

PROVIDENCE ARCHIVES

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Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
Providence Health System • Providence Services

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House of Providence,
Vancouver, Washington,
November 14, 1918.

My dear Sisters,

We have been passing through a period of keenest anxiety and suffering during the past weeks. My sympathy has been with you all, and my only regret that I could not lessen your care and anxieties more. While we have been sadly afflicted in seeing our dear Sisters and Nurses fall victims to this awful epidemic, we have the consolation of knowing they were martyrs of charity; and since God, in His tender Mercy, has spared many who were seriously ill, it is only fitting that we should return thanks for all the blessings that have been ours during those days of trial.

So I come to ask that each mission have three Holy Masses offered; one for the poor souls, one in reparation, and one in thanksgiving. I also ask that you have seven candles burn every morning during Mass, for three months, in honor of our Mother of Sorrows. Days on which you may have no Mass, you may have them burn during meditation.

This terrible epidemic recalls the days of our Mother Foundresses and has given us an occasion of proving our fervor - our spirit of self-sacrifice; and I rejoice to say our dear Sisters of today have not been found wanting. I bless God for the devotedness and generosity manifested on all sides, and those who were not in the immediate care of the sick offered their services generously.

I sincerely hope all our dear Sisters who are convalescing from influenza will soon be well and strong again.

Praying God to bless you abundantly,

I am, your affectionately devoted,

Sister Vincent Ferris

Provincial Superior