



# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Sisters of the Presentation

---

FEBRUARY 2016

### **Raise the Powers of Love**

The Winter 2016 *Occasional Papers* article by Liz Sweeney SSJ, entitled, “The Evolutionary Task Now: To Raise the Power of Love Upward” tracks society’s evolutionary shifts of consciousness and cites Teilhard de Chardin’s challenging reflection, “*Our role is no longer to merely ease suffering, bind up wounds, and feed the hungry, but through every form of effort to raise the powers of love upward to the next stage of consciousness.*”

We stand with millions across the world at an evolutionary threshold! Our *Presentation 2013 Directional Statement* echoes our communal desire to engage our hearts and voices in modeling the love necessary to transform the world.

As society’s consciousness steps through the threshold, Sweeney dares us to personally move from an ego-centered posture to an eco-centered one, letting go of long-held perceptions, judgements and intolerance. She invites us to examine how we might embrace a wider, more inclusive understanding of the interconnectedness of all of life, widening our vision even further, to a global economy and shared leadership, that cares for the common good of all, especially those in need. As Sweeney sees it, our stewardship is being called forth by God in four invitations.

**The Invitation to live the mystery of Christ more consciously.** What does it mean to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world today? How is Christ enfleshed in our acts of mercy, compassion, healing and reconciling love? How might we intentionally make it so?

**The invitation to become more intentional about engaging in individual and communal contemplation.** How do we engage “communion consciousness,” allowing our contemplative prayer to open us to “creative love that flows freely to all without exception, knows no boundaries, and has no enemies”? (4) In such ONENESS, we ourselves are transformed, says scripture scholar Beatrice Bruteau, into “vessels of healing presence, of engaged justice and compassion, able to love without reserve.” Our communal engagement in contemplative prayer radiates out much farther than any one individual’s practice may.

**The invitation to create ways of coming together that deepen the bonds of relationship among us and expand the inclusivity of our love.** Partnering with others is key! Unifying energy shared in circles where intentional, open, knowledge-sharing, and love gives birth to the next level of consciousness -- we don’t go there alone! We ONLY move to a deeper consciousness in communion

*with others*. Integral consciousness expert, Ken Wilber “suggests that historically when 10 percent of the population functions at this high stage, a ripple effect occurs that begins to shift the whole” (5).

**The invitation to be diligent about personal and collective shadow work.** What aspects of our selves and our community have we yet to integrate? Parts we have rejected, denied, projected on to others, disowned because they scare us or seem dangerous? Often we can glimpse this “shadow” side individually and collectively, manifest in our anger, apathy and hostility.

As we become more integrated in a higher consciousness of oneness, we unify the partials of our lives, in our community and in our world, to make an option for the whole.

We invite you to read this article in its entirety, reflect and share in conversation around the questions and insights with which it gifts us.

Click this link to be directed to the article on the Presentation website: <http://bit.ly/1KFzpmn>



Ann M. Jackson PBVM



## Ever Emerging

"Evolutionary Spiral"  
Artist: Mary Southard, CSJ  
[www.MarySouthardArt.Org](http://www.MarySouthardArt.Org)  
Courtesy of [www.MinistryOfTheArts.Org](http://www.MinistryOfTheArts.Org)  
Congregation of St. Joseph

This month we reiterate the Emerging Circles Process for Spring 2016.

As a Leadership Team, we excitedly solicit your experience in order to articulate a shared sense of what we are learning from the Emerging Circle Process and how to move forward. Eager to hear your experiences, insights and challenges working in the Circles, we asked you as a learning community – sisters, associates, staff - to take an online survey through SurveyMonkey.

Our hope is that the Emerging Circle Process offers opportunity to deepen member and communal emergence and engagement – expanding our knowledge and tapping the wisdom and gifts of the entire community. If you belong(ed) to more than one Circle, we asked you to complete this survey ONE time for each circle in which you participated.

This online, 18-question survey is divided into 6 short sections with a few questions in each section regarding: circle membership, connecting with the congregation, group dynamics, *Directional Statement*, the impact of communal discernment to sustain PBVM Identity, and new learnings.

When taking the survey, you may have noted that the Initial Formation Circle is not listed. As the experience of these last months unfolded, we listened and recognized that the design and oversight of Initial Formation processes does not fit easily into the Circle structure and would be better served as an area of responsibility held primarily by the Formation Coordinator and the Leadership Team. Ongoing consultation and collaboration, as appropriate, will continue to occur with a variety of people within and beyond the community.

Thank you for your time, thoughtful consideration and energy in completing the survey by Ash Wednesday, February 10. We are collating responses and will send the compilation of learnings to sisters, associates and staff, with further reflection questions for your consideration in Circle gatherings. The identity of each circle will not be conveyed. We invite you to schedule two gatherings of your Emerging Circle:

Gathering 1: between February 29 and April 10

Gathering 2: between April 25 and May 20.

