



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world

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The COMMITTEE

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Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA
Phone: 563-588-2008
Fax: 563-588-4463
Email: doorways@dubuquepresentations.org
Web site: www.dubuquepresentations.org

PUBLISHER
Jennifer Rausch, PBVM

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Jane Buse

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE
Jessi Beck, PBVM; Karla Berns, Associate;
Janice Hancock, PBVM; Sharon Kelchen, PBVM;
Carla Popes, PBVM; Leanne Welch, PBVM

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Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email
photos, stories and information about our
sisters, associates, former members, family
and friends, or any ideas which relate to the
aim of this publication. You can submit the
following to:

Editor, Presentation Doorways
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org

Cover PHOTO

The icon of the Mother of Tenderness
painted by Sister Carrie Link using egg
tempera and gold leaf.

*The doorways represented on the cover are
snapshots of significant moments in the
Presentation history: (left to right) doorway of
the current motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road;
doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St.
Columbkille), boarding school in Dubuque in
1879; doorway of Sacred Heart Chapel at the
current motherhouse; doorway of the former
motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta which was
built in 1909; and doorway by which Mother
Vincent Hennessy left Mooncoin, Ireland, to begin
the Dubuque foundation in 1874.*

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

reflection by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

“And a star led them.” One morning just before dawn when the stars were still brilliant in the dark sky, I stepped into a deep realization that while I felt like a speck in the vast universe, I was connected to something much larger than myself, and God was with me. Having shared this with a group, an immigrant woman jumped in saying, “My story is just like Sister’s!” She began explaining her experience of crossing the Río Grande River into the United States, hanging onto an inner tube, when all of a sudden she heard a hissing of air escape from the tube. Fearing for her life and remembering her children, she looked at the star-studded sky and placed her life in God’s hands. Risking it all to provide for her family, she hoped and waited for whatever would come. Arriving safely at shore, she never again doubted God’s providence.

Often I ponder the differences and similarities of our stories. It makes such a difference where we stand on Earth. Recently as remaining immigrants affected by the Postville immigration raid gathered for prayer, we faced the four cardinal directions, the heavens and the Earth. Gazing upward while praying for healing and strength, I recalled my experience of the beautiful star-studded sky. Often at those moments one experiences the magnificence of God but this day our prayer was a cry because of the polarization of people, the inability of parents to provide for their families, the humiliation of the process and the unending palpable fear that still exists. Who hears the cry of Earth today?

During his 2008 United Nations speech, Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, gave various suggestions addressing root causes of poverty that force people to leave their countries of origin. **Respect Mother Earth:** Earth has to be respected and managed in a communitarian way. It cannot be that there is much land in a few hands and many hands without land. Who can privatize or hire out their mother? She is not a raw material to be traded. Land is more than merchandise. **Promote Cultural Diversity:** This is our greatest wealth. Work for unity and diversity – a world where all have a place. **Live Well:** Don’t live better at the expense of others. Build community. Be in harmony with Mother Earth. This is the opposite of egoism, individualism and accumulation. Don’t stop at just defending human beings. Respect all living creatures.

During this season of Christmas, let us pray and hope that we all live well. Together, under the same sky, regardless of where we live on Earth, may we know that God walks with us. May we be led by the stars to create that new place where all have enough to live in dignity, peace and joy.



Our PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the Gospel mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our associates by sharing the news and views of the congregation with our benefactors, families and friends. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and invite others to become involved in our mission.

Our MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality. Our way of life is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in the vision of our foundress, Nano Nagle, who dared to dream of a better world for the poor, sick and uneducated of Ireland. We commit ourselves to the empowerment of women and children. We reverence and celebrate all creation as gift. We commit ourselves to confronting injustice and working for peace.

As we continue to keep Nano’s dream alive, we are pleased to share our mission with you.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM *(clockwise)*

Sister Marge Healy, vice-president

Sister Beth Driscoll, councilor

Sister Leanne Welch, councilor

Sister Jennifer Rausch, president



Left to right: Kara Thornton, Marin Thornton, Kaylin Smida, Sister Carrie Link and Barb Smida take time for a photo before gathering for children's RCIA.

Inviting Others to Know the Hospitality of God Through Art, Liturgy and Community

written by BETH KRESS, PBVM

"I feel Nano's charism working in me as I am a connection or link for many people," reflects Sister Carrie Link of Monticello, Minnesota. She is an artist who integrates her creative abilities into her work as the coordinator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at one parish and as the pastoral minister for pastoral care, liturgy and social outreach in another parish. "Making invitations and calling others to engage in the ministry of Nano is a part of all that I do."

Presently coordinator of the year-round catechumenate process for adults and children at St. Henry Parish in Monticello, Sister finds herself opening doors to those who come knocking. "I think my growing up years had an influence on my interest in the catechumenate, inviting others to become members of the Catholic faith and coordinating that process," she speculates.

Being open to the religious beliefs and journeys of others is important in the catechumenate process. This was given an

early start in Sister's youth. "Some of our neighbors and best friends were of other denominations," she recalls. "Perhaps this is one reason that today I feel very at home in inter-denominational settings."

