



COMMUNITY NOTES

Sisters of the Presentation

JUNE 2016

“Participating in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos...”

Our world ever shifts around and within us. The global environment, whether we talk about climate changes, economy shifts, changes in media, medicine, ministry or education, we continue to see and experience new ways of living and being in the world. As daughters and sons of Nano, we desire, like our foundress, to actively and wholeheartedly understand and respond to the needs within this *great turning*. We are *already* participating and might choose to raise our consciousness of oneness.

During *Community Days*, we will use a “contemplative inquiry” process to cite forward movement of the *Directional Statement* to further the mission. “Contemplative Inquiry” engages us in silence, active listening, integration, circle and community conversation, and *communal* reflection with emphasis on the whole, rather than individual leanings. This requires we shift from me to we, from a sage-on-stage mindset to a *collaborative learning and listening community* that is conditional and contingent on **hospitality and humility**.

Contemplative inquiry can potentially transform personal and communal life, bringing healing, new insight, and open hearts. Contemplation shifts us to see higher principles and possibilities present in an ever evolving consciousness.

As we approach Community Days, questions for our prayerful reflection:

How would you describe your/our current reality? What is your personal contribution/commitment to *our collective*, unfolding future?

What is emerging?

With what new insights has personal prayer and contemplation gifted you?

How and to what are you listening these days?

What could empower you/us to feel fully engaged and energized?

What’s possible and what do we need to learn in order to make it happen?

In these sacred weeks prior to gathering, let’s pray for and with one another, for Sisters Kathy McCluskey, CSJ and Pat Kozak, CSJ – our facilitators, and for all with whom we are fortunate enough to serve.

Ann Jackson PBM



Ever Emerging

"Evolutionary Spiral"
 Artist: Mary Southard, CSJ
www.MarySouthardArt.Org
 Courtesy of www.MinistryOfTheArts.Org
 Congregation of St. Joseph

Community Days, July 13-16, will soon be here. We are excited to see everyone and to participate in celebration, contemplation, conversation and relationship building.

- **Thank you to each of the Emerging Circles for completing the timelines.** During the Community Days gathering, we will be reviewing the timelines using a process of *Contemplative Inquiry*. This reflective process will offer a sense, not only of the individual circles, but also of the collective movement forward – the whole. This will clarify and help to implement our collective vision for the future.
- There will be two times during Community Days for each Circle to meet as a circle. The content of these sessions will flow out of the *Contemplative Inquiry* process so no further Circle preparation need be done in anticipation of the gathering.
- **Every voice is valuable. If you are not part of an active Emerging Circle, we strongly encourage you to join a circle before Community Days.** If you choose to do so, please contact someone in your chosen Circle to 'catch you up' before Community Days. You can see the names of those who belong to each Circle on Basecamp. Those who are pray-ers for the Emerging Circles, as well as those not yet involved in an Emerging Circle, will be offered a session of their own during the times the Circles are meeting.

May we each know ourselves ever emerging...

Jubilee Celebration

Tuesday, July 12:

6:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres Jubilee Social

Community Days Schedule July 13-16, 2016

WEDNESDAY, July 13

8:30 AM Jubilee Liturgy

60th: Sisters Emilie Bormann, Donna Determan, Sheila Ann Dougherty,
Jeanine Kuhn, Hermann Platt, Raeleen Sweeney

10:45 AM Opening Ritual

11:15 AM Overview of days
Presentation, Inspiration, Process

5:00 PM Supper
Social/free evening

6:45 PM (OPTIONAL) Video of Jubilarians

THURSDAY, July 14

7:30 AM Mass

8:00 AM Breakfast

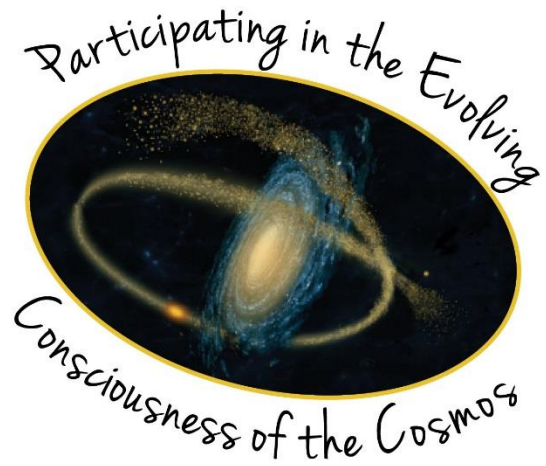
9:00 AM Prayer
Process
First Gathering of Emerging Circles

