

COMMUNITY NOTES SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

MARCH 2018

"Time is cluttered with the wreckage of broken communities which have surrendered to hatred and violence.

For the salvation of our nation and the salvation of humankind, we must follow another way.

This does not mean we abandon our righteous efforts ... but we shall not, in the process, relinquish our privilege and obligation to love ...

This is the only way to create beloved communities."

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As I write this article, we are mid-way through the Season of Lent - a good time to assess what we are actively doing to prepare for Easter, to reflect on each day's events and to pray for the life of the world. No doubt we've all been reflecting on how we might cultivate love in our weary, broken world. We may ask if our Lenten prayer and action can make any difference at all in the contentiousness of this nation's capital, the lives of children in war-torn Syria desperate for humanitarian aid, the security of DREAMERS whose future seems to be on *hold* or the endurance of people in the storm-battered Northeast.

In a recent *LCWR Update*, President-Elect Sharlet Wagner, CSC, suggests a way we might fulfill this obligation to love. For her, it happens in the little moments because love in the little moments throughout our lives calls us to a lifetime of oftentimes unseen giving and forgiving as we live out the gospel call.

Love in the little moments is as simple as ...

- Faithful Sunday visits:
 - with a friend who experiences emptiness having lost her mother and husband within six months of each other;
 - to an elderly woman who struggles with numerous health concerns;
 - listening to a cousin adjusting to being alone following the death of his wife of 50+ years;
- Offering prayer support, encouragement and gratitude to a number of 30-year-old couples who assume a variety of leadership roles in their parish community;
- Inviting a former student now friend for coffee to talk about her sense of God's delight and goodness in her life;
- Engaging regular phone calls to my 98-year-old aunt to hear again and again of her readiness to be called to her eternal home;
- Writing snail-mail notes to people who come to mind and savoring the message of return notes ...

What does love in the little moments look like for you these final weeks of Lent? How might we be faithful to our "privilege and obligation to love"? May our individual and collective efforts transform hearts across the world to Easter HOPE.

"Easter us,
salve wounds,
break injustice,
bring peace,
guarantee neighbor,
Easter us in joy and strength.
Be our God, be your true self, Lord of life,
massively turn our life toward your life
and away from our anti-neighbor, anti-self deathliness.
Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed Hallelujah! Amen."

Walter Brueggemann, Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth, page 166

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Maura McCarthy is retiring from La Luz Hispana by June 2018, and anticipates joining the Mount Loretto community in the ministry of prayer and service. Sister Maura hopes to return to Bolivia during the months of September and October to do research (in the archives of the Franciscan Library in Tarija) on the early life of the Guarani people in the Jesuit and Franciscan missions of the Province of O'Connor. She would eventually like to connect with the Latin people in the Dubuque area to assist with any services that they might require.

We are grateful to Sister Maura for her gracious presence, faithfulness to the mission of Jesus and her generous service to God's people! We wish her the best as she journeys a new path in life.

Sisters Julianne Brockamp, Beth Driscoll, Ann Jackson, Leanne Welch

Mount Loretto and My Academic Studies

During my time at the Sisters of the Presentation, my academic knowledge as a social work major has been inspirited and emboldened by my experiences with this community. Prior to my position as an intern, my knowledge regarding social work was very stagnant. I understood the concepts of interaction and behavioral theories, but it was hard to envision these practices being explicitly useful. Wow, was I wrong!

The connections between my academic work at Loras College and my time with the Presentation Sisters has been vast, profound and transformative. As a social worker, I am called to uphold six values: *service, social justice, dignity and worth of the individual, importance and centrality of human relationships, integrity and competence*. These principles are to guide all my actions. I see many of them being essential to the mission of this community as well: reverencing relationship, celebrating unity, engaging contemplation and fostering partnership.

