



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the
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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 charisma 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 and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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On June 2, Presentation Sisters, associates, employees, family and friends gathered to celebrate the transfer of congregational leadership team. Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen willingly accepted the ministry of leadership and will lead the Presentation community into the next five years.

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

This past December, at our Chapter of Affairs, the Sisters of the Presentation laid the foundation for the next five years. We called ourselves to live into and explore the meaning of “radical hospitality” in all its forms. Today’s world, full of confusion and hurt, calls for radical hospitality. Known as a friendly congregation of women religious, we ask what deepening a spirit of radical hospitality will look like for us as Presentation Sisters and associates. What will it mean in our ministries or in our day-to-day interactions with others?

The Rule of St. Benedict offers us some meaningful insights. “To welcome others as Christ is to recognize that despite vast differences, the diverse human family is part of the same God-given belonging, and we need one another to survive and thrive. Hospitality, for the monks, means not only welcoming people with their concrete needs but also making a safe space for the expression of their differing perspectives and ideas.”

What does it mean to receive a stranger – not just politely, but with radical generosity? Imagine how this person might feel welcomed.

Below is one example of how Latino families in Hampton, Iowa, live radical hospitality as they reach out to an ostracized and itinerant man whom society would view as an outcast. This man makes his rounds on a bicycle and occasionally comes to Mass and stays afterwards for food and a visit. Although extremely intellectual, this man was never clean and his ragged and torn clothes hung on him with the smell from the sweat of his body. His mouth was drawn down on one side, which made his speech difficult to understand. With hair unkempt and dirty, many would be tempted to turn the other way and smirk or ignore, but, the Latinos would not. Their efforts to be neighborly and to reserve judgment served as examples and models for all. Hospitality is the foundation of the Latino spirituality. This warm-hearted generosity is difficult to find today, not only in cities but even in small towns. We no longer embrace the confidence that permits us to know and allow the stranger into our lives.

Marilyn Sewell writes, “To actually carry out ‘radical hospitality’ is a demanding undertaking. How do we make this a spiritual practice where we open not just our doors but open our hearts? There is a world out there that needs home, that needs community and we are being called to risk. Risk so that, in extending ourselves, we will be richer and deeper and let go of our assumptions and our narrow ways of perceiving reality.”

Perhaps it is our fears that muddy the waters and hold us back.

Christine Valters Paintner observes, “It is the moments that break us open, that move us beyond what is conventional or familiar, that strip the illusion of safety and security from our fingers, in which we begin to plumb the depths of the holy ... We no longer feel compelled to limit who might be included in the realm of God’s love and we cling less tightly onto our own agendas. We begin to see that God is so much bigger than our own imagining and so we talk with more humility. We are willing to consider that we might have been wrong all this time.”

Radical hospitality begins within each of us. What is it that makes us uncomfortable, either individually or communally? It is in these very uncomfortable moments that radical hospitality calls us to risk. This is where we meet God.

Sister Carmen Hernandez Sister Rita Menart Sister Joy Peterson Sister Marilyn Breen



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

Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle and united to Presentation Sisters and associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Carmen Hernandez

Sister Rita Menart

Sister Joy Peterson

Sister Marilyn Breen



The newly-installed congregational leadership team led by Sister Carmen Hernandez followed by Sisters Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen exit the Sacred Heart Chapel after the installation ceremony.

Celebrating the Transfer of Congregational Leadership

by JANE BUSE-MILLER

On June 2, Presentation Sisters, associates, employees, family and friends gathered to celebrate the transfer of congregational leadership.

Led by a lantern carried by Sister Julianne Brockamp, the outgoing and incoming leadership teams processed into the Sacred Heart Chapel as all sang “Nano Aflame.” Welcoming those gathered for the celebration, Sister Joan Brincks declared, “We gather today as sisters, associates, employees, family and friends – grateful for the willingness of Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen to accept the ministry of leadership in this congregation. May God strengthen us in community and deepen our commitment to the mission of Jesus and to the vision of our foundress, Nano Nagle.”

Standing before those gathered, Sisters Carmen, Rita, Joy and Marilyn expressed their readiness to offer their gifts as they accepted the ministry of elected leadership. Together they proclaimed, “In a spirit of openness and gratitude, we commit

to steward the mission of Jesus and of Nano Nagle. We desire to foster Presentation spirit and charism throughout the world. Together, may we extend hospitality to Earth and all people.”

As part of the commissioning ceremony, each member of the outgoing leadership team gifted the new leaders with a glass globe and a blessing for the gifts each have to offer in leading the Presentation community into the next five years.

As Sister Julianne Brockamp gifted Sister Carmen, she stated, “May your dreams stir your inner ‘Nano passion.’ May your dreams bring light and hope to our suffering sisters and brothers along the road. May your dreams fire love in the hearts of all with whom you walk – lighting the earth with the gospel of love. And may your chosen words, ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,’ guide you on your daily path.”

Sister Beth Driscoll blessed Sister Joy with these words, “Your listening heart hears voices that cry: ‘We are waiting ...’

Waiting to be recognized ... to be called by name ... to be loved and treated with dignity. May you dream what is possible for all who wait. May you call forth from us the commitment that will transform these dreams into realities – lighting the earth with the gospel of love.”

Sister Ann Jackson presented Sister Rita with her globe, “May God grant you the wisdom of discernment, the peace of truth and the joy of learning in communion with all of life. May your gifts of inquiry and curiosity challenge us to wrestle with the difficult questions and to live into a world our hearts dream is possible. May your missionary heart – ablaze and impassioned by your love of God – lead us in the dance – lighting the earth with the gospel of love.”

Sister Leanne Welch offered her well wishes to Sister Marilyn, “As you move forward, may leadership excite your soul and kindle in your mind creativity to journey beyond known limits. May all that is to come be worthy of the energy of your heart and the light of your thought. May you go, always with Jesus, lighting the earth with the gospel of love.”

In closing, a reflection by Sister Raphael Consedine was read, echoing the sentiment, “Let love alone be the measure, for we have further yet to journey.” An unanimous response by all followed, “For we have further yet to journey.” With lantern in hand, Sister Carmen led the new leadership team to the gathering space where congratulations were received from all.

