



COMMUNITY NOTES

Sisters of the Presentation

OCTOBER 2016

Thanks to all for the generous, insightful, and wisdom-filled presence which gifted our time together in the Regional Gatherings.

In addition to reflecting on the compilation from the Regional Gatherings in preparation for our fall Caritas meetings, all are also invited to review the questions posed by the Potter in the TED TALK: *Revitalizing a Neighborhood through Imagination, Art and Beauty*.

https://www.ted.com/talks/theaster_gates_how_to_revive_a_neighborhood_with_imagination_beauty_and_art?language=en

Think back to the **Potter's questions:**

- ❖ How will we shape our neighborhood, our world?
- ❖ How do we talk about the tough ideas?
- ❖ What is our capacity to shape things?
- ❖ How will we think along with other creatives (partners)?
- ❖ How can we re-shape our service/mission for the common good?
- ❖ What else could happen in this building and on this land?
- ❖ Based on our identity (i.e. as Sisters of the Presentation), what can we imagine?
- ❖ How do we start with what we have?
- ❖ How do we tackle the things that are at our wheel?
- ❖ If we start with the things that are in front of us, what is it we see in front of us?

Other probing questions:

- ❖ What do we hear deep within us in the inner stirrings of the Spirit?
- ❖ What are the common threads that are beginning to emerge on a community-wide level?
- ❖ Where do we hear the flutters that will lead to a sharpened focus/new flight direction /the Beating of Great Wings?
- ❖ What is the **one critical question** that would make the biggest difference for the future life of the mission?
- ❖ What cries did Nano hear in her time? What cries do we hear in our time?
- ❖ What gifts and talents do we bring in response to our times?
- ❖ What will lead to future, sustainable, transformative service as our community continues to further the gospel mission of Jesus?
- ❖ To change the future, we need to change the conversation. What new conversations are needed today?
- ❖ What are we here for now, in this time in our history?
- ❖ What imagination is needed?

The fruits of our advance reflections will enrich our conversations in our Fall Caritas meetings for sisters.

May the Ever-creative Spirit stir us into the newness desired in the dream, "Behold, I make all things new!"

Sister Julianne

Imagining PBVM Vocations...

How do we invite and sustain vocations to religious life?

Review *current trends* regarding vocation ministry

Review viable, *contemporary vocation processes* used today

Imagine *new ways to envision* vocation ministry

Explore ways to *attract and sustain* vocations

Please pray with these sisters who will gather from 10^{am} – 3:30^{pm}, Saturday, October 22, in Presentation Center, Mount Loretto, with Sister Mercedes McCann to imagine:

Jessi Beck
Marilyn Breen
Joan Brinks
Julianne Brockamp
Rita Cameron
Louann Doering
Beth Driscoll
Carmen Hernandez
Ann Jackson
Annette Kestel
Mary Therese Krueger
Jeanine Kuhn

Joan Lickteig
Maura McCarthy
Rita Menart
Dolores Moes
Deborah Paige
Jennifer Rausch
Louise Scieszinski
Mary Lou Specha
Janet Stelken
Francine Quillin
Leanne Welch
Diana Blong

In light of her knowledge, spirit and experience with religious communities, we invited **Sister Mercedes McCann, RSM**, to facilitate a process of imagination with us. A featured speaker at this year's National Religious Vocation Convocation (NRVC), she will offer an address entitled, "Welcome in; seated at the table; invited to the dance." Mercedes has extensive facilitation experience traveling throughout the United States, Latin America and the Pacific Rim, addressing various topics concerning religious life. She holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Seton Hall University and an M.A. in Psychology from Marywood University. Currently, she serves as a primary therapist at Saint John Vianney Center (SJVC), where she provides multidimensional psychotherapy.



**If you are interested, RSVP by October 15 to: leanne@dubuquepresentations.org
Contact Jean Lange for overnight accommodations as soon as possible.**



Ever Emerging

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

This *Community Notes* page is designed to feature emerging circle activity and inspire conversations. Each month an emerging circle highlights its movement, stimulating insight and inquiry, as well as implications for other circles and our emerging Presentation future. We are grateful to Sisters Brigid Stanley and Marilou Irons, members of the Leadership Emerging Circle, for offering their insights on the movement of the Leadership Circle.

Leadership Emerging Circle – Vision: By 2021, the leadership circle will motivate all PBVM sisters, associates, employees and friends to participate in activities that promote leadership within and beyond the PBVM community. Our PBVM community will use a common vocabulary to identify leadership strengths and use effective critical thinking skills in determining leadership roles.

