

Providence Centre

Since 1965



The Sisters of Providence had long wanted to locate their northwestern headquarters in Edmonton, as it would be central to their ministries in the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, and the territory of Yukon. In 1964, they began the construction of Providence Centre, building it larger than required for their own needs because Most Rev. Anthony Jordan, D.D. OMI, Archbishop of Edmonton, asked them to provide space for conferences for Religious in formation and seminarians and for housing for retired priests. From the beginning, this attention to hospitality, already an identifying element in the Sisters' ministry and lifestyle, was a strong flavour of the ministry in Edmonton.

Architects J.A. Cawston and Associates of Calgary, and contractors, The Foundation Company of Canada Ltd. completed the building in December 1, 1965. The Sisters, including the novitiate and the infirmary, moved in between December 1, 1965 and February, 1966.

Archbishop Anthony Jordan, OMI who was eager to see the building in operation, officiated at the turning of the sod in April 1964; the blessing of the altar in December 1965; the erection of the cornerstone; the blessing of Providence Centre; and the blessing of the

chapel in May, 1966.

The heart of the building is the chapel. Black granite, white marble, terracotta brick, cedar, and oak contributed to its solidity and beauty. The stained glass windows, designed by Mr. Karl W. Lengauer of Avanti Art Glass Co., Calgary give a cool sense of serenity to the light.

The first annual retreat took place in April 1966 beginning a ministry of providing retreats, spiritual conferences, and spiritual direction which grew until it became a major focus in the building.

By 1980, the requirements for Providence Centre had changed and extensive remodelling reallocated space in 1983 to meet both the administrative and housing needs of the Sisters and the ecumenical ministry of spiritual growth in Providence Renewal Centre, in the renovated north wing of the building.

The text above was taken from the booklet of Providence Centre during its 50th anniversary in 2015, written in collaboration between the Sisters of Providence and Staff members of Providence Centre. October 11, 2015



Sod Turning
April 6, 1954

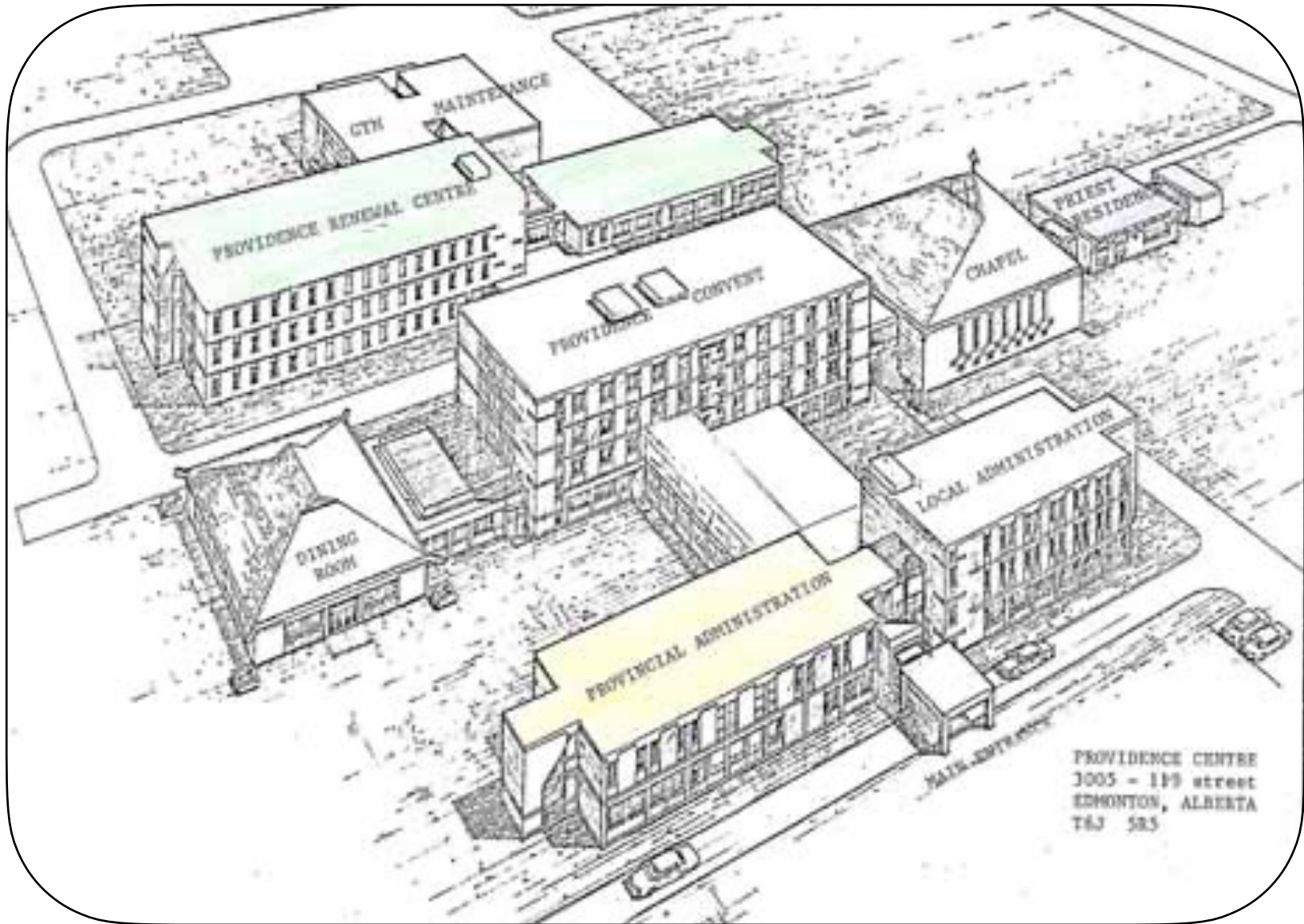
Providence Centre
Entrance
December, 1965



