

Sister Carole Riley, WVIS Executive Director

My name is Sister Carole Riley, a member of the international congregation of Divine Providence, who ministered with the Cenacle Sisters. I came 'with' the Cenacle Sisters in 1977 at the invitation of Roman Catholic Bishop Hodges to offer retreats in southern WV. When the Cenacle Retreat House of Charleston was closed, Divine Providence called me to leadership unexpectedly.



WVIS was born through the inspiration and generosity of the main-line church participants in the spiritual direction-training program. WVIS and I and have been in collaborative leadership with her board since that time in 1999.

I am not a board member, but volunteer as Executive Director in providing a space of quiet in the 'shadow' of the capitol. I hope to inspire our staff and faculty to follow the signs of the times, to provide silence in the midst of our busy world sometimes plagued with violence and fear.

The Cenacle Foundress, St Marie Therese Couderc, ministered 'in the shade'. WVIS imitates her example, by ministering in the shadow of the Charleston Capitol complex, the center of WV government decision makers. Former President, Margaret Llamas named the main house after St. Couderc; the Ardath S Francke Hermitage provides prayer space for spiritual seekers of all denominations to reflect on the meaning of life, the meaning of our common journey to make the world a better place because of our lives lived in justice and peace. Our gardens strive to provide a reflection of God's beauty.

Providence has provided through 16 years of history. You are welcome to come, to soak in the silence, to absorb abundant blessings. May Jesus, the Christ, inspire you to 'taste and see God's goodness at WVIS. '