Thank you.

Sisters Julianne, Beth, Ann, Leanne

*May we each know ourselves ever emerging...*



## Reverencing Relationships & Engaging Contemplation in Japan..

Every two years, Associate Sister Virgie Luchsinger attends late October four-day Ikebana classes at the School of Ikebana in Kyoto, Japan. Virgie is an Ikebana teacher (Japanese Flower Arrangement). Sister Raeleen Sweeney, who shares community with Virgie, companioned her this year and relished in a contemplative retreat while Virgie attended her classes each day. Residing in a small neighborhood hotel on third floor, the small hermit-like room, looking out to the mountains each day, added to quieting of the mind, soul and spirit.

Sunday's Japanese liturgy at the Kyoto Cathedral was a highlight. A rainy day, however, walking up the 20 steps to the massive Cathedral built in the shape of a temple, provided us with a warm welcome as we entered. English booklets were provided with many bows of kindness. Imagine if you will, the Cathedral completely filled with the Japanese congregation, each sitting 6-8 inches apart, and many women wearing lovely mantillas. The liturgy was accompanied by a choir that could match any symphonic choir in the world. At the sign of peace, each turned to one another, with hands folded, bowing quietly and reverently. We left feeling the peace, reverence and meaningfulness of prayer in another culture.

Another highlight was the *Gen-Ko* a temple, originally a small Soto Zen monastery established in 1346. The Square and Round windows gave special instruction.

A bonus was to later visit five of the 1,680 Gardens in and around Kyoto with our English-speaking 60-year-old, Kato, who added to the richness of our tour. He also introduced us to the traditional Kyoto "soup" made with Soba noodles and smoked mackerel

**Square** window: "window of delusion" sharp corners in our lives that often distract us and cause lack of focus.

**Round** Window: "window of enlightenment", which allows for focus and centering.

provided by two elderly ladies in their tiny shop; a delicious treat and a cherished experience. The awesomeness of experiencing the respect of nature is deep in the Japanese culture: to see an aged tree with a long drooping branch being braced respectfully with a bamboo "crutch"; to see an aged tree wrapped in a huge "bandage" for protection; to see an outside railing made of tiny wrapped twigs; to see the hundreds of careful, functional and respectful uses of bamboo, and the respect of the old among the new in architecture.



Sister Raeleen & Sister Virgie

### Directional Statement

Ignited by the fire of God's love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, participate in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos by *reverencing relationships celebrating unity engaging contemplation and fostering partnerships* to transform ourselves and our world.

January 2013

### Commitments

We promise to: *promote* direct ministry with people made poor, *facilitate* education and advocacy on behalf of people without options, *support* sustainability and systemic change for the common good.

Not to be forgotten is the quaint village of Uji, ribboned with two active rivers running through the village. It is one of the oldest tea areas in the world where almost everything is made of green tea: pastries, pastas, ice cream... (all quite delicious!). Observing fresh tea ground in an antique grinder, we were told that tea is not appreciated by many in America because we boil the water and burn the tea. Good information.

We have taken away the quiet, mindfulness and peacefulness of life by immersing ourselves in the Japanese Culture, which provided two weeks of *engaging contemplation* and *reverencing relationships*.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

**Marilou Irons, PBVM**

Southdown Institute  
18798 Old Yonge Street  
Holland Landing  
ON L9N0L1, Canada

Please remove this email: [dbqe55@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqe55@dbqarch.org)

Use only her presentation email: [marilou@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:marilou@dubuquepresentations.org)

## REMINDERS

- ✓ **Car report due March 1**
- ✓ **The Ministry Donation Committee meets again in early March. Please submit any requests by Thursday, February 25.**

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all who contributed to our dinner for the men from the Dubuque Rescue Mission and from Hope House! Your generous support allowed us to provide 32 cloth tote bags filled with warm socks, gloves, hats, and scarves. The bags also included some candy, nuts and fruit.

We had enough money left to purchase 25 heavy, warm jackets and make a donation to each of the centers.

Each year the outpouring of generosity for this cause is an inspiration to those of us who work on the team. God is among us and will surely bless all of those who care for the needy in our midst.

Gratefully,  
Sisters Anne McCormick & Hermann Platt



### **Avanti! (LCWR Daily Reflection Book)**

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) presents a new book, **Avanti!**, a reflective resource for our spiritual journey. The word "avanti", the Italian word for "forward," was a central focus in the address delivered by LCWR president Sister Sharon Holland, IHM, at the 2015 LCWR assembly where she spoke of the attitudes of heart and mind needed to proceed forward even when what is ahead is dark and unknown.

The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Orders for this book, along with your payment, *must be received by **March 10, 2016***.

