



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



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# The PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the 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 to invite others to become involved in our mission.

# 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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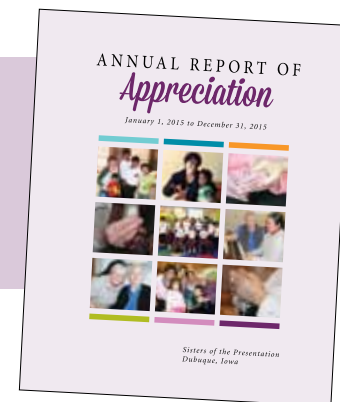


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Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2015. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



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### Cover PHOTO

Sister Paula Schwendinger listens and tends to the needs of immigrants in rural areas of Iowa through her ministry of HOME – Hispanic Outreach Ministry of Evangelization. Pictured Sister Paula feeds baby Victoria while teaching bible studies to Maria and her son, Bruno. See the enclosed Annual Report of Appreciation for more information about her ministry.

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

*Openings*

by JULIANNE BROCKAMP, PBVM

## *Partners in Mission*

In this issue of Presentation Doorways, we include our Annual Report of Appreciation for all our donors who have been our partners in mission during 2015. Thank you for sharing your passion, dedication and resources for mission. Since hospitality, as expressed in the Gospel, is the heart of the mission, and is also the charism of the Sisters of the Presentation, we thank you for all your efforts to help make Earth, our common home, a more hospitable place.

To practice hospitality is to receive and care for those who have, on any level, been excluded or are considered “stranger.” *Romans 12:13*. Through this caring we become one family, share one common home and are transformed by becoming more and more aware of our interconnectedness and interdependence. In this Year of Mercy, the message of Pope Francis is clear – that which concerns one population or part of creation is a concern for all. *Laudato Si, 13-14*

Your partnership helps us to serve and to encourage those deprived of the basic necessities of life; a deprivation which forces people into destitution causing hunger and homelessness. We thank you for all your efforts to promote a just society where hospitality and care are honored as values characteristic of humanity. What concerns one species, concerns all; whether it be concern about the food chain, climate change, dislocation due to natural disasters, violence or other life-threatening circumstances.

Your generous donations help us to educate and advocate in significant ways. They make it possible for us to be present in areas of need among migrants, inner-city populations, parishes, schools, hospitals, rural areas of the United States and in Bolivia. Wherever we are, we strive to tend to people and all of creation with hospitable care, especially when we experience both to be on the edge of survival.

Hospitality, the heart of the mission, is bound to justice. We give thanks to all who are present in the midst of the struggle toward a more just world. It is the hospitality of hearts open to transformation that will birth new life-giving moments for our planetary community. Together we strive to place our hearts and energy wherever compassion, healing, inclusivity and transformation are needed.

Thank you for your loyal support and commitment as partners in mission. We deeply appreciate your solidarity and generosity which strengthen and provide us with opportunities to be of service amid the needs of the world. We are deeply grateful. You are a blessing. Thank you.



## *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, Venerable 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.

## *Our* DIRECTION

Ignited by the fire of God's love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, participate in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos by

**reverencing relationships**  
**celebrating unity**  
**engaging contemplation and**  
**fostering partnerships**

to transform ourselves  
and our world.

### *Sisters of the Presentation* LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Sister Julianne Brockamp*

*Sister Beth Driscoll*

*Sister Ann Jackson*

*Sister Leanne Welch*



Sister Joetta Venneman (front middle) stands with a group of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth at an “I Love the Mountains Day” rally to advocate for legislation to protect streams and waterways.

# SISTER JOETTA VENNEMAN Ministering in Social Justice

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

“Never forget that all of us are signs of the Father. We need one another to move forward,” spoke Pope Francis in a recent address. This message has not gone unheard by the Presentation Sisters, and particularly by those working in the area of justice issues, which Sister Joetta Venneman has been doing since 2004.

Joetta, daughter of Francis and Janet Venneman, was born in Vinton, Iowa, where she graduated from Benton Community High School in 1982, and then Mount Mercy University, from which she graduated in 1986 with a major in mathematics and a minor in education. Joetta is the oldest of her siblings, Jacqueline, Janice and Joseph, all of whom are married, gifting Joetta with three nephews.

Joetta knew the Mercy Sisters who staffed the university and she also became acquainted with Sisters Dominic Church and Richelle Friedman, both Sisters of the Presentation who taught at Regis High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Joetta had been active in liturgy, serving as a reader both at her home parish and in college, and church was important to her. Thus it was not a surprise that she felt called to explore religious life.

Wisely, she made contacts with several communities, including a cloistered community in which she had some interest. She made a retreat weekend with the Presentation Sisters, and also went with them to teach in vacation bible school for a few summers.

**I have always been very interested in change so I worked to establish an integrative curriculum, combining math with Catholic social teaching ... We talked about how systemic change works and how to facilitate change.** *Sister Joetta Venneman*

On several occasions, Sister Dominic brought her to the Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque, where she became acquainted with many sisters, including those in formation at that time. She appreciated what she experienced there, particularly the joy which was alive among the sisters, and eventually she made a decision to enter the community.

