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## From the director

Providence people are people of hope. This gift from God helps us weather doubts, disappointments, and challenges. Hope gives courage. It enables us to trust that God loves us immeasurably and wants good for us, no matter what.

God knows we all need safe refuge and encouragement at times. Global pandemics, wars, and supply shortages afflict us. Economic insecurity, social unrest, suicide, and violence plague our world. As a result, we face hopelessness, grief, and despair. In such circumstances, our charism of hope is a true lifeline.

That is why our Fall 2022 PROSO events focus on fostering hope and building relationships. Our ministry moves ahead in hope as we form new partnerships between

the San Antonio, Texas, Congregation of Divine Providence (CDPs) and the Allison Park, PA, CDPs, who sponsor the Kearns Spirituality Center and La Roche University's Center for Lifelong Learning. (See article on page 2.)

In August, I led our first eight-day preached *Harbor of Hope Retreat*. The Precious Blood Sisters in Dayton, Ohio, and the Sacred Heart Sisters in San Antonio have requested the same retreat. Between now

and Summer 2023, PROSO and our partners will offer this retreat in various formats: virtual, in-person, and hybrid.



*Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP,  
Director of PROSO Ministry*

Relationships fuel hope. PROSO offers many chances to form and strengthen relationships. You can meet new people and reconnect with friends at our new round-table discussions for Sisters and Associates. You can grow in faith and hope by meeting with a PROSO companion or spiritual director. These sessions take place by phone, computer, or in person.

Through these small-scale relationships, we can help to weave a global community of hope. Our world faces a terrible global food shortage. Before

Russia's invasion, the Ukraine was among the top suppliers of wheat, corn, barley--and yes, **PROSO** millet. It is no coincidence that we Sisters, Associates, and friends who strive to alleviate modern-day spiritual hunger bear that same name – **PROSO**.

During this time of war, drought, pandemics, and climate change, may we prayerfully embrace all who face starvation and those who offer humanitarian assistance and comfort.

*Sister Joyce Detzel*  
*Director of PROSO Ministry*  
210-707-8400  
[proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org)

# ***Meet Our New PROSO Partner: Adventures in Lifelong Learning at La Roche University***

*by Jennifer Engel, Executive Director,  
La Roche Center for Lifelong Learning*

La Roche University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is proud to announce the new Center for Lifelong Learning. The first program out of the Center, the Adventures in Lifelong Learning (ALL), is for people 50 and better who want to enrich their lives, expand their network, and experience the joy of learning without grades, assignments, or exams. We are happy to partner with the Sisters of Divine Providence and PROSO Ministry and to offer spiritual programming and experiences as well.

There are six five-week sessions throughout the year. Each session has between 20 and 25 courses. The annual membership fee allows members to take as many courses in the ALL program as they would like; they may also audit one undergraduate course per term, obtain a La Roche ID, access the library in person and digitally, and much more.

The courses appeal to a wide range of interests: Scripture (Gospel of the Beloved Disciple), literature (Poems of Controversy), music (Sacred Sondheim), health and wellness (Bodiography, a ballet-based workout), to name just a few.

The Fall 1 Term began the week of August 29, and the Fall 2 session will begin the week of October 17. It is NOT too late to sign up. Check out the website to learn more or to register: [www.laroche.edu/adventures](http://www.laroche.edu/adventures). You can also call 412-536-1026 for more information.



***Center for Lifelong Learning Executive Director, Jennifer Engel (right), visits with PROSO and Lifelong Learning Participant Joyce Osborne-Fischer during the Lifelong Learning Center's opening picnic.***

**We decided to donate to PROSO Ministry because it is a budding ministry in the Congregation. We want to be part of the outreach to those in need of spiritual help. We pray for the Ministry and are delighted that PROSO is collaborating with CDPs from Marie de La Roche Province.**

***Sister Paulette Celis, CDP, and Sister María Cristina Ruelas, CDP, San Antonio, Texas***

# Grace Floods Our Doorsteps

by Rhodora Beaton

This summer, I visited a place whose very name sparks the imagination, especially in June when the wild strawberries are just starting to appear in New England.

Strawbery Banke [using the local spelling], located in Portsmouth, NH, was the site of one of the earliest settlements of Europeans in what is now the United States. These settlers were, of course, not the first people to call this place home. As the Portsmouth library puts it, “The City of Portsmouth is on the homelands of the Abenaki people, who . . . have lived in the place now called New Hampshire for more than 12,000 years—since before Tribal memory. The Abenaki are part of a larger group of Indigenous people who called themselves Wabanaki or ‘People of the Dawn’ . . .” ([www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/land-acknowledgement](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/land-acknowledgement)).

The Strawberry Banke Museum carries on the memories of many generations of people who chose to live just up the river from the Atlantic Ocean. Some of them were Christian and some were not. Some of them set down permanent roots, while others were only passing through, living more lightly on the land.