To order your copy, visit: <https://lcwr.org/item/daily-reflection-book>



## 2016 Winter Retreat

Theme: "In the Heart of Compassion"

Presenter: **Janet Mallak, SSND**

Where: **Mt. Loretto Convent**

When: **Sunday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. to Friday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.**

**Please contact Sr. Julia Wingert if you have questions or wish to make this retreat**  
[julia@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:julia@dubuquepresentations.org)

When God's love and compassion touch the core of our being we often notice the heart of another. Compassion is a bridge that connects us to God and the world around us. In the midst of life's transitions, relationships, ministry and vulnerability we are called to embrace the gift of compassion within ourselves and reflect this great love to the world. Through scripture, prayer and poetry we will ponder the gift of compassion in our lives. From the words of the Dalai Lama we hear, "Compassion is the radicalism for our time."

Janet Mallak, a School Sister of Notre Dame, lives in Mankato, MN. After she completed 20 years of teaching, Janet began her ministry in spiritual direction and retreat work. She has a master's degree in Ministry from Creighton University and a certificate in spiritual direction. In recent years, she has ministered at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse and has served on the Leadership Team of her religious community. Currently, Janet serves as a spiritual director and leads retreats and seminars.

### *Partners in Mission Note*

During our 2015 Community Days everyone was invited to enter into a year of "Visitation." As the Partners in Mission Coordinator, I, too feel this is very important. In 2016, I am making every effort to visit with members of the community and partners near and far.

I ask of each of you, if you are able, to consider a visitation with me to our donor partners. Visitation exemplifies the sisters being present when the partner(s) are not able to come to us at Mount Loretto. Visitation also deepens the relationships we have with partners and encourages participation in our mission and ministries. The Partners in Mission Office will be scheduling visitations from March to July. If you know of someone you would like to visit, please let me know and we can arrange a visit together.

*Karen A. Tuecke, Partners in Mission Coordinator*



**National Catholic Sisters Week is March 8-14, 2016.** This year, NCSW awarded 41 mini-grants to congregations planning events to celebrate. The Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley (of which Jane Buse and Sister Beth Kress are members) was awarded a collaborative grant to host an online event March 8-14. The campaign, #PrayItForward, is a virtual event aimed to create awareness of Catholic Sisters and their ministries through prayer. The event will celebrate sisters who have served the public in faith locally, nationally and globally. During the event, we will share prayers, professionally produced in video format, each featuring a sister (on social media sites and congregation websites). The prayers will focus on the sisters' service in the following areas: Forgiveness, Human Trafficking (featuring Sister Elena Hoye), Peace/Nonviolence, Care of Earth, Immigration and Love/Compassion. Watch for more information and links to each video that week!

# From the Office of... VOCATIONS

Recently I participated in a Busy Student Retreat at the University of Northern Iowa Catholic Student Center. The experience was uplifting and there were many grace-filled moments. One thing that stands out in my mind is the booklet we used with the students. NRVC (the National Religious Vocation Conference) compiled a Busy Person retreat booklet with many topics and options to be used with a variety of students. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to use the booklet and I found it very helpful as it gave multiple insights into where young people place their values, hopes and concerns.

As I read the topics that could be used for our sessions, I realized the topics would be great discussion points for all of us. So I am including the items from the table of contents. They are:

1. All About Mary
2. Caring for God's Creation
3. Eradicating Global Poverty
4. Following the Voice of the Spirit
5. Growing through Failure
6. Inviting God into Decision Making
7. Praying in Times of Stress
8. Praying with Music
9. Promoting Global Peacemaking
10. Relationships: Family, Friends, and God
11. Time Management: 24/7
12. Transitions: Coping with Change, Doubts & Fears
13. Unplugged: Seeking Solitude
14. Vocation Discernment
15. Women in Scripture

The retreat members and spiritual guides met for about an hour each weekday Monday thru Thursday. The students picked the topics they wanted to visit about each day. We spent time with the scripture passages included as well as the questions used as follow up. These students want to be able to handle the challenges they face right now in college, but also the problems they face as they graduate and move into the world of work. The students listened intently, they asked great questions and they prayed with a sincere desire to include God in their lives.

When I doubt that the future generation will be able to handle the world we leave to them, I hope to remember this list of topics the younger generation has helped compile and thank God for the opportunity to pray with these topics during times such as a Busy Person Retreat and beyond.



# Our Journey in Formation



Recently I listened to one of the webinars offered by the Religious Formation Conference, *Hearing God's Prophetic Call: A Model for Initial and Lifelong Formation* by Brad A. Milunski, OFM Conv., a friar of the Our Lady of the Angels Province of the Franciscan Friars Conventual.

Nearly 400 others participated in this webinar free to member congregations. Milunski invited us to reflect on the call narratives of the three major prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, along with Mary of the Christian Scriptures to help us to enrich and deepen our reflection on God's call in our lives and in the lives of those in initial formation.

Reflecting on one of his favorite books and authors, Milunski encouraged us to allow our reflection on the scriptures to produce a "break" in us, an opening for God into our lives and to enlighten our experiences.

