



COMMUNITY NOTES

Sisters of the Presentation

NOVEMBER 2016

The refrain of Ray Boltz's song "Thank You" is: "Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave.
Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am a life that was changed."

The verses of this song relate an individual's simple acts of kindness which made a positive difference in the lives of others— and the power of these acts 'unnoticed on the earth, in heaven now proclaimed.'

Similar acts of kindness are all around us each day:

- At a community meal in downtown Dubuque I was visiting with Anderson and Keisha and their three small children. As the kids ran off to play, I got up to return my tableware while Anderson and Keisha continued to enjoy each other's company. As I returned to the table, Jim, a retiree, sat down and complimented the young couple on how good it was to see them laughing and enjoying each other's company - in his words 'as if you were dating.' The shared observation meant a lot to the young couple.
- Shantae was driving down Jackson Street when she saw an Anglo policeman holding the hand of a pre-school African-American girl as he helped her across the street – she with an ear-to-ear smile on her face as she gazed up and talked to him. Shantae honked the horn of her car to get the policeman's attention and gave him a thumbs-up. He in return smiled and mouthed 'thank you'.
- Sister Barbara and I were at the lunch table with two others sisters. As the conversation progressed, one of the sisters said to the two of us, "You two could sing 'O Lord, It's Hard to Be Humble.'" Instantly, Barb's face lit up as she remembered the connection the two of us had over that song in the 1980's. She immediately stated very clearly, "I don't remember some things, but I remember that!" – and she repeated it again later in the conversation.

Paying a compliment, acknowledging a kindness, recalling valued memories – each in their own small way is a living example of reverencing relationships – one aspect of our Directional Statement.

As we approach the celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, perhaps we can perform similar acts of kindness or affirm them in others – kindnesses that will call others to sing, at least in their hearts, "I am a life that was changed."



Ever Emerging

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

This *Community Notes* page highlights emerging circle activity and inspires conversation. Each month an emerging circle features its movement, stimulating insight and inquiry, as well as implications for other circles and our emerging Presentation future. This month we receive an **update and invitation from the 100,000 Welcomes Circle and an invitation from the Leadership Circle.**

100,000 Welcomes Emerging Circle Vision Statement—As we imagine new ways to live our charism of hospitality, we will be open to diversity of cultures, ideas, and beliefs in an effort to respond in a peaceful, compassionate manner.

There is great energy around the idea of developing a deeper spirituality of hospitality. This may seem to be a shift from the original focus of our circle, however, we believe that our exploration of Hospitality will enhance our efforts to partner with others in mission.

The work of the circle in the coming months will include three different efforts.

- The 100,000 Welcomes Circle has created a prayer card centered on hospitality. The prayer card entitled, "Hospitality of the Heart," has a prayer by Charlotte Zalot, OSB, on one side and on the other side, a suggested Bible passage about hospitality, quotes from *Radical Hospitality* by Lonni Collins Pratt and Father Daniel Homan, OSB, and questions for quiet reflection. Circle members intend to distribute the cards to sisters and associates who then might share the cards with family, friends and others they meet. We will also place the cards at the entrances of our Motherhouse for guests and employees.
- We are hoping to have a speaker at community days in the Summer of 2017 who can help us to explore more deeply the spirituality of hospitality and its biblical roots with an emphasis on our unique call as Dubuque Presentation Sisters.
- Circle members are piloting a program using copies of the letters of Nano designed for discussion in small groups. Our hope is to continue deepening our own understanding of the spirituality of Nano. The letters and discussion questions help to: identify the joys, struggles, dreams and challenges Nano experienced; how her life changed because of her encounters; elements of Nano's spirituality; and how these things helped her to embrace her vocation in service of the poor. After the circle members have used the program and offered suggestions and changes, we hope to make the program available to all community members—sisters and associates.

Advent Interlude – An experience you may want to share

During the 2015 Advent Season, two sisters and two associates from 100,000 Welcomes emerging circle piloted an experience entitled, "An Advent Interlude: Living into God's Presence." The Advent Interlude experience was offered one Saturday morning (8:30 - 10:30) and one Sunday afternoon (1:00 - 3:00) during the Advent season and focused on contemplative sitting in keeping with our community Directional Statement "engaging contemplation."

