



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

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Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA
Phone: 563-588-2008 Fax: 563-588-4463
Email: doorways@dubuquepresentations.org
Web site: www.dubuquepresentations.org

PUBLISHER
Julianne Brockamp, PBVM

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Jane Buse

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE
Francine Quillin, PBVM; Colleen Venter,
Associate; Leanne Welch, PBVM; Carol Witry,
Associate.

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Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

Editor, Presentation Doorways
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org

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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Cover PHOTO

Hundreds of Presentation sisters and friends came together to celebrate the Church's recognition of their foundress, Nano Nagle, as Venerable. Read more on page 4.
(Photo credit: www.catholicIreland.net)

Contents photos: Top photo: Sister Jennifer Rausch and Sister Lucy Troy (Union Presentation) share the excitement of attending the Mass commemorating the naming of Nano as Venerable which was held at South Church in Cork. Sister Lucy serves as the postulator in Rome of the cause for Nano; Middle photo: Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland; Bottom photo: Marilyn and Al Kruger.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Inspired by Nano Nagle

Due to her heroic virtues, Nano Nagle, our foundress, was recently declared Venerable by Pope Francis. Nano had dreams to transform the lives of those in misery in the penal days in Ireland. Inspired by her life, we have shared our own dreams for meeting the needs of those made poor. These dreams, along with input from many previous community discussions and our charism retreat, were the basis of what came to be “emerging circles” – conversations we wish to have over the next few years, conversations that will lead anew to “not words, but deeds” as in the family motto of our foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle.

Although Nano probably would not have used the specific words we are using, she did live and promote the concepts in her life and ministry. Three concepts she lived deeply are leadership, partners in mission/membership and spiraling mission groups.

Leadership is something Nano did extremely well. Nano’s “little schools” emerged from the shadows and her vision became a reality. She accomplished this by being a leader who worked with civic and ecclesial leaders – many times against great odds. She laid foundations of an educational system that would inspire others to establish religious communities which would found schools during the following century. Among them were Blessed Edmund Rice, Presentation and Christian Brothers; Mary Aikenhead, Sisters of Charity; Catherine McCauley, Sisters of Mercy; and Margaret Aylward, Holy Faith Sisters.

The focus of our emerging circle on leadership is to recognize the leadership within each individual, to call forth the gifts of each person to serve the common good, to allow each voice to be heard and to elicit communal accountability – all of this in community and in ministry.

Although Nano had a strong persona, she could not have accomplished what she did without partnering with others. She worked with the Ursuline Sisters to further the education of Irish youth; she formed a strong friendship with Teresa Mulalley who eventually founded what became Presentation Convent, George’s Hill, Dublin; she stayed connected with bishops and priests to be sure the needs of the poor were met; she recruited others to teach and lead as her ministry grew; and she constantly relied on, and begged from, those who had more material means to support the mission for people in need. The focus of today’s partners in mission/membership circle is to model Nano’s example in new ways – to look at new forms of association and partnership in and for mission.

In addition to her schools, Nano found time and passion for other ministries that would meet the needs of her time. By night she walked the streets of Cork with her lantern to visit the garrets of those who had no means of meeting their own daily needs. An unfulfilled dream she had was to establish a home for single mothers. Today’s emerging circle of spiraling mission groups will focus on the unmet needs of our present world such as immigration, women and children, trafficking of youth or a topic appropriate to one’s local level.

Nano focused her talents and energy on the unmet needs of her day and, inspired by her commitment, all are called to do the same. Due to her heroic virtues, Nano has been declared Venerable. May we follow with “not words, but deeds.”

Julianne Beth Ann Leanne

Our PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the Gospel mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our associates by sharing the news and views of the congregation with our benefactors, families and friends. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and invite others to become involved in our mission.

Our MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality. Our way of life is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in the vision of our foundress, Nano Nagle, who dared to dream of a better world for the poor, sick and uneducated of Ireland. We commit ourselves to the empowerment of women and children. We reverence and celebrate all creation as gift. We commit ourselves to confronting injustice and working for peace.

As we continue to keep Nano’s dream alive, we are pleased to share our mission with you.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



Left to right: Sisters Jennifer Rausch and Elena Hoye were delighted that they were present for the Mass commemorating the naming of Nano Nagle as Venerable at St. Finbarr's (South) Church in Cork, Nano's parish. Sisters Jennifer and Elena joined hundreds of others in the celebration.

Sisters and Associates

Celebrate Presentation Day and Venerable Nano

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

His Holiness Pope Francis recently authorized the Congregation for Causes of Saints to promulgate several decrees of "Heroic Virtues." Among those named Venerable at the Vatican on October 31, 2013, was the Servant of God Honora "Nano" Nagle (Sister John of God), Irish foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1718-1784). This announcement brings the canonization of Nano Nagle one step closer as it is the second of four stages in the canonization process.

On Christmas Eve, 1775, Nano Nagle founded the first Presentation convent, then called the Society of Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Cork, Ireland. From small beginnings, the Presentation sisters spread to many towns in Ireland and around the world. Today they number approximately 2,200 sisters and numerous associates in 23 countries. As Presentation sisters and associates worldwide celebrated the Feast of the Presentation on November 21, they also celebrated the occasion of Nano Nagle being declared Venerable. Her works and devotion to God continue through those who identify with her mission.

The Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are one of 14 congregations of Presentation Sisters worldwide. Dubuque Presentation Sisters Elena Hoye, International Presentation Association networker, and Jennifer Rausch, director of Nagle Centre, Ballygriffin, Mallow, County Cork, Ireland, were a part of the November 21 celebrations in Cork in honor of Nano Nagle.

Take this light. Carry it to your part of the world ... become like her and be bearers of light and people of faith, creativity and passion.

A group of invited guests with Presentation sisters, including Sisters Elena and Jennifer, representatives of several Irish religious congregations of women and men and Presentation associates and friends of Nano gathered with the Most Reverend John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross, for a ceremony at Nano Nagle's gravesite in the South Presentation Convent Cemetery. Sister Jennifer read from one of Nano's letters: "The Almighty makes use of the weakest means to bring about his work ... " Accompanied by the Irish Army Band, they proceeded to St. Finbarr's (South) Church in Cork City and joined hundreds of Presentation sisters and their co-workers and Nagle family descendants in giving thanks to God for Nano Nagle's contribution to the Church and her work for the poor of Cork. Bishop Buckley was the Eucharistic presider.

In addressing those gathered at the church, Sister Mary Deane, congregational leader of the Union of Presentations, said, "In the shadow of where Nano Nagle set up her first small school on Cove Lane we are celebrating the enormous impact she has had on the world ... We celebrate in the church where she herself prayed more than 200 years ago and we honored the legacy of her charism at her graveside."

School children danced to the front of the church carrying small flags of many countries where Presentation sisters and associates do Nano's work today. Gifts telling the story of Nano Nagle were brought to the altar: earth from Ballygriffin, Nano's birth place; water from the River Blackwater where Nano played as a child and from the River Lee which she crossed to serve the poor; an Earth ball (globe) to represent her global dream; the Annals of South Presentation Convent, Cork; and the Book of Life, to represent all Union Presentation sisters who have died.

Sister Lucy Troy (Union Presentation), who first requested in 1978 to put forth the cause for Nano's canonization and the postulator for the cause, reflected on the scriptural readings and Nano's life. "Nano was a 'society lady' and a woman of faith who went to France to pray for the Irish people." She returned to Ireland unsure of the outcome, but in response to God's call began to "teach those who had no hope of getting an education ... Nano kept faith with what God called her to do and God kept faith with Nano."

Children brought flowers and lanterns as Sister Elena and others brought forth to the altar the gifts for the Eucharist. "It was a very moving and sacred experience to be present for this celebration," stated Sister Elena who traveled to Cork on November 18.

Following Communion, Sister Bernadette Purcell (Union Presentation) danced; leadership members from the Irish Presentation Provinces conducted a missioning ceremony and presented lanterns to representatives from countries where Presentation sisters live and minister, charging: "Take this light. Carry it to your part of the world ... become like her and be bearers of light and people of faith, creativity and passion."



Nano Nagle's casket as it was seen on November 21, 2013, during the graveside service celebrating her being named venerable.

