



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email
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Cover PHOTO

Sister Julie Siggelkov is a "bright spirit"
in Roncalli Library and throughout the
Mount Loretto community.

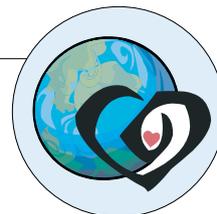
*The doorways represented on the cover are
snapshots of significant moments in the
Presentation history: (left to right) doorway of
the current motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road;
doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St.
Columbkille), boarding school in Dubuque in
1879; doorway of Sacred Heart Chapel at 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 JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

I heard a wonderful phrase recently, “the synchronicity of grace.” We might define synchronicity as “that which offers coexistence or parallel occurrence.” To be synchronous is to operate in unison.

Over the past weeks, during Community Days and again at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) assembly in Denver, I have been blessed with a synchronicity of words. Several speakers have presented to my ears and to my heart, a reference to leaning on the heart of God.

Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, voiced the meaning of mysticism as “going to the heart of God.” Then Fordham theology professor, Sister Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, quoted Martin Luther King’s phrase, “God is the one on whom you lean your heart.” And finally, Sister Elizabeth shared her own wisdom, “To lean on God is to engage in a spiritual adventure.”

I am grateful for the patience of God who has brought to my ears on these three occasions a parallel image that has deeply touched my heart. I am humbled because it seems to take a three time occurrence for me to “tune in.”

This “synchronicity of words” has led to a “synchronicity of grace.” Over and over I have heard that I can come near to the heart of God. I am privileged to be in God’s presence and to experience the heart, the essence, the deepest level of God’s being. When I hear “lean on your heart,” I have a mental picture of a relaxed, comfortable posture, like leaning elbows on the table so that I can dwell in God’s wisdom without feeling that I have to have the “right” answer or respond in the “right” way. I can be who I am. I can learn from God’s presence. I can absorb the wisdom specific to this moment. I can “hang around” God as needed to mine the riches that will provide my mind and my body and my spirit with a moment of grace, with the experience of the mystic.

May you be blessed with the “synchronicity of grace” in your life. May your ears and your heart be open to the redeeming, nourishing and creative presence of God, of grace that comes to us in repetitive moments. And as you lean on the heart of God, may you trust enough to engage “wholeheartedly” in the spiritual adventure that awaits you.



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



Sacred Earth

The Great Communion

written by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

Listen, listen,
The cry of the Earth,
The cry of the poor
Can we listen, listen
The voices are different,
The song is the same.

Miriam K. Martin, PBVM

The musical refrain, “Listen, listen...” marked the beginning of morning prayer as Presentation Sisters and Associates gathered for Community Days on July 18-20. The theme for the assembly, “Sacred Earth: The Great Communion,” echoed through prayer, through discussion, through quiet reflection to find a dwelling place in the hearts of those present.

The community’s directional statement reads: “Conscious of our identity as Presentation women, we listen deeply to the cry of Earth, heard most loudly in the cry of those made poor, and we are moved to attend with urgency to the woundedness of our global community. In both communal and individual ways, we strive to integrate the three dimensions of creation: interiority, diversity and communion.” This dream, this vision, was foundational to the presentation given by Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, who currently serves as the main representative for the Congregation of St. Joseph NGO (non-governmental organization) at the United Nations.

Interiority: Seeing the World with God’s Eyes

Sister Carol, a master teacher, started her discussion of interiority by asking the questions: “What is rolling around in you? Do you know your humanness? How are you connected to the love which is God?” Sister Carol’s point: All that is created manifests God. All is alive, has a self, has an inner essence. Our challenge is to come to know who we are at our deepest center, to be an “I,” to be a mystic, to dive deeply into the heart of God. Sister Carol reminded the assembly, “Once we are in the heart of God, we will know what to do.”

Diversity: Loving the World with God’s Love

The “I” of interiority now becomes the “you” of differentiation. Separate beings gaze with the eyes of recognition and affirm the solidarity that draws all of creation into a flowing stream of connectedness: from bacteria to virus to fungi to flora to fauna to profound partnership. And this partnership, a connection of “yous,” draws us to awareness and action. Sister Carol’s point: To create together what none of us can do alone.

Communion: Living in the World with God’s Passion

The essence of “I” acknowledges the connection to “you” and proclaims the reality of “we.” Sister Carol’s point: The only thing there is, is relationship. Nature is programmed for community while humans must choose it.

In a spirit of contemplation, we can live this litany of communion:

It is possible to become so one with Earth that every flower perfumes the soul,
Every snowflake..... sends icy softness dancing through veins,
Every drop of rain trickles down vessels of the heart,
Every cloud in the sky sails along song-lines of the Spirit,
Every earthquake..... rumbles in the gut,
Every tide of the sea moves in and out of self,
It is possible to become one with Earth.
Just as it is possible..... to become one with all people,
Their pain my pain,
Their joy my joy,
Their struggle and delight an echo of my own.
It is possible to become one.
It is possibleit is possible.

from “The Cosmic Dance” by Joyce Rupp



Sister Carol Zinn, Community Days presenter



Sister Martha Donnelly adds her insights.



Sisters Janet Goetz and Cecelia Marie Auterman

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.

Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ



Sister Jennifer Rausch commissions Associate Sandy Kahle.



Sister Marge Healy offers gratitude to Sister Janet Stelken.



The sisters rejoice with a new spurt of energy to begin another year of ministry.



From Parlor to Parlor

written by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

In February 1875 Mother Vincent Hennessy opened the front parlor of the Presentation Key West Convent to school children to begin the long story of Catholic education at St. Joseph, Key West, the first Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque. Approximately 20 students were present for the first day of classes.

In July 2008 the parlor in the Key West Convent again welcomed young children who came to thank the Presentation Sisters for their help in acquiring age appropriate playground equipment for their program. Approximately 20 children from the Key West Early Childhood Center came and were welcomed by Sister Benjamin Duschner who had just moved into the convent on that day. The children, ages two to four, introduced themselves, sang songs, were treated to cookies and asked Sister Benjamin to come visit them some day – which she gladly did.

In the intervening 133+ years much has happened. The original parlor school was the beginning of over a century of education provided to children.