Exterior of Providence Centre
Chapel
December, 1965



Aerial View of Providence Centre Complex Shortly After Completion
1965



A Drawing of Providence Centre Complex
After 1982

Providence Centre Chapel

At the heart of every major house of Providence is a chapel. Providence Centre houses a beautiful and serene chapel that is open not only to all the residents of Providence Centre but also to retreatants of Providence Renewal Centre. The Chapel is also open to the public when there are Eucharistic celebrations (Mass). Many people appreciate the quiet and peaceful atmosphere at Providence Centre Chapel, as well as the simplicity and elegance of its design, and the central location of the sanctuary that adds to the intimacy and solemnity of worship.



Aerial View Inside Providence Centre Chapel
Photo taken from the balcony in June 24, 2023



Blessing of the Altar by Archbishop Jordan
at Providence Centre Chapel
December 23, 1965

*It can be noticed between the photo on the left and
the photo below that the Chapel had a cross in the
beginning and today it has a crucifix.*

View of the Altar from the Aisle at
Providence Centre Chapel
Photo taken January 12, 2025





Statue of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin
 Photo taken January 12, 2025

A prayer corner on the left side of the chapel is dedicated to Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin where her statue and first-class relic can be found.

First-Class Relic of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin
 Photo taken January 12, 2025

Located on the left side corner of the chapel. This relic is venerated by the Sisters of Providence every September 23, the feast day of Blessed Mother Émilie.



RELIC of BLESSED EMILIE TAVERNIER-GAMELIN
 1800-1851
 Foundress of the Sisters of Providence (Montreal)
 Beatified in Rome by Pope John Paul II on October 7, 2001