As the sun rose over the Midwestern United States and set in India and Thailand, the global Presentation family observed the Cork celebrations through live video stream. By 9 a.m. in Dubuque, Presentation sisters and associates had gathered in Sacred Heart Chapel to celebrate Presentation Day and Venerable Nano at Eucharist and to renew their commitment: "In fidelity to the Gospel and to the spirit of Nano Nagle," to "light the lantern and go one pace beyond ... in relationship to each other, the entire human family, Earth and all of creation ... "

Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates also joined the celebrations locally and globally. "We also were tuned into the Mass at St. Finbarr's. It was great to glimpse the ceremony of the day!" exclaimed Sister Maura McCarthy, associate director at La Luz Hispana in Hampton, Iowa.

Hearing and seeing online the voices and faces of the many who gathered at St. Finbarr's in Cork offered an awareness that all around the world, for 24 hours, thousands were continuing the celebration.

"It was a wonderful way to start the day with the live stream from Ireland," commented Sister Jessi Beck, teacher, Our Lady of Tepeyac School, Chicago, Illinois. "At school we talked about Mary in the morning and Nano in the afternoon."

"Connecting through live stream to be in Ireland with others around the world to witness the grand liturgy in honor of Nano Nagle and to celebrate our feast day was remarkable," stated Sister Mary Lou Specha, executive director of Hotel Hope, New Orleans, Louisiana. "The celebration really has inspired me to carry the light into the streets and wherever I go!"

Today Presentation sisters and friends of Nano remain committed to working with those most in need through a broad range of ministries. Those ministries include serving in education, pastoral ministry, chaplaincy and advocacy for the disadvantaged and those made poor throughout the United States, Bolivia and Ireland.



Sister Pamela Quade's welcoming face is one of the first faces visitors encounter at Mercy Medical Center in West Des Moines, Iowa.

SISTER PAMELA QUADE Quietly Serving Others

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Sister Mary Pamela (Margaret) Quade was born in Clare, Iowa, the 10th of 11 children (all still living). During her elementary years, she was taught by the Sisters of the Presentation. She finished high school in 1964 at St. Edmond High School in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and then she made her way across the state to Dubuque, to become a member of the Presentation community.

In her early years, Sister Pamela graduated from Clarke College with a bachelor's degree in sociology, which was fortuitous in that this major is valuable to her in her present ministry as a lobby receptionist at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, where she is alert to the needs of various races and classes of people who come to her desk. Sister's primary responsibility is to welcome people to the hospital and give them information they request of her. "There are new questions asked every day so I am always learning something new, and no two days are the same. I like

that variety," Sister Pamela comments. "I work with a wonderful group of people and I enjoy meeting new people who walk through the clinic doors."

But more importantly, Sister Pamela often assists with visitors who are saddened by the grave illness of a family member or close friend, so, as a woman religious, she can offer them support with her welcoming presence and a listening ear. Sister also volunteers time as a visitor to the oncology unit of the hospital, where there are often people without family near, or who are in distress because of the nature of their illness. In addition, she volunteers weekly as a receptionist at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, Iowa. Sister Pamela is trained as a Hospice volunteer, and has served in that capacity for two years, so she is well-equipped for understanding the needs of families who come to visit loved ones at the Hospice Center and of those patients she visits in their home.

There are new questions asked every day so I am always learning something new, and no two days are the same. I like that variety. I work with a wonderful group of people and I enjoy meeting new people who walk through the clinic doors.

Sister Pamela Quade

Sister Pamela has also served in a variety of other ministries over the years. She began her professional life as a primary teacher in Charles City, Iowa, then at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque. She also taught in Cedar Falls at St. Patrick School and at St. Pius School in Des Moines, both in Iowa.

While she was back in Dubuque teaching at St. Columbkille, Sister Pamela used her summers to earn a master's degree in elementary education, again from Clarke. With that degree completed, she became the principal of St. Patrick School in Sheldon, Iowa, and later of St. Joseph School in Key West, Iowa.

Sister Pamela also ministered at the House of Mercy in Des Moines, which offered transitional housing for those without a home.

In 1990, Sister Pamela changed ministry gears completely, spending 18 years at the Presentation motherhouse as an associate in the finance office. Because so much of this work involved insurance and doctor's bills, she obtained education as a medical billing and coding specialist.

Spending novitiate years with Sister Pamela and continuing their relationship throughout the years, Sisters Joy Peterson and Elena Hoye shared qualities which they have appreciated in Sister Pamela. They spoke of her as a person who lives simply, who is very kind to people, especially to those in need, giving them a sense of peace as she listens to them and ministers to them.

When Sister Pamela was at Mount Loretto recently, she commented to Sister Elena, that "one of 'my women' (to whom she ministered as a Hospice volunteer) died today."

Sister Elena remarked how characteristic that was of Sister Pamela: "It wasn't just that 'a' woman died, but that Sister Pamela had a personal investment in this woman as she had listened to her and consoled her through Hospice ministry. She gives peace to people and offers them a real presence, often just by sitting quietly with the sick," Sister Elena observed. "She has a very quiet manner of serving others."

Sister Pamela commented that, on the lighter side, she enjoys reading, golfing and visiting with family and friends. But she makes her spiritual life central. Her friends described her as very faithful to prayer. One could not go wrong in concluding that it is this aspect which keeps Sister Pamela grounded, open to helping others in the manner of Jesus who "went about doing good," and faithful to the charism of Presentation foundress as she consistently offers hospitality to varied groups of people.



Sister Pamela Quade assists a lost visitor with directions to the other Mercy clinic.

Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2014

Presentation Foundress, Nano Nagle, was a young Irish woman who spent her days teaching those who would have otherwise been deprived of an education. Her evenings were spent walking through the streets of Cork, Ireland, bringing food and medicine, comfort and hope to those in need. Nano Nagle was a woman of service. Today the Sisters of the Presentation follow in Nano's footsteps by serving in education, pastoral ministry, chaplaincy and advocacy for the disadvantaged and those made poor throughout the United States, Bolivia and Ireland.

In the spirit of Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates established four scholarship opportunities.

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

**To apply, visit:
WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**



A newly-installed sign invites visitors into the Nano Nagle Centre. The lantern offers an illuminated welcome to Ballygriffin, the birthplace of Nano, the “Lady of the Lantern.”



Left to right: Top left photo: Paul O'Reilly, carpenter and farm worker, built shelves to display the organic produce that is available to local customers. Top middle photo: Eileen O'Connell serves nutritious meals to guests and staff at the Nano Nagle Centre. Top right photo: Surrounded by the beauty of the Blackwater Valley, the September 2013 team serving at the Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin, Ireland, enjoys the Irish sunshine: Presentation Sisters Nora Delaney, Lisa Pires, Jennifer Rausch and Margaret Humphries. Right middle photo: The polytunnel (greenhouse) provides a perfect growing environment under the able supervision of Noreen O'Brien (right), farm manager. Karen O'Shea (left), center manager, will make use of the carrots, potatoes, turnips, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and kale grown here and in the gardens to serve organic meals in the dining room and for sale at the Killavullen Farmers' Market. Right bottom photo: Volunteers, Sister Agnes Kiely, IJS, and Presentation Brother Eugene Burke harvest organic apples from the orchard as the Nagle family would have done in the 1700s.



NANO NAGLE CENTRE

Spot On, Brilliant, Lovely

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

Come on a “pictorial and word tour” of Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland, to highlight the vision of the Nano Nagle Centre.

This 32-acre farm was the 1718 birthplace of Nano Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Sisters. Nestled in the valley of the River Blackwater with the Nagle Mountains rising to the south, the property was purchased by the Union Presentation Sisters in 1974, a land remnant greatly reduced by penal laws from the original Nagle holdings. Over the years, the land was developed, buildings built, renovated, expanded and the original Nagle Estate gates returned to the setting.

The vision of the centre focuses on heritage, ecology and spirituality and preserves the memory and message of Nano by providing a place of peace and personal healing while practicing sustainable living and care of Earth. A multi-activity program offers a variety of retreats for adults and students including centering prayer, Celtic spirituality and preparation for Confirmation. Workshops attract participants to experiences of mindfulness, adult spiritual

formation, the Universe Story and yoga. Courses appeal to personal creativity through basket making, polytunnel gardening, vegetarian cookery and traditional Irish music.