The front parlor of Key West was quickly filled and the sisters moved the school to the local public school building. In 1927 St. Joseph Parish built its first school. Over these years, hundreds of students were taught their faith and the basic skills necessary for civic success. The last day of elementary classes was held in the school in May 2007. However, Presentation presence continues today in many ways in the Key West community.

Once again three sisters, Sisters Benjamin Duschner, Beth Driscoll and Leanne Welch, are living in the new convent that was built in 1994 replacing the 120-year-old building into which Mother Hennessy first moved. The school buildings are now occupied by the growing Key West Early Childhood Center that serves children ages two to four during the school year and preschool and elementary age children throughout the summer. The Sisters of the Presentation Ministry Fund contributed to the installation of their new playground equipment.

In 1875 Kate O’Hea, a young girl in the parish, befriended the sisters after Mass on their first day in Key West. In 2008 it is the Denlinger girls, Abbie and Halie, who bring fresh produce to the sisters. More than a century apart the O’Heas and the Denlingers have taught their daughters to share and to be good neighbors.

Presentation presence can also be seen in the many lay people who have been trained by the sisters. Many of the present parish council members, music ministers, religious education teachers, lectors, eucharistic ministers and others involved in the parish have been touched by the lives of the sisters over the years. From a humble parlor to a present day parlor – Presentation presence continues in St. Joseph, Key West.



Sister Ellen Mary and her students take time out for a photo while performing a science experiment.



Sister Ellen Mary Garrett has been a teacher in Catholic schools for 42 years. Her commitment has continued to be teaching children to understand the world. As a Presentation Sister and native of the Midwest, she is also strongly committed to caring for Earth.

Teacher of Minds Tender of Earth

written by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Presently Sister Ellen Mary Garrett is the fifth and sixth grade teacher at Danbury Catholic Elementary in Danbury, Iowa. There she leads her students to discover the wonders of the world in the subjects of religion, reading, spelling, language, handwriting, math, science, social studies, guidance, art and computer.

The road to becoming a teacher was paved early in Sister's life. She attended public schools. Her mother, Mary Virginia, emphasized the importance of faith formation by driving the Garrett children to religious education classes on Saturday mornings and again to church on Sundays.

Mary Virginia's dedication to the faith formation of her children and the inspiration of the Presentation Sisters who taught at St. Mary's School and parish CCD classes, led Sister Ellen Mary to hear the call to religious life and to her eventual teaching ministry in Catholic schools. After graduation in 1961 from St. Mary High School in Storm Lake, Iowa, she entered the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque and was received in 1962. She professed final vows in 1969.

“Knowing that my maternal grandmother as a member of the Third Order of St. Francis was praying for all of us was a source of strength,” adds Sister.

Sister Ellen Mary graduated in 1966 from Clarke College in Dubuque, Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in math and elementary education. She earned her M.A. in 1976 from Clarke College, with an emphasis in reading. Sister has taught grades three through eight in parish schools in Dubuque, Osage, Charles City and Key West, Iowa; Shoreview, Minnesota; and Timber Lake, South Dakota.

“I enjoy the look on a student’s face when a concept becomes clear. I appreciate the curiosity of a student who wants to know more about a topic we’ve been discussing. Students who do their best to utilize their creativity and talents are a blessing,” remarks Sister Ellen Mary.

She appreciates parents who express an interest in providing for the full development of their child and the dedication of fellow teachers and members of the parish. All these are a great benefit to a teacher, she adds.

Throughout her years of teaching, Sister names many learnings: writing grants for classroom technology; instructing in multi-aged and multi-ability classrooms; selecting textbooks; piloting guidance, math and science programs; interviewing teacher and principal candidates; curriculum mapping; creating a teaching portfolio; developing goals and objectives; and advising on curricular committees – to name a few of the areas of growth and learning that she has acquired.

“The ministry of teaching can be most challenging,” comments Sister Ellen Mary. “Keeping updated on new technology and finding ways to incorporate it into the already crowded day is a challenge. Implementing guidelines for all the topics required in the curriculum is daunting. Adapting to the learning modes and styles of the students requires creativity,” she says. Sister uses computer enhanced learning, field trips, science experiments and more in her varied classroom experiences.

“Sister Ellen Mary makes learning come alive with experiments and hands-on experiences in order to help her students understand.”

Sister Jane Conrad

Being an effective teacher requires that a person also have her own outside interests: “Reading mysteries and historical fiction, baking, gardening, listening to classical music and crafting are a few of my interests which I find some time for in the summer,” she says.

Sharing Nano’s charism in her life and ministry is a joy for Sister Ellen Mary. She is a lector for daily and weekend Masses, a Eucharistic minister, a choir member and occasionally a minister for communion services or music leader with the clavinova. “It gives me great pleasure to be able to share with the congregation.”

Sister Ellen Mary takes seriously the Presentation call to “listen deeply to the cry of Earth” and to integrate her response into her teaching. “I try to enact the Presentation strategy to educate others about earth sustainability as I help the students in religion, science and other classes,” she comments.

“I provide and care for plants in all classrooms and go to school early to turn up air conditioning or heat to help establish a pleasant environment for learning. Pruning, watering and weeding the rose bushes in front of school require daily care as well as the newly planted spruces. I also recycle the paper and aluminum cans.” Sister traces her great connection to nature and Earth to her parents who taught her such values while farming.

“She loves nature and is a real science buff,” remarks Sister Jane Conrad of Coleridge, Nebraska, who taught with Sister Ellen Mary in Key West and Danbury. “Sister Ellen Mary makes learning come alive with experiments and hands-on experiences in order to help her students understand.”

Bringing Presentation hospitality to a school and parish community as the only Presentation Sister in Danbury, Sister Ellen Mary tries to be a welcoming presence to school visitors and phone callers, especially outside school hours. As a faculty member without a family to provide for, she spends extra time taking inventory and organizing common areas, such as science, art and teacher supplies.

“Like Nano, I try to notice what is needed and then provide,” states Sister who also bakes desserts for the women who clean school during the summer.

A grateful person, Sister Ellen Mary knows how prayer enriches her life. “When parishioners pray the vocation prayer after the rosary ‘for good and holy priests and religious,’ I feel very blessed to receive that intention.”



Sister Ellen Mary takes great pleasure in caring for the roses in front of school.

