



# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Sisters of the Presentation

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March 2016

As part of their Chapter preparation, the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters invited Sister Carol Zinn SSJ to speak with them. Thanks to Sisters Mary Ellen Gevelinger OP and Joy Peterson PBVM Carol's talk, *Religious Life: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, is now available to us.

Carol's message offers many insights, questions and challenges to us as Presentation Sisters and Associates. I encourage you to make use of this wonderful resource and have included a short outline (from my own notes) that may be helpful to you as you listen. We often express desire to have conversations that matter among ourselves. Carol's message is worth a conversation.

To view her address, click on this link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14454294/events/4769537>

Sister Beth Driscoll

### *Religious Life - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

Carol Zinn, SSJ

#### **Introduction:**

- How's the Gospel walking around in me? in one another? the congregation?
- Whatever you need as a Presentation, you have in your heart!

#### **Religious Life: Yesterday**

- Religious life is a radical response to the Gospel in a particular time and place; historical and cultural context;
- When the time and/or culture change, so does religious life (not cookie cutter);
- Historical Picture: Early Christian community; Desert Fathers and Mothers; Monasticism; Mendicant; Apostolic Religious Life.

#### **Religious Life Yesterday is about three things:**

- Religious Life is a radical response to the gospel in a particular historical and cultural context. Religious life is a LIFE - 24/7!! We LIVE the LIFE - a life lived in and through the Church for the LIFE of the WORLD, a life lived for the gospel with a message for the life of the world. We live it until the space after we take our last breath.
- Religious life has various expressions. They come and they go. Nothing lives forever.
- Conversations we have personally and communally about whether we're frozen in time and holding on to this time phase longer than it should be held onto.

## Religious Life: Today

Chapter is an ecclesial event, where matters of great importance are considered. The only matter of great importance is the patrimony of the congregation - the **MISSION** and **CHARISM**. Chapters are about the future of mission and charism.

- What should we be doing about the future of mission and charism?

Religious life today has to lean into the Paschal Mystery; go to Calvary in order for NEW LIFE to come.

**You know you're leaning into the Paschal mystery** when you are giving your obedience (putting your ear to God's heart) to where God is calling you.

**You know you're *not* leaning into the Paschal mystery** when your conversations are about property.

**You know you're leaning into the Paschal mystery** when your conversations are about patrimony (mission and charism).

**You know you're *not* leaning into the Paschal mystery** when conversations are about ministry.

**You know you're leaning into the Paschal mystery** when you talk about discernment.

**You know you're *not* leaning into the Paschal mystery** when you talk about diminishment.

**You know you're leaning into the Paschal mystery** when you ask *why*.

**You know you're *not* leaning into the Paschal mystery** when you ask *how*.

## Religious Life Tomorrow

Believe in the future and become the future - unleash God's life for the life of the world!

Religious life is God's work! Our work is to get out of the way so that when God brings something new, there's space for it.

Experience inner freedom:

- freed from: holding on to everything that's familiar  
freed for: helping something new to come
- freed from: polarization  
freed for: the role of religious life, which is to be **prophetic**, to be a witness to something that does not exist

Become the future:

- Make sure we believe that the Gospel is needed, the radical response to the Gospel is needed today.
- Embrace this time in this life that we love!
- The call is to be faithful!



"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

# Ever Emerging

As we continue to host conversations, we offer this beautiful poem by Jan Philips entitled *Questions*. Thanks for reflecting on your capacity to extend and receive questions. May our reflection energize our *Great Turning*?

## Questions

Questions spark a conversation,  
unlock cellar doors,  
climb the creaky attic steps and open old trunks.

Questions are hand-written invitations, brand  
new welcome mats,  
door prizes and happy to see you hugs.

Questions are our favorite teachers, the guides in  
the forest,  
the gurus sitting in our inner chamber.

They ask, care, knock, open.  
They are maps to undiscovered gold mines.  
Question marks are the tools  
of Solomon, Socrates, Sojourner Truth.

Don't give me a period, to stop me an  
exclamation point, to shock me  
a comma to justify your run-on  
rants, a colon to put me on hold  
waiting for your list.

Don't put a parenthesis around your tender  
spots and keep them from me.

Don't text me what you  
know. It's already past.

Give me a question mark  
so I can discover what I  
never knew before.  
But then again...I don't know.

