



Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother
U.S./Caribbean Province
Provincial Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SISTERS OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP

Oshkosh, Wisconsin -- During a Provincial Assembly, April 15 - 20, 2009, held at SSM Franciscan Courts, Oshkosh, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi, elected new leadership for the U.S./Caribbean Province.

Newly elected:

- Sister Marilyn Vollmer, Provincial
- Sister Julie Marie Peters, Assistant Provincial
- Sister Frances Renn, Councilor
- Sister Jeanine Retzer, Councilor

Presently Director of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of Camden in New Jersey, Sister Marilyn Vollmer has directed diocesan synods in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA and the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas. She also has ministered as facilitator of General and Provincial chapters of religious men and women both internationally and in the U.S. She holds a Doctorate of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL.

Sister Julie Marie Peters, after receiving a degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of Wisconsin- Stout, has been serving in the Archdiocese Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. She teaches at the seminary and conducts programs throughout the Caribbean for the Franciscan Institute, an SSM ministry which facilitates the psycho-spiritual development of youth, adults and families.

Sister Frances Renn taught in elementary and high school, worked in New York's inner city as an Administrative Assistant and is presently a chaplain serving behavioral health clients within Saint Clare's Health System in New Jersey. She is involved in vocation ministry for SSM and the Diocese of Paterson.

Sister Jeanine Retzer served the U.S./Caribbean Province for the last four years as Assistant Provincial and will continue her service to the congregation as councilor. In the past she has served the church as teacher, principal, pastoral associate and director of religious education. She also ministered in mission services in health care settings in Wisconsin and New Jersey.

The new council will take office on July 1, 2009, and will lead the province in implementing the vision and direction set forth by the Provincial Assembly:

- To be evangelized and transformed by the Word of God through formation, experience and conversion,
- To proclaim the Gospel by living authentic Franciscan life -- reverencing all creation, working to change unjust structures and promoting mutual respect among cultures,
- To stand with and assist the poor of our times, especially women and children, and,
- To collaborate/network with others.

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The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother were founded in 1883 by Mother Frances Streitel. Headquartered in Rome the international congregation has sisters serving in the U.S., Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Italy, Germany, Austria and Tanzania. For more information on the congregation go to website: <http://www.ave-mater-dolorosa.org>



**New Provincial Leadership for Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother:
Sister Julie Marie Peters, Assistant Provincial, Sister Marilyn
Vollmer, Provincial, Sister Jeanine Retzer, Councilor, Sister
Frances Renn, Councilor**