12:00 PM Dinner

1:30 PM Process

5:30 PM Supper

6:30 PM ***How to Change the World in just One Hour*** by the Justice Promoters



FRIDAY, July 15

7:30 AM Mass

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Congregational Gathering
Associate Gathering

12:00 PM Dinner

1:30 PM Sisters and Associates assemble in Presentation Center.
Process
Second Gathering of Emerging Circles

5:30 PM Supper
Free evening

SATURDAY, July 16

7:30 AM Mass

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Prayer
Process

11:30 AM Commissioning Ceremony

12:00 PM Dinner

COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNE 2016

EMAIL UPDATES

Corine Murray, PBVM

corine@dubuquepresentations.org

Mary Dennis Lentsch, PBVM

marydennis@dubuquepresentations.org

Dear Friends,

We are eternally grateful for your thoughts, prayers, cards, hugs, and attendance at the funeral of Herman Platt. I personally have been supported by the Presentation sisters and associates during this difficult time and cannot thank you enough for your care and concern. Each day I realize more and more the beauty of community.

Sister Mary Hermann and the Platt family

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER JOY PETERSON!

Who was honored to be invited to join the Board of Trustees for the Catholic United Investment Trust, a board of the Christian Brothers Investment Services. The task of the board is to oversee the strategic planning, the competitive performance of the funds, and the relationship with CUIT's investment advisor and administrator which is CBIS. She serves with seven others who represent either religious congregations, dioceses or who bring an investment expertise. The board meets quarterly, usually in New York City at the CBIS offices.

Ministry Donation Committee

- \$15,000 Hotel Hope Chalet
- \$5000 Presentation Lantern Center
- \$5000 St. Isidore Catholic Worker Farm (Cuba City, WI)
- \$4000 Cretin-Derham Hall Financial Aid (St. Paul)

The next meeting of the Ministry Donation Committee will be September 8.

Please submit any requests by September 1.

There will be no July or August Community Notes!

From the Office of... VOCATIONS

The National Religious Vocation Conference is a professional organization of vocation ministers that presents religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. NRVC promotes vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother or priest. NRVC reflects all forms of religious life and provides education opportunities, resources and other support services for spiritual, professional, and personal growth. NRVC proclaims a positive and hopeful image of religious life in the Church and society, while affirming the call to holiness of each person. NRVC fosters dialogue on vocational issues with a variety of Church organizations, with special emphasis on those who serve young adults and parents.

No other country in the world has an organization like NRVC. People from other countries look to the United States for leadership in the area of vocation ministry. In response to the needs expressed by those working in vocation ministry, NRVC has expanded programs and created ways to help religious communities in today's world. In its mission statement NRVC expresses its commitment to provide resources for growth and development, the need for collaboration, its willingness to speak as an official voice for vocation ministers and to act as a corporate influence on the Church and in society. Membership in NRVC offers several benefits including the ability to apply for scholarship grants, access to award winning publications and resources, access to a professional support network, connection to other national and international professional organizations and the opportunity to attend national conferences where nationally and internationally recognized speakers present.

NRVC membership is divided into 12 member areas. Vocation ministers may attend gatherings and programs in any of the 12 member areas. The meetings and gatherings are posted on the NRVC website. The Dubuque Area Vocation Association just hosted the Heartland Area gathering in April. Members from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Kansas attended this gathering and heard important information from Sister Debbie Borneman, Director of Member Relations and Services for NRVC. One of the hidden benefits for being a member of NRVC is the opportunity to share what works and what doesn't work. There is great wisdom in the room as vocation ministers gather to learn and share. During our time together in April we did committee work for our national convocation to be held in October. Our Heartland Area is in charge of planning much of the convocation that will bring us together to share our wisdom, hear many great presenters and spend time in prayer. As part of the convocation there is a closing banquet where awards are presented and acknowledgements for service are made. The Dubuque Area Vocation Association will receive the Mustard Seed Award for helping to create a culture of vocation in the Dubuque area.



Our Journey in Formation



“Drawn together

**by the sustaining vision of a Daughter of Ireland
and by matters of the heart,
we gather...”**

These poetic words of our own Corine Murray (*Lantern Bearers*) speak well of what we experienced at the International Formation Gathering held in Lusaka, Zambia May 17-29, 2016. We used Corine’s poem along with a poem by Lois Greene, PBVM of Newfoundland as part of our morning prayer on May 19. Each day sisters from different PBVM units took turns planning and leading morning prayer. This time of prayer each day reflected beautifully the culture and vibrant spirit of the group.