Each sister and associate of the core group invited, by personal invitation, four other persons (two for each offering) to participate in the experience. Fourteen to sixteen persons in addition to the members of the core group engaged in the experience. The core group felt the personal invitation was key in assuring a commitment by those who responded affirmatively to the invitation to join in the Advent Interlude experience.

The two-hour experience offered at Mt. Loretto began with a half-hour gathering in Lakeside for introductions, informal conversation and brief explanation of the purpose and flow of our time together. Moving to Sacred Heart Chapel, the group sat in a circle with lighted candle in the center and listened to the hymn "Surely the Presence of the Lord" which set the tone for 30 minutes of contemplative silence. The contemplative time was brought to a close with a repeat of a portion of the same hymn. Participants then shared for the next 30-45 minutes on the question: "Where have you experienced/recognized God thus far on your Advent journey?" The experience concluded with a repeat of the hymn and expressions of gratitude to all.

This experience can be adapted to any setting and to any time/season of the year!

An Experience of Engaging Contemplation/Partnership

A 2-hour gathering - any date - any time suitable for you

Number of participants - suitable to your space

30 - 40 minutes - gathering for welcome, introductions, conversation

3 - 5 minutes - explanation of flow of time together - enter into quiet

30 minutes - contemplative quiet

30 - 45 minutes - sharing - a question suitable to your group

5 - 10 minutes - closure and thank you

Leadership Emerging Circle Invitation: Interested in Participating in Strengths Finder 2.0?

Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day? Chances are, you don't. All too often our natural talents go untapped. We devote more time to fixing our shortcomings than to developing our strengths. To help people uncover their natural talents, Gallup introduce its assessment, StrengthsFinder 2.0 loaded with hundreds of strategies for applying your strengths, unlike many other profile inventories that emphasize the "shadow" or one's own "interests". Members of the Leadership Emerging Circle, by sisters and associates, took this assessment and collected very interesting data. It emphasized many similar strengths among us as well as some unique individual strengths. As we look into the future of community leadership, this may be a helpful instrument for us.

If you are interested in participating in the StrengthsFinder 2.0 assessment of your natural strengths, you will need to purchase the book from Amazon (\$25) which will give you a code at the back of the book to take the assessment online. For those who take the assessment, the Leadership Circle will contact you to discuss how the information can best help us in preparing for the future. It is an easy reading book and the personal information is most valuable. It will change the way you look at yourself and the world around you. If you have questions, please contact one of the Leadership Emerging Circle members.

May we each know ourselves ever emerging...

COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2016

Dear Friends,

By now our Jubilee Celebration is a happy memory. We thank you with hearts filled with gratitude for the gift of Community. Each of you graced our special day in so many ways. We felt the love and support of those who celebrated with us at Mt. Loretto and those who celebrated from afar. All the Irish Loughrens and McCormicks enjoyed the warmth and hospitality of the "Caed Mile Failte" they experienced at Mt. Loretto. Thank you.

Sisters Marjorie Loughren and Anne McCormick

The family of Harry Stanton wishes to thank the Presentation Family for their many kindnesses extended to our family. It was much appreciated that sisters and associates came to the wake/visitation and the funeral. Also your many prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls were appreciated on this journey.

Harry wrote a reflection for the Advent booklet. At the time, Mary Irene just said it looked good and sent it in. Now I think she understands more fully Harry's status.

Blessings to all of you good people,
The Harry Stanton Family

Dear Presentation Friends,

One never knows when your life can change a bit on any given day. The journey begins as a surprise and includes some health alterations as an outcome.

I want to thank each of you for your personal prayer, visits, notes, phone calls and just caring in general. May we each be grateful for the health we have and for the care givers that assist us.

Gratefully, Sister Sharon Kelchen

REMINDERS!

- ✓ Quarterly car reports – due December 1
- ✓ Ministry donation requests – due November 23.

From the Office of... VOCATIONS

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is a professional organization of vocation ministers who present 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 educational opportunities, resources, and other supportive services for spiritual, professional, and personal growth. Nearly 300 participants gathered in Overland Park, KS, for the 15th Biennial Convocation from October 27-31, 2016. Participants represented 30 states and the District of Columbia, as well 15 international guests representing Belize, Canada, England, Ghana, Grenada, Mexico, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme "Awakened by the Spirit: Called to Discipleship" emphasized the invitation from Pope Francis to those in consecrated life to "Wake up the World."

The Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA), along with vocation ministers from Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Texas, collaborated with the NRVC national office to host the convocation. For the first time ever, a live stream event consisting of a panel discussion with young religious and young adults discerning their vocation to religious life was featured. Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann of Salt + Light TV moderated the event. Keynote speakers included Father Kevin O'Brien, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Georgetown University; and Sherry Weddell co-founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute with Father Michael Sweeney, O.P. in 1997.

At the banquet on Sunday, October 30, DAVA received the Mustard Seed Award. The Mustard Seed Award is intended to honor an individual or group that has made a significant impact on vocation ministry through a small, local initiative that has grown to include other individuals, groups, and organizations. Such local efforts help encourage a vocation culture and raise the awareness of the faithful about their shared baptismal call to holiness.

DAVA represents 12 congregations of religious women and men in the Upper Mississippi Valley who collaborate with the Archdiocese of Dubuque to promote vocation awareness. As vocation ministers, they reach out to nurture, promote, encourage, and help those who feel called to religious life. DAVA sponsors numerous activities to promote vocation education, including presentations in parishes and schools; retreats for faculty; an annual Sixth Grade Vocation Day for the Catholic schools in the Dubuque area; annual talks in the archdiocesan high schools on the Christian call to mission; retreats, spiritual direction and discernment groups on college campuses; discernment weekends for those interested in religious life; a bi-annual program for youth and young adults featuring a national speaker on vocation/call; collaboration with the Dubuque area communicators and the Archdiocese of Dubuque to publicize and promote such events as National Catholic Sisters Week, National Vocation Awareness Week and the Year of Consecrated Life. DAVA's work has helped create a culture of encounter, engagement, and vocation that can and does serve as a model to other vocation ministry groups.



Our Journey in Formation



On October 10-13, Sister Mary Therese Krueger and I attended the first of our four Inter-Community Novitiate workshops at Siena Center in Racine, WI. Sister Lynn Levo, CSJ presented the workshop entitled, “*Being Sexual and Celibate: A Psycho-Spiritual Perspective.*” She offered these questions as fundamental vocation discernment questions for those in the initial stages of religious life:

- Is celibate life in community the best way for me to love and be loved, to give my gifts in service to others and to be in relationship with God?
- How can I best live fully, freely and lovingly?

Sister Lynn offered four basic premises for the workshop. First, our primary vocation is to be fully human. In our humanity we are called to love and be loved, to discern and use our gifts in service, and to be in loving relationship with God. Second, living consecrated celibacy needs to be more about saying YES than NO. There are many positive opportunities for being in relationship to others, ourselves, and God in our celibate lifestyle. Third, our sexuality is integral to our humanity and our spirituality, and our spirituality and sexuality are not separate. Finally, experiences of intimacy with God, others, and self are essential.

Over the course of these workshop days, Sister Lynn offered excellent input on the understanding of consecrated celibacy today, integrated sexuality, the dimensions of healthy psychosexual development, human and sexual development, personal boundaries, intimacy appropriate to those vowing consecrated celibacy, and friendship and the skills needed to develop good friendships. There were a number of helpful opportunities for small and large group conversations, as well as meeting individually with Sister Lynn. She also met informally with all of the novices one evening and the directors another evening.

Sister Mary Therese and I are very grateful for the opportunity to attend this workshop and participate this year in the Inter-Community Novitiate Program. We appreciate the excellent speakers and gathering with novices and their formation directors from other religious congregations of women and men. Our time together is valuable and life-giving.

A few questions from the workshop for your personal reflection:

- What does being sexual mean for me today as I live a celibate life in community?
- What is the role of solitude, prayer, and friendship and support in the development of my authentic self?
- What do I do to foster development and understanding of my inner life?

Annette



From the... *Associate Partnership Office*

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

- *How can you allow for stillness in your body, mind and spirit each day?*

A LANTERN FLAME SHINES

*“Your pilgrim heart
Shall urge you still one pace beyond
And love shall be your lantern flame.”*

M. Raphael Consedine, PBVM



*Lantern Flames Associates meet in Charles City:
Maureen Utter, Sr. Diana Blong, Lisa Zwanziger,
Yvonne Kisch, Rita Swinton, Sue and Dick Baldwin*

*The Lantern Flames are making plans for their yearly
hosting of a Presentation Party in Nashua on
Saturday, Nov. 19, for PBVM associates and sisters
from the north central Iowa region. Prayer, renewal of
associate commitments, a short presentation, lots of
food, fun and a few surprises celebrate the heritage of
Nano Nagle and Mother Vincent Hennessy*

Among the “Lantern Flames” associates, one “pilgrim heart” that captures the spirit of Nano Nagle, especially her love for children, is Lisa Zwanziger of Nashua IA. Lisa considers herself “fortunate” to have chosen her profession of in-home daycare. In addition to providing loving care for young children, Lisa also serves as youth ministry coordinator for St. Michael Parish.

