



# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Sisters of the Presentation

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**MAY 2016**

Last month in our prayer service for the anniversary of the death of Nano Nagle we were asked to reflect on the question, “What does it mean for me to walk on the edge?” This reflection brought to mind a small group discussion I had at LCWR Region X in March. While discussing “being on the edge”, someone asked, “where is the edge?” Among the variety of answers to that question were:

- The edge is wherever Christ is center.
- The edge can be right in the middle – where we can make connections and build relationships to improve life for those close to and far from us?
- The edge can be any place where we find, in the words of Flannery O’Connor, “the action of grace in the territory of the devil.”
- The edge can be asking the right question of the right people.
- The edge can be serving those under-resourced.
- The edge can be helping the under-resourced find and use their voice.
- The edge on which I’m to serve can be God’s personal choice for me.

So what does it mean for me to walk on the edge? What can I do to live the words of Peter Maurin, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, who often said, “We need to make the kind of society where it is easier for people to be good.”

It may be as simple and as profound as listening to God’s personal call to me. In *Action 2000*, Mark Link, SJ, tells the following story:

During the depression, a room was filled with applicants for a job opening as telegraph operator. The drone of conversation competed with a steady flow of dots and dashes. The door opened and yet another applicant entered the room. He stood there a minute, walked over to a door marked “Private,” and knocked. A man opened it and said to the others, “You may all go; we have our applicant.” The others were furious and demanded an explanation. The man said, “Listen!” They did. The dots and dashes kept repeating over and over again, “If you hear this, come in; the job’s yours.” That story reminds us that God is constantly speaking to us, but we are not always listening.

Am I living on the edge God has chosen for me personally? How well am I listening? Perhaps I need to heed Mother Teresa’s advice to a visitor to Calcutta, “What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.”

*Am Llanne*



## 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

*Community Days*, July 13-16, is fast approaching! We look forward to this time of prayer, reflection, integration and celebration.

- ☉ During *Community Days*, we will be using a "contemplative inquiry" process in order to cite forward movement of the *Directional Statement* to further the mission. Contemplative Inquiry will engage us in silence, active listening, integration, communal reflection (on the whole, rather than the individual), circle and community conversation.
- ☉ In light of this, each circle **will not** be offering a formal presentation. Instead, each circle has been asked to co-create a working timeline of activities to date and projections through 2021. As you know, these timelines will be created during the Emerging Circle Gathering 2, Collective Visioning (already scheduled between April 25 and May 20).
- ☉ **These timelines will be each circle's significant contribution to *Community Days*.** During these days, we will be reflecting on these communally. Thank you for praying with, reflecting on, and co-creating your Circle's timeline. Thanks for **completing the timeline** and **returning it to Beth Driscoll by May 23.**
- ☉ Community Zoom Account! We now have a ZOOM account for community use. If you are interested in scheduling a ZOOM video conference or phone call, simply send an email to: [pbvmzoom@gmail.com](mailto:pbvmzoom@gmail.com) citing the date and opening and closing times of the ZOOM meeting. The ZOOM meeting will be scheduled and a Meeting ID number will be sent to you confirming the scheduled meeting. Due to restrictions of ZOOM, only one meeting can occur at a time, so a master calendar will be kept and posted each month citing the meetings

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

# COMMUNITY NEWS

MAY 2016

## EMAIL UPDATES!

**Marilou Irons, PBVM** – [marilou@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:marilou@dubuquepresentations.org)

**Barb Rastatter, PBVM** – [barbrastatter@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:barbrastatter@dubuquepresentations.org)

Dear Friends,

Cele's family joins me in gratitude for all the prayers and support during Cele's last days and funeral.

Her spirit will remain with us and will especially manifest itself in her cards and jewelry which she was preparing for the Arts & Craft Boutique in October.

Gratefully,  
Marie Barth, PBVM

Dear Friends,

The families of my sisters, Maureen Hobart and Rowena White, join with me in expressing gratitude for the prayerful support from sisters, associates and employees during the recent months. Maureen is in treatment for ovarian cancer and grieving the sudden death of her husband, Pat. Rowena's husband Jim, is in hospice in Kansas City, MO.

We, the Lentsch Girls, continue to count on your prayers and loving, caring support in the days ahead.

