



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



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## Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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## Cover PHOTOS

*The doorways represented on the cover are  
snapshots of significant doors 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)  
in Dubuque in 1879; doorway of Sacred Heart  
Chapel at the current motherhouse; doorway of  
the former motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta  
Avenue 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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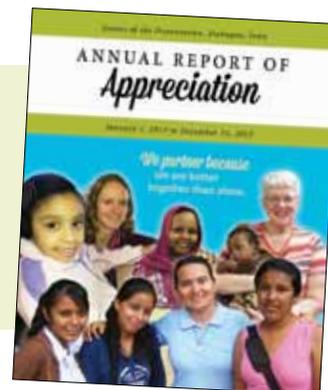


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### Annual Report of Appreciation

Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2013. Because of your generosity – even greater imaginations can be brought to reality. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



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## Cover PHOTO

Sisters Therese Corkery, Mery Cari Paz, Suzanne Takes and Marge Healy stand in the doorway of their new home in the city of Tarija, Bolivia, where young university students can come live, study and share community life with the sisters. The sisters hold a lantern that was left behind by the previous owners who, ironically, had no previous knowledge of the Presentation mission and Foundress Nano Nagle, "Lady of the Lantern."

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Excitement and gratitude fill the air. Do you feel it? In this issue of Presentation Doorways we include our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2013. Because of your generosity – sharing in the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation to reverence relationships, celebrate unity, engage contemplation and foster partnerships – you partner with our commitment to promote direct ministry with people made poor, facilitate education and advocacy on behalf of people without options and support sustainability and systemic change for the common good.

You help nurture new beginnings dwelling yet “in seed time” but sprouting energetic signs of growth. In New Orleans, Hotel Hope, a new vision to create an interfaith transitional residence for women, men and their children is taking shape. A new board has formed, Executive Director Sister Mary Lou Specha has secured a place, albeit in need of renovation. Action plans to provide a place where the family unit can remain together in a home-like atmosphere and experience the dignity, respect and love of God are in process.

Additionally, through your partnership with our Presentation Quest Program, people traumatized by Hurricane Katrina have been fed and accompanied on their long road to recovery. A school in Rockaways Place in the diocese of Brooklyn, devastated by a mammoth flood, was restored by Quest volunteers who sheet-rocked, painted, cleaned, landscaped and installed bathroom facilities in time for classes to resume. You assisted Sister Joellen Price in ongoing flood restoration efforts in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In partnership with you, our Presentation Quest Program has also been able to respond to the needs of children in Okolona, Mississippi, where Sister Jean Ann Meyer serves as director and teacher for children in the EXCEL program. Sister Jessi Beck, who teaches at our Lady of Tepeyac School in south Chicago, experiences generosity first-hand as you have helped to meet the many student needs there. Numerous other schools and parishes throughout the United States have also been beneficiaries of your goodness.

Your partnership crosses cultures. La Luz Hispana in Hampton, Iowa, under the direction of Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy, and Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, directed by Sister Corine Murray, engage the immigrant population, furthering diversity and collaboration while meeting the needs for orientation, language and educational services. Some members of the community come to study English; others come to study Spanish.

And your donations also help to meet needs in the southern hemisphere. In Tarija, Bolivia, a new venture is underway to address the educational and faith needs of university students who come from the poor rural areas of O'Connor Province. These women desire to live in community, engage in the contemplative prayer life of the sisters, share the Gospel and bring to life the mission of Jesus among the people in the marginal barrios of the city of Tarija, the isolated Guarani communities and the “campo” (country) areas of Entre Ríos. Toward this end, your generosity is helping to purchase a community house in Tarija where students in need may live and embrace the charism and mission of the Sisters of the Presentation while discerning their vocational life. Other donations for Bolivia provide faith formation programs, medical, educational and sustainability assistance to the very poor, as well as educational opportunities for adults who have limited schooling.

Because of you, even greater imaginings can be brought to reality. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us. “We thank our God for you and when we pray for you our prayers are filled with joy!” (Phil. 1:3-5)

*Julianne Beth Ann Leanne*

## 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

*Sister Julianne Brockamp*

*Sister Beth Driscoll*

*Sister Ann Jackson*

*Sister Leanne Welch*



Sister Cheryl Demmer is surrounded by a group of religious education students who are eager and ready to learn about their faith.

# SISTER CHERYL DEMMER A Shepherdess' Heart

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

When one walks into Sister Cheryl Demmer's office, one is greeted with a larger-than-life smile and a warm welcome. And you know that she is there for you, whatever your need might be at the moment. Sister Cheryl is the director of faith formation for Saints Mary and Matthias Parish in Muscatine, Iowa.

She comes by her administration skills both naturally and by education. The oldest of the six children of Charles and Martha Jane Demmer, Sister Cheryl learned early in life how to keep some order among her four brothers and her only sister, now Presentation Sister Donna Demmer. After graduating from St. Joseph School in Farley, Iowa, and obtaining a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in elementary education at Clarke College (now Clarke University), Sister Cheryl later earned a master's degree in administration and supervision, also from Clarke. She began her ministry as a teacher in primary grades. Her first

mission was at Resurrection School in Dubuque. Subsequently Sister taught at Sacred Heart School in Osage, St. Joseph School in Mason City, St. Patrick School in Cedar Falls, all in Iowa; St. Odilia School in St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois. At St. Dorothy's, she taught primary for one year, then transferred to fifth grade. When she moved to Humboldt, Iowa, Sister was the school principal, taught eighth grade and was the director of religious education for 10 years.