Milunski shared the pattern of the call narratives common to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Mary, as well as our own stories of God's call. The common elements of each call story included:

- ❖ Divine Confrontation – A sense of encounter with God
- ❖ Introductory Word – Invitation by God to a specific purpose
- ❖ Commission – The specific purpose
- ❖ Objection – The objection to God's call
- ❖ Reassurance – A divine word in answer to the objection
- ❖ The Sign – God's presence and assurance that the call is authentic

After sharing the call stories of the four biblical figures, he offered questions to help us reflect upon our own call stories and experiences of God's invitation. Here are a few of the reflection questions offered following the reflections on each call story.

- ❖ Isaiah - How does an awareness of your own sinfulness and brokenness empower or hinder your ministry as formator?
- ❖ Jeremiah - How does your own experience and awareness of God enable you to sense the experience of God in those whom you serve?
- ❖ Ezekiel – Of what does my ongoing formation diet consist?
- ❖ Mary – Am I willing to put my whole self at the service of God's plan?

If you are interested in listening to this webinar or any of the other archived RFC webinars, go to [www.relforcon.org](http://www.relforcon.org). Click on "Members Login" in the top right corner. Use the following username and password.

Username: dubuquepresentations

Password: 12presentationsdbq

Click on "Resources" and then "Webinars" to access the archived webinars and handouts.

Annette





## From the... *Associate Partnership Office*

Carol Witry, Co-Director  
Joan Brincks, PBVM, Co-Director

phone 563.588.2008 ext 608  
fax 563.588.4463  
email associates@dubuquepresentations.org

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"If you are really praying, you can't help but have critical questions about the great problems with which the world is grappling..." -Henri Nouwen

- *How do you make space in the daily rhythm of your life for prayer and questioning?*

**PRESENTATION PARTNERS JOURNEY WITH FUTURE ASSOCIATES** Sister Donna Demmer Over the past year the members of the Presentation Partners Associate Group, Sister Sheila Kane, Sister Donna Demmer, Barb Klein, Madonna Moeller, Lavonne Kerth, and Charlotte Danner, have met for sharing on seasonal topics using different types of media. Their service has been to help those in need by bringing peanut butter and monetary donations.

Since October 2015, the Presentation Partners have been journeying with Sherry Giesemann and Deb Pic-Deutmeyer through the associate orientation process. As they have shared the life of Nano Nagle and discussed ways of keeping her legacy alive today, they have found that each person's life experiences have helped all group members to grow in prayer, service, community and daily living.



As she reflected on her experience of the orientation process thus far, Sherry noted that she enjoyed reading about Nano Nagle and her outstanding efforts to help the poor, sick and uneducated. She recognized that each person, no matter his/her gifts and abilities, can set a good example by words and actions and show hospitality, even by a simple greeting. A highlight for her was visiting the Heritage Room and learning about the history of the Presentation Sisters. Deb enjoyed reading *One Pace Beyond* and the conversation it prompted. She especially appreciated Sister Sheila's input and enjoyed learning from someone else's life experiences.

The Presentation Partners have enjoyed journeying with Sherry and Deb and look forward to their upcoming initial commitment following their completion of the orientation process.

### SPRING SISTER/ASSOCIATE RETREAT COMING SOON



On April 16 and 17 associates and sisters are invited to gather for the 2016 PBVM Associate and Sister Retreat! Our Directional Statement invites us to "revere relationships." Join sisters and associates as we celebrate God's presence in all that is as we explore the call to create and nurture a culture of care through our relationships with Earth, self and others.

We are delighted to welcome as our retreat presenters: Elena Hoye, PBVM and Presentation Associate Radie Roberts. Through their faith and life experience, each will share their unique perspectives on reverencing relationships with all of creation.

Sr. Elena entered the Dubuque PBVM congregation 50 years ago and since then she has taught in several diocesan high schools, served in congregational leadership and in formation work, worked as a parish pastoral assistant and directed a diocesan religious education department and a mission office of a catholic hospital. She is currently the International Presentation Association Networker. Education has been the unifying thread throughout her different ministries that allowed her the opportunity to work with and learn from people of many ages and backgrounds. Her presentation will help us explore the richness of finding God in all things.

Radie became a Presentation associate in 2011. She currently works as an agent staff member for Dennis Baumhover's State Farm office in Dubuque. She previously held a campus ministry position at Clarke University, where she led mission trips and organized service opportunities for seven years. Radie now ministers at home to her three small sons, ages 5, 4, and 1, and is wife to Ben who is also an associate. Radie's presentation will be infused with her love of service and passion for helping others.

Registration materials for "Reverencing Relationships: Cultivating a Culture of Care" will be emailed this week. The deadline for registering is March 25. Those without email will receive their copy in the mail...

Plan now to join with sisters and associates as we share in prayer and celebrate our relationships with all of creation!