Lisa’s faith finds expression in the ways in which she gives of herself in daycare, as early as 4:30 a.m. to as late as 6 p.m. “I love what I do. I do my best to walk the walk, talk the talk, and forgive those that truly don’t understand, and carry on! I try to lead by example. I’ve always been passionate about children growing up loving God and feeling comfortable about their faith. I do take pride in knowing that during my twenty-five plus years of daycare, any child that received my care knew that we prayed before our meals (Catholic or not), learned the dinner prayer and the Lord’s Prayer and said special prayers for happy and sad things.”

The youth of the parish have been blessed with Lisa’s dedication and spirit. Besides attending the National Catholic Youth Congress (NCYC) three times, she has taken them to retreats as well as designed retreats in the parish. Vacation bible schools have been long remembered by the students.

Fundraising has also tapped Lisa’s creativity. People donate items, which are priced for the December Bethlehem Garage Sale, which raises money for kids going to NCYC. The Family Fall Festival, while focusing on youth, involves the parish as well as the community in assisting with funding. A youth-sponsored spaghetti supper in spring brings hundreds to the parish center!

Lisa is ever ready to learn from others and add her creativity to youth-related projects. A “treats and trunks” event grew out of hearing a participant in lay formation describe a parish event that made Halloween safer by having parishioners open their trunks after Mass so children could trust those who shared. Thanks to Lisa’s co-coordination, K-12 religious education classes present a yearly Christmas pageant the Wednesday before Christmas.



Awareness-raising and outreach activities have included an overnight homeless event. Several years ago Lisa started an ecumenical scavenger hunt/hayride to collect up to 900 lbs. of food in just two hours. Kids enjoy carrying food to the pantry by way of wheel barrows, wagons and carts. During ministry camp-outs, the youths mowed, raked, cut trees and brush, cleaned rain spouts and eave troughs and other tasks for elderly. They also have baked cookies and delivered them to elderly parishioners.

Lisa and her family have also hosted yearly parish outdoor Masses, followed by refreshments. Lisa is quick to acknowledge that it takes many for “raising the village” in Nashua, including PBVM associates and fellow parishioners, Rita Swinton, and Dick and Sue Baldwin. Others in her north central Iowa “Lantern Flames” are Maureen Utter of Clear Lake and Yvonne Kisch and Sr. Diana Blong of Charles City.

RESOURCES FOR ASSOCIATE GROUPS

Remember to check out the section on the PBVM website that is dedicated to suggestions for ideas and resources for associate group gatherings! Go to: **Members Login – Username** (your first name), **Password** (your last name) – **Associate Partnership – Ideas and Resources** where you’ll find suggestions for prayer, faith sharing and service as well as resources to support these ideas! Check often as we’ll be regularly updating the offerings. **Contact us:** associates@dubuquepresentations.org to share your group’s ideas and resources. We’d love to add them to the website!

COMING SOON

This year 82 sisters and associates have elected to receive their Advent reflections via a daily email. All others will receive a hard copy of the Advent Reflection Booklet before the First Sunday of Advent, November 27. Additionally, a link to a pdf version of the booklet will be posted on the main page of the website. May these reflections enhance our Advent observance!

LENT REFLECTIONS DUE

A reminder that your Lent reflection is **due on November 22**. We know this seems early, but this deadline will allow for distribution of the books by many who visit the motherhouse over the Christmas holiday, thus avoiding postage expense.

ASSOCIATE RECOMMITMENTS

Twenty-eight associates are eligible this year to recommit as Presentation Associates. Many are participating in recommitment ceremonies this month as we celebrate Presentation Day. Associates are reminded to return your recommitment form to the Associate Office before Christmas at the latest. Thanks to those who have already sent us your recommitment.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for an event you won’t want to miss – the **bi-annual CARMA Retreat** on April 29, 2017. Gabriele Uhlein, OSF and Jeanne Connolly, Ed.D, will present “*Intimate Mission: from Charism Partners to Mutual Communion*”.