Sister Carmen highlights these thought-provoking words from Father Richard Rohr, OFM, as part of the team’s vision for leadership: “There is no greater training for true leadership than living in the naked now. There, we can set aside our own mental constructs, receive input and ideas from all directions, and lead even more creatively and imaginatively – with the clearer vision of one who lives beyond himself or herself.”

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we support and pray for all leaders, especially Sisters Carmen, Rita, Joy and Marilyn as they accept the responsibility of fostering new ideas and new ways of responding to the future of the common good.

Sister Carmen Hernandez

Sister Carmen initiated and served as executive director of La Luz Hispana in Hampton, Iowa, after having served as Hispanic outreach coordinator of Mercy Medical Center North Iowa in Mason City. She served as a team member of Caminando Juntos with the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As vocation director for the Dubuque Presentation congregation she visited Bolivia several times and studied Spanish in Cochabamba. Sister Carmen was an elementary school counselor for the Archdiocese of Dubuque while serving as vocation director for the congregation and as chaplain for the Dubuque Police Department. Prior to that, Sister Carmen was an elementary teacher in Osage, Key West and Dubuque, Iowa.

As you move forward, may leadership excite your soul and kindle in your mind creativity to journey beyond known limits. *Sister Leanne Welch*

Sister Rita Menart

Sister Rita served as a mental health counselor with Catholic Charities for six years (four years full-time and two years part-time). She was the part-time director of Hispanic ministry for the Archdiocese of Dubuque for two years and continues as the coordinator of Spanish Speakers’ Retreats. From 2009 to 2011, Sister Rita was a missionary in Bolivia. Previously, she worked as an in-home family counselor for Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic in Ames, Iowa. Missionary experience of 10 years took Sister Rita to Chupol, Guatemala, from 1990 to 2000. Other positions include high school science teacher in Storm Lake, Iowa, for seven years and junior high teacher at St. Columbkille in Dubuque, Iowa, for one year. Sister Rita has a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s in clinical psychology.

Sister Joy Peterson

For the past year, Sister Joy has served as the promoter of justice for the Sisters of the Presentation. Prior to that she was the promoter of peace and justice for the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, for eight years. Sister Joy has been formation director, vocation director and congregational leader for the Presentation congregation. She holds a master’s degree in teaching elementary social studies from Clarke College, as well as a pastoral ministry degree from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to her ministries within the community, she taught middle school and high school. From 1989-1997, she was a pastoral minister at St. Mary Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. She also spent a year working in the NGO office of the International Presentation Association at the United Nations.

Sister Marilyn Breen

Sister Marilyn resides in the Pilsen neighborhood in Chicago and has completed an internship in spiritual direction at the Claret Center. She enjoys walking with others as they discover God in the ordinary experiences of life. She has served as parish director of faith formation for 27 years, most recently at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Dubuque, Iowa. Sister Marilyn was a member of the congregational leadership team from 1989-1998, assisting with the renovation of the motherhouse during that time. She participated in Ruah, a Ireland pilgrimage to explore the land and heritage of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice. Her educational experience includes a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Clarke College and a master’s degree in theology from Notre Dame University, as well as many continuing education opportunities.



Sister Jane Conrad enjoys a visit with Darla and her faithful friend, Poo, at Sister James Care Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

SISTER JANE CONRAD A Compassionate Heart

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

“Come and see” were the magic words which brought Sister Jane Conrad to the Sisters of the Presentation in her quest to become a sister. She had been drawn to religious life and wrote to three communities to inquire about entering after high school. Two of them responded that they required a person to have some experience away from their parental homes before entering the community.

However, Sister Mary Martin McCormick, vocation director of the Presentation Sisters, responded to Jane saying, “Come and see.” So Jane visited after her high school graduation in the fall of 1976, and she stayed, much to the benefit of the many people whom she has served over the years since that decision.

Born the last of the seven girls and two boys of Adrian and Dorothy Conrad, Sister Jane grew up in Zeoring, Iowa. It was actually her high school guidance counselor who encouraged her to consider her path to religious life. But her vocation undoubtedly was born through the example of her parents who were always serving others in and around their town. If there was something to be done, they were always behind the scenes, never looking for acknowledgement, but always on deck for the work. Sister Jane remembers many times going with her dad to peoples’ homes to fix a door or do some repair work, always as a favor to the homeowners.

I like “walking with” people wherever they are in life’s journey ... Hearing their stories is inspiring to me. Jesus is very present in these moments.

Sister Jane Conrad

Two of her pastors there, Father Joe Murphy and Father John A. Schmitz, were very familiar with the Sisters of the Presentation, and they encouraged her choice of communities, which was helpful to her decision.

Another wonderful mentor for Sister Jane was her uncle, Father Tony Conrad of the Davenport Diocese. He came for visits during her six years living at the Presentation Motherhouse and got to know those in formation with her. She and her classmates were privileged to have him celebrate the Mass for their final profession.

Sister Jane received her bachelor’s degree in education from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa. Subsequently, she received a master’s degree in professional development in education (focusing on teaching talented and gifted students) from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Over the years she taught at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque, in the Farley-Bankston Catholic School System, and at the Catholic schools in Clare, Key West, Cedar Falls and Danbury, all in Iowa. She then taught at Holy Trinity School in Hartington, Nebraska. From 2009-2016, she served as the director of religious education for that parish.

In 2012, Sister Jane was invited to become one of the pastoral care chaplains at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota. She was invited by the director of chaplaincy to consider this role because, in the words of the director, “You are a natural at this work!”

This chaplain ministry services two large complexes which include the hospital and Majestic Bluffs Care Center. The Majestic Bluffs complex consists of persons in independent living, assisted living, 24/7 skilled nursing care through the Sister James Care Center and a six-bed Hospice House. The chaplains serve mainly in the five “neighborhoods” of Sister James Care Center and the hospital. They have a two-week rotation which consists of two weeks at the hospital, two weeks in three neighborhoods and two weeks in the other two. Each neighborhood has 38 or fewer rooms, which are usually full to capacity.

Sister Jane’s daily service is a ministry of presence – of being present, supporting and walking with others and having a compassionate heart. Sister James Care Center resident, Darla, says, “The first word that comes to mind when I think of Sister Jane is acceptance. There are no questions, only pure acceptance.”