Not only does each and every one of the sisters uphold the dignity and worth of the individual, each holds an immense vision and practices this value. I, too, have been able to practice seemingly tedious skills that make a big difference. For example, I was strongly encouraged by Sister Ann Jackson and Nicole Connelly to not only remember each of the sisters names, but to remember each sister's gift. So I wrote them down in a directory and then each day reviewed and prayed for each sister that I had met or still was to meet. This practice opened my eyes to the power of engagement in each interaction. This practice enhances every encounter I have at Mount Loretto.

One of the best ways I have found connection to my academic work is through facilitating prayer opportunities and technology sessions. Both call me into leadership, offering me places to form professional and interpersonal relationships with people. Leading prayer has taught me the need for leaders to be hospitable, inviting and creating a space where people feel peace. I have been able to bring these skills of hospitality to my bible study and to classroom discussion. I have found the opportunity to use skills of communication, a theory called "The Helping Process." I helped Sister Marie Barth set up her CD player before her surgery and then to get caught up with email after the surgery and get back in circulation.

Another sister, Sister Dolores Moes says, "I enjoy so much that you have written them (technology instructions) down, that way we can keep learning." It is through these sessions that I am able to grow in interpersonal skills and help to empower and educate sisters. Even something as small as

technology is a great venue for connectedness and upholding dignity.





"This weekend stretch your definition of God and expand it to make room for grace, mystery, the intimacy of God and the bigness of God." I experienced this invitation at a weekend workshop of the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program (SDPP) at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The topic for the weekend of March 2-4 was Ignatian Spirituality facilitated by Karen Skalitzky, a spiritual director, writer and editor. I expected a workshop, but true to the spirit of St. Ignatius, it was more an experiential time of retreat. Karen offered a wonderful balance of input, opportunities for reflection and sharing, music, poetry and art.

With Skalitzky's guidance, we explored the following areas of Ignatian Spirituality:

- Who was St. Ignatius?
- What are the Spiritual Exercises?
- What did St. Ignatius teach about God, about prayer and about freedom?

Ignatius experienced many unexpected twists and turns in his life. The most significant was in 1521 in Pamplona, Spain, while engaged in battle to defend a fortress from the French. His leg was shattered in a battle injury and required a long convalescence. During this time he read the only books available to him, the *Life of Jesus* and the *Lives of the Saints*. His reading and daydreaming led Ignatius to discover his desire to serve God. This conversion lead him to sorrow for his sinful past life, commitment to serve the poor and the desire to grow deeper in prayer. Over time Ignatius records his experiences of the highs and lows of prayer in his journal, and this prayer journal eventually becomes the Spiritual Exercises.

The Spiritual Exercises are deeply rooted in the belief that God reaches out to us uniquely in our own way. The exercises can be used and adapted in a variety of ways for individuals or groups — as a guide for 32 weeks of prayer, as a month-long retreat or in parts for short periods of time. Ignatius believed in adaptation and flexibility which is clearly present in the exercises and how they can be used and adapted to meet the needs of an individual or a group.

There are five movements in the Spiritual Exercises.

- 1. <u>Incarnational Love of God (Principle and Foundation)</u> Awareness of the gifts of creation, being in awe of the gifts in our own lives and a deeply felt sense of the unconditional love of God.
- 2. <u>Boundless Mercy</u> To see the gifts and the places in which we struggle, to recognize that the highs and lows sit side by side and to know that God is present in both.
- 3. Accompany Jesus on his Mission To intimately know Jesus, the person who is calling us.
- 4. <u>Suffering and Compassion</u> To walk and identify with Jesus in the experience of his Passion.
- 5. <u>Joy and Resurrection</u> To accompany Jesus in the joy of the resurrection and new life.

Ignatius' theology is deeply rooted in finding God in all things. Every person, situation, circumstance has the capacity to reveal something of God to draw us closer so that we can respond and return our love to God. In the Spiritual Exercises, Ignatius describes two experiences that can help us increase our awareness and understanding of how God is in our lives. Experiences of consolation are times of compassion, communion and connection in which we have a strong sense of where God is calling and leading us along with an outward focus in service. God seems very close. Desolation includes times of struggle, pain and suffering in which our focus is inward. God feels distant. God dwells in consolation and gently draws us back into consolation when we are in desolation.