Orchards, kitchen gardens and floral plots along with hens, donkeys, cattle, hogs and sheep are cared for in an “organic” way which means that no chemicals are used to fertilize, control weeds or eliminate plant-destroying critters. This commitment leads to the use of “green manure” (nitrogen-fixing plants) as garden compost, marigolds and basil interspersed among tomatoes and peppers to discourage insects and two legged “slug-busters,” more commonly known as ducks, to put an end to any slug eating the lettuce. An on-site farmers’ market invites local producers of homemade soap, bread, eggs, cheese, cakes, preserves, chutneys, apple cider and garden vegetables to sell their wares at what has become an experience of sharing sustainable produce and a neighborhood social event ... healing for Earth and for one’s spirit.

There is something for all to enjoy at the Nano Nagle Centre. Visitors from across the globe breathe in the spirit of Nano. An energetic elderly “Cork woman” takes a spritely walk along the two kilometre Cosmic Walk circumventing the property. A family reserves a bungalow so their young children can “say good morning to the donkeys each day” as aptly explained by an enthusiastic four-year old. A young woman brings her toddler for a stroller ride to “feed her soul” in this peaceful haven. A distressed mother carrying the burden of her son’s gambling addiction finds solace in the prayer room.

This is a thumbnail sketch of the heart and soul of the Nano Nagle Centre. It can best be described in a common Irish phrase expressing great delight, “This is spot on, brilliant, lovely.” That says it all!



Sister Jennifer Rausch serves as the director of the Nano Nagle Centre which includes collaborating with the farm manager, centre manager and staff. She is the liaison with the Board of Management and the Avondhu Cuisle Music Education Program. Her favorite task is to share the heritage and vision of Nano with the many visitors to the centre from around the world.



Left to right: Sisters Barbara Rastatter, Karen Jasper and Josita Zieser celebrate 60 years of religious life on October 13, 2013.

Jubilarians Give Thanks

for 60 and 75 Years of Religious Life

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

“Proclaim throughout the land! This is a year of jubilee! Call the people together!” announced Sister Julianne Brockamp as Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates celebrated 60 and 75 years of religious life with five members of their community on Sunday, October 13. Sisters Mary Karen Jasper, Barbara Rastatter and Josita Zieser observed 60 years and Sisters Mary Matthew Cunningham and Damian O’Brien observed 75 years as Presentation Sisters.

Continuing the jubilee proclamation Sister Julianne wove the words of Isaiah into the spirit of Presentation mission and charisma as she said, “... the land will lie fallow, the prisoners will be set free, the homeless housed, clothed and fed and the sick comforted. Our youth will be gifted with the right to learn and be educated in dignity and service for the common good. All of creation will be cherished and sustained, and the whole cosmos will rejoice!”

The congregation then resounded in a call to the feast with “Gather the People” by Shutte, “... all are invited, the greatest and least. The banquet is ready, now to be shared. Join in the heavenly feast that God has prepared.”

The readings proclaimed thanksgiving for God’s goodness and blessings. Presider and homilist Father Doug Wathier invited all to celebrate the trustworthiness and faithfulness of those who believe that “the word of God is not chained.”

Recognizing the gifts of each jubilarian, Father reflected that these sisters’ lives tell stories of what is possible when God’s grace is at work in the world: harmony, songs of welcome and praise (Sister Matthew); companioning others on their journeys of personal and spiritual growth (Sister Damian); touching the lives of young and old through administrative skills (Sister Karen); joyful and welcoming spirit to the least and the lowly (Sister Barbara); rendering an artful touch to lives through education (Sister Josita).

Joining in the sending hymn “City of God,” sisters and associates and all in the assembly proceeded to the dining room for brunch and visiting.

Sisters Karen Jasper, Barbara Rastatter and Josita Zieser entered the Presentation community in 1953 and professed final vows in 1961.

Sister Mary Karen Jasper

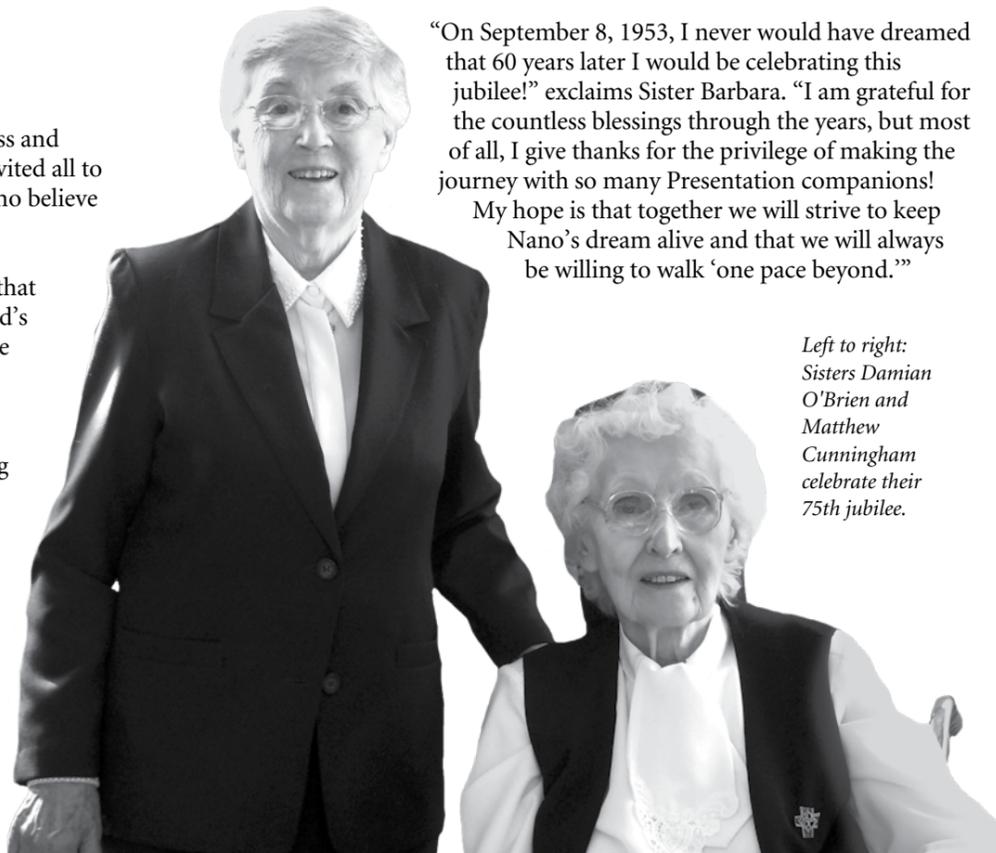
Sister Karen Jasper, currently of Dubuque, is in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto. Sister Karen holds a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Arts degree in elementary education from Clarke College, Dubuque. Previously she was an elementary teacher and principal at Catholic schools in Osage, Dougherty, Charles City, Ryan and Epworth, all in Iowa. She also served in Mount Loretto Nagle Center, Dubuque, ministering in personal and pastoral care for senior sisters.

Reflecting on this jubilee, Sister Karen states, “Our foundress Nano Nagle’s prayerfulness and readiness to serve wherever she was inspired me. I am grateful for the example of my sister, Sister Mary Philip Jasper, and the Presentation Sisters who taught me for 12 years. I have enjoyed wherever I have been in mission. I felt successful and ready to serve wherever I was called.”

Sister Mary Barbara Rastatter

Sister Barbara (formerly Arthur) Rastatter, currently of Chicago, Illinois, ministers as director of senior ministry at St. James Parish. Sister Barbara holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, and a Master of Arts degree in music education from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. Previously she served as an elementary and secondary music teacher at Catholic schools in Iowa, including Algona, Farley, Cedar Falls, Epworth and Peosta, and in Timber Lake, South Dakota; she served in pastoral ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Waterloo, Iowa, and St. Anthony Parish, Dubuque. Sister was music consultant for the congregation from 1975 to 1981, and served in congregational leadership from 1991 to 1998.