Members: Sisters: Ann J., Annette K., Beth D., Brigid, Jane, Jeanine, Joan B., Julie, Marilou I., Mary Lou S., and Associate Rose Rauch

Strengths Finder 2.0 by Tom Rath is an assessment tool analogous to Myers-Briggs personality inventory, Enneagram, and many other inventories. It provides a different approach to identify one's natural leadership talents. When we know our strengths, we grow in using our leadership skills. When we expand our set of leadership skills, we tend to further develop other leadership skills in four domains explained below. This growth occurs, not in isolation, but with a group of sisters and associates.

The Leadership Emerging Circle decided to complete the Strengths Finder 2.0 inventory, an assessment tool for naming an individual's leadership talents. The inventory is taken online and scored by the company. One is instructed to quickly read the multiple choice items and respond to each in 20 seconds. The results indicate the person's natural leadership talents categorized in the four domains. Each person in the group shared her top 5 strengths.

These were collected and graphed according to the percentage of people with strongest skills in a particular domain. For example, 48% of the 10 members had high relating skills (adaptability, empathy, ...) while 7% of the 10 had strong influencing skills (communication, wooing, ...).

The pilot group discussed what surprised us individually as well as our impressions of our scores as a group. We all agreed that we need a common language of leadership indicators. While studying the results, one question arose, "What do we do about those 12 strengths that were absent from our group's profiles?" Our response to that question was to increase the number of sisters taking the profile and increasing the probability of identifying someone having those strengths. A second suggestion arose. Maybe we need training in the missing strengths. The author, however, recommends working with each person's strength rather than bolstering our areas of weaknesses.

Strengths Finder categorized 34 themes naturally clustering into 4 “domains of leadership strengths”.

Domains:

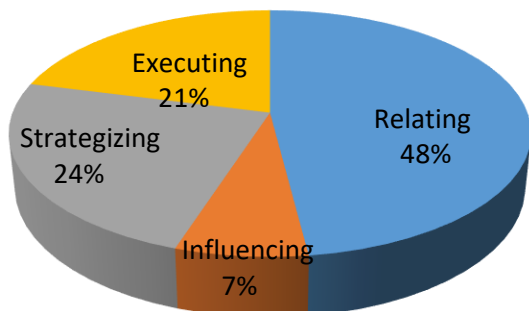
Relating - building relationships
Influencing – drawing others in, taking charge
executing—making it happen
strategic - thinking it through, planning

Executing Themes mean “getting things done with speed, precision, and accuracy. People with these strengths are ready to do the hard work now so that when it’s time to change/move, they are ready.”
(achievement, discipline, responsibility, focus)

Relationship Themes “look at how individuals fit into the bigger pictures, and create pathways for them to thrive. They make strong relational connections that bind a group together around a cause, idea, or each other.” (adaptability, empathy, flexibility, harmony, positivity, connectedness)

Strategic Thinking Themes mean “whether it’s thinking into a current problem, or dreaming about how to overcome tomorrow’s, the strategic thinking themes can take a thought or idea and look for the best way to move forward on it.” (analyze, think, keep ideas in context, muse, reflect, prioritize, look for patterns)

Influencing Themes “enable individuals or groups to sell the big ideas. They are able to take charge, speak up and be heard. They are extremely helpful when you need to reach a broader audience or meet a bigger goal... They tend to influence forward.” (action is the best tool for learning, communication, competition, maximize, self-assurance, cheerleader, wooer)



Are you interested in learning more about leadership assessments or in taking the Strengths Finder 2.0? If so, please contact any member of the Collaborative Leadership Emerging Circle.

May we each know ourselves ever emerging...

COMMUNITY NEWS

October 2016

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

Thank you so much for your messages, thoughts and prayers in the past months for my sister Jeanne Kress. The aortic valve replacement on Sept. 13 was successful. We returned to Dubuque on Sept. 16 and then went back for a last appointment with her main cardiologist at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He was very pleased with the outcome including the healing of the two wounds where the catheters were inserted, the working of the new valve and all of her heart functions.

Jeanne began in-house upper body exercises with the Sunnycrest staff three weeks ago and additional exercises with physical therapy one week ago. She feels better and has more energy. On Oct. 10, I will take her to Mercy Cardiac Rehab in Dubuque for an initial meeting and assessment. After that, Sunnycrest will transport her for the regimen of exercises, etc., prescribed.