Having already completed college, Sister Joetta began teaching in Peosta, Iowa, after her first two years of formation, and remained there for three years. She then went to Chicago where her heart was drawn to those lost in the big city who had needs that challenged her. She taught Hispanic children at Our Lady of Guadalupe School, and then taught black and Hispanic children at St. Michael the Archangel, both schools in South Chicago.

Working among these groups, Sister Joetta saw so much unfairness. She reflects, “The kids I taught had such a keen sense of what was happening to them in society. I had studied Catholic social teaching, and I understood the Two Feet of Justice, Charity and Systemic Change, so I began to integrate that into my lessons. I was teaching in such a diverse area, that it seemed to fall into place so readily.”

“I have always been very interested in change,” Sister Joetta continues, “so I worked to establish an integrative curriculum, combining math with Catholic social teaching. We would talk about and have projects related to such things as the sweat shops, wages, and so on, and I would encourage the students to write letters, and to understand what people in society were experiencing in terms of justice and dignity. We talked about how systemic change works and how to facilitate change.”

While in South Chicago, Sister Joetta earned a master’s degree through a long-distance learning program in human and organizational transformation. After that she desired to pursue work in the social justice field, but that did not happen immediately. She put some variety into her life by doing parish work and individual tutoring for students who were in need. She also served as an adjunct professor in education and math, helping future teachers with curriculum at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Indiana.

During that time she made efforts to connect and meet others in social justice. She lived for a time with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in Indiana, who were involved in a variety of ministries. One of them went to minister in Mexico, and, as she shared her experiences, Sister Joetta was again exposed to the needs of the less privileged, and she gained impetus to begin ministering to those she found right in her own school environment.



Sister Joetta Venneman enjoys coordinating social justice work for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky.

She also came to know the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, and she found them to be “in sync” with the needs of people who were less fortunate. Additionally, however, the Sisters of Charity have sisters in India, Botswana, Belize, Nicaragua and the United States, several of whom are engaged in efforts to meet the social needs of the world, and this again appealed to Sister’s desire to be in the social justice ministry.

So it was not surprising that Sister Joetta found her “niche” by becoming the social justice coordinator for these sisters in 2004. She works with a global ministry team which helps her integrate the work of justice with the individual ministries of the sisters. She does much work with coalitions which provide her a broader network on a variety of issues. She helps to formulate strategic plans to implement the congregation’s directives, mission and corporate statements. Sister Joetta keeps the community informed about relevant legislation, and presents it through the lens of the sisters’ directional statement and community directives. The sisters are persistent about pursuing justice through such means as writing letters, making phone calls, sending emails and joining with coalition groups to be even more powerful. They believe that their voice is crucial to forming the mind of legislators and to effect systemic change.

Sister Joetta sends an “Action Alert” monthly to the community. She offers a spiritual emphasis on a given topic around a justice issue, and highlights that issue in a way that invites engagement. She has hosted candidate forums, which include information from the candidates’ websites, and the Faithful Citizenship document as a basis for discussion questions.

However, Sister is not a “one-issue” person! She rounds out her life by enjoying such activities as hiking, sledding, gardening, photography and reading. She loves camping and just being in the outdoors, which draws her into deeper intimacy with her God.

She agrees with Pope Francis, who recently urged, “I invite you once again today to be on the front line ...” Religious women have, for centuries, been on the front line of many endeavors, but the push for social justice is a relatively new venture, which Sister Joetta enjoys making first and foremost in the minds of the Sisters of Charity and of her own Sisters of the Presentation.



Associate Bernie Graves prays with a nursing home resident, offering a comforting presence as part of her ministry to the elderly.

## Associates Follow in Nano's Footsteps Offering Presence

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

“Her rounds of the wards finished for the evening, Nano turned homewards. It was already growing dark. There would be no time now to visit some of her favorites – the old people, lonely and neglected in their garrets and cabins.” *Raphael Consedine, PBVM, One Pace Beyond, The Life of Nano Nagle*

Following in the footsteps of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, Associates Donna Ewy and Bernie Graves also find the elderly among their “favorites” and as a focus of their professions and ministries.

Associate Donna Ewy, who began her career as a family physician, is presently drawn to care for residents in long-term care facilities. Reflecting on some of the challenges of her aging patients, Donna notes, “Few people want to move to a nursing home. Losing one’s ability to care for self and manage basic daily living activities, loss of memory, dealing with medical conditions and numerous

medications and facing diminishment and death all make getting older difficult for many people.” These realities have formed the core of Donna’s ministry. She explains, “I spend my days loving people in these situations and managing their medical conditions.”

Similarly, Associate Bernie Graves is attracted to care for the elderly through her ministry as a spiritual director. In 2010, as part of her formation, she sought out potential directees who were home-bound or living in retirement homes. “As I began,” Bernie recalls, “I was hesitant to take down my lantern, but I found out the need was great.”

Reflecting on her call to this ministry, Bernie states, “My first directee was a nursing home resident whose deep faith in the midst of his circumstances was inspiring. We spent many hours talking about his life, the things he was grateful for and his regrets.” Bernie remembers their final sessions with humble

**Loving respect and deep listening are at the heart of the Presentation mission.**

Associate Bernie Graves



Donna Ewy



Bernie Graves

gratitude. “Looking back on our last few sessions before he passed away, I can see how he had been preparing for and transitioning to his new life. I felt honored to have shared in his journey. This sacred experience affirmed for me my call to spiritual direction ministry with the elderly.”