A Surge of Hospitality Confronts the Flood of 2008 *in Cedar Rapids and Beyond*

written by BETTE NICCOLLS and CARLA POPES, PBVM



Sister Joellen Price inspects a gutted house in the Czech Village.

When the guest comes, Christ comes. St. Benedict's call for hospitality echoes the Presentation mission that calls sisters and associates to embody the hospitality of God. Yet, our life experience often invites us beyond the face of hospitality as gracious welcome to a deeper presence of compassion. Like Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress, we are called to move outside our safe places to tend to the woundedness of the human soul.

The Iowa flood of 2008 was an event involving most of the rivers in eastern Iowa beginning around June 8 and ending about July 1. The first Sunday after the flood parishioners all over Cedar Rapids came to liturgy stunned by the losses in their city: over 4,000 homes evacuated; churches devastated; the whole adult collection in the public library destroyed; the beautiful Czech museum flooded. The list went on and on.

Sister Ann Jackson, retreat coordinator at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center and Sister Annette Kestel, associate director of faith formation at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, both in Hiawatha, and Sister Joellen Price, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Parish in Cedar Rapids are three daughters of Nano who are walking with and serving people in the wider Cedar Rapids community.

While it seemed impossible to know where to begin, these sisters found themselves amid the flooded and winding lanes of the Cedar River flood plain. The sisters reflect that if Nano herself had been living in Cedar Rapids she would have been in the midst of helping those most in need. And, in short order, so were they. They describe themselves at one point as "coming to the edge and jumping in!"

It was too soon to fully mobilize for action but it didn't take long. Lorraine Rudish, a Presentation Associate and member of St. Joseph faith community in Marion, Iowa, worked with her parish to prepare welcome and hospitality baskets with practical items such as alarm clocks and dishes.

Sister Ann's first thought was to respond out of her role as a spiritual director at Prairiewoods. The Spirituality Center began to offer free spiritual direction and day stays. As a board member of Churches United, an organization whose mission is to network the faith community of Cedar Rapids, she was already connected with the larger Christian community.

Through her contacts with Churches United, Sister Ann learned that the first desperate pleas for help were coming, not to civic organizations, but to faith communities. The Faithful Response Committee, an interfaith group was birthed into being. "This group, now meeting weekly, includes all Christian denominations and people from the Buddhist, Moslem and Jewish communities," states Sister Ann. "In addition, at the civic level, a Long Term Recovery Committee was organized. A representative of the Faithful Response interfaith community currently meets with civic leaders weekly to discuss needs yet unmet."

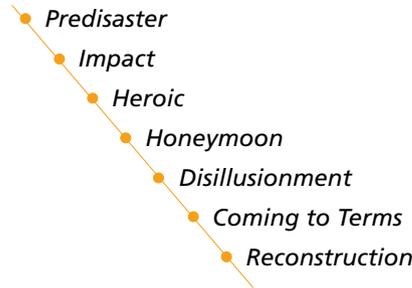
Sister Annette's parish responded immediately hearing of the Palo families whose town was almost completely wiped out. Palo is a small town north of Cedar Rapids. "The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton faith community provided hospitality for six women and their children evacuated from a shelter until they could be relocated in an elementary school in the city," says Sister Annette.

Volunteers at the St. Pius X food pantry distributed goods to families affected by the floods.



High school students nearing the end of a summer service retreat prepared a meal for a local soup kitchen. "That very soup kitchen was evacuated due to rising waters and yet the meal was served to the women and children. The gracious responses of the faith community continue to be overwhelming. Together St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Pius' faith communities collected clothing, blankets, bedding and personal hygiene items for distribution," comments Sister Annette.

PHASES OF DISASTER



During the evacuation of Palo, Sister Annette called parish members who had cell phones to respond to their immediate needs. "That same weekend a survey was distributed at all of the St. Elizabeth Ann liturgies asking for volunteers to help with future clean up," states Sister. "Many responded to this call for help. Two parishioners set up a database with all of the information collected. Later, several groups of parishioners helped our Palo families with the clean up."

A hospitality basket filled with practical household items for families who lost everything were gifts from St. Joseph Parish, Marion.



As they volunteered, parishioners discovered parishioners they didn't even know. Parishes and various faith communities began interacting. "Many cherish the memory of the Rabbi and the Imam embracing at an interfaith prayer service held at the Kernels Stadium," Sister Ann reports. "Two brothers, co-leaders of a mission in Cedar Rapids called 'Matthew 25,' one of whom lost both mission space and home, have collected and provided a tool library for the gutting of homes."

"The Flood Steering Committee from St. Pius identified five areas of focus and compiled volunteer sheets," continues Sister Joellen. "Needs ranged from temporary housing, restoration and re-build, to food and phone. Parishioners were generous and eager to share their time, gifts and talents."

Sister Joellen had been overseeing the parish food pantry and knew that expanding the services of the pantry would help meet urgent needs. Knowing many of the Catholic parishes were affected by and would need immediate help prompted her to work with a newly formed 2008 Flood Steering Committee in finding ways to assist those affected. Responding to this crisis required Sister to assume a new leadership role.

Committees began to multiply. Of course, more committees mean more meetings. The twelve parishes of the Cedar Rapids deanery formed the Parish Disaster Relief Organization.

"The food pantry at St. Pius expanded its hours of operation from one to five days a week. People were so generous in bringing food that the already abundant storage space spilled into the hallway, the parish hall and an additional storage room," remarks Sister Joellen.

"The generous support and response of the parishioners was incredible," remarks Sister Joellen. "Countless individuals and organizations responded to the crisis. E-mails and phone calls were ceaseless. Many came with offers to help. 'Faith Without Borders,' a service group from St. John the Evangelist in Indiana, discovered the St. Pius website and volunteered to come to work for an August weekend."

By the second Sunday after the flood, things were really getting organized. "Parishioners at St. Pius entered their church to see a pair of rubber work boots and an N-95 ventilator mask in front of the ambo," states Sister Joellen. In his homily, Father Donald Klein, pastor, explained the standard phases of disaster were being experienced by the people of Cedar Rapids.

"The Czech Village and the Time Check neighborhood were badly damaged by the floodwaters," says Sister Joellen. "The Indiana group gutted two houses and one basement. Watermarks were above the first floor. A group from Des Moines came the following week," she adds. St. Pius parishioners are scheduled to assist with various phases of gutting and rebuilding.