Gratefully,
Beth Kress, PBVM
bkress@dubuquepresentations.org

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

Many thanks for your prayers, visits, cards and calls while I was under the weather. I am doing fine once again.

Gratefully,
Lynn Marie Fangman, PBVM

From the Office of... VOCATIONS

I recently attended a conference sponsored by Catholics on Call Partners. The conference brought together campus ministers, vocation directors, and other young adult ministers from around the country to engage in conversation and discussion about how to support Catholic young adults as they strive to discover God's call in their lives and explore the possibility of a life of service in the Church. Keynote speakers for this conference were Father Frank Donio, the director of the Catholic Apostolate Center and Provincial Rector of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate and Barbara Humphrey McCrabb, the assistant director for higher education, Secretariat of Catholic Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A vital element of ministry includes the sharing of mission. Clergy, those in consecrated life and laity are called to collaborate in fulfilling the mission of the church. The keynote speakers offered a fresh perspective on collaboration, rooting it in sound spirituality, tradition, and practice. They explored ways of collaboration, through sharing promising practices, identifying pastoral strategies, and engaging participants in reflection on their own ministries.

The speakers presented a list of needed ingredients for collaboration with others.

1. Active listening
2. The need for all to feel valued; an invitation to each person to express an opinion
3. An openness to give and take as well as an openness to the new
4. A need to let go
5. There is no need to rush to an answer; allow the process to work
6. Each person needs to come with an attitude of curiosity

They also provided a list of obstacles to collaboration.

1. Need to control (by any participant)
2. Lack of clarity; lack of follow through
3. Stuck in the "we've always done it this way" thinking
4. Cultural differences
5. Legalism
6. Manipulation (by any participant)
7. Negative body language; spoken putdowns

The speakers emphasized that it is not always easy to determine the best way to collaborate. Once the invitation is given and a clear vision of the project is developed, a facilitator can be very helpful in building on individual strengths. Relationship building is a large part of collaboration. As people get to know each other, trust is developed and each person becomes more invested. Pope Francis has an approach for reforming the Roman Curia or the Vatican administration which requires a collaborative engagement of others. His way is to show us that we cannot continue doing things the way we have always done them and expect things to turn out differently. No one person has all the skills and the know how to respond well. We must do things in a way that is co-responsible and considers the needs of all involved. It may require going outside of our comfort zone, out to where others are, rather than waiting for them to come to us. Pope Francis calls each one of us to embrace those in most need, leave the comfort of our church pew and witness well a faith in Christ.



Our Journey in Formation



Sister Mary Therese Krueger began her canonical novitiate year upon her arrival in Dubuque in early September and has wholeheartedly moved into this second year of her novitiate process, a year apart for deeper prayer and discernment. This is what a typical week looks like thus far.

- Mary Therese and I meet twice a week. The first time includes input around the particular theme or topic we are studying. The second meeting is a time for her to share how she is integrating all the aspects of her current experience as a novice. We have spent time considering transitions and the spirituality and prayer of Nano Nagle. This month we are meeting with a group of sisters to read and reflect on the *Letters of Nano* to gain more insight into our foundress and her zeal for mission and ministry to the poor. The sisters joining us for this reflection and sharing include Sisters Louann Doering, Ellen Mary Garrett, St. James Lickteig, and Mary Hermann Platt.
- Late Monday afternoon we leave for Northbrook, IL (Techny Towers) and stay over at the main residence of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). The Intercommunity Novitiate Program then meets from 9 am - 2 pm at Techny Towers Conference Center on Tuesdays.
- Mary Therese continues her studies at Catholic Theological Union by taking two classes on line, Christology and an additional one credit Colloquium class.
- In an effort to continue to get to know our community, Mary Therese meets once a week with a sister at Mt. Loretto to listen to the sister's story, share her own faith journey, and engage in conversation about God's call to religious life and what has helped each sister remain faithful to this call.
- Mary Therese has energetically engaged in a wide variety of service to date, including some mowing, working in the yard with Sister Emilie Bormann, assisting in the gardens at Sinsinawa, making a few trips to the hospital to accompany sisters, working with Jane Buse to create the "Sister Spotlight" on our Facebook page, and working with Christin Tomy, OP to plan and lead a prayer service to pray for immigration reform in solidarity with those participating in the U.S./Mexico Border Convergence this month.
- To make space for additional prayer and solitude, Mary Therese enjoys a desert day each week.
- In the House of 100,000 Welcomes, Sisters Mary Therese, Jeanine Kuhn, Margaret Anne Kramer, and Rosalyn Ulfers share in prayer and faith sharing, meals, and try to sustain a healthy balance of work and fun.