Stained Glass Windows Inside the
Chapel
Photo taken January 12, 2025



Chapel Balcony
Photo taken January 12, 2025

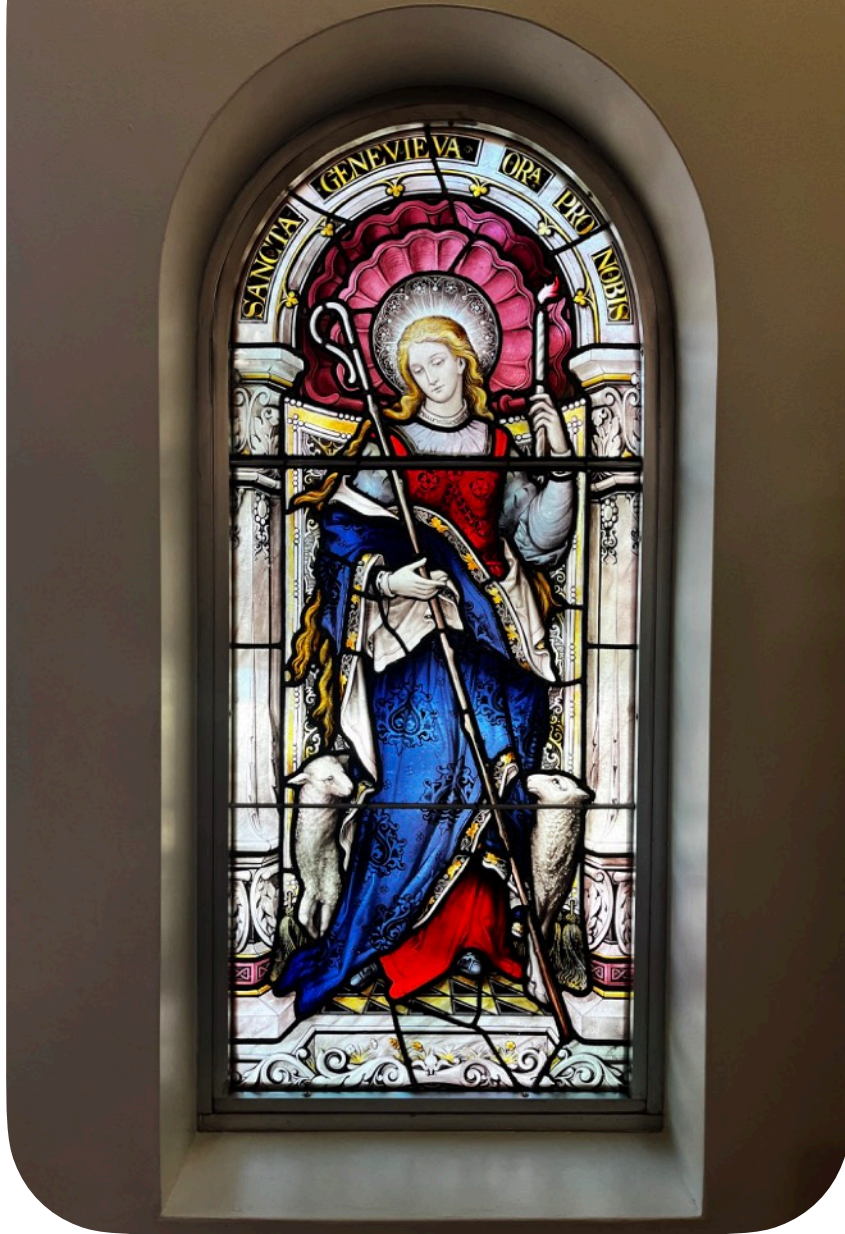
The balcony is mostly reserved for Sisters with mobility challenge because this level connects directly to the bedrooms.

Mother of Sorrows Oratory

Adjacent to Providence Centre Chapel is a smaller prayer room called Mother of Sorrows Oratory. Blessed Mother Émilie and her daughters, the Sisters of Providence, have great devotion to Our Mother of Sorrows. Hence, this devotion became an integral component of the charism of the Sisters of Providence. Inside the oratory is a beautiful statue of the Pietà.

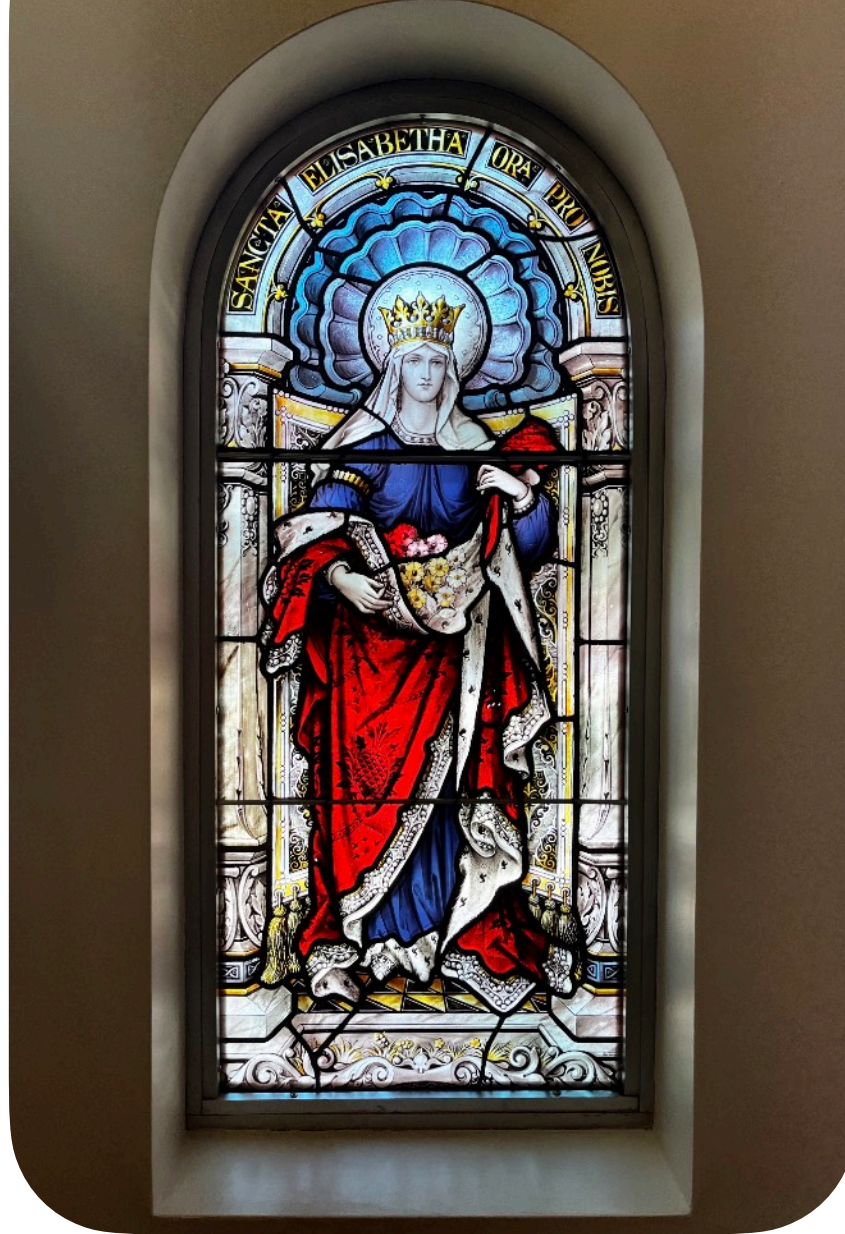
Many people who attend mass at the Chapel spend time beforehand or afterwards in the Oratory to pray the rosary.