Ignatius believed that our deepest desires are God's desires for us. In prayer we put our deepest desires before God in our authenticity and vulnerability. Over time God helps us to sift our desires and learn what our deepest desires truly are.

Three foundational types of Ignatian prayer include:

- <u>Examen</u> A series of simple reflective steps to help one look back over the day for the times and ways God's presence was felt.
- <u>Imaginative Prayer</u> Prayer with scripture, especially the Gospels in which one uses the imagination to be present in the passage and invites God to speak through one's emotions, memories and desires.
- Colloguy Times of intimate conversation with God, Mary or one of the saints.

At the conclusion of this workshop, I felt energized and grateful for this brief journey into Ignatian Spirituality and left wanting more. I look forward to further reflection, reading and prayer using what I learned and experienced. If you are interested in further information, here are some additional resources you may find helpful.

- <u>Inner Compass: An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality</u> by Margaret Silf
- <u>The Ignatian Adventure: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius in Daily Life</u> by Kevin O'Brien, SJ
- <u>Finding God in Each Moment: The Practice of Discernment in Everyday Life</u> by Carol Ann Smith, SJCJ and Eugene F. Merz, SJ

Sister Annette Kestel

From the Office of ... VOCATIONS



Thank you to all who were involved in National Catholic Sisters Week activities. So many of you participated by hosting events, doing prep work for activities, visiting with students, starring in videos or photos, spreading the word through social media and, most importantly, praying and living the Gospel each day. You can check out all our videos and photos posted to social media on our <u>Facebook page</u> or <u>website</u>. Special shout out to Anna Nielsen, Mount Loretto communications intern, for all her great work with the social media for the week.

Invite single, Catholic, young adult women to come to the Wholehearted Living Women's Retreat sponsored by Dubuque's Got Sisters.

April 28, 2018
Noon-8:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey
See our website for more information.



A discernment retreat for women seeking whole-hearted living with God at the center.



Pray for those who will be attending the Service and Discernment Trip to New Orleans on March 23-29. There are three women from Iowa and five students from New York signed up. This is a collaborative trip with the Presentation Sisters from New Windsor. We will spend the week working with Hotel Hope and Lantern Light ministries. Each day will have time for individual prayer, group reflections and community building. Thank you!

Sister Jessi Beck



From the... associate Partnership Office

Cindy Pfiffner, Co-Director Joan Brincks, PBVM, Co-Director **phone** 563-588-2008 ext. 608

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email associates@dubuquepresentations.org

Sister & Associate Spring Retreat Embracing Hope in Challenging Times

We are living in challenging times. People face personal challenges on a daily basis, and we only need to read the headlines or watch the news to be overwhelmed by the state of the world in which we live: from natural disasters, political dissension, fear of terrorism, the enormity of poverty, hunger and homelessness, injustices, the list goes on and on. At times it all seems hopeless and beyond repair.



Yet our Christian faith is a story of hope and offers us an example of hope in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The April 14 retreat at Mount Loretto will provide time and space to rekindle our hope in humanity and offer it to a broken world. The theme for the retreat is *Embracing Hope in Challenging Times*. No theme could be more appropriate and needed at this time.

Sisters Joan Brincks and Theresa Marie Tran, along with associates Cindy Pfiffner and Billie Greenwood, will explore what hope is and how hope can bring healing in our lives. Perhaps more importantly, they will share how important it is to celebrate our victories and how we can be models of hope for those who are feeling hopeless in today's chaotic world.

Mount Loretto in mid-April will be bursting with shoots of green grass, buds on the trees and birds singing in those trees. Our souls, thirsting for new hope, will be refreshed with this retreat and God's renewal of life in creation. Join us, your Presentation family, to celebrate God's power and the Holy Spirit's flow of grace through us. We will be nourished with hope, and then be able to bring it to our world, so in need of the good news of God's love.