Thank you for your on-going prayer and support for Mary Therese! May her joyful, spirited presence encourage us all to reflect on our experiences of God's call to Religious Life and continue to grow in our faithfulness to regular prayer and study at the service of the mission.

Annette



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“To follow Christ requires self-emptying, a continual letting go and inner flow in surrender to God's loving embrace. This letting go and flowing into God is God breathing new life in us; it is living in the Spirit of God's entangled love.” - Iliia Delio, OSF

- *How are you grounded in the Spirit of new life? How do you/we live in moments of discomfort and unknown?*

KANSAS CITY ASSOCIATES FOLLOW IN NANO'S FOOTSTEPS By Bernie Graves

The Kansas City Associate group (Julie Lundstrom, Judi Moritz, and Bernie Graves) is an independent yet connected group. Six hundred miles from the Motherhouse, we echo the PBVM mission of lives dedicated to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality, each in our own way.



Judi and her guitar group at Mass

We were delighted last March that Sr. Joellen came to Kansas City and presented a one night mandala workshop. It was a chance for us to reconnect with our founding mentor and once again marvel at her artistic talents. Some of the workshop participants expressed an interest in knowing more about the PBVMs and an introductory road trip to Dubuque is planned in October. Each of us



Julie assisting at a local food pantry

ministers in our parish community. Judi inspires teens seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation and shares her musical talents in the St. Elizabeth's choir. Her “Dinner for Eight” nights usually mean 20 or more and the diversity of guests is the stuff of legendary PBVM hospitality. Judi and Bernie offered PBVM hospitality this summer with dinner for Bernie's pastor and a visiting Seminarian. Julie assists with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at Holy Cross School where her



Bernie “gleaning” tomatoes

boys, Charlie and Owen attend, and she volunteers at a local emergency assistance food pantry every week. Bernie spends time each week in Eucharistic Adoration, offers spiritual direction to

urban-core women and the elderly and recently began volunteering with *After the Harvest*, an organization that gleans produce from the fields of local farmers. Nano's love of education, service and prayer are mirrored in these activities.

Each of us has a strong connection to *Laudato Si'* as we work at caring for the earth. Julie and her husband, Rich, continue to shape a home life that reduces, recycles and reuses whenever possible and their business is also committed to recycling and using durable goods.

Bernie organized a neighborhood collection of household hazardous waste this summer and every month takes recyclables from work and the neighborhood to the local collection site. Judi collects recyclables at her many social events. We have intentionally changed our lifestyles to integrate the call of Pope Francis and align with the PBVM mission.

We are so grateful to be living in an age in which technology keeps us feeling connected to the joy and actions of the PBVM community in a myriad of ways! We look forward to the opportunity to connect with other PBVM associates through ZOOM.

NACAR 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION by Sister Joan Brincks Associate Partnership Co-Directors Carol Witry and Sister Joan Brincks attended the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) gathering in Milwaukee on September 10. Using the theme "Celebrating Our Charisms – Alive in the World," facilitator, Kathy Wade, Mercy Associate, lead 132 participants from 11 different states in a contemplative day. Together we explored who we are individually and collectively. Then we had the opportunity to look at our lives as leaders by constructing a leadership lifeline. We gained insights into our gifts and talents already present as we move forward together among the 55,000 associates in the United States and Canada.



ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

Many thanks to all Advent reflection writers! We hope to have the books back from the printer by late October. If anyone living outside of Dubuque will be here in early-mid November, please contact the Associate Office (associates@dubuquepresentations.org). We'd love to send your book or your group's books home with you and avoid the cost of postage! Those who receive Community Notes via postage mail, will receive your Advent reflections with your November Community Notes.

FOR YOUR 2017 CALENDAR

Save the date – **April 29, 2017** from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. - for the bi-annual Conference of Associates & Religious of the Midwest Area (CARMA) day of reflection entitled "Intimate Mission: From Charism Partners to Mutual Communion". Registration materials will be coming in January.



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

Our Founding Mothers

“On October 29, 1874, the little band, Mother Mary Vincent and three companions, left Mooncoin and proceeded to Queenstown. There they took passage on the same steamer... After a pleasant voyage (of 11 days), the Missionaries landed in the Empire City and at once commenced their long ride by railroad to their destination.” (Annals, Sister Francis Bannon, p. 1)

We know more about Mother Vincent than we do about her companions. Who were they and what were their stories? The following information is taken from their personal archives files.