With a grateful heart,  
Mary Dennis Lentsch, PBVM

### ➤ **COMMUNITY DIRECTORY UPDATES!**

Sisters & Associates, if you have any **Community Directory** changes, please let Carol Heim ([carol@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:carol@dubuquepresentations.org)) know **by June 15**.

- Sisters, even if your plans are not finalized, it is helpful to know a change is coming.
- If you wish to have a new picture taken, please contact Carol as soon as possible. If you submit a photo, it needs to be a high resolution (300 dpi) photo with a plain background please, and submitted as a .jpg file.

➤ **REMINDER:** Car reports due June 1

➤ Please submit any Ministry Donation Requests no later than Thursday, May 26.

# *From the Office of...* VOCATIONS

In vocation ministry, we are always looking to the future; a way of living and being that allows vocation ministers to navigate the ministry with expectation as well as question. As I was thinking about this way of being, I read a meditation that I wish to share with you. The meditation comes from the latest reflective journal printed by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. The meditation is entitled "*A Future We Cannot Yet Imagine*" and it is written by Sandra Williams, CSJ, from Los Angeles, California.

"Years ago, I heard a woman of wisdom describe relinquishment as a letting go that makes something else possible. A story in the Sufi tradition illustrates this:

A stream began in the mountains, made its way through every kind of countryside, and at last reached the sands of the desert. Just as it had crossed every other barrier, the stream tried to cross this one, but found out that as fast as it ran into the sand, its water disappeared. Yet the stream was convinced that its destiny was to cross the desert. A hidden voice suggested to the stream that it allow the wind to absorb it and carry it across the desert. There, falling as rain, it would again become a stream. The stream did not find this an attractive proposition. The voice responded that remaining where and what the stream was would be impossible, but the wind would carry what was essential across the desert."

Accompanying this meditation is a wonderful prayer written by Rita Cammack, OSF, from Denver, CO.

## **Into the Future**

"Oh how gently You nudge me into the future, O God!

You nudge me beyond my fears, beyond my hesitations, beyond my questions.

You nudge me...lovingly, tenderly, persistently to open my eyes and look with you into the possibilities.

Other times, You push me, O God! You push me past my stout reinforcements, past my frozen expectations, past my solidified way of thinking.

You push me...encouragingly, simply, intentionally to push past the confines of what I know and let myself be led into the unknown.

Other times, O God, You seem to carry me into the future! You carry me past my entombed pain, past my erroneous misunderstandings, past my clouded vision of others.

You carry me...then draw me...respectfully, forgivingly, and sometimes tearfully to accept myself and others and let love be the healing core.

And then, O God, You are forever beckoning me. You beckon me to move through the darkness into the light, through doubt into confidence, through denial into acceptance.

You beckon me...patiently, joyfully, reassuringly to trust that You are in the future and to let Your grace be enough for THIS moment!"

And I add here a question asked by Sandra Williams: "Where/how is God inviting us to live into a future we cannot yet imagine?"







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IMMERSION AND SERVICE PROGRAM OF THE SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

Many times service immersion experiences are not conveniently planned because of the time commitment or the date scheduled. It is for this reason we are asking sisters, associates and friends of Presentation sisters to respond to if you have an interest in joining other volunteers on a service/immersion trip to the Tucson/Nogales areas of the Mexican/American border.

The Kino Border Initiative works with groups in Tucson to help people get a full experience of border issues.

The multi-day experience could include a hike in the desert, visit to a women's shelter, observing actual court proceedings, as well as volunteer experiences. The Kino Border Initiative indicates the best month for this trip would be February 2017.

- Would you be interested and/or want more information?
- Please contact [vocations@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:vocations@dubuquepresentations.org)

# Our Journey in Formation



*With Hearts Aflame*, our Dubuque Presentation guide for initial formation, describes the novitiate as a "...time of intense spiritual preparation for commitment to God through prayer, study, and discernment, as well as through community life and ministry." This fall, Sister Mary Therese Krueger will begin her second year of novitiate, the canonical novitiate year.

