



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 Carmen Hernandez explains the
patient financial application process to a
Hispanic mother.

*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.*

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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by BETH DRISCOLL, PBVM



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.

"Once upon a time..." Words that settle small children into bedtime ritual, bring order to a junior high classroom and capture the interest of adults. Everyone loves a good story. I was reminded of this in the fall of 2005 while ministering with four Presentation sisters in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was November 21 and the first time Sunday Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Church following Hurricane Katrina. We sisters were invited to offer reflections on the significance of this day, our community feast. "Once upon a time there was a woman by the name of Nano Nagle..." And so we told her story.

Two months later when I was walking the streets in the neighborhood I met Kerry, a man who had been at St. Joseph Church that November day. He told me that his aging mother had moved to a care center in a distant state. A street buddy lent Kerry his cell phone so that he could make a call to his mother. She wondered how he was getting along, being alone and homeless. "I told my Mama that she didn't have to worry about me anymore! There were sisters, the sisters of Lantern Light, who always had time to talk with me, who offered sandwiches, hot coffee and supplies to me and all of us in the neighborhood and living on the streets." As Kerry continued sharing the conversation I noticed tears rolling down his cheeks. "Mama, these sisters didn't come to New Orleans because of the hurricane, they came because of us poor people – just like that lady they told us about – the lady with the lantern." Tears flowed from my eyes, too, and I felt as if I had been re-commissioned to walk the winding lanes of this city as Nano had walked the lanes and alleys of Cork.

"How often was she seen 'passing with steady composure' through rigours of every season to tend her little flock. Or returning after a well-spent day through the darkness of the night, dripping with rain, mingling in the crowd, 'moving thoughtfully along by the faint glimmer of a wretched lantern.' Day after day, the same round was made with the same regularity. The chapel, the schools, the laneways and her cottage divided her life between them. There was not a garret in Cork that Nano did not visit. Everywhere she went she brought some glimmer of hope, peace and even joy." *Woman of the Gospel, Sister Pius O'Farrell, PBVM*

This year we celebrate the courage of Nano Nagle and her companions as we commemorate the 225th Anniversary of Nano Nagle's death (April 26) and the 135th Anniversary of our founding in Dubuque (November 13). While there will be many occasions to share our favorite "Once upon a time" stories, let us also find the courage to go where need calls loudly. What better way could we find to celebrate Nano Nagle's legacy and continue to bring light to all parts of the world.



Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Jennifer Rausch, president

Sister Marge Healy, vice-president

Sister Beth Driscoll, councilor

Sister Leanne Welch, councilor

Living with Vision Loss

by JANICE HANCOCK, PBVM

If you are like most people, you can't imagine how you would function in daily life if you lost your sight. Imagine all the things you are used to doing every day – then imagine doing them without being able to see. Statistically, there are more than 10 million Americans who have vision loss, and this number is growing at an alarming rate. Six years ago, Sister Agnes Marie Lynch became part of that statistic.



Because I know what it is to experience and live with diminishment, I have grown in openness of mind and heart to accept others as they are and feel deep compassion that moves me to reach out to those who are in need.

Sister Agnes Marie Lynch

"I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the prayer that I raise." Sister Agnes Marie speaks these words from Psalm 138 by memory, clearly words that cross her lips frequently. It is no wonder Sister meets each day with confidence and openness to her God.

Sister Agnes Marie retired to Mount Loretto in 1999 after years of working in food service and in pastoral ministry. "As a pastoral minister, Sister Agnes Marie was very passionate about meeting the needs of the elderly, sick, dying and those with special needs," recalls Sister Karen Jasper.

Following her service as pastoral minister, Sister was appointed retirement director for the Presentation community from 1989-1996. Once retired, Sister volunteered in the Hospice Program and in the Emergency Room area at Finley Hospital in Dubuque. She felt privileged to care for her elderly mother for two years before she passed away. Sister offered a calming presence to those she met in these ministries.

In 2003 Sister Agnes Marie experienced the "Dark Night" in her life when she completely lost her sight for six months. This was an extreme hardship as Sister had vision in only one eye since the age of four. As these months passed some of Sister's vision returned after receiving cortisone shots. Experiencing the challenge of low vision since that time, Sister has developed a keen sense of hearing. She has learned to read with magnification using a magnifying glass and a telesensory machine, a gift from a benefactor. Sister is able to read her prayers and other articles with the help of the telesensory. She is an inspiration to many as she walks around the motherhouse with little or no hesitation.

Sister Julia Wingert reflects, "Sister Agnes Marie is a woman of deep faith. She continues to manifest a genuine acceptance of her limited vision. When it became apparent that Sister would most likely live the remainder of her days with very low vision, she began to 'resource herself' by inquiring about and seeking information regarding possible assistance, aids and support available to persons with low vision that would allow her to continue to be fully engaged in life."

Sister Agnes Marie is a woman of deep faith. She continues to manifest a genuine acceptance of her limited vision.

Sister Julia Wingert

In 2005 Sister contacted the State of Iowa Department for the Blind that directed her to attend one week of Senior Orientation for the Blind in Des Moines where she participated in classes as a totally blind person. Sister studied Braille, cooking, crafts and learned how to use a white cane. Following this experience, Sister felt better prepared as a low vision person to meet the challenges of daily living. She feels privileged each month to receive the daily scripture readings in large print from the Xavier Society for the Blind. Sister enjoys listening to talking books from the public library as well as those she receives in the mail from the Xavier Society for the Blind.

Every Tuesday Sister attends a gathering of persons with visual impairment at the Tri-State Independent Blind Society where she enjoys camaraderie and social activities. She currently serves on the Society's Board. Sister Dolores Moes, who entered the community with Sister Agnes in 1950, admires her involvement with the Society that gives her encouragement along the way.

As a member of the Mount Loretto community, Sister Agnes Marie washes the towels from the beauty shop, stuffs envelopes for mailings from the Associate Office, helps set up the dining room tables for Sunday and special celebrations, takes part in small group sharing with the sisters and is a member of an associate group. In addition, Sister Agnes says, "I love doing jigsaw puzzles. I am able to do more with feeling the shapes and letting my fingers do the work."

Sister Julia states, "I deeply respect Sister Agnes Marie for her faithful 'listening' presence at communal prayer. I am grateful for her love, appreciation and need for community shown by her participation in and contribution to community gatherings and activities despite her low vision."

Sister Agnes Marie expresses gratitude for the sight she has enjoyed for 71 years and muses, "I now delight in 'seeing through the eyes of others' as they describe the beauties of creation and all that surrounds me. My limited vision has gifted me with greater patience with my limitations and with those of others. I have a greater openness to accept assistance when needed. Because I know what it is to experience and live with diminishment I have grown in openness of mind and heart to accept others as they are and feel deep compassion that moves me to reach out to those who are in need."