Dale, another resident, concurs, “I like when Sister Jane gets me out of my room and takes me outside for walks in the warm weather. She entertains me with her humor and I look forward to our talks.”

“One of Nano’s greatest gifts was being present to others,” says Sister Jane. “I try to be a person of hospitality in my daily life. For me, being there for others is following the call of Nano.”

Such large complexes are naturally a great deal of work, but Sister Jane makes time for relaxation to balance her life of work and prayer. She enjoys embroidering, walking along the lake and river, attending musical events in town, watching baseball and softball games in which her grandniece plays for Heelan High School in Sioux City, Iowa.

While teaching certainly involves care of students in a very special way, Sister Jane has found this new ministry to enhance that concern for others. She comments, “I like ‘walking with’ people wherever they are in life’s journey – whether it be a three-year-old getting her tonsils out, a mother with a new baby or visiting with a 100-year-old who resides in one of the neighborhoods at Sister James Care Center. Hearing their stories is inspiring to me. Jesus is very present in these moments.”

Surely all of Sister Jane’s former students, all of the people she ministers to in Yankton and all of her community sisters are grateful that so many years ago she accepted the invitation to “come and see” and then stayed! Her cheerful spirit and her concern for others is a blessing to everyone.



Sister Jane Conrad and Dale, Sister James Care Center resident, treat themselves to a little dessert at the deli.

Exceptional Individuals Honored through Scholarships & Awards

by BROOKE BODDICKER, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

The Sisters of the Presentation initiated several scholarships and awards to further Presentation Foundress Nano Nagle's legacy of education in the spirit of her desire to serve. The sisters are pleased to honor the following commendable recipients.

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among the many Iowa high schools in which Presentation Sisters have ministered. This year's \$1,000 Nano Nagle College Scholarship was awarded to **Andrew Bacha**, a deserving senior from Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa, who models self-giving service by the numerous service opportunities he has participated in over the past few years.

"Since my freshman year, I have tried to give back to my school, parish and community as much as they have given to me. I feel service has made me a better person in my everyday life while teaching me to appreciate how fortunate I am in life," says Andrew.

David Burrow, math instructor at Bishop Garrigan, shares in a letter of recommendation, "Drew does a good job of modeling what Christian service is all about. He ushers and serves both at school Masses and in his parish. He has visited nursing home residents and served as a waiter at the school's Gala fundraiser. He does food packaging to assist needy people from our twin parish in Haiti. He makes an effort to be a part of every service project in our school and community."

"Our younger students look up to Drew," continues David. "He is a great role model for them. He helps out in one of our early childhood classrooms and the little kids are excited to have him in their class. Drew also works with the community youth sports program, both as a volunteer coach and as an official. He does a good job teaching them the fundamentals of sports."

Service endeavors have totally shaped who I am. Service has shown me that in order to be a good leader, I have to understand that Christ leads me.

Audra McMahon



Sister Janet Goetz, right, presents Andrew Bacha with the Nano Nagle College Scholarship at Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In celebration of Mother Vincent Hennessy and the Dubuque Presentation foundation, the Sisters of the Presentation offer a \$1,000 Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship to a graduating senior from Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, which Presentation Sisters have actively supported since its inception. This year's recipient is **Audra McMahon**.



Audra has been actively involved in co-curricular activities with the intention of serving those in need. Her roles in organizations like Resurrection's Youth Leadership Team and Hills and Dales allow her to not only practice philanthropy, but to grow in faith.

"Service endeavors have totally shaped who I am," explains Audra. "They showed me that although service helps others, it also helps me to spiritually mature. Service has shown me that in order to be a good leader, I have to understand that Christ leads me."

To step on the path Christ offers, Audra mirrors Mother Vincent Hennessy's acceptance of God's call. "I relate to Mother Vincent in many different ways, one being her passion to help children and her love of charity. I believe that children are complete signs of God's love. Her love of charity inspires me to continue service to those who need it to better their lives."

Lugene Berning, youth ministry and confirmation coordinator at Church of the Resurrection, sees great potential in Audra's desire to better others' lives. Lugene says, "Audra is a wonderful young lady with a big heart and great faith. I am excited to see what the future holds for her."

There are many different ways we can do service in the areas around us, we just have to open our eyes and look.

Anna Nielsen

Presentation Mission Service Awards

The Presentation Mission Service Award is offered to individuals, 18 years of age or older, committed to serving the Presentation mission and who may otherwise be unable to afford a mission immersion experience, locally, nationally or abroad. This year's recipients are **Rachel Dunlap** and **Anna Nielsen**.

This summer, **Rachel Dunlap** will travel to Bolivia with a goal to extend hospitality. She plans to make this goal a reality by fully engrossing herself in a new culture.

Rachel tells of her plans to live in solidarity with those who come from different backgrounds than herself. "My current ministry is at a Catholic, multilingual, and intercultural center. While here, I have learned so much about walking in solidarity and sharing the journey with people who come from different backgrounds than myself ... I hope to study in the Hispanic ministry track, and for



Left to right: Sister Beth Driscoll with Anna Nielsen, Presentation Mission Service Award recipient.

this reason, I think it is crucial to experience at least one Latin American country to have a better understanding of the culture and lifestyle of some of the families I will serve in the future."

Looking to the future, Rachel notices the magnitude of her service, "...learning about areas of needed systematic change in Bolivia, I can better serve the rapidly-growing Latino population in the United States."

With the hecticness of life, **Anna Nielsen** recognized she needed a change over her spring break and felt drawn to a service trip to Toppa Joppa in Grainger County, Tennessee.

"I felt especially called to this service trip in Tennessee because of the simple living aspect," states Anna in her Presentation Mission Service Award application. "I want to experience it [simple living] more. Simple living is where we get the most out of life and learn more about ourselves and others. I am very excited for this service trip and to see what God has in plan for me to help those in need."

According to Anna, her longing for simple living was fulfilled in Tennessee. Anna shares of her experience, "The phrase that comes to mind when I think of Toppa Joppa is simplicity and service. Everything seems to stop still for a little while and you look around to actually see people for who they are. Witnessing their culture of life and how some of them live was very eye-opening and made me realize many different things about myself. It got me thinking about how often we don't get to know others and just pass them by. It also sparked a desire in me to do more ... There are many different ways we can do service in the areas around us, we just have to open our eyes and look. Toppa Joppa and the people there will always hold a special place in my heart."