“Reimagining Initial Formation across the Congregation as a Co-creative Process for Mission” was the tenth International Formation Gathering since the Union of Presentation Sisters was formed almost forty years ago. New to this conference was the presence of four sisters in temporary vows, eleven sisters up to ten years since perpetual profession, and unit leadership team links to formation. There were twelve of us present who minister directly in initial formation.

The objectives for the gathering were:

- To re-imagine and plan for formation in an evolving religious life
- To deepen the spirituality of being in communion
- To look at formation... as spiritual, relational, and organizational
- To share the lived reality of formation in the different units
- To hear the voices of those in initial formation
- To ensure that participants gain a deeper understanding for intercultural living
- To reimage how formators walk with those in formation

The conference was artfully facilitated by Clare Stanley, SJC (from Sierra Leone). Gail Worelo (co-founder of Green Mountain Monastery), Mick McGuire, SSC (psychologist and trainer of formators in Manila), and Pat Murray, IBVM (Executive Secretary of UISG in Rome) offered a healthy balance of input and time to process in large and small group settings.

Gail invited us to reflect on how Nano Nagle is still unfolding in an evolutionary context. She challenged us to consider religious life from the perspectives of emergence and belonging. Mick encouraged health and balance in the areas of personal development, community, spiritual life, ministry, exercise, and sleep/rest. Pat spoke of current trends in religious life and asked us to consider what kind of formation is needed at this time.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity to gather with other Presentation Sisters that work in initial and on-going formation ministry. I learned a great deal and found the time renewing and energizing. I look forward to continuing to share the fruits of this gathering with you all.

Annette





From the...Associate Partnership Office

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

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action." - Meister Eckhart

In your being and your doing, how are you living the Presentation face of God's mission?



"Circle of Faith" members, Louise and Joe Ottavi, Jan Geertsema, Sr. Joan Lickteig, Barb Ressler, Mary and Ron Dankert,

CIRCLE OF FAITH MEMBERS SHARE FAITH, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Sr. Joan Lickteig

In 1994 the seeds of our current associate group were planted, when Sister Jacqueline Quillin encouraged sisters to engage with friends and neighbors beyond the community to share faith and reflection, as well as insights and input for the future of religious life. Earlier members, no longer involved, included Gwen and Duane (deceased) Nilles, former employee, Ruth

Ann Summers and husband Bob, Judi Weydert, Sisters Rosalyn Ulfers, Marilyn Breen, Pamela Quade, and Helen Marie Feeney (deceased).

Current membership has been altered by the circumstances of life: increased family obligations, moving to another location, retirement plans, additional involvements and deaths. Long-time members Ron and Mary Dankert, Joe and Louise Ottavi, Barb Ressler, Jan Gertsama, and Sister Joan Lickteig meet monthly to pray and share.

Meetings include discussions and shared insights of the Sunday scriptures, books, and papal documents; a collection for Dubuque's Catholic Worker House provides a monthly offering of funds and needed supplies.

In addition to the sometimes extensive involvement in their parishes, associate members participate in Presentation outreach activities, especially Art, Craft, and Bake Sale, Garage Sale, contributions to Christmas gifts for the homeless, Relay for Life, and other charitable activities sponsored at Mount Loretto. Attendance, as a group, at various current events have taken the group to St. Joseph the Worker parish, Clarke University, Loras College, Mount Loretto and Mount St. Francis. A recent favorite was a presentation on earth sustainability.

Newest member of the group, Jan Gertsama, is a niece of deceased Presentation Sister Mary Wilfred Kress and has had contact with Presentation Sisters since childhood. Mary Dankert served as secretary for Sister Mary Edward Dolan (deceased) for a number of years at Clarke College. Louise Ottavi, as Academic Dean at Clarke College, had years of contact with Presentation faculty members at Clarke. Barb Ressler, neighbor and "charter member" of the Associate Partnership writes, "I was

drawn to the Presentation community initially through the warmth, joy, and friendliness of Sister Helen Marie Feeney who came regularly to visit sick sisters at Mercy Hospital where I worked as a receptionist. I, likewise, enjoyed being taught by Presentations at Wahler High School and Clarke College. Friendship fostered my interest in Presentations, their charism and mission."