Strawbery Banke does not have “ocean views,” nor is it subject to the wild waters of the Atlantic itself. Buffered by the Piscataqua River, the community originally had a “Puddle Dock,” which flooded daily with the tides, bringing goods directly to the doorsteps of the businesses on the puddle-front and receding when the tides went out.

Today the “puddle” is flooded only for ice-skating in

the winter, but in the past this natural feature served the community and sometimes put it at risk. Too little water and the goods might have to be moved by hand; too much water and the tide is lapping at one’s doorstep or beyond.

What is it about a harbor, or even a puddle, or a pond, that attracts generation after generation, people after people? Is it the proximity to wildness and beauty? The ever-changing scene, the expanse of openness? Perhaps it is the same force that draws small children to the running water of an immersion baptismal font. Water is ultimately an uncontrollable source, and yet it is also what gently sustains us.

Theologian Karl Rahner, in *Foundations of Christian Faith*, speaks of the “sea of infinite mystery.” For Rahner, the ultimate Mystery is God, who draws us forth and fascinates us with wildness and beauty. It seems to me that when we encounter a harbor, or really any kind of “living water,” we stand on the edge of the wilderness and wildness that is God. It may be that we are coming in from this wilderness, perhaps shaken or invigorated by what we have experienced, driven to our doorsteps by the tides of grace. It may be that we are setting out, ready to be swept away on the waves of a new journey led by the Spirit.

The harbor is the place of new beginnings. It is a place where traditions and communities hold together, a place that is familiar and yet never the same, a place from which we are drawn forth and welcomed home.

*Rhodora Beaton is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. She participated in her first PROSO program in Spring 2022.*



*Rhodora Beaton in Galway, Ireland. Photo by Mary Ann Beaton, Rhodora’s mother.*



# A Bonus Gift from Providence

by Christina Rangel-Bautista

My husband, Alberto, and I met in the Campus Ministry Office at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. We were married in Sacred Heart Chapel on the university campus in 2010. It took us eight years to conceive our first son, but we knew that it was important for us to trust God's providence. It would be his will and his perfect timing if he determined that we were ready for a family.

My dad was diagnosed in December 2018 with stage four prostate cancer. Our first son, Albert, was born one week before my dad passed away. Grieving a parent passing from cancer but at the same time experiencing long-awaited motherhood felt like weathering a gigantic storm. I found peace in knowing that God is good and that my dad was free of pain. It is a blessing to know, because of our faith and God's unwavering grace, that there will be a time when we will meet again.

Our second son, Oliver, was born in 2021. We like to say that Albert was our first miracle, and Oliver was a bonus gift.

When I arrived at the hospital to deliver Oliver, we were surprised to learn that I had Covid. I felt totally fine; I didn't have a fever or cough or any other symptoms. This was in July 2021, a time when hospitals were still taking extreme precautions with women who had Covid and were about to give birth. I was quarantined in a special section of the hospital.

There was another complication, too. Oliver was not in position for delivery and could not be rotated. His heart rate began to drop at an alarming rate. The doctors ordered an emergency c-section. This sent me into a complete panic.

But my grandmother had a strong devotion to Mary and the rosary, so my natural instinct is always to pray the rosary in times of distress. As the staff prepared me for surgery, we requested prayers from our church family and used our Bluetooth speaker in our hospital room so we could hear each other praying. I held my rosary on the way to surgery.

It took a long time to deliver Oliver because I have stage four endometriosis and I lost a liter of blood during surgery. But the most precious little life made it out in great shape. He did test positive for Covid, but he came out crying and healthy!

Unfortunately, once I gave birth, my husband had to rush home to be with Albert, our older son. Albert has autism, so we were grateful that our extended family all lives close by. We were also blessed to have a babysitter who is a speech pathology major at Texas

Christian University and works with him—and was available to stay with him while Alberto and I were at the hospital.

With Alberto at home, I was alone with staff, who were required to put on full personal protective equipment, even when bringing me water. So the typical nurse/patient engagement wasn't there, and neither was my husband. On the flip side, we were in constant contact through technology, and I just kept thinking how blessed we were to have such a problem—we were juggling not one but TWO boys!

God is a true Safe Harbor. He calms any storms we face in our lives, no matter the size. Knowing that he was wrapping our family in his arms and that those around us were praying

for our little family calmed our storm. Oliver was born a happy and healthy baby. While he was, in fact born with Covid, he did great, and we were able to return home with no issues.

The CDP Sisters and Associates have been a part of our lives since college, even before we were ever married or started thinking about a family. Their prayers and those of our church family are a huge part in our journey, surrounding us with God's love and comfort at some of our hardest times. God is Good. We know firsthand that trusting in His Divine Providence will always bring comfort in our times of need.