"As pastoral minister at Our Lady of the Lake in Mound, Minnesota, I work with a group that is an extension of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We respond to short-term needs and call ourselves the 'To' group of worker bees," states Sister. "With a group of volunteers, we visit the Mound Presbyterian Home every week where there are 40-60 resident Catholics." Sister also collaborates with the local Lutheran church in training and meeting with those in the Be-Friender Ministry, a program that provides a listening presence to those in need."

Sister Carrie's parents, the late Elmer and Eleanor Ernster Link of Waukon, Iowa, made education and faith formation important by sending their children to rural school and to St. Patrick's grade and high schools in Waukon. Family faith life in the Link household built the foundation for Sister Carrie's life and service as a sister. "Formation in faith with high values was a constant in my family life. I always felt and knew my parents were faith-filled people," she states. "We had religious pictures in our home and were faithful in attending Mass. We attended extra devotions, prayed the family rosary and received the sacrament of reconciliation monthly."

Sister Carrie appreciates her ministry in the two parishes. "I enjoy being with people in whatever the phase and situation in their life story and the privilege of witnessing God's work in others, within everyday life, with its joys and sorrows."

"As pastoral minister I've learned that presence is so important. Whether it is a visit to the hospital, nursing home, a home visit, a phone call, leading a wake service or helping at a funeral, I believe that simply being present and listening is a way of honoring, and, at times, giving recognition and solace to others in the midst of their great suffering."

Challenges in parish ministry today for Sister are based on the challenges of all Catholics. "Today parishes are struggling

As pastoral minister I've learned that presence is so important...I believe that simply being present and listening is a way of honoring, and, at times, giving recognition and solace to others in the midst of their great suffering.

Sister Carrie Link

to maintain ministries and vitality due to the economy and, perhaps, church ways of governing," she remarks. "Parishioners seem divided in their focus. I wonder how our ministry can help others appreciate their own spiritual growth and provide enrichment amidst the stress of daily life."

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education and later a certificate of religious education, Sister Carrie spent 11 years as a teacher and nine years as a principal in Catholic schools. She then received a second master's degree in pastoral studies and liturgy and transitioned into parish work for the next 24 years. Sister has taken a four-year course at Atelier LeSeuer, a studio school of fine arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and studied landscape painting in the region of Tuscany, Florence and Siena, Italy. She has rendered portraits of children by commission and has recently spent time learning the art and spirituality of iconography.

Sister Carrie's role as an artist connects to her living the Presentation charism. "Our charism is hospitality," states Sister. "As someone who has done art work, I was privileged to assist in the renovation of our chapel at the motherhouse. Because of my living in the Twin Cities area, I feel I was the 'link' to many artisans for the process. I am in awe over their great works. I believe that Sacred Heart Chapel is truly welcoming and conveys a

sense of openness to all." Sister adds, "Over ten years ago my Presentation leadership invited me to do a portrait of Nano Nagle. The portrait of Nano, a sign of welcoming, is located in the hallway entrance to the chapel."

"I've also served on the design committee for the new church in Monticello and prepared a chapel at Our Lady of the Lake," she shares. "That chapel opens onto the street, available to all who want a moment of prayer and quiet."

The recent direction of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters has been ministry to women and children. Sister Carrie has started to design a coloring book for children and in it she has included a challenge to care for the poor. The book will also serve as a resource for educators in teaching about Nano. This past fall, Sister Carrie began another growth experience: an inter-denominational certificate program in spiritual direction.

As the Dubuque Presentation Sisters focus on joining others in working toward the sustainability of the planet, Sister Carrie is not sure how that will play out in her art. Connecting to Nano's charism in these times, she states: "Simplicity of life is of primary importance for me. I'm learning to live more simply. Perhaps in doing so, I will help myself become more aware of God's invitations."



Above is a portrait of Nano Nagle painted by Sister Carrie Link.

Experiencing The Art of Poetry

An Act of Communion with the World

written by JESSI BECK, PBVM



As a community of Catholic sisters we are rooted in prayer and dedicated to the service of God's people. Meeting God in the daily, ordinary events of life is at the heart of our existence. Naming and sharing that Divine relationship is part of our call to evangelization. We are gifted with many among us who can capture thoughts and feelings in the art of poetry. In *The Human Journey*, Anthony Padovano writes, "Poetic experience, like religious experience, is an act of communion with the world. A poem is religious not because its intent is religious but because it intends contact with human experience on the

deepest level possible." In this article, we would like to share some of the poetry of Presentation Sisters and Associates as well as some thoughts and reflections on the value of poetry in their daily lives.

"Poetry helps me pay attention to life in all of its dimensions. As I ponder a question, poetry provides a glimpse, a snapshot of a moment where something becomes a bit clearer. Poets are storytellers. They capture a feeling, name an experience or express a deep longing. When people read a poem, it may speak to them because of their own experience and their ability to listen to their own inner voice," reflects Sister Corine Murray. Over the years Sister Corine has enjoyed poetry as a hobby and has written poetry about our charism for community gatherings and special events. Sister Corine adds, "Poetry has the potential to connect us with the unseen, the sacred dimensions of life that are often under the surface of things."

Our society today is complex, fast-paced and focused on efficiency. Time for quiet, reflection and the arts often get lost in the shuffle. Youth especially find themselves racing from one activity to the next.