PLAN NOW FOR COMMUNITY DAYS 2016!

All associates are invited and encouraged to come to Community Days on July 13-16, 2016. Your presence and input are important and valued! There will be a special time for associates to gather on Friday, July 15 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The purpose of this associate gathering is to provide an opportunity to build community, pray together, and explore mission. Rooms at St. Columbkille Convent Suites have been reserved, at no cost, for out-of-town associates. We hope you'll be able to come to all of Community Days, but if you can't come for the entire time, come for as much as you can!



Here's what Associate Mary Lou Mauss has to say about participation in Community Days:

"In visiting with other Associates, I find there is sometimes a question of how we, as associates, fit into the philosophy of the Presentations. What is expected of us or what are we supposed to be doing?"

Community Days are a great opportunity to find answers to that question. The programs are thought-provoking and the conversations with sisters and other associates can be very helpful. With all this information associates are better able to decide how they can become more actively involved in the Presentation mission."

Questions? Contact Carol Witry at associates@dubuquepresentations.org or 588-2008, Ext.608.

DO YOU KNOW A POTENTIAL NEW ASSOCIATE?



Invite! Invite! Invite! All associates and sisters are asked to consider who **you** know who may be interested in becoming a Presentation Associate. Invite those who you feel would like to join in the mission of Jesus in the spirit of Nano. We are seeking Christian women and men who are willing to take up the lantern and go out to share the Good News!

If you know someone who might be interested, please use the following steps in your invitation:

Step 1: Ask the person(s) if they may be interested in becoming a Presentation associate and briefly explain the

process to them. The process includes completing an application form and participating in orientation sessions. The person invited should have the desire to further the mission and charism of Nano.

Step 2: If the person(s) is interested in more information, submit their name and address to the Associate Office along with your name so that we can also keep you informed.

Step 3: The Associate Office will contact the interested person(s) and provide them with a packet of information including an application. Once applications are received, the Associate Office will make arrangements for orientation, provide materials, etc.

Thank you for inviting others to share in the dream of Nano!



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

POETRY CORNER

According to an article in the MT. LORETTO BULLETIN, June, 1974, **Sister Mary Sarita Sullivan** won Special Recognition honors on May 14 of that year at the Senior Citizens' Arts Festival for the following poem about spring. The article also mentions that both Sisters Ita and Alexandra had the same poetic gifts. They are among the many poets who have graced us with their presence.

Sister M. Hermann



On a billowy limb clings
a robin, harbinger of spring,
solace for weary minds. He looks
down at us, frenzied in the
world's crushing battle,
tosses his head and with a
"Cheer-up, 'Tis spring!" flaps
his wings, and flies ever higher,
seeking a nest in a safer abode.

A sample of Sister Mary Alexandra's work is entitled "To a Butterfly."

Most graceful of God's creatures,
"Flying gems,"
The beauty of your colors
and the fluttering of your wings
attract us to your Maker.



Sister Mary Ita advised us to "Pray For One Another"



I cannot tell why there should come to me
A thought of someone miles and miles away,
In swift insistence on the memory - -
Unless a need there be that I should pray.
Too hurried oft are we to spare the thought
For days together, of some friends away,
Perhaps God does it for us, and we ought
To read His signal as a call to pray.



**Presentation
Lantern Center**

A Place of Welcome

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Carol Walsh



We welcomed Sarah Gieseke, new Executive Director, to the Lantern Center on Monday, May 16, 2016. Sarah had the opportunity to meet and get to know many sisters personally during her stay at the motherhouse during the first three weeks she was on the job. She enjoyed her stay immensely and has now moved into her new apartment. At the Lantern Center, Sister Corine has been working very diligently to pass on institutional knowledge to Sarah to make the transition to directorship as successful as possible.

Driver's License Obtained

A young Mexican student, Kevin, passed his driver's license exam in May. He is now on the road and appreciating this new found freedom. Before obtaining his license, Kevin reports that he walked to a lot of places which was "tiring" and especially difficult in the winter months, and, he often depended on friends to get to work. Now, he says life is easier, and above all, he "has more time." Having a car helps him get back and forth to work, home, the Center and "Walmart" with greater ease. It is good to be mobile in America!

