



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*

**KINDNESS**  
Get in the Habit

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LAMAR

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the  
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*The congregation is a member of Sisters United  
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Communicators for Women Religious and the  
American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.*

## 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

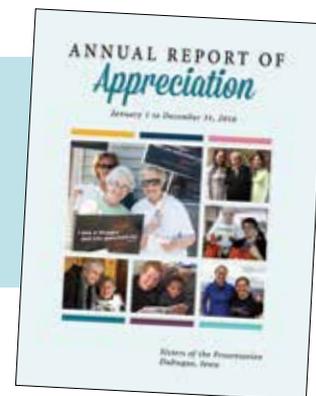
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### Annual Report of Appreciation

*Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2016. 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

*The Sisters of the Presentation, in collaboration with Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, launched a campaign in March to encourage people to be kind toward one another. The message – “Kindness: Get in the Habit” – was created to counter the continued divisiveness seen throughout the country.*

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

*Openings*

by JULIANNE BROCKAMP, PBVM

## *Make Love Visible*

Together, in the midst of all the challenges we face today, we strive to serve justice with love. Your tremendous generosity makes good works possible. In this issue of Presentation Doorways we wish to extend our gratitude to all our donors who have partnered with us in mission during 2016. Our world today needs our extreme, determined love, new models of discourse, energy for peace and intentional care for our suffering brothers and sisters who face insurmountable distress.

We are challenged to be courageous and bold about love and to make love visible by bringing about transformation for good in our midst. Your contributions help to create new realities and structures that speak to inclusion and give hope to struggling and forgotten members of our planetary community. Lured by the radical love of God, we strive to live with peaceful purpose in the service of others. We opt, in accordance with our Presentation Directional Statement, to “reverence relationships and foster partnerships that transform ourselves and our world.”

The well-being of the global community is dependent upon our understanding of the interdependence of all human beings with each other and all of creation. As we care for others, who for one reason or another seem to be forgotten or abandoned, we all become stronger and healthier. Strengthening the well-being of any one person living in our planetary community strengthens us all. Working together as partners for the common good, we can make a difference as we strive to protect Earth and share life with those on the margins of society.

How beautiful it would be if we could, as Pope Francis says, “Wake up the World” to new dynamic hopes, new shared visions of who we are designed to be as a superbly interconnected Earth community. Uniting our creative energy in global solidarity could bring us to a new collaborative consciousness leaving behind all that separates us. Then, perhaps, the dream of Jesus, “that all may have life and have it in abundance,” would become reality. Then, perhaps, justice, love and peace could prevail throughout Earth.

In gratitude we commit to join with you as together we strive to engender hope and make love visible in our struggling world. Thank you for your continued efforts and generous contributions which engender hope and help to keep alive the dream that “another world is possible.”



## *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 vision 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*



Left to right: Sister Marilou Irons visits with Applewood residents, Anna Close and Carol Moyer.

## SISTER MARILOU IRONS A Joyful Spirit

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

If you see a group of sisters visiting and laughing, you will probably find Sister Marilou Irons in their midst, because she is a great storyteller. She will be the one with the wide smile and the sparkling eyes.

“Eye has not seen ... what God has ready for those who love him.” This Scripture quote is one of Sister Marilou’s favorite, because it expresses God’s unfathomable love. And her life, given over to God at baptism, has been full of signs of God’s love for her, a love which she first experienced from her parents.

Sister Marilou is the fourth of nine children of Bob and Catherine Irons of Waukon, Iowa. She speaks with great joy about her family and the life lessons she learned in its midst. “My parents provided me with a great childhood,” she states with pride. “My

mother was an organizer and an optimist, who always said, ‘You can do this!’ My dad would always caution: ‘Life is too short for anger. Get it out of your system!’ And they never made comparisons among their children: each one of us was respected as unique and wonderful. From my mother I also learned to have a grateful heart, to thank people by writing notes that share my thoughts and appreciation.”

Sister Marilou had early experience in working “with a group,” because her mother would organize the children into teams to do their household chores. Through this, she learned to work with young children. At one point in her teenage years, she and her sister calculated that between the two of them they had babysat 250 children in and around Waukon. All of these experiences were invaluable when Sister Marilou spent 30 years

Being a part of the Applewood community is similar to my years of being a part of a school faculty as there are many aspects of both that involve building community and enjoying life. *Sister Marilou Irons*

in administration of schools, after having taught for several years in Catholic schools. She first taught at Resurrection School and then St. Columbkille, both in Dubuque. She also taught in Osage and Mason City, both in Iowa. Sister Marilou was a principal in the Farley-Bankston school system, in Manchester, and in Cedar Falls, all in Iowa. She served as the principal, director of religious education, and confirmation coordinator at Sacred Heart in Oelwein, Iowa, where she also obtained certification for the school to provide day care and preschool programs. Sister retired from school work after being the principal in Webster City, Iowa.