In her ministry as a high school English teacher, Associate Barbara Ressler, sees educational and spiritual value in teaching the art of poetry to her students, "One cannot write haiku without paying attention and being reflective. Its nature is transcendent. As a teacher, I offer students

**ASSOCIATE
BARBARA RESSLER**



Nano—
The Lord in your lamp
your lamp in our hearts

the opportunity to write and share haiku, which provides them with a means of transcendence."

Both Sister Kevin Cummings and Sister Linus Coyle were invited into the world of poetry by a teacher in their grade school days. Over the years they have continued to be drawn by the power of words and images which developed into a hobby for them. It is not uncommon for one of the poems to be used within a liturgical season for reflection or on a card for a sister's feast day.

Poetry has the power to name the deepest human experiences. A gifted poet can shape language into vivid images that touch the heart of the matter. Sister Joy Peterson comments, "I often operate out of my head, and poetry takes me in a more direct way to express meaning or appreciation of those things for which I cannot find words."

**SISTER
CORINE MURRAY**



Advent Journey
Awake and alert.

At least some
Watch for a promise
and wait on time.

Hope nurtures winter terrain
and shakes it to life.

A soft work from God
a baby
hints that we, too, are holy.

Poetic experience, like religious experience, is an act of communion with the world. A poem is religious not because its intent is religious but because it intends contact with human experience on the deepest level possible."

Anthony Padovano

SISTER KEVIN CUMMINGS



Winter

White caterpillar tree
Against flamingo East,
Because we wait for spring
and your
Days of butterflies and birds,
Our hearts soar kite-high
with hope.

For some, poetry is a way to express their feelings or reflect their experiences and for others it is a way to connect with the Divine. Sister Elena Hoye offers further insights on the power of a poetry, "I know that the dictionary says that a poem is a noun. But "poem" is really a verb. It is a way of expressing, seeing; a way of putting words on what I feel and intuitively know in my heart. To poem a dream, to poem my isolation or to poem my sorrow is to speak with my God and to open myself up to my Beloved. To poem is to see, to poem often is to recognize God."

Perhaps you have found in these reflections an invitation to let the Spirit carry you on the words of a poem or an inspiration to capture an experience. The movements of your heart may just be waiting to be revealed by penning a poem yourself.

SISTER LINUS COYLE



Annunciation

When was it, Lord,
your Mother looked long and,
oh, so lovingly at You
as you sat down beside her?

For You had asked so eagerly
to have her tell you of your birth.
Then did she tell you how she felt
when Gabriel came?

What it was like to comprehend
his message or its meaning?
And did she say that
there she was –
so little, so young.
her God so great!

She felt that awful sense of being
emptied out of all that she
might call "her" own –
so powerless
but yet so full,
so very full of LOVE.

Then, did she tell you, too,
how suddenly she felt compelled
because of LOVE
to answer "Yes!"

Unburdened of all doubt, all fear,
open to accept,
to choose to be
in total trust, in total truth,
Mother of the "Promised One."

And it was then, it was there
You grew
within the silence of
her VIRGIN womb.

Celebrating Vocation Awareness Week

As winter fast approaches we ponder the abundance of God's gifts with grateful hearts. In the holy ground of our homes, ministries and parish communities, we invite you to unite in prayer for persons discerning a vocation to religious life. The First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2008, to the conclusion of National Vocation Awareness Week, January 18, 2009, is designated as a sacred time to lift our petitions to our gracious God.

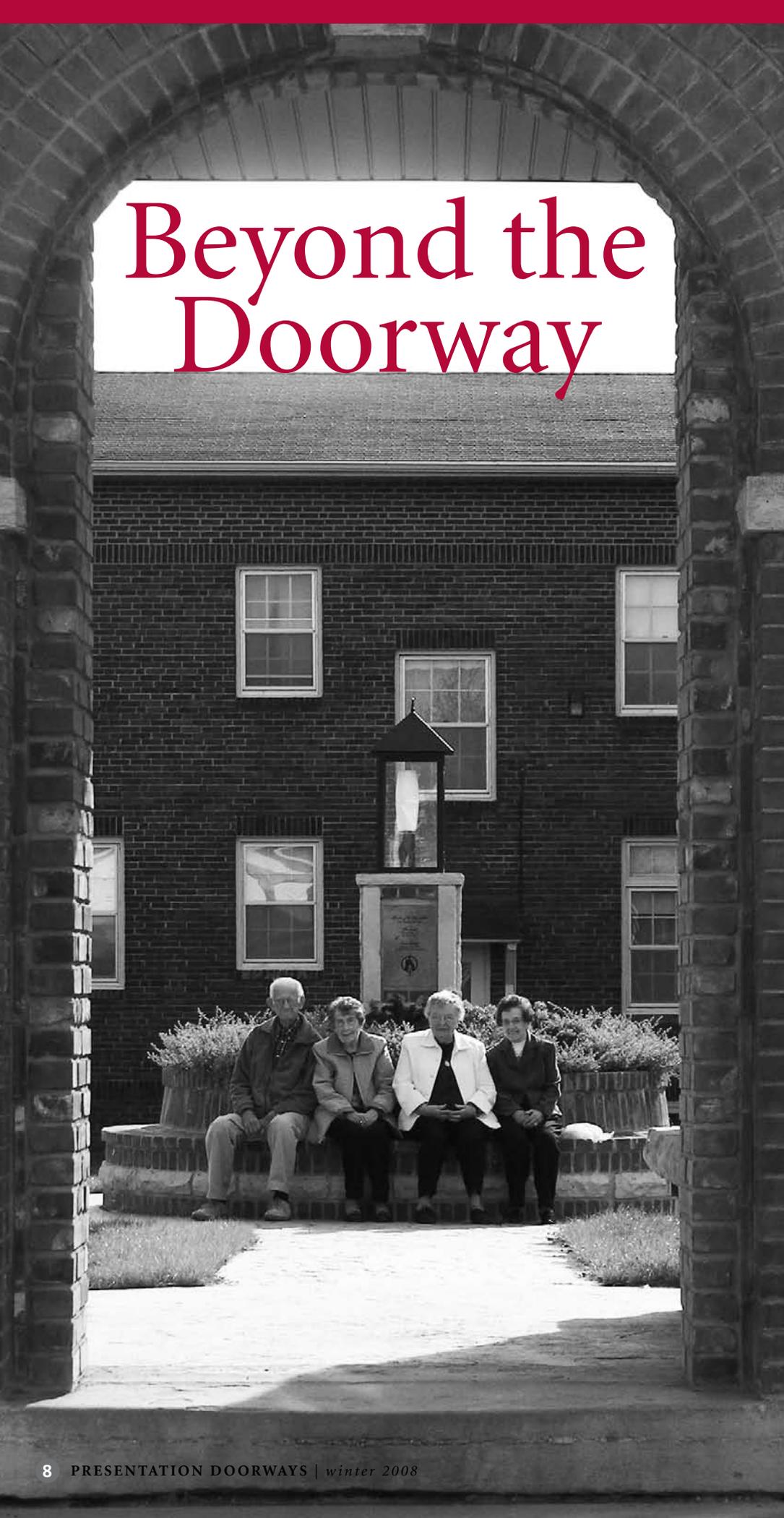
We believe that God continues to call women and men to religious life. We invite you to personally reach out to others in helping us create a culture for religious vocations, whether it be by sharing the following prayer with others, being present to someone who is discerning or encouraging another to consider responding to their call to religious vocation.