Young Mother at the Library

Another young student and recent-arrival, Brenda from Venezuela, has the great responsibility of taking care of her two-year-old son while her husband works two jobs to make ends meet. Brenda has no transportation and walks to the center with her son two-three times each week to meet with her tutors. Her son entertains himself in our toy area while she studies and keeps an eye on him simultaneously. Brenda wanted more opportunities for her son to interact with other children his age, primarily to improve his speaking skills. This need became known at the center. Sarah and Corine both agreed that summer programs at the library might be a good fit. Brenda, being very self-motivated, did not wait for us to call the library for her, but walked to the Carnegie-Stout library with her son. She did not have proof of address, so the library sent a postcard to her home address. A few days later, with the postcard in hand, she returned to the library to get her library card. She was very thankful for the registration librarian named Kevin who was patient while she spoke slowly to get the information she needed. She learned about some summer programs for her son and has plans to return to the library soon for a special children's event with a juggling clown, and then at later times for a recurring toddler story time.



Corine Murray, PBVM

Executive Director

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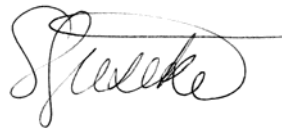
Way to go, Brenda! And all this happened in sneakers, with a stroller and a two-year-old. She will need to return to the library again in 90 days since the initial library card expires within that time frame. She explains that her next card will be good for six months and then a third renewal of the card will allow her to keep the card for one year or more.

Annual Trip to the River Museum

On Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, students and tutors (and family members) will make our annual trip to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. We are thankful to the Everybody's Museum program and the River Museum for providing entry at no cost.

In the beginning of June, the Lantern Center received a positive response to our grant request to the Sisters of the Presentation Ministry Donation Committee. This is \$5,000 that we will use for learning materials, maintenance and other practical purchases that affect our bottom line. Thank you!

With Gratitude and Peace,
Sarah Gieseke, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Gieseke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

The people of Entre Ríos responded wholeheartedly to an invitation to come to the plaza for food and fun. Two months of drizzle, cold and a sense of being cooped up moved people to defy a few minutes of drizzle and to assume that the clouds were not going to stop the enjoyment of life!

Communities, gifted with persons who love to have the microphone, know the gift of spontaneity. “Bingo!” And, Mr.



Microphone came alive.

“Domingo, did you say BINGO? ... Domingo said

“BINGO! Does Domingo have BINGO?” *(Time to check the card.)* “Domingo, BINGO!” The crowd was laughing so hard that they hardly noticed that Domingo was one of three winners.

As the photographer climbed to a higher place to focus on the gathering, Mr. Microphone began a spontaneous commentary. “What excitement, what excitement! Even Sister is excited! Look she is climbing up

the fountain!” And, the crowd turned! What would have been the back of heads turned out to be an okay photo thanks to Mr. Microphone, our neighbor Jorge.

The catechists of First Communion



planned games for the children: gunny sack races, a joke contest and more. The food? The photos say it all!



The parish goals for 2016 highlight a focus on the family. The fundraiser will help raise a roof (*protection from the sun or rain*) for the open air mass held in September for

the Feast of the Virgin of Chaguaya, the patroness of the diocese. A pilgrimage up the mountainside, which precedes the mass in the O'Connor Province parish, will have greater significance during this Year of Mercy.

Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery



As the rains continued to pour down day after day in Hampton, and the *Gran Festival* day approached, the planning committee kept anxiously scrutinizing the weather forecast on their smart phones. The deluge the evening before the event sent the stage commission running for shelter. The partially overcast morning on June 4, turned optimistically sunny as the festival commenced.



Thirty-seven booths lined the streets with ticket sales, tenderloins, tacos, wine tasting, beauty products, Tupperware, Mexican handicrafts, and a great variety of souvenirs and products. The giant inflatables beckoned the children, the Spanish Dancing Horse paused ready to show off her unusual talents, and the Folkloric Dancers of *La Luz Hispana* as well as the Aztec Dancers began to appear in their flamboyant regalia.

The Petting Zoo, the trolley towed by 2 mules, and a remarkable puppet show performed by Sister Rita Menart were gratuitous. All of the stage performances were also complimentary, including the Spanish Dancing Horse, the folkloric dances, the Rising Sun Karate group, the prominent Mexican singer, Cristal Fuentes, with her band *Passion Tropical*, the DJ music and two other renowned bands: *La Voz del Sur*, and *Banda Oro*. Our own PBVM associate, Darla Budden, a stunning and fruitful clown, drew the public's attention to the attractions going on throughout the day.