“On September 8, 1953, I never would have dreamed that 60 years later I would be celebrating this jubilee!” exclaims Sister Barbara. “I am grateful for the countless blessings through the years, but most of all, I give thanks for the privilege of making the journey with so many Presentation companions! My hope is that together we will strive to keep Nano’s dream alive and that we will always be willing to walk ‘one pace beyond.’”



Left to right: Sisters Damian O’Brien and Matthew Cunningham celebrate their 75th jubilee.

Sister Mary Josita Zieser

Sister Josita Zieser, currently of Dubuque, is in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto. Sister Josita holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in art from Clarke College, Dubuque, and a Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana. Previously she was an elementary and secondary teacher in Catholic schools in Iowa including Mason City, Key West, Algona, Bode, Dubuque and Storm Lake, and in Shoreview, Minnesota. She was also parish secretary and administrative assistant at St. Mary Parish in Storm Lake.

“I thank God for calling me to religious life. I am grateful to my family, Presentation sisters and all the people I have served who supported me for 60 years,” comments Sister Josita. “I pray that our charism of hospitality will continue to be important in all our works, especially to those made poor and to women and children and that Nano’s dream may continue in all parts of the world.”

Sisters Matthew Cunningham and Damian O’Brien entered the Presentation community in 1938 and professed final vows in 1944.

Sister Mary Matthew Cunningham

Sister Matthew Cunningham, currently of Dubuque, is in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto. Sister Matthew holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Loras College, Dubuque. Previously she served as a music teacher in Catholic schools and parishes in Ryan, Fairbank, Algona, Farley, Charles City, Storm Lake, Mason City and Whittemore, all in Iowa, and in Winner, South Dakota.

Reflecting on her jubilee, Sister Matthew states, “This jubilee means everything to me: a good life that brings me closer to God and more able to do God’s will. I pray for vocations to spread and teach Gospel values and the mission of Nano Nagle.”

Sister Mary Damian O’Brien

Sister Damian O’Brien, currently of Dubuque, is in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto. Sister Damian holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Loras College, and a Master of Music degree from the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago. Previously she served as a music teacher in Catholic schools and parishes in Dubuque, Lawler, Osage and Mason City, Iowa. She ministered in congregational leadership and formation from 1967 to 1977; was director at Villa Raphael, home for retired priests in Dubuque and served on the deacon formation team; served as local director and transportation coordinator at Mount Loretto; served in pastoral and music ministry in parishes in Charles City, Monticello and Castle Grove, all in Iowa, and South St. Paul, Minnesota; she also accompanied parish choirs in Placid, Monti, Ryan, Hopkinton, Coggon and Prairieburg, all in Iowa.

“Seventy-five years seems like a long time!” remarks Sister Damian. “When I look back on those years I am grateful for the people in my life who supported and prayed for me: my family, relatives, friends and community – I have been blessed. I thank God for this jubilee and pray that like Nano, we, Presentation sisters and associates, continue to keep in mind the needs of those made poor.”

Celebrating Global Oneness

by ELENA HOYE, PBVM



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.

We promise to:

Promote direct ministry with people made poor,

Facilitate education and advocacy on behalf of people without options,

Support sustainability and systemic change for the common good.

2012 Directional Statement



The conference closed with a candle lighting ceremony.

Presentation sisters, associates, friends and ministry partners have been in conversation for a year discussing and striving to uncover where God's dream is leading. The fruits of this journey have led to four insights. The exciting discovery is that Presentation people are on the same path as God's dream for Earth and the peoples of Earth.

The first insight revealed that there is a new energy in relationship building. People are experiencing a deepening consciousness of their interconnectedness with Earth, her peoples and the whole community of life based on a spirituality of communion. There is a growing consciousness that all life is sacred; Earth is our mother and our home; and all are kin with everyone and everything in the universe. This is truly a part of the growing sense of a global Presentation identity. This driving love of God's creation is revealed by Presentation commitments to windmills, solar panels, grey water, geothermal buildings, simple living and mindful choices.

Second, there is a growing energy of unity and solidarity among the Presentation family. A growing sense that there is one Presentation mission and that mission is not an extra burden added on to their real mission, but it is core of who they are. This growing sense of being united in one global Presentation mission is realized through intentional united actions around the International Presentation Association (IPA) focus/foci on global issues. More sisters, associates and friends of Nano are intentionally taking ownership of this global IPA mission to challenge the systems and structures that exploit Earth, her peoples and the whole community of life at local, national and international levels. From Australia to India to Ireland to United States, Nano companions have collaborated with others and have committed themselves to the extinction of human trafficking. This worldwide commitment is only one example of how the legacy of Nano is shaping Presentation identity.

The third insight comes from the energy of contemplation. The very way Presentation people are praying is changing. There is a growing longing for God, a love and respect for all creation and a desire for stillness. This is leading to an immersion in the Mystery of God and in the lives of those oppressed by unjust systems. In contemplation, the experience of God continues to grow and change. Contemplation is leading them to listen to the Spirit within all life and to the urgent call to respond to the cry of the whole Earth, the marginalized and those made poor. Throughout the year, several days are established when the networks of Nano pray

together for the life of the world. The highlight of this tradition is the IPA Novena that grounds them in the values and virtues of Nano and is becoming a powerful force for conversion.

Finally, the fourth insight comes from the energy of inclusivity and partnership. There is a growing collaboration with laity, especially Presentation associates and friends of Nano, other congregations, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and with people of various religions. Developing partnerships is inherently different from collaboration. In partnerships, all parties are changed and something truly new is born. Presentation partners are found from the Philippines with paralegal training for community empowerment to Zambia with irrigation plans to alleviate water shortage to the Lantern Light project in New Orleans, United States that serves the homeless.

These insights led the Presentation network to believe that something new is truly being born. This excitement led to the development of a conference for Dubuque Presentation sisters, associates and people drawn to the gospel mission held on October 18-20. Its purpose was to deepen relationships and nurture the understanding of the evolving consciousness of all of creation. Ninety-five participants laughed and prayed, renewing their commitment to respond to the cry of the poor and the cry of Earth.

One of the highlights of the weekend happened on Saturday night when Associates Judi Moritz (Missouri) and Becky Searcy (Iowa) skyped with Australian Associates Caroline Thompson and Helen Lockton. They discussed the impact of local and global connections on their work for justice and shared how being connected to Presentation people around the world energizes them. A powerful consciousness was that Presentation people have a global influence and that they are part of an international effort to bring God's Good News to a world that is thirsting for that Good News.

Saturday afternoon allowed all to learn from one another as participants shared enthusiasm and activities that will enable them to carry out their commitments to the 2012 directional statement. Associate Billie Greenwood (Iowa), Associate Barbara Ressler (Iowa) and Sister Jessi Beck (Illinois) shared their fire and passion for goals of the directional statement. They challenged everyone to celebrate their achievements and to "go one pace beyond." It was truly inspiring to listen to the great practices and activities that are already happening and the plans for the future.

Throughout the day, those gathered sang the refrain to the song, "How Good It Is" by Lori True which was profoundly prophetic:

How good it is, How wonderful,
When all live together in unity.
How good it is, How wonderful,
When all live together in love.

Together, Presentation people left eager to take their flame into the world.

Sister Elena Hoye, networker for the International Presentation Association (IPA), and Sister Irma Ries facilitated the Conference for Presentation People, at the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, October 18-20, 2013.



Sisters and associates were energized by the discussions, dreaming and collaboration from the conference. Left to right: Top photo: Associates Doris Bussan, Theresa Buss, Becky Searcy and Sister Carla Popes. Bottom photo: Sister Joan Lickteig, Associate Barbara Ressler and Sister Ann Jackson.

Wisdom Overheard

"Not just educate ourselves, educate others."

"Being an advocate happens daily."

"As a victim of circumstances, we realized we were made poor. We went to someone who gave us hope; we were made stronger; and we reached out to others in the same situation."

"Believe in the grace of where you are."

"It is often coffee and pie on your porch with a neighbor."