Vocation Prayer

God, you called young people by name in baptism. As individuals seek to know your unfolding plan for them, we pray that you will give them enough light for the next step and enough courage to travel an unknown path. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend. Amen.

Sister Corine Murray

For more information, contact Sister Carla Popes at 563.588.2008 or by emailing vocations@dubuquepresentations.org. To learn more about the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, visit us at www.dubuquepresentations.org.



Beyond the Doorway

An Old Doorway Pays Tribute to Presentation Heritage

reflection by SHARON KELCHEN, PBVM

From the east windows of my home in Farley, Iowa, I look out onto a green space that once housed St. Joseph School. The doorway of the 1912 school is preserved in what is now known as Presentation Park. A lantern, symbolic Nano Nagle, stands tall atop a circular structure of brick. This structure houses four marble tablets that speak to the story of Nano and Presentation beginnings in Ireland and Iowa. Nano Nagle's words are engraved: "Go out into the winding lanes and there you will find Christ." Inside the doorway are the names of the project contributors both the living and deceased.

In building Presentation Park, St. Joseph parishioners have preserved a beloved tradition of their school and paid tribute to the spirit of the Presentation Sisters who served there. This tribute is a doorway that opens to visioning their future.

Not until recently did I ponder the fact that throughout my 44 years of religious life, I have been led three times by the Spirit to the St. Joseph, Farley community. Each time has given me a different learning with new insights. I did not realize all the elements of change that I would encounter in one small parish.

I entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1964. My first year of ministry in 1969 was an assignment to Farley-Bankston, teaching elementary and secondary music. At the time there were two buildings in Farley: the grade school built in 1912 which housed grades 5-8 and the high school which opened for classes in 1958. St. Clement's Bankston had merged with Farley and grades 1-4 were in Bankston.

During this first year of ministry I learned that teaching 12 grade levels was quite challenging.

In 1983 I returned to Farley as the elementary principal. The 1912 building had been closed and the students of grades 5-8 were now in the former high school building of 1958. Bankston continued to house grades 1-4. Rainbow Circle Preschool began in the 1912 building. The convent closed in 1996 and the sisters commuted from Dubuque. Students had become parents and the circle of relationships broadened. I had reached the plateau of 40.

Years flew by. 2004 found me in Farley for a third time. Ministry would involve me as the St. Joseph Minister of Care. The school system has a new name, Seton Catholic and has expanded to include the parishes of Bankston, Peosta, Epworth and Placid. The empty 1912 school building was torn down in 2006. Seton Catholic now has three centers located in Epworth, Farley and Peosta.

Changes did not stop. By 2007, a new cluster of parishes known as St. Elizabeth Pastorate had formed. The four parishes are Bankston, Farley, Placid and Epworth. St. Joseph, Farley no longer stands alone as a parish.

As I moved into the former rectory this fall, parishioners gave the 1912 home a face lift. In this first year that Presentation Sisters are not in the Seton Catholic system, we are visible in parish ministry and in residence. Sister Jessi Beck, who teaches at St. Mary's in Manchester, lives with me.

What has been resting on the doorstep of Farley? What has always brought me back? It has little to do with the structures and doorways that keep us for awhile. It is that place in the heart that says "home" and where there is room for loving relationships. Beyond the doorway we celebrate the life today offers.