Janet Leonard, Associate

Don't forget to register for the Sister & Associate Retreat April 14, 2018

Complete the event registration form for at:

www.dubuquepresentations.org / Members Login / Event Registration

or you can email Jean Lange at: jean@dubuquepresentations.org.

The deadline for registering is March 23.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 Community Days

July 18-21, 2018

More information and dates of associate participation will be coming soon.



Chapter 2017-2018 Called to Radical Hospitality

Ignited by radical hospitality, the sisters "birthed" a new directional statement and commitments. These will be implemented when the new leadership team takes office on June 2, 2018, giving sisters and associates direction for the next five years.



Rooted in the Gospel,
inspired by Nano Nagle,
and united to Presentation Sisters and Associates
around the world through the
International Presentation Association,
we, the Sisters of the Presentation
of Dubuque, Iowa,
are called
to live our charism of radical hospitality
in kinship with Earth and all people.

We promise to live radical hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication and education.

We promise to practice non-violence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systemically.

We promise to form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission.

We promise to implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.



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

Presentation Annalists

Sister Mary Alicia Howley

Mary Josephine Howley was a grand-niece of Mother Josephine Howley. As a child she lived next door to the Crowley family, who shared letters from the United States describing the life of their daughter, Mother Angela Crowley. Coming to the United States meant expecting to never see her native land or her family again. However, she was one of the Irish-born Presentation Sisters who was able to attend the Eucharistic Conference in Dublin in 1932. There she met three of her sisters who had been born after she left home.

Sister Alicia was described by those who knew her as "kind, gentle, patient, optimistic and a community builder, creating an atmosphere of peace and tranquility wherever she went." She never lost her love for Ireland or her native accent.

When asked what Nano Nagle's chief spirit or charism was, Sister Alicia said it was generosity, especially toward the poor. Sister Alicia died January 26, 1984.



Sister Mary Alicia Howley

Sister Mary Inez Doyle

For her thesis as part of the requirement for her degree in history, Sister Inez Doyle chose to write the history of the Presentation community. This thesis is a record of Nano Nagle's work in Ireland and of the progress of the community in Iowa up to the approbation of the Rule in 1933. Included in this document is the history of the establishment of schools from the beginning in Key West in 1875 to the opening of the school in Algona in 1927.

Agnes Doyle was born in Denver, Colorado. She became acquainted with the Presentation Sisters and entered the community in 1912.

Found in her file is a copy of a handwritten document which chronicles the transfer of Sister Ellen Hennessy from Castlecomer Convent to Mooncoin. The document is signed by Sister Mary Augustine Murray, superioress of the Presentation convent in Kilkenny, and had been requested by Sister Mary Inez as part of her research for her thesis.



Sister Mary Inez Doyle

After ministering in the Catholic schools for 44 years, Sister Inez retired to Mount Loretto, where she died August 25, 1971.

NEWS & INFORMATION



REMINDER: Upcoming Program - Partners in Mission Coffee and Cookies

The Partners in Mission Office will continue to offer you quarterly updates on what is happening with our partners. Since the last offering, there have been requests to move the date to Wednesday. To honor those requests, we have done so.



Please mark your calendars and try to attend the First Coffee and Cookies 2018 gathering being held in the Presentation Center on Wednesday, March 21 from 1 – 2 p.m.

We will discuss the Annual Report, stories, giving today and in the future. Below is a list of additional dates when the 2018 Partners in Mission Coffee and Cookies gatherings will take place.

Wednesday, June 20 from 1 – 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 19 from 1 – 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 19 from 1 – 2 p.m.

We look forward to your presence and participation!