Sister Marilou became convinced at a young age that if she wanted to go to heaven, she needed “a group!” She knew in second grade that she wanted to be a sister, so after graduating from St. Patrick High School in Waukon, Marilou entered the Sisters of the Presentation. She completed her college work at Clarke College in Dubuque, and later received a master’s degree in reading with an emphasis in administration from Clarke. Sister stated that she was fortunate because she always had good people to work with and great communities of sisters in which she lived, thus confirming her early belief that being in a “group” does facilitate the journey to heaven.

Currently Sister Marilou is serving as the resident manager of Applewood I and II in Dubuque, an independent living residence for seniors. Sister provides hospitality and a sense of “home” to residents in 90 apartments. In addition to general management and housekeeping of the buildings, she plans group social activities and obtains speakers on various topics.

“Being a part of the Applewood community is similar to my years of being a part of a school faculty as there are many aspects of both that involve building community and enjoying life,” states Sister Marilou. “As a coordinator of hospitality, I am blessed to team with great folks.”

In her leadership activities through the years, Sister Marilou liked to pilot new ideas, although she would always “mull things over,” looking for all the ramifications and getting input. She thinks variety is important and has implemented that in her various positions.

One of her passions is history. She loves to read about it, see movies about it and talk about it! She also likes to walk, ride her bike and fish. And she loves visiting with people! That “group” idea will most certainly get her to heaven!

## Annual Benefit Garage/Gym Sale

The 2017 Presentation Garage/Gym Sale is right around the corner and work is already underway! The 2016 sale raised \$22,500. For the past 12 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 27, 28, 29, 2017

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
May 4, 5, 6, 2017  
(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 27-29 and/or May 4-6.

**WHY:**  
The proceeds from the 2017 sale will assist the following ministries/charities:

- Our Lady of Tepeyac School, Chicago, Illinois
- Presentation Lantern Center, Dubuque, Iowa
- La Luz Hispana, Hampton, Iowa
- Hispanic Ministry, St. Patrick, Dubuque, Iowa

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of usable items from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Saturday, April 1 until Saturday, April 22. **No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 22.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, etc. should be dropped off at the garages across from the gym.

**For more information, contact:**  
Associate Mary Lou Mauss  
563-588-2143  
[mauss@mchsi.com](mailto:mauss@mchsi.com)

**EARLY BIRD**  
Thursday, April 27  
7-8 a.m.  
\$10 donation



Left to right: Cedar Rapids associate group members: (Back) Lorraine Rudish, Donna and Ron Weaver; (Front) Rose Rauch, Marlene Myers and Sister Joellen Price.

## Cedar Rapids Associate Group Led by the Light of Nano Nagle

by ROSE RAUCH, Associate

They call themselves the Cedar Rapids associate group, although none of the group members presently live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Members live in Marion, Hiawatha, Manchester and Vinton, all in Iowa. The group got their start in 2005 when Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty served as liturgist at St. Jude Parish in Cedar Rapids. Sister Sheila Ann initiated the associate program in the area, and Sisters Ann Jackson and Annette Kestel and former member Lisa Schmidt joined her. At that time all of the sisters lived in Cedar Rapids, thus the group name.

The current associate group, Donna and Ron Weaver, Lorraine Rudish, Sister Joellen Price, Marlene Myers and Rose Rauch, meet every six or seven weeks to pray together, discuss various topics and share a meal at the Hiawatha Care Center, which Marlene now calls home. Marlene and her late husband, Al, were the first couple in the Cedar Rapids area to become associates.

Every person brings special gifts to the group. Marlene witnesses to God's grace as she journeys through the different stages of Parkinson's disease. She shares her smile, concern for others and

patience for those she interacts with at the care center. To her many friends and family she witnesses her strong faith that God is with her on this journey. Marlene is always eager to provide a listening ear, note of encouragement and caring heart to others.

Lorraine shares her enthusiasm for her work at the Community Health Free Clinic in Cedar Rapids. Whether collecting children's books for children to take home when they come to the clinic or calling for a ride for a client, Lorraine is a gentle and welcoming presence to all.

Donna and Ron share their generous spirits in a variety of ways through their involvement at St. Mary Parish in Manchester. Donna is active in the social justice and parish life committees. Ron is a hospice volunteer in the Manchester community and provides compassion and support to clients he visits both in the hospital and at their home. Donna and Ron enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. They are truly a witness of faithful love of family and God.

Rose, a former member of the Sisters of the Presentation, is a substitute teacher and is always eager to assist family and friends as the need arises. She shares her gifts as a participant in the Presentation Leadership Emerging Circle and as a member of the Associate Partnership Advisory Committee. Her willing service and support are experienced by many.