A sudden torrent of rain in the afternoon, coupled with a hefty wind sent spectators and booth administrators scampering to shelter. Then without ado, the sun came out robustly ten minutes later, and parents with children poured to the ticket booth so that they could share in the fun. In the evening the raffle drawing took



place. Steve Pearson, a parishioner of St. Patrick's, captured the grand prize of \$2,000. Associate Joann Gullickson, and her husband, Lee holed up in the office to count the proceeds, netting around \$20,000.

At 9 pm, the bank ceased its music, Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Maura McCarthy, and Brook Boehmler expressed thanks to the sponsors, participants, and volunteers. The following note of gratitude appears in the *Hampton Chronicle*:

Thank you to everyone who helped make our first Gran Festival a success, especially to our Main Sponsors - ABCM/RCM; Tello Enterprises and Franklin County Pork Producers/Iowa Select Farms. Our deepest gratitude to you for making this event possible.

Also, we thank ALL of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, planning committee, the city of Hampton. You were also at the heart of making this event come to fruition and, for that, we are very grateful.

We look forward to another wonderful event next year - June 3, 2017.

Yer Vang, an immigration attorney who recently began working for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and Tracy Morrison, Executive Director of the institution, came to *La Luz Hispana* on May 10 to meet Sisters Carmen and Maura and explore the legal needs of the Hispanic people of Hampton. The two professionals expressed interest in supporting the Hispanic population of Franklin County and surrounding areas, beginning with the students eligible for DACA, (Deferred Action For Children Arrivals). Yer Vang offered to do a session in August on KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, and the importance of preparing legal documents with power of attorney for finance, health care, legal guardians, and titles in emergencies.

Brook Boehmler, Mayor of Hampton and manager of Pappajohn Center Entrepreneur NIACC, came to this meeting to meet the visitors and to manifest his interest in new business opportunities for immigrants in Franklin County, their legal status notwithstanding. Boehmler expressed his interest in proposing identity cards for all residents of Franklin County, which would permit local voting privileges and civic participation.

Megan Rosenberg, of the Cady and Rosenberg Law Firm, also attended to offer her solidarity with the Hispanics of the Hampton area. Megan had made a presentation last year on the basic stages of DACA and DAPA.

All participants spoke of the importance of promoting driver's licenses in the state of Iowa and the need for advocacy for immigrants on the federal level. All agreed that the new families offer myriad benefits to North Central Iowa.

Amy Kangas, Spanish instructor at Hampton Dumont High School, and Tricia Christiansen, counselor, brought a group of 12 fourth year Spanish students to *La Luz Hispana* on May 25, so that the Hispanic women could explain in Spanish the process of making enchiladas and rice. The women continued the conversation with the students as all enjoyed the delicious results. The women encouraged the students to dialog in Spanish with their Hispanic companions in order to advance their language proficiency.

Maura Carmen





Update June 2016

Phyllis M. Taylor Hotel Hope Dedicated

Thanks to the generosity of Phyllis M. Taylor of New Orleans, the dedication of **Hotel Hope** took place on May 10.

"Generally I focus my attention on education issues. In this case, I realized that before children can receive an education, they need to have a safe haven; a roof over their heads, meals on a regular basis and bathroom facilities. This project, **Hotel Hope**, will provide that to those mothers

and their children who are now on the street but want, and are willing to work toward, a better answer for their day to day existence and that of their children," stated Phyllis M. Taylor.

Hotel Hope is blessed to have Phyllis Taylor as a friend and major supporter!

— Mary Lou Specha



Left, guests look on as Sister Mary Lou raises the new signage for **Hotel Hope**. **Right**, left to right, Fr. Louis Arceneaux, Phyllis M. Taylor, Pastor Manning and Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell join in the celebration.



Birthday Party with a Purpose

Gifts of toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby shampoo, soap and many more treasures were presented to **Hotel Hope** from a trio of ladies who decided to ask people to bring them a gift for the families we serve at **Hotel Hope**.

What a great idea! Thanks, Ladies and Gents, and Happy Birthday everyone!



Interested in becoming involved?

Contact

Mary Lou Specha, PBVM
Executive Director
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New Orleans LA 70125
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Phyllis M. Taylor
HOTEL HOPE

Visit us at

www.hotelhope.org

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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

'Mary' Visits 'Elizabeth'



Perhaps you have heard a preacher ask a congregation while telling the story of the

Annunciation, "Put yourself in Mary's shoes; experience her feelings of confusion, fear and loneliness." Mary learned she was pregnant, on the verge of homelessness, ostracized by friends and family. No wonder that when she heard the news that Elizabeth was expecting she couldn't wait go to her cousin to give and receive comfort and support.