What do you think

Jan Phillips, *No Ordinary Time: The Rise of Spiritual Intelligence and Evolutionary Creativity*, 1994)

# May we each know ourselves ever emerging...



### 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.

## Reverencing *relationships* /engaging *contemplation*...

"My grace will be enough for you."

On a warm, quiet Sunday afternoon in August, I was sitting outside on my front porch. I noticed a car circling the parking lot. I recognized the driver. She stopped by my home and introduced me to her male friend who truly could have cared less to have been introduced to me. I smiled to myself. They went about their way and moved on from the parking lot.



On Tuesday, August 14, two days later, I was going back to my office after a little lunch. My cell phone began to ring. The number was unknown. I knew immediately it was the hospital. "Sister, come quick! It will be a hard and long afternoon. A young girl is about to give birth." As I stepped off the elevator, I was talking to myself, "I wonder where I am supposed to go?" A man stepped out of a room. "It is my daughter." It was the gentleman that I was introduced to two days before in the parking lot. He took me to his daughter. We prayed the rosary and, after every decade, we stopped so that I could gather information. "What are you going to name the baby? Why did you choose that name?" The baby was born at 3:00 p.m. (baptized immediately) and died shortly after her baptism. I stayed with the family until 11:30 p.m. Before letting go of her baby, Ashley asked if I would be willing to pray again with everyone. It was truly the Spirit that led our prayer as I honestly did not know what to say. Ashley let go of her little one and a multitude of tears filled that hospital room.

When it was my turn to leave, two nurses were waiting for me to see if I was okay. I had walked into the life of a family and gently I had to let go. About two months later, I received a card: "Dear Sister, this is Ashley's grandmother. I just want to say thank you. When I was young, I wanted to be a sister. My hope is that I would have been just like you!"

Most of my phone calls lead me one pace beyond. The funeral home...the jail ... RCIA... Wednesday night religious education ... teaching. My contemplative heart enables me to reverence Nano's words: "If I can be of service anywhere, I will gladly go."

*Sister Cheryl Demmer*



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MARCH 2016

Thank you, Sisters, Associates and Friends, for your prayers and thoughts for my brother-in-law, Gene Meister, during his six-and-a-half year experience with multiple myeloma. Thank you also for the prayers, cards, words of encouragement and support we have received since Gene's death on February 22. Gene was a man rooted in deep faith. He died peacefully surrounded by family. He had just been anointed and he passed as Father was giving the Apostolic Blessing and absolution.

Your continued prayers are appreciated,  
Sister Janet Goetz  
Mary Ann Meister  
Rob and Wendi Meister and Family  
Mark and Jennifer Meister and Family

### Ministry Donation Committee

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| \$5000 | La Luz Hispana                   |
| \$5000 | Catholic Committee of Appalachia |

The next meeting of the Ministry Donation Committee will be June 2.

Please submit any requests by May 26.



### NANO NAGLE SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

Sisters & Associates,

Just a reminder to nominate a person of exemplary service for the **Nano Nagle Service Award**. **Deadline is April 1, 2016**. This award may be used to further opportunities of service, benefit a service project, help with education related to serving the needs of the poor or in some way aid the nominee in continuing his or her gift of service.

You can find the nomination form at: <http://bit.ly/1U4n1A6> or go to the **Presentation website ([www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)) – Opportunities – Scholarships & Awards**.

We invite you to also encourage seniors at Wahlert High School in Dubuque to apply for the Mother Vincent Hennessy Scholarship and seniors at Columbus High School in Waterloo, Iowa, to apply for the Nano Nagle College Scholarship.



# *From the Office of...* VOCATIONS

I recently helped facilitate a gathering of young women from St. Stephen's Student Center at the University of Northern Iowa. Sister Kathy Carr, BVM, and Sister Virginia Heldorfer, OSF, helped with the gathering as we facilitated a session on "God in the Midst of All Things." Before the gathering we asked the young women what topics were in their hearts and minds as we prepared to come together. They expressed a great interest in spending time around the idea of God being present in all things. Since this was such a desire of theirs, we put a program together and I decided to share some of our thoughts and ideas in this edition of Community Notes.

We began by saying: "Close your eyes for a moment. Think of one event that happened to you today, this week, or during the past month that really touched your heart. Call this event to mind as vividly as possible. It may be a sad or joyful encounter, a humorous exchange, a warm greeting on a cold day. Move back into this moment as fully as imagination will allow. Meditate on it. Let the event give rise to reflection. What is its meaning for you? Why did it touch your heart? Think about it, thank God for it."