In 1999 Sister Cheryl moved to Muscatine where she was the principal of the common school for the two merged parishes of Ss. Mary and St. Matthias and the director of religious education from 2000 to 2008. In 2008 she began her ministry as the director of faith formation in Muscatine and in Columbus Junction, a neighboring parish. As in many other parishes, her role also includes attentiveness to Hispanic parishioners, particularly in

**I don't want to waste a minute when I could be doing for others. It is important to me to be there for the people.**

*Sister Cheryl Demmer*

being sure that all communications are printed in both languages. Sister Cheryl spent a year studying Spanish, and keeps improving her skill through her visits with the Hispanic people.

As if all of this were not enough to keep Sister Cheryl busy, she has been on the Davenport Diocesan Board of Education for 13 years, four of those years as president of the Board; she is on the Admissions and Evaluating Team for admission to the Diaconate in the diocese, and on a Discernment Team to help people discern vocations. She has been on the Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) team for Davenport the last seven years, and on a Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) team before that. Sister Cheryl also helps the parish in nearby Wilton with their sacramental programs.

None of this goes unnoticed in the area, however. People speak very highly of Sister Cheryl. She comments, "I don't want to waste a minute when I could be doing for others. It is important to me to be there for the people." This desire has indeed been recognized by a retreat master who commented that she has a "Shepherdess Heart," and by Father Jason Crossen, her current pastor, who presented her with 15 white roses on the World Day for Consecrated Religious. It is also highlighted by co-workers who speak of her hard work and her comforting presence to all.

But wait, there is another side to Sister Cheryl. She loves to play the piano, and has frequently played for Masses in various places. She likes to embroider, play cards, and work puzzles, especially Sudoku. Here is the mystery: When does she find the time for any of this?



Sister Cheryl warmly embraces her religious education students with hugs.



## DUBUQUE'S got SISTERS

Join us for an inside look at religious life!

**April 11-12, 2014**

**Are you interested in religious life?**

Then join us for a 24-hour tour of four tri-state area convents to share life through praying, dining and storytelling. Local transportation will be provided, and there is no fee to attend.

Event starts Friday, April 11 at 5 pm to 6 pm on Saturday, April 12.



**To register or for information:**

Contact Sister Ginny Helderfer, OSF  
heldorferv@osfdbq.org  
952.457.5193

Sponsored by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, and Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters.



Sisters Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes and Marge Healy take ownership of their new home from previous owners, Isabel and José.



Right to left: Sisters Suzanne Takes, Therese Corkery, Marge Healy and Mery Cari Paz welcome young university students from Sister Mery's study group to get acquainted with their new study space.

## DREAM UNFOLDS IN BOLIVIA

# Casa Betania

by SISTERS MERY CARI PAZ, THERESE CORKERY, MARGE HEALY & SUZANNE TAKES, PBVM

January 6, 2014, the feast of the Epiphany, was a very special day for the Presentation Sisters of Entre Ríos, Sisters Mery Cari Paz, Therese Corkery, Marge Healy and Suzanne Takes and for all Presentation people. José and Isabel Rodrigo turned over their keys to the house they had built with loving care.

### *The Birthing of a Dream*

Feeling very blessed with the opportunity to study at the University of Juan Misael Saracho in Tarija, Sister Mery settled into a room in the Casa de la Juventud (House of Youth) that the sisters from Entre Ríos had been renting from the diocese for years. The room was “home away from home” when one needed to stay in Tarija. It held two beds, a very small kitchen table, three chairs and a simple chest for storing blankets and sheets. If more than two were spending the night, the few remaining square feet became sleeping space. A hot pot for heating water accompanied four cups and a couple of small plates. Therefore, there could be company for breakfast or tea time. In March 2012, Sister Mery added a computer desk and began her five-year study to obtain a degree in psychology.

After a few months, Sister Mery sensed that her opportunity for study was not “just about her.” She was comfortable with her space, committed to her studies and loved returning to Entre Ríos on weekends to be connected in ministry with children, youth or the folks in the rural communities; but a part of her felt something was missing. How could she make the most of her five years in Tarija to further Nano’s charisma? Sensing the energy and recognizing the gifts of the university students with whom she was interacting, Sister Mery wondered in what way her time of study could enrich the students and, mutually, how could they enrich community life in Bolivia. She pondered her living space. Satisfied where she was, she began exploring with diocesan personnel about the possibility of having more space in the Casa de la Juventud where university students could interact, do group work and just have a place to meet. The negative response led to further pondering. What if the Presentation Sisters had a home in Tarija where university women could deepen relationships with each other in community life, prayer and opportunities for ministry in the barrios of Tarija and O’Connor Province? The summer of 2012, Sister Jennifer Rausch invited Sister Mery to share that dream with the larger community. The strong, palpable

encouragement from the community moved Sister Mery and her Presentation community to begin putting feet on the dream.