Echoing Bernie’s recognition of the holy in her work, Donna shares, “A nurse in a long-term care facility once told me that nursing homes are ‘heaven’s waiting rooms.’ What a privilege it is to spend time with people who are close to that sacred moment of transitioning from this world to the next. It is a time for me to extend Presentation hospitality. Many times I’ve seen sisters or an associate focus intently on a person, letting that person know how valued he/she is. I hope that the time I spend with my elderly patients offers them that same gift of Presentation hospitality.”

Both Donna and Bernie strive to emulate Nano who responded to people’s needs with respect and love. “Many of my patients are so gracious and loving. Sometimes they share bits of wisdom or show me how to age with grace and beauty,” shares Donna. “Others have had very difficult lives and have made choices they regret, and perhaps those folks are the ones who can most benefit from some loving, respectful attention.”

Bernie concurs wholeheartedly, “My senior directees need warm smiles, a patient and loving ear and my time. Sometimes they feel distant from church and the sacraments and just need to hear from someone they trust that they are valued by others and loved by God.” Commenting on her ministry’s rootedness in Presentation spirituality, Bernie asserts, “Loving respect and deep listening are at the heart of the Presentation mission. Spiritual direction is for me, just that – a ministry of respect, presence and listening.”

Donna, who also teaches medical students how to provide care in long-term care settings, endeavors to nurture respect for human dignity in her learners. “I try to encourage young doctors to approach care for this population with compassion and love. Sure, we’ll manage their heart disease and diabetes, but when providing care for frail elderly, the young student doctors hear from me that we need to respectfully focus on the goals and priorities of the patients and the quality of their daily lives, and not only tight blood pressure control and the like. I think Nano would approve!”

Indeed she would! Nano’s life was a testament to the importance and value of reverencing relationships and living the Gospel through hospitality, compassion, perseverance and love for all, especially those living on the margins. Both Donna and Bernie, in their care for the aging, share in the joy and challenge of this legacy.

## In Memory of Charles E. Schmidt

January 1, 1937 - December 21, 2015



Charles “Chuck” Schmidt made his first commitment as an associate along with his wife, Carol, on April 27, 2003. Both Chuck and Carol have enjoyed a special Presentation connection over the years through their daughter, Lisa, a former Presentation Sister.

Family was a priority for Chuck and he and Carol raised their seven children with love and devotion which, in more recent years, has been extended to grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Chuck farmed most of his life until moving to West Bend where he worked as a car salesman. He was an active member of Saints Peter and Paul Parish and the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he served as a member of the local school board and was a founding member of the West Bend Golf and Country Club.

Chuck’s deep faith, love for his family and compassion for others were exemplified throughout his life. Chuck is remembered with love and gratitude.

## In Memory of Kathryn L. Scudella

January 23, 1931 - January 10, 2016



Making her first associate commitment on November 12, 2005, Kathryn Scudella shared her life and spiritual journey with Presentation Sisters and associates, especially those in the Chicago area where she lived. She viewed her association as a way to share with others the faith that had sustained and guided her throughout the years. She highly valued the deep sense of community

and the opportunities to grow in faith that she experienced as a Presentation associate. Even as she struggled with Alzheimer’s disease in recent years, she enjoyed participating in associate group gatherings when her daughter, Tina, was able to accompany her.

Kathryn was a beloved wife, devoted mother of four and proud grandmother and great-grandmother. As noted by her granddaughter in her eulogy, Kathryn left her family a living legacy through the resilience, strength, discipline, compassion and love that she modeled so well.

Most assuredly, Nano, along with Kathryn’s husband and other loved ones, is among those who have welcomed Kathryn into eternity. May she rest in peace!

# BETH ARTICO JUDITH SCHWARTZ

## Friends for Mission

by KAREN TUECKE,  
PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

Judith Schwartz and Beth Artico, hold a special place in their hearts for the Sisters of the Presentation. You might say Judy's involvement with the Presentations is 'in the genes.' Her grandparents, Popo Pete (Henry, 1848-1942) and Momo Nan (Elizabeth Ann Loughlin, 1867-1945) They lived on West Hill in Dubuque most of their married lives in their home on Cleveland Avenue. Of their nine children, all except Teddy who died at two years old, attended St. Columbkille School. In addition, all the girls graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and 13 of the 15 in the next generation were also educated by the Presentation Sisters.

Judy's first memory of the sisters was in 1945, at the age of five, when she visited the convent to see the sisters' home after her cousin Mimi Rastatter entered. She says, "I must have pestered my Mom to make me a habit too – and she did. I have this memory of being led into a room where many sisters were, so everyone could see me in my 'sister outfit.' Shy as I was, I would not open my eyes as everyone oohed and aahed at me, the 'mini-sister!'"

"My experience with the Sisters of the Presentation continued when my brother Pete and I went to St. Columbkille School when our family lived in Dubuque, whether we were within the 'bounds' of that parish or not. My mom thought it was very important that we have some continuity in our lives, so we always went to the same school," Judy states.