Each of us has a story. Our story includes times of happiness, times of sadness, times of loneliness, times of connectedness. Each of our stories, though unique, has a common thread running through the pages. Each of us encounters hurdles along the way. Some of the hurdles are external, some of them internal. We might say these hurdles could become obstacles to our spiritual growth. What if we could look through a different lens and begin to see these obstacles as opportunities for growth? What if we decided to see God in each of the experiences that we encounter? What if we let the "I can do it alone" way of thinking be replaced by "God and I can do this together" way of thinking? Would we see things differently? Would there be a sense of freedom accompanying our thinking? If we remind ourselves that without God we can do nothing, we may become more compassionate, we may become less attached to things, and we may even become more forgiving to ourselves and others. We might even "should" ourselves less and become more optimistic.

Life may appear to be like a traffic jam. We travel bumper to bumper, mile after mile and become irritable or impatient. We make a little progress but there are still miles to go. Any one of us can be caught in this type of feeling, but if we face these situations with the help of God's grace, we gain freedom from them and they become opportunities for growth instead of obstacles to life. The situations may not change, but our attitude toward them will.

God asks us to live hope-filled lives and see the presence of God in every person, event, and thing in existence. Meditation must be a regular practice to establish connections between everyday happenings and the holy. If we decide to foster attentive presence to God, if we make acts of gratitude a daily routine, we may be able to trust that God does bring opportunities—not obstacles into our lives.

*Your words, O Lord, are hope  
And consolation, sweet solace,  
Oil poured out to soothe  
Old wounds, to soften scars,  
To turn these dark places  
In my soul toward the stars.  
Amen*



# Our Journey in Formation



Last September I shared with you a brief snapshot of Sister Mary Therese Krueger's up-coming year as an Apostolic Novice. In the November and December editions of Community Notes, Mary Therese shared wonderful reflections on some of her experiences. After a few more months filled with many meaningful experiences, this is a good opportunity for another update.

Beginning in October, Mary Therese and I have focused on a different formation topic each month. The monthly opportunities have included meeting with a Hearth Circle of sisters to learn about the topic and delve into how sisters have integrated the topic into their lives, an opportunity to visit sisters in their areas of ministry and reflect on how they live our Directional Statement, and an invitation to reflect on and share the topic in her Chicago accompanying community. Here is a glimpse into the past five months.

## **October topic: Prayer**

- Hearth Circle - Sisters Sheila Ann Dougherty, Joan Lickteig, Linus Coyle, and Rene Laubenthal shared the rhythm of the life of prayer in the Mt. Loretto Community and prayer forms which they find personally helpful.
- Sister Mary Therese visited Sister Carla Popes and witnessed her passion for her parish pastoral ministry.

## **November topic: Presentation Charism and Mission**

- Hearth Circle – Sisters Elena Hoye, Irma Ries, and Beth Kress led a lively discussion of the history and mission of the International Presentation Association.
- Sisters James Marie Gross and Rene Laubenthal reflected on their rich experiences of tutoring at the Presentation Lantern Center.

## **December topic: Advent**

- Sister Mary Therese and her local community took advantage of Advent resources and opportunities in the Chicago area.

## **January topic: Intercultural Experiences of Those Made Poor**

- Hearth Circle and ministry experience combined – Sisters Lou Cota and Jean Ann Meyer shared via video conference their experiences of intercultural ministry in Chicago and Okolona.

## **February topic: Discernment**

- Hearth Circle – Sisters Julia Wingert, Jeanine Kuhn, and Ann Jackson spoke of Ignatian Spirituality, spiritual direction, and their personal experiences of discernment.
- Sister Mary Therese spent a morning with Sister Benjamin Duschner visiting the sick and elderly of St. Elizabeth Pastorate.

Mary Therese has also taken a class each semester, *Wake Up the World: Consecrated Life For Our Time and Introduction to the New Testament*, both at Catholic Theological Union. She has also been of service exploring and planning for physical therapy services to be offered at the Port Ministries Health Clinic. Mary Therese and I continue our on-going conversations in person, by Skype, and phone calls. I am grateful for and personally enriched by the opportunity to journey with Mary Therese.