IPA Networker

Sister Elena Hoye assumed her role as the International Presentation Association (IPA) networker on July 1, 2013, after training with Sister Marlette Black in Brisbane, Australia. She promotes the justice agenda of the international organization by working with the justice network of sisters and Presentation friends who minister in 23 countries on six continents. Sister Elena promotes ways that IPA members can speak and act in partnership with international and national groups to carry out the IPA direction and commitments.



Remembering Monona

1915-1969

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

"I found a deep faith in the people in Monona, Iowa, and continue to treasure the memories of my days there," Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty remarks recently. The roots of that faith grew deep in the lives of the people, nourished by Mass celebrated in private homes before a church building was erected.

Father Louis de Cailly, a missionary priest and nephew of Bishop Matthias Loras, began the formal organization of the parish. After his arrival in 1856, the first church building became a reality. Mary Humphrey, in whose home Mass had often been celebrated, was selected to have the church named St. Mary Church in her honor. She, however requested that it be named for the patron of her deceased husband, and so the church was called St. Richard.

At a cost of \$850, this structure provided space for communal worship until 1871 when more room was needed. Father Charles Toner, the first resident pastor, oversaw the completion of this second church building.

"It was late August 1915, when Mother Columba O'Callaghan blessed her second band of outgoing missionaries. Another group of five whispered their trust and confidence at the foot of God's altar before faring forth to their new field of action in Monona. Catholics of Monona offered the first Presentation sisters a welcome stamped with the generosity ever characteristic of the fine people there. As for the residents of a different faith, they greeted the Presentation sisters with cordial friendliness, a feeling which still prevails." (*Unnamed annalist*)

Thus the Presentation Sisters began their ministry in Monona in 1915, living and teaching in the school building completed by Father Michael Hogan in that year. Years later when more room was needed because of increased enrollment, a house a block away from the school was purchased for use as a convent. Though there is no record of why or when a name change had been made, the parish and school was then called St. Patrick.

Over the 54 years of Presentation presence in Monona, approximately 60 sisters served the school. The first of these were Sisters Mary Isadore Leonard, Edmunda Carey, Xavier Evens, Baptista Hussey and Helena Gilrain. When they arrived, they began the business of opening the doors to children in grades 1-8, which further generations of sisters maintained until Sisters Mary Anita



Top photo: St. Patrick Rectory, School and Church
Right photo: Monona community honors sisters with a reunion in 1969.



Boland, de Pazzi Cassidy, Margaret Donnelly and Therese Marie Hawes closed the doors on May 29, 1969.

Early in the history of the Monona school, two years of high school classes were offered, along with the eight grades of elementary classes. Instrumental and vocal music attracted large numbers of students. Sister Mary Genevieve Burke, with an advanced degree from Bush Conservatory in Chicago, is credited with the training of many who later found success in the music field.

Oral history tapes in the archives contain memories of Sister Joanne Feeney, who recalled a fire in the middle of the night. Awakened by smoke, Sister Thomas Collins found her way to the source – the refrigerator in the kitchen was pouring out black smoke. Sister's quick action resulted in saving the house from burning down.

Sister Carla Popes recently recalled her memories of living in Monona from 1967-1968. Among her favorite stories is one of Sister Anita Boland's passion for playing cards. Business meetings were short and to the point, "so we could get to playing cards." Sister Carla made a big hit with a local farmer when she admired his Angus cattle, so like the animals her father had raised. He asked her which member of his Black Angus herd looked the best to her. They were both shocked when the one she picked was named Grand Champion Black Angus at the county fair.

Sister Emilie Bormann recalls that the sisters probably startled the local residents when they trekked out of town to the river, carrying their fishing poles and picnic lunch, along with a bat and ball. Roller skating in the gym and cruising down the Mississippi River in Father William Menster's boat were other favorite activities.

Without a car, the acquiring of groceries was a challenge. These were ordered by phone on Saturday from a man in the neighboring town of Froehlich, and delivered on Sunday when he came for Mass. The order always included a half-gallon of ice cream in addition to the staples they had asked for.

An October 25, 2006 article in *The Outlook*, a local newspaper, stated that, "In the past 150 years, 28 men and women with roots in St. Richard/St. Patrick Church have responded to the call to serve the Lord. Of these, nine were ordained to the priesthood. Three native sons from St. Patrick Parish have been ordained as permanent deacons. Twelve women and two men from the parish have served the church as vowed religious." The faith of the early settlers continues strong in the 21st century.

Arts & Crafts Boutique A Benefit to Support Charitable Ministries

The Sisters of the Presentation are happy to report that \$6,351.50 was raised from the Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 26. This amount will be divided equally and donated to the Dubuque Rescue Mission and Metro Catholic Outreach in Cedar Rapids through which Sister Joellen Price helps people in need.

The sale took place in Presentation Center at the motherhouse which was filled with tables for art, crafts and baked goods. The annual event could not have been the success it was without the wonderful community of sisters, associates, students and friends who worked together to make it as great as it was.

Mark your calendars for next year's sale on October 25, 2014, where you will find unique, hand-crafted gifts and delicious pies and baked goods by Presentation sisters, associates and friends. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings to photography to jewelry to greeting cards and much more.



Ruah 2013 Awakening to the Journey with Nano

On a pilgrimage to Ireland in June 2013, Sisters Julie Marsh and Marilyn Breen joined 41 other friends of Nano Nagle as they traveled from Dublin to Ballygriffin, Cork, and Mooncoin. Sister Julie reflects on the experience:

"The people with whom I rubbed shoulders during my time in Ireland were Presentation men and women committed to the charism of Nano. As we grew in our new relationships with one another, I was keenly aware of how each lived out the mission. Though we came together from different cultures, the seemingly inherent desire to work with and for the poor was our common thread."

"Our Eucharistic celebration at Glenville Mass Rock, deeply hidden within the trees of the land, reminded all of us of our blessings and the freedom to worship without fear of penalty or death. To stand where many had stood before us in thanksgiving to a loving God filled my heart with courage and hope. If others were willing to risk everything for something they truly believed in and loved, there could be no reason for hesitation."

"The gift of pilgrimage to the land of Nano Nagle will be an enduring experience for which I am most grateful. I thank God for those who have gone before me, who are walking with me now and for those who have yet to meet the Spirit of Nano."

Left to right: Sisters Julie Marsh and Marilyn Breen visit a sculpture of Nano Nagle in Ballygriffin, Ireland.

Marilyn and Al Kruger

Accidental Adventurers and Partners in Mission

by DIANE BRONDYKE, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Marilyn Brissett Kruger of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, has had a life-long connection to the Sisters of the Presentation. “My mother and several of her sisters were taught by Presentation Sisters at St. Vincent Academy (now St. Columbkille School in Dubuque) in the early 1900s. So I guess you could say the spirit, the work and the life of the Presentation community has been with me since birth.”

Marilyn smiles as she fondly remembers her early experiences growing up with the Presentation Sisters in Northeast Iowa. “Sister Helen Marie Feeney was principal of St. Patrick School in Waukon, Iowa, in the ‘50s. In those days, class excursions were rare (the Sodality convention in Milwaukee, trips to see Shakespeare dramas at Loras College in Dubuque). Before each of

these outings, as a reminder to mind our manners, Sister would say to us, ‘Remember that when you are on a school field trip, you are Presentation products.’” Marilyn has never forgotten those words nor the positive influence the Presentation Sisters have had in her life.

The connections to the Sisters of the Presentation run deep for Marilyn as an alumna, a former member of the Presentation community, a blood sister of Sister Anne McCormick and friend of many sisters. “It is only looking back that I can see the richness in my relationship with the community. Sometimes I think I never really left ... I just brought the Presentations with me.”

We are in awe of the evolution in the work of the community. Nano Nagle (Presentation foundress) was a wealthy woman who invited the poor of Ireland into her social network. If poverty means having no choice, she gave choices to the poor who could move out of poverty through education. Marilyn and Al Kruger

Marilyn and her husband Al are longtime friends and partners of the Sisters of the Presentation. Over the years, in addition to their generous financial gifts to the Presentation community, the Krugers describe themselves as “accidental adventurers” who have had the opportunity to “tag along” with the Presentation Sisters as volunteers in rebuilding efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, with the EXCEL program in Okolona, Mississippi and in Presentation ministry efforts in Bolivia.