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

Mother Vincent Hennessy

“Gather the fragments that remain lest they be lost.”

This quotation from John 6:12 inspired Sister Mary Vivia Cranny to gather bits of information in her mind and on scraps of paper “about our foundress, our early members, the joys and hardships of those early days, the pupils they taught, the priests and parents they met: how they all lived and worked.”

The following article contains excerpts from Sister Vivia’s description of Mother Vincent’s life. The document can be read in the archives room.

“Castlecomer, County Kilkenny, Ireland, was the home of Patrick and Ellen Hennessy. There in the year 1821 was born Ellen, later to be known as Mother Vincent. She received her education in the Presentation school of her city, and there she took the veil, changing her name to Sister Mary Magdalen. The ability she displayed in her convent caused the Kilkenny nuns to desire her services.”

“Accordingly she was transferred to the Kilkenny foundation – a not uncommon procedure in Ireland – and there she filled the office of mother assistant and bursar. Mooncoin then wishing to have the benefit of her experience, she went there as superior. After six years in the office she was succeeded by Mother Bernard Downey.”

“Transfer from one convent to another necessitated a change of name, for the Kilkenny community had a member called Magdalen. The one destined to open the Dubuque house therefore adopted St. Vincent de Paul as her patron.”

“Of Mother Vincent’s family two especially claimed her affection, Father Tim and Father Tom, as she called them. Father Tim was parish priest at Innistogue, and Father Tom was a professor at St. Kerin’s College, Kilkenny. Both were older than Mother Vincent. They, among others, were strongly opposed to her coming to the American mission.”

“The community she founded possesses no picture of Mother Vincent. Those who knew her describe her as distinctly aristocratic in appearance. She was a tall, large woman, well proportioned, and the picture of health. She had large blue eyes and a fair complexion like that usually found with auburn hair. Candor and earnestness were manifest in her expression.”

Sister M. Hermann



**Presentation
Lantern Center**

A Place of Welcome

“The good we secure for ourselves
is precarious and uncertain, until it is
secured for all of us and
incorporated into our common life.”
Jane Addams (1860-1935)

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Greetings from the Presentation Lantern Center!

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us. We have colder weather, shorter, darker days and hopefully, much warmer hearts with which to warm our own.

Hiking Social

On Saturday, November 12, The Lantern Center's friends, tutors, students and family members joined together on a beautiful morning filled with sun and blue sky to enjoy the outdoors. The day could not have been more ideal at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. After stretching our legs, we sipped hot apple cider, snacked on trail mix and ate cookies. Our service learner from Clarke University, Thea Manternach, and her father, the chair of NETWORK, joined us, in addition to some former students of the Lantern Center. I had the opportunity for another hike that same day with friends, enjoying the glow of the "supermoon." The white elms shone almost fluorescent! Nature is a joy that lifts our spirits and brings us back to center.

Annual Appeal

This is the time of year when as Director, I join with the 11-member board of Presentation Lantern Center, to ask for financial support for our continued work. A letter requesting this support will accompany the November newsletter that is on its way to your door. Extra expenses were incurred this year with the organizational transition to a new Executive Director. If you are able, please consider the Lantern Center in your holiday gifts, or throughout the coming year. It is a blessing to be so widely supported in the community and we thank you for your past and future support and prayers.



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Roshek Holiday Fundraiser

From Friday, November 18 through Saturday, December 10, stop by the Roshek building at 700 Locust Street in downtown Dubuque to glance at the Lantern Center's holiday decoration. Area non-profit organizations will display their items of holiday décor, which will be up for bidding during this time. Proceeds will go back to each non-profit. Our holiday item this year harkens our national memory back to days of slavery and forced migration; a time which is not so different from today.

Peace and Blessings,

Sarah Gieseke

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

A night of laughter, good food and fun marked the closing of the keyboarding classes for a group of young students. With their teacher Sandra Grimaldo heading up the cooking, someone taking charge of demonstrating how to do the body contortions for Twister and a couple of guys learning card playing skills from Suzanne, our PBVM patio in Entre Rios was a good place to be.