Annette



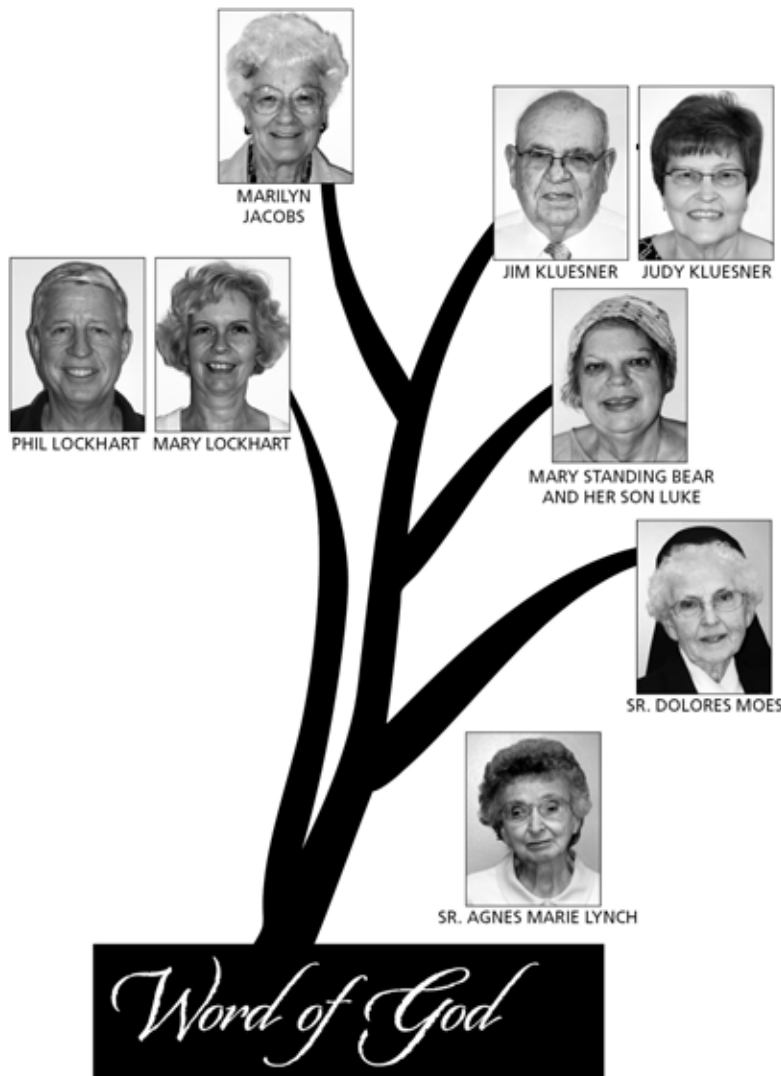
## From the...Associate Partnership Office

Carol Witry, Co-Director  
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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

*"To follow Jesus is to be a wholemaker, essentially to love the world into new being and life." Iliia Delio*  
*What does wholemaking mean for you? How are you being a wholemaker in your life, your ministry?*



### BRANCHES OF THE WORD

We are a small group, known as *Branches of the Word*, who value prayer and ways to grow in prayer. We usually meet each month on the third Thursday at 7 pm. We have tried to grow in prayer through reading, studying, meditating, listening, sharing and becoming familiar with different kinds of prayer.

Scripture is key as we meet and go over the Sunday readings. We prepare and then share what the readings mean to us. How do we make them come alive? All of this helps as we celebrate the Eucharist.

Studying Pope Francis on the section of prayer in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, has been a big help. Pope Francis challenges us by living out and putting into action God's word as we live our daily lives. We are trying to become more thoughtful of other people and practice ways of bringing peace among us. We also do outreach for others, keeping their needs in our prayer. A card is sent to show others they are not alone. We are with them, too. In all of this we seek to be empowered by God's grace.

Sister Agnes Marie, due to her declining eyesight, is a faithful pray-er for our group. Luke, Mary Standing Bear's son, attends each meeting as well.

Sister Mary Dolores Moes, PBVM





### REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING RETREAT

On April 16-17 all are invited to gather for the 2016 PBVM Associate and Sister Retreat! Join sisters and associates as we celebrate God's enlivening presence in one another and in all of creation.

Register now for *Reverencing Relationships: Cultivating a Culture of Care* at: [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org) / Members Login / Event Registration or you can email Jean Lange at: [jean@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:jean@dubuquepresentations.org).