The Rastatter home on Rush Street, a few houses up the street from St. Columbkille parish and school, was the hub of many a Theis clan gathering – all were welcome. "Because we often lived further than walking distance, if I forgot my sack lunch, I knew I would always be welcome there. 'Oh, have you come for lunch today?' Mimi's mother and my Aunt Bea would say, and set another place at the table. My Uncle Art worked at Roshek's downtown, and would take the bus home for lunch. The first part of the meal we could talk; the last part we had to listen, and it was always listening to the noon broadcast of Paul Harvey. To this day, I can hear the broadcaster end, 'Good Day!'"



Left to right: Beth Artico and Judy Schwartz with their dog, Jazzy.

In 1959, Judy's family moved from Dubuque, and in 1962, Judy came back briefly to help her youngest aunt who had five children at home and a new baby soon to arrive. After a year, she moved to Western New York where she has been ever since.

Judy met Beth in 1986 at a women's group meeting that soon morphed into a book club. "Beth taught me about charitable giving and the importance of giving back," states Judy.

Beth expresses, "Judy and I want to support entities where we have connections. For us, there is not a better organization than the Sisters of the Presentation due to Judy's history with them."

Beth and Judy continue to be Presentation partners because they believe in the Presentation mission and their ministries. Both feel, "There are many organizations in the Western New York area who ask for and need support. We've been fortunate to be able to support them too, but our primary focus is supporting organizations where we have a personal connection. Our Presentation connection is both education-based and supportive of family involvement in charitable works.

When Sister Barbara Rastatter, Judy's cousin and Mimi's sister, began working at St. James Wabash in Chicago in social care and food pantry management, Beth and Judy's support followed her there. Presently, Sister Janet Stelken continues Sister Barbara's great work in social care at St. James. "We see our contributions make a difference. The Sisters of the Presentation have touched so many lives, both within the city, the surrounding areas, in Hispanic ministries and in the southern hemisphere."

# REMEMBERING

## Monticello, Minnesota

### 1941-Present

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

"The Midwest was still new when pioneers in ox-drawn wagons trekked westward in search of a place for a home and the maintenance of their families. Lured by the beauty of its fertile prairie lands, many halted and staked off claims in Minnesota." *Annals #233*

As early as 1855, the first Catholics arrived in the Monticello area, and were served by mission priests. The first Mass in Monticello was offered by Bishop Joseph F. Busch of St. Cloud. In June of 1909, St. Henry Parish became a reality, its name chosen to honor Father Henry Blum who had served the parish as a mission from Buffalo, Minnesota.

The year 1937 saw the Franciscan Sisters from Little Falls staffing the school of religion, which they maintained until 1941. Upon their withdrawal, Pastor George Van der Velden made the trip to Dubuque, Iowa, to ask Mother Perpetua Ryan for sisters to take over the religious instruction in the parish. Sisters Mary Denise Kollasch and Callista Ryan, accompanied by Mother Perpetua, made the journey to Monticello to bring the lantern of Nano Nagle to the northland.

Their interview with the pastor and the public school principal revealed that released time for religious instruction was not new to the area. Cooperation between the public school officials and the local pastors had already been established, and continues to the present day. With the arrival of September, the sisters welcomed 141 students. Over the years the population increased until in 1978 over 700 students from five parishes were being served by three sisters and 65 volunteer teachers.

Full-time catechetical work was new to the sisters, who had been educated as Catholic school teachers. With students in grades 1-10 coming during the week from their public school classes, Sunday School classes for four- and five-year olds, Wednesday evening classes for grades 11 and 12, and adult education, the schedule was far from the experience of those accustomed to full days of instruction with the same group of students for a year. Sister Eunice Kane, arriving in 1942, began a systematic training in catechesis for sisters and volunteers alike.



Left to right: Sisters Canice Byrnes, Eunice Kane, Clement Bird and Inviolata Crowley in 1944

By 1980, the sisters had begun to transition to more parish work, taking their place on the parish council, the liturgy committee and in the ministerial association. Former work with students in classrooms, and private piano and organ lessons, gave way to such positions as parish music minister. The ministry expanded to include the parish in Mound, the neighboring town. Progress is noted at St. Henry with the building of a new church in 1999. The parish Hispanic ministry includes a Mass in Spanish each Sunday.

Today, Sister Carolyn Link resides in Monticello, the 38th Presentation Sister to do so. She is catechumenate coordinator at St. Henry, where she has spent the last 25 years. She serves as pastoral minister/liturgist at Mound. She is recognized in the area as an artist of note, spending her spare time in the study and practice of her chosen field. Her comment in the parish centennial book of 2009 tells of her love for St. Henry: "What first attracted me to St. Henry was the liturgy. It was prayerful, the community was warm and inviting, the music was exceptional. I felt like this could be home."

The centennial book provides comments about their experience from several other sisters. Sister Eunice observed: "The love shown for the sisters by members of St. Henry Parish was always very evident. A good example would be the sudden appearance of some good steaks ... whenever a visiting sister was present."