As people deal with the devastation they began to tell stories. A woman housing 17 family members in a two-bedroom apartment was so grateful for food. An Ohio family arrived with a van full of food collected at their church. This family decided to spend their family vacation helping Cedar Rapids flood victims. The teenager

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Anyone who is interested in helping to rebuild Iowa affected by the devastating floods may send a donation to Catholic Charities Office, Box #1309, 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue, Dubuque, Iowa 52004-1309 or call 563-588-0558 for more information.

in the family preparing for Confirmation completed his service requirement. An individual anonymously presented the pantry volunteers with a framed picture of Christ reaching out to embrace someone. The thank you was given because the gentleman himself had experienced welcome in his need for hospitality.

Greatest needs still lie ahead.

Sister Joellen experiences so many unanswered questions. "People are told to be patient but many are unable to plan and make decisions for their future," she states. "I took some volunteer workers to gut a home. While the workers began gutting, I was able to take the time to look at the photos of a man's family while the volunteers were mucking out his house. He needed to show the pictures and to share the story."

How does one sustain long-term commitment to so many varied needs? Sister Joellen relies on parish volunteers and states, "I haven't been refused anything yet. If I ask, someone comes forward."

Sister Ann points out the need for creative funding as individuals deal with red tape. "Administrators of many newly formed groups are giving more and more of their time without adequate compensation," she says. Trained as a listener in spiritual ministry, she adds: "The spirituality of presence is a deep need. Stories need to be heard, wounds need to be healed."

Blessings received in the experience.

The three sisters are challenged to carefully choose ways to avoid burnout and exhaustion. They continue to make space for the contemplative piece, for rest and re-creation.

Sister Joellen remarks: "I know I am not walking this journey alone. I rely on all the holy men and women, like Nano, who have walked before us."

Sister Annette responds: "Seeing people from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish community, other churches and people from all over reaching out to others in need has touched me deeply."

Sister Ann senses a huge collaborative effort that promises hope for the future. She finds strength in the spirit of collaboration and the generosity of those she meets. What may lie ahead? "We are literally praying our way to the next step," she comments.



Nueva Casa for Romeros

written by SUZANNE TAKES, PBVM

On the feast of Saints Anne y Joachim, the Ines Rios Romero family welcomed the Entre Ríos Presentation Sisters for a blessing of keys and reception into their new home, a gift of several generous benefactors associated with the Dubuque Presentation Sisters.

The blessing of the new home began with each of the sisters blessing one of the rooms and gifting Ines and sons: Wilder, 14, and Sergio, 12, with a symbolic gift. Among the gifts were a squeegee for cleaning floors, symbolizing the hours of cleaning service Ines had provided for the sisters; cups and bowls for the kitchen symbolizing hospitality offered; a family Bible and picture of the Holy Family representing the faith life of Ines and sons. Sister Julianne Brockamp blessed the entrance to the home, wishing a blessing upon all who will visit. Sister Mery Cary Paz blessed the front room which will be rented out for family income, praying for the family's health and happiness. Sister Rita Menart blessed the kitchen, praying that it will provide spiritual and physical sustenance.

Sister Suzanne Takes blessed the two bedrooms recalling how in early January Ines and sons moved into the first bedroom which, at that time, consisted of nothing but brick walls, a dirt floor and a cement roof without doors or windows. Ines and family previously had been renting a room in Entre Ríos which suddenly became unavailable so they were forced to move out quickly, with no place to turn. They decided to rough it at the site of their new home where there were no bathroom facilities, no running water and no electrical services. Shortly after the Romeros moved, a floor was cemented and a faucet installed. Electrical service and indoor plumbing were completed much later.

The journey was very emotional for all. Tears of gratitude flowed freely from the Romeros during the ritual by the sisters. Ines and sons thank the Presentation Sisters and their friends for making possible a dream come true, their first home.

Pictured above, left to right: Sisters Rita Menart, Julianne Brockamp and Suzanne Takes; the Romero family: Sergio, Wilder and Ines. Photo taken by Sister Mery Cary Paz.

Helping the Hungry of the World

Church of St. Maurice

written by JANE BUSE

The family of St. Maurice Parish was born in a stable. This family, inspired by the words of Mother Teresa, "God gave us the poor for our benefit," is dedicated to helping the hungry of the world.

In 1970, Smith's Stables was renamed St. Maurice Catholic Church by the Archdiocese of Miami, Florida. After much hard labor, the first parishioners assembled and the initial bonding of the family of St. Maurice began. The parish believes in reaching out in love to your neighbors near and far through the many service projects they support. They have a simple philosophy of caring for others, regardless of circumstance, heritage or religion, especially the poor and hungry.

About 24,000 people die every day from hunger or hunger-related causes. Three-fourths of the deaths are children under the age of five. It is estimated that some 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Such realities brought Father Sean Mulcahy and a group of St. Maurice parishioners together in the fall of 1976 to discuss this human tragedy. As a result of those discussions, the St. Maurice Hunger Program was launched to help in the eradication of world hunger, a program generously supporting the Presentation Bolivian mission since 1999.

When Father Sean left in 1998, the Hunger Program had grown, providing missions across the world with funds to help feed the hungry. In order to ensure the continuity of the program, Father established a Hunger Board made up of parishioners who are responsible for the administration of the monies generated. The present pastor of St. Maurice, Father Roger Holoubek, is deeply committed to justice and continues to support the Hunger Program's 32 initiatives around the world.

"The Hunger Program is one of the pillars of our parish and, with the grace of God, we will fulfill our gospel commitment to feed the hungry across the world," says Ramona Rung, St. Maurice parishioner and cousin to Presentation Sister Therese Marie Hawes, who missioned in Bolivia for 32 years. "Several years ago, I became part of the 'finding committee' and was delighted for the opportunity to research the Presentation Bolivian mission and propose it to our board as one of the projects we should fund," adds Ramona, currently the project director for the Bolivian mission who acts as liaison between the project and St. Maurice.

In Bolivia, many Guaraní children live in the mountains, more than ten miles from a school. Often these children will move to town so they can attend school and live with another poor family, usually in a dirt floor home. St. Maurice Hunger Program sends money to help feed both the "foster" children and the family who cares for them during the school year. Without this aid, the family could not afford to feed another child.