Pastors, sisters, teachers and students have been here and gone on to new hopes and dreams. Those who have remained reminisce about what was – wise persons and newly-made friends.



Mary White Palmer, graduate of 1934: "The first school opened in 1887. In 1937 Monsignor Peter E. Donnelly was assigned to St. Joseph. One of his first projects was to build a new convent. The sisters

enjoyed this home until 1996, when it was announced that there would no longer be any Presentation Sisters living in Farley. After 108 years we said good-bye. Sisters remained teaching in the school until 2007, but had to commute from Dubuque. It was a sad time, but not without much gratitude and love for the many wonderful years they gave to our school."



Catherine Hoefer Pins, graduate of 1933: "Together our class of 18 marched down the church aisle for Mass and wore our graduation clothes. No caps or gowns, not many class rings

since it was the great depression and the sisters didn't want us to spend more than we had to. It all worked out okay even though we had to walk to Farley public school for our last semester for a few classes and then walk back to good old St. Joe's because we were low on funds."



Associate Mary Griffin Welter, graduate of 1934: "For many years my Dad would begin on what is now known as Highway 20 and pick up the Heitz, Reed, White, Bell and Jasper families on our bob

sled as the snow drifts were very high. I took piano and violin lessons. Today, my niece, Carol Arling, is using the same violin and taking lessons from Sister Matthew."



Larry Healy, graduate of 1937: "I recall the first associate pastor to come to Farley in 1933. His name was Father Mann and he taught full time in the high school. We had a football team but in 1935

Father Coffey ended football as we had two broken bones that season."

My First Day of School

The "White" house was a stir
Excitement was high
on this bright
September morning.

My first day of school
The pretty dress
with ruffles and lace
All ready to wear
length between the ankles
and knees
long white cotton stockings
bloomers with a pocket
black patent leather shoes
a pretty straw hat
with streamers in the back.

Dinner bucket in hand
I'm ready to go!
The model T, Dad and me
up the dusty picturesque road
we putted
brown-eyed susans
wild roses galore
some new mowed hay
and much, much more.

We arrived at St. Joseph School.
In we went
there in habit of black
and white
Sister Mary Hildegard
greeted us
with a welcoming smile
she the potter, I the clay.
She would shape my life
With Christian values
Still prevalent today.

Mary White Palmer

It Is Time

Attend with Urgency to the Woundedness of Our Global Community

written by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM



In late December 2007, we, as vowed and associate members of the Dubuque Presentation community, committed ourselves to “listen deeply to the cry of Earth heard most loudly in the cry of those made poor.” In mid July 2008, we gathered again to en flesh our common vision by establishing a theological foundation for our directional statement. We listened contemplatively to presenter Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ. She focused us around the following points.

Interiority: Do you know your own humanness? How are you connected to the love which is God? Our challenge is to be mystics.

Diversity: The “I” of interiority becomes the “YOU” of differentiation. The affirmation of diverse beings draws us to awareness and action.

Communion: The essence of “I” acknowledges the connection to “YOU” and proclaims the reality of “WE.” The only thing there is, is relationship. Nature is programmed for community while humans must choose it.

It is time to take a look, now that we are almost six months into living our strategies. It is time to do some soul searching and it is time to assess our personal and communal efforts to “attend with urgency to the woundedness of our global community.”

We will educate ourselves and others about the root causes of poverty. We will act in concert with the direction of IPA.

In October 2008, Dubuque Presentation Sisters and Associates collected funds to be forwarded to Presentation Sisters (Union) for leadership development of women in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- What have you learned about loss of jobs in your local area and how have you responded?
- How have you brought to reality, this statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops from “Economic Justice For All?”

“All people have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).”

We will educate ourselves and others about earth sustainability. Do I regularly reflect on these questions so as to buy wisely?

- Do I need this and do I need it now?
- Was it made sustainably?
- Were the workers who made it treated well?
- Does it have too much packaging?
- Is it worth the money?
- Can I recycle it when I’m through with it or will it help clog a landfill?

We will audit our carbon footprint and reduce it over five years by 25 percent. Some conservation measures to consider:

- Producing one pound of meat results in more greenhouse emissions than going for an hour’s drive while leaving all the lights on at home. Eat less meat.
- Driving at 50 mph uses 30 percent less fuel than driving at 70 mph. Slow down.
- Keep your refrigerator tidy to help locate items quickly. Up to 30 percent of the cool air held within the refrigerator escapes when opening the door. Get in and out quickly.

It is time...to reduce poverty. It is time...to relate globally. It is time...to reflect on the blessing of creation as highlighted by Thomas Aquinas, “In every creature there is a trace of the Trinity, no matter how imperfect or faint.” It is time...to crunch the numbers...and hopefully celebrate a reduction in our carbon footprint.

It is time...

EMBRACING EARTH

Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Check out these links for greener, healthier living.

Story of Stuff

www.storyofstuff.com

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The *Story of Stuff* is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The *Story of Stuff* exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

Alliant Energy's Power House

www.powerhousetv.com

Alliant Energy's PowerHouse is an educational program designed to help you improve the energy efficiency, safety and comfort of your home.

Low Impact Living

www.lowimpactliving.com

Low Impact Living can help you find the right environmental information to meet your individual needs. Learn more about global warming and environmental impacts. Calculate your environmental impact and learn how to lower it. Choose the best green projects. Find great green products and local service providers.