When reflecting upon what is important to her at this phase of her journey, Sister Agnes Marie responds, "I have a grateful heart for all the blessings of family, Presentation sisters, associates and friends and for my relationship with God in prayer."

These additional words of Psalm 138 capture well Sister's attitude and outlook on her life: "Thank you [Lord] for your faithfulness and love, excelling all I ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered from above and gave me strength to carry on anew."

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.

Nano Nagle is most known for her work educating the poor children of Ireland through the many hedge schools she started at a time when it was against the law to do so. However, Nano's compassionate heart did not stop there. She worked tirelessly to see to the needs of all she met. Without knowing where the money or know-how would come from, Nano dreamed big and carried through.

Shortly after Nano and her companions made their first vows, they lacked the funds necessary to complete their own convent. Still, Nano was dreaming ahead to the day when she could build housing for the elderly she visited. The following excerpt from *One Pace Beyond: The Life of Nano Nagle* by Sister Raphael Consedine, PBVM, tells this story in a conversation between Nano and one of her companions, Elizabeth Bourke.

Nano sighed. "Don't worry! As soon as ever I have the money the work will be completed. If I could only manage to do it, I'd build another house, too."

"For a school?"

"No, for the old people. You know how many of them are alone and practically destitute. We could run a home for them. Someone ought to see to their comfort in their old age. It's a thing I really mean to do in the future."

Elizabeth, seeing the look of determination she had come to know, was quite sure that the old people would one day have their home.

Nano was a woman with a heart big enough to see the needs of all whom she encountered from the uneducated child to the lonely widow. She had the ability to dream big despite the odds. Most importantly she had the perseverance to keep working to meet those needs despite the ever-present obstacles.

The Pursuit of Service

Committed to studying the root causes of poverty

by JULIE MARSH, PBVM



Sister Julie Marsh paints the exterior of a house that was damaged by the 2008 flood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Participants on the Urban Plunge 2009 experience in Chicago, Illinois.

The Sisters of the Presentation and associates commit themselves to studying the root causes of poverty. From this commitment, Presentation Quest, an immersion and service program, was developed. As coordinator, Sister Julie Marsh has planned opportunities that engage others in a deeper understanding of their relationships to one another, to Earth and to God.

“Regardless of the experience, our focus is to engage ourselves and others in the quest of the living God,” states Sister Julie. “I encourage all college students, Presentation benefactors, associates, sisters, family and friends to participate.”

The first immersion experience was the “Urban Plunge” which was sponsored by the 8th Day Center for Justice in Chicago, Illinois, on April 14-18. Cindy Pfiffner, a Presentation associate from Dubuque; Therese Pena, a young adult from Columbus Junction, Iowa; and Sister Julie were among the participants.

The experience examined systems (economic, religious, cultural, social, security, ecological and political) using a social justice process of analysis. It was a practical methodology that critiques social structures from many angles including that of personal feelings.

While I sometimes found it uncomfortable to recognize and face the injustices present in systems that I have trusted and am a part of, I came to realize that the root causes of injustices have to be addressed before all people can live with the dignity that is their human right.

Cindy Pfiffner, Presentation associate

“The Urban Plunge experience focused on the need to address the causes of social problems by providing an opportunity to hear and see first hand the structural injustices that plague the poor and vulnerable,” states Cindy.

This process always begins with the experience. In a week’s time, 40 men and women of different ages were immersed into controversial topics found throughout the United States such as immigration, housing, environment, lifestyles, health care, worker rights, racial diversity and parish work.

The next step in the process is the social analysis. This was the moment when the group critically analyzed the experience, including the vast social interrelationships and its historical development. The goal of the social analysis step was to get to the underlying root causes of each experience and the root values that keep the experience alive.

The theological reflection step encourages the reflection of the values gained from the social analysis. With faith as a foundation, the group began to realize the need for change. Once the group took a stance, they were morally obligated to develop an action plan, the last step to the process, which at times was simply to teach others of the injustices that can or do occur in any urban, metropolitan or rural community.

“This social justice process taught me that any situation or injustice has an economic, religious, cultural, social, security, ecological and political reality,” states Sister Julie. “Each of these systems interrelates and impacts the other.”

Cindy adds, “While I sometimes found it uncomfortable to recognize and face the injustices present in systems that I have trusted and am a part of, I came to realize that the root causes of injustices have to be addressed before all people can live with the dignity that is their human right. This was a valuable experience for me, as I learned a lot about the structural problems that stand in the way of transforming society, and I learned that there are actions that I can take in my own life to promote a world in which all people have the opportunity to live in dignity.”

The mission of the 8th Day Center for Justice is twofold ... systemic change and direct service. Both are needed in order to create a more just and sustainable future. The Urban Plunge is an experience that provides first hand information into societal problems and the systematic changes that must occur.

The second Quest opportunity was a service experience in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where volunteers worked through Catholic Charities’ Rebuild Project, a program devoted to helping Cedar Rapids residents rebuild their homes and their lives following last year’s devastating floods.

The experience was designed to allow a volunteer the opportunity to choose the number of days to work rather than be committed to serve an entire week. Nine women from the Dubuque and Charles City areas volunteered their time painting walls, cementing a basement floor, tearing out linoleum in a kitchen and painting the exterior of a house. Before beginning each day, words from Sister Raphael Consedine’s book *Fire on the Earth* were used to focus the work at hand and remind the volunteers of the diligence and perseverance of Nano Nagle in her work with those in need.

A tour of the city was provided one day to show the widespread effects of the raging waters. Many volunteers were amazed at all the work yet to be done.

“As we come upon the one year anniversary of the devastating floods, I am astonished that there is still so much work to be done,” reflects Karla Berns, Presentation associate and Quest participant. “I was fortunate to spend a day helping restore a home. Although my one day of working seemed so small in the larger scheme of things, I was enriched with the experience of giving and doing for others. By the end of the day of scraping paint and repainting the walls and floors of the basement, I was physically drained but recharged and enriched by the people I met and whom I served.”

The Presentation Quest immersion and service opportunities are directed to engage and heighten the awareness of the needs not only abroad and around the country, but also within our own backyard!



PRESENTATION QUEST

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

October 3, 2009

Iowa’s Adopt-A-Highway project

Help keep the earth free from litter by volunteering time and energy walking two miles west of Dubuque on Highway 20. Families are encouraged to participate.

November 20-22, 2009

Fort Benning, Georgia

Protest the S.O.A. (School of the Americas/ W.H.I.N.S.E.C. - Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) and help change oppressive U.S. foreign policy that institutions like the S.O.A. represent. Volunteers will participate in a nonviolent grassroots movement that works through creative protest and resistance, legislative and media work to stand in solidarity with the people of Latin America. \$30 per person covers transportation and housing.

November 22-26, 2009

Okolona, Mississippi

Help in the EXCEL Program and resale store that encourages the dreams of every child and fosters the self-esteem of every adult struggling to learn. Participants will assist in educational tutoring for an after school learning program or as guides in the computer lab. Sorting donated items at the resale store for low-income families will also be needed. \$100 per person covers transportation, food and housing.