"My cousin, Sister Therese, went to Bolivia to be a missionary in 1974. How fascinated I was hearing how she took a crash course in Spanish and how difficult it would be for her to arrive at her destination, the last miles being by mule. When the opportunity came for me to use frequent flyer miles, I was elated to travel to Bolivia to visit the people my church had been helping for many years. My life will never be the same," remarks Ramona. "What a real blessing it is to truly touch base firsthand with God's poor; to learn their stories and feel a tiny bit of what they feel on a daily basis."

St. Maurice parishioners are very generous with donated items whenever a parishioner visits a Hunger Program mission. When Ramona visited the poor of Bolivia, she took many items to disperse. The Guaraní blessed her in every sense of the word.

Often they did not understand her language, but never did she feel more welcomed than by people in Bolivia and the Presentation Sisters.

"My visit to Entre Ríos, Bolivia, will always be very memorable for me," Ramona continues. "I have been so blessed to help empower the Guaraní. Hopefully, they will be sustaining themselves by 2009. What an accomplishment for the Presentations and for the indigenous peoples themselves."

What an accomplishment for the family of St. Maurice Parish. The families in Bolivia have had their lives and homes touched by St. Maurice's willingness to live the gospel call to provide for the need of others.



Ramona Rung visits with local farmers in Entre Ríos.



SISTER JULIE SIGGELKOV

For the Love of Books

written by JANE BUSE

After a 42-year teaching career, Sister Julie Siggelkov is enjoying the quietness and serenity of retirement while surrounding herself with community and, of course, books.

Having loved to read all of her life, Sister Julie Siggelkov finds her role as librarian for the Roncalli Library at the motherhouse to be a perfect fit. She takes great pleasure in cataloguing books, checking books in and shelving them, ordering new books and magazines and keeping the library seasonally decorated, to name a few.

“It has been wonderful to be able to provide good quality, enjoyable literature for the sisters, as well as to offer a friendly and welcoming environment for others,” says Sister Julie.

The only challenge Sister Julie has encountered is finding enough energy each day to do everything she wants to do for the sisters and the library. In 2005, Sister Julie came to live at the motherhouse due to serious health issues. She had three bypass surgeries, two heart valves repaired and a hole in her heart closed. These issues were in addition to the breast cancer she battled and survived in 1985.

“Despite her health issues and knowing she doesn’t feel well most days, I am awed by her determination – to work in the library and to stay actively involved in social outings and community events. She has an integrity about her that permeates her life,” says Sister René Laubenthal, Sister Julie’s room neighbor and house guardian angel.

Sister Marge Healy adds, “Sister Julie’s sincerity and wit endeared her to the medical staff when she had heart surgery. While Sister went from the classroom to surgery within a very few days, the suddenness and seriousness never seemed to cause her to panic. She made each decision

calmly and without hesitation. Her faith and authenticity gave her a freedom to live life in the present. Even when coming out of the anesthetic she entertained the medical staff.”

“After my operation, I remember waking up in the recovery room and having a nurse say she had two different names for me and she didn’t know which one of them I was: Madonna Siggelkov or Julie Siggelkov,” smirks Sister Julie. “Soon a doctor came over to me and gave me a questioning look. I informed him, through thick lips, that the ‘Government made me do it.’ (I had to use my baptismal name in order to get my bills paid.) He passed this on to my family and friends waiting in the waiting room.”

Throughout her various surgeries, Sister Julie prides herself on never missing a day of school. This is a perfect example of Sister Julie’s dedication during her teaching career, to her students and to all whom she commits. “Sister Julie gave her whole heart and soul to teaching children. She was always discovering new ideas and new ways to bring joy into learning. She challenged her students to be their best,” says Sister Joan Brincks, who taught with Sister Julie in Mason City, Iowa.

She is bringing that same joy to a group of sisters who play cards weekly. “We look forward to Sister coming and looking on. Sister Julie enjoys getting in on the conversation and being around people, while making a few wise cracks in the process,” smiles Sister René. “Sister’s sense of humor and ready laugh is enjoyed by all. She is a bright spirit.”

“Sister Julie is the one to go to if you want a quick, insightful review of a book, a good practical analysis of any current problem or someone with whom to relax,” says Sister Marge.

And relaxing is what Sister is working on as she now enjoys a simple lifestyle where she has more time for prayer and reflecting, often while sitting in the courtyard on warm, summer days.

When asked what insight she would share with others on how to live life, she responds, “Live each moment as if God is holding the moment, be joyful and have an attitude of gratitude.”



Record keeping and cataloguing are ways Sister Julie gives her energy and care to community.

written by
SHARON
KELCHEN,
PBVM

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.

Why was Nano driven to begin her schools? What inspired her to challenge the 18th century penal system of Ireland? Sister Raphael Consedine says it all in her book, “One Pace Beyond.” “One will never be able to hold out against the great love of Nano Nagle.”

To establish a Catholic school was uncommon and dangerous under the circumstances. The cost of moving beyond the safety of conforming to the penal laws could mean a stigma upon the Nagle family and retaliation upon Catholics across Ireland. She took her tenacious will and began to invite a variety of persons into her vision. Life in Ireland did not make sense to her. She would take the leap and dive deeply into the heart of God as seen through the children of Ireland – the victims of the injustice which forced upon them poverty and ignorance.

Nano’s vision was for children of future generations to have a voice, so that no one would be outcast, so that no one would be uneducated. Her gospel vision was and continues to be to educate for justice and to empower others to find and use their voice.

Nano wanted to educate the poor. Thus in 1775, she invited Elizabeth Burke, Mary Fouhy and Anne Collins into her home to walk with her in the mission for those made poor. The community of women formed a congregation that remained small until Nano’s death in 1784.

What Nano could not see in the future was that her schools would grow into hundreds internationally and that women numbering over 3,000 would regard her as a woman of strength and vision. Their connections and stories would continue to let the world know of hope, purpose and freedom.

Nano wanted a real life, one in which she could unite with women of energy and passion for mission. Her chosen values of loving, giving and serving have shown us that we can also draw power from weakness. United by the story of a great woman who moved with a singleness of purpose and passion of the heart, Presentation Sisters and Associates engage in many relationships that inspire them to move as one for mission. Nano’s legacy: to bring forth the kingdom by the power of those made poor.