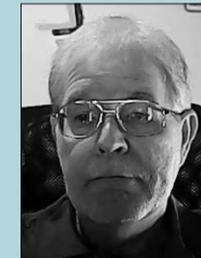
As in the past, the presence of one or more of the sisters in the group has provided a positive addition to the group dynamic. Sister Joellen, pastoral associate at St. Pius X in Cedar Rapids, often shares with group members her desire to be of service to those in need. The group, her parishioners and the greater Cedar Rapids community benefit from her generous heart.

The members of the Cedar Rapids associate group are grateful to be walking together as witnesses of Nano Nagle, who continues to light their way.

## Celebrating New Associate Partnership

by CINDY PFIFFNER,  
ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Robert Mace is the newest member of the Presentation Associate Partnership. Robert lived most of his life in Wisconsin but has lived in Florida for the past 10 years. He began the journey to associate partnership initially as a prayer partner with Sister Dolores Moes, who subsequently agreed to serve as Robert's mentor through the associate orientation process. Since Robert lives in Florida, he and Sister Dolores communicated via email as they studied and discussed the prayer and apostolic lives of the Sisters of the Presentation and the charism and mission of Nano Nagle.



On January 24, a number of sisters gathered to welcome Robert as he made his initial commitment, long distance, via Zoom video conference. Robert shares, "I was attracted to associate partnership as a means of adding an additional dimension to my prayer and spiritual life, having been inspired by Nano Nagle's legacy of unparalleled courage and love for her God and humanity, especially the most oppressed and forgotten ones in her beloved Ireland. In a real sense, the Associate Partnership program would be a life-affirming fiat, my "yes" to God, the "yes" that the Blessed Virgin articulated in her prayer and life as she strived to follow her Lord and God."

We welcome Robert to the Presentation Associate Partnership!

## With Gratitude

After almost four years of service as co-director of the Presentation Associate Partnership, Carol Witry has stepped down. Her gentle leadership, presence and wisdom will be deeply missed. We are grateful for her contribution to the development of the Associate Partnership over these years.



Sister Joan Brincks, co-director with Carol, expresses her appreciation, "Carol embodied her love for the Associate Partnership. As a co-worker, I experienced that love in the ways that Carol led with passion and commitment. Her love for God and Nano Nagle inspired associates and sisters to fully live Presentation mission and charism. I am grateful for Carol's creativity, enthusiasm, openness and contemplative spirit."

Associate Becky Searcy gratefully shares, "Carol's spirited presence among us will be missed by all. Journeying with her as an associate and working with her as a member of the Associate Partnership Advisory Committee has been a real treasure. Carol has a tremendous passion for faith, family and community. Carol has been a great leader, always looking toward the future and energizing us to continue to go one pace beyond."

## A Warm Welcome

The Sisters of the Presentation are delighted to welcome Cindy Piffner as the new co-director of the Associate Partnership. In January, she joined Co-Director Sister Joan Brincks.



Cindy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role. Cindy's family includes her husband, Tim, her two daughters and her five granddaughters. Graduating from Mount Mercy College, Cindy taught elementary school for 21 years. Receiving her master's degree in pastoral ministry from Loras College, she worked as the adult formation coordinator at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Dubuque, Iowa, for 10 years. She serves on her parish social justice committee and has participated in multiple service and immersion trips, such as Appalachia, Honduras and Haiti.

During the past 26 years, Cindy has been connected with the Sisters of the Presentation through her parish and the lay formation program. She shares, "It has been a blessing and a privilege to know these women and to be inspired by their example and commitment to carry on the mission of Nano."

As an associate since 2004 and now as co-director of the Associate Partnership, Cindy states, "I look forward to working with Sister Joan to further the partnership between sisters and associates. I am especially excited to get to know the other men and women in the associate program."

# KINDNESS

Get in the Habit



#CatholicSisters

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*This design was displayed on billboards in six communities, from the Quad Cities to La Crosse, Wisconsin, including three locations in Dubuque and one in Kieler, Wisconsin.*

## Catholic Sisters Launch Kindness Campaign

The Sisters of the Presentation, in collaboration with Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, launched a campaign in March to encourage people to be kind toward one another. The message – “Kindness: Get in the Habit” – was created to counter the continued divisiveness seen throughout the country. It was shared on billboards, in movie theater ads, through social media posts and in Catholic school classrooms.

“We want to call attention to what we should be doing for each other,” said Sister Toni Harris, OP, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. “We are to be feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger. We are to be practicing compassion, as Jesus taught us. Simple acts of kindness can change the world, one person at a time. We need these actions right now especially.”

The campaign ran during the fourth annual National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2017, in conjunction with the second week of Lent. A promotional video introduced the campaign on March 6. Continuing each day of National Catholic Sisters Week, a kindness image and message was posted on social media and on the big screen—including Dubuque’s Mindframe and AMC movie theatres. One of the most powerful images being used is the above

image of a homeless person being handed a cup of coffee taken at Lantern Light during Hurricane Katrina.