In August 2013, the search for a house intensified as possible real estate properties were considered. Sisters Mery, Suzanne, Therese and Marge were convinced that by Presentation Day, November 21, a purchase would be made and the announcement of it celebrated by the Sisters of the Presentation. Yet, with each step taken, many new challenges needed to be addressed. However, more overwhelming was the movement of the Spirit providing people who asked the right questions and suggested other options. The God of Surprises was ever present. Three days before the purchase of their “dream” home, one more invitation to view a property was received. While tempted to refuse the invitation, the sisters decided to take a look “just for fun.” Upon seeing the home, the reasons for all the other delays made sense. The greatest setbacks provided the needed time to make just the right choice. The “true” dream house was found and their hearts echoed the words of Nano Nagle in her letter to Eleanor Fitzsimmons in which she always stressed the blessings. Nano wrote, “Every disappointment we have had, the Almighty has been pleased to make it turn out to our advantage.” *One Pace Beyond*

Discernment after purchasing the “true” dream home led the sisters to choose the name Bethany, that place where Jesus was “at home” with friends. The doors at *Casa Betania* are open. A reflection on Bethany from the CBR (Conference of Bolivian Religious) continues to inform the unfolding of the future.

- In Bethany we find Jesus fully human, one who fully lived in love as friend to concrete persons, and who also cried at the death of a friend.
- In Bethany love was translated into service: welcome and hospitality, contemplation and listening, encounter and dialog; life was reborn.

February 21, 2014, was a very exciting day as first visitors from the university were welcomed to Casa Betania to get acquainted with the house and learn about the possibility of community living as they discern their mission in life.

## Presentation Lantern 2013 Service Award

by CORINE MURRAY, PBVM

Tom Lo Guidice, a volunteer at Presentation Lantern Center since 2010, received the 2013 Presentation Lantern Outstanding Service Award. “Working at the Presentation Lantern Center after my retirement was a natural outgrowth for me,” states Tom.

At the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, Tom was the director of the Teaching and Learning Center for faculty development, a team member for the Ethnic and Gender Education course and served on the University Service Learning Committee. For several years students from Platteville fulfilled their service learning requirements at the Lantern Center by tutoring students and by reflecting on the diverse cultures there. The reflection papers his students submitted, revealed the richness of their experiences.

Tom has tutored several students through the years and clocked over 350 service hours. In addition, he has participated in field trips and extended his strong sense of hospitality by serving as a tour guide for students who wanted to learn more about the city of Dubuque.

A world traveler, with many trips to China as part of his work at the University of Wisconsin, Tom embraces diversity and shows great compassion for area newcomers. He also has a keen sense of the challenges experienced by people for whom English is a new language.

“The Lantern Center is a team workplace,” he explains, “a place where the volunteers and staff learn as well as teach. I am pleased to receive this service award, which is only possible because I am part of a great team!”



Tutor Tom Lo Guidice shows student Ming, from Taiwan, the lantern he received for the 2013 Presentation Lantern Outstanding Service Award.

# Remembering Stratton, CO

1919-1927

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

“An invitation for Nano Nagle’s daughters to work in Colorado came like a bolt from the clear blue. The first request came from Father Ghroman at Akron, the other from Father Schmidt at Stratton.” This is how an un-named annalist described the beginning of the eight years of Presentation presence in Stratton, Colorado.

Two sisters were sent to interview the pastors and look over the prospective places. They also met with Bishop J. Henry Tihen in Denver whose words left no doubt in their minds as to the usefulness of their work in Colorado. In his words, “In no place will you find a more whitened harvest than in Colorado. Any sacrifice required of you to come to us should abound in blessings for your congregation.”

Another factor in the decision to go West was the climate which was reputedly favorable for those afflicted with tuberculosis, of which the community had a few at that time. And so August of 1919 found four Presentation Sisters on their way to Stratton to take up the work of evangelization. They joined the efforts of Franciscan Friars who had established parishes in small towns throughout the Diocese of Denver.

Sister Mary Charles Duffy led the little band consisting of Sisters Mary Archangela Duffy, Marie Therese Bergin and Mary Agnes Griffin. They began classes on September 11, 1919, with an enrollment of 90 students in grades one through eight. Father Felix Schmidt had vacated his nine-room rectory for use as a convent and school room for the four upper grades. Grades one through four were taught on the first floor of an attached adobe structure whose second floor served as a sleeping room for the janitor. This arrangement was to last until a new building could be erected.

Some controversy arose over the plan of the new structure. Father Schmidt wanted a building large enough to take in boarders, since he had responsibility for three other parishes and he wanted the children in those places to benefit from the Catholic education which the sisters would provide. St. Charles parishioners, on the other hand, insisted that a smaller building be erected to accommodate only the children of their own parish.

The pastor won out and a two-story building was under construction by the fall of the sisters’ second year in Stratton.