Friends of the Earth

www.foe.org

Friends of the Earth is a group of committed people who fight daily for a healthy and just world. They fight to protect the rights of all people to live in a safe and healthy environment, both at home or in countries around the world.

The Nature Conservancy

www.nature.org

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Lady of the Lantern

NANO

Lives



Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern and the women who follow in her footsteps.

"Let's have a crowd of guests for Christmas dinner," she said gaily to the Sisters one evening in early December.

It was scarcely necessary to listen in order to know that the party Nano was planning would be very different.

"If we used the new classrooms with all the tables and benches, we would have room for fifty," Nano went on. "I'd like to invite fifty of the very poorest people we can find. We won't be able to afford anything elaborate, but we could give them a good dinner. What do you think?"

There was no insincerity in the agreement of the three. Perhaps there were more pleasant things to do, thought Mary Ann Collins as she was caught up in the bustle of that Christmas morning. More pleasant, but surely none more satisfying. Without pausing in her work, she looked across at Nano, who, wholly intent on the task of keeping all her guests served, was oblivious of the thoughts she might be inspiring in anyone else.

Later as they washed dishes together, Mary could not refrain from saying: "We ought to do this again next year; every year." "Every year for a hundred years," agreed Elizabeth Fouhy.

"It's been a wonderful day," Mary Fouhy said when they at last finished their task. "It isn't over yet. Come home!" Nano looked around as she spoke. "Next Christmas this will be home. At least, I certainly hope so."

When they stepped out into the street, a sharp wind whipped their skirts about them and stung their faces. But Mary Ann Collins walked through the slush of the land with heart singing. For she has seen God beneath rags of flesh that day.

In the true spirit of Nano, let us invite and encourage each other to prepare and share a meal with the poor of your neighborhood during this holiday season.

Taken from *One Pace Beyond*, Raphael Consedine, PBVM



Left to right, back row: Betty Spehar, Pat Pacetti, Gino Pacetti, Sister Catherine Wingert
Front row: Theresa Bauer, Kathryn Scudella, Mary Ann Schaefer

Becoming Living Lanterns

*Bringing the Light
that Burned in
the Heart of Nano
to Others*

reflection by RAELEEN SWEENEY, PBVM
and VIRGIE LUCHSINGER, SFCC, ASSOCIATE

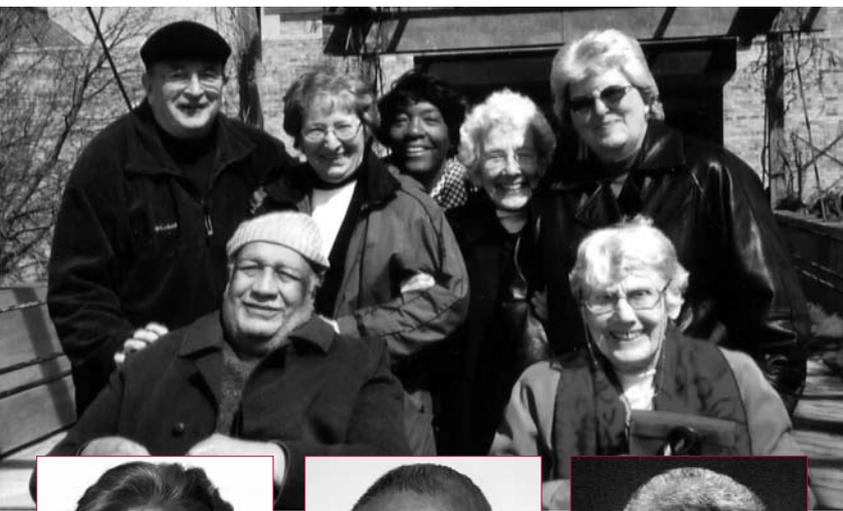
The story of the Presentation Associate group in Chicago began in 2000 and was finalized with a commitment ceremony in the Presentation Center at St. Germaine's Parish. Charter members are Theresa Bauer (RIP), Verona Buckner, George Evans, Alice Hamilton (RIP), Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, Pat and Gino Pacetti, Mary Ann and Frank Schaefer, Sisters Barbara Rastatter, Catherine Wingert, Lou Cota, Raeleen Sweeney and Sheila Ann Dougherty. Since then we were joined by Kathryn Scudella and Betty Spehar extending our reach from Oak Lawn to Milwaukee. Each of us has a unique story of how we have grown to become attached to the mission and journey of Nano Nagle. Pat and Gino Pacetti serve on the Associate Partnership Advisory Committee.

We gather bi-monthly, rotating hospitality and sharing potluck. Early on we studied and discussed *One Pace Beyond*, Presentation heritage, Richard Rohr's *Centering Prayer* and Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle*. Our first outreach was a trip to Muscatine to see first-hand the work of Sister Irma Ries among the homeless and less fortunate. Our small collection was enough to provide a computer for use with emails. Other outreach consisted of writing letters to Presentation Sisters living alone; visiting the local elderly; spending time with and listening to teens; reaching out to those grieving; and, one donated time on a HUD building management committee. An ongoing project is providing toiletries for St. James Food Pantry and supporting Enterprising Kitchen where homeless women make soaps while developing good work ethics. It was our pleasure and privilege to plan a past Associate Renewal Day at Mount Loretto in Dubuque. Our theme, "Nano Lives" was an

effort to spend the day renewing Nano's vision and enlivening in us her spirit of hospitality.