“I would love to be a catechist but I just can’t see well enough to read.” Thanks to Sister Elena Hoye sharing a resource for low cost reading glasses and to Sister Rita Menart’s shuffling things around in her suitcase to bring 100 pairs of reading glasses to Bolivia last Christmas, there is no longer that excuse for turning down an

invitation to be a faith leader in one’s community. The last rural catechist meeting of 2016 provided the opportunity for making reading an easier task.



Both in the pueblo and rural communities there are adults who desire preparation to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and, at times, Baptism. Often this is when couples are preparing for Matrimony. Meeting with them is an opportunity for faith formation along with mutual learning through which community building happens.

Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery



RED HAT WOMEN VISIT LA LUZ HISPANA

A group of Red Hat Ladies arranged to visit *La Luz Hispana* on the evening of October 25, after having dinner at a local restaurant. The women came from a variety of church denominations and political backgrounds. Sisters

Carmen and Maura arranged the tables in the front room so that all could view the brief and colorful video clip featuring *La Luz Hispana* followed by a verbal presentation highlighting the history and daily work of the center: the English classes, craft and health classes,



computer and sewing classes, meetings with law enforcement persons, lawyers, bankers, school personal, and others, the daily calls for interpretation and transportation, and the pursuit of appropriate employment, housing, and lawyers.

One lifetime resident of Hampton discussed her own experience of attending school with the older Hispanics, all of whom at that time were English speakers, who seemed to have assimilated without changing the face of Hampton. She is less comfortable with the newer immigrants who speak Spanish on the streets and in the stores. She feels especially intimidated by groups of Hispanic men congregating before and after work, and admitted her own prejudice about the changing populace of her hometown. Other women attested that their children and grandchildren accept diversity as a way of life and have close friends who are Hispanics.

The Sisters invited the women to tour the facility, and several of them recalled that this site “used to be” the law chambers of Lee Blum. They were glad that Lee Blum wanted his property to be used in benefit of Hampton’s immigrants. The visitors appreciated the feeling of cordiality afforded by the photos and displays of native arts and crafts. Near the end of the evening, the Red Hat Women expressed appreciation for the work of *La Luz Hispana* and for Sister Carmen’s pumpkin bars. Several made much appreciated donations so that, as they said, the center could continue to function.

INVITATION TO EPIPHANY PARISH IN MASON CITY

Sister Maura had the opportunity of addressing Father Neil Manternach and the staff of Epiphany Parish (St. Joseph and Holy Family Churches) regarding their Hispanic congregations. Their questions centered around the distinct habits and customs of their Latin membership. Why and how did the Hispanics arrive in Northcentral Iowa from so far away? Did the hearsay factor affect this? Why are church envelopes strange to Hispanics? Why is their view of time so different? Why are quinceañeros important to Mexicans?

Sister Maura talked about the Latin-American vision of the Americas as an integral whole—many Latins see North and South America as one continent. And then, of course, half of Mexico was forcibly ceded to the United States between 1848 and 1850. Students in Latin America regularly read the literature of the USA: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *My Antonia*. But few students in the USA know the great literature of Latin America, e.g. *La Niña de sus Ojos*.

Sister Maura explained that Church envelopes are little known in Latin American churches. Spontaneous church support is more common. Latins view time as a gift for living and accompanying family and friends; few Southern neighbors calculate that “time is money”. Young women at the age of fifteen, in earlier times were seen to enter adult society; although the ritual continues in some families, the educational goals of many young women have transformed their future.

VIVA LA SALUD

The fifth week of the VIVA LA SALUD--“HURRAH FOR HEALTH” course featured a “vegetarian meal” with the preparation directed by Carmen Ramirez.



The preparation directed by Carmen Ramirez. The central meat replacement was rehydrated soy that was combined with grated carrots, diced onions, tomatoes, mushrooms, cilantro, garlic and other seasonings to make ceviche, soy burgers, and tacos. Hot sauce, of course, was also available.



Carmen

Maura

November 2016

Update

Give Thanks in the Season of Giving



Sierra and daughters share the happiness of being together in a safe home for the holidays.

Sierra and her two children are estranged from her family. Sierra was living on the streets, sleeping in a park, riding the bus overnight and doing all she could do to keep her children safe. Sierra was on a waiting list for a shelter when she called **Hotel Hope**. Since we met Sierra, **Hotel Hope** has provided shelter for her at a local hotel and intensive case management services.

I am happy to share that because of this, Sierra and her children are now in an apartment and will have a home just in time for the holidays.