Sister Diana Blong remarked, "I remember the warmth and friendliness of the parish and community and the generosity and willingness of people to participate. I will not forget the natural beauty of Minnesota – nature walks and cross-country skiing."

Sister Irma Ries agreed with Sister Diana. "When I worked as the religious education director, you, the people of St. Henry Parish, grabbed a corner of my heart. I came as a stranger, but you quickly invited me into your family and friendship circles."

From brave pioneer families to settled and rooted citizens, the people of St. Henry maintain their spirit and their love for God and family.

# SISTER ANNETTE SKYLES A Life of Generous Service

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

“I am myself,” remarks Sister Annette Skyles. “I enjoy people and try to be honest and compassionate with them.” These few words of self-declaration describe the straightforward and clear statement reflected in Sister Annette’s way of life from her youth, through her years of teaching and parish visiting ministries to the present ministry of prayer and community.

And the more of it? This tall, unassuming woman religious with a placid visage is described by community members, former students and others as humble, appreciative and companionable. In her 10 years since coming to live at Mount Loretto motherhouse, generosity in volunteering can be added to Sister Annette’s qualities.

A Catholic school elementary teacher for 52 years, Sister Annette was inspired to teach because of the Presentation Sisters she had at St. Joseph grade and high schools in Mason City, Iowa.

“Our family of eight (four girls and four boys) had a combined total of 96 years schooling at St. Joe’s,” she boasts. Sister Annette lovingly recalls many of her Presentation teachers and principals – Sisters Mary Aloysius Rush, Clement Bird, Robert Reidy, Victoria Gereau, Vivia Cranny, among others.

Her Presentation mentors and models instilled in Sister Annette her own love of teaching which she gratefully paid forward. She proudly names all of the places where she taught grades fourth through seventh: Waukon, Osage, Dubuque, Cedar Falls, Epworth, Storm Lake, Key West and Algona in Iowa; and Oregon, Illinois.

In 1998, Sister Annette was recognized by “Who’s Who Among American Teachers,” having been nominated by one of her students from St. Mary School, Storm Lake. In 1999, she received the Excellence in Education Award from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa.

Making others comfortable with her sense of humor and off-handed way, Sister Annette is able to share stories about former students, such as the boy who once told her, “Sister, we have a lot of work, but we get all the work and you get paid!”

“Sister Annette loved me as I entered her classroom for my second year in first grade,” remembers Sister Suzanne Gallagher. “I was young, very shy, and needed the love that would help me learn and grow into an independent, self-confident person. As I learned in later years, she was a teacher who sought out and helped the children in the margins without any fanfare; as simply as a lunch

sack on the shelf in the locker room for the hungry who had no lunch from home.”

“As a new teacher myself, she tutored me on managing my first classroom of 35 first-graders, tips beyond the textbook of phonics and the basics of Saturday football. My first mission experience was a ‘Camelot’ of community life and Sister Annette’s simple yet profound vision of what we are about had a mighty impact on my life.”

Dedication and generosity have continued to shine strong in Sister Annette since her retiring to community prayer and service. Whether playing a weekly card game with some of the sisters and her friend, Tim Toohey, who comes to Mount Loretto, looking after the card and gift shop or spending time in prayer, Sister Annette continues to give of herself.

Classmate in community, Sister Joan Lickteig remarks, “Sister Annette has always been faithful and appreciative – faithful to daily religious exercises, faithful to teaching and faithful to community.”

This points to Sister Annette’s having a great love of community fondly earmarked by such experiences as “making Christmas candy at midnight with Sister Marilyn Breen” while teaching at Resurrection School, Dubuque, and companionship classmates Sisters Dominic Church and Therese Marie Hawes in their years of diminishment.

Friends in community for many years, Sisters Annette and Barbara Rastatter have shared a closeness. “And, we could lovingly ‘read the riot act’ to each other when necessary,” says Sister Annette with a serious smile.

In recent days, while experiencing changes in her health, Sister Annette has been experiencing others “paying and praying it forward.” The love and care in community from sisters and employees at Mount Loretto reflect back to her sense of compassion, care and empathy. Participating in fun and joy with others, she recently shared a wide smile and dancing brown eyes when three sisters came to her door with flowers and shiny Happy Birthday balloons.

Sister Annette Skyles, seen by some as a tall drink of faithfulness and fun, quietly follows her thirst for the living God.



Every Tuesday morning, Sisters Annette Skyles (left) and René Laubenthal (right) play cards with Tim Toohey, son of Mary and Bill Toohey of Dubuque.

## Annual Benefit Garage/Gym Sale

The 2016 Presentation Garage/Gym Sale is right around the corner and work is already underway! The 2015 sale raised over \$19,000. For the past 11 years, many of you have helped support the sale and Presentation ministries through donations of money, sale items, baked goods and time. Can we count on you again this year?

**WHEN:**  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
April 28, 29, 30, 2016

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
May 5, 6, 7, 2016  
(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 be sold. Wrapped baked goods may be brought to the gym on April 28-30 and/or May 5-7.

