Qualifiers

Cross Country
Kelsey Plymale

Indoor Track and Field
Travis Zavala

Track and Field
Allyson Conner
Tatiana Martinez
McKenzie Clark
Josh Coleman

Men's Wrestling
Jalen Vadic
Aden Graves
Bridger Hall
Jordan Komac
Pig Hobbs
Abel Nava Jr.

Alan Badley
Caleb Werner
Sawyer Hobbs
Ethan DeRoche
KC Buday

Women's Wrestling
Erin Hikiji
Paige Morales
Ani Arias
Isabelle Asuncion
Alicia Frank
Alyssa Randles
Paige Respicio
Waipuilani Estrella-
Beauchamp
Kailey Rees
Sadie Antoque
Kacey Lee Pua
Katelyn Lewis

Men's Hockey Team
Chris Fines
Trevor Checketts
Dante Montgomery
AJ Belanger
Zach Fulton
Jakob Stevenson
Kyle Hamon
Colby Friedrich
Stanislav Struthers
Adam Husli
Tobias Robinson
Ty Alger
Jonathan O'Brien
Charles Lupelow
Logan Ursulak
Chavez Constant
Tyler McCarry
Elliott Venini
Jamal Kalaf

Matthias O'Brien
Paul Jarvis

Women's Basketball Team
Katelyn Heldeman
Monique Carter
Taliah Lee
Camryn Carwright
Shania Gardipee
Hayleigh Smith
Ashlee Maldonado
Laura Zietzke
Kolby Pimperton
Maddy Dixon
Kacey Christensen
McKenna Reggear
Eliannah Ramirez
Keanna Salave'a
Carry Taylor
Alicia Oatis

ARGOS UNITE

A Festive Fusion of Fun, Tradition, and Community



Kids enjoy some friendly competition at the Harvest Family Festival during last year's Argo Weekend. With games, music, local food trucks, and a kid's costume contest, this free event brings together alumni, friends, family, and the community for a fun-filled day of activities and memories.



Jason, the Argo mascot energizes the crowd, showing off some muscle during last year's women's volleyball match against Carroll College, as the Argos faced off in an exciting showdown during Argo Weekend.

Following a leadership transition that included the appointment of Father Oliver as University President, Argo Weekend is making a much-anticipated return to the University of Providence. Initially discontinued in 2019, the event was reintroduced last year, marking the first time it has been held in consecutive years since before the COVID-19 pandemic. University leaders are now focused on expanding Argo Weekend in 2025 and beyond, turning it into a cornerstone event that fosters connection across the university community. This year's festivities kick off October 3rd through the 6th, including a school showcase, a book launch and signing with Sister Barbara Schamber, a harvest festival and market, keynote speakers, sports hall of fame inductions, and various activities designed to engage students, alumni, and the Great Falls community.

"We want this to be a fun event that brings our students, their families, and the larger Great Falls community together," said Dr. Joel Bluml, Vice President of Student Engagement and Athletics. "Whether you're an alumni from the UGF days or a prospective or current student of the University of Providence, we are all Argos."

Kylie Carranza, Director of Advancement, expressed her enthusiasm for the highly anticipated return of Argo Weekend, emphasizing its significance for the University of Providence community. "These sorts of events are really important for our on-campus community to grow, and we hope to have a great turnout from our alumni and prospective students as well," she stated.



UP men's soccer teammates rally from the sidelines, bringing the energy and passion during last year's intense matchup. As the Argos prepare to take on Corban University during the 2024 Argo Weekend, this camaraderie and support are what make Argo soccer such a force on the field.

Carranza's optimism is well-founded, given the array of engaging activities planned for the Argo community. The Harvest Family Festival will include a soccer match, live music, food trucks, vendors, and a beer garden featuring The Argonaut Pilsener, alongside various recognitions and ceremonies honoring both the university's past and its promising future.

As the University of Providence prepares for Argo Weekend, this cornerstone event is set to strengthen ties between the university and the broader community. "We want alumni to come back and enjoy themselves and feel a bigger sense of connection to the University," said Ross Remsen, Director of Alumni and Community Relations. He emphasized the importance of community engagement, adding, "We want the community to join in the fun, celebrating everything Argos, and to give our residents an inside look at all we have to offer here."



Alumni hit the field with smiles and a little friendly competition during the annual Alumni Softball game. With alumni events like wrestling, basketball, and softball, Argo Weekend is action-packed as past players relive the glory days and show they've still got it!

Remsen provided additional insights via email while traveling internationally, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the event's success. His vision for Argo Weekend is clear: "Our overall goal is to continue to grow the impact and connection we have with our alumni, our current students, our prospective students, and the community as a whole."