Early Presentation Sisters who taught in Stratton. Left to right: Sisters Charles Duffy, Clementina Mackey and Martina Purcell

Two years later he resigned, unable to handle the debt incurred from the building. The people deserved credit for their perseverance in struggling with the heavy debt which at the time the new school opened amounted to nearly \$50,000. At the time the sisters left, the debt was down to \$27,000, with only 70 families in the parish.

In the spring of 1920, three of the sisters became ill with the flu. Sister Mary Charles did not recover, and the sisters sadly reported to Mount Loretto that she had died on March 21. Sister Mary Loyola Murphy was sent to take her place.

Sister Mary Annunciata Schuster, who arrived in Stratton in 1921 at the age of 18, was interviewed in 1988, a few years before her death in 1995. She thought that the weather in Colorado was ideal – neither too hot nor too cold. She recalled, however, the effect of the sand storms, when the whole building had to be swept before school began in the morning.

When asked if she had any hesitation about going so far away from home, she replied in true Presentation fashion, “I never gave it a thought. I always went where I was told/asked to go.” She described the people of Stratton as “very friendly and very good.”

Eventually the need for more sisters to staff missions closer to home resulted in the return of the sisters to Iowa in 1927. Enrollment at that time was 136. Sister Mary Rosalia Plamondon in her Annals makes a point of the fact that one consideration in the decision to close Stratton was the fact that the sisters never had the privilege of having the Blessed Sacrament in their convent home.

Priests in the area kept the school going by teaching there from 1927-1929, when the Sisters of the Precious Blood took over the task of educating the children.

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.

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

The Lady of the Lantern

NANO  
Lives



## Sister Mary Jacqueline Quillin, Congregational Leader 1993-1998



Elected the 17th congregational leader, Sister Mary Jacqueline (Maxine) Quillin, daughter of Leonard and Catherine (Sally) Quillin, came from Lawler, Iowa, a small rural parish in northeast Iowa which, over the years, contributed 71 religious vocations to the church.

Maxine attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School where she was taught by the

Presentation Sisters; she graduated from Lawler High School in 1952, the year of her entrance into the community. Sister Jacqueline attended Clarke College where she received a bachelor’s degree with majors in history and education and later a master’s degree in education administration. She served as a classroom teacher in five Iowa schools and as principal in another five.

Sister Jackie’s lighthearted, loving ways endeared her to all she met. Radiant countenance, sparkling Irish eyes, with wit and humor to spare, she was a particularly successful teacher and administrator. Her pleasant disposition, energy, and charm, along with her outgoing personality, invited others into her friendship. With her gentle and regular reminder to “Lighten up,” Sister Jackie cautioned community members to avoid taking life and themselves too seriously.

Many events/changes, large and small, occurred during the five years of Sister Jacqueline’s leadership. The directional statement of 1993 encouraged sisters to adopt an ecological lifestyle in harmony with global needs. The eighth Presentation Institute was held in July 1994 at St. John’s Newfoundland, Canada. The fourth APLA (Association of Presentations in Latin America) meeting occurred in February 1994, for the first time in Entre Ríos, Bolivia. The IPA (International Presentation Association) met in Ireland in 1995.

A growing St. Joseph Parish in Key West required extra space to build a school addition in 1993. This resulted in the demolition of the first Presentation motherhouse, the home of Mother Vincent and her companions. Presentation Sisters had lived in that same house and served in the Key West community for 118 years.

In 1994 the Sisters of the Visitation sold their Alta Vista Street property to Loras College and sought another location. On May 5, 1995, they broke ground for their new home on property purchased from the Sisters of the Presentation. One hundred twenty-one years after the Visitation Sisters welcomed Mother Vincent and her companions, the Presentation Sisters had an opportunity to return hospitality to the Sisters of the Visitation for their welcome of 1874.

The biggest change during the leadership of Sister Jacqueline and her council, the one that most affected the daily lives of the sisters, was the complete renovation of Mount Loretto motherhouse. “Restoring Our Home, Renewing Our Hearts” named the theme of the 1994-1996 Renovation Project. The project included renovation of the existing Mount Loretto building with an addition of a new entrance and an exercise/therapy pool space. Additionally, the lawn and courtyard were landscaped to provide a more inviting nature setting and additional parking spaces.

September 1994 marked the beginning of the renovation, transforming future life and living at Mount Loretto. The project responded to community retirement needs, while keeping in mind the mission and charism of the congregation. The efficiency, convenience and comforts provided and the opportunities for hospitality and mission surpassed imagination and expectation. Space was now adequate for sharing with civic, education and religious groups. The blessings of the renovation perdure to the present.

In the fall of 1997, the community received alarming news. Sister Jacqueline was diagnosed with breast cancer; chemotherapy proved of no avail. Sister Jacqueline died on October 7, 1998, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, a year after her diagnosis and only a few months after the completion of her term of office.

Like Nano, Mother Vincent and others, Sister Jackie left too soon, before the community had adequately savored her gracious manner or sufficiently delighted in her lively repartee, before the sisters had their fill of her fun-loving ways and her zest for life, before anyone could sufficiently absorb her elegant simplicity or assimilate her everyday holiness and sparkle. Too soon.