Sister Marie Therese Coleman 75th Jubilee Celebration

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On April 26, Sister Marie Therese Coleman celebrated her 75th jubilee, remembering God's love and faithfulness with gratitude for a life of service as a Sister of the Presentation.

Celebrating her jubilee on the anniversary of Nano Nagle's entrance to heaven, Sister Marie Therese chose Scriptures that reflected a deep reliance on the Eucharist as central to a life dedicated to service and care for the poor (Acts 2:42-47) and recalled with joy the command of Jesus to love one another (John 15:12).

"Through all the ups and downs of life, God has been and continues to be there for me," states Sister Marie Therese, the seventh of nine children of John Regis and Gertrude Mary Paul Coleman. Born Rose Mary, Sister Marie Therese began life in Racola, Missouri. When seven years old, she moved with the Coleman clan to Algona, Iowa. It was there that she met the Sisters of the Presentation, her teachers through St. Cecelia grade and high school.

"I always wanted to be a sister. Both Sisters Davidica Henrich and Evangelista Carr were significant voices in my vocation. They each asked me about my vocation and what was I doing about it," she recalls. "I attended daily Mass, prayed the rosary and Stations of the Cross. I loved the saints, especially St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Joseph and Mary the Mother of Jesus."

My Presentation community has helped me to be faithful to my religious vocation." *Sister Marie Therese Coleman*

After graduating from high school, Sister Marie Therese entered the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation in 1943. "My Presentation community has helped me to be faithful to my religious vocation."

The spiritual life of her youth has grown and nurtured Sister Marie Therese throughout her life. As with Nano Nagle, her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been a source of experiencing God's steadfast love. This took Sister Marie Therese through her journey of religious life from initial formation, to college and teacher education with many years of service in Catholic elementary schools. "Nano believed in Jesus's promise of love and she passed it on to us when she died speaking His words, 'This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.'"



Sister Marie Therese Coleman enjoys a surprise Jubilee visit from her former student, Mark Koedam.

Since retiring to Mount Loretto in 1984, Sister Marie Therese continued to carry out the mission of Nano Nagle through private tutoring and assisting in teaching English as a second language. In the community, she did many behind-the-scenes jobs such as preparing the early morning coffee and passing out the morning papers for the house. She also served as sacristan several times a week. Loving and caring for nature, she looked after beloved birds, dogs and cats. She discovered the beauty of the city by biking or walking many miles throughout Dubuque.

Sister Marie Therese now enjoys the benefits of a more contemplative life, whether in her neatly kept room in Nagle Center, praying and attending liturgy in Sacred Heart Chapel or enjoying many places around the Mount Loretto campus. "I love to pray my rosary and to look at the sanctuary on closed circuit TV, to hear the music and singing during Mass and to just be in God's presence," she says.

Sister Marie Therese is very fond of Psalm 139. "It reminds me of God's presence and love throughout my life, even before I was born – God's hand is always on me. That is very consoling," she declares. Most heartened by the words of Bernadette Farrell's version of that psalm, Sister Marie Therese sings and prays, "You are with me beyond my understanding: God of my present, my past and future, too."

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Reflection by MARY THERESE KRUEGER, PBVM

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the early Christians? Sister Mary Therese Krueger was asked this same question during one of her courses at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois, where she is working on her master's degree in pastoral studies. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to engage in the Scriptures in a way she had never thought possible. With the blessing of the Presentation community, she was able to make this opportunity a reality through the travel seminar, "Encountering the Bible Lands."

Below is a brief reflection by Sister Mary Therese of her time in the Holy Land:

"Through my studies, I was able to take part in the incredible experience of studying and learning the context of the Scriptures through history and archeology. Proverbs 3:6 says, 'Seek God's will in all that you do and God will direct your path.' In my preparations for the course, God's path for me came to life as it was suggested I spend time with the Union Presentation Sisters in the Holy Land. I felt extremely blessed to be able to not only explore the background of the Scriptures, but also to explore the breadth of the Presentation charism in the Middle East."

"I was able to spend almost a week with Union Presentation Sisters Silva Francis, Lisa Pires and Anna Manyonga. My time with them was outstanding, as the hospitality of their Presentation community was obvious in every aspect of my visit. Their ministries are varied and abundant, serving the needs of the Holy Land. I was reminded of our Dubuque Chapter's call of nonviolence and radical hospitality through their presence and mission in the Holy Land. Their lived reality was inspirational and has caused me to reflect on my own and our Dubuque community's mission and presence in the places we currently minister."

"As I continued my time in Israel, I joined my classmates as we explored biblical sites throughout Israel, Turkey and Greece. As a visual and tactile learner, I was extremely grateful for this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the founders of our faith from Abraham, to Jesus, to the early Christians, to the Presentation Sisters."

"As I read the daily Scriptures, I find myself returning to the places we visited and allowing the Scriptures to come to life in a whole new way. Each experience I've had has helped to shape who I am and God's call for me to live my life as a Sister of the Presentation. My time with the Presentation Sisters in the Holy Land has reinvigorated my call to follow in Nano Nagle's footsteps and go one pace beyond to work for peace in my heart, mind and home. I am incredibly grateful for this experience and know that it will forever impact my reflections on the Scriptures and my life as a Presentation Sister."



Left to right: Top photo: Presentation Sisters Anna Manyonga (Union - African Unit), Mary Therese Krueger (Dubuque), Lisa Pires (Union - India Unit) and Silva Francis (Union - India Unit). Middle photo: Sister Mary Therese stands in front of the Holy Steps in which Jesus walked, leading to the house of Caiaphas after he was arrested in Jerusalem. Bottom photo: The group prays at the Jerusalem Western (Wailing) Wall.



The Early Path to Citizenship

by BECKY SISCO

Sister Marie Barth's father, Fred Barth, grew up in Biblis, Germany, a small community on the Rhine River in southwestern Germany. Like many young, working-age Germans during the 1920s, Fred found it difficult to find work. His country had been brought to its knees during World War I and continued to suffer from economic deprivation and high unemployment.