“In this era of globalization we are experiencing a new consciousness about who we are as members of a planetary community,” states Sister Julianne Brockamp, congregational leader of the Sisters of the Presentation. “Civil discourse and open dialogue are essential to foster peace on planet Earth. Kindness is a prophetic and transformational word, a word that implies a paradigm shift on a global level. Kindness will guide how we welcome the stranger, engage technology and promote care for Earth, our common home. Kindness is like fresh living water. It sustains our valiant efforts to respect diversity and promote a new and peaceful planetary community.”

*The Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley represent 12 congregations: Benedictine Sisters of St. Mary Monastery, Carmelite Nuns, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of Mercy-West Midwest Community, Sisters of St. Francis-Clinton, Sisters of St. Francis-Dubuque, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sisters of the Visitation. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicsisters](http://www.facebook.com/catholicsisters).*

## Sister Mery Cari Paz A Journey of Five Years

by SUZANNE TAKES, PBVM

Sister Mery Cari Paz recently finished her studies in psychology at the University of Juan Misael Saracho in Tarija, Bolivia. On December 14, 2016, Sister Mery culminated her program by defending her thesis: Psychological Characteristics in Women Who are Victims of Violence by their Partner and Have Withdrawn the Charges in the City of Tarija. The approved, hardbound copy of the thesis, signed and sealed by faculty members, is in the library of the university. The graduation ceremony is pending.

Classes, lectures, activities, projects and presentations have all been a part of this journey. However the greatest learning does not come from texts or lectures, rather from the sharing that takes place while accompanying others on their journey.

Beginning in March 2011, Sister Mery embarked on the journey with other students, faculty members and all those on campus. The greatest threats during the years of study were the strikes that could cause the students a loss of time, delaying their studies and graduation a year or more. When minor strikes delayed the educational process, the students moved forward by having classes and meetings in other centers far from the university unrest.

During the first two years of studies, Sister Mery lived in a small room without many comforts: a bed, desk, bathroom and electric pot for heating water. Long hours of study, day and night, were essential to completing the requirements for her classes.

On January 6, 2014, Casa Betania (Bethany House) opened its doors through the efforts of the Sisters of the Presentation and many generous benefactors, providing a place for Sister Mery and other university women to live, study and share community life. Many students appreciated the space to gather for study, prepare for exams, group presentations, and the opportunity to share prayer, tea and conversation, celebrate birthdays and other occasions. In Casa Betania and in the university, life and faith experiences were shared while walking together with Sister Mery.

Today what is most remembered, are those special moments of encounter with one another, the opportunity to get acquainted, to be blessed by the presence of the other on the journey. Sister Mery’s own words express her gratitude, “I am happy and grateful that I had the opportunity to study psychology. It has been an enriching experience.”

Sister Mery will be remembered by many: the janitor and doorkeeper at the university, the long list of teachers, the administrative staff, and the students and women with whom she visited while preparing her thesis. They will recall with a smile the dedication of a particular woman who gave her all, and shared compassion and understanding for those whom she encountered on their journey.



*After a five-year journey, Sister Mery Cari Paz celebrates the presentation of her thesis at the University of Juan Misael Saracho in Tarija, Bolivia.*



*Sisters Marge Healy and Suzanne Takes congratulate Sister Mery (middle) on her thesis presentation.*



*Sister Mery (middle) with friends Alex and Lorena work on a project at Casa Betania.*



*Sister Mery (third from right) celebrates the completion of her thesis presentation with university friends.*



Sister Dolores Moes (right) helps Sister Agnes Marie Lynch with her daily needs.

## SISTER DOLORES MOES Service with Kindness and Contemplation

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Now in her retirement as it was during her full-time ministry, helping others and offering kindness is the simple but deep formula of Sister Dolores Moes' response to the call of the Gospel. "I begin my day by sharing my plans with the Lord. 'If you, Jesus, have other ideas, let me know. Give me your love and grace and together we can make a difference.' And Jesus usually does!" says Sister Dolores. "I am challenged as I see the need and respond as I am able," she adds.

These two statements seem to summarize the spirituality and sense of mission that Sister Dolores has followed her entire religious life, whether serving as a classroom teacher or principal,

caring for her widowed mother Edith after her father Dr. Alvin Moes died, or tending to the needs of the sisters at Mount Loretto Motherhouse or elderly residents at Seventh Heaven home for the elderly in Dubuque.