### **ASSOCIATE DONNA EWY SPEAKING AT CLARKE UNIVERSITY**



On February 28, Associate, Donna Ewy, will be offering the Mackin-Mailander Lecture at 5:00 pm in the Jansen Music Hall at Clarke University. The theme of this year's lecture series is "The Common Good".

Donna, a physician who works mainly with care for elderly persons, especially those in long-term care facilities, encourages health care providers to have a mission to serve people and to approach their work as ministry. Through her lecture, Donna will share her passion for acting for the common good and the human dignity of all, as she speaks of health care for the poor being for the common good of society.

Donna and her family live in Wichita, Kansas. She became an associate in 2014.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

All associates are invited and encouraged to share in **Community Days** on July 13-16, 2016. There will be a special time for associates to gather together for reflection and sharing and we enthusiastically welcome your presence and participation! Our time together will build community among us, enrich our faith and renew enthusiasm for our mission. And, of course, we'll have some fun! More information will be coming soon.

### **IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

April 28-30 and May 5-7, 2016

It's not too early to begin collecting your gently used items!



# HOLA AMIGOS

The time is going really fast. February is here and that means that we are closer to our trip.

There are many things to do, more vaccines, paper work, and we still need to buy our tickets. It is overwhelming just to think that last July we said, "Let's go to Bolivia", and now it is becoming real.

We started Spanish lessons. It's not easy and the weather doesn't help, but we can relate to how difficult it is to learn a second language. For Laurie and Colleen, it's not as crucial as it is for other people. They will have a sister there to assist them whenever they need it, but for people that come to the United States from many other countries, it is quite different.

We began our journey with the thought of a service trip and the opportunity to learn about a wonderful community. We initially hoped to help the people of Bolivia and bring Nano's legacy of compassion and sharing to them. Over time, our mission has become much more profound. It has become a life lesson. We have already learned a lot and can't imagine how much more we are going to learn from the people of Entre Rios and Tarija.

As Valentine's Day approaches, we ask you to remember and reflect upon what St. Valentine did. He helped people in need by sharing his fortune. Let's imitate St. Valentine by sharing with and helping those less fortunate in our own and other communities. It is for this reason that we want to invite all of you to visit the Sisters of the Presentation website to learn how you can help us carry Nano's lantern, not only to Entre Rios and Tarija, but to each community in which the Sisters are conducting their ministries. <http://dubuquepresentations.org/>

Happy Valentine's Day and many blessings.



*DORASERNA*

*Colleen Ventur*

*Laurie Neil*

## TO ACCESS OUR WEBPAGE:

1. Go to [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)
2. Click on **Members Login** in the upper right hand corner.
3. Enter your **username** and **password**.  
(Contact Jane Buse at [jane@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:jane@dubuquepresentations.org) if you do not remember your login.)
4. Once logged in, click on **Bolivia Venture 2016** on the navigation on the left hand side.



HISTORY HAS SHAPED US. TODAY WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEGACY.

### **More About Relics ...**

And whose are all those relics mentioned in last month's article? The following, compiled in 1997, lists all the saints whose relics are stored in the archives at Mt. Loretto. Those indicated by \* are the ones with written documentation, according to previous archivists.

Albert	John Chrystostom *
Alphonsus Liguori (2)	Julii
Aloysius Gonzaga	Therese of Liseux (5) *
Anthony Claret (3)	Luke the Evangelist (2)
Antonii, Abbot, Confessor *	Leo (2) *
Anthony of Padua (3)	Lucy *
Augustine (2) *	Margaret Mary Alacoque
Aurelli	Martin *
Bernard *	Martin de Porres *
Brigit	Nicholas
Francis X. Cabrini (3) *	Oliver Plunket
Cajetan (2)	Paul of the Cross *
Cecelia *	Paul the Apostle *
Calixti	Peter and Paul *
Clement *	Pelum, Theodora, and Zenonis
Concordia	Pacifici
Crib of Jesus (2) *	Philomena (2)
Edward *	Patrick *
Faustina	Pius X (10) *
Flavia	Robert Bellarmine
Felicitus	Elilizabeth Ann Seton (3) *
Fidelis	True Cross (5) *
Marie Goretti (12) *	Thomas Aquinas (3) *
Gabrial	Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary *
Gabriela (2)	Victoria
Gemma (4) *	Vincent de Paul
George	Zenonis (2)
Gerogii	
Innocentia (3)	(Recent addition Jan. 2016: Linus *)
John Vianney (5) *	

*Sister M. Hermann*



#### **Board of Trustees**

*Kevin Deeny*

*President*

*Mary Lou Mauss*

*Vice-President*

*Brad Kane*

*Treasurer*

*Mary Louise Scieszinski,*

*PBVM*

*Secretary*

*Sheila Ann Dougherty, PBVM*

*Benjamin Duschner, PBVM*

*Diana Miller*

*Laurie Noel*

*Hermann Platt, PBVM*

*Carol Walsh*

#### **Bed Rest**

One of our mothers is on bed rest until July when her baby is due. This is a difficult time for her and her whole family. When asked about meal preparation, she shared that her husband can cook simple things. Her health issues are serious. She has already made several trips to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Please hold her in your prayers.