For more information, contact:

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A woman detained during the Postville raid and later released to care for her children, wears a GPS ankle bracelet.

Cruzando fronteras

Crossing Borders

by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

Immigration is a polarizing, divisive issue that does not lend itself to simple solutions.

On May 12, 2009, in Postville, Iowa, as a woman pushed a baby stroller during the peaceful, prayerful walk of over 700 people from St. Bridget's Church to Agriprocessor, Inc., tears rolled down her face. The ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raid at the packing plant, just one year before, was still fresh in her mind but the woman assured Sister Mary McCauley, BVM, (pastoral administrator at the time of the raid) that these were not tears of sorrow, rather tears of joy and gratefulness. The quiet prayer at church, the sharing of testimonies of two victims, the words of faith leaders and all of the folks walking were gift to her. "I didn't know so many people cared," she said.

Don't we all desire to belong – feel at home, accepted, loved? It is so unsettling to be the one who is different, new and unconnected. At some time each of us has been the "outsider" and, for the most part, it isn't pleasant.

Immigration is a polarizing, divisive issue that does not lend itself to simple solutions. Law enforcement officers have to fulfill their responsibilities, social workers look out for the safety and needs of the children, teachers strive to develop the potential of each child in their classes, the unemployed citizen is disheartened because she cannot find work, the dairy farmer needs workers, the service industry managers seek reliable staff and many immigrants desperately risk it all to provide for their families. There are differing sides to the immigration issue.

Committed to "listening to the cry of Earth heard most loudly in the cry of those made poor," (2007 Presentation Chapter commitment) Dubuque Presentation sisters, associates and friends gathered in groups this past spring to learn and reflect upon the multifaceted challenges of immigration. Having read articles on the history, myths, the economic roots and the global phenomenon of immigration, it was time to "step into the shoes" of not only the immigrants but also those who interface with them – our neighbors. Education for Justice, www.educationforjustice.org, provided a resource for role-playing that allowed participants to identify with and experience a point of view that was, perhaps, not the one they personally held.

At their meeting each group chose an action that led individuals to deeper realizations of the complexities of the immigration system, the fear of the immigrants, the causes for the need to immigrate and the realization that while some immigrants have broken the law because they have not followed the rules of immigration, in reality the immigration system itself is broken.

Following through on a commitment to personally visit with an immigrant some found themselves confronting their own fears of not understanding another language, of being open to a reality different from one's own and of getting involved in the unknown, complicated territory of morality and legality.

Other groups, gathering to share a meal with immigrants, realized the great pain of the decision to leave one's family, home and friends for another country – a decision often finalized after failing at other efforts to feed their children, care for a sick family member or build a better future. For most the journey to the United States was fraught with dangers.

Stories and further reading by the groups confirmed that fear was not left behind upon crossing the imaginary line called a border. The ICE raid in Postville had reinforced the felt sense that one does not "belong." The raid, with the detention of 389 workers, put Iowa in the national and international news, intensified the fear of immigrants without the proper documentation, divided families, traumatized children and caused havoc for all those living in an Iowa community.

After "listening to the cries of those made poor," one group questioned, "Is this the best we can do?"

To attend to the cries, group participants have made a variety of commitments: to change their own heart and attitudes in dealing with their own daily prejudices, to educate themselves, to keep informed on legislative actions, to write to political leaders, to enter into dialog with persons who have opinions and questions that differ from their own and to pray.

One sister finds herself pondering what Mary and Joseph must have experienced as they prepared themselves to emigrate from their home and go to Egypt when the life of their baby, Jesus, was threatened. What would it have been like to leave family and friends and enter a land that conjured up memories of slavery and oppression? Like many immigrants today, Mary and Joseph, for the sake of their child, risked the journey.

CALL TO ACTION

Resources for learning more about immigration issues, legislation and action steps

www.interfaithimmigration.org

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform that reflects our mandate to welcome the stranger and treat all human beings with dignity and respect.

Start planning now for August, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's Month of Action for Immigration Reform – planning resources are available on their web site.

www.networklobby.org

NETWORK – a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace that educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation. NETWORK envisions and works for a more humane world, one of justice and care for the common good. They act in solidarity with justice activists throughout the global community.

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope
This web site provides tools and information for diocesan and community-based organizing, education and advocacy efforts.

www.immigrationforum.org

Established in 1982, the National Immigration Forum is the leading immigrant advocacy organization in the country with a mission to advocate for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation. The Forum uses its communications, advocacy and policy expertise to create a vision, consensus and strategy that leads to a better, more welcoming America – one that treats all newcomers fairly.

Go to www.dubuquepresentations.org and click on **Peace and Justice** to learn more about Dubuque Presentation sisters and their peace and justice involvement.

My greatest passion is to let others know that no matter where they are in their faith development, I am here for them and that they are always welcome. The gift I can give them is to assure them that they are accepted and loved. They have helped me learn so much about sensitivity to immigrants.

Sister Cheryl Demmer

Sister Cheryl Demmer embraces two immigrant children as they stand in line for their First Confession.



Hospitality: the Foundation for Ministry *with* Immigrants

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

The Sisters of the Presentation came to Iowa in 1874 to teach the children of Irish immigrants. For over 135 years, the sisters have welcomed and been enriched by other immigrants and refugees to this country – from Mexico, Vietnam and Laos, to name a few. Today, Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates connect with people from nearly every continent.

Hospitality at Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, Iowa

A place of hospitality where people connect, Presentation Lantern Center, has completed six years of service in the Dubuque community and in that time has welcomed visitors from 38 countries. This drop-in center, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, offers hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy for women and their children.



“The Presentation Lantern Center is a place where diversity happens,” states **Sister Corine Murray**, executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center. “Here people experience diversity at the table, around the stove, during tutoring sessions and during breaks. As tutors and visitors interact, they form a partnership of learning in which they share the richness of their homelands and the hospitality of one another.”

Joining Sister Corine and her administrative assistant, Helen Cox, nine senior sisters, many other retired teachers, active teachers, college students and good neighbors volunteer to tutor visitors in English language study. Other sisters serve on the board of trustees and the congregation and its associates support this ministry in a great variety of ways.

The Hub of Hispanic Ministry in Dubuque, Iowa

For 11 years **Sister Jeanette McCarthy** has been the director of Hispanic ministry at St. Patrick Parish in Dubuque. Sister meets with Hispanic families and plans activities that allow the community to retain its rich culture and worship in its native language. Sister Jeanette also helps them address issues of poverty, employment and housing and assists with necessary paperwork. She describes the center as a hub for the Dubuque Hispanic community.