Sister Mary Patricia Reide

Kate Reide was born in 1848, in St. Canice Parish, County Kilkenny, Ireland. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation on October 29, 1874, and made her profession of vows September 8, 1876 as Sister Mary Patricia Reide.

Sister Mary Patricia became the second Major Superior of the little community. She maintained her simplicity of life, serving the community in the same spirit as Mother Vincent before her. She died at the age of 70 on October 10, 1918, at Mt. Loretto. She was the twenty-fifth Presentation Sister to find her resting place in the Key West cemetery.

Sister Mary Josephine Howley

Alice Howley was born in 1848 in Mooncoin, County Kilkenny, Ireland. She was educated by the Sisters of the Presentation in Mooncoin and taught in the national schools before becoming a religious. Alice entered the Sisters of the Presentation on October 29, 1874, and made her profession as Sister Mary Josephine on September 8, 1876.

When volunteers were sought for the new foundation in Dubuque, Sister was one of those chosen to come. One of the original founders of the community, she became the third Major Superior after the death of Sister Mary Patricia. After an illness of one week, Sister Josephine died on April 21, 1921.

Sister Mary Evangelista A'Hern

Ellen A'Hern was born in December of 1842, in Moondega, County Kilkenny, Ireland. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation on October 29, 1874, and made her profession as Sister Mary Evangelista on September 8, 1876.

Sister Evanelista was a gentle, loving and kind person. She was known as a “lay” sister, those who did not have much education and were not required to recite the Office or to vote in general elections. She was domestically inclined, and took care of the “old ladies” who boarded at Mt. Loretto in the early days. She died April 2, 1918.

Sister M. Hermann



**Presentation
Lantern Center**

A Place of Welcome

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Greetings on these crisp autumn days!

We are just beginning to settle into a rhythm here at the Lantern Center again, with the **University Of Dubuque Asian Masters Of Business Administration Students** now paired up with our **UW-Platteville students** in Education in need of service learning hours. Of course, anyone whether new immigrant or new volunteer, can walk through the doors at any time, so “static” is not a word we use around here much. It keeps us on our feet!

As it stands today, we have just over fifty volunteers and approximately 44 immigrant adult students. We had a former student, who wishes to study with us again, stop by last Friday. At the present moment, we are in **need of substitute volunteer tutors, especially Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Wednesday mornings** but not only then. **We also need consistent tutor availability on Mondays and Fridays.** If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, I would be delighted to set up a meeting and discuss what the time commitment and work would be like. We certainly cannot do what we do without our volunteers – they are the heart of our program.

I have had a number of requests from Clarke University students especially to perform their required **service learning hours** here at the Lantern Center. Most of these students are with Dr. Matthew Ashman’s class called **Philosophy of Women.** We had Dr. Ashman and his students down to the Lantern Center last month. We spoke about the history of the Presentation sisters, and the part of the center’s mission that states **we serve immigrants “especially women”** and why that is. We also discussed, with three of our student immigrant women, about differing **gender roles** in their home countries versus the United States. A Marshallese woman expanded our minds when she said that Marshallese men typically share the household duties with their wives! Thank you to Sisters Hermann and Sheila Ann, in addition to Carol Walsh – all board members – who helped me welcome these 25 students on that day.

One of these **service learners from Clarke University** will **interview two of our tutors** about their experiences at the Lantern Center. She will write this up and we will share it in some fashion. Another service learner will plan **two social events** for us before the end of the year. These will be times our tutors and students (and their family members) will come together to get to know each other better, and enjoy each other’s company in a more relaxed way. Two other students will design an **art project**; we are still discussing what this will be.

Peace and blessings to all of you,
Sarah Gieseke



**We are the October non-profit recipient
of Starbucks tip jar
at Locust Hy-Vee 400 S. Locust, Dubuque**



**Harvest time, canning time, taffy apple
time, autumn leaf cookies time**

Help us fill the jar when you buy a beverage

Thank You!

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

WELCOMING RECENT VISITORS

Our visitors, Sister Diana Blong and Mary DiCicco, enjoyed getting to know a bit more about how and where our Presentations presence has graced O'Connor Province since 1972!



Diana Blong, an international traveler, but never having been to Bolivia, decided to accompany Sister Marge Healy when she returned to Bolivia after community days. Diana spent 2 weeks seeing first-hand the different ministries of Sisters Marge, Suzanne, Mery and Therese.