So, in 1929, at about age 25 and with a visa in hand, Fred boarded a steamship, the S.S. Columbus, headed for New York.

Fred probably disembarked at Ellis Island, where he would have paid a \$10 "head tax" and would have been inspected for obvious medical conditions. He also would have been asked how much money he had and what his occupation was, so that officials would know he probably could fend for himself here.

Except for having a shorter, easier voyage via steamship than those who came before in slow, stinking, disease-ridden sailing vessels, Fred faced more barriers to citizenship than his predecessors did. On the other hand, he had a much easier time obtaining citizenship than people do today.

In the early days of our nation, just about anyone could come to the United States and eventually become naturalized citizens, as long as they were white and not indentured servants. Almost all of them came from England and northern Europe. More than 30 million Europeans came to the United States between 1836 and 1914, with the largest number arriving in 1907 and with the proportion of southern and eastern Europeans greatly increasing during the later years. As railroads expanded west of the Mississippi, railroad companies saw immigration as a way to sell property that was ceded to them by the federal government and to have more customers for their services. Worker shortages during the 1850s and 1860s also led federal, state and local governments to encourage immigration. They promoted the benefits of living in the West, where land was cheap and opportunities abounded. They even reminded single women that there were available, marriageable men out west.

At times, Americans have felt antipathy or even hostility toward immigrants or those of particular nationalities or religions. During the 1840s and 1850s, for instance, some Americans feared that newcomers would take away jobs. Others worried that Catholics would try to put the nation under the Pope's control.

The first law regulating immigration was passed in 1790, requiring two years of residency to become a citizen. Throughout the decades, Congress has passed a number of laws to restrict immigration requiring tests such as proficiency in English or the ability to read.



Veronica and Fred Barth

In 1921, the U.S. limited the number of immigrants for the first time to 350,000 per year, and set national quotas to 3 percent of the population of a given nation. The numbers were reduced to 165,000 and 2 percent, respectively, in 1924, when the U.S. Border Patrol was created. This was done mostly to discourage people from southern and eastern Europe from arriving.

But none of these laws affected Fred Barth. After he arrived in New York, Fred made his way to Dubuque, where his sister, Katharina Barth Reis, lived. Although he had a sister living in the U.S., Fred had a lot to learn about life here. For instance, "He didn't know that you didn't eat the skin of a banana but that you could eat the skin of tomatoes," states Sister Marie.

At first he worked in a body shop owned by Henry Feye and later opened his own shop. He met Veronica Croatt in a German singing group, and they married in 1931.

Veronica taught Fred to read English using English newspapers. He had just started taking a writing class when Marie, their first-born came along. He couldn't afford both writing instruction and the cost of raising a child, so Fred dropped out of the class. According to Sister Marie, he never learned to write English, but he was an avid reader of English books, especially Marie's pioneer stories like *Caddie Woodlawn*.

In 1932, Fred applied for citizenship, filling out a two-page form. Had he ever been in an "insane asylum?" No. Had he ever relied on charity? No. Did he believe in polygamy? No. Had he ever been arrested? No. Did he renounce allegiance to all foreign powers, particularly to his home country? Yes.

Fred received citizenship, and he and Veronica enjoyed a good life in Dubuque. The couple lived on Rush Street, near the former home of the Presentation Sisters, and raised six children. Fred loved music and art. Sister Marie believes that this early introduction to art may have planted the seed for her passion for painting and sculpting. When Marie painted he would ask her, "What side does the light come from?"

Since Fred came to the U.S., many more changes occurred in immigration quotas and policies. It wasn't until 1940 that foreign-born people were required to register with the U.S. government. "Subversives" were banned in 1940 and, during the "Red Scare" of 1950, Communists were black-listed. In 1952, race was eliminated as a basis for exclusion. In 1965, Congress ended quotas based on nationality and began to allow citizens to sponsor relatives from their countries of origin. At times there were a large number of refugees among the immigrants. After World War II, 200,000 people displaced by the war settled here, and in 1975, 200,000 refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia immigrated. The Refugee Act of 1980 separated immigrants from refugees and defined refugees as people who flee their homeland "on account of race, religion, nationality or political opinion."

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 allowed anyone who entered the U.S. before January 1, 1982, to apply for legal status. Laws in 1996, however, increased the number of crimes for which immigrants could be deported, cracked down on illegal entry by upping the number of Border Patrol agents, and cut public aid for legal permanent residents. There have been no new laws to provide a pathway to citizenship for people who arrived after 1982.

Today about one million immigrants enter the country each year on a permanent legal basis. No longer, however, can one simply show up in the U.S. with just a visa, as Fred Barth essentially did in 1929, and work toward citizenship.

Usually one must have prior authorization to immigrate unless traveling here on a temporary visa and then get a green card in order to apply for citizenship. Getting a green card isn't easy. About six million people apply for a green card each year. About two-thirds of legal immigrants come here through family. Only 140,000 enter through work. Preference is given to people with "exceptional ability" in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics; who do work that requires an advanced degree; or who manage U.S. branches of multinational companies. Skilled and unskilled laborers fall to the bottom of the list. Furthermore, it costs \$1,070 to apply for a green card, so it goes without saying that migrant farm workers rarely enter legally.

As of 2016, the foreign-born population in the U.S. stood at 43 million. Nearly half had become naturalized citizens, which requires people to live here for five years, pass English and civics exams, file numerous documents and pay various filing fees.

Dubuque resident, Margreet Ryan, who was born in the Netherlands, came to the U.S. on a student visa in 1965, obtained a green card and became a citizen in 2008. She is glad she applied for citizenship when she did. "Now the process is so intimidating.

It makes you feel like nothing at all. I know many people who have applied for citizenship and have become so discouraged by the process," says Margreet. "You have to have enormous strength to get through the process now."

The status of refugees is also in flux. With millions of people fleeing war-torn nations, Obama set a target of 110,000 refugee entrees for 2017, but Trump reduced the number to 45,000 for this year. Worldwide, there are 65 million refugees, asylum-seekers and people displaced within their own countries. "For me, coming here has been a nice journey in my life," says Margreet. But she's not so sure she can say the same thing for many of the people who come here now.