As Sister Julianne mentioned last month in *Community Notes*, Sister Mary Therese Krueger will move to Dubuque for her year of canonical novitiate and will live with Sisters Jeanine Kuhn, Margaret Anne Kramer, and Rosalyn Ulfers in our formation house, our "House of a Thousand Welcomes." During this second year of novitiate Mary Therese will:

- Participate in the Inter Community Novitiate Program. We will journey to Techny, IL on Tuesdays from September through early December and from February through mid-May to meet with other novices and their directors to receive input on topics pertinent to religious life, for peer support, and for experience with other religious congregations.
- Have opportunities to deepen her prayer life.
- Delve more deeply into our heritage expressed in our historical roots and the understanding of Presentation charism, spirituality, and mission.
- Study the vows and grow in understanding of the lived experience of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
- Spend time with our retired sisters on a regular basis to grow in appreciation of their wisdom and experience in religious life.
- Continue her graduate theological studies by taking an on-line class each semester from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.
- Continue to meet with me for formation classes and a weekly conference.
- Engage in community life and prayer with her local community.
- Offer service at Mt. Loretto and beyond.

The goal of the canonical year is to assist the woman in her discernment and incorporation into our congregation. Please continue to pray for and support Mary Therese as she continues this journey of initial formation.

Annette



## From the...Associate Partnership Office

Carol Witry, Co-Director  
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### **Reverencing Relationships: Cultivating a Culture of Care** by Carol Witry

Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates gathered at Mt. Loretto on April 16-17, 2016 to share in "Reverencing Relationships: Cultivating a Culture of Care", the bi-annual PBVM sister/associate retreat. With a focus on a call of our PBVM Directional Statement, co-presenters Sister Elena Hoye and Associate Radie Roberts guided participants on an afternoon and evening exploration, reflection and experience of their relationships with creation, others and God.

Acknowledging that relationships are revered as we recognize God's presence in them, Sister Elena set the stage for the retreat by inviting participants out into the beauty of the spring day with their smart phones and iPads to record an experience of God's presence. These images, shared in the evening prayer, offered meaningful reminders of God's presence and our call to reverence our relationships with all.

Drawing from *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' encyclical on care of the earth, Sister Elena invited retreatants into reflection on their relationship with Earth through music, video, conversation and her sharing. Ritualizing our call to reverence the earth, participants scooped earth into their hands and blessed it.

Reflecting on our relationships with others, Radie focused on the practice of compassion and invited pairs of participants into a relationship-building time of sharing guided by a series of engaging conversation starters. "I really appreciated the opportunity and time to get to know my conversation partner, an associate, in a new and deeper way," stated Sister Raeleen Sweeney. A culminating ritual invited participants to reverence each person at their table saying "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you."

The final segment of the afternoon called forth reflection on our relationship with God as Sister Elena shared helpful ways of engaging in contemplative prayer followed by the opportunity for time alone with God. Participants ritualized reverence for relationship with God by placing hands on their hearts and greeting the Christ within.



Associates Laurie Noel, Colleen Venter and Sister Rita Menart  
reverence relationships

Evening prayer offered a meditative time including contemplative silence, song, ritual and the images of God's presence contributed by participants. Cultivating a culture of care continued with a laughter-filled activity to open the social, more sharing and finally sharing in Sunday morning Mass and brunch.

Summarizing her retreat experience, Associate Sue Murphy stated, "The entire weekend, from the "getting to know you better" icebreaker to sharing in the closing brunch immersed us in a time of recognizing, celebrating and reverencing relationships! The retreat was truly a gift for all!"

## COME TO COMMUNITY DAYS!

All associates are invited and encouraged to come to Community Days on July 13-16, 2016! If you can't come for the entire time, come for as much as you can! There will be a special time for associates to gather together for reflection and sharing on the morning of Friday, July 15! Lodging will be available, at no cost to associates, at the St. Columbkille Convent Suites. More information will be coming soon.