FINAL PROFESSION OF VOWS

Sister Rita Cameron

written by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On August 23, Sister Rita Cameron publicly professed the vows as a Sister of the Presentation – forever – by stating: *“In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and under the protection of his Immaculate Mother Mary ever Virgin, and in your presence, Sister Jennifer Rausch, our congregational leader, I, Sister Rita Cameron, do vow to God obedience, chastity, and poverty for the remainder of my life according to the Constitutions of this congregation, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.”*

By vowing obedience, a Presentation Sister deepens her baptismal covenant by offering the full consecration of her will to God; by vowing chastity she declares her preferential love for God and she commits herself to a life of perfect chastity in consecrated celibacy; by vowing poverty she promises to be poor in the Gospel sense, to possess all things in Christ. *Witness to Love: Constitutions and Directory, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Iowa, 2003.*

Making this significant lifestyle change over the past six years, Sister Rita takes all that she has valued as a widow, mother and grandmother and deepens it in her newest calling to live a vowed religious life forever. “Presentation community have been such a wonderful support of my life experiences. Sisters and Associates pray with and for my family and celebrate with me,” says Sister.

Sister Rita professed final vows as a Presentation Sister at Sacred Heart Chapel in the Mount Loretto Motherhouse in Dubuque, in the presence of family, friends and the Presentation community. The final profession rite was celebrated with a liturgy of the Eucharist, a dinner and a reception.

Sister Rita joyfully follows that path with faith, hope and love: “As I celebrate this time in religious life, I am grateful for all of the opportunities I have had to take a close look at the images of God in my life – those images in the Presentation community, in my family and in the broader community. I keep searching for a better understanding of how God speaks to me through the poor, the disadvantaged, the young, the old, those with whom I come in contact each day. I desire to put a face on God.”

Jesus Christ and Nano Nagle are Sister’s models. “I pray that my words and actions will represent Jesus to those I encounter and I pray that I see Jesus in each person I meet daily,” reflects Sister who responds to the call to carry the lantern of Nano Nagle.

“Nano lived her life in a counter cultural way. She did the unexpected and thought of others first,” states Sister Rita. “I believe I need to borrow Nano’s lens and look at the world as she did.”

I pray that my words and actions will represent Jesus to those I encounter and I pray that I see Jesus in each person I meet daily.

Sister Rita Cameron

Before entering religious community, Sister Rita taught music education and was guidance counselor at Langford Public Schools, in Langford, South Dakota, from 1969-1994. She served as guidance counselor at Newman Catholic School in Mason City, Iowa, from 1994-2002. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 2002 and was received into the community in 2005. From 2002-2006 she served as guidance counselor at Wahlert High School in Dubuque. Currently Sister Rita is the director of music ministry and spiritual counseling in the Campus Ministry Department at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

“I enjoy very much the energy I receive from working with such wonderful young people,” declares Sister Rita. “The students are enthusiastic, committed and want to share their faith and their lives with the broader community. My ministry is so life giving. As a result of my many opportunities to learn and discern in the past six years of initial formation, I believe more firmly in the statement attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: ‘Preach the Gospel always and when necessary use words.’”



Sister Rita Cameron (left) signs her final vows as Congregational President, Jennifer Rausch looks on.

The Stages of Religious Formation

Women who choose to live out this baptismal call to holiness as a vowed religious follow this process.

INQUIRY

A woman states her interest in religious life and meets with the vocation director to gather information regarding the community, helpful discernment techniques, ways to connect and answers to any questions she might have.

AFFILIATE

A local community and contact sister are appointed to serve as sponsors for the affiliate. The group meets monthly to discuss topics related to religious life.

CANDIDATE

The candidate year is a year of living in a Presentation community, connecting ministry with Presentation mission, connecting with other candidates in the prenovitiate process and meeting with the formation director. This is a year of personal and spiritual growth.

CANONICAL NOVICE

This year is set aside to discuss the vows, prayer, study of theology and current Church issues. It is a year of intense reflection and discernment.

APOSTOLIC NOVICE

This year, the woman moves into active ministry. At this stage one of the main learnings might be that of balancing community, prayer, ministry, family and friends.

TEMPORARY VOWS

This is an expression of one's intention to continue in a commitment of faith until final vows.

FINAL VOWS

Final vows of obedience, chastity and poverty are a permanent commitment to community celebrated during a Eucharistic ceremony.

Presentation Sisters Welcome Lizzie Guiliani as a Candidate

written by JULIE MARSH, PBVM



On August 22, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Guiliani was welcomed into the community of the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque at the Rite of Welcome to Candidacy. This ritual marks the beginning of the initial formation program. Lizzie will be a candidate, formerly known as a postulant, for approximately one year.

Lizzie Guiliani is the only girl of six children of Doris and Herbert Tyrrell. She grew up in Colorado and attended public school all of her life. She graduated from Denver Technical College with a health care administration degree and eventually went to Fort Dodge, Iowa. She has worked in retail, high tech, construction and health care. Most of her positions have been in administration and management and most recently as senior officer of a medical corporation.

Her experiences as a married woman and a woman in the business world have shaped her into a compassionate adult with great people skills.

“In 2006, I began my quest to find something more in my life. I was encouraged by my pastor to consider the Sisters of the Presentation as I began to discern religious life. I connected with Sister Carmen Hernandez, vocation director at that time, via the Web site and the conversations began. I have come to know this community, however, by spending time with the sisters in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, Humboldt and Algona, all in Iowa. It was through those visits and their openness to share their lives and ministries that fueled the fire in my heart.”

Because of her deceased husband's having grown up as an orphan and her own experience as a widow, Lizzie has a deep passion for women and children oppressed by their circumstances. She brings a newness to the sisters that refreshes their outlook on the needs of the world and prompts them to become more engaged in rebuilding structures that are in need of repair. May Lizzie's quest for something more in her life be found as she journeys with the Presentation Sisters.



Congregational President, Sister Jennifer Rausch (left) and Director of Vocations, Sister Carla Popes (right) welcome Lizzie Guiliani into the Presentation community.

Partners in the Mission

Nano's Nine

written by KARLA BERNS, ASSOCIATE

“Being at a point in my life where I had decided to let God lead me, I found myself in the midst of eight beautiful women,” claims Associate Sharon Loeffelholz. “As we read the inspiring story of Nano Nagle, I knew I wanted to be part of continuing her dream. Nano's Nine brings me inner peace, spiritual growth and opportunities to serve others.”