“There is a great need to pass legislation for immigration reform so that all the immigrants who are here can apply for a work permit or some other legal way to spend time here, perhaps five years, and then, possibly, some way to apply for legal permanent residency, and/or, later, for U.S. citizenship,” remarks Sister Jeanette who has been at the forefront of such issues as English as a Second Language, the plight of undocumented workers and immigration.

Hispanic Outreach in Mason City and Hampton, Iowa

Sister Carmen Hernandez is the Hispanic outreach coordinator for Mercy Medical Center of North Iowa in Mason City, Iowa, since May 2008. Sister works at a residency clinic for people with limited financial resources, directing them to special services such as Rural Outreach, a short-term financial assistance program, and the Medication Assistance Program, a long-term financial medication assistance program.



As she works to become more fluent in Spanish, Sister Carmen says, “I look forward to making home visits with clients who come to the outreach clinic in Hampton so that I can build relationships with them and provide follow-up to see how things are going and what needs are still unmet.”

Bi-Lingual Programs in Muscatine and Columbus Junction, Iowa

Sister Cheryl Demmer is director of faith formation for the Muscatine, Iowa, Catholic parish cluster of Ss. Mary and Mathias and its mission of Guadalupe and for St. Joseph Parish in Columbus Junction, Iowa. Included in her ministry is work with the Hispanic community in religious education and sacramental preparation for children and some adults. She coordinates an English program and a Spanish program for children and has developed a Reconciliation parent handbook in both English and Spanish.



“My greatest passion is to let others know that no matter where they are in their faith development, I am here for them and that they are always welcome,” states Sister Cheryl. “The gift I can give them is to assure them that they are accepted and loved. They have helped me learn so much about sensitivity to immigrants.”

Welcoming Presence in Wahneta, Florida

“We try to be a ‘welcoming’ presence, and the people know that they are safe here,” states **Sister Paula Schwendinger**, who has been pastoral assistant at Guadalupe Mission in Wahneta, Florida, for the past 20 years. This pastoral center also provides space for other agencies and programs to serve the people, including teaching English, a Spanish-speaking Alcoholics Anonymous group and free dental and legal services.



A legal service group approached the pastoral staff at Guadalupe Mission in the spring of 2008. Notaries and lawyers came one evening to help people with the difficult tasks of filling out forms and creating a plan for leaving their children in case both father and mother would ever be deported and the children born in the U.S. wanted to stay.

“I have found Christ in the faces, the challenges and the struggles of the immigrant people, and I know that I have received far more from them than I could possibly give,” states Sister Paula. “How they can be joyful and accepting of others, even those who persecute and belittle them, is amazing to me. I feel blessed to be here.”

Care and Compassion in Weslaco, Texas

At the Aurora House in Weslaco, Texas, **Sister Therese Corkery** is a caregiver to the terminally ill. She spends much of her time visiting and praying with the residents and their families, giving medications according to their plan of care as ordered by the Hospice nurse, getting meals, feeding those residents who are still able to eat, repositioning them in bed and washing their clothes.



“Our ministry is to be the hands, feet and mouths of our residents,” says Sister Therese. “Surrounding the residents with love and support is so important, as well as giving that support to the family during their time of need.”

While Aurora House does not distinguish whether people are immigrants or not, some may be. “A lot of them are Spanish-speaking only but that doesn’t necessarily mean they are immigrants,” she states. “Many of our people here say the border crossed them; they didn’t cross the border – meaning that their families were established here when this area belonged to Mexico.”

How Big is Your Footprint?

Take Action *to* Reduction

Everyone has a responsibility to the world we live in now and the world we leave future generations.

by JANE BUSE

Footprints are the result of many individual choices as well as the activities and policies of government, corporations and civic institutions. There are numerous ways you can reduce your footprint, improve your quality of life and influence policy so that future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy rich and rewarding lives.

When you take action and commit to reduce your own footprint, you inspire and engage others to do the same.



SISTER JOELLEN PRICE

To reduce my carbon footprint, I started cooking and baking from scratch in larger amounts. My initial plan was to use less packaging this year and as a result, I rekindled an old hobby of cooking, now with new challenges.

STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Use less pre-packaged foods which results in less trips for fast food, less processed food and healthier eating.
- Use a thermos for drinking water.
- Use cloth napkins and cloth bags.



SISTER ST. JAMES LICKTEIG

I am often reminded that my parents were very careful about what they purchased and how they used items until they would have only "rag" value. Even then we could use the rags. My, how we have changed and how we need to rediscover this careful consuming attitude.



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Read files on the computer and store them in a digital format for future reference rather than print them.
- Don't use the heater in my bedroom during the winter months.
- Do all of my shopping in one trip to save gas and wear on the car.
- Recycle anything that I can.
- Do laundry once a week and dry many of my clothes on a small wooden rack and hangers.
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs and only of the necessary wattage.

In July 2008, the Sisters of the Presentation and their associates made a commitment to audit their carbon footprints and reduce it over five years by 25 percent. All of our actions have a direct or indirect impact on our carbon and ecological footprint and contribute to the accelerating global warming and climate change. Effects of climate change can be seen now, which means we need to act now.

The Sisters of the Presentation encourage everyone to be aware of their energy usage and its effects and take steps to reduce your footprint. Given that we all contribute to the problem, we should all contribute to a solution. In the pages below and those following are examples and testimonials of the efforts being made to reach that goal and work towards sustainability.



what are footprints?

What is your CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Your carbon footprint is the direct effect your actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide emissions. Probably the biggest contributors to your carbon footprint are your travel needs and your electricity demands at home.

What is ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT?

Ecological footprint is a resource tool that measures how much nature we have, how much we use and who uses what. It demonstrates how our individual behavior influences the impact we make on the environment.

Using tools like the ecological footprint to manage our ecological assets is essential for humanity's survival and success. Since the mid 1980s, humanity has been in **ecological overshoot**, which is a vastly underestimated threat to human well-being and the health of the planet, and one that is not adequately addressed.

By measuring the footprint of a population – an individual, city, business, nation or all of humanity – we can assess our pressure on the planet, which helps us manage our ecological assets more wisely and take personal and collective action in support of a world where humanity lives within the Earth's bounds. Knowing how much nature we have, how much we use, and who uses what is the first step and ensures that we can identify the best long term solutions and that our solutions truly make a difference.



SISTER RAELEEN SWEENEY & SISTER VIRGIE LUCHSINGER, SFCC, ASSOCIATE

As children, teenagers and young adults, respect for the earth and environment was a major part of our lives. We did not waste water, we recycled paper, we turned on lights only when needed, we car-pooled, and the list goes on. We are doing the same today only it has the title of footprints. It's wonderful that everyone is being reminded to be conscientious; however, don't forget that anyone over 50 or 60 has "been there, done that." This is nothing new. It's just different!