“We are in awe of the evolution in the work of the community. Nano Nagle (Presentation foundress) was a wealthy woman who invited the poor of Ireland into her social network. If poverty means having no choice, she gave choices to the poor who could move out of poverty through education.” Marilyn and Al recognize that the Presentation charism of hospitality is key to the work of today’s sisters and associates as they reach out in service to God’s people. “Nano’s ‘hedges and lanes’ simply have become community centers for immigrants and other ministry efforts to help improve the lives of the homeless, women and children in our world today.”

Our belief is that the ‘wealth’ of experience and opportunities we have enjoyed in each chapter of our life point to the gifts received through our relationship with the Presentation Sisters.

Marilyn and Al Kruger

Marilyn and Al feel that it has been a privilege to be able to be part of the Presentation mission and ministries and feel indebted for the many gifts that they have received. “Our belief is that the ‘wealth’ of experience and opportunities we have enjoyed in each chapter of our life point to the gifts received through our relationship with the Presentation Sisters. The sisters who brought education to Catholics in the small towns in the Midwest opened doors beyond what many of us might have expected. We can name so many people who attribute their personal success to the education received from the Sisters of the Presentation.”

In addition to volunteering in Presentation ministries and giving monthly gifts to the Presentation community, the Krugers have also included the Sisters of the Presentation in their estate plans. “God willing and if there’s anything left at the end of our lives, we hope there will be enough for a modest bequest to the Presentations.” For Marilyn and Al, partnering with the Presentation community is a way to say “thank you” for the many blessings they have received.

We invite you to become a partner in the Presentation mission.

No matter how small your estate is, creating a current, valid will is the most important step in careful planning for your loved ones and for those charitable organizations you wish to support.

A charitable bequest is simple, convenient and among the easiest ways to offer support to the Sisters of the Presentation and their ministries for years to come. Including the Sisters of the Presentation in your will does not affect your current income and may favorably impact estate taxes. As with any planned gift, please consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor before making any decisions.

For more information about including the Sisters of the Presentation in your estate plans or other ways to support the Presentation mission and ministries, please contact:

Diane Brondyke
Director of Development
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001
563-588-2008 ext. 104
development@dubuquepresentations.org

Development Director

Diane Brondyke assumed her role as director of development for the Sisters of the Presentation in July 2013.



“Development is first and foremost about building relationship. I am eager to meet with sisters to learn about their various ministries and also to meet with donors to hear how the Presentation Sisters have impacted their lives.”

Diane has experience in building a development program and working with women religious and is excited to use this experience to help the Sisters of the Presentation further their mission of service to God’s people and to create an organizational culture of philanthropy.

Diane grew up in Guttenberg, Iowa. She and her husband Scott are the proud parents of three active daughters: Lillian (Lily) is a freshman at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; Caroline (Carrie) is a sophomore at Dubuque Senior High School and Anna is an eighth grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School, both in Dubuque.

Diane currently is serving as secretary of the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC) board of directors. She is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and has served as the organization’s president and also chair of the education and National Philanthropy Day committees. Diane most recently was awarded the 2013 AFP Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award for her commitment to fundraising and philanthropy.

In her free time, Diane enjoys attending her daughters’ activities and driving the “Mom taxi” shuttling kids to and from their various practices and lessons.



Sister Mary Jo Leifker (right) enjoys her weekly art class with friend, Kay Hosch.

SISTER MARY JO LEIFKER

Blessed with God's Love

by COLLEEN VENTER, ASSOCIATE

Growing up in Galena, Illinois, Sister Mary Jo Leifker had many teachers in school and at home; she was the 11th child in a family of 13. Before finishing high school, Sister Mary Jo followed the lead of some of her older siblings and moved to Chicago, Illinois. She learned to navigate her way around the “windy city” and she learned about working in retail, both as a personal shopper and as an elevator stewardess in a large department store. “I always wanted to be a nurse,” comments Sister Mary Jo, “so I enrolled in a home-study nursing program after work. In academics I struggled but I loved taking the classes and they helped me so much with my volunteering. I did nurse’s aide work for the Red Cross during the war at Cook County Hospital,” Sister continues. “They were so short of help but I loved it.”

“A woman I worked with in Chicago, inspired me to try religious life,” adds Sister Mary Jo. “I just felt there was something else. Contemplative life attracted me, so I entered the Poor Clare’s Monastery in Chicago. It was wonderful, but then my mother became ill and I moved back home.” Later, the pastor in Galena told her about a group of Presentation Sisters from Staten Island, New York, who were setting up a school and day care in Oregon, Illinois. “I was invited there to see if I was interested in joining their community. They were a great group of women and I was charmed by their New York accents. I entered their community in 1945, for a total of 16 years before we merged with the Dubuque Presentation Sisters in 1962. Vocations were dropping and we had only five sisters left in Oregon. The Presentation Sisters from Dubuque would visit us often and always invited us to their summer retreats so it was a natural fit.”

In retirement, my ministry is community prayer and service. Prayer accompanies me throughout the day, while service offers me many opportunities each day. I try to promote good stewardship in our home while being more aware of the Earth Charter’s concern for our world’s carbon footprint as I seek more ways to jump on the “Green Wagon.”

Sister Mary Jo Leifker

Sister Mary Jo had the opportunity to work in food service for the sisters at the motherhouse. She worked with Sister Carmelle Westemeier for 16 years. “It was a good time. I took cooking classes that were offered from the County Extension Office and I just learned by doing.” Sister Mary Jo recalls, “One time, Sister Carmelle told me to make the gravy. I didn’t know how to make it and I didn’t know about cooking large amounts either.” Laughing, Sister Mary Jo says, “We were in a dither! With God’s help, our senior sisters and novices, Sister Carmelle and I could put the show on the road!” Sister Mary Jo has always been an advocate for healthy eating/living and a proponent of regular exercising.

Sister Dolores Zieser shares, “Before we got into recycling here at Mount Loretto, Sister Mary Jo was vigilant in making sure items got recycled and encouraged others to do the same.”

Sister Mary Jo comments, “I’m very passionate about recycling. I guess I have a reputation for it! I’m very proud of our community for taking part in Dubuque’s composting and recycling programs.”

Sister Dolores Zieser also adds, “Sister Mary Jo would probably be too humble to tell you how she helps others here. She is a member of Sister Marie Barth’s Friday watercolor class. When Sister Catherine Wingert was unable to come downstairs for the class, Sister Mary Jo would help her do the painting that she missed. Sister Mary Jo and her friend, Kay Hosch, go to Sister Carmelle’s room in Nagle Center to share Scripture with her because she has limited vision.”

Sister Joan Lickteig concurs, “Sister Mary Jo keeps and maintains connections with people. She does a lot of spiritual companionship and she has a big heart for the handicapped.” When Hospice of Dubuque was started, Sister Mary Jo became a volunteer, serving for 14 years.

Sister Mary Jo concludes, “In retirement, my ministry is community prayer and service. Prayer accompanies me throughout the day, while service offers me many opportunities each day. I try to promote good stewardship in our home while being more aware of the Earth Charter’s concern for our world’s carbon footprint as I seek more ways to jump on the “Green Wagon.” I continue to work for peace in the world. Four of us stand on a busy street corner holding peace signs each week during good weather; otherwise we pray for peace in the Chapel. I am blessed with God’s love to be able to live with great religious women who inspire me.”



DUBUQUE'S

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SISTERS

Join us for an inside look at religious life!

April 11-12, 2014

Are you interested in religious life?