A promoter and volunteer for many social causes, Sister Dolores energizes her service each day with a holy hour, prayer, sacristy work and daily Mass. Be it her caring for a sister in need, joining activities with Right to Life at all stages, participating in Earth care projects, connecting with her Presentation associate prayer group or Presentation circle group, Sister Dolores carries the message of the Gospel. "Prayer and Mass and the homily are so

In my retirement ministry, I feel I am making a difference for others as I see their happiness and gratitude which brings me hope. *Sister Dolores Moes*

important to me," states Sister Dolores. "I am blessed to walk with Jesus, Mary, her rosary and my angels daily as the Lord shares what the day holds."

From June to December 2016, in a response to a request from the Presentation associate co-directors, Sister Dolores companioned Robert Mace from Sedona, Florida, in his preparation to become an associate. "We used email to connect every two weeks," says Sister Dolores who accepted a new challenge as an "internet prayer partner." This long-distance mentoring was followed by her participation in Robert's initiation ritual in January through videoconference technology.

Working weekly with Al, a former inmate, who has come back to his Catholic religion, is a way that Sister Dolores continues her baptismal call to share the Good News of Jesus. "Al shares Sunday Mass and brunch with our community," says Sister Dolores.

Once or twice a month, Sister Dolores helps at the Dubuque Food Pantry. "In my retirement ministry, I feel I am making a difference for others as I see their happiness and gratitude which brings me hope," she reflects. She also participates weekly at the Power of Prayer chapel and in Church Women United, both in Dubuque.

Believing strongly in the adage that "kindness begins at home," Sister Dolores helps her sisters in community, especially in the process of getting older. "One sister is legally blind, another has Alzheimer's disease. Visiting them or shopping for them and other sisters is important to me," she comments.

Daily elevator signs of the schedule for prayers and activities are one of Sister Dolores' behind-the-scenes services. For several years, she has arranged for movies to be shown for the sisters living at Mount Loretto. Sister Dolores is also a familiar presence in the infirmary as she is on-call once a month while the nursing staff has a meeting.

Grateful to be of service in her past years of ministry, Sister Dolores recalls the strength and grace she experienced in December 1963 as principal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Lawler, Iowa. She and the staff and pastor had to act quickly when fire destroyed the school. New quarters in a vacant public school building made it possible to resume school in January due to the help of parishioners, other Presentation and Catholic sisters and citizens from surrounding communities.

Sister Dolores also felt strength and grace in 1969 when, as Presentation house coordinator, she was in charge of moving the sisters from the motherhouse at 1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue to 2360 Carter Road. "We needed all the support we had from so many friends and families helping us until all was completed. The sisters adjusted so well to the move," she remembers.

Recalling special travels, Sister Dolores exclaims in gratitude, "Our congregation's trip to Ireland in 2000 was a special opportunity to be in Nano Nagle's historical places and brought to life the stories we have known about her.

"A trip to Rome in 1996 to witness our new Archbishop Jerome Hanus receive his pallium has had lasting memories. That journey was shared with the parishes where I served as a pastoral associate in North Central Iowa. Some of our travel group still get together whenever we can," says Sister Dolores.

For Sister Dolores, companions on the journey of life include her family, other sisters, former parishioners and priests and friends throughout the years. She enjoys writing letters, visiting, reading and even going fishing or watching movies with friends. An enjoyable challenge that Sister Dolores never had the opportunity to do before is art class. "I am grateful in my heart for my religious vocation – a true gift. Working with others for love of God, his poor, the sick and to respond to so many needs in the church and the world call me to prayer and help me make a difference," declares Sister Dolores.

In her 80-plus years, Sister Dolores finds energy, strength and inspiration each day. "There are many challenges in living religious life today," states Dolores. "There are many opportunities to live out our Presentation charism of hospitality and our directional statement to minister to those made poor and to Earth. Our prayer life has taken on a more contemplative form and silence is special when so much is going on. We are also blessed with the availability of both land and water exercising opportunities in our home at Mount Loretto."

While still possessing much energy, Sister Dolores Moes chooses a slower pace than in her busier years as she daily integrates her service in a deep love of God and love of neighbor.

### Correction

In the Winter 2016 issue, we misidentified a sister in this photo. Third from the left is Sister Paula Kuennen. She was misidentified as Sister Paula Schwendinger.



# REMEMBERING Sheldon, Iowa

## 1956-2008

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

Sheldon, a thriving town in the northwest corner of Iowa, was founded by Irish settlers, who carried their heritage with them to the New World. The first priest to minister to the Catholics in Sheldon was Msgr. Lennihan, who served the church in several counties in the area from 1873-1876. The first Catholic church in Sheldon was built in 1880.

In 1955 Father J. J. Hyland fulfilled his desire for a Catholic school in his parish. Five Sisters of the Presentation arrived in August of 1956 to open St. Patrick School: Sisters Mary Philip Jasper, Therese Marie Hawes, Macrina Donlon, Frederick Pint and Sheila Kane. They found the parishioners to be supportive of their efforts to provide an education which integrated religious truths and values into all subject areas and into all aspects of life.