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Use public transportation or hybrid buses or walk.
- Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Combine errands for ourselves and some widows in our building.
- Share clothing and items with the Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop services.
- Only purchase newspapers on Sunday; during the week we read the news online.
- Use businesses that recycle and provide environmentally-friendly products such as Apple, Staples, etc.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.

footprint calculators

What does it take to support your lifestyle? Take any of the following quizzes to find out your carbon and ecological footprint, discover your biggest areas of resource consumption and learn what you can do to tread more lightly on the earth.

- www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/
- www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx
- www.earthlab.com/createprofile/reg.aspx
- www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/



SISTER SHEILA KANE

Growing up in a gentler, simpler time, I think we had a greater appreciation for the Earth and the environment. My dad was always concerned about wasting electricity. In the evening when he came home from work, he would say, "This place is lit up like a HIGH MASS!" Looking back, my mother would always write letters inside cards that she received from different missionary groups. How was that for recycling!



Because we are now living in such an affluent society, we have become somewhat indifferent about our stewardship of the earth. In my effort to reduce my carbon footprint, I realize I have taken the earth so much for granted. Reducing my footprint has made me aware of my responsibility to "walk gently on the earth."

STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Make sure I have a full load of clothes before running the washer. Use cold water.
- Shop with more discretion, distinguish between wants and needs.
- Use all space on a piece of paper before recycling.



KARLA BERNS

The purchase of my new car has reduced my use of fuel by half of what I was previously using. I now get 38-50 mpg compared to 19-25 mpg on my old vehicle. Purchasing a car that lowers carbon emissions, preventing pollution and using up less of our natural resources makes me feel like I'm doing my part to conserve the earth. Not to mention, I am saving money by spending less on fuel.



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Purchased a 2009 Honda Civic Hybrid.

what is ecological overshoot?

Just like any company, nature has a budget – it can only produce so many resources and absorb so much waste every year. The problem is, our demand for nature's services is exceeding what it can provide.

Today humanity uses the equivalent of 1.3 planets to provide the resources we use and absorb our waste. This means it now takes the Earth one year and three months to regenerate what humanity is using in one year. This problem – using resources faster than they can regenerate and creating waste faster than it can be absorbed – is called ecological overshoot.

We currently maintain this overshoot by liquidating the planet's natural resources. For example we can cut trees faster than they re-grow, and catch fish at a rate faster than they repopulate. While this can be done for a short time, overshoot ultimately leads to the depletion of resources on which our economy depends.

In fact, overshoot is at the root of the most pressing environmental problems we face today: climate change, declining biodiversity, shrinking forests, collapsing fisheries and several of the factors contributing to soaring world food prices.

Moderate UN scenarios suggest that if current population and consumption trends continue, by the mid 2030s we will need the equivalent of two Earths to support us. And of course, we only have one.

Whether we are deciding which **carbon offsets** are the most effective or which energy sources will lead us into the future, the ecological footprint tells us whether our solutions lead us out of overshoot and toward one planet living.



BERNADETTE GRAVES, ASSOCIATE

I'm not doing anything extraordinary but I believe I am making a difference. One of the challenges is the continual decision: "Am I going to be green?" or "Am I going to be lazy?" Taking a stand and making my voice heard by leadership at church, work, businesses and the government are challenging for me. It is rewarding to have people notice the actions I have been taking, raising their awareness by my example. It feels good to be in sync with the Spirit using the mantra of reduce, reuse, recycle.



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Built and planted a raised garden.
- Purchased two power strips in order to completely turn off my TV, stereo, computer, printer, etc when I am at work, asleep or out of town.
- Signed up for a free programmable thermostat through the utility company which has already used 43 less CCFs.
- Attended two eco-spirituality workshops to learn more about the discipleship of caring for God's creation and how to form a parish "green team."
- Working on using my car less.

what are carbon offsets?

Carbon offsets are becoming an increasingly popular way for individuals and businesses to participate in solutions to global warming. The basic idea of a carbon offset is to figure out your personal contribution level (carbon footprint) to the global warming problem from such activities as driving, flying or home energy use. You can balance out your carbon footprint by buying carbon offsets. Your purchase funds reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through projects such as wind farms, which produce clean energy that displaces energy from fossil fuels. By funding these reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, you balance out, or offset, your own impact by an equivalent amount. Carbon offsets help you take personal responsibility for the environmental consequences of your activities.



helpful "green" tips

Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Use cleaner transport

- Walk, bike or take public transit when possible.
- Avoid allowing your car to idle. If you'll be waiting for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine (except in traffic). Don't take the drive-through – park the car and walk inside instead.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to keep the emission control systems operating at peak efficiency. Check your car's air filter monthly, and keep the tires adequately inflated to maximize gas mileage.
- Avoid short airplane trips – take a bus or train.

Add energy-saving features to your home

- Install compact fluorescent bulbs in all your home light fixtures but remember to look for low-mercury models and dispose of old bulbs safely.
- Weatherproof your home. Make sure your walls and ceilings are insulated, and consider double-pane windows. Eliminate drafts with caulking, weather strips and storm windows and doors.
- Insulate your water heater. Even better, switch to a tankless water heater, so your water will be heated only as you use it.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances.

Adopt energy-saving habits

- Keep thermostat relatively low in winter and ease up on the air conditioning in summer.
- Clean or replace dirty air conditioner filters.
- Unplug your electronics when not in use.
- Dry your clothes outside whenever possible.
- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer regularly.
- Choose green electricity. Many utilities give you the option to purchase electricity generated by wind and solar power for a small rate surcharge.
- Purchase carbon offsets to make up for the energy use you can't eliminate.



helpful “green” tips

Reduce your Housing Footprint

Choose sustainable building materials, furnishings and cleaning products.

- Explore green design features for your building.
- Choose efficient appliances, including low flow shower heads, faucets and toilets.
- Choose furnishings that are second-hand, recycled, or sustainably produced.
- Plant drought tolerant plants in your yard.
- Use biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning products.

Adopt water-saving habits

- Take shorter, less frequent showers – saves water and the energy necessary to heat it.
- Don't use the garbage disposal. Compost instead.
- Run the dishwasher and the laundry machine only when full.
- Wash cars rarely, or better yet, take them to a carwash. Commercial carwashes use less water per wash than home washers, and they are also required to drain used water into the sewage system, rather than storm drains, which protects aquatic life.
- Avoid hosing down or power-washing your deck, walkways or driveway.
- Regularly look for and fix leaks.

Reduce your Food Footprint

- Eat more local, organic, in-season foods.
- Plant a garden.
- Shop at your local farmers market or natural foods store. Look for local, in-season foods that haven't traveled long distances to reach you.
- Choose foods with less packaging.
- Eat lower on the food chain – going meatless for just one meal a week can make a difference. Globally, it has been estimated that 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions are associated with meat consumption.



SISTER MARY LOU SPECHA

Doing the simple things in my personal life, using high energy light bulbs, recycling, keeping my thermostat at a constant temperature and other simple gestures aren't new to me. What I have found myself doing in New Orleans is inviting others to join in the efforts to take care of our Earth.