Hotel Hope Christmas Wish List: How You Can Help

- Diapers and Wipes—including pullups
- Children's pajamas
- Personal hygiene Supplies—including feminine protection
- Winter Coats—Adult's and Children's Sizes
- Gloves, scarves and Socks—children and adult
- School supplies and school uniforms
- Gift Cards



Over the last two months, with your continued support of prayer and financial assistance **Hotel Hope** served 10 families which includes 27 children ranging in age from three months to 15 years of age. For this we give thanks. —Mary Lou Specha

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

Phyllis M. Taylor
HOTEL HOPE

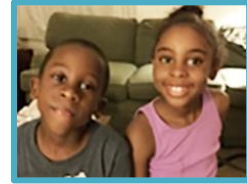
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Hotel Hope Update is a monthly sharing with Dubuque PBVM Sisters and Associates.
 Communications Team: Mary Lou Specha, PBVM; Julie Marsh, PBVM; Beth Kress, PBVM

What must homelessness mean to a child?



We may simply speak statistics when we say that one in forty-five children are homeless in

America and live in poverty with the greatest population of these children living in shelters being under the age of five. Since 2014, Sister Mary Lou and I have been able to put over 100 actual faces to those statistics.

In our communal prayer, we discuss what it must be like to grow up in an unstable atmosphere like many of the families we have served—children sleeping in a car for weeks, in a noisy shelter for a couple of nights or in an abandoned building with no lights or running water. What must it be like to try to sleep under the bridges in high traffic areas or in secluded places with or without lights from the streets? How do you toilet-train a child when there is no private or safe place to go?

Children who attend school try so hard *not* to let the other children know they have no home. Imagine counting off groups of forty-five children in a school. Statistically, Elizabeth Seton School in Farley, Iowa, with an average enrollment of 395 children, would have approximately 10 children in a housing crisis. Do we know who they are?

A seven-year-old child told us, "We slept in the car. We had to, because we had no home. I slept in the back seat. My sister lay in the front and my mom lay in the front. Her head was back. My sister's head was on the side. I lay flat. We went to IHOP and we only got one pancake and we shared it. That was our breakfast."

How can this be? We live in the United States of America... one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

Let us never lose the question, "...what must this child be experiencing being homeless?" May we look at the families around us and those with whom we live and really see the needs of God's people in our midst. —Julie Marsh



HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION

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In my recollections of first and second graders getting upset and crying at school, it was because of someone not playing with them on the playground or not being able to understand the schoolwork. The day after Trump's election, I received phone calls from two different schools. Two Hispanic children were upset, and when the teacher finally was able to get them to explain why, the children said that their parents didn't have the right papers and since Trump was elected president, they would all have to pack up and move back to Mexico. I called the parents and learned that although the parents had discussed it among themselves, they did not openly talk about it at home. However, the children had seen so much about it on television, there was no way of hiding it from them. I received calls from some adults as well. My hope is that they don't become so fearful that they just pack up and leave before knowing exactly what the future holds for them.

The young man who was moved from the Cedar Rapids jail to Marshalltown appeared before the judge and instead of being deported, he paid a \$1,600 fine and was released to his family. He has been in this country since 2000, when he arrived at the age of 16. He has not had any problems with the law, with the exception of being stopped for not having a license. His wife called to tell me and she said her girls were so excited. Now the lawyer is going to try to find a way to get a work permit. In the meantime, the young man is taking care of their two-year-old daughter while his wife works. His brother has five months more of a jail sentence to serve.

I took part in an immigration simulation at Steeple Square (the old St. Mary's church in Dubuque) a few weeks ago. One of the Franciscan sisters developed this realistic way for others to experience the many frustrations of immigrants trying to obtain documents. Sister Shirley used seven real cases of immigrants, and participants are given the information regarding the family and what is needed in the process. The actual simulation lasts one hour, and a bell is rung every fifteen minutes to indicate that four years have passed in the process. Since I had an orientation previously, I was asked to be a volunteer. I was given the job of translator, which meant that any immigrant who needed a document translated, or could not communicate with someone, would pay me to interpret. Other volunteers were lawyers, some not for profit, and others who charged a lot of money. There were people selling false documents, a coyote who would bring someone across the border for huge amounts of money, a sheriff who put people in jail for not having the right paperwork. At the end of the hour, there were a few people who had taken (and passed) the citizenship test, and a judge was there to swear them in. The participants, who were mostly the staff of Catholic Charities, had time afterwards to express their frustrations, as did those of us who were volunteers and had to assume the roles that kept people down. I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in this immigration simulation to do so. It certainly helps to put things into perspective.