Recently we received a call from a young woman who had a newborn baby two weeks before and who was in need of rental assistance. She worked with people with developmental and behavioral disabilities. Having given birth, she was unable to work and had to hold paying many bills. Still in pain from delivery, she was crying and fearful of eviction. This "Mary" was alone with no family or friends able to help. She was about to become another statistic — a homeless woman with a child. Due to her late payment, this young woman's rent had increased to \$700.

I quickly called upon the "partners" of **Hotel Hope** to come to her aid. "Mary" had never been on any federal or state assistance before, so she also found herself without food. Within hours I was able to deliver a check to her so that she could stay in her apartment and buy baby formula and groceries. She was beside herself with gratitude. I assured her that she was not alone — in fact, there was another young woman living in the same apartment complex two doors down who was in the same situation five months before. She seemed somewhat relieved that there was hope for her. A little while later, I returned to "Mary's" house with "Elizabeth" and child. Both women embraced and cried tears of joy knowing that neither of them was alone.

I am most grateful to experience God's abundant grace as I minister to those who are poor and homeless. Whenever I can't sleep at night, wondering if I did all I could to help those in need that day, I think of "Mary and Elizabeth" to remind me that God is in charge.

—Julie Marsh



HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION

Hermana Paula Schwendinger, PBVM

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Teléfono: 563.258.1105



immigrant
**I was a ~~stranger~~
and you welcomed me.**

Matt. 25:35

Jesus

We often speak of the immigration issue and the problems it causes with Hispanic families. Recently I had the privilege of sitting down with the wives of two men who were detained and are currently in a Cedar Rapids jail awaiting trial. I felt blessed because I was able to speak to them and listen to their stories in their own language, and also because they trusted me. I would like to share part

of their stories with you so you can pray for them and their situations in particular.

One of the young women is 24-years-old, and has a 15-month-old son. They live in a duplex in Dyersville surrounded by cousins of her husband, but she really has no one around. She works in a factory and pays for child care for her son. Her husband has been in jail for a month, and soon should have a trial to determine his fate. He was deported in 2008, returned to the states in 2013 because he was beaten so badly in Mexico, and advised by human services that he needed to escape. His wounds were so serious that he went to the hospital here in the states and they found cancer. Fortunately, they were able to remove the cancerous growth without any further treatment, and he had been working and living peacefully with his family until immigration entered his home with a warrant and took him away.

His brother has been in the U.S. for 16 years, and lived with his wife and his two daughters, ages 12 and three in Cascade. Last week he was dropped off from work in his back yard, and immigration was right behind the car, picked him up for working with illegal documents, and took him away. His wife was just coming in the front door, and as he tried to call her, the phone went dead.

I am not going to make any further comments and will let you draw your own conclusions. I spent time praying with the two women, and am in contact with a lawyer from Catholic Charities to see about the cases of the two brothers. I strongly believe that the Lord brought me back here at this time for a purpose. I have spent time sharing with the priests regarding immigration issues, giving pertinent information to the Hispanics in the area who need to know their rights, and “offering hope and love to a broken world” as our mission statement suggests.

The story is far from over, but like Nano, I intend to continue to take down the lantern from its niche and go forth to the people living in the shadows. I know that all of you will continue to pray for immigration reform, and hopefully, having stories of some real people affected by the immigration laws will enable me to bring it to the consciousness of others who may not understand the immigration system or the ways that women and children are affected by it. In many ways, my hands are tied, as I can do nothing for the men in jail, whom I do not know. But I can support their wives and children as they wait, often with little hope, for a positive outcome to situations that are out of their control.

Sister Paula Schwendinger

PRAYERS

May 14, 2016 – June 17, 2016

6/14

On Monday I had my blood checked and visited with my oncologist. She shared that my blood count was lower than previously and that the chemo treatments were not doing what she had hoped. Therefore, I have discontinued chemo treatments. My blood will be checked periodically for the next several months. I am scheduled to see my oncologist in September. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Janice Hancock PBVM

6/3

Thanks for continued prayers for my health and healing--the prayers are working! I had a mammogram and ultrasound before my 5th treatment and the tumor in my breast and in the lymph nodes are smaller in size. Praise God! I have 3 more treatments so the end is in sight. Following chemo, I will have surgery and radiation treatments probably in the fall. Most days I feel pretty good to work and do things around the house. Julie Marsh, PBVM and many friends continue to take care of me on my good and "bad" days! I can't imagine life without my "Care Team"! I am blessed with people who love and care for me. Mary Lou Specha, PBVM