Plan now to join with sisters and associates as we share in prayer and celebrate our call to reverence relationships with Earth, self and others.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All associates are invited 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. Plan to come for all four days or as many days as your schedule allows! More information will be coming soon.



### 2016 GARAGE SALE

It's not too early to start collecting your gently used items for the 2016 Presentation Sisters and Associates Benefit Garage and Bake Sale! Last year over \$19,000 was raised. Your donation of clean clothing, household items, plants, books, CD's, furniture, games and toys will be given a new home and some deserving ministries will benefit! It's a win-win for all! See the attached flyer for further information.

Please consider where you might hang a poster (one is attached at the end of this Community Notes) advertising the upcoming Sister and Associate Garage Sale. Posters will be available at the gym and at the Associate Office. Pick some up today to post at your parish, your workplace, wherever people gather!

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Work is beginning on the 2016-17 Community Directory. Your help is needed in the following ways:

- Please take a moment to check the present directory to see if your information is correct. If any changes are needed, please contact the Associate Partnership office at [associates@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:associates@dubuquepresentations.org) or 563-588-2008.
- If you would like to update your directory photo, there will be an opportunity to have your photo taken at the April 16-17 retreat.



#### **Board of Trustees**

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900 Jackson Street  
Suite LLS-1  
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**Iowa Workforce Development Advisor**, Laura Quade, visited the center on March 1 and has scheduled a visit on March 9 for the entire staff. This partnership is an opportunity for us to help our students know more about opportunities for workshops that deal with skill development, labor information and other related topics

**Students from the Alternative High School** visited the center as part of a project that focused on the Marshallese Community in Dubuque which has over 300 people from the Marshall Islands. It is an interesting story. Missionaries from the University of Dubuque went to the Islands at the end of World War II. Because the United States did nuclear testing in those islands in the early 1960s, people from the Marshall Islands can come into the country without having to apply for a visa and can work in the United States without a permanent residence card. The path to citizenship is more challenging. There is a group of people in the Dubuque area, including some Catholic sisters, who are engaging in some advocacy work on this topic. If we can help prepare people for the citizenship test, we will be glad to do so.

**Millwork Collective** This group consists of the nonprofits located on the lower level of the Schmidt Innovation Center. We have monthly meetings to explore ways we can support each other, work together on projects, recruit volunteers, and share some expenses.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day** This feast is an opportunity to share some of the challenges Irish immigrants faced and support current immigrants in their struggles. Poverty, lack of employment or difficult jobs and the need for friends are threads that run through so many stories and speak to us of the importance of hospitality.

# ¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

## [WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

"It seems like Bishop Javier (del Río) wants a pastoral visit in Pope Francis' style," announced F. Javier Panique, the pastor of Entre Ríos, to the coordinators of the various parish group three weeks before the scheduled visit. Two distant rural communities were advised that the bishop would be arriving for a Eucharistic celebration. In the pueblo, Eucharistic ministers made a list of the sick and planned with the families for visits. The parish social concerns group made arrangements for a time with the men in jail. The various parish groups scheduled meals among themselves so small groups could meet and share. And a party was planned for the final night.

### *Plans are plans. Then the Spirit moved.*

As the bishop and two Eucharistic ministers were welcomed by families and the sick in their homes there was a sense of joy. Then ready to return to the parish, one minister suggested a stop at one more home where an elderly couple lived. They were not on the list but the husband was sick. They knocked and the wife asked pardon but said that her husband was not awake yet and she did not want to disturb him. As she spoke her husband slowly entered the room and asked them to come in. Amazed that he was out of bed, his wife ushered the bishop into their home. The man shared that he had seen the bishop on television the day before and knew that he would visit some of the sick. Without telling anyone, he prayed that the bishop would come to see him. He heard the knock at the door and knew his prayers were answered.

Days of rain and drizzle made roads almost impassable with mud and landslides and more mud. However the people of the two communities knew that they were important to the bishop because, even though he arrived late, he arrived! The men in the jail let it be known that they would like more attention from the parish.

Groups of service are now reorganizing to respond to needs that became evident during the visit. There is a sense that there is more to do!

Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery



Celebration time! Children performing the typical dances.



Beatriz Vera, serving sandwiches, is an ever present, welcoming woman at parish events.