Over the years, 49 Sisters of the Presentation ministered in St. Patrick School and Parish. The last to serve was Sister Anne McCormick, who gave 19 years to the people of Sheldon, the last 11 years as the lone resident of the convent situated across the street from the school and church.

According to the parish centennial booklet, published in 1973, three young men from the parish had been called to serve as priests, while five young women had entered communities of religious women.

During the 52 years that Sisters of the Presentation were present in the parish, they found that “teaching school” was only part of the range of activities in which they would engage. There were fundraisers, sacramental preparation in neighboring parishes, sports activities, parish events, hospice volunteering, visiting nursing home residents, ecumenical prayer services and the list goes on.

One fundraising activity which has brought much-needed money for necessities is the “Fun and Fund Night” which began in 1971 with a cake sale. The activity, according to Sister Mary Karen Jasper, principal at that time, “helped to draw all of us together.” This annual event has grown to include the sale of hand-made articles, a white elephant auction, refreshments and entertainment provided by the school’s choral group. It remains a vital source of income for the school as well as a social event which parishioners of all ages enjoy.



St. Patrick School in Sheldon, Iowa

Other activities which continued to draw parishioners together included a regional golf tournament, attended in 2004 by four Sisters of the Presentation who were avid golfers. (*The Globe August 26, 2004*) The Nestle Toll House Bake Sale Contest in March of 1997, according to the Sheldon newspaper, produced dozens of cookies and over \$4,000 in revenue, along with excitement and camaraderie.

Mission activities have always been a part of the Catholic school experience. One notable example for Sheldon students was their sponsoring the education of a girl in India. Through the generosity of St. Patrick parents and students, she was able to attain a high school education which would have been financially impossible without this help. One student involved in this work said they did it because “she is a part of God’s family.” Another maintained, “It helps Victoria with her life in India and it teaches us kids responsibility and caring.” It is evident that the activity taught many life values along with providing the feeling of satisfaction that comes with helping others.

After a visit to the school in March of 1999, the managing editor of the Sheldon newspaper, Jennifer Dyke, commented on the “Christ-centered atmosphere at St. Patrick, not just because of the symbolism on the walls and doors, but by the examples set by the teachers and followed by the students.”

As part of Catholic Schools Week in 1999, former principals were featured in radio spots on the Sheldon radio station. Sister Karen Jasper (1971-75) cited the Christian community of faith-filled, supportive and generous people she had worked with. Sister Lynn Marie Fangman (1975-77) found people willing to spend long hours for the good of the school. Sister Pamela Quade (1977-81) was impressed with the creativity of the students and the cooperation of parents for the good of the school.

While the last Sister of the Presentation left Sheldon in 2008, this “Christ-centered atmosphere” continues in full force under the direction of dedicated lay faculty and staff.

The tradition lives on.

# Presentation Lantern Center 2016 Service Award

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

The light of a lantern can bring hope and courage when life seems challenging. Volunteers at Presentation Lantern Center give a helping hand as tutors, board members, donors and partners. As guides for English language learners, Presentation Lantern tutors journey with their students and share with them life skills for a new culture.

To honor volunteers, Presentation Lantern Center established the Service Award in 2009. On December 4, 2016, Sister Mary Martens, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, received the 2016 Service Award for her dedicated service to the center.

“For about three years, I’ve tutored students at the Lantern Center and have enjoyed working with a variety of immigrants. Our mutual sharing of time and cultures has enriched my life even as I hope it has enriched theirs. The opportunity to teach eager learners in such a welcoming environment is a bonus,” shares Sister Mary.

Sister Mary is an experienced and highly-qualified educator who has the needs of her students at heart. She has volunteered at the center since 2014 and has logged over 366 hours working with several individuals.

“Mary is dedicated to the students with whom she works,” comments Sarah Gieseke, executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center. “I have witnessed, with her most recent student from Mexico, that Mary develops special lesson plans to build that student’s particular skills. These lessons are geared toward increasing the student’s English proficiency while at the same time providing skills that are essential for a blossoming educator to possess. Mary’s young student hopes to become a teacher just like her. Mary is more than a tutor to her student, she is also her mentor.”

A Chicago native, Sister Mary was an English teacher in secondary schools in Dubuque and Emmetsburg, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; and in Los Angeles California, where most of students were of Hispanic heritage.

Director of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Clarke University in Dubuque, Sister Mary was later an adjunct faculty member in the education department. She served as vice president for the Sisters of Charity; and more recently as administrative assistant to the congregation’s leadership team. At present, Sister Mary is her congregation’s representative to the National Farm Worker Ministry; and representative to “Loretto Community,” a non-governmental organization at the United Nations that addresses human rights and global issues; and board member at St. Stephen’s Food Bank in Dubuque.