Each year since 2006, we have stretched toward a greater understanding of ecumenism. A missionary from India brought us close to the Catholic experience in India, which exists amidst Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist religions. Books and movies were shared to challenge us to "think outside the box" and to enter into the unknown of other cultures and beliefs. We made available a booklist with a menagerie of experiences: *Angela's Ashes* (Irish), *House on Mango Street* (Mexican), *The Kite Runner* (Mideastern), *Reading Lolita in Tehran* and others. Our group immersion experience came about through visits to a Mosque Service, a Synagogue Sabbath Prayer, the Ba'hai Temple, touring the Lantern Center in Dubuque, and an evening of Taize Ecumenical Prayer at a church that overflows with young and old in silent prayer, candle light and singing.

This spring we gathered at the Chicago Botanic Garden, which featured Ikebana, a meditative art from Japan, which presents simple and harmonious arrangements of flowers. This year our annual fall retreat choices were to walk by the lake, spend time at the nearby Lourdes Adoration Shrine, or have quiet time. We ended with another Japanese meditative art form: Chanoyu: making tea for guests in a respectful, tranquil atmosphere. Virgie Luchsinger studies these Japanese arts. Our ultimate goal as Presentation Associates in Chicago is to become living lanterns, bringing the light which burned in the heart of Nano into our neighborhoods, to our friends, loved ones, into 2009 and beyond.



Top photo: left to right, back: Gino Pacetti, Sister Lou Cota, Verona Buckner, Sister Barbara Rastatter, Sister Raeleen Sweeney, Front: George Evans, Sister Catherine Wingert; Bottom photos: left to right, Associate Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, Associate Frank Schaefer and Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty

In Memory of Al Myers

October 13, 1938 – September 6, 2008

Presentation Associate Al Myers enjoyed life and was always grateful for his faith, friends and community, even in his final months of fighting cancer. As a charter member at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Hiawatha, Iowa, he served as an usher and catechist. Al was active in the Archdiocese of Dubuque Lay Formation and enjoyed teaming for retreats.



Al loved being involved as a Presentation Associate. He offered his help in the mission of the Presentation Sisters through service and financial support. He was drawn to their strong commitment to the poor. As Al stated: "I grew up during the depression and heard a lot of stories from my family about the struggles to keep the family in food and clothing. If I can be of assistance in the efforts of the Presentation Sisters, I would consider it a great privilege to be a part of the community as an associate." We remember Al with love and gratitude.

In Memory of Theresa Bauer

November 7, 1927 – November 15, 2008



Theresa Bauer made her initial commitment as a Presentation Associate in June, 2000. She was inspired by Nano Nagle's life and work with the poor. As Theresa stated, "Having never been gifted with material riches, I've learned to value the richness of God's love. She was the ninth child of a family of ten children and lived a single life.

Theresa was proud to be a Presentation Associate and committed herself to the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation. In her words of gratitude she spoke, "God's love has been shown to me through the Presentation Sisters and Associates in the Chicagoland area. They support me in my ministry to the elderly, sick and unchurched in our neighborhood." We remember her with love and gratitude for her service.

From Darkness to Light

Sister Stella Marie Lippert

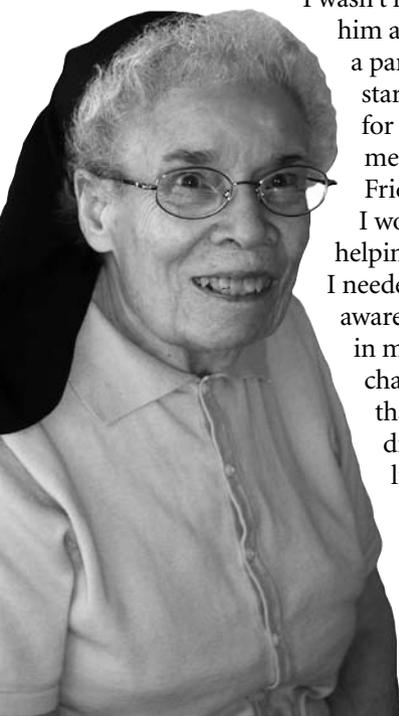
reflection written by STELLA MARIE LIPPERT, PBVM before her death

Sister Stella Marie Lippert died peacefully on August 26, 2008, surrounded by her Presentation community. In preparing for her death, Sister reflected on the life she lived and the life to come, leaving us with these thought-provoking words.

Sister Stella Marie begins, “The mystery of my human life is now complete. At this time I thank God for his gift of life and for all the gifts of love and grace he freely gave to me. Each time he gifted me I ascended a little more into the fullness of his love. He always knew just when and how much to grace me with in order for me to gradually rise to a greater level of my relationship with him.”

“Today my life is not over; it has just changed. I hope that now I am experiencing God as he really is. Many times I created a God the way I thought God should be – one who approved of me for what I did rather than who I was. When God realized

I wasn't looking for him as God, but as a part of myself, he started searching for me. He found me one Good Friday morning as I woke to a new day, helping me realize I needed to be more aware of his presence in my life. I didn't change, just like that, but change did come little by little. Then one day I knew that the religious life was what God wanted for me...God chose it for me and gave



me the grace to say, ‘Yes.’ Throughout the years I struggled with my ‘Yes.’ Many times ‘No’ would have been easier, and there were times when ‘No’ was my answer; but I kept straining to say ‘Yes.’ Letting go is never easy no matter what you are called to let go of.”