Karen Tuecke, Partners in Mission Coordinator



Scholarship Opportunities: Deadline April 1, 2018

In the spirit of Presentation Foundress, Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation established scholarship and award opportunities. Please encourage others to apply. **To apply visit:** www.dubuquepresentations.org

Presentation Mission Service Award
Nano Nagle College Scholarship
Mother Vincent Hennessy Scholarship
Nano Nagle Service Award

Ministry Donation Grants

La Luz Hispana

\$10,000 for help with DACA fees and emergency assistance requested by Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy

Barb Ressler

\$7,000 for publishing a book on Nano requested by Sister Joan Lickteig

St. Elizabeth Pastorate, Epworth, Iowa

\$5,000 to assist in building a church in Soliette, Haiti, requested by Associate Dianne McDermott

Creative Spirit

\$5,000 to assist Native American female prisoners requested by Associate Carol Kane

United We Dream

\$5,000 to assist Dreamers to reapply for DACA requested by Immigration Circle

Requests for the next Ministry Donation grants are due by May 31, 2018.



Please turn in any forms that need to be updated such as your emergency contacts, credit card information, Five Wishes, etc. by April 1, 2018.

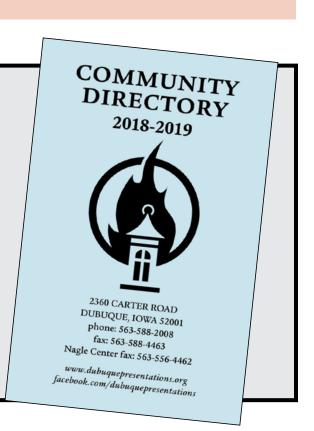
DIRECTORY UPDATES

It is time to update the Community Directory.

If you have a new address, phone number or email, please send the updated information to Carol Heim at carol@dubuquepresentations.org by June 15.

If you would like a new photo taken, please let Jane Buse-Miller at jane@dubuquepresentations.org know and she will set up a time for you to get your photo taken. If you have a new one you want to submit, please send it to Jane.

Thank you for keeping your information current.



HUMANITARIAN

PEOPLE HOPE COMMUNITY CHAR

HEART
CHARITY
HUMANITARIAN
LOVE HELP

T HELP

ANNUAL BENEFIT GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

Anyone who has been to the gym and the garage will certainly tell you the donations are already filling the place. We need all of you to make this year another success story!

You can still support the sale and Presentation ministries through donations of money, sale items, baked goods and time. We still need people to work shifts during all the hours the sale is open. You can sign up for a shift, (or shifts ③) on the sheet posted in the gym which will now be open every week day (see below) or call Sue Murphy at 583-2893 or e-mail murphydands@gmail.com and she will do it for you. Feel free to bring along a friend to help and of course we'll give them time to shop!

WHEN:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
April 26, 27, 28, 2018
Early Bird Thursday, April 26, 7-8 a.m. \$10 donation

Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 3, 4, 5, 2018

(Thursdays, Fridays 8 a.m.-dusk; Saturdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Early Bird 7-8 am Fee \$10.00

WHERE:

Garage and gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation Motherhouse 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa

WHAT:

Please bring gently-used items: clean adult, children and baby clothing; household items; books; CDs; furniture; games, toys, etc. Plants such as hostas, ferns, schefflera, crotons, etc. sell very well too. (Please no shoes, computers/accessories, TVs, baby cribs or car seats, Nordic tracks or treadmills or entertainment centers. We can sell only bed frames, we can give away the mattress.) Homemade baked goods will be sold. Wrapped baked goods may be brought to the gym on April 26-28 and/or May 3-5.

WHY:

The proceeds from the 2018 sale will assist the following ministries/charities:

- Catholic Charities for immigration legal services
- Carol's Closet of Strawberry Point (families, veterans and seniors)
- Hope House in Dubuque

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of usable items from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Monday, April 2, until Saturday, April 21. **No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 21.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, etc. should be dropped off at the garages across from the gym.

Thank you in advance for all the items you will be donating, all the time you will be helping and all the shopping you will do for this very worthwhile cause.