#### **Teachers from Chile**

On Friday, January 29 and February 5, two different groups of elementary teachers from Chile and some members of the Kiwanis Club of Galena came to the center to see the materials we use and learn more about classroom activities that they could use with their students. They seemed pleased with what they observed and were especially interested in one of our resources, a small book that gives the Spanish word, the word in English and then the phonetic pronunciation of the English word in Spanish. For example, Socorro, (help) and then (jelp) because the j in Spanish sounds like an h to our ears.

All students in Chile start to learn English in 5th grade. Some of the teachers work in very rural areas with few resources.

#### **Clarke University student interns at the center this semester**

Kevin Mink hopes to go to Japan or Nepal to teach English with the Peace Corps. He is busy writing down every good idea that he learns from our tutors plus doing many things for me.

#### **University of Dubuque Education Class visits the center**

Professor Julie Philips brought her class to the center. When I asked the students if they knew what we do at the center, one student responded that her grandmother was a tutor here and that she knew all about the center.

#### **Guest speaker to the Wendt Character Scholars**

I will give a presentation on February 8 that includes some general comments about immigration and then tell them about our ministry at the center.



*Corine Murray, PBVM*

*Executive Director*

*900 Jackson Street*

*Suite LL5-1*

*Dubuque, Iowa 52001*

*phone 563.557.7134*

*cell 563.542.1226*

*email lanterncenter@aol.com*

*Corine*

# ¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

## [WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

### A visit with Justina Cuellar

Justina lives in the community of Yukimbia, along the Pilcomayo River in the northern corner of San Luis Parish, with her children, grandchildren and her mother, Evarista. She has been widowed five years now. Her husband, Roberto, died suddenly of cancer, and since then, she has been on her own raising her children.



She is a hard working woman and takes pride in what she does, whether weaving a basket or planting corn. She proudly shows off a small garden with beans as well as a recently planted tree that she hopes will someday provide shade to her house. Her home, a very simple rustic structure made of mud and sticks with a thatched roof, is temporarily covered with a blue tarp until it can be repaired. According to the tradition of the Guarani people, her husband is buried in their home.

Two months ago, her oldest son, Ivan, 19, died. It was late at night, he was carrying a heavy load and fell off the cliff. Recently when we visited her we learned that they had just buried her one year old grandson, who had been sick with an intestinal virus for only a week.



Justina looks up from where she is seated comfortably on a goat hide, weaving palm and smiles, "What else can I do but count my blessings, Hermanita?" *(little sister)*



*Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery*



Marlu Abarca, a Young Latina woman who works with the IOWA STUDENT AID COMMISSION and the *AL EXITO* organization, which motivates middle school students to envision and set goals



toward a future college education, came to *La Luz Hispana* to help high school seniors and their parents fill out FAFSA (Federal Application for Student Aid). Marlu offered important advice to the students and their parents about the necessity to complete a FASA application for each college possibility. She also counseled the participants to seek

scholarships offered to Latino students from private universities, which sometimes surpass the subsidies offered at public universities. The Hispanic partakers were particularly appreciative of Marlu's sensitivity to their questions and her sharing of her personal experience of working diligently with her parents to finish college.



Previous to their formal sewing classes, several Hispanic women approached *La Luz Hispana* to design and sew the skirts and blouses they needed for the Mexican dances they were rehearsing to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. After

the celebration, formal sewing classes were offered by *La Luz Hispana* and taught by the capable Sughey Lopez, who received her sewing certificate in Mexico and is quite well known in Hampton for her excellent sewing



ability. Her method of molding patterns is well recognized in Mexico. After carefully measuring the dimensions of the person, she utilized a special curved ruler to fashion her patterns on large sheets of white paper before cutting the cloth. The women were carefully observing the steps. Sughey then demonstrated how to thread the bobbin and the sewing machine and began to sew the new garments. Their conversation after the class indicated their respect for the art and their sense that this is an art that will serve their families well.



Sisters Carmen and Maura witnessed the joyful marriage of the new *Luz Hispana* board member, Anabel Ramirez, to Juan Alanis on January 15. The young couple are parents to two children previously born to Anabel: Marcos, who is ten years old, and Maria, who is eight, and one child born to the two of them, Alyzarith, who is eight months old. After the joyful ceremony, the young couple hosted a reception in a small hall in Hampton attended by close family members and friends. The elation of this celebration was tangible to all present, but particularly in the faces of Anabel, Juan, and their children.