“When I started teaching I gradually became too involved with my duties and not as aware of the spiritual side of my life. Again God found me, this time through illness. While recovering from surgery, I had time to ponder about my life. Again God was there, and I knew my life must change if I was to grow to a greater fullness with Him.”

“Now I want to thank God for all the times he searched for me and found me during my lifetime on Earth. I also thank God for all the people in my life who helped me along the way. First of all for my parents who helped me to grow spiritually in many ways. I thank God for each of my brothers and sisters who through their uniqueness helped me grow closer to the Lord. I also thank God for my nieces and nephews who seemed more like my younger brothers and sisters of mine. I have always treasured my family and who they were for me. I also thank the members of my community who helped me along the way. Some for their friendship and their acceptance of me as I was, others for challenging me to grow, to change and to become what I thought I couldn't be.”

“I am grateful to the many spiritual writers and homilists who gave me much food for thought, who challenged my thinking patterns, who taught me about awareness and who helped me become better acquainted with my inner spiritual self as I journeyed through life. Seeing through myself, I began to understand others and see them for who they were rather than who I wanted them to be.”

“I am thankful to all the priests who have influenced my life for the gift of the Eucharist which gave my soul the nourishment needed to live my life with God and helped me in my efforts to be Eucharist for others. I thank them for their preaching of the gospel message as well as the example of their giving of themselves in their effort to make God more present in the lives of those whom they served.”

“My thanks extends to all my teachers through whose patience and dedication I learned skills that helped me in both my human and spiritual life. Thanks especially to my grade school teachers who taught me the fundamentals of my faith. Thanks also to all the employees at Mount Loretto for serving us – many who became friends of mine and whose friendship I treasured.”

“At present I'm seeing everything from a new perspective – God's perspective. I would like to close with a quote from the book *God Hunger* by John Kirvan. This is how God, so many times, brings us out of the darkness into the light. He keeps increasing our faith. Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of my life.”

God comes to us not as food but as hunger,
not as presence but as distance felt,
not as fulfillment but as longing,
not as love consummated
but as desire enkindled.

God does not take away our loneliness
but intensifies it.

God does not answer our questions
but floods our souls with
ever-expanding mystery.

God does not soothe that “old ache”
but deepens it.

God does not open the door
but prompts us to go on knocking.

For our hunger is a joyful longing.
Our hunger is God made present.

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

Featured below are special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation Sisters, near and far.

Celebrating Presentation Day

In celebration of Presentation Day on November 21, middle school students from Seton Catholic School in Peosta, Iowa, performed for the sisters. The all-girls choir practices every two weeks. One of their main goals is to have fun while making music.



Discovering Diverse Dubuque

Sister Corine Murray and Olga Kazberouk enjoyed the premiere of DIVERSE DUBUQUE, a DVD exploring Dubuque's modern-day immigrant experience. Sister Corine is a member of the Human Rights Subcommittee on National Origin. Olga, originally from Russia, was featured.



Walking for Peace

Sister Marge Healy, Lizzie Guilani, Sister Carla Popes, San Francisco Presentation Associates Cathy Pickerel and Pilar Delfino, Sister Julie Marsh, San Francisco Presentation Sister Kathy Sickly and Sister Mary Lou Specha participated in the activities toward the closing of the School of Americas (WHINSEC) at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. Not pictured Sister Joetta Venneman and Aberdeen Presentation Sister Joann Sturzl.



Relationally SPEAKING



Sister Josita Zieser will be included in the *International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women* publication which features women who are striving to achieve their best and do the best they can for others. She was also nominated for *Woman of the Year 2008*.

NEW MINISTRIES



Sister St. James Lickteig is an AmeriCorp tutor serving at Hoover Elementary School in Dubuque.



Sister Anne McCormick accepted a short-term substitute teaching position in second grade at St. Benedict School in Decorah, Iowa.



Sister Dolores Moes has retired to Mount Loretto motherhouse though she maintains much of her previous activities.

You are invited to join us.

December 16, 2008

La Posada

6:00 p.m.

Presentation Lantern Center

1501 Jackson Street, Suite B

Dubuque, Iowa

563.557.7134

Las Posadas (Spanish for "The Inns") is a nine-day celebration with origins in Mexico beginning December 16 and ending December 24. It is a yearly Christmas tradition for many Catholic Mexicans and some other Latin Americans. It symbolizes the trials which they believe Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay and where Jesus could be born.

December 25, 2008

Christmas Mass

9:00 a.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

Dubuque, Iowa

Please pray with us.

January 25, 2009

75th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Clarice Kane

Sister Dominica Schumann

January 11-18, 2009

National Vocation Awareness Week

February 8, 2009

Celebrating Consecrated Life

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, please visit our website at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.



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(please indicate which is correct)

*May Christ's coming bring peace
to your heart and to the world.*

*This is our annual Christmas greeting to you.
With it we wish you the most blessed and
holy Christmas. The funds that would usually
be spent on Christmas cards will be donated
to flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.*

*Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa*