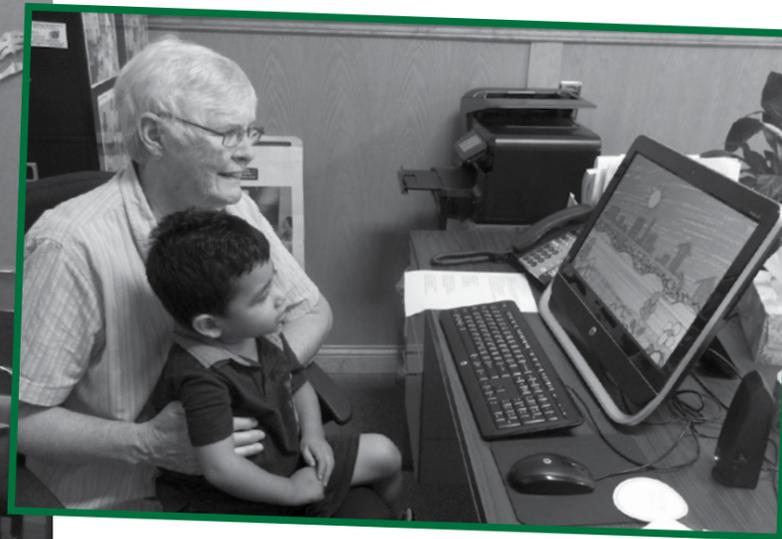
Then join us for a 24-hour tour of four tri-state area convents to share life through praying, dining, and storytelling. Local transportation will be provided, and there is no fee to attend.

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



To register or for information:
Sister Rita Cameron
vocations@
dubuquepresentations.org
563.588.2008

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



Top photo: Friends of La Luz Hispana welcome Aberdeen Presentation Sisters from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Right photo: Sister Maura McCarthy and Victor are engaged in computer activities provided by PBSkids.org.

Offering a Light for Hispanic People

La Luz Hispana

by JANE BUSE, COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

La Luz Hispana, located in Hampton, Iowa, continues to be a light for many Hispanic people. Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy, directors at the center, continue to enhance the many programs and services offered there. By immersing themselves within the Hampton community, they are building relationships that are vital to the center's success. With the help of many sisters, associates, family and friends, La Luz Hispana is often busy.

On September 13, Sister Lynn Fangman and her associate members of "Nano's Nine" arrived around noon for a tour of La Luz Hispana, a prayer for immigrants, Sister Carmen's delicious crock-pot enchiladas and apple crisp and then began to do some volunteer work at the center. One group weeded the back patio, Sister Lynn babysat and another group led the Hispanic women and one husband in creating fabulous tissue paper flowers for the upcoming Hispanic festival commemorating Mexico's Independence Day. "Nano's Nine" and the Hispanic visitors enjoyed an obvious spirit of camaraderie the entire afternoon.

The morning of September 15, Sisters Carmen and Maura along with dozens of Hispanic families gathered at Harriman Park of Hampton to celebrate the day of Mexican Independence and the Hispanic Festival. The day was rainy and unusually chilly but everyone gathered was glad to have shared the day together with games, delicious food and triumphant sounds of Old Mexico.

In September, Michelle Schaefer from First Bank Hampton gave a presentation on the financial system, the safety of depositing funds in a bank, the requisites for opening a bank account, the use of checks and their suitability for establishing a healthy credit history and proof of payment. She also discussed the usefulness of using debit cards and their efficacy in transferring money abroad. In addition, several healthy-cooking classes were held. The tiny kitchen was jam-packed with women preparing homemade cornbread, fajitas with an apple fruit salad, and enchiladas verdes, green ones, with tomatillos. Busyness accompanied with laughter, characterized the preparations of each of the cooking days and a sense of genuine gratification when all sat down to share the nutritional fare.

On October 5, several Hispanic adults trekked in two vans and a family car to Des Moines to participate in an Immigration Celebration at Drake Park, sponsored by the Organization for Action group and the American Friends Service Committee. A Hispanic lawyer, Sandra Sanchez, conversed about how very difficult it is for Mexican and Central American citizens to obtain visas to live legally in the United States. Two dreamers, (deferred action) students told their stories of expecting to go to college, only to experience extreme difficulties in obtaining the necessary documents, their need to toil multiple jobs and seek scholarships to pay out of state tuition without citizenship. The

Hispanic travelers from Hampton expressed their gratitude that nearly 75 percent of their fellow Americans welcome them and want the immigration system reformed, according to data from the Organization for Action group.

On November 17, Associate Maureen Utter, from Ventura, Iowa, invited Sisters Carmen and Maura to give a "What's Happening with Immigration" presentation at St. Patrick Hall in Clear Lake. About 60 persons from the Clear Lake and Mason City area attended the evening event. Sisters Maura and Carmen asked the audience to discern their own sentiments about the presence of undocumented immigrants in their midst which resulted in an energetic dialogue.

Kim Manning, the head librarian at the Franklin County Library, invited Sisters Carmen and Maura and other townspeople to a gifting of new materials to the library from Iowa Public Television on November 20. The materials included new Read Aloud books, PBS Kids DVDs, a rug and other resources for a reading corner. New learning centers will be given to the Hampton public schools and to La Luz Hispana early in 2014.

Most recently, Hispanic women and men in Franklin and Wright Counties are suddenly being dismissed from a plant where they have worked for as many as 14 years, purportedly for improper documents. Sister Carmen is investigating this situation with immigrant specialists to determine what might be done to protect the newcomers from a very unjust situation. The difficulty is exacerbated by the time of year, the number of children depending on them and the precarious situation in Congress with immigration reform. "It is heartbreaking to see this happening to our people, especially this time of year. These very unfortunate situations are just one reason I am grateful for the reality of this center and all its' dedicated volunteers and benefactors," expresses Sister Carmen.

La Luz Hispana, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, creates a spirit of hospitality where Hispanics can come together to celebrate their cultural strengths and personal gifts. The center, situated in downtown Hampton, Iowa, is a space where Hispanic people can share and build up their strengths, where social isolation is not a barrier, and where hope and a sense of possibility is stimulated.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since opening their doors in March 2013, La Luz Hispana has successfully offered a variety of programs and services that have helped foster relationships, celebrate strengths and personal gifts and educate the many Hispanics who have visited the center.

Some of the programs offered include: container gardening, English as a Second Language (ESL), computer, Spanish for English speakers, Zumba, crocheting, health and beauty, immigration, healthy cooking, nutrition, math tutoring and Exito en el Norte which focused on finances, banking, renting an apartment and/or house, starting a new business, personal rights and furthering education. While these are only a few of the programs initiated, La Luz Hispana continues to have hopes and dreams to begin other new services and programs. Two dreams would be to offer citizenship classes and, in the future, hire an immigration lawyer.

Needs vary greatly but one thing that never changes is the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, work and shelter. Newly-arrived immigrants from Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala have passed through our doors searching for these necessities. La Luz Hispana has provided food, clothing, financial assistance, interpretation services, transportation, furniture, small appliances and often a listening ear. "Every day we encounter new things and by the end of the day we know 'we' are the ones who have been gifted by someone's story and presence," expresses Sister Maura McCarthy, associate director of La Luz Hispana.

"Your support is greatly appreciated and is vital to our growth at La Luz Hispana. You are the key to our success and it is you who make it possible for us to provide individuals and families in need with assistance and critical services," states Sister Carmen Hernandez, La Luz Hispana director.

If you are looking to help an organization this holiday season, consider supporting La Luz Hispana. For more information on how you can help, please contact:

Sister Carmen Hernandez or Sister Maura McCarthy
La Luz Hispana
116 First Avenue NW
Hampton, Iowa 50441
luzhispana@mediacombb.net
641-812-1090

All financial gifts can be made to the Sisters of the Presentation.

Or check out their list of needs on Facebook:

LaLuzHispana



Photos left to right: Sister Corine Murray and Mary Jean Gregory welcome those present and express their gratitude; The lights on the globe represent the 51 countries where visitors came from to receive guidance at the Presentation Lantern Center; The Most Reverend Michael Jackels offers a blessing to all gathered; Sisters Kay Cota, Rita Cameron and Dolores Moes enjoy some treats and refreshments at the Open House.

A Light to the Nations

Presentation Lantern Center Relocates

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Presentation Lantern Center, residing at a new space since September, is glowing with brightness. Located in the Schmid Innovation Center at 900 Jackson Street in Dubuque, the center has two offices, a reception area and much open-space. Here the staff and volunteers continue to carry out the 11-year tradition of hospitality.

At the entrance of the new center, a familiar lantern glows as if to say, “Come in, we are glad to see you.” Receptionist Debbie Frommelt, bookkeeper Eva Vize and Executive Director Sister Corine Murray greet visitors with a warm welcome. Brand new tables for students and tutors, a kitchenette with shiny appliances, a warm and cozy area for children, colorful artifacts from many countries atop new bookshelves and storage units can be seen through the plexiglass outer walls of the entrance.