St. Genevieve Stained Glass Window

Photo taken January 12, 2025



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Stained Glass Window

Photo taken January 12, 2025

These two stained glass windows are originally from St. Eugene Hospital in Kootenay/Cranbrook, BC. When the hospital closed in 1965, the stained glass windows were installed in the Mother of Sorrows Oratory in the new Providence Centre.



The Pietà at the front and center of the Oratory, beside a wooden Cross
Photo taken January 12, 2025

Émilie Community Room

Émilie Community Room is the gathering place for major events for the Sisters of Providence living in Alberta and for all the residents at Providence Centre.



Photos taken January 12, 2025



Solarium

Providence Centre has two solariums, one on the second floor and one on the third floor. They serve as recreational rooms with plenty of bright natural lights that is good for health and well-being of the elderly Sisters.



Photos taken January 12, 2025



The Library

The library is a favourite place-to-be for Sisters who have passion for reading and learning. Though it is smaller compared to other libraries, it houses decent collection of theology books and other genres, as well as audio visual materials.



Photos taken January 12, 2025



Heritage Room

Beside the Library is the Heritage Room which houses all the relics and artifacts from all the Western Canadian missions of the Sisters of Providence, as well as international missions where the Sisters from the Canadian West were missioned to. All photos were taken in January 12, 2025







Exterior Grounds

The property has beautiful landscape that the Sisters, retreatants, and guests enjoy during their stay. The abundance of trees, plants, and beautiful flowers speak to the beauty of nature that enriches the soul.



Providence Centre Complex at Night
Photo taken in September 22, 2016



Walking trails in the Compound
Photo taken September 10, 2015

Aerial View of the Grounds
Photo taken June 2013





Aerial View of the Grounds in the Fall
Photo taken Fall 2015

Aurora Borealis Hovering Over Providence Centre
October 10, 2024



The Cornerstone



The Cornerstone contains the following:

- * A historic resume of the Sisters of Charity of Providence
- * A list of the names of the General Council, Provincial Council, Sisters of Holy Angels Province
- * A picture of Providence Centre and the turning of the sod
- * A floor plan of Providence Centre Complex
- * The Act of Deliberation for the construction of Providence Centre as of March 30, 1964
- * The Western Catholic Reporter's account of Vatican II
- * The Sixteen Documents of the Church
- * A copy of the Constitutions of the Church
- * A Copy of Edmonton Journal
- * A copy of the Western Catholic Reporter
- * Relics, statuettes, medals, and beads of the Infant Jesus

Photo was taken in November 10, 2024



People who come to Providence Centre, for whatever purpose, often remark on the feeling of peace that is here. We believe that the prayers of the Sisters and of the many other people who come here for daily Mass or retreats or other spiritual opportunities have permeated the brick, stone, and wood of the building. The staff as well as the Sisters live hospitality, an attitude of openness and welcome to all who come.

Providence Centre has grown richer by becoming the home not only of the Sisters of Providence but also of several other Religious communities of women who also contribute to the prayer and the welcome in this building.

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