# New Luminaries Group Merging for Mission

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE



Each time the Luminaries meet, members bring canned foods to be shared with local area food pantries. In this photo, Luminaries members present food items to the St. Mary Parish Food Pantry in Strawberry Point, Iowa. Pictured left to right: Associates Theresa Buss, Janet Leonard, Karen Bonfig, Becky Searcy; Delaine Gruman of St. Mary Parish Food Pantry; Sisters Suzanne Gallager, Irma Ries, Sheila Ann Dougherty and Carla Popes. Not pictured are Sister Sharon Kelchen, Associates Doris Bussan, Sandy Kahle and Nancy Schroeder.

This past November marked the beginning of a new configuration of Presentation people when an associate group, known as “Living Lanterns,” and a Caritas group of sisters, known as “Frontier Women,” merged to become one group, the “Luminaries.” As their name suggests, the members of this new group see themselves as walking in Nano’s light, sharing light with one another and sharing light with those made poor.

The genesis of the new group is rooted in the Presentation directional statement. Sister Carla Popes reflects, “It was through prayer and community conversations that our new directional statement was created. ‘Ignited by the fire of God’s love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle ...,’ the Spirit once again opened our Presentation community to foster relationships and partnering by widening our own tents. Joining our two groups is one way of doing that.”

For Associate Becky Searcy the idea of a possible merger of the two groups originated when she attended the community gathering in 2013. “When talk of widening the tent was buzzing, it seemed like the Spirit was nudging us to move forward. After prayer and discernment by members of both groups, we felt we were being stretched to push the boundaries, to combine the two groups into one. We can do so much more together than we can alone.”

Associate Janet Leonard also heard the desire of both sisters and associates to work more closely together to continue the work of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle. “We are all daughters and sons of Nano striving to continue her mission of serving those in need. It is a joy to think that sisters and associates can work together more closely in this mission. It is an honor to think that our group may be a pioneer in this endeavor.”

Members of the newly formed group view the merger as a mutually supportive and enriching vehicle for spiritual growth and more effective ministry. Sister Sharon Kelchen reflects, “Working and praying together out of relationship, rather than from an institutional plan offers inspiration and energy. My relationship with our Luminaries group helps me to meet the future more freely as we continue to nurture, challenge and support each other. Together we can change and create anew through our individual background experiences as community members and associates.”

Associate Theresa Buss echoes her sentiment, “By being the kind of group that we are becoming, we are able to share aspects of our lives that are unique to our own chosen vocations. Everyone is enriched and that is reflected in our ministries.”

The new group gathers monthly to share hospitality, time in contemplative prayer and sharing of their own experiences using “Bridges to Contemplative Living” based on the works of Thomas Merton as a guide. All of this leads to outreach. Most recently the Luminaries were happy to contribute to the new St. Mary Parish Food Pantry of Strawberry Point in support of the people in the winding lanes of Northeast Iowa.

The Luminaries express hope for the future and a spirit of gratitude for their newly formed community. “My hopes for the Luminaries rest in the new stories, new ideas, new challenges and new ways of embracing the Gospel that our shared energies can engender,” says Associate Karen Bonfig.

## ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP

### In Memory of Frank Schaefer

August 8, 1936 - January 3, 2014

Frank Schaefer was an Iowa boy from the farm. It gave him great pride to recall those early days. Chicago was a goal for job-hunting which found him steady employment as a CTA bus driver for 34 years. He was a gentle caregiver for his first wife, Lila, during a lengthy illness.



Frank was a gentleman; always kind, soft-spoken and courteous. His Catholic upbringing was enhanced when he joined the Oak Lawn Community in Chicago, Illinois. After marrying Mary Ann Cichowski in 1991, both became Presentation associates. His presence at associate gatherings strengthened his beliefs and his sharing in the gatherings. He came to appreciate the strength and modeling of Nano Nagle.

All areas of nature, animals and stars were of interest to Frank. He worked diligently to remodel an area of the lawn with a small fishpond, decorative stones and a screened-in area for relaxation and appreciation of nature and birds. He also re-decorated the kitchen to make storage more convenient. He enjoyed cooking and eating. He loved biking, exercising and swimming.

Frank often spoke of his great sense of peace as family and Presentation Sisters surrounded the death-bed of his wife, Mary Ann, in prayer and song. Perhaps this grateful memory blessed him in his last days of living alone in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Frank had airline tickets reserved for January 18 to go visit his granddaughter in California who had just given birth to her second set of twins. The lantern of Nano Nagle did indeed bless him in ways untold. May he rest in peace!

“I have left each of our gatherings filled with renewed inspiration and a connection with these women I think of and experience as my sisters. I draw on and am fed by each person’s presence, open and honest sharing, goodness, spirit, faith, ideas and wealth of resources,” expresses Sister Irma Ries.

As women who walk in the light of Nano’s lantern and share the light of the Gospel, the Luminaries are committed to embodying their new name as they support one another, promote justice and work for peace in their communities, workplaces and homes.