Your very grateful - Garage Sale Committee

MONTHLY CALENDAR



APRIL 2018

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

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

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

Special Events

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

PRAYERS & UPDATES



Address & Email Updates

EMAIL CORRECTION:

Rita Menart

rmenart@dubuquepresentations.org

NOTE: Post Office Temporarily Closed in Bolivia

The post office in the whole country of Bolivia is under-going a complete re-vamp and will be closed until further notice. We will let you know as soon as the new system is up and running. In the meantime, please do not mail anything to Bolivia. Email and telephone services are great! Thank you.

Prayers: February 15 - March 14, 2018

- 2/16 Please keep my mother-in-law Adela in your thoughts and prayers. Adela fell yesterday causing her to break her femur. She just got out of surgery and is doing well. Please keep my friend and former coworker, Rita, in your thoughts and prayers as she will be going through chemo and radiation in the next several months. Thank you very much, Sherry Giesemann, Associate
- 2/17 Prayers are requested for Aaron Dube' (45), nephew of Sr. Rosalyn. Aaron died very suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack on Tuesday, February 13th. Aaron is the son of Sr. Rosalyn's deceased sister, Sue, and her husband John. Aaron is survived by his wife, Heidi, and daughters, Maizy Sue (5) and Layla (almost 4).
- 2/19 Please remember in your prayers my sister, Charlotte Grelk, who is hospitalized in Manhatten KS with symptoms of blood clots. Char is a breast cancer survivor since the 1990's. She and all our family are grateful for your prayerful support.

 Sister Joellen Price
- 2/25 Please remember in prayer Sister Barbara Rastatter who fell and dislocated her shoulder. She is at Mount Loretto and is improving.
- 2/26 Please remember in your prayers Associate Marlene Myers. She is ill and is quarantined in her residence at the Hiawatha Care Center. Her family appreciates our prayers.

2/28 Sisters Lou and Kay Cota wish to thank each of you for your thoughts and prayers, cards, notes and attendance at their sister-in-law, Mary Lu (Welsh) Cota's recent wake and/or funeral. Mary Lu was a very prayerful, faith-filled Irish lady who served her Lord and His people always and in all ways. Lent was very meaningful to her and it is very special that she can spend these days and Easter with her God and Savior. We are grateful to you for your prayerful support to us and to our Cota family, especially to Bob and Mary Lu's family, Pat, Kathy and Ron and their families.

Please pray for Sister Francine's sister, Dona Pope, who has suffered a stroke. When she leaves the hospital in a day or two, she will go to a center where she can receive rehabilitation, if she can do that. She has difficulty talking, and one leg doesn't move. The hospital will try rehab with her before they dismiss her, to see if she can do what is needed. Please pray for her family also.

Sister Francine Quillin

- 3/1 I just wanted to update you on my dad. He received his fourth chemo treatment today as well as another PET scan to see if the chemo is working. Seems as though the large mass near his stomach is 87% smaller! Great news. They still need to do an ultra sound and biopsy on his thyroid. It was a great day! Thank you for all your prayers. Please keep them coming.

 Sister Julie Marsh
- Thank you so very much for your prayers, comforting words and support at this time of my nephew, Aaron's entrance to Eternal Life. So many of you have mentioned remembering his wife, Heidi and daughters, Maizy and Layla. I'm so grateful to all of you for your prayers. Everyone is coping as best they can at this time, but Aaron left a big hole in our hearts and our lives. Aaron lived life to the fullest in his short 45 years here on earth and he is greatly missed. Continued prayers are deeply appreciated. Blessings.

 Sister Rosalyn Ulfers
- 3/2 Please remember in prayer Sister René Laubenthal who had surgery this afternoon to remove scar tissue around her kidney. She will be in the hospital overnight and return to Mount Loretto tomorrow (Saturday).
- Prayers are requested for Joyce Quillin, relative of our deceased member, Jacqeline Quillin, and mother-in-law of my niece, Sally Quillin. Joyce had back surgery and continues to have extreme pain. Thanks!

 Sister Therese Corkery
- 3/7 Please remember in prayer Peter McCoy, son of Associate Charlotte McCoy. Prayers are also requested for his wife and sons. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family to help with educational expenses for Peter's sons. Associate Char McCoy