*"I like to participate in PBVM community days for several reasons. First, to support and build relationships with and among the associates and sisters by catching up on others' lives; second, to share the growth and nuances of the Presentation community in an ever-changing world; thirdly, to hear and learn of new ways of approaching the physical and spiritual challenges ahead, and lastly, to share in prayer and contemplation on the holy ground of the Presentation motherhouse."* – Associate Dianne McDermott



*"Community Days - coming home - HOME! That is how it feels to us. We are at home. There are no lines between associates and sisters. We are all one. It is always something to look forward to. See you at HOME. Love, hugs and prayers."* - Associates Pat & Gino Pacetti

## GARAGE SALE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Presentation sisters and associates hosted their twelfth annual garage sale on April 28-30 and May 5-7. Again this year, the garage sale was a great success collecting over \$22,500! Proceeds will go to *HOME* – Sister Paula Schwendinger's Hispanic Outreach Ministry of Evangelization and the *Student Endowment Fund* at Immaculate Conception School in Charles City, IA.

As the sale has grown with each year, more help was needed and sisters and associates stepped up to the plate! This year, in addition to the members of the Nano's Nine and Lantern Lights Associate groups who have provided the leadership as well as much of the "hands on" preparation and facilitation of the event, over 20 sisters and associates volunteered their hands and hearts helping before, during and after the sale! Congratulations and thanks to all who prayed for the



success of the sale, contributed, helped unpack, sort and organize, donated baked goods, promoted the sale and shared hospitality with all. Your generous sharing of your time and energy furthered our mission as we revered relationships, fostered partnerships, celebrated unity and helped to provide for others.

*Left:*  
Associates Janet  
Leonard & Karen St.  
John sell bakery items

*Right:*  
Effective and  
fun advertising by  
Associate Darla Budden







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

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## ***Relationally Speaking***

Do family connections influence vocations? A look at the relationships within our Presentation community might help to answer that question. Over the years as many as thirty-two sets of sisters have answered the call to be members of Nano's band. And that includes not just two, but as many as four members of a family.

Sisters Mary Scholastica and Matthew Murray (professed in 1888 and 1895 respectively) were the first blood sisters to join the group at Key West. Sisters Mary Anicetus Quin (1904) and Antoinette Walsh (1913) had the distinction of being the only half-sisters in the community. Sisters Mary Cheryl and Donna Demmer (1967 and 1970) are the latest to become permanent members.

Two families gave three of their daughters to religious life: Sisters Mary Rayanne, Bonita, and Donna Determan; and Sisters Mary Michael, Anthony, and Rosanne Rottinghaus. The four Sullivans, Sisters Mary Reginald, Alexandra, Ita, and Sarita, are the largest group from one family to be professed as Dubuque Presentations.

Aunt/niece groups showed up in our history early on, with Mother Vincent Hennessy and her niece Mother Patricia Reide starting the lineup when they came together from Ireland to establish a Presentation house in Dubuque. Since then sixteen more sets of aunts and nieces have professed final vows in the community. Among those with at least one member still living are Sisters Anita Boland and Deborah Paige; Margaret and Martha Donnelly; Michelle Gallagher and Michaeline Healy; Victoria and Virginia Gereau and Beth Kress; Matilda, Anne Marie, Pierre and Marita Kollasch; Michael Laughlin and Leanne Welch; Ursula Maher and Marian Sweeney; Benedict and Loyola Murphy and Jeanette McCarthy; Catherine and Julia Wingert.

We have had "cousins by the dozens" as the old song goes. In all, thirty sets of cousins have been members of the Dubuque Presentation family.

A "Family Photo Album" of all of the above groups are on display in the archives at the present time, and they will be available for viewing at Community Days as well.

*Sister M. Hermann*



#### **Board of Trustees**

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#### **Welcome Sarah!**



On May 16, 2016 Sarah Gieseke (sounds like Geese-key) will begin her position as the new Executive Director of Presentation Lantern. She comes with a wealth of experience from her work with refugees and other struggling people in Africa and Asia, and a great heart for those in need. I will stay connected in a mentoring role.

#### **Tuesday, May 3rd, an interesting day in Dubuque.**

Early in the morning a water main broke. People in some sections of the city could not drink the water. The water department warned about possible bacteria and recommended that water be boiled before drinking it. The very same morning, the Great Give Day at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, hit a glitch with their computer program. It got very complicated. Thanks to those who donated to the center.

#### **Almost a citizen.**

On Thursday, May 5, Inna (Ukraine) and her tutor, Sister Ruth Fagan, OSF drove to Des Moines, IA for the Citizenship Test. Inna was our 71st student to take the test. When finished, like all students before her, Inna telephoned, "I just passed the test and you are the first person I called. Thanks so much."