Twelve Hispanic women gathered in *La Luz Hispana* on February 23, to begin their series of sessions entitled VIVA LA SALUD, (HURRAY FOR GOOD HEALTH). The program represents a partnership of Iowa State Extension in Hampton, Franklin General Hospital and *La Luz Hispana*. The women were tempted by chocolate kisses and large bottles of Coca Cola, largely considered “*La Droga Favorita*” of many Hispanic women. The women learned that one glass of Coke is equivalent to 14 sugar cubes. Needless to say, the bottles of Coca Cola remained on the table, but a few of the kisses actually disappeared! Each woman “weighed in” during the session and some inquired about the amount of exercise needed daily to maintain basic fitness. Allie Kjormoe, Franklin Hospital health educator, suggested that one-half hour a day would be very reasonable. The women worked in teams to write down their favorite recipes. These recipes will be then “transformed” by the nutritionists to lower the levels of fats, sodium, and sugars. Finally each woman noted her own objectives for better health, why she wants to renovate her health style, and what steps she needs to take for this new life style to become a reality.



Two weeks later, March 8, the women were invited to the Franklin County Wellness Center for another weigh-in, for glucose readings to be taken, for a calculation of body mass index, and finally for the opportunity to exercise using the exercise balls and playing ‘Pickle Ball’. Many of the women had lost from 5 to 6 pounds in this two-week period. The women were so enthusiastic that they signed up for daily aerobics at the center. Their comments revealed some of their passion for healthy life styles.

Marilu Vondra remarked: “The health classes are very effective and are resulting in healthier living, not only for the women, but also for the entire family.” Yesenia Morteo commented, “This is a great opportunity for us to be healthier, and to prepare healthier meals for our families.” Yeraldy Cortes commented, “The teaching is so well done and we are developing good habits of daily exercise. This is also a great way to avoid illnesses.”

Megan Conlon, the Franklin County nutrition specialist in charge of the course, noted that the favorite recipe of the women is *posole*, a favorite soup of Mexico, made with corn, pork or chicken, garlic, hot peppers, tomatoes, and onions. It is served with chopped lettuce, radishes, and lemon to be placed on top according to the taste of each person. Tortillas and sour cream most often accompany the *posole*. How will Megan transform this recipe in a healthier way? We can only wait and see!



Sughey Lopez, our well-regarded sewing instructor, continues to rotate pattern making, cutting fabric skills, sewing machine familiarity, and actual sewing practice. The women are exceptionally attentive and intent on doing it right, so that the final results are worth the effort. Plans are for a “*desfile de modas*”, “a style show” for the final session.

Jon Wolseth, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Scott Timm, and Sam Thompson of IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH, (Envisioning Committee for Community and Economic Development), visited *La Luz Hispana* to obtain and prioritize ideas from the Hispanic population about how Hampton could improve the city. The team also visited the Methodist Church and some other English speaking groups for the same purpose.

Some of the opinions offered were the need to fix potholes, provide streetlights in some areas of the city, put in sidewalks in some areas, arrange for more shade on the walking path, repair the stoplight that is broken, provide open bathrooms in the parks, make the wellness center economically

accessible to families, have a Spanish speaking assistant and story teller at the library, and offer Spanish reading and writing classes to Hispanic young people.

The final session concluded with excellent Mexican tortas and fruit along with a stimulating sharing among *La Luz Hispana* natives and the array of Spanish speakers who had studied and worked in numerous countries.



Maura

Carmen



### *The Year of the Visitation!*

## Pilgrims from the Windy City to the Big Easy

Four energetic souls from Chicago ventured their way to New Orleans in response to the call to participate in the "Year of Visitation" presented at the 2015 Community Days. Sisters Janet Stelken, Jessi Beck, Marilyn Breen and PBVM novice Mary Therese Krueger arrived on a cool and comfortable Friday evening.

Many exciting and interesting activities were had by the sisters in their short stay, but the most important experience Sisters Julie and Mary Lou were interested in was their impression of **Hotel Hope**. As predicted, the sisters were excited and saw great potential in the space designated to shelter the most vulnerable in our society.

"What a wonderful way to extend much needed and meaningful hospitality to women and children," says Sr. Janet.

Left to right, Presentation Sisters Marilyn Breen, Jessi Beck, Mary Therese Krueger & Janet Stelken.



Their love for the mission of **Hotel Hope** re-energized Sisters Julie and Mary Lou in the midst of their waiting for the final projected cost that FEMA will contribute.