Below are examples of a good attempt to conserve but it is really important to advocate for the larger issues in our society: the use of renewable energy, promote “green” spaces and changing lifestyles to promote a better care and concern for our planet. We must bring our concerns to our work place, our local neighborhoods and our church communities to invite a larger population to address this very important issue.

STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Enrolled to pay bills online.
- With living at a distance from community and family, I book on non-stop flights when possible.
- At my ministry, Café Reconcile, recycling was non-existent. A local recycling center was built in the neighborhood and we are now recycling and composting.
- Collaborated with a local non-profit organization to create a local community garden.



LINDA DOLPHIN, ASSOCIATE

The Sisters of the Presentation have been an inspiring presence in my life for 53 years. They have a global vision which includes concern for environmental issues. Little by little I'm becoming more aware of things I can do to make at least a small difference.



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Turn off lights in each room.
- Turn off computer between uses.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth.
- Use fans to circulate warm/cool air.
- Pull drapes to keep house cool.
- Consolidate errands to fewer trips.



SISTER DOLORES MOES

By reducing my carbon footprint I realize I am more conscious of how I am changing for the better with still more to learn. It takes patience and commitment to keep recycling in the forefront of our minds – to pick up a piece of paper on the floor and find a recycling bin, to stop the water from running needlessly, to shut off the TV when I am not really watching it, to only use lights when needed. As this virtue is practiced I am aware that I am helping save our Earth for this generation and the next.



STEPS TOWARDS REDUCTION

- Group shopping to save on gas.
- Watch TV shows or movies as a group to eliminate the number of TVs running.
- Drink and eat everything on my plate to eliminate waste.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper for computer prints out, etc.



helpful “green” tips

Reduce your Goods and Services Footprint

- Buy less! Replace items only when needed.
- Recycle paper, glass, aluminum and plastic.
- Don't forget to recycle electronics too!
- Compost food waste for the garden. Garbage that is not contaminated with degradable waste can be more easily recycled and sorted, and doesn't produce methane gases when stored in a landfill.
- Buy recycled products, particularly those labeled “post-consumer waste.”

Web site sources cited in article: Plant a Tree Today <<http://w.plant-a-tree-today.org>>; Global Footprint Network <<http://www.footprintnetwork.org>>; Refining Progress: The Nature of Economics <<http://www.myfootprint.org>>

Tried & True: Homemade Cleaning Supplies



Sheila Anton, director of housekeeping for the Sisters of the Presentation, works diligently at finding “green” cleaning solutions in response to the sisters' commitment to the environment.

“By continuously researching eco-friendly web sites and brainstorming with other

organizations, housekeeping has made great strides in becoming environmentally safe for both sisters and staff while cutting costs,” states Sheila. “Using hydrogen peroxide for cleaning is practical, non-toxic and cheap. Better yet, it is anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-mold and anti-mildew.”

SHOWERS, TUBS & SINKS

- 1 cup hydrogen peroxide
- 1 tsp Dawn dish soap

Put in a spray bottle. Let it set for a minute after you spray it on so it can do its job. This solution is also great for removing spots on carpet and clothes.

WINDOWS & FLOORS

- 1/8 cup hydrogen peroxide
- 1/2 gal water

Change the water when it starts to get dirty to prevent windows from getting filmy.

When you buy hydrogen peroxide, you are buying peroxide of a particular grade and at a particular concentration. All the peroxide you are likely to see is a low concentration of 3%, which you can use at full strength or diluted depending on its use.

For more information on the wonders of hydrogen peroxide, visit www.using-hydrogen-peroxide.com.

Remembering Waukon

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

To recount the history of Saint Patrick's School is to also recount the history of the Presentation sisters in Waukon, Iowa, and indeed of Catholic education in Allamakee County. The five sisters who came in 1883 to serve the Irish immigrants in northeast Iowa were members of an Irish community which had, only nine years earlier, made its first establishment in Iowa.

When the Reverend John Hawe directed the building of a combination convent and school, some practical-minded parishioners had doubts about the viability of a Catholic school. However, the newly-arrived sisters found nearly every Catholic child in Waukon enrolled for the first day of class.

Sisters Mary Presentation Griffin, Alocoque Murray and Ignatius Sheehan conducted the academic program in grades one through eight, while Sister Mary Stanislaus Dillon handled the music and Sister Mary Teresa Downey assumed domestic duties. Over the next 10 years the program and the enrollment grew: all 12 grades were attempted but because the building became too crowded, the program shrank to 10 grades and remained at that size until 1939.

By 1893 more space was needed for the growing population of boarders and day students. A new wing doubled the size of the building and was soon filled to capacity. In 1936 the wing was removed and the original structure was completely remodeled to serve as a convent only. A new building was constructed which



would house the grade and high school, parish hall, kitchen and gymnasium for the next 20 years. The first four-year high school graduating class celebrated its commencement in 1941.

More remodeling in 1956 transformed the parish hall and kitchen into classrooms and a kitchenette. The church basement was redone to accommodate parish gatherings, the school lunch program and, in 1959, one classroom. A second classroom building, opened in 1961, housed kindergarten through grade six. The year 1965 saw the construction of a new convent and the razing of the original building.

Diminishing enrollment caused the closing of the high school in 1970. Today, preschool through grade six share the two classroom buildings with other parish and community groups.

Over the years a warm relationship between the Sisters of the Presentation and the people of Allamakee County has been mutually beneficial. The sisters have given generously and lovingly of their resources, both academically and spiritually, through the operation of the school, the conducting of CCD classes, in parish and liturgical ministry, and most recently, in donating over \$2900 from their garage sale proceeds towards Student Tuition Assistance at St. Patrick's School. They have, in turn, received abundantly.

Thirty-four women from the Waukon area have lived and died as members of the Presentation community: Sisters Mary Genette Bakewell, Clement Bird, Canice Byrnes, Helen Cassidy, Redempta Collins, Thomas Collins, dePazzi Curtin, Monica Curtin, Mercedes

Deeney, Oliver Dixon, Coletta Donahue, Loretta Donahue, Winifred Donahue, Dominic Dougherty, Imelda Dougherty, Berchmans Flanagan, Eulalia Gavin, Agnes Griffin, Adorine Hitchins, Alicia Howley, Cyrilla Kernan, Michael Laughlin, Laurayne Mahoney, Elizabeth Maroney, Juliana McCormick, Martin McCormick, John McGeough, Elise O'Malley, Constance Quillin, Cornelia Regan, Justine Smith, Honora Sullivan, Henrietta Teff and Aquin Walsh.

Living members of the community who claim Allamakee County as home number 15. Sisters Kay Cota, Lou Cota, Suzanne Gallagher, Marilou Irons, Carolyn "Carrie" Link, Maura McCarthy, Anne McCormick, Francine Quillin, Raeleen Sweeney and Leanne Welch still serve the Church in the active apostolate. Roberta Burke, Therese Marie Hawes, Dorothy McCormick, Louis McCormick and Bernard Mauss serve as praying members of the retirement group.