Affirmation of a Corporate Stance

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM, JUSTICE PROMOTER

In April of 2018, the Sisters of the Presentation and associates affirmed a corporate stance supporting "the implementation of a just and comprehensive immigration policy for the United States that includes a broad-based legalization of currently undocumented persons, providing them a path to citizenship." A corporate stance is a public statement agreed upon by a majority of the vowed members of the congregation.

The history of the Dubuque congregation began in 1874 with the emigration of Mother Vincent Hennessy and her three companions from Ireland. The women came in response to the invitation of Bishop Hennessy who was concerned for the educational needs of recent immigrants to the Diocese of Dubuque. Thus began a long history of education and service to immigrant families. Today, because our sisters and brothers in so many places of the world need protection, there is an added demand to offer radical hospitality through just and humane immigration policies. Scripture admonishes us: "You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of the stranger, since you were strangers in the Land of Egypt." *Exodus 23:9*

Pope Francis reminds us, "When we turn our gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them."

The immigration corporate stance summons sisters and associates to make their communities a place of radical hospitality toward immigrants and refugees in both prayer and action.

Embracing Hope in Challenging Times

by JOAN BRINCKS, PBVM, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

On April 14, Presentation Sisters and associates gathered at the Presentation Motherhouse to share in the retreat “Embracing Hope in Challenging Times.” Associate Cindy Pfiffner, Sister Joan Brincks, Sister Theresa Marie Tran, SCC, and Associate Billie Greenwood were presenters for the day. With the light of the lantern shining on each table, the hope of Nano Nagle burned brightly. Through prayer and song, those gathered were called by the God of Hope to be light bearers of hope to all who suffer pain or injustice.

Cindy Pfiffner began the day by inviting everyone to ponder the Road to Emmaus story. She shared that the disciples’ hope was reborn by walking together, welcoming a stranger, sharing their pains and hopes, searching the Scriptures and breaking bread together. The disciples were moved beyond their immediate circumstances to possibilities and transformation. Cindy reminded those gathered with the words of Sister Melannie Svobada, SND, “The heart of the Christian message is not the cross, it is the empty tomb. It is not suffering and death, it is resurrection and life ... it is hope.”

Expanding the theme, Sister Joan Brincks shared how hope demands receptivity on our part and demands a response from us. Hope does not come at the end with a happy outcome. Hope lies at the beginning as a pulse that moves us forward, living in mystery and uncertainty. This idea was enhanced as Sister Joan read the children’s book, *Hope is an Open Heart*, acknowledging that hope is always within each of us waiting to unfold.

Sister Theresa Marie Tran opened the afternoon by reflectively taking us on her sacred journey of leaving Vietnam after the war. Recalling living in oppression, dependence on God and gratefulness nurtured her hope to move her from the familiar into the unknown. She also told the story of the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who was a political prisoner spreading hope, love and forgiveness.

Billie Greenwood concluded the day by offering the inspiring story of Father Greg Boyle, SJ, who embodies hope for gang members. Drawing from Father Boyle, Billie focused on healing, kinship and living hope. Father Boyle learned how healing is so important, “If you don’t transform your pain, you’re just going to keep transmitting it.” In kinship, together, Presentation Sisters and associates witness a life of hope and impact those pushed to the margins. Together they embrace hope by practicing non-violence of mind and heart.

In spite of winter-like weather outside, great hope was experienced inside during times of quiet and much conversation. Sisters and associates left energized to live hope believing that love is stronger than hatred or fear and knowing that God is ever present. Completing the day in gratitude, love and joy-filled hope, associates were recognized and blessed in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Associate Partnership.



Left to right: Sister Diana Blong, Sister Marilou Irons, Associate Rose Rauch and Sister Carla Popes enjoy time visiting.



Left to right: Sister Lou Cota, Associates Bridget Lahart and Gino Pacetti catch up over a break.

In Loving Memory

Donna Muller

June 15, 1925 – March 15, 2018

Associate Donna Muller desired to share her life and faith journey with the Sisters of the Presentation as an associate and made her first commitment on September 11, 2000. She taught at St. Michael Grade School in Whittemore, Iowa, for 27 years, and it was during that time that she developed many close friendships with the Presentation Sisters. With Presentation Foundress Nano Nagle’s love for education, she continued as a volunteer at Seton Grade School in Algona, Iowa, for five years, bringing joy and laughter to all those she taught.



Donna and her husband, Cletus, were blessed with four children, 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She enjoyed golfing, playing cards and attending her grandchildren’s sporting events. Donna was an active member of St. Michael Church, a member of the Whittemore City Council for 21 years and Whittemore Legion Auxiliary for 71 years. Her deep faith, love for her family and compassion for her students were present throughout her life. Donna is remembered with love and gratitude.

Verona Buckner

May 12, 1927 – March 26, 2018

Verona married Russell Buckner in 1949, and they purchased a house across the street from St. Dorothy Catholic Church in Chicago, where she came to know the Presentation Sisters. Russell and Verona converted to Catholicism, and she became what her family described as an “uber Catholic.” They had five children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, who all adored her.



Verona worked as the school secretary and came out of retirement to run the afterschool program and later to work in the rectory answering phones. In 1989, Verona was recognized by St. Dorothy’s as the Most Outstanding Black Catholic, and the same year she received the Tolten Award from the Archdiocese of Chicago, an honor she cherished. Verona became a Presentation associate on June 4, 2000. She will be remembered as a woman of grace and presence.

Marlene Myers

December 10, 1943 – April 4, 2018

Marlene and her husband, Albert, became Presentation associates on January 28, 2007, and were members of the Cedar Rapids associate group. They were charter members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hiawatha, Iowa, where Marlene also worked as a pastoral minister for 11 years. Marlene and Al had four children and two granddaughters.



Serving others and offering hospitality were very important to Marlene. She and her husband were very involved in National Marriage Encounter, the Renegade’s Bicycle Club and enjoyed dancing as members of the Rapid Squares Square Dancers. She participated in MOMs group, Wednesday Women at Prairiewoods and @Home Retreat Group for over 25 years. Marlene was always a lover of learning.

Even after Marlene was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease she continued to bring people together and offer them kindness and a friendly smile. Marlene will be remembered as a woman who advocated for others with passion and conviction.