## Annual Benefit Garage/Gym Sale

The 2014 Presentation Garage/Gym Sale is right around the corner and work is already underway! The 2013 sale raised \$17,005. For the past nine years, many of you have helped support the Sisters of the Presentation ministries through donations of money, sale items, baked goods and time. May we count on you again this year?

### WHEN:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
April 24, 25, 26, 2014

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
May 1, 2, 3, 2014

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

### WHERE:

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

### WHAT:

Please bring gently-used items: clean adult, children and baby clothing; household items; books; CDs; furniture; games, toys, etc. Plants such as hostas, ferns, schefflera, crotons, etc. sell very well too. (Please no shoes, computers/accessories, TVs, baby cribs or car seats, Nordic Tracks or treadmills). Homemade baked goods will also be sold.

### WHY:

The proceeds from the 2014 sale will assist the following ministries/charities:

- Student Endowment Fund, Seton School and Bishop Garrigan High School, Algona, Iowa
- Hotel Hope, New Orleans, Louisiana

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of useable items from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Monday, March 31 until Monday, April 21. **No items will be accepted after Monday, April 21.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, etc. should be dropped off at the garages across from the gym.

Wrapped baked goods may be brought to the gym on April 24-25 and/or May 1-2.

### For more information, contact:

Office of Associate Partnership  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001  
563-588-2008  
[associates@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:associates@dubuquepresentations.org)



Sister William Allen (middle) enjoys the company of her family during her 100th birthday celebration. Family members came as far as Germany to celebrate with Sister.

## SISTER MARY WILLIAM ALLEN

# A Woman of Substance

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

What do Robert Tyre “Bobby” Jones and Nat “King” Cole have in common with Sister Mary William Allen? Golfing accolades? Gold or platinum records of popular songs? They share the same birthday. Beyond that, Sister Mary William has out-lived and, most likely, out-paced the two famous gentlemen.

From historical records, it is known that Woodrow Wilson signed a Mother’s Day proclamation in 1914 and the Panama Canal was officially opened. Pope Benedict XV became the 258th Roman Catholic Pontiff and the first transcontinental phone link was made between New York City and San Francisco. That year, another grand event took place in Clare, Iowa, when William and Annie Allen gave birth to Mary Alice on March 17.

Growing up on the farm in Western Iowa as one of five girls and one boy, Mary Alice was well prepared for life. Modestly, she talks about her seamstress skills that are admired by many. “I learned

to sew by making doll clothes with my mother who was a good sewer and very neat. My aunt, who lived on the farm with Dad’s family, was a dressmaker.” Up until this winter, Sister William continued to do sewing projects for her Presentation community members.

Mary Alice went to school in grades one to twelve at St. Matthew in Clare, and was a student of the Presentation Sisters. She felt particularly close to Sister Mary Joseph Kennedy; so when a missionary priest gave a retreat at St. Matthew High School, it was a natural thought for Mary Alice to think about becoming a Presentation Sister.

Teaching was modeled by family members for Sister William. Her mother and her two older sisters were teachers. To be a teacher was natural for the young Mary Alice. After she graduated from high school she took the necessary 12-week training with the

**It doesn’t seem possible that I’m 100 years old. I’m in pretty good health and have my eye sight and hearing. I am grateful for every day to be able to put my feet on the floor!**

*Sister Mary William Allen*

Iowa State Teachers College and became a one-room school house instructor in county schools near Clare and boarded with nearby farm families.

After entering the Sisters of the Presentation in 1940, Sister William readily went into the classroom in 1943, “I enjoyed working with children and helping them learn to read,” she declares. “While music and art weren’t my strengths, I learned, to my surprise, when I was visited by a former student that I had inspired her to major in art.” Presentation community members would also add that Sister William, always a lady, gentle and kind, still inspires others.

During her 40-year teaching career, Sister William was an elementary teacher in Catholic elementary schools in Elkader, Storm Lake, Charles City, Monona, Epworth, Algona, Sheldon, Dubuque, Whittemore and Humboldt, all in Iowa; in Winner, South Dakota; and in Oak Lawn, Illinois. She also served as a principal at St. Patrick School in Monona, Iowa, and as local director in three communities.

For six years Sister William was house coordinator at Mount Loretto, from 1955-1961. “It was such a large scale house,” states Sister William, “but fortunately I had the young sisters to assist with laundry and housekeeping.” She nurtured many a novice in the fine home arts.

Living at Mount Loretto since 1987, Sister William especially cherishes prayer time. “Having the time to pray without the pressures of a busy teaching schedule is great,” she remarks. Sister enjoys spiritual reading, particularly the lives of the saints, having taught their stories to her students. Sister also likes reading some fiction and being in the quiet of her own room for reading and prayer.

At this time in her life, she treasures her freedom: “I go where I want to go and can be independent.” She’s still able to do her own washing and ironing – a neatness about personal care that she learned from her mother.

This year Sister William observes her 100th birthday. Some of Sister’s family came to Mount Loretto on March 15-16 for a little afternoon get-together with the community followed by prayer, supper, birthday cake and ice cream, and of course, some Irish singing.

“It doesn’t seem possible that I’m 100 years old. I’m in pretty good health and have my eye sight and hearing,” smiles Sister William. “I am grateful for every day to be able to put my feet on the floor!”