The last Presentation Sister to serve at St. Patrick's was Sister Margaret Anne Kramer who served as teacher, principal, director of religious education and pastoral associate during her 15 years at St. Patrick's. She left Waukon in the spring of 2000.

Con Mucho Gusto With Much Delight

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

It was "with much delight" that Sisters Marge Healy and Jennifer Rausch traveled to Bolivia in April 2009. What a wonderful experience to gather with Presentation Bolivian missionaries to pray in the spirit of Nano, to envision the direction of future ministry in O'Connor Province and to celebrate the beauty and giftedness of the people of Bolivia. The vocal languages of the Bolivians range from Spanish to Quechua to Guaraní, a total of 36 living languages. The language of their hearts spoke of the primary place of family in their lives and a wonderful love of and appreciation for the Presentation sisters.



Presentation sisters ministering in Bolivia are: left to right: (front) Sisters Mery Cary Paz, Rita Menart, (back) Julianne Brockamp, Maura McCarthy, and Suzanne Takes.

Another language spoken was that of music. The youth of San Luis Parish in Entre Ríos provided enthusiastic vocal music and spirited guitar accompaniment for Holy Week services. A birthday gathering for young people was punctuated with the lively strumming of guitars and the staccato beat of drums. With such enticing music, the only response was a charming dance.



Young musicians from the village of Potreritos consult with Sister Julianne as they prepare for their community's Palm Sunday service.

And the laughter of children is a universal language. Peals of delight echoed from children playing in the streets of Entre Ríos. A soccer game reverberated with a mixture of laughter and squeals of triumph for a well-placed kick. Giggles reflected across the surface of the Picomayo River as children played in its ripples tinted red with the Bolivian soil.

Vocal languages may vary ...
the languages of friendship,
music and laughter are
universal.



The experience of Sister Jennifer blowing bubbles with the children was met initially with eye-popping wonderment and soon followed by delightful laughter.



Midwest Associates Meet in Sinsinawa

Radical Gospel Living

by KARLA BERNES, ASSOCIATE



Presentation sisters and associates participate in the 8th Bi-annual Gathering of Midwest Associates and Religious.

On April 25, 2009, over 250 associates, sisters and brothers from 13 different religious congregations based in the Midwest gathered at Sinsinawa Mound in Wisconsin, for a day of reflection on "Radical Gospel Living" with Father Joseph Nangle, OFM. It was the 8th Bi-annual Gathering of Midwest Associates and Religious.

Co-author of *Francis and the Foolishness of God*, Father Nangle spent 15 years ministering in South America immersed in liberation theology before embarking on a career working for peace and justice, primarily in the Washington D.C. area. He and his co-authors founded Assisi Community in D.C., a mixed community of men and women, religious and lay, adults and children, dedicated to simple living and working for social change based on gospel living.

"Life calls us to be people of radical gospel living," said Father Nangle. "Consumerism, economic disparity, racism, etc., create a breeding ground for apathy and hatred. We are both called and given the grace to live and act in hope and compassion," he comments as he led the exploration of what it means to live and be the good news in the day-to-day world in which the laity exist. "The laity," he continues, "are on the cutting edge of bringing the gospel message – loving tenderly, acting justly and walking humbly with God – to all people. Vowed religious, sisters and

As associates of the Sisters of the Presentation, we recalled the rich heritage of the sisters who were called to offer hospitality, serve the poor and continue the commitment of education. The gathering helped us to remember that we are to bring the gospel to whomever we touch, at work, at church or in our social circles.

Associates Ron and Donna Weaver

brothers, know how to 'do' community," he added, noting that they bring this gift to the ongoing renewal of church.

Father emphasized that it is easy to love but much harder to act justly; that it is not enough to just love – it must be accompanied by the minimum expression of justice. He states, "Justice asks the disturbing and difficult questions like why are we losing a whole generation of Afro-American men? Why such a high prison population? Why is there an increase in billionaires and an increase in poverty? Why is there hunger and famine when here food is over-consumed? We need a spirituality to act justly in responding to these."

Presentation Associates Harry and Mary Irene Stanton were inspired by Father Nangle's great social justice thoughts and his whole lifestyle. They state, "The whole weekend was wonderful. The Midwest Associate Gathering and the superb hospitality at Mount Loretto were both very uplifting."

"The opening prayer introduced us to many religious congregations. As persons from each community carried a symbol of their order forward, we realized the many who have brought Christ to people throughout the Midwest," state Ron and Donna Weaver. "As associates of the Sisters of the Presentation, we recalled the rich heritage of the sisters who were called to offer hospitality, serve the poor and continue the commitment of education. The gathering helped us to remember that we are to bring the gospel to whomever we touch, at work, at church or in our social circles."

Sister Joan Brincks and Associate Ron Weaver represented the Sisters of the Presentation and associates by carrying in the lighted lantern during the opening prayer ritual. Others in attendance were, Sisters René Laubenthal, Dolores Moes, Ann Jackson, Lynn Mary Wagner and associates Donna Weaver, Harry and Mary Irene Stanton, Jane Nagy, Deb Jasper, Betty Allen, Helen Thielen, Karen Freiburger, Janet Leonard, Sandy Kahle, Marilynn Jacobs and Karla Bernes.

Recycling with a History and Purpose

by KARLA BERNES, ASSOCIATE

In their fifth year of organizing and conducting an annual garage sale, the Sisters of the Presentation and their associates have become extremely good at it. Each spring, a call goes out to the sisters, their associates, employees and friends to bring gently used items of all kinds to Mount Loretto for an April sale in conjunction with the Dubuque city-wide garage sales. All of the proceeds help fund the ministries of the sisters. This year, it was decided that the sale be held for two consecutive weekends to correspond with the Dubuque and Asbury city-wide sales.

Below is a history of the sales and the ministries that were funded each of the past five years:

Year 2005 - \$3,420 collected to provide funding towards junior high and high school education for teens in Naurenda, Bolivia.

Year 2006 - \$5,700 collected for the following Presentation ministries: Lantern Light in New Orleans, Louisiana; mission in Bolivia and the migrant ministry in Florida.

Year 2007 - \$9,317 collected for the Mount Loretto Mission Room (funds used to ship clothing to various missions around the United States); St. James Food Pantry in Chicago, Illinois and the EXCEL Program in Okolona, Mississippi.

Year 2008 - \$13,200 collected for the Aurora House Foundation in Weslaco, Texas; the Teresa Shelter in Dubuque, Iowa and Student Tuition Assistance to support Catholic education at Holy Family Schools in Dubuque.

Year 2009 - \$14,770 collected for the Mount Loretto Mission Room; the Postville immigration needs; the Cedar Rapids flood victims; the Dubuque Food Pantry and Student Tuition Assistance to support Catholic education at St. Patrick's School in Waukon, Iowa.