#### **Thanks for your support and involvement.**

For 14 years I have been sharing stories and celebrating the successes of amazing individuals from all over the world. "To speak another language" stated Maya Angelou, "is to have another life." Following in the footsteps of Nano Nagle, and with your support, we have helped many people experience another life.

*Corine*



# ¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

## [WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

### Reconnecting 20 years later...

Janella and Ron returned to Bolivia to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary in April. Just 20 years earlier they had left to pursue other dreams and their life as a married couple.

Since Janella had worked for a few years with Sister Maura McCarthy in the Guarani zone, she was most eager to visit the people who lived in Timboy, Mokomokal, Saladito de Ñaurenda and Ñaurenda.



What a joyous occasion when the people received her with warm embraces, scarcely able to believe that she had returned to visit them. She was not immediately recognized by everyone, at different times we were well into the visit and ten minutes later, someone would ask, "Is that really the Hna. Janella?" immediately followed by a hug. In some cases, the tears of gratitude flowed as they were reunited with their dear friend. Sometimes, what helped to jar their memory was the mule, Santiaguena, as one or another would comment, "You were the

one who rode the mule to visit us." Suzanne and Janella were busy trying to remember names and family connections while Ron was kept busy taking photos and videos.

Among several highlights of their visit was a meeting with Professor Iberth and his wife, Alejandra, both influential leaders in the community who were able to recap the happenings over the past years. What a delightful surprise for all to learn that they are expecting their second child in November. Their only daughter, Araceli is now 15.



Yasi, Sister Therese, Carla, Sister Mery

What a blessing to have three weeks together to reconnect and visit! Yayerovia, yayerovia!!!! (Guarani meaning, we are all happy.)

We welcomed Carla Arevayo to the Casa Betania community on March 21, 2016. She is the daughter of Carlos Arevayo and Hilda Miranda from Entre Rios and is in her first year of studies in Psychology at the University. Carla is a delightful young woman, eager to learn and with a ready smile. We are happy to have her with us!

*Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery*



The final session of *VIVA LA SALUD* (HURRAH FOR HEALTH) took place at the Franklin County Wellness Center on Wednesday morning, April 26, with members of the three sponsoring institutions present: *La Luz Hispana*, Iowa State Extension, and Franklin General Hospital. Prizes were awarded to the three winning participants, the women who had achieved the greatest percentage of weight loss. The womenfolk had motivated themselves to modify the intake of fats and sugars and joined in a systematic exercise routine. All of the partakers manifested their interest in ongoing weigh-ins and a long-term exercise plan.

Jon Walseth, representative of Iowa State University Extension, came to *La Luz Hispana*, for a "LUNCH AND LEARN" experience related to Hispanic women who might be interested in beginning small businesses in the vicinity of Hampton, Iowa. Brook Boehmler also participated because of his involvement as a representative of the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at North Iowa Area Community College. The women had many questions, especially related to dealings related to the preparation of popular Mexican foods, and other ventures such as beauty products, and hand crafted items.



The supervisor of the Hampton-Dumont School system, Todd Lettow, the principals of the grade school, the middle school, and the high school, the ESL teachers, and Brenda Espejo, the system interpreter, met with the parents of Hispanic school children on April 26 at 6:30pm in the basement of the First Security Bank of Hampton. Todd Lettow introduced the new primary school principal, Ellen Pickhinke, who will head North and South elementary schools beginning in the 2016-17 school year. She will succeed current Principal Ann Chinander, who was hired as an interim principal at H-D in 2014. The parents expressed gratitude to Ann Chinander, as well as a welcome to the new principal. The principals and ESL teachers articulated their programs and the more user friendly communication methods with the parents.

*LA GRAN FESTIVAL* committee has been diligently meeting every Thursday morning at 8 am for several weeks to decide on the activities, details, and plans for the big street festival on June 4. Some major efforts had to be made to obtain sponsors for the event, which will feature some big name bands, inflatables, a trolley, a sightseeing train, Hispanic dancers, Aztec dancers, food vendors, a puppet show, face painting, and booths of many major businesses in Hampton. Sister Carmen Hernandez, Brook Boehmler, Frank Aliu, Valerie Gonzalez, Paul Wolf and others are spending very long hours, many phone calls, e-mails, and personal consultations to cover all of the commitments, publicity, contracts, insurance, and countless other details involved in making this event a reality.