**WHY:**  
The proceeds from the 2016 sale will assist the following ministries/charities:

- Hispanic Outreach Ministry of Evangelization (HOME), a Presentation ministry to the Hispanic population in the areas of Dyersville, Cascade, Farley and Petersburg, IA
- Student Endowment Fund, Immaculate Conception School in Charles City, IA

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of usable items from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Monday, April 4 until Saturday, April 23. **No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 23.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, etc. should be dropped off at the garages across from the gym.

**For more information, contact:**  
Office of Associate Partnership  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001  
563-588-2008  
associates@dubuquepresentations.org

### Be Sustainable, Go Paperless

Online giving offers supporters a flexible, paperless way to contribute to the Sisters of the Presentation. You can make a one-time or monthly donation by visiting the Presentation website and clicking the Donate Now tab. Many partners use this secure option to make their gifts.



In an effort to be sustainable, more than half of all charitable gifts worldwide are made online to support not-for-profit agencies. Join an ever-growing number of partners managing their contributions online. Donate Now is convenient and easy for an ever growing community of Presentation Sisters, partners, employees and associates, near and far.

To make your gift, visit:  
[www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)  
or call the Partners in Mission Office  
at 563.588.2008 ext. 105

# CATHOLIC SISTERS Promote Care of Earth

Adapted from an article by CAROL HOVERMAN, OSF

The eyes of the nation focused on the Iowa Caucuses, which took place in the state on February 1. To capture this interest, the 12 congregations of Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, placed more than 20 billboards in strategic locations throughout Iowa, southwest Wisconsin and western Illinois, reminding all who participated in the caucuses to call for an end to environmentally-destructive policies and to raise awareness and encourage all to walk more gently on this planet to preserve our Earth for future generations.

The billboards, posted in January and into February, carried the message, "Standing with Pope Francis – Caring for our Common Home." In his latest encyclical, "Laudato Si," Pope Francis urgently calls people all over the world to take action to protect Earth, our common home.

Among competing political concerns, protection of the earth has not yet risen to the status of a burning issue with the candidates and many voters. The billboards are an effort to call attention to this critical issue. Catholic Sisters for a Healthy Earth Committee (CSHE), which represents the communities of women religious sponsoring the campaign, initiated the plan for the billboards.

"We must care for Earth and each other by our own actions, by engaging in dialogue with others and pressing our lawmakers to prioritize bold action to turn the tide for climate justice," says Sister Joy Peterson, CSHE committee member and Presentation Sister.

People are also urged to call attention to the humanitarian challenges of climate change with legislators, candidates, at the caucuses and throughout the election season.

"Caring for our Common Home also invites each of us to do our part to lessen the detrimental effects our actions have on the environment," said Notre Dame Sister Kathleen Storms, Director of Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat in Wheatland, Iowa. "When our personal actions align with Pope Francis' message, we will effect change in our homes, neighborhoods. When our legislators see us taking this message seriously, they will find ways to make changes that will alter our state and global actions."

The billboards were placed in the Iowa cities of Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Davenport, Des Moines and West Des Moines,



This design of more than 20 billboards promoted by Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley was placed throughout Iowa during the February caucuses.

Dubuque and Sioux City, in the Tri-State areas of Rock Island and Moline, Illinois, and Kieler, Wisconsin.

"Part of the reason for our billboard campaign is not only to encourage us to talk with our representatives and the candidates about incorporating the environment into our policies, but it's also that we keep aware, keep moving and discovering all the riches in the encyclical, so we don't just buy a copy, read it once, put it on the shelf and forget it," said committee member, Dubuque Franciscan Sister Michelle Balek.

Short public common prayer services were held in each city where the billboards were posted. In Dubuque, about 50 sisters, associates and friends carrying placards with the billboard message huddled on a cold windy January day near the billboard on 8th and White Streets. Prayer petitions called for actions needed to halt the practices harming the environment. A few beeps of solidarity and waves from passing lunch hour motorists punctuated the prayer service.

The response to the billboards has been very positive. "Thank you sisters for living and preaching the call for our planet's sustainability! Standing with you from Milwaukee," wrote one commenter on a community's Facebook page.

"Our big hope is that people see that caring for the climate, caring for the earth is a moral obligation," said Sister Joy. "It's not political, even though we need to influence politicians, but it's an issue so important to the future of all creation. We also want to stimulate further response to the encyclical reminding people of the message that Earth is our common home."

Catholic Sisters who collaborated on the billboards include the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin; Benedictine Sisters of Rock Island, Illinois; Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community; Notre Dame Sisters of the Central Province; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Davenport, Iowa; Sisters United News (SUN); Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa; Discalced Carmelites, Eldridge, Iowa; Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, Visitation Sisters and Trappistine Sisters, all of Dubuque, Iowa.

## Presentation Lantern 2015 Service Awards

At the Presentation Lantern Center annual appreciation dinner, the board of trustees awarded Presentation Lantern Service Awards to Pam Miller and Sister Carol Ann Berte, OSF.

Pam Miller, an educator by trade and a tutor since 2011, has usually worked with a young woman from China. Not only did Pam help Xiaoling learn English, but she also walked Xiaoling through the process of applying for and passing the citizenship test. Pam explained that she enjoys coming to the center. "It is the highlight of my week and I am so glad that I have the opportunity to work with a young mother. Together we have dealt with school readiness issues which are so important for the children."