## National Catholic Sisters Week

This March during National Women’s History Month, the week of March 8-15 was recognized as National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW). The National Catholic Sisters Initiative, launched by St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, is the first project of a larger three-year effort to increase vocations. This project is made possible by a \$3.3 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to create a movement that ignites national awareness around the lives and profound contributions of sisters, inspiring women to be open to a potential call to religious life.

On Saturday, March 8, St. Catherine’s kicked off the week by bringing together college-age women and women religious from a variety of congregations to honor Catholic sisters who have served faithfully as an integral part of American history. Sisters Rita Cameron and Raeleen Sweeney attended the event with Associate Radie Roberts and Mary Therese Krueger.

The Hilton Foundation also has awarded a grant to *A Nun’s Life*, an Internet-based ministry, created by IHM Sisters Maxine Kollasch and Julie Viera, that offers a first-hand view of religious life through stories, interviews and conversations with a variety of sisters on a variety of topics. The grant will help build the ministry’s capacity to connect young people to meaningful resources as they discern and move toward religious life.

On March 10, *A Nun’s Life* ministry visited the Presentation motherhouse for an *Ask Sister* live podcast as part of their Motherhouse Road Trip series begun in 2013. The purpose of the series is to help connect Catholic sisters with an online community that’s supportive of vocations and with individuals who may be wondering if God is calling them to religious life. It is also an opportunity for congregations to talk about their charism, mission and ministries with people from around the world who are deeply interested in religious life. Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Annette Kestel shared their vocation and ministry stories and answered live chatroom questions during the live podcast.

Women religious have made vital contributions to society and this week focused on bringing visibility to the efforts of Catholic sisters, both past and present.

# QUEEN OF THE ORDINARY

## *Sister Mary Dominic Church*

*December 19, 1929 - December 6, 2013*

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Mary Evelyn Church, known in religion as Sister Mary Dominic, entered the Presentation community from Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1949. The daughter of Olive (Cushing) and Guy Church, Mary Evelyn, the youngest of their four children, attended Holy Family Grade School and Thomas Jefferson High School. She continued her education by earning her teaching certificate from Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa, before she joined the Presentation community. Subsequently she earned a bachelor's degree from Clarke College (now Clarke University) in Dubuque and a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame, both degrees in math.

First an elementary and then a high school math teacher, Sister Dominic served in nine different schools, teaching math, computer and related courses, as well as sponsoring curricular and extra-curricular activities. She didn't seem like the "cheerleader type," but her cheerleader-drill teams won accolades in contests, even going to state, and often was cited for their skill and creativity. Likewise, the Fort Dodge Chamber of Commerce presented a Golden Apple Award to Sister Dominic in 1999, in recognition of her teaching excellence.

Generosity was more than an occasional virtue for Sister Dominic; she was always ready and willing for whatever work or service was in order. At the time when fewer sisters had a driver's license, she made herself available for driving whenever and wherever someone might need a ride.

When her mother was being cared for in Dubuque and Sister was missioned in Cedar Rapids and Fort Dodge, this faithful daughter traveled to visit her mother at least every other weekend.

Sister Dominic joined the finance team at the motherhouse in 2001 and retired in 2007, enjoying her hobbies of walking, reading, doing puzzles and crocheting multiple afghans for the homeless in a poor parish in Chicago.

Clothed in simplicity, a kind of "queen of the ordinary," Sister Dominic had both feet planted firmly on the ground. The psalmist might have called her stout-hearted, for she was steady, independent, responsible, patient, other-centered and low maintenance.

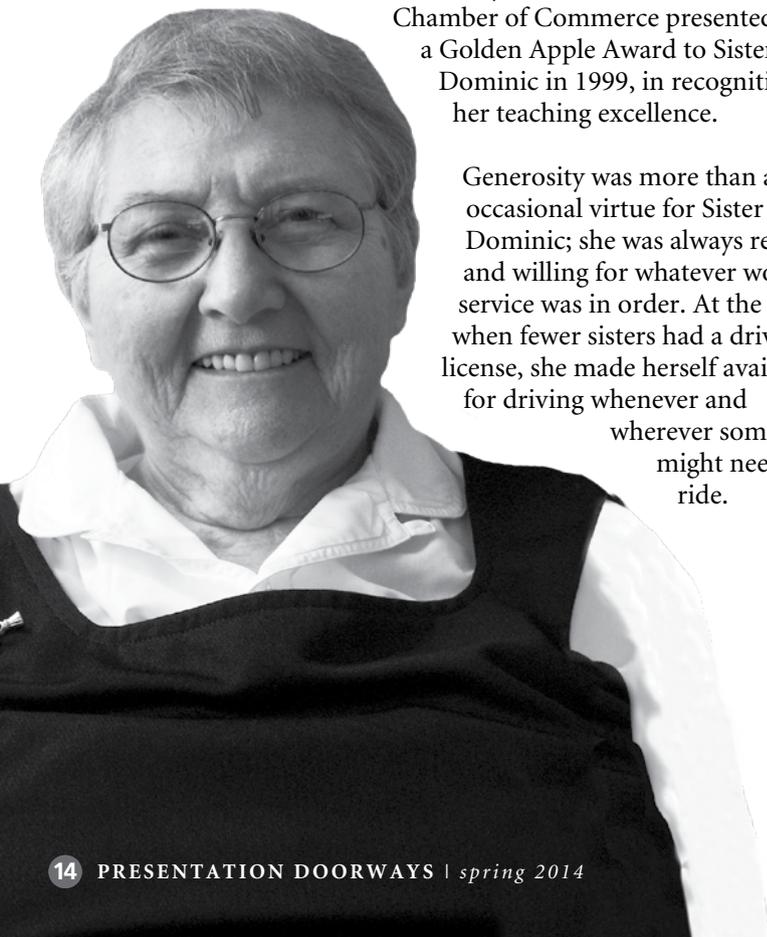
Her career spanned 64 years, and during her active ministry Sister Dominic was very much "in-charge" but as she continued her journey, her shining example was rather in her acceptance of whatever came next: discontinuing a favorite volunteer role, giving up her driver's license or moving to a different floor for more assistance. And in the two years of dealing with cancer, she didn't so much as mention her illness, nor did she complain.