Tutoring and mentoring are gifts that Sister Mary Martens, BVM, (left) gives to her student from Mexico.

**The Sisters of the Presentation released a public statement on immigration emphasizing their belief in welcoming the stranger and in caring for the most vulnerable among us.**

The founding members of the Sisters of the Presentation from Ireland migrated to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1874. These sisters ministered to immigrants in Dubuque County and later the community expanded this ministry throughout the United States. Today, we continue to serve immigrants and, with Pope Francis and the U.S. Catholic Bishops, we pray, stand with and serve individuals who are most vulnerable in our society.

We agree with the U.S. Catholic Bishops that our immigration system is broken and is in urgent need of reform. We join with Pope Francis in calling for the building of “bridges not walls.” We believe that we are following God’s vision when we welcome the stranger and care for the most vulnerable among us.

We are deeply troubled by executive orders that ban refugees, deport individuals, separate families and strip them of their human dignity. These actions are not in keeping with the best of our American tradition of welcoming. “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” We urge President Trump and all elected officials to build bridges and work for comprehensive immigration reform.

# A WOMAN OF GRACE AND DIGNITY

## Sister Catherine Wingert

*April 24, 1924 - October 1, 2016*

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

An old adage says, “Do not make her larger in death than she was in life.” But that would never apply to Sister Mary Catherine Wingert, who died October 1, 2016. What was said of her at her death and after, was almost inadequate to describe who she really was. Words fail us. Still, we try.

Mary Cecelia Wingert was born to Lawrence and Mary Wingert in Wesley, Iowa, on April 24, 1924. She was truly formed by her family, whom she loved greatly, and with whom she kept in touch, especially through letters. Of the 11 children in the family, only her brother, Father Gerald Wingert is still living.

After graduation from high school, she entered the Sisters of the Presentation on August 25, 1943, making her final profession on May 11, 1949. Sister Catherine was educationally prepared to teach, and in that role, she deeply touched many lives. Subsequently she was a principal for many years. Her influence over new teachers and student teachers is inestimable. She trained teachers with gentleness and great wisdom, and she had an unusual skill with students in school. Louis Bassler, a former student and also a teacher under Sister Catherine, remarks, “She could bring a gym full of junior high students to complete silence without ever raising her voice.”

The professional testament to her skill was that in 1991, after ministering as a principal for 37 consecutive years, Sister Catherine was awarded the National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Principal Award.

Sister Lou Cota taught with Sister Catherine at St. Dorothy School in Chicago. Sister Lou comments, “Sister Catherine never wanted anyone to be hurt, so she was a mistress of diplomacy. If she thought a teacher could improve, instead of telling her that, she would go to her room and say to the students something

like, ‘Today I get a chance to teach you some math ...,’ and by doing so she was teaching the teacher in her subtle way.”

Sister Lou adds, “If conversations turned negative about another, she would counter with, ‘I think there is something good within her that we need to bring forth.’ She loved having parties or fixing breakfast for staff. In the spirit of Nano Nagle, she would often fix a meal for students she knew had poor conditions at home.”

Sister Catherine treated everyone with dignity. When parents had concerns, she would work with them, and they would always leave with a smile. Many times she would arrange to meet parents in the convent so that they would not be embarrassed by going to the school office where others would see them.

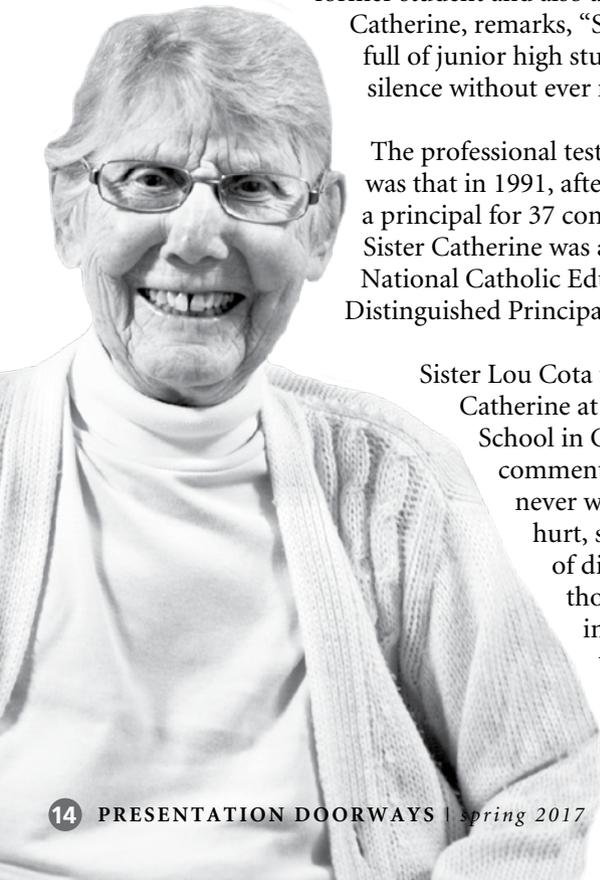
Sister Martha Donnelly, who also taught at St. Dorothy, has a long history with Sister Catherine. Martha’s mother was the school secretary for Sister Catherine in Mason City where the Donnelly’s lived. “Sister Catherine was a great support to my family over the years,” comments Sister Martha. “She could focus on you so intently that you felt affirmed and very special.”