Please save the date of June 4 beginning at 11 am to be a part of this occasion. You will involve yourself in a most delightful day!

*Maura Carmen*





**HOTEL HOPE** Update • May 2016

**MAKING ROOM FOR HOPE**

## HOTEL HOPE Receives Catholic Foundation Gift

Wanting to make an impact on worthy, local nonprofits, the Catholic Women in Action – a division of the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans – created a Women's Giving Circle.

"What is so exciting about the Giving Circle is that it is a new project where we are pooling the money as a group to benefit others," Robert said. "The beauty of it is that a larger group of people will make a bigger impact."

Robert and Pellerin head a steering committee of approximately 20 women, who decided on the initial categories of organizations to whom they would

*Srs. Julie and Mary Lou and Treasurer Mary Schambach Jeandron share gratitude for the generous gift to Hotel Hope from Catholic Women in Action.*



award grants from their seed money. The circle chose to concentrate on nonprofits that help women and youth in the 16- to 25-year-old age group. **Hotel Hope** received one of the seven awards of \$18,000 and will use this grant to assist in the operating funds needed to open **Hotel Hope Chalet**.

## Moving Forward to Begin HH Chalet Renovation

The purchase agreement and final closing papers were signed on April 28! **Hotel Hope** will now begin a three-month renovation of the house in order to house two families starting this August!

Pictured at left, Sr. Mary Lou accepts the title for the former St. Matthias House from Scott Simmons, left, and Leonard Baudoin, right.



## Meet the new President of the HOTEL HOPE Board

**Dr. Jack Andonie, M.D., President**, is a retired obstetrician-gynecologist who has delivered more than 10,000 babies during his medical career in New Orleans. Dr. Jack is a former member of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors and has served on numerous boards in the New Orleans community. His desire to help others, through medicine as well as his personal Catholic faith, comes directly from his own experience of being raised in a single parent home.

Although during his youth his family struggled, Dr. Jack's mother's faith never wavered. "I saw her struggle, and the more she struggled, her faith became stronger. 'God will provide,' was her mantra." Dr. Jack continues his mother's legacy with his strong commitment to serve women with children. —*Mary Lou Specha*



## Interested in becoming involved?

### Contact

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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

## People Know Hotel Hope



*The mission of  
**HOTEL HOPE***

A woman with two infants in carriers, an 18-month-old child and a three-year-old child in the back was sitting and crying in a van in the parking lot of the Chateau de Notre Dame Apartments.

One of the Daughters of Charity who lived nearby went over to the woman to see if she needed any help. The sister was amazed at the story the woman shared.

Amy and her husband had been living out of their van for quite some time just arriving in New Orleans from Wisconsin. Amy said she and her husband had been arguing when suddenly he stopped at a red light and jumped out of the van on the busy highway leaving her and the children. Amy was hysterical as the children began to cry and the light turned to green. Amy does not drive, yet she found the courage to get into the driver's seat, put the van into gear, and drive to the nearest side street. She had reached Chateau de Notre Dame. The sister listening took her and the children into one of the apartments to get cleaned up and then called for help.

When I received the call, I found myself extremely angry towards the man who left this woman and her children in dire straits and greatly concerned for the well-being of this family in the days to come.

Though **Hotel Hope** is not open to receive guests in the facility at the moment, we strive to take such crisis calls and direct families to a safe surrounding. The New Orleans Women and Children Shelter has provided a room for any crisis calls **Hotel Hope** may receive. Thankfully, the room was available and the mother with her children was taken there to receive food and shelter for as long as they would need it. Let us continue to pray for those in need, that they may encounter the spirit of God in those they meet. —*Julie Marsh, PBVM*



This past week in the Bible sharing groups I used a pamphlet published by the Claretians called "*A Catholic Moment*". This particular one caught my attention when I ordered it because the title is: "Why do people go Pentecostal?" As I have listened to the Hispanics in the various towns, they shared that they are visited by people of various sects at least once a week, if not more often. The first paragraph of this pamphlet states: "Over the past 25 years, over **one million** Hispanics have left the Catholic Church to join other denominations."