Left to right: Sister Carol Ann Berte, OSF, and Pam Miller received the 2015 Presentation Lantern Service Award.

Pam loves books and has gifted the center with many children's literature books, featuring people from faraway places. When students discover books about their homeland the roles are reversed – the students teach the tutors.

For Sister Carol Ann Berte, OSF, navigating health care issues in a second or third language is no small thing. Because Carol Ann worked as a nurse in the United States and Mexico, our students can actually 'Ask a Nurse' in two languages. What a gift!

Often, Sister Carol Ann is assigned to persons for whom Spanish is their first language. She feels that she has a very good grasp of the challenges they face because she has not only learned another language but also lived in another culture. "Volunteering at the Lantern Center is a wonderful and satisfying experience for me," shares Sister Carol Ann. She continues, "It is enriching to meet other tutors in a comfortable and friendly place. Helping immigrants master a new language is the right thing to do in this Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis."

"These two individuals have contributed over 500 hours of service," notes Executive Director Sister Corine Murray. "They, like many of the tutors, have touched and changed lives."



## DUBUQUE'S got SISTERS

Join us for an inside  
look at religious life!

April 22-23, 2016

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 22 at 5 pm to 6 pm on Saturday, April 23.



To register or  
for information:

Contact  
Sr. Ginny Heldorfer, OSF  
at heldorferv@osfdbq.org  
or call 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.



# SHE DID ALL THINGS WELL

## *Sister Mary William Allen*

*March 17, 1914 - December 6, 2015*

by LOUISE SCIESZINSKI, PBVM

Mary Alice Allen was born to William and Anne (Williams) over 101 years ago in Clare, Iowa. Family roots were strong and enduring. Twenty-six years later, after entering the Sisters of the Presentation in 1940, she would take her father's first name and her mother's family name for her own lifelong religious name. Throughout her life she diligently kept contacts, welcomed visits and gladly shared news of family members and their accomplishments.

Before entering the Sisters of the Presentation, Mary Allen was an elementary teacher and proud of it. Years later she would relate student anecdotes and mention student and family names recalled from those years. Several decades later, she would return from her brother's wake and funeral to delightedly tell of the people in attendance who reminded her of their happy memories of her as their teacher. Then she would add with a warm twinkle in her eye, "They still remember and so do I."

Sister William continued her teaching ministry over a span of 69 years. Being a teacher was a gift she lived in full awareness. Her quiet dedication gave rise to her own high bar of self-expectation and competence seen in her work with students. After she moved to a new mission and throughout her retirement years, Sister William would often ask sisters connected with her former parishes

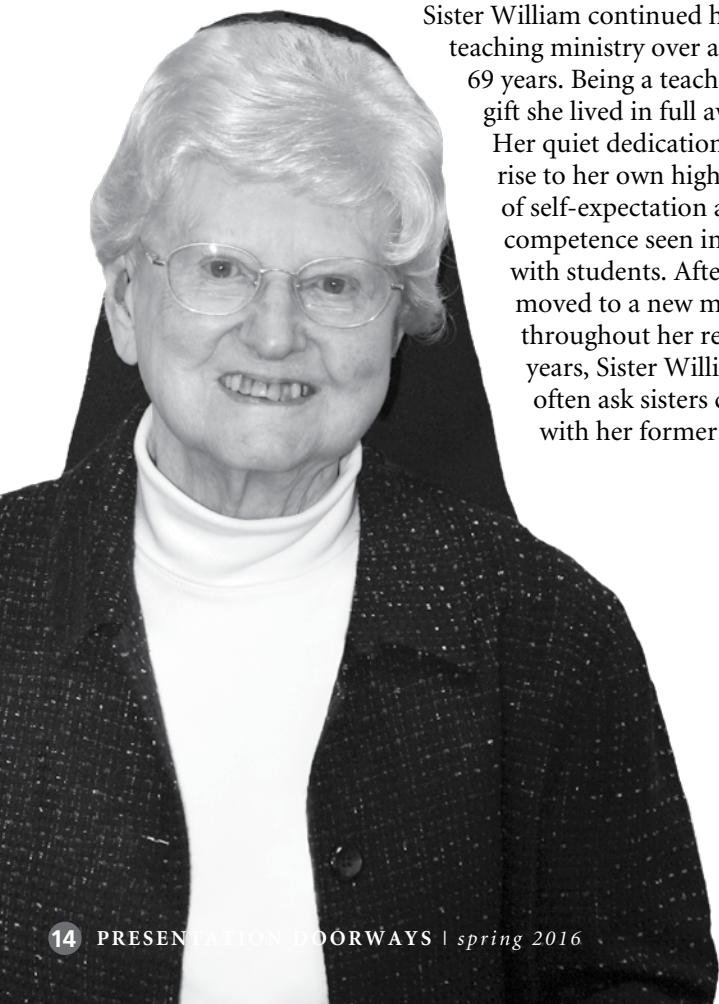
about the school and the families. All those she had known and helped were carried in her heart and prayers.

Sister William was not given to talk about prayer. Her witness of deep faith and her hours of prayer that included several daily extended "chapel times" were clearly part of who she was. Her concern for sisters in community was apparent by her spirit of hospitality, her questions of interest and words of encouragement, her hours of sewing done to perfection, her attitude of service that would always give a hand and her presence at and participation in all community activities and events.