"The Year of Visitation couldn't have come at a better time. Sharing the dream with our sisters brings me hope that all will be well," says Sr. Julie. "The words of encouragement and sparkle in their eyes remind me that Sr. Mary Lou and I are not doing this alone. Thank you!"

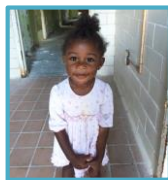
## What Can We Do to End Homelessness?

President Obama has proposed that Congress provide \$2.664 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2017 for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. This increase would fund 25,500 units of permanent supportive housing, which would help end chronic homelessness. The proposal also includes \$20.854 billion in FY 2017 for Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), which would continue assistance for all families currently using the program and

provide 10,000 new vouchers to homeless families with children. So what can we do?

Take Action — tell your congress person to fund housing to end chronic homelessness. Contact your local homeless coalition to find out how you can get involved (a list of local coalitions is available at

[www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/index.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/index.html)).



### 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)

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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

## Hotel Hope Chalet

Sometimes when you can't beat 'em, you find another way! Indeed, this is what the **Hotel Hope** board of directors decided at the last meeting.

At the present, **Hotel Hope** is the topic of conversation between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Louisiana's Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP). As they work towards completing the cost of replacing the facility, the board decided to move ahead in the purchasing of a house across the street from the hotel in order to begin the mission of housing homeless women and children.



**Hotel Hope** has had a purchase agreement with the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association for one of their blighted properties (3939 General Taylor). Once the purchase agreement is finalized and renovations are completed, **Hotel Hope** will begin the emergency phase (Phase I) of its mission. It will provide two families a place to stay for a maximum of 30-40 days where they will receive case management to move them into more permanent housing more quickly.

This small emergency housing facility will be named **Hotel Hope Chalet**. A generous donor has bought the house for **Hotel Hope** in hopes that the renovation will be finished by July of this year.





# HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION

**Hermana Paula Schwendinger, PBVM**

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As I reflect on this HOME project over these first 6 months, I am able to see the inroads that God has enabled me to have with the people. In this ministry it is a true "walking with" the people. For instance, during December and February, I was able to accompany the Hispanics in Cascade and Dyersville for their cultural tradition of laying down baby Jesus, and then in February, lifting up and dressing of the baby Jesus. Even though I was 25 years in Florida, and invited various times, I could never go to these celebrations because of liturgical commitments or religious education. While on-lookers may wonder at this tradition, which takes over an hour, with rosary, prayers, venerating the baby Jesus, etc. to me, it is a strong symbol of their faith, which has carried them through many difficult times. This is a family time, and there were at least 40 people gathered in the small apartments, and almost 100 people came together in the individual homes.



*Dressing baby Jesus  
at the lifting up ceremony*



To gather as a community, taking leadership themselves as they desire to pass their traditions on, to me, is a powerful statement of a faith community. As I shared before, many of these Hispanics were involved in the Postville raid, and I recently learned that three in Cascade had to wear the ankle monitor for two years. One of the ladies showed me her legs, and because the monitor was too tight, one of her legs became swollen and never returned to normal.

I am truly blest to be able to listen to their stories and support them in their struggles. They are beginning to realize that I am with them for the long haul and have come to trust me. As I come near the end of the Lenten liquid fast, which I offered for immigration reform and the undocumented, the Lord has enabled me to understand in a clearer way what it means to be in solidarity. As more people learn of my ministry, I am able to use my Spanish to translate in clinics, in dental offices, and continuing in the Catholic schools of the area. In mid-March I will be facilitating a Spanish group discussion to be held in conjunction with a parish mission to be held at St. Raphael's Cathedral and St. Patrick's in Dubuque.



I have enlisted the help of my brother, Carl and his wife, Becky, who live in Dyersville, to help find homes and apartments for rent in that area. One family has been able to move into a home, and a couple others are still in process. I am learning to just stand back and wait for the Lord to surface other needs.