*Christina Rangel-Bautista is an alumna of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. She is Director of Regional Development at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.*



**Christina is holding Oliver, and Alberto has Albert in his arms.**

(Photo by Alyssa Dawn Photography)



## Fall 2022 Harbor of Hope Virtual Weekend Retreat

Do you long for some rest, refreshment and good news? PROSO Harbor of Hope Retreats provide gentle time away from everyday concern—time to find strength and safe harbor in the heart of Providence. Deepen your trust and let God's peace, possibilities, and joy transform your heart and the world.

The 2022 Fall Harbor of Hope Virtual Retreat Weekend takes place on Friday evening, November 18 through Sunday afternoon, November 20.

**Cost: \$100.** Note: All times are Eastern Standard Time.

- *Friday, 7:30 pm (EST) November 18:*  
Entering the Harbor of Hope
- *Saturday, 10:30 am (EST) November 19:*  
Anchored in Hope
- *Saturday, 2:30 pm (EST) November 19:*  
Mary, Model of Hope; Birthing and Holding Hope
- *Saturday, 7:30 pm (EST) November 19:*  
Resting Beside Peaceful Waters of Peace, Healing, and Gratitude
- *Sunday, 2:30 pm (EST) November 20:*  
Back to the Sea – Hope for the Journey

Each one-hour session includes a brief presentation, plus prayer, music, and personal reflection and/or sharing.

### ***Harbor of Hope Virtual Weekend Retreat Leader:***

Sister Joyce Detzel, CDP, a Sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas.

Sister Joyce is Director of PROSO Ministry and a grandmother with a creative passion for art, music, and spirituality. She is a certified Ignatian Spiritual Director with 40 years of experience as an educator, attorney, congregational vocation director, and campus/retreat minister.

***To register,*** click on PROSO Current Offerings Winter Spring 2022 - ([cdptexas.org](https://www.cdptexas.org)) or <https://www.cdptexas.org/proso-current-offerings/>. Email: [proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org) or call 210-707-8400 for registration help or financial assistance inquiries.

The 2022-2023 Harbor of Hope Retreats will occur virtually or in person at different locations on different dates.

Contact Sr. Joyce at [proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org) or call 210-707-8400 for information about hosting or attending a future Harbor of Hope Retreat.



## **Weaving a Future of Hope Fall 2022 PROSO Roundtable Conversations**

### **Purpose**

- Meet new people; strengthen existing bonds.
- Recognize and welcome the signs of Providence emerging in our lives.
- Offer and receive encouragement, new insights, and creative possibilities.
- Find friendship and solidarity in our call to make Providence (God's love and care) visible in our daily lives, communities and service to others.

### **Dates and Locations**

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 10:00-11:30 am EDT  
La Roche University Center for Lifelong Learning  
Roundtable Conversations. Kearns Spirituality Center  
conference room. In-person gathering, hosted by  
Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP.

*To register, contact [jennifer.engel@laroche.edu](mailto:jennifer.engel@laroche.edu) or  
call 412-536-1284 by Tuesday, October 11.  
(Walk-ins are welcome.)*

Sunday, October 16, 2022, 4:00-6:00 pm EDT  
Spanish-Speaking CDP Sisters Roundtable Conversa-  
tions. Zoom gathering, co-hosted by Sr. Ana Lydia  
Sonera Matos, CDP (Puerto Rico) and Sr. Elsa  
Garcia, CDP (Texas).

*To register, email [alsoneramatos@cdpsisters.org](mailto:alsoneramatos@cdpsisters.org) or  
[elsacdp@gmail.com](mailto:elsacdp@gmail.com) by Tuesday, October 11.*

Saturday, October 29, 2022, 10:30 am to noon EDT  
CDP Sisters Roundtable Conversations. Zoom gather-  
ing, co-hosted by Sr. Lourdes Leal, CDP (Texas) and  
Sr. Judith Connor, CDP (Pittsburgh). Collaborative  
conversation between CDPs from Pittsburgh and the  
North, and CDPs from Texas.

*Register with Sr. Lourdes at [lleal@cdptexas.org](mailto:lleal@cdptexas.org) or  
[jconnor@cdpsisters.org](mailto:jconnor@cdpsisters.org) by Tuesday, October 25.*

Late October/early November, 2022

[Dates to be announced]

CDP Associates Roundtable Conversations. Initial  
“Weaving a Future of Hope” discussions for CDP  
Associate groups from Texas and the Marie de la  
Roche Province.