Sharon is a member of Nano's Nine, an associate group composed of seven associates and two Presentation Sisters. The group meets regularly for prayer, discussion, community and service.

The group assists at the Dubuque Food Pantry each Christmas in preparing baskets for the poor. Associate Delynn Fangman states, “To me, being an associate means following in the ways of Nano Nagle – working with the Presentation Sisters in assisting and being kind and caring to those in need and looking for ways to better our world for tomorrow.” Delynn was instrumental also in obtaining supplies and directing the group in making tied blankets for the needy in our community the past several winters.

For the past three years, the group assisted with the annual Garage Sale, the profits of which benefit the Presentation Sisters' ministries. Sister Carmen Hernandez appreciates what Nano's Nine have been able to accomplish together. Sister states, “Our united desire to serve God and others is what has centered us and given us the strength to accomplish our tasks.”

Associate Dawn Olberding feels a deep connection with the group, whether it is in prayer, discussions or various service projects. “Helping others by following the mission statement of the sisters, and growing spiritually, is what being an associate means to me,” proclaims Dawn.

Sister Lynn Fangman shares that it has been heartwarming for her to share the Presentation charism with associates. She says, “I appreciate the fact that our associates are willing and eager to walk with us in our mission of today. Their energy and insights continue to call me one step beyond.”

Fun projects that Nano's Nine completed were the making of stepping stones for each of their gardens symbolizing the Presentation Sisters/Associate partnership and designing and purchasing logo T-shirts. “Family – that is what being a Presentation Associate means to me,” states Associate Darla Budden. “It has become a spiritual awakening in my life. The weaving of my family and the family of Presentation Sisters and Associates has become a beautiful tapestry. I am truly grateful for the Lord's blessings and now I want to share these blessings with my broader family and the world.”

Presently, the group is studying the Earth Charter and identifying ways that they as a group and individually can make a difference in “saving the earth.”

Helping others by following the mission statement of the sisters, and growing spiritually, is what being an associate means to me.

Associate Dawn Olberding

Associate Mary Drees enjoys being an active member of the Associate Partnership whose beliefs and actions she respects and honors. She states, “The Presentation community challenges me to look beyond my small day-to-day world and consider the larger community. As an associate I'm able to work with Presentation Sisters towards their commitment of helping those in need. The opportunity is truly a gift to me.”

“The hand of the Lord feeds us,” sings the Psalmist; “He answers all our needs.” Often, however, it is with the open hands of generous stewards willing to share God's many gifts that God's people are fed and their needs met. Nano's Nine are truly partners in the Presentation mission of serving the poor.

Pictured below: left to right, back row: Sister Lynn Fangman, Mary Drees, Deb McClimmon, Dawn Olberding and Sharon Loeffelholz; front row, DeLynn Fangman, Darla Budden, Sister Carmen Hernandez and Karla Berns.



Tuition Assistance to Support Catholic Education



One of the funding priorities for the 2008 Garage Sale sponsored by the Presentation Sisters and Associates was student tuition assistance to support Catholic education at Holy Family Schools in Dubuque. Katherine (Kasia) Runicka-Gneiser was chosen as the recipient. She is 11 years old and was born to a Polish immigrant mother and a German descendent father. She will be able to attend Mazzachelli Catholic Middle School for the next three years due to this tuition assistance and other grant monies.

For formal writing, her family uses her official name “Katherine” but otherwise uses “Kasia” which is the Polish form of Katherine. Kasia has been attending public schools in Dubuque and attended weekly religious education classes. Her parents are very supportive of their daughter’s desire to attend Catholic school where her interests, her values and her Catholic faith will be supported to a greater extent.

Kasia has many hobbies that keep her busy – dancing, musical theater, summer camp at the Grand Opera House and singing in UW Platteville’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” She has lots of musical training and plays violin, clarinet and piano. Various funding sources have allowed her to strengthen her musical/dancing talents.

Her parents, Elizabeth and Robert, own and manage the women’s and children clothing consignment store, Fashion Exchange, on Bluff Street in Dubuque. Kasia and her parents are very grateful for the Catholic school tuition assistance provided.

*Interested in
Becoming an
Associate?*

**We invite you to become a partner
in the Presentation mission.**

For more information, please contact the
Office of Associate Partnership, 2360 Carter Road,
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001 or email us at
associates@dubuquepresentations.org.

Northern Lights Lends a Helping Hand

written by MARILOU IRONS, PBVM

During the Iowa flood of 2008, Associate Ann Nicklaus’ home, the former Catholic Church in New Hartford, Iowa, was inundated with over three feet of water. Knowing of Ann’s situation, her Northern Lights Associate group changed their July discussion meeting into a FEMA session: Females Energetically Move A lot. On Monday, July 7 after grace lead by Sister Jeanine Kuhn and a hearty evening meal at Sister Marilou Irons’ home, the group carpooled to Ann’s home on Water Street where all, donned in latex gloves, began rebleaching wood trim saved from below stained glass windows and other various parts of the home. Other small jobs like removing nails from sub flooring or disposing of old insulation were tackled by this FEMA group. With the work at hand completed, the group headed home thanking God that Ann was safe and willing to have the group return another day. In addition to the Iowa members, this event was graced by the presence of Mark and Pat McCright, the Northern Lights’ Egyptian Branch Associates, back in the states for several weeks of visiting. Other associates who enriched the camaraderie were Lois Loughren, and Sisters Louann Doering, Michelle Gallagher, Jeanine Kuhn and Marilou Irons.



Left to right: Sister Jeanine Kuhn, Sister Michelle Gallagher, Associate Pat McCright, Sister Marilou Irons, Associate Lois Loughren, Associate Ann Nicklaus and Sister Louann Doering

EMBRACING EARTH

The Greening of Webster

written by JESSI BECK, PBVM

During my grade school days, I learned the 3 R's: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Now that we are in an age of global climate change, I teach my elementary students about "being green." The green movement has been making headlines and becoming part of our everyday experience. In fact, I'm sure you've even adopted some environmentally friendly practices designed to reduce the damaging impact we have on the earth. As the world around us "greens," so has our vocabulary. Listed below are several new words that are becoming part of everyday conversations. Many have even made their way into the dictionary. So now, not only will you be able to be green, you will also be able to speak green.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases we produce. It is measured in units of carbon dioxide.