Karen Kurtt

February 10, 1944 – April 28, 2018

Karen made her commitment as a Presentation associate on August 9, 2002. She came to know the Presentation Sisters as she was working in the dining room when Sister Jeanine Kuhn was the director of American Martyrs Retreat House in 1997. After becoming an associate, she was part of the Northern Lights associate group who prayed together, discussed reading material and helped with projects, one of which was cleaning the Stations of the Cross on the grounds of the retreat house.



Karen had multiple sclerosis. When her physical condition worsened, she moved to Des Moines where she received help from her family. She kept a positive attitude even though she suffered greatly. In the midst of her suffering, her delightful wit kept everyone laughing. Her little dog was her love and companion especially during her last years. Karen is remembered with love and gratitude for her deep faith, generosity and love for others.



New associates made their commitment on May 6. Left to right: Judy Kalb, Carol Wyatt, Thalia Cutsforth and Jen Hayes.

New Associate Partnerships

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

On May 6, 2018, four new associates were welcomed into the Presentation Associate Partnership. Thalia Cutsforth, Jen Hayes, Judy Kalb and Carol Wyatt gathered with Sister Rosalyn Ulfers and Associate Cindy Pfiffner for the past six months to pray, study and reflect on Nano Nagle, Presentation heritage, charism and mission. They are certainly women of service who have a willingness to offer their gifts for the benefit of others.

Thalia has been married to her husband, Tony, for 22 years and has three children. She works part-time at Sadlier Publishing and is a member of St. Columbkille Parish where she cantors and helps with various parish activities. She is active in the Holy Spirit Pastorate CEW, and she and her husband are leaders of The Choice Wine group which supports married couples' efforts to strengthen their marriage. Thalia shares, "As an associate, I hope to continue to serve the community and help others. If we all walk together, one step at a time, we can make our world a beautiful place."

Jen and her husband, Brian, have two sons. She works as a benefits specialist for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. After completing the RCIA process, Jen joined the church in 2007 and quickly grew in her faith by becoming very active in her parish. She serves on the Parish Life committee, the CEW team and has been on the Pastoral Council for the past six years at Holy Spirit Parish. Jen states, "I find the greatest joy in helping others. By becoming a Presentation associate, I am excited to see other ways I can help others and continue this journey."

Judy also lives in Dubuque and has been married to her husband, Mike for 32 years. She works at Great River Oral Surgery as a dental assistant. Judy has volunteered at the Mercy Gift Shop for 23 years, has been active with the Holy Spirit CEW and is a Eucharistic minister at St. Columbkille Parish. Judy enjoys spending time with family and friends, walking, traveling and yoga. Judy says, "I feel God has called me to become a Presentation associate. I have the desire to serve and to share my gifts with others, while at the same time growing and deepening my own faith. I enjoy being with the sisters and sharing in living out the dream of Nano Nagle."

Carol and her husband, Clifford, have been married for 29 years and have two daughters. Carol works as a receptionist at Prairie Farms Dairy and is a member of St. Columbkille Parish where she is also a Eucharistic minister. She is active in CEW and has been part of the Resources Unite Christmas gift give away. She serves meals at St. Patrick Parish and has assisted with two benefits for coworkers with cancer. Carol reflects, "In the time that I went through the associate orientation process, I have been so impressed and inspired and have experienced such love and hospitality that it makes me want to be a better Christian. I want to give back, and I look forward to getting to know the Presentation Sisters and associates and to giving myself in whatever capacity that is asked of me."

Partners in Mission

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

As a niece to Sister Kevin Cummings, Tammy Cox shares her story of a relationship maintained from afar. Growing up in South Carolina, who would have thought Tammy would be so close to the Sisters of the Presentation. Many memories include family interactions with Sister Kevin, and the kindness and radical hospitality received while visiting Mount Loretto. As a partner in mission, Tammy's unconditional support is deeply appreciated and the sisters are grateful for her continuous support.

Memories

Tammy's interaction with the sisters began at a very early age. "The Presentation Sisters came into my life by way of my paternal aunt, Sister Mary Kevin Cummings. My Dad ensured our relationship with Sister Kevin by frequently vacationing in Iowa and having Sister Kevin stay with us during our summer beach vacations and other family events."



Left to right: The Cox Family: Claire, Tammy, Patrick and Sam.

Remembering When

Tammy recalls, "What I realized about Sister Kevin throughout my life was her sharp intellect and deep Catholic faith. She shared her work of her ministry, like the Presentation Lantern Center, with us. There was never a dull moment with Sister Kevin; her inquisitive nature and willingness to share what she'd learned almost brought me to the convent! At the very least, it strengthened my faith."

Impact on my Life

Sister Kevin instilled the importance of kindness and education in Tammy as she was growing up. As a partner in mission, Tammy conveys the impact Sister Kevin made on her and why she is a partner. "Her, Sister Kevin's, sacrifices – and the sacrifices of the other Presentation Sisters – have made my life richer. I may not have become a religious sister, but I did become an English teacher! I give thanks, in part, to Sister Kevin's poetry and definitely her love of teaching."



Sister Kevin Cummings

Family

Tammy recollects her visits to the Presentation Motherhouse. "When Sister Kevin moved to Mount Loretto, I was fortunate to live close enough to visit, as my husband, Sam, was in the military and stationed in Illinois. Spending time with her and getting to know the other sisters will be something I'll always remember. Their graciousness and inclusiveness made my stays there enjoyable."

Making a Difference

"My hope in contributing to the Sisters of the Presentation is the continuous aid and love they provide to others in need – just like our Sister Kevin."

Tammy Cox

CURRENT RESIDENCE
Summerville, South Carolina

HOMETOWN
Charleston, South Carolina

EDUCATION
University of South Carolina and The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina

HOBBIES
In Tammy's spare time, she enjoys a good read and sews, among other things.

MEMORIES
Sister Kevin shared with me her activity in ministry and her work with the church. Her inquisitive nature and willingness to share what she'd learned almost brought me to the convent! I may not have become a religious sister, but I did become an English teacher!