Sisters Carmen and Maura attended the Iowa Caucus in Hampton on February 1. This was Maura's first Iowa Caucus because she had not been an election year resident in Iowa for over 50 years. A massive Central Iowa blizzard arrived after the caucus that night causing classes to be dismissed for the following two days, but a decent crowd showed up for the pre-election event. The Hampton results mirrored rather closely the Iowa percentages giving preference to Hilary Clinton and Ted Cruz.

Susan Wulf, Franklin County Iowa State Extension Director, and Megan Conlon, dietitian at Franklin General Hospital met with Sisters Carmen and Maura to plan a seven week HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE entitled ¡VIVA LA SALUD! The program will feature beginning weights, our favorite recipes with fats and sugars, weigh-ins, glucose readings, body mass index, dental health, recipe make-overs, and prizes for the winners. The program will begin on February 23.

LA LUZ HISPANA with the Hampton Mayor, Brook Boehmler, and a dedicated committee is planning a massive Central Iowa Street Festival for June 4. Details will follow in the weeks ahead. Mark your calendars. It will be BIG and BRILLIANT!

*Maura*

*Carmen*



# Hotel Hope Update

## February 2016

### Rapid Re-housing for Families

#### A quick approach to house families who are homeless

UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization leading a collaborative of over 60 agencies providing housing and services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Their strategic plan is to reach a functional zero in family homelessness by Thanksgiving 2016, end long-term homelessness of people with disabilities by July 4, 2017, reach a functional zero in youth homelessness by 2019, and reduce street homelessness by 75 percent by 2020.

Though most all nonprofit organizations receiving federal money for men, women and youth in housing crises are a part of this plan, **Hotel Hope** and the New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter have been asked by UNITY to pilot a program that will help to mainstream the referral process and give a more accurate account of the number of families in need of housing with a quicker placement in a more stable and permanent home. Crisis calls received by **Hotel Hope** will be directed to the UNITY outreach team who will then verify their homelessness and assess their case.



If they qualify for the Family Rapid Re-housing Program, they may be placed in emergency housing (60 days) or moved into transitional housing prior to their permanent residence. **Hotel Hope** is working with the New Orleans Women and Children Center to collaborate, with extending services to families until our facility is ready to accept visitors. UNITY hopes that this pilot project of working toward a coordinated entry system will assist homeless families more easily. **Hotel Hope** will work toward maintaining the resources to support this model for the long term once the building renovation is complete.



(Photo by Brett Duke, Nola.com, The Times-Picayune, January 25, 2016.)

#### Interested in becoming involved?

##### Contact:

Mary Lou Specha, PBVM  
Executive Director  
4222 South Broad  
New Orleans LA 70125  
Cell: 504-715-9798

[mlspecha@hotelhope.org](mailto:mlspecha@hotelhope.org)



[www.facebook.com/hotelhope.nola](http://www.facebook.com/hotelhope.nola)

[www.hotelhope.org](http://www.hotelhope.org)

**Hotel Hope Update** is a monthly sharing with Dubuque PBVM Sisters and Associates.

Communications Team: Mary Lou Specha, PBVM; Julie Marsh, PBVM; Beth Kress, PBVM

### Searching the Streets to Fight Homelessness

On January 25 and 26, 2016, teams of advocates for homeless people searched Jefferson and Orleans parishes' streets, abandoned buildings and shelters to determine how many people are going without a home on any given night. **Sisters Julie and Mary Lou** assisted the "point in time" count volunteering at the New Orleans Mission.

The annual "point in time" count has shown significant improvements since Hurricane Katrina propelled a rising number of people into the streets. In 2005 there were 2,051 homeless people in the two parishes. That number jumped to 11,619 in 2007 then gradually fell year by year to 1,703 in 2015.

The number of chronically homeless people – defined as a person with a disabling condition who has been homeless for more than a year or has had four episodes of being homeless in the past three years – has also seen drastic decreases. It fell from a high of 4,579 in 2009 to 423 in 2015.

One of New Orleans' most celebrated successes in its fight against homelessness is City Hall's creation of a system that allows for the rapid re-housing of homeless military veterans.

In 2014, President Barack Obama challenged mayors and governors across the United States to house every homeless veteran by the end of 2015.

The new priority for New Orleans is to end Family Homelessness. Using the system created for the veterans will allow providers to collaborate to work together to end family homelessness.

*Article adapted with permission from "Annual Homeless Count Looks to Continue Downward Trend," by Richard A. Webster, Nola.com, The Times-Picayune, January 25, 2016*



As we enter into the Lenten season, and continue our journey in this Year of Mercy, I am constantly aware of how much we as a country have to learn about mercy, especially in the area of immigration. In this ministry, I am daily reminded of our charism of hospitality as I make a feeble attempt to bring hope and joy to a people who are bombarded with the reality that they are not wanted here.