Sister Martha adds, “Sister Catherine so identified with the Black community that one time she came home from a workshop and commented, ‘We were the only Blacks there!’”

Sister Lou remarks, “In addition to her work in the school, she was greatly invested in the parish. Parishioners came to know her well for her presence and involvement in liturgy and in parish gatherings. After a time, the sisters moved to a parish in Markham, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and, again, she became very involved in the parish, while maintaining her ties at St. Dorothy.”

In her retirement years she took on a new venture: she learned line dancing, and then she taught it to parishioners! When she came to Mount Loretto Motherhouse to live, she taught it to the sisters. As in everything, she moved with grace and dignity.

But perhaps the great secret of this woman’s life was that she surrounded her day with prayer, from morning through the day until its close in the evening. She knew that God would take care of everything, and she trusted God with all her heart. Her death is a great loss to the Presentation community, and her family, friends, parishioners and former students. But it is safe to say that her care for all continues even as she does a bit of line dancing in heaven!



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## Lunar New Year Celebration

Sisters Huyen Phan, Nuong Bui and Teresa Marie Tran, who currently reside at Mount Loretto Motherhouse, hosted a Lunar New Year celebration. The afternoon consisted of traditional decorations, eating homemade Vietnamese dishes and singing Vietnamese New Year songs with students from Divine Word College, Dubuque area residents, sisters and associates. Left to right: Sisters Teresa Marie Tran, SCC; Tram Tran, IHM; Nuong Bui, LHC; Huyen Phan, LHC; and Tuyen Nguyen, IHM.

## Want to finish your Lent in a different way?

How about a Living Lent that Changes the World? The Sisters of the Presentation offer a calendar with simple ways to make a difference. Make this Lent a time to change our hearts, our lives and our world.

Download the calendar at:  
[HTTP://BIT.LY/LENTENRESOURCES](http://bit.ly/LENTENRESOURCES)



## Feel Like Volunteering?

National Volunteer Week, April 22-29, brings awareness to the contributions of volunteers and encourages people to donate their time to local, national or global needs or causes. The Sisters of the Presentation are encouraging all to take advantage of this week by working together with family, friends, co-workers and local community members to plan a volunteer service project in your local area. We would like to bring light to the world where it seems most needed. We hope to continue Nano Nagle's passion for service as we reverence relationships between sisters, associates, employees and local communities.

**Dubuque Area Volunteer Event: Saturday, April 22, 2017**  
Check [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org) for more information.

We want to hear what you have planned for this week and will provide "Be the Light" T-shirts to all those participating in service in their local community. The shirts will unite all Presentation family working together in all different locations, spreading Presentation mission. For more information and questions, contact Sister Mary Therese Krueger at [kruagsmt@gmail.com](mailto:kruagsmt@gmail.com).

## You are invited to join us.

**March 25, 2017**  
**April 1, 2017**  
**April 8, 2017**  
Stations of the Cross  
5:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**March 27, 2017**  
**April 24, 2017**  
**May 22, 2017**  
Centering Prayer  
6:15-7:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 16, 2017**  
Easter Mass  
9:00 a.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 22, 2017**  
Dubuque Area Volunteer Event  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 27-29, 2017**  
**May 4-6, 2017**  
Garage/Gym Sale  
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 29, 2017**  
Conference of Associates and Religious of the Midwest Area (CARMA)  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

**May 7, 2017**  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**June 2, 2017**  
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*



**Sister Julie Marsh**, director of operations for Hotel Hope, assisted six families in finding housing in New Orleans. Sister Julie, with a coalition of non-profits, government agencies and faith-based leaders in New Orleans, are working diligently to end family homelessness. The coalition is close to reaching the goal of placing 50 families in permanent housing in the city of New Orleans. On December 16, Sister Julie, and others in the coalition, were recognized by HUD, the City of New Orleans and Unity of Greater New Orleans for their efforts in ending homelessness.

### Sister Spotlights Posted Each Week

Check out the Presentation website and Facebook page for a new sister feature each week.



St. Pius X Parish received the 2016 Habitat Heart Award for their continued partnership with Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. **Sister Joellen Price**, pastoral associate at St. Pius X, accepted the award on behalf of the parish. Sister Joellen was instrumental in acquiring funds for Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity through the Jessie Ball DuPont fund.

## Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2017

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

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

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