Mary DiCicco, an obstetrics nurse in Houston, TX, also an international traveler, wanted to experience the Bolivian culture where her friend, Sister Therese Corkery, lived and worked. Their friendship began when they made a pilgrimage in 2006 to visit the shrines of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, and several areas of interest in Spain.

Both Diana and Mary were impressed by the extensiveness of the Andes Mountains. It is one thing to picture the mountains on a map but quite a different experience to drive continually through the mountains and to view the different mountain ranges.

It is always a delight to help visitors experience the Bolivian culture and beautiful people whom we have come to love over the years!

Hermanas Therese, Suzanne, Marge, and Mery



Yer Vang, the proficient young lawyer serving the Dubuque Catholic Charities, came to *La Luz Hispana*, on September 14 to make a dynamic presentation on the past and future perspectives of DACA and DAPA, the intended executive reprieve for undocumented young people and



their parents. She stressed that a future newly appointed Supreme Court judge could facilitate or suspend this executive action. After Ms. Vang's

hour-long dialogue with the listeners, she received the immigrants who had made appointments for applications of varied needs, from DACA student applications to family reunification. She assured the Sisters that she would be personally present every quarter, but would also accept skype appointments when necessary for urgent immigrant requests.

Maura Carmen

THE STORY OF A MEXICAN IMMIGRANT FROM HAMPTON, IOWA

My name is Maria Roxana Gutierrez. (*Name has been changed*) I was born in a small village not far from Mexico City. My parents were very poor and could not afford the materials that I needed to go to school. Sometimes a friend would tear out a page from her notebook so that I would have something to write on. Someone else would give me a pencil stub. I usually went without lunch. Often my father asked me to help him with the field work that he was required to do to gain a small daily wage.

When I became a teenager, a boy from the village tried to meet with me secretly. He wanted to marry me. I did not like him nor his rowdy friends. My parents did not want me to be with him either. One day when my parents were gone, he and his friends grabbed me, tied me up and carried me off to another village by force. I struggled against him, but he overpowered me. My parents and family did not know where I was and I had no way of contacting them. He raped me and made me live as if I were his wife. He became very violent, especially when he was using drugs. He broke my front tooth.

Things got so bad that I ran away to another village where I knew some cousins lived. I worked hard in the fields there and a dentist put in a prosthetic tooth. I told him what happened to me, and he took photos of the X-rayed tooth. Eventually my abuser found me once again and carried me back to my original village as his "wife".

There was no legal recourse there. I had to find my own way of escaping. A relative of mine was planning to go north and cross. I begged her to let me go with her. I went with her to Tijuana. We crossed the border there with a borrowed visa. I worked washing dishes in a restaurant. I met a kind man there who was going to travel to Iowa because he heard that there was work there. I went with him and we began to live together as a couple. My child Antonio was born in Clarion, Iowa. I found work at a chicken farm.

Then one night the IRS came and took my spouse away. I knew they would take me too, so I left the apartment with my young son Antonio through the back door and took to the side streets. We were not dressed for the cold. Someone picked me up on the road to Eagle Grove and asked me where I wanted to go. I told him I needed to go to Eagle Grove where a friend from work lived. She took me there that night, but I knew that the IRS could quite easily track me down there.

An acquaintance offered to give me a place to stay for a few days. Because I had no choice I accepted. He then proposed that we live as husband and wife. I refused him and he began to force me. He said that he was going to turn me in to the IRS and a friend of mine told me that the IRS was indeed looking for me. So I had to take to the road again. My friend offered to take me somewhere else. I decided to go to Hampton where I knew my cousin lived. Fortunately I was able to locate him, only by the Providence of God. I had nothing, no money, clothing, nor food.

I tried to go to the Department of Human Services to get some help for my son who was born in this country. The social service person turned me over to the IRS and I was in detention for two weeks. I was desperate because I was away from my son. Finally a worker at the detention center believed that I was deserving of help because of the abuse that I had suffered and I was returned to my son. My cousin helped me to get a lawyer to work on a temporary visa. I was able to get work at a hog confinement place so that I could help maintain myself and my son. I continued to live with my cousin who showed me great respect and helped me in any way that he could. He also was able to help me locate my half-brother, who lived in Williams. They helped me get a car so that I could drive to work.