Sister Paula Schwendinger

## PRESENTATION CALENDAR of EVENTS

# APRIL 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) = birthday  
(F) = feast day  
(R) = reception  
(b) = baptismal

- 2 Jeff Duncan
- 7 Sister Hermann Platt (F)
- 10 Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty (B)
- 13 Sister James Marie Gross (B)
- 15 Charlotte King
- 17 Sister Beth Kress (B)
- 19 Sister Julia Wingert (B)
- 20 Maureen McDonnell
- 23 Dora Serna
- 24 Sister Catherine Wingert (B)
- 25 Gino Pacetti / Dennis Ryan
- 29 Sister Karen Jasper (F)
- 30 Judi Weydert

### Special Events

- 22 Earth Day
- 26 Death of Nano Nagle (1784)



**PRAYERS**  
**Feb 13 – March 18, 2016**

**3/16**

Please remember Associate Bren Connors in your prayers. She is having gall bladder surgery today.

**3/13**

Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch requests prayers for her sister Maureen and brother-in-law Pat, her sister Rowena and brother-in-law Jim. They are all dealing with some challenging health issues at this time

**3/11**

Sr. Lynn Mary Wagner had hysterectomy surgery in Madison. All went well. She will receive a report the day after Easter to determine the stage of cancer. She is grateful for your prayers and thoughts.

**3/10**

Sr. Mary Lou Specha sends her gratitude for continued prayers, and thanks for all the calls, letters and support during this time. Her first chemotherapy treatment she had a reaction to the nausea medicine and was hospitalized for a couple of days. Please pray her next treatment goes well!

Sr. Joetta Venneman update: I can sit as much as I can tolerate, I still have lifting restriction of around five pounds and I continue walking as much as I can. I am released for full time work with the above restrictions. I am happy to be finished with PT for now.

**3/9**

Prayers are requested for the family of Karen Anne Gallagher Sweet (75), former member, Sister M Judith Gallagher. Karen passed March 7, Apple Valley MN, and the family of Eleanor Larkin Ryan (94). Eleanor passed last night at the Good Samaritan Center in Waukon. Sr. Suzanne Gallagher

**3/8**

Please pray for Bernie Schmidt, our woodworker for our chapel renovation project, who is having very serious health issues. He's at home gaining strength for an angiogram and is grateful for prayers.

**3/7**

My brother, Laurie, passed away. We were able to talk by phone a week ago last Saturday. Yesterday I spoke with his wife Judy and she put the phone to his ear, but of course, he was unable to respond, but hearing is the last sense to go. I am grateful and at peace. Sr. Therese Corkery

Please keep Verdine Berns, brother of former associate, Karla Berns, in your prayers. Verdine's health is declining rapidly.

**3/1**

Yesterday I had my first visit at UW Health in Madison. My hysterectomy is scheduled for Friday, March 11. I ask for your continued prayers and support. Sr. Lynn Wagner

**2/16**

Prayers are requested for Sr. Marilyn Breen who fell on Feb. 8 and broke her arm. Her surgery on Feb. 22 went well and she is home from the hospital recuperating.

Thank you for your prayers and concern these last weeks. I am on medication to control my heartbeat. Please continue your prayers. Sr. Annette Skyles



## Presentation Sisters and Associates Benefit Garage Sale & Bake Sale – 2016

**Where:** In the gym and garage on the Mt. Loretto property, 2360 Carter Road

**When:** Thursday, Friday, April 28, 29 from 8 AM – Dusk & Saturday, April 30, 8 AM – 1 PM.  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 5, 6, & 7 at the same times as above

**Why:** Proceeds will go to:

1. HOME – Sr. Paula Schwendinger's Hispanic Outreach Ministry of Evangelization
2. Student Endowment Fund, Immaculate Conception School, Charles City, IA

Items for the sale may be dropped off daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the gym behind Mt. Loretto beginning Monday, April 4 until Saturday, April 23 **EXCEPT** Sundays.

Please bring gently used items – **CLEAN** clothing, household items, books, CD's, furniture, games and toys. Houseplants, plant cuttings, hostas and outdoor plant starters are popular items along with baby and children's clothes.

Again this year, we are **NOT TAKING** shoes, computers/printers or accessories, TV's, baby cribs or car seats, treadmills or Nordic tracks.

Baked goods will also be sold. These wrapped items can be brought to the gym on April 28, 29, 30 and/or May 5, 6, 7.

Workers are needed prior to the sale and days of the sale. If you can volunteer to help, please contact [associates@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:associates@dubuquepresentations.org) or call 563.588.2008, Ext. 608 **by Thursday, April 14** leaving a message including your name, date(s) and hours you can help.

For example, "My name is Mary Smith and I'll help on April 23 and May 1 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m."

**Thank you for your help and support!**