While her ministry years were marked by industry and determination, it seemed her later years served as a time for developing new virtues: gentleness, meekness, detachment, gratitude, a kind of ego-less-ness and surrender. A short poem by Jessica St. James offers a summary: "A life well-lived leaves its gentle pattern on the hearts of all ... and the world is a lovelier place because one person touched it with kindness and goodness and grace." And that was Sister Mary Dominic Church!

### *Making a Memorial Gift*

When you make a gift in memory of a loved one to the Sisters of the Presentation, you are keeping their values and hopes alive through the sisters' works of charity, education and service. Memorials may be sent to Sisters of the Presentation, 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 563.588.2008 or email [development@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:development@dubuquepresentations.org).



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## Celebrating Catholic Sisters

On March 8, Presentation Sisters, associates and friends participated in a workshop at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, as part of National Catholic Sisters Week. The event offered an opportunity to engage young women in conversation about religious life and discuss using social media to promote vocations. Pictured left to right: Associate Radie Roberts, Mary Therese Krueger, Sister Raeleen Sweeney and Sister Rita Cameron.



## Giving Voice Retreat

Young women religious at various stages of discernment and of vowed life held a retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Phoenix, Arizona, in January. The retreat was sponsored by Giving Voice, a peer-led organization that creates spaces for younger women religious to give voice to their hopes, dreams and challenges in religious life. Presentation Sister Jessi Beck attended the retreat.



## 6th Grade Vocation Day

During one of the sessions at Sixth Grade Vocation Day, Sister St. James Lickteig helps raise the awareness of who sisters are, how sisters live their lives and how sisters walk with people on their faith journey. More than 250 sixth grade students learned about vocation choices such as a sister, brother, deacon or priest and how to share their God-given gifts and talents as they make decisions about their future.



## "Survivors" Print

Sister Marie Barth, left, painted this watercolor print entitled "Survivors" inspired by a story of a Marine in Iraq finding a small child alive in the ruins after a bombing. Sister Marie donated the painting to the Freedom Center in Dubuque. Mary Catherine Zapf, Sister's friend and former captain in the U.S. Air Force, delivered the print to the center. Sister Marie donates many of her works to local charities.

## You are invited to join us.

**April 1 & 8, 2014**  
Lenten Twilight Prayer  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 11-12, 2014**  
Dubuque's Got Sisters  
Discernment Weekend  
Area Motherhouses  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 24-26 & May 1-3, 2014**  
Garage/Gym Sale  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 26, 2014**  
Day of Prayer & Meditation  
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 web site at [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org) or call 563.588.2008.

## Please pray with us.

**April 5-6, 2014**  
Presentation Associate & Sister Retreat  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**May 11, 2014**  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**June 6, 2014**  
Presentation Pacers  
Relay for Life  
Dubuque, Iowa

**21st of each month**  
Pray for Vocations

**25th of each month**  
Mass for Benefactors

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Please change this label and send it back to  
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info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

- New Address  
 Misspelled Name  
 Wrong Address  
 Remove my Name  
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 (please indicate which is correct)

## Relationally SPEAKING

*Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief*



The Presentation Lantern Center was one of two winners for the Most Creative Nonprofit Booth at the second annual Community Block Party hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Congratulations Sister Corine Murray and the Lantern board, tutors, visitors and friends.



On January 28, **Sister Lynn Mary Wagner** and **Sister Dolores Zieser** were installed as officers on the board of DACU (Dubuque Area Congregations United) during its annual dinner and installation. Sister Lynn Mary will act as president and Sister Dolores as treasurer. DACU is comprised of members of diverse faiths, united by belief in God, concern for justice and a call to serve others. Through prayer and cooperation, they work to foster awareness and understanding of human needs and share time, talents and resources to make a positive impact.



### Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2014

In the spirit of Presentation Foundress, Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation established four scholarship opportunities.

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

**To apply, visit:**  
**[www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)**  
**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

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