A Jesuit priest explains very concisely and clearly seven reasons why this has happened. We had quite a lively discussions in our groups this week and the people agreed that Father was right on in his explanation. One of the reasons Hispanics leave the Catholic Church is because they experience a welcoming presence in a much smaller community atmosphere. With our community charism of hospitality, I often feel that I am carrying Nano's lantern to these remote areas and hopefully making a difference. Another reason that is given for Hispanics leaving the faith is the fact that they know almost nothing about their religion and others are so indoctrinated in their beliefs that when they start asking questions of the Catholics, the Catholics become confused and often agree to go to other churches. Once there, they are welcomed and feel like family and end up staying.

The Hispanics in the areas where I am ministering are going to reflect with their families during this week and find out the best way that I can journey with them and try to ensure that they are not one of the above statistics. I know that I will be spending time looking up resources in Spanish that will be a tool in helping them know the basics of their faith. We have journeyed together with the Sunday Scriptures thus far, but now it is time to stop, assess the needs and maybe go in a new direction. The first phase of our journey was important because it enabled the Hispanics to get to know and trust me. But if something different is going to be more helpful, I explained to them that I am more than willing to adapt.

On a different note, as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost and reflect on the importance of the varied gifts that have been given to build up the body of Christ, I could not help but reflect on the garage sale experience these past two weekends. I continue to be amazed at all the organization that goes into the event, all the hours of setting up and making things look attractive. There is the gift of "letting go", as many went through their closets and homes to donate items. The gift of baking, as many shared their skills and others were more than grateful to purchase their goodies. The gift of time and energy given in being present to pack up and sell the items; the gift of clowning, in drawing people's attention to the sale, and drawing them in; the gift of prayerful support and interest for those who physically could not participate. Such a variety of gifts, all brought together to raise funds for Immaculate Conception School in Charles City and for the HOME ministry. Thank you so much for these gifts mentioned above, and others I overlooked, which certainly illustrate what can happen when people work together. The fruits and gifts of the Spirit, given at Pentecost, are certainly alive and building up the Kingdom of God...thank you!

*Sister Paula Schwendinger*

## PRESENTATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# JUNE 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
⑰	20	⑳	22	㉓	㉔	㉕
26	27	㉘	㉙	30		

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

- 1 Sister Rene Laubenthal (B) / Sister Rita Menart (B)  
Sister Jennifer Rausch (B)
- 2 Mary Lockhart
- 4 Sister Marge Healy (B)
- 5 Ann Cooper
- 7 Ann Nicklaus-Schmelzer
- 8 Maureen Utter
- 11 Colleen Venter
- 15 Sister Lou Cota (B) / Donna Muller
- 21 Sister Donna Demmer (B)
- 23 Billie Greenwood
- 25 Kathleen Fahey / Mary Stanton
- 27 Mary Lou Mauss
- 28 Judy Hughes
- 29 Sister Sheila Kane (B) / Sister Pierre Kollasch (F)

### Special Events

- 14 Flag Day
- 19 Father's Day
- 24 Nano's 1st vows (1776)

Dear Sisters, Associates and Employees,

Facing cancer is hard. Having to travel out of town for treatment makes it even harder. Yet the American Cancer Society has a place where cancer patients and their caregivers can find help and hope when home is far away.

Each Hope Lodge offers cancer patients and their caregivers a free place to stay when their best hope for effective treatment may be in another city. Not having to worry about where to stay or how to pay for lodging allows guests to focus on getting well. Hope Lodge provides a nurturing, home-like environment where guests can retreat to private rooms or connect with others. Every Hope Lodge also offers a variety of resources and information about cancer and how best to fight the disease.

At our first Relay for Life meeting, a gentleman told us about his experience as a cancer patient. He and his wife, from Chicago, needed a place to stay while in Minneapolis for four months of a special cancer treatment, only available in the twin Cities. This meant leaving their children at home in the care of a baby sitter.

Without supporters, such as yourselves, their entire stay would not have been covered. The entire four months of housing at Hope Lodge was paid for by the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. The husband stated that he could not have afforded to pay for that lodging.