I know these next weeks I am going to be limited in my activities due to my knee replacement. However, I am glad that the Hispanics feel comfortable enough to call me with questions and requests, and I will do what I can "at a distance" to support them. Thanks to all of you for your continued prayers and support during this recuperation time.

Sister Paula Schwendinger

Be sure to check out our "Sister Spotlights" on the Sisters of the Presentation pages:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/dubuquepresentations

Please like the video and share with all your friends!

Website: www.dubuquepresentations.org

The spotlights are featured on the homepage as well as under
About Us > Our Life > Sister Spotlights



COMING SOON...

**Sisters of the Presentation
APPAREL**

We are in the process of setting up an on-line store where you can order a variety of clothing customized with the Presentation logo. We are hoping this is ready in time for you to put a few of these items on your Christmas list.

We will keep you updated!!

Jane Buse

jane@dubuquepresentations.org

PRESENTATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 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

- 6 Laurie Noel
- 7 Sisters Emilie Bormann (B) / Marie Therese Coleman (B)
- 9 Lois Loughren
- 10 Marlene Myers
- 12 Sister Carmen Hernandez (F) / Sara Kammer
- 13 Sister Louann Doering (F)
- 19 Florence Jaeger
- 20 Sister Julianne Brockamp (B)
- 21 Sister Jean Ann Meyer (B)
- 26 Sister Stephen Eswine (F) / Sister Corine Murray (B)
 Sister Maura McCarthy (B)
- 27 Sister Jeanine Kuhn (F) / Rita Plathe
- 28 Charlotte Danner
- 31 Sister Marilyn Breen (B)

Special Events

- 8 Feast of Immaculate Conception
- 24 Nano Founded Presentation Community (1775)
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

PRAYERS

October 14 – Nov 17, 2016

10/17

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for my sister, Mary, as she is home since Friday (Surgery was on Wednesday) and is feeling wonderful and free of pain. When this surgery is healed, the next step will be the lung surgery. Thanks so much for all your prayers, Sr. Therese Corkery

10/23

Please pray for strength and courage for my nephew Mike Recker, his wife Kim and their unborn baby. Doctors in Iowa City have determined that there are serious problems with the baby. The little one is due in January. Thank you so much! Sr. Janet Stelken

10/27

I am having surgery on Friday (October 28th) to remove a tumor on my right upper parathyroid gland. The tumor is located near my vocal cords. Thank you so much for prayers, Sr. Cheryl Demmer
*** Sister Cheryl came through surgery fine this morning and is doing well. She will probably be released from the hospital on Saturday or Sunday. She is most grateful for your prayers.

11/2

I will be having a total knee replacement at Finley hospital today. The surgeon who replaced my hips in 2008 will be performing the surgery. I will appreciate and count on your prayerful support for a successful outcome. With thanks and gratitude, Sr. Paula Schwendinger
*** Sr. Paula is happy to report that surgery went very well, and she feels your prayerful support.

11/7

Please pray for my niece, Sarah, wife of Chris (Laurie and Judy's son)...they have 3 small children. Sarah had preventative double breast surgery 4 years ago because of the aggressive type of cancer in her family. She recently had surgery for a tumor and it was found to be Stage 1, but grade 3 (which is aggressive). She goes back to surgery on Nov. 11 in Iowa City, followed by chemo and/or radiation. Thank you so much for storming heaven! Love & prayers, Sr. Therese Corkery

11/9

My brother-in-law, Don Grant, is doing very well after he had a spinal stroke, which is very rare. He has enough movement in his legs that he can get around with a walker.

My brother, George, will be having his bladder surgery in two weeks. Please continue to pray for him. Thank you and God Bless, Mary Lou Mauss, Associate

11/11

This past Monday an ultra sound showed a superficial thrombophlebitis (inflammation under the skin) in my left leg. This usually goes away in 2-6 weeks. My red blood count in Iowa City on October 27 was 7.9. On November 3 in Dubuque it was 8.1. This afternoon, November 10, the count is down to 7.5. The shot I am receiving every week is intended to raise my red blood count but as you can see it's not working. I am asking for prayers for strength and a stronger ME! Gratefully, Sr. Janice Hancock