For the five years before I left Florida, I had a weekly half hour of prayer for immigration reform, which all were invited. As we shared prayer in the church, and also had silence, we always ended with this litany. I changed a few of the words, but I share it with you, and invite you to pray it during Lent and this year of mercy if you wish. You may share it with whomever you feel would also like to lift up our undocumented brothers and sisters.

### **Response: Be with them, God of mercy**

For our sisters and brothers who do not have documents...

For those who cannot get driver's licenses...

For those who do not have work...

For those who are in detention centers and awaiting deportation...

For those in jail because of lack of documents and licenses...

For families who are separated and divided, physically and emotionally...

For those who are taken advantage of by people from their own countries...

For those who are taken advantage of by lawyers and others who promise to get them legal documents...

For those who have lost hope...

For those who have lost a loved one through death in another country, and could not leave to grieve and share with the family...

For those who feel that God is far away...

For those who do not have God in their lives...

For those who live in constant fear...

For those who do not receive a just wage...

For those who experience prejudice every day...

For those who are abused...

For the young people who received legal documents to study and work through actions of our President, and fear losing those rights and being deported with the next President...

### **Response: Open their hearts to the truth**

For those who have the power to change the laws of immigration....

For those who live in ignorance of the problems that others are facing because of their lack of legal documents...

For those who have and are working to pass immigration reform laws, that they may have the courage to follow their convictions and act with justice and mercy...

*Sister Paula Schwendinger*

## Presentation Calendar of Events

# MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

(B) = birthday  
 (F) = feast day  
 (R) = reception  
 (b) = baptismal

- 4 Sister Anne Marie Kollasch (B) / Dick Baldwin
- 8 Sister Janet Goetz (F) / Sister Jeanette McCarthy (F)
- 11 Clara Ernst
- 12 Darlene Richard
- 14 Char McCoy
- 18 Claudette Hill / Anne Marie Spehar
- 19 Sister Josita Zieser (F)
- 22 Sister Raeleen Sweeney (B) / Sister Rosalyn Ulfers (B)
- 24 Yvonne Kisch / Barbara Klein
- 25 Sister Marie Barth (F)
- 26 Doris Bussan / Marlene Von Fumetti
- 30 Sister Therese Corkery (B) / Maureen Dobel  
Harry Stanton

### Special Events

- 13 Daylight Savings Time
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 25 Good Friday
- 27 La Luz Hispana Established (2013)  
Easter Sunday

**PRAYERS**  
**January 18 – February 19, 2016**

**2/9**

On February 8 my blood work shows my blood count is 8.4 which is down from 9.1 from February 1. My body did not respond well to the recent series of chemo shots from January 27 through February 5. On Monday, February 22, I will begin a new chemo given by infusion. Again I ask for your prayers. Gratefully, Sister Janice Hancock

My brother in law, Denny, died peacefully this morning after being diagnosed with fast moving terminal cancer. My sister Fran and family are deeply grateful for your prayerful support which held them these five days during the shock of Denny's terminal cancer diagnosis. My brother, Jack and his wife arrived yesterday in time to speak and pray with Denny. Thank you, Sister Raeleen Sweeney.

Please pray for my sister-in-law, Theresa Walser, diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. She is being sent to Rochester for options. Thanks for your prayers, Yvonne Kisch, Associate

**2/2**

Please pray for my sister, Cele, who is undergoing tests on her pancreas and liver. Sister Marie Barth

**1/31**

Tom Hancock, nephew of Sister Janice, died of a heart attack last night. Tom was mail carrier in the Epworth area for many years, a State Senator, and, most recently, County Supervisor for the Dubuque area. Please also remember Tom's wife, Coleen, their son, Steve, and Tom's brother, Gary (Bonnie) Hancock, all of Epworth.

**1/28**

I appreciate and ask for continued prayers since my tests were not favorable and I have been diagnosed with breast cancer. I feel confident with the cancer center and doctors I have in New Orleans. With God's healing grace and positive energy I will win this fight. Sister Mary Lou Specha

**1/27**

My first post-op appointment today shows my incision is looking great and healing well. I will begin physical therapy in about 2 weeks. Thanks for your prayers and support! Sister Joetta Venneman

**1/25**

Associate Virginia Lammer fell and broke a hip on January 20, 2016. She is recuperating at Stonehill Care Center in Dubuque. Please remember Virginia in your prayers.

**1/21**

Please pray for my great nephew, Alexander Gallagher, who was burned badly on a Boy Scout camping trip. He will have to have skin grafting. Thank you, Sister Michelle Gallagher

Associate Maureen McDonnell is grateful for your prayers regarding her breast cancer checkup. The results were good. She now lives with the side-effects connected with chemo.

Associate Stephanie Jacobson will have neck fusion surgery on Thursday, January 21. She appreciates your prayerful support.

Sister Sharon Kelchen have surgery on her broken arm on January 27 and asks for your prayerful support for the success of surgery and for steady healing.