5/27

Herman Platt, brother of Sister Mary Hermann, died May 26. Sister Mary Hermann, her sister Rose Sprout, and brother, Francis Platt, and his wife Maxine were with him.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for my sister, Jeanne Kress. We have had several CTs taken at the U of Iowa Hospital and saw a cardiologist about Jeanne having a per cutaneous repair/replacement of the aortic valve. Because of concerns about how anesthesia will affect her, we will be seeing a second cardiologist for further consultation in early June. Beth Kress, PBVM

Please pray for my cousin Joe Kubitz. His sister called me to say that he is leaving the hospital after going there in April to be treated for leukemia. Their youngest brother died of the same disease a year or two ago, and Joe's wife died from cancer also. Apparently at this time Joe has chosen not to continue with chemo treatments. It doesn't sound good. Jean Ann Meyer, PBVM

5/25

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and concern for me as I continue chemo. I am usually down for a week and then on about the 7th day I feel good again for the next two weeks. I will be having my third chemo tomorrow. I am there close to 7 hrs. I am rather tired by the time it's all over as you can imagine. Please continue the prayers. Lynn Wagner PBVM

5/24

Please pray for Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus' sister, Mary Catherine Clark (age 97), who had a heart attack this morning. Mary Catherine is being tested and treated but is resting comfortably. She has several children living in the same town as she and the others are on their way. Mary Catherine asks for your prayers.

5/23

Please pray for Jim Sprout, brother-in-law of Sister Mary Hermann Platt. He is in Mason City Hospital at this time with a broken bone in the thigh. They are considering surgery, possibly inserting a rod.

JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

- 7 Pat McCright
- 8 Mary Standing Bear
- 13 Sister Martha Donnelly (B)
- 22 Carol Kane / Joann Gullickson
- 26 Sister Anne McCormick (F)
- 31 Virgie Luchsinger

Special Events

- 4 Fourth of July
- 5 Chapel dedication Mount Loretto (1912)
- 13-16 Community Days
- 19 St. Vincent Academy completed (1880)

AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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

- 1 Betty Allen / Barb Sauser
- 3 Michelle Covey
- 5 Susan Bennett
- 6 Karen St. John
- 8 Margaret Barton
- 10 Julie Blomme
- 11 Virginia Lammer
- 13 Sister Elena Hoyer (B) / Pat Albrecht
- 14 Sister Suzanne Gallagher (B)
- 16 Jeff Lange
- 17 Lydia McDonald / Jim Kluesner
- 19 Sister Annette Kestel (B)
- 20 Ron Dankert / Marlene Hagemann / Lavonne Kerth
- 21 Mary Drees / Janet Leonard
- 22 Rita Swinton
- 23 Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus (F) / Pat Pacetti
- 25 Sister Lois Lehmann (F) / Sister Francine Quillin (B)
Sister Louise Scieszinski (F) / Deb McClimon
- 26 Lucy Durnan
- 27 Ben Roberts
- 28 Sister Kathleen Dolphin (B) / Linda Dolphin / Delynn Fangman
- 30 Doris Wiegman
- 31 Rita Stanley

Special Events

- 9 Purchased St. Bernard Seminary (1969)
- 15 Dedication Mount Loretto (1909)

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

- 1 Sister Deborah Paige (F) / Cindy Pfiffner
- 7 Sandy Kahle
- 8 Sister Diana Blong (F)
- 11 Sister Janice Hancock (B) / Ron Weaver
- 12 Sister Donna Determan (F)
- 14 Karen Vander Millen
- 15 Sister Dolores Moes (F) / Sister Dolores Zieser (F)
- 16 Deb Jasper
- 17 Fr. Ed Lechtenberg
- 20 Sister Gina Marie Foletta (B)
- 21 Sister Matthew Cunningham (F)
- 23 Sister Linus Coyle (F)
- 24 Sister Rita Cameron (B) / Rosie Metzger
- 25 Patricia Baumann
- 26 Sister Damian O'Brien (F) / Sister Joy Peterson (B)
Bren Connors
- 27 Donna Weaver
- 28 Carol Witry / Jean Lange
- 29 Sister Michelle Gallagher (F) / Sister Michaeline Healy (F)

Special Events

- 5 Labor Day