Whether you're a former Argo, a current University of Providence student, a prospective student, an Argo fan, or a family member or friend of the university community, the first weekend of October promises to be a time of celebration and connection at this year's Argo Weekend. 🦋

For more information:

Ross Remsen, Director of Alumni and Community Relations
ross.remsen@uprovidence.edu | 406.791.5926

ARGO WEEKEND SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 3rd

6:00 pm

Pre-Game Social (current students)

Providence Forum – McLaughlin Center

7:00 pm

Volleyball vs Rocky Mountain College • McLaughlin Center

OCTOBER 4th

12:00 pm

St. Francis Day (pet blessings) • Providence Plaza

1:00 pm

Women's Soccer vs Bushnell University • Argo Field

3:30 pm

Men's Soccer vs Bushnell University • Argo Field

5:30 – 9:00 pm

Argo Weekend Kick-off Party • Argo Galley – McLaughlin Center

- 5:30 – 8:30 pm Silent Auction - Providence Forum
- 5:30 pm President's Campus Update
- 5:45 pm Choir Performance
- 6:00 pm Women's Basketball Banner Reveal and Ring Ceremony
- 7:00 PM Alumni & Current Players Basketball Skills Challenge

OCTOBER 5th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

School Showcase and Breakfast • University Center

10:00 am

Book Launch & Signing with Barbara Schamber

"Gifts of Water and Mountains" • University Center

11:00 am

Alumni Softball Game • Multi-sports Complex – 1014 21st Ave. S.

12:00 – 5:00 pm

Harvest Family Festival • Providence Lawn

1:00 pm

Women's Soccer vs Corban University • Argo Field

2:00 pm

Volleyball vs Carroll College • McLaughlin Center

3:30 pm

Men's Soccer vs Corban University • Argo Field

5:00 pm

Women's Basketball Alumni Game • McLaughlin Center

7:00 pm

Men's Basketball Intrasquad Scrimmage • McLaughlin Center

OCTOBER 6th

9:00 am

Sunday Mass • TBD

11:00 am

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony • UC Conference Rooms

Invite Only • Doors open at 10:00 am



Scan the QR code for an up-to-date schedule for Argo Weekend.

Campus Beat



Angela Jukkala, Michael Mulvey, and Christianna Kruger volunteering at the Montana State Fair.



She shoots, she scores! Cabry Taylor, Bella Thompson, Nina Janjic, Keaton Stuckman, and Jason take a spin at the Ring Toss.



All smiles for our Argos! Cabry Taylor, Keaton Stuckman, and Bella Thompson.



UP Alums Amy Scott and Brittany Budeski enjoy spending time with Jason at the Montana State Fair.



2024 4th of July Parade Prep.



Nina Janjic and Keaton Stuckman take a ride on the Super Slide.

Campus Beat



"We enjoyed having the Sisters of Providence and Providence Sponsors visit the University of Providence campus this summer."



Launching the Providence Forum.



Kids Basketball Camp 2024.



Dribble, Pass, Shoot!



Happy 4th of July from Jason the Argonaut.



Father Oliver and the Argo 4th of July float.



Katrina Stark shows her ARGO Pride!



calendar

October 3-6
Argo Weekend
www.uprovidence.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-and-friends-argo-weekend-2024/

October 7
OPI Youth Event

October 16
Great Falls Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

October 17
Montana Tourism Board Meeting

October 23-27
Fall Break, No Classes

October 30
Spring Registration Begins

November 2
Junior High Rally

November 6
Registration Support Day

November 16
YMCA Empty Bowls

November 19
FCCLA (Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Teacher I FCCLA Chapter Adviser)

November 20
AgWest Q4 LAC Meeting

November 21
Montana Tourism Board Meeting

November 22-24
Thanksgiving Observance, Campus Closed

December 7
GFPD Christmas Party

December 11-15
Final Exams

December 15
Last Day of Classes

December 19
Home Builders Association Christmas Event

December 19
Montana Tourism Board Meeting

December 25 – January 1
Christmas Observance, Campus Closed

January 13, 2025
Spring Semester 2025, Classes Begin

January 16
Montana Tourism Board Meeting

January 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Campus Closed



University of Providence Board Members



Hoda Asmar, MD



Carol Bronson



Dexter Busby



Chris Christiaens, '62, '94



Maria J. Christiaens, '85



Edward F. Coghlan, '72
Advancement
Committee Chair



Terry Cosgrove, '69
Board Chair
Executive Committee Chair



Fr. Oliver J. Doyle
UP President



Bishop Jeffrey M. Fleming
Coadjutor Bishop
Ex-Officio



Bryan Fox, '85



Kayla-Marie Gumeson
Student Representative



Tom Hier
Board Vice Chair
Finance Committee Chair



Michelle Hill
Faculty Representative



Eric Hinebauch, '11



Heather Hoyer



Sr. Rosaile Locati, SP



Elizabeth A. McGregor



Fr. Dan Shea



Stuart VanHorn '82



Rose Whitney
Providence Liaison



Roger Witt (Emeritus)



Curtis Yarlott



Cari Yturri, '21
Mission Committee Chair

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI INFORMATION

Please Scan QR Code to Update
Alumni Contact Information



Scan Me

Or email: Ross Remsen,
Director of Alumni and Community Relations

ross.remsen@uprovidence.edu