*To learn more, contact your local Team Lead  
or Associate Director: Ana Maria de la Portilla at  
[amdelaport@gmail.com](mailto:amdelaport@gmail.com) (Texas); or Linda Hoefflin,  
[lhoefflin@cdpsisters.org](mailto:lhoefflin@cdpsisters.org) (Marie de la Roche).*

Monday, November 7, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm EST  
PROSO Roundtable Conversations. Zoom conversa-  
tion, hosted by PROSO Director, Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP.  
Past participants, friends, and people new to PROSO  
are invited to attend.

*To register, email [proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org)  
or call 210-707-8400 by Thursday, November 3.*

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 3:00-4:00 pm CST  
Our Lady of the Lake University Roundtable Conversa-  
tions. Zoom conversation, co-hosted by PROSO Direc-  
tor, Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP, and the OLLU Center for  
Women in Church in Society.

*To receive your link, contact Jackie Walter at  
[jlwalter@ollusa.edu](mailto:jlwalter@ollusa.edu) by January 10, 2023.*

### **Lenten Conversations**

A new set of Lenten and Spring “Weaving a Future  
of Hope” roundtable conversations will begin in  
February 2023.

*Contact Sr. Joyce, PROSO director, at [proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org)  
or call 210-707-8400 for information.*



## ***PROSO Calendar of Events Fall and Winter 2022 - 2023***

***October 13, 2022***, 10:00-11:30 am EDT

La Roche University Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL), Pittsburgh, PA: Weaving a Future of Hope Roundtable, for members of the CLL (Kearns Spirituality Center, Allison Park, PA).

***October 16, 2022***, 4:00-6:00 pm EDT

Spanish-Speaking CDP Sisters Roundtable, Weaving a Future of Hope (Zoom).

***October 29, 2022***, 10:30 am-Noon EDT

CDP Sisters Roundtable, Weaving a Future of Hope (Zoom).

***October/November 2022*** [Dates, times to be announced]

CDP Associates Roundtable conversations. Initial conversations bringing together Associates of the Texas CDPs and the Associates of the Marie de la Roche province.

***November 7, 2022***, 7:30-9:00 pm EST

PROSO participants/public, Weaving a Future of Hope (Zoom).

***November 18-20, 2022***

Fall Harbor of Hope Weekend Retreat (Zoom)

***December 8, 2022***

Activities Fair and Open House for PROSO, La Roche Center for Lifelong Learning, Kearns Spirituality Center, and the Ruah Spiritual Direction Program

***December 15, 2022***, 3:30 pm CST

Virtue of Simplicity: Session 1, formation program for prospective ACDPs (Associates of the Texas CDPs). (Zoom)

***December 17, 2022***, 10:00 am CST

Virtue of Simplicity: repeat of Session 1, formation program for prospective ACDPs (Associates of the Texas CDPs). (Zoom)

***December 31, 2022***, 7:30 pm EST

PROSO New Year's Prayer Vigil, followed by a People of Providence party and conversations (General public, Zoom).

***January 19, 2023***, 3:00-4:00 pm CST

Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX (OLLU): Weaving a Future of Hope Roundtable. For the OLLU community. Co-hosted by PROSO and the OLLU Center for Women in Church and Society. (Zoom).

**Support the work of PROSO by donating online:**

**<https://www.cdptexas.org/proso-donation>**

**Donate by mail, make checks payable to PROSO/CDP Ministry, mail to:  
PROSO Ministry CDP Texas, 515 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207.**

**Please include your name, address, email and phone,  
or print the downloadable form on the web site.**



# PROSO Needs Volunteer Help



- **Zoom Tutor** to meet several times with the PROSO Director and Team to teach advanced techniques and features of Zoom software.
- **Tech Support for Events** to co-host and run PowerPoints and videos during events.
- **Word Press** consultant to help PROSO Director with editing and content posting.
- **Registration Assistant** to maintain Excel databases and follow up with program information requests.
- **Outreach Consultant** to help promote PROSO programs.
- **Social Media Coordinator** to update and monitor PROSO social media on a weekly basis.

For more information contact  
Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP, PROSO Director,  
[proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org) or call 210-707-8400.



**PROSO Ministry** offers retreats, conversation groups, workshops and spiritual direction led by Sisters and Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas, and Marie de la Roche Province, Allison Park, Pennsylvania. For more information about these flexible, virtual and in-person private and public spiritual outreach services responsive to modern-day spiritual needs, contact Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP, PROSO Director, at [proso@cdptexas.org](mailto:proso@cdptexas.org) or call 210-707-8400. You can find current virtual events listed at <https://www.cdptexas.org/proso-current-offerings>

The program offerings are also on the PROSO Ministry Facebook page, or on the Allison Park CDP website at [www.cdpsisters.org](http://www.cdpsisters.org). You will need to search PROSO on the site and then hit Enter to find program offerings. You can mail written requests to PROSO Ministry CDP Texas, 515 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207.

**PROSO Planning Team:** Sr. Joyce Detzel, CDP, Director  
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