Then my supervisor at the hog confinement began to harass me, grab me inappropriately, and talk to me crudely. I tried to report his conduct to the office with very little effect. Then one day he shoved me into a room away from the other workers and raped me. I then quit working altogether and suffered from severe depression. Sister Carol B. advised me to report the incident to the police. Since the workplace was in Wright County, I had to go to the sheriff's office in Clarion with Sister Maura as my interpreter. No one, of course, had witnessed the rape, but others were aware of the inappropriate behavior of the abuser and the repercussions that I suffered because of it. The sheriff's deputy asked to interview anyone who witnessed this unfitting comportment. Supposedly he went to the workplace to interview the abuser and others who worked with him. All of the workers were extremely afraid of losing their jobs, so were probably not very transparent. Eventually this abuser was arrested on drug charges, was deported to Mexico, but after a few weeks came back across the border and returned to Clarion, but was reported and was once again arrested. The county attorney never prosecuted the rape case, whether for lack of evidence or disinterest.

I am now working at an egg plant in Clarion, and attempting to get the legal services and the therapy that I need to rebuild my life.

October 2016 Update

Shower of LOVE for Hotel Hope Chalet

On October 6, a Shower of Love was held for **Hotel Hope Chalet**. Gifts from as far as Iowa, Colorado and Illinois arrived showering the **Hotel Hope Chalet** in anticipation of housing women with children.



"I am not surprised by the outpouring of love," said Sr. Mary Lou. "People want to help people in crisis.

The gifts we have received are a witness to our mission to serve the most vulnerable in our community."

Donations to help **Hotel Hope Chalet** in making our house a home for future guests can still be made. A gift registry at Amazon and Bed Bath and Beyond are found under **Hotel Hope Chalet**.

—Mary Lou Specha



Far right, Sr. Julie & guests at Shower of Love.

Why So Many Poor Americans Don't Get Help Paying For Housing

By Andrew Flowers

Activists and experts say the U.S. is in the midst of its worst affordable housing crisis in decades. "The evidence does suggest that since the 1960s, this is the worst it's ever been," said Barbara Sard, vice president for housing policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank.

Experts say there are really two distinct problems. The first is affordability: **Rents are rising**, particularly in many expensive coastal cities, while **wages for low-income workers have been nearly stagnant** for much of the past 15 years. That leaves many poor families unable to afford housing on their own. Second, government housing-assistance programs haven't kept up with demand even though **new research** suggests that unaffordable housing is an important cause of poverty.

But poor families often spend more than that. Just 20 percent of households earning less than \$20,000 per year spent less than 30 percent of their income on housing, according to the 2013 American Housing Survey. Of the other 80 percent, about half devoted more than 50 percent of their income to housing.

What experts on both the left and right agree on is that the existing system isn't working. Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond said that when **large-scale, government-constructed public housing projects** such as Chicago's Cabrini-Green became notorious slums, government largely abandoned that approach without committing to a new one.

For more see:

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/why-so-many-poor-americans-dont-get-help-paying-for-housing/>

Interested in becoming involved?

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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

An Unexpected Gift



One hot, steamy sunny morning this July, I received a call from an old high school friend who was coming to town and wanted to get together.

Once he and his family arrived in New Orleans, I did not hesitate to show him where my life has taken me and the ministry in which I am presently involved. We toured two housing sites for homeless families – the future home of **Hotel Hope**, the former St. Mathias Convent, and the newly renovated house, **Hotel Hope Chalet**.

My friend was really impressed with the mission of the project and asked how he could help? Because it is much harder to "help" from a distance, I asked him for prayers as we continue to push through the red tape in order to begin renovation on the hotel. I encouraged him to spread the news in his area and offered hospitality to anyone wanting to travel to do service. As a member of his parish council in Rockford IA, he seemed very eager to be a part of this mission.

This Monday I returned to my office following a week of much needed rest and prayer to find an envelope from Saint Mary Catholic Church in Greene, IA. There was no letter or note, only a check for over \$1,200 signed by Fr. Walter Brunkan, who is assigned to the parishes of Greene, Rockford, and Roseville. Family and friends soon shared with me that parishioners from these parishes took up special collections for **Hotel Hope** for two weekends. Sr. Mary Lou and I are grateful and humbled for the financial contributions and sacrifices many of the families in Iowa made to support our mission to women and children in a housing crisis. Though there is a span of 1,000 miles between us, I am still convinced that it is in our relationships with others throughout our lives that will sustain the work of God and create peace in this world. One person can and does make a difference... Thank you Mr. Bill Staudt!

—Julie Marsh



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I continue to be amazed at the doors that are opening for me in the HOME ministry. I am so blessed to be a part of so many people's lives, and to be involved in various types of service.