Ever a woman of wisdom, she listened carefully and spoke her inner truth with an informed viewpoint and discerning mind. It was touching on more than one occasion during serious community discussions to have Sister William, even at age 101, take the microphone and share simply with clarity and conviction: "I have great hope for the future of our Presentation community." Her wide interests were ongoing and reading was forefront. She stayed particularly current on happenings and people at Mount Loretto, in community, in family, in Clare and Webster County, in locations related to her experience and the sisters' ministries. She knew how to savor her blessings.

Sister William lived a quality of presence each day and brought precision of performance to every task. No job was too big or too insignificant; it simply needed to be accomplished with an eye to careful finishing detail. Anything she put her hand to was done as well as possible – from teacher to coordinator of the motherhouse, from personal laundry to artful ironing, from a diligent card game to intricate handiwork. Sister spoke intentionally, using minimal words. She calmly said what she meant and meant what she said, without any further ado. She was appreciative and gentle of heart without noticing disappointments. She knew how to live interdependently while sharing plenty of independent initiative. She was ever gracious and did not need recognition. She did all things well.

In the funeral homily, Father Doug Wathier stated, "There is a hole in our hearts and a hole in the congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation at the passing of Sister William ..." Later he spoke of the "truth that Sister William taught with her life – that those who stitch together a life according to the Way, Truth and Life of Jesus do not die. They live forever with God ..."



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## Gathering as One

Although these sisters are from a number of different religious congregations, they gather as one to pray for the needs of the world during the weekly Liturgy in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Presentation motherhouse. Left to right: Clockwise: Sisters Anne McCormick, PBVM; Marilyn Schlosser, OP; Mildred Strief, RSM; Marie Therese Kalb, OSF; Mary Kivlahan, OSF; Maureen Smith, OSF; Nuong Bui, LHC; Huyen Phan, LHC; Theresa Marie Tran, SCC; and Paula Maloy, SVM.

## Warmth of Generosity

The Presentation community recently made a donation toward a new boiler for The Port Ministries in Chicago, Illinois, whose mission is to provide programs and services that address the fundamental needs of the mind, body and spirit to South Side residents. Left to right: The Port Ministries Executive Director, David Gonzalez; Volunteer, Molly Gabaldo; Sister Leanne Welch and Sister Mary Therese Krueger.



## The Power of Prayer

For several years, Sisters Dolores Moes and Deborah Paige have been volunteering at the Power of Prayer Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa, where they find much fulfillment.

“For me it is a very special place to pray as I join others in giving adoration and thanksgiving to God,” shares Sister Dolores. “One is so close to Jesus to reflect on what He has done for humanity through the Eucharist. God is always there loving us and keeping us faithful in our daily lives. There are so many who need our prayers. I ask God to help them and give them the graces they need.”

Sister Deborah adds, “The Eucharist is the center of life and has always been for me. Making a weekly Holy Hour strengthens our lives and our families. Each week I bring the needs of my Presentation community, family, church and world for His Divine guidance and grace. I do not let any other commitments interfere with my adoration time. Jesus is deserving of our thanksgiving and adoration for all.”



Sister Dolores Moes



Sister Deborah Paige

## You are invited to join us.

**April 22-23, 2016**  
Dubuque's Got Sisters  
Area Motherhouse Tours  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 28-30, 2016**  
**May 5-7, 2016**  
Garage/Gym Sale  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**March 28, 2016**  
**April 25, 2016**  
**May 23, 2016**  
**June 27, 2016**  
Centering Prayer  
6:15-7:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation, please visit our web site at [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org) or call 563.588.2008.

## Please pray with us.

**April 16-17, 2016**  
Sisters and Associates Retreat  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 17, 2016**  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**June 3, 2016**  
Presentation Pacers  
Relay for Life  
Dubuque, Iowa

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

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

Please help us keep our database up-to-date.  
Please change this label and send it back to  
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at  
[info@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:info@dubuquepresentations.org). Thank you.

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

## Relationally SPEAKING

*Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief*



Congratulations to Associate Barbara Ressler whose work with Wahlert Catholic High School student haiku poets from 1989-2009 is recognized in the recently published literacy biography of Father Raymond Roseliep entitled *Raymond Roseliep: Man of Art who Loves the Rose* by Dr. Donna Bauerly.



Associate Donna Ewy was the speaker for the Mackin-Mailander Lecture Series at Clarke University on February 28. Donna spoke passionately about the provision of health care services to vulnerable populations, emphasizing when patients are treated with dignity, and health care providers approach their work as ministry, both the individual and society flourish.



In December 2015, Sisters Michelle Gallagher and Jeanine Kuhn took part in a candlelight prayer vigil for the homeless in downtown Waterloo, Iowa, in honor of National Homeless Awareness Month. They met the group at the COR, a building the Waterloo Catholic parishes are renting. Cocoa and cookies gave all participating energy needed to sing and walk to Lincoln Park where the group ended with prayer. Participants then had the opportunity to hang on park trees whatever warm clothing they brought for the homeless to take as needed.



### Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2016

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)**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**