Currently, there are more than 30 Hope Lodge locations throughout the United States. The American Cancer Society uses 33% of its donations for patient support, as above, and for needed rides to treatment appointments. Another large percentage goes to Prevention & Education, Detection & Treatment and Research. Only about 6% is used for Administration. All of the above accounts for the



reported 20% decline in deaths from cancer in the past decade.

Our Relay for Life team, PRESENTATION PACERS, 25 in number, including Sisters, Associates, Employees and friends, has been fundraising the last couple months with a Bake Sale & Raffle which netted \$1,092. Now we are selling LUMINARIA at the Hy-Vee store as a fundraiser.

These Luminaria bags, lighted at the June 3 Relay for Life event in Dubuque, honor Cancer Survivors and are in memory of those Cancer Survivors who are now deceased.

Right now we have three Sisters in chemotherapy treatment. There are about fourteen living PBVM Sister Cancer Survivors and about 35 known deceased Sisters who had cancer. In honor of these Sisters and many Associates, relatives and friends who had cancer or are Cancer Survivors, our Relay team would invite you to make a donation to the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY during May.

If you write a check to **ACS** and send it to **Sister Dolores Zieser at 2360 Carter Road; Dubuque, Iowa 52001**, by Monday, May 30, it will be credited to our Relay team for our total fundraising amount. Last year our team was awarded a trophy as the top fundraising team. Your donation will be gratefully received by our team members to help us this year and to help cancer patients. Thank you and God bless you!

Team Leaders: Sister Dolores Zieser, Amanda Kirk (Housekeeping), Karen Tuecke (Partners in Mission Coordinator)





**PRAYERS**  
**April 16 – May 13, 2016**

**5/10**

I want to thank everyone for the continued prayers and expressions of love and concern. My fusion is coming along well. I can gradually resume normal activities. No heavy lifting for life. Light cardio and lift, bend, and twist appropriately. Continue to alternate between standing, sitting and walking as the nerves continue to reprogram. Gradually increase my modes and lengths of travel. I return in August to the doctor. Thank you again for your support and love, Joetta Venneman, PBVM

**5/9**

Associate Maureen Mc Donnell will have her 4 month check up at the Cancer Center in Omaha on Wednesday, May 11 at 9 am. She appreciates your prayers for her at this time.

**5/5**

**Below is an update on Sister Barbara Rastatter's nephew, Pat Miller. She would like to thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue them.**

Pat's CT scan showed some spots in his chest are gone; some are smaller; others are no bigger and there are no new spots! It's been quite a ride the past several months. His blood count has been low so they've lowered and then taken him off the chemo. He has been working at least some of each day. Thank you all for your ongoing thoughts and prayers. They are working!!

Kindly remember Associate, Gino Pacetti, and family in prayer. Gino's brother, Edward (74) died of a heart attack on Tuesday in Florida.

**5/2**

Sister Therese Corkery's sister-in-law, Regina Fettketter Corkery, wife of Tom Corkery, who passed away Saturday, April 30, 2016

**4/30**

Thank you all for your powerful prayers and support that my sister Jeanne and I experienced yesterday at Finley Hospital in Dubuque. The cardiac catheterization procedure went very well -- no complications -- and the good news is that Jeanne has no blockage in the arteries and that she will not have to have open heart surgery to replace the aortic valve, but instead a repair of the aortic valve done in Iowa City at a later date. Beth Kress, PBVM

**4/29**

Thank you so much for all your support/encouragement. For the most part I have had good days. I do have moments of tears but know this is part of the journey. I finished my 4th treatment yesterday so I'm halfway through my treatments!! The doctor gave me a good report and is pleased with how I'm responding to the chemo. I will begin a new drug next treatment which is supposed to be easier on the body! I tolerated the last 2 treatments better and haven't been so sick. I sleep a lot during the days following the chemo which helps with my symptoms. I will get an ultra sound in the next week to see if the tumor has reacted to the treatments. I hope for good results. Thanks again for your prayers...keep them coming. Peace, Mary Lou Specha, PBVM

**4/19**

Please continue your prayers for Dale Schmidt and his family, youngest brother of Associate Marlene Von Fumetti. The cancerous tumors in Dale's liver have doubled in size and he is in a great deal of pain.