Some of you may be familiar with the Iowa Mission of Ministry. It consists of a large number of dentists/ dental hygienists and volunteers who give of their time, talents and resources to provide free dental care for those in need. This year the clinic was held at Five Flags in Dubuque, and I was contacted on Friday morning and asked to come and translate. The clinic is so organized that from the time you check in and begin the process until you leave you are guided to different stations. There is no charge and if you need antibiotics because you have had teeth pulled, they also provided free of charge. They even had places to care for the children. Volunteers came from as far away as Sioux City, and high school students came on buses to share their talents. I felt privileged to be asked to be a part of this wonderful venture. I didn't know about it ahead of time but when I came home on Friday I called the people whom I know and many were able to take advantage of the services on Saturday.

One of the young men who was detained because of lack of documents and has been in the Cedar Rapids jail since April, was recently transferred to Marshalltown, and is awaiting his court date with immigration. His wife continues to be optimistic as to his possibility to be freed.

I was recently invited to speak at Clarke University to a New Testament class. Each Friday they have a guest speaker who shares the way Scripture is part of their life/ministry. I was amazed at the interest level of the almost 30 students in the class, as well as the thought-provoking questions they presented.

With religious education underway in the parishes, I have been asked to give parent meetings in Spanish to those who have children preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Meeting with one or two couples at a time provides opportunities for them to share and ask questions. I am always edified by their openness and reflectiveness.

I put *HOME* on the back burner for a week, as I went to Florida to visit Father Norman who had pancreatic cancer. The day after I arrived, he died. I stayed for the wake and funeral, and was blest to see so many people and to witness that some of the seeds I planted in my 25 years there had taken root. The people wanted me to stay, or come back, but I was happy to inform them that my roots were planted here, and that in spite of the loss they were experiencing now, it was obvious that they had the tools to continue their journey. When I explained the reality of the Hispanics here, they could understand that this is where I was called. So I was blessed to be able to be with them but at the same time to know that this is where Nano's lantern needs to be shining now.

Sister Paula Schwendinger

Presentation Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2015

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	⑳	㉑	㉒	27	28
㉓	30					

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

- 1 Karen Bonfig
- 3 Sister Suzanne Marie Takes (B)
- 4 Sister Cheryl Demmer (F)
- 6 Sister Cecelia Marie Auterman (B)
- 8 Sister Bonita Determan (b)
- 11 Dawn Olberding
- 13 Sister Jane Conrad (B) / Sister Lynn Marie Fangman (B)
Sister Francesca Presseller (F)
- 16 Marilyn Jacobs / Stephanie Jacobson
- 19 Susan Murphy
- 20 Mary Dankert / Kate Kleeman
- 24 Sister Joan Brincks (B) / Marlene Weber
- 25 Joan Montag
- 29 Phil Lockhart

Special Events

- 1 Feast of All Saints / Daylight Savings Time
- 2 Feast of All Souls
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Foundation Day (1874)
Presentation Lantern Center established (2002)
- 21 Presentation Day
- 26 Thanksgiving
- 29 1st Sunday of Advent

PRAYERS

September 30 – October 13

10/11

Associate, Harry Stanton, passed on to the Lord, this morning, about 3:30 AM. His wife, Mary Irene, and daughter, Cindy, were with him. Arrangements are pending.

10/9

My last report from the Doctor says my pace-maker will take me to the end of my life.. (he never told me the date!). I thank you sincerely for your prayers, cards, e-mail, etc. You are great prayers.
Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus

I had my post-surgery appointment on Friday. The news is good. I will not need chemo, but will have some radiation treatments. I need to heal longer from my surgery before I can begin these. I am most grateful to you for your concerns these past weeks. Thanks!
Sister Elena Hoyer

10/6

My sister, Mary, has the date for the breast surgery scheduled for October 12, 2016. The Drs. decided to wait on the surgery for the spot on her lung until afterwards. Please continue prayers for Mary, her family, and the Drs. involved. THANKS!
Therese Corkery, PBVM

10/2

Sister Catherine Wingert died peacefully on Saturday, October 1, 2016. May her gentle spirit continue to grace our lives.

9/30

My second surgery was a success and they have removed all the cancer! The next step in this journey is radiation therapy! I will have 33 radiation treatments beginning in October. I continue to ask for your prayers not only for me, but for all those with cancer. I hope and pray that we will find a CURE soon! Peace,
Mary Lou Specha, PBVM