**The Presentation Sisters
graciousness and
inclusiveness
made my stays at
Mount Loretto enjoyable.**

Tammy Cox

REMEMBERING

Oregon, Illinois

1944-1977

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

“Even before the first meeting of the Ecumenical Council, one could see a Catholic sister in Oregon, Illinois, riding a Church of God bus.” A parish bus had been used to transport the students, but it was old and “often was just too tired to make its daily run. On those days the Church of God graciously loaned their bus to pick up the Catholic pupils.” *History of St. Mary School, 1971, author unknown.*

Father Arthur Kreckel, pastor at St. Mary Parish in 1944, became convinced there was an urgent need for Catholic education in the parish. Approaching the Sisters of the Presentation in Staten Island, New York, he received assurance that four sisters would come to Oregon and minister in the parish. Previous to this time, the Trinitarian Sisters had served in the parish.

An existing building became a convent, and was designated by Pope Pius XII as a motherhouse. This new Presentation community was granted permission to establish a novitiate and accept young women for vows in the Sisters of the Presentation, Diocese of Rockford (Oregon), Illinois. Setting up a kindergarten and nursery became the first priority, along with catechetical work in neighboring Byron and Morris.

On September 27, 1944, Mother Mary Regis Joseph Newton and Sisters Mary Rita Joseph Ryan, de Lourdes Joseph Donlon and Paul Joseph Fidaleo arrived to begin the new venture. Sister Mary Concepta Joseph Milinski, also from Staten Island, joined the group later. They were welcomed by Bishop John Boylan of the Diocese of Rockford. Sister Mary Joseph of the Infant Jesus Leifker (now known as Sister Mary Jo), from the local area, later entered the Oregon Presentation community.

In the words of Sister Mary Jo, “The community was a very happy one where many stories about New York were told.” *Mount Loretto oral history tapes*

Mother Regis led the community in the early years. She was described as having great leadership qualities with a loving, caring nature for everyone. She soon won the approval of the Oregon people. In 1960, she died of cancer.



Left to right: Top photo: Presentation Sisters from Oregon, Illinois, who served at St. Mary Parish: Back row: Sisters Paul Joseph Fidaleo, Joseph Mary Leifker, Concepta Joseph Milinski; Front row: Sister Rita Joseph Ryan, Mother Regis Newton and Sister de Lourdes Joseph Donlon. Bottom photo: Dubuque Presentation Sisters who served in Oregon in 1968: Sisters Francine Quillin, Joan Marie Delay, Carolyn Link, Janice Merfeld, Clement Bird and Annette Skyles with Pastor Frank Bonnike.

Classes began, using the first floor of the convent as a school; the sisters established themselves in their residence on the second floor. This arrangement continued until 1947, when a separate house was purchased for the sisters' residence. In 1945, grades first and second were added, with third and fourth grades added in 1946, followed by fifth and sixth grades in 1947. The addition of grades seven and eight respectively in 1948 and 1949. A new school building was dedicated in 1959. By 1968, grades seven and eight were no longer taught at St. Mary School.

In 1963 the sisters from Oregon amalgamated with the Dubuque Presentation community, and the Dubuque Presentation Sisters assumed responsibility for the school. An ecumenical census, in conjunction with all the parish denominations in the city, was done in 1966.

Declining enrollment, and the decision to concentrate on the religious education needs of the entire parish, caused the closing of the school in 1971. A comprehensive CCD program was introduced that served children, teens and adults. This program was directed by the Presentation Sisters until they withdrew from the parish in 1977.

Twenty-four Presentation Sisters served in the school and parish: the five original foundresses from Staten Island, one who joined the community in Oregon and 18 Dubuque Presentation Sisters.

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Postville Commemoration

On May 11, 2018, several Dubuque Presentation Sisters, along with hundreds of other people, attended a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Postville, Iowa, immigration raid at the Agriprocessors Kosher Meat Plant. Back row: Sisters Ann Jackson, Martha Donnelly, Paula Schwendinger, Annette Kestel, Sheila Ann Dougherty and Joy Peterson; Middle row: Sisters Elena Hoyer, Anne McCormick, Dolores Moes and Dolores Zieser; Front row: Sisters Rosalyn Ulfers and Beth Driscoll. Also present were Sisters Julianne Brockamp, Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy.

Live your passion



through service

Be part of something bigger. Live the mission of Jesus as a Presentation Sister.

Contact Sister Jessi Beck at
vocations@dubuquepresentations.org
bit.ly/pbvmvowedmembership

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA

You are invited to join us.

June 25, 2018

July 23, 2018

August 27, 2018

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 website at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.

Please pray with us.

July 17, 2018

60th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Cecelia Marie Auterman

Sister Therese Corkery

Sister Carolyn Link

July 18-21, 2018

Community Gathering

Dubuque, Iowa

August 15, 2018

80th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Matthew Cunningham

Sister Damian O'Brien

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. Thank you.

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

Nano Nagle and Her Legacy

Nano's contemplative spirit and the sum of her attributes guided her understanding of her own life and call, her relationship with others, with her world, and with life itself. As we continue to celebrate the 300th anniversary of her birth, may we, too, be women and men of welcoming hearts, whose words and actions continue to speak the language of the heart each day. Through small everyday activities, let us use our voice, our prayer, our ability, our actions and our relationships to act in partnership with others for global justice. Everything we do has a global effect.



Photo credit: Nano Nagle Birthplace, Ballygriffin, Co. Cork

Compassion ♡♡

To feel deep sympathy and sadness for the suffering and misfortune of others, and have a desire to do something to alleviate their suffering.

- Make your smile contagious.
- Relax your judgements.
- Put yourself in someone else's shoes.

Hospitality ♡♡

To offer time, energy, words or assets without the expectation of something in return. To offer these freely and joyously with a positive disposition.

- Go out of your way to make someone feel special.
- Introduce yourself to someone new.
- Follow the Immigration Advocates Network (IAN).

Trust ♡♡

To have assured reliance or firm belief in the character, ability, strength or truth of someone or something. To hope confidently; to believe.

- Trust your ability. Try something you've always wanted to do.
- Write a letter to someone you don't talk to often enough.
- Have courage to do the right thing.

Prophetic ♡♡

To nurture, nourish and evoke a new consciousness, perception and vision than that of the dominant culture.

- Show cultural competence when meeting people.
- Volunteer at a local shelter where people are in need.
- Forgive someone who has hurt you.