The sisters are especially grateful to all who contributed items, helped unpack, sort and organize items; directed traffic; made signs; encouraged customers to buy the items and shared hospitality with all. The bake sale, too, was a tremendous success and we appreciate the wonderful donations to that department. We heard some of the shoppers say, "This is the sale of the year to attend. Everything is so organized and it is so nice inside when the weather is wet and cold outside." Some people returned several times during the six-day event and some were disappointed when an item was sold that they had their eye on purchasing. Many said, "We will be back next year." Yes, we will be back next year with an even bigger and better sale.



Sister Lynn Marie Fangman with a happy customer!

Something for everyone!



Sister Carmen Hernandez and Associate Deb McClimon take five.

Interning at the United Nations

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM



Early in March 2009, the United Nations Commission on Social Development held its annual meeting in New York City. This commission is directed toward ending poverty, gaining full employment for all and the fostering of social integration. One of the distinctive moments of the commission for me happened during a panel on social inclusivity. On the stage were several international dignitaries and one native New Yorker named Eugene. Eugene happens to be a man who is homeless. He was representing an organization that is building a small business for collecting soda pop cans for recycling. Through the wise leadership of a Carmelite sister, this business has been established to provide both work and income to a community of homeless women and men in New York City. As Eugene described the process of creating the business, he told a story about the board of directors of the group. This organization has relied on the involvement of experienced business persons to help it get going. When someone asked one of the members of the proposed board if he thought the people doing the work of collecting and sorting the cans could be represented on the board, the businessman replied, "It ought to be 'the pillars of the community' who serve on the board, not the homeless." As Eugene told that story, I was reminded of how quickly society disregards the wisdom of someone who lives in poverty. Who are the real pillars of our communities? Is Eugene less a pillar for the fact that he has not had the opportunity to have a good education or to have a more traditional eight hour work schedule? Does his work experience count for less because it is not rooted in a more established lifestyle?

My year working as a Non-Governmental Organizational (NGO) Representative at the United Nations has been rich in opportunities to learn from those who are 'the pillars' of our Earth community. This begins with the committed women and men who are the NGO Representatives with whom I worked on various committees. While there are over 3000 NGOs registered in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

most of the committees in which I participated were made up of 40-50 persons. These NGOs study issues, write papers from both academic and experiential perspectives and visit with governmental representatives to remind them that governments have an obligation to care for the most vulnerable of our societies. During the 2007 International Presentation Association (IPA) meeting in India participants chose to address the root causes of poverty as the focus of their international work for justice. In our efforts to represent the IPA at the UN, Sister Fatima Rodrigo and I each chose to involve ourselves in committees that address issues of poverty from several perspectives. Sister Fatima participates in the committees that look toward development: financial, social, sustainability, poverty eradication. I was involved in work for girls and women, for indigenous persons, for migrants and for poverty eradication.

Besides the work that connected to our IPA issues, I found another set of "pillar people" in the wide diversity of conference participants who came for various proceedings at the UN. During the moving ceremony observing the genocide in Rwanda fifteen years ago, I wept as survivors told stories of living through the atrocities. When the actress Mira Sorvino spoke against the trafficking of persons I cheered with her at the efforts of those who work to eradicate this sin of humanity. I sat in awe and admiration as I listened to the stories of young women from India and Africa who risked everything from family rejection to homelessness in their quest to gain an education.

One of the more experienced NGO representatives often speaks of the patience it requires to work in the UN system. She describes it as watching water make an indentation in rock. The process is so slow and tedious that it can seem that nothing is being accomplished but after a long time it becomes obvious that something has changed. Negotiating change for the world's powerless: the hungry, refugees, victims of natural disasters or of wars will always be a challenge. While I observed that the system of the United Nations has its imperfections, I understand better than ever that as members of Earth's human community our only possible future is in the struggle to unite in bringing justice to all. It was my honor to learn from participating in a very small way in this effort.

Above photo: Dubuque Presentation, Sister Joy Peterson, Sister Carmel Clancy, PBVM, from England, and Sister Fatima Rodrigo, PBVM, from India. Left photo: Sister Joy Peterson, right, makes a statement on behalf of the International Presentation Association (IPA) during the Commission on Social Development. With her is Sister Germaine Price, DC.



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Aberdeen Sisters Visit Dubuque

On May 12-15, seven Presentation sisters from Aberdeen, South Dakota, called Mount Loretto their temporary home. The agenda for their visit included "sister chats" around topics of immigration, "going green" and the future of religious life.



Vocation Scholarship Granted

Lizzie Guiliani was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Western Theological Union, an Illinois-based organization that supports continuing education within religious life. A representative presented Lizzie with the check.



Good Times at Café Reconcile

Judy Wallace, business manager, Sister Mary Lou Specha, executive director, and Shovanda, a recent graduate, share a moment of support during their work day at Café Reconcile in New Orleans. The cafe provides at-risk teens and young adults with the skills they need to succeed in jobs in the restaurant business.



Financial Stewardship Reviewed

Brother Michael W. O'Hern, FSC, from Christian Brothers Investment Services, Inc., and Sister Lynn Marie Fangman, community treasurer, pause after the annual meeting of the Hennessy Board of Trustees and the leadership team.

You are invited to join us.

September 6, 2009

Taize Prayer

7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

2360 Carter Road

Dubuque, Iowa

October 3, 2009

QUEST Service Opportunity

Dubuque, Iowa

Please pray with us.

July 16-18, 2009

Community Gathering

Sisters of the Presentation

2360 Carter Road

Dubuque, Iowa

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

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Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



On April 5, Sisters Mary Janet Goetz and Hermann Platt were honored with the Father Friedmann Award during the annual Gala at Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa. This award honors individuals who have dedicated years of service to Catholic education as exemplified by Father Cecil Friedmann. Sister Janet has been the registrar at Bishop Garrigan for the past 25 years. Her Garrigan roots spread deep as she was in the first graduating class of Bishop Garrigan High School. Sister Hermann is an Algona native who began serving as administrator at St. Cecelia Grade School in 1984 and is currently the curriculum director at Seton Grade School and media specialist at Bishop Garrigan.



In the 2009 Institute for Adult Spiritual Renewal at Loyola University in Chicago, Sister Kathleen Dolphin will speak about "Theological Perspectives on Evolution" on July 8. She will present an overview of the ongoing debate about evolution and invite discussion.



The Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America held their annual meeting at Mount Loretto in June. The membership of the conference is comprised of the leadership teams of the eight Presentation congregations in North America: St. John's, Newfoundland-Labrador; San Francisco, California; Aberdeen, South Dakota; Fargo, North Dakota; New Windsor, New York; Staten Island, New York; Union of Presentation Sisters, United States Province and Dubuque, Iowa. In true Presentation spirit, the group worked hard and played hard.