CARBON NEUTRAL

Being carbon neutral involves calculating your total climate-damaging carbon emissions, reducing them where possible, and then balancing your remaining emissions, often by purchasing a **carbon offset**. Carbon neutral was named the New Oxford American Dictionary's 2006 Word of the Year.

CARBON OFFSET

Carbon offsets enable individuals and businesses to reduce the CO₂ emissions they are responsible for by offsetting, reducing or displacing the CO₂ in another place, typically where it is more economical to do so. Carbon offsets typically include renewable energy, energy efficiency and reforestation projects.

DOWN CYCLING

Most recycled industrial nutrients (materials) lose viability or value in the process of recycling. This means they can only be used in a degraded form for components other than their original use. White writing paper, for example, is often downcycled into materials such as cardboard and cannot be used to create more premium writing paper.

UPCYCLING

In the simplest terms, upcycling is the practice of taking something that is disposable and transforming it into something of greater use and value. This word was coined by William McDonough and Michael Braugart in their book on ecologically intelligent design, "Cradle to Cradle."

GREEN

A common metaphor referring to environmental association based on the shared secondary color of many plants. It is often used to associate products, organizations, political parties, or policies with environmental sensitivity.

GREEN COLLAR JOB

Jobs created by investments and sustainable practices. Many skilled and unskilled jobs traditionally referred to as "blue-collar" jobs may be created and supported through the expansion of incentives and demand for sustainable building and installation of sustainable systems (such as solar panels, "green" remodeling, and gray-water systems) in the residential, commercial, and government markets.

LOCAVORE

A locavore is a consumer who buys from farmers' markets or even grows or picks his/her own food, arguing that fresh, local products are more nutritious and taste better. Locavores also shun supermarket offerings as an environmentally friendly measure, since shipping food over long distances often requires more fuel for transportation. This phrase was coined two years ago by a group of four women in San Francisco and is the New Oxford American Dictionary 2007 Word of the Year.

ORGANIC

In regards to food and other agricultural products, a term describing the absence of pesticides, hormones, synthetic fertilizers and other toxic materials in cultivation. In some countries, "organic" has a legal definition. For example, in the USA, it is defined in the Organic Food Production Act of 1990 and refers to food and products that are at least 95 percent free of toxic and synthetic materials as described in the USDA National Organic Program.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Energy derived from sources that do not deplete natural resources. Examples include solar, wind and geothermal energy from the Earth's core.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This definition was created in 1987 at the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission).

Sources: <http://blog.oup.com/2007/11/locavore/>; http://www.northlakecollege.edu/sustainability/green_vocabulary.html; <http://www.sustainabilitydictionary.com/>

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

Featured below are special times in the lives of the sisters, whether they are living near or far.



Hay Ride Anyone?

At age 94, Sister William Allen (center) takes her first hay ride during her family's reunion held on her home place where she grew up in Clare, Iowa.



The Joy of Being a Shutterbug

Sister Kay Cota displays her photography at the Senior Citizen Center in Minneapolis. Sister loves photography and views it as a way to remember all of the beauty she has experienced.

You are invited to join us.

October 5 | November 2, 2008
Taize Prayer
7:00 p.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa

Please pray with us.

October 12, 2008
80th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Eunice Kane

November 13, 2008
Foundation Day

November 21, 2008
Presentation Day

November 29, 2008
Final Profession of Vows
Sister Lisa Schmidt

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 by calling 563.588.2008.




Ministry Updates




- 1 **SISTER MARIE BARTH:** Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto motherhouse
- 2 **SISTER DIANA BLONG:** Pastoral Associate, Immaculate Conception Parish, Charles City, Iowa
- 3 **SISTER BENJAMIN DUSCHNER:** Reading Specialist, Resurrection School, Dubuque, Iowa
- 4 **SISTER CARMEN HERNANDEZ:** Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Mercy of North Iowa, Mason City, Iowa
- 5 **SISTER ELENA HOYE:** Study program in Dublin, Ireland
- 6 **SISTER LOIS LEHMANN:** Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto motherhouse
- 7 **SISTER MARY DENNIS LENTSCH:** Lantern Light Collaborative Ministry, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 8 **SISTER MERY CARY PAZ:** Youth/Pastoral Minister, Cochabamba, Bolivia
- 9 **SISTER JOY PETERSON:** NGO Intern for the International Presentation Association, United Nations, New York
- 10 **SISTER MARY LOU SPECHA:** Executive Director, Reconcile New Orleans, INC., New Orleans, Louisiana
- 11 **SISTER JANET STELKEN:** Pastoral Care, St. Therese Southwest, Hopkins, Minnesota
- 12 **SISTER DOLORES ZIESER:** Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto motherhouse











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Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



Sister Corine Murray, executive director of Presentation Lantern, participated in the Convention for the Common Good in Philadelphia on July 11-13. This event, sponsored by Network, a Catholic Sisters lobby in Washington D.C. and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, gathered over 800 delegates from around the U.S.

to ratify a Platform for the Common Good which was inspired by faith and building on our nation's founding ideals. It will be presented to both major political parties. For a copy of The Platform and for other information about the convention see www.catholicsinalliance.org, www.networklobby.org and www.votethecommongood.com.



As the third anniversary of hurricanes Katrina and Rita nears, Friends of New Orleans (FONO) will host benefit events at the Democratic and Republican national party conventions. **Sister Mary Lou Specha** attended the Democratic Convention to represent Friends of New Orleans, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan

organization established in the aftermath of the storms to advocate for coastal restoration and for New Orleans and the surrounding region.



Left to right: Sister Corine Murray and Sandy Amberg

Sisters Corine Murray, Lantern Center executive director, and **Beth Kress**, Lantern Center board member, joined seven others this summer in a Spanish language by immersion experience led by Sandy Amberg, veteran Spanish teacher and Lantern Center tutor. Other participants in the Spanish class were Helen Cox, Mary Jean Gregory, Sharon Sinton, Brigitte Connolly, Elizabeth Heying and Maxine Griep. These women are mothers of small children and teenagers, Lantern Center staff and board members, college instructors, an attorney and retired teachers.