Open House

On November 8, the Sisters of the Presentation and the Lantern Center board of trustees hosted an open house. More than 100 people including friends, donors, students, tutors and business associates came to celebrate. To begin the dedication ceremony Presentation Sisters Elena Hoye, Joy Peterson and Julianne Brockamp processed in carrying symbols for the center: chimes that signal coffee breaks; a lantern, symbol of Venerable Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress; and a tea pot and cup, signs of hospitality, so evident at the center.

Mary Jean Gregory, president of the board of trustees, welcomed guests and thanked the Sisters of the Presentation, “whose

Presentation Lantern is a portal, a gateway to citizenship and community for our visitors, and an opportunity for those of us who have been born and raised in America’s heartland to encounter the world.

Mary Jean Gregory

charism of hospitality led them to create this welcoming place for immigrants.” Mary Jean acknowledged that the Archdiocese of Dubuque opened its doors at two former locations on the St. Mary’s campus. She recognized John and Mary Gronen of Gronen Restoration and Dick and Carrie Schmid of the Schmid Innovation Center for “their vision and support of the center’s mission.”

“Presentation Lantern is a portal, a gateway to citizenship and community for our visitors, and an opportunity for those of us who have been born and raised in America’s heartland to encounter the world,” stated Mary Jean. “Sister Corine aptly describes what transpires at Presentation Lantern Center as ‘building bridges of understanding.’ These bridges have been constructed with the help of many individuals and organizations.”

Sister Corine continued to thank and introduce friends and members of the wider community: civic and city leaders, Lantern Center partners in mission and many volunteers. “When we count our blessings we count you twice. We thank all the people who

helped us move on the hottest days of August, those who assisted with the unpacking, those who provided baked treats, those who made monetary contributions and the Gronen staff who were very gracious and helpful in ways too many for the telling. It was so exciting to welcome our tutors and students for the first time in September.”

The Most Reverend Michael Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque, prayed, “Welcoming God, teach us to be generous in offering hospitality ... Enlarge our hearts to embrace all peoples with love ...” He shared his own experience of living and working in Rome where he needed someone to help him learn the language and culture – a tutor became his “friend and an anchor” helping him live life in a foreign country. He challenged all present to continue to do as Christ and be of service. As the Archbishop dedicated the new Presentation Lantern Center, he prayed a blessing:

“May light from this lantern be a symbol of hope for all who have traveled from faraway places. May the God of all Journeys strengthen us in word and deed as we strive to create a world where people from every nation claim each other as sisters and brothers and live together in peace. Amen.”

Presentation sisters and many dedicated members of the Dubuque community who have served on the board of trustees since 2002 attended the open house. Having dedicated many hours throughout the years developing the mission and inviting others to partner in that mission, they shared the joy of all present.

“Ten years ago the founding director of the Lantern Center, Sister Corine Murray, announced that she would spend a good part of her first year doing a boots-on-the ground needs assessment. Further she would become acquainted with an amazing variety of community leaders, non-profit organizations and generous prospective donors. Needless to say, the strategy certainly paid off,” commented Sister Kathleen Dolphin former board member.

“This Lantern Center’s open house event celebrated not only the expansion to its new location, but also more importantly, the potential to assist visitors in new and better ways, thereby allowing for more visitors and further development. The warmth and welcome of the day evidenced what visitors experience every day,” commented Sister Louise Scieszinski, current board member.

“It was energizing to see the center at standing room only capacity,” remarked Luis Rojas, current board member. “It is because of those who came and others not present that the Center continues to make a difference in our community. How fitting were the remarks by Mr. Dick Schmid when he commented that the Lantern Center provides a ‘hand up rather than a handout.’”

Adjusting to the New Center

Tutoring in English language, preparation for the U.S. Citizenship test and development of life skills in a new culture are among the key experiences offered at the center. In these 11 years, 55 individuals from many countries have studied for and passed the citizenship test.

At the heart of Presentation Lantern Center are the friendships that develop between students and tutors. As the tutors share the English language and culture of the Midwest United States, students find it easier to experience community, to navigate the challenges of daily living in a new country and to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship test.

Excitement filled the air when tutors and students began classes at the new center in September. “Our new facility is an inviting open space in which to meet, and the stone walls of the original building add character,” remarks tutor Sister Mary Lou Reisch, OSF. “The area allows for good lighting and ventilation. Because of the open space the visibility of groups here adds to the community spirit that we share. We are in this together, facing challenges with the English language.”

Having people to work with and share interests is healthy and that is a key ingredient to the study of language and culture for all at the center. Opportunities to learn together and form community are treasured by students and tutors. “Coming to the center helps

me to learn English and meet new friends,” stated Xiaoling, from China, who has visited the center for several years.

Xiaoling’s tutor Liz Raschke enjoys her work at the new location. “The center is bright, spacious and welcoming, along with easily accessible resources and comfortable learning spaces.”

The center offers an environment that fosters learning and relating. Tutor Sister Susan Ivis, OSF, states, “The teaching areas are uncluttered and quiet, relatively free from distraction. The placement of tables, chairs and white boards is conducive to working with students on a one-to-one basis.”

Presentation Lantern Center has been operating since the fall of 2002. In the 11 years, over 1,000 individuals from 51 countries have availed themselves of the hospitality and educational assistance offered there. Some have also found great help in solving a personal dilemma or getting situated in the Dubuque community through the advocacy of Sister Corine, the board of trustees, the staff and volunteers. The learning here is a testimony that Presentation Lantern Center is “a place of welcome, shining a light in the hearts of immigrants.”



Photos: Top left: Brand new appliances make the kitchenette sparkle. Top right: The “great room” provides much space for one-on-one and groups. Bottom left: New bookshelves hold many resources. Bottom right: The children’s corner is used for play and learning.

“And Love Shall Be Your Lantern”

by RITA CAMERON, PBVM

Nano Nagle was very present in the hearts and minds of associates and sisters as they gathered on Saturday, November 16 at St. Michael Church in Nashua, Iowa. The day began in prayer as Nano was remembered in the gifts that she inherited, the “accidents” that happened to her during her life and the free choices she made on her journey; all the pieces that came together and helped Nano become the “Woman of the Light.” Participants were asked to reflect on parts of their lives also and to remember the gifts they have received and shared with others along the way.

Short presentations showed glimpses of sisters and associates in today’s world as they share the mission of Nano in the various ministries such as education, peace and justice, prayer, work with those new to our society and foreign mission. All present reflected on how spirituality gives meaning, purpose and direction to our lives; how it is a consistent way of acting and reacting to people and situations; how it cannot be imposed from without but must grow in the heart; how Christian spirituality is also apostolic.



Participants enjoy time together in prayer, conversation and reflection. Left to right: Sister Rayanne Determan, Associates Mary Stanton, Yvonne Kisch, Karen St. John and Sue Baldwin.

After a welcomed visit from Nano herself (Associate Co-director Carol Witry in disguise) those gathered were asked to share in small groups some of their reflections on how pieces of the core elements of Nano’s spirituality have been handed down to them today; how they according to one’s particular vocation follow in the ways of Nano as individuals, as associate groups and Sisters of the Presentation.

The day came to a close as several associates renewed their commitment to be bearers of the light. All present received a blessing and were asked to go out and be the hands, ears, heart, feet and head of Christ among us.

Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern, and the women who follow in her footsteps.

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

The Lady of the Lantern

NANO
Lives



Sister Mary Julianne Brockamp, Congregational Leader 1989-1993, 2013-2018



Sister Mary Julianne Brockamp has earned a significant place in Presentation hearts and history. Her record of leadership terms proffers an exceptional pattern for any religious community, including the Sisters of the Presentation.

Sister Julianne was first elected to community leadership in 1989 as the 16th congregational leader. Decidedly a first, she was reelected in 2012, 23 years later, now as the 20th leader following three other sisters who served in between. An obvious community choice, she responded to the demands of this second leadership summons with a generosity characteristic of her response to previous ministry calls.

From Timber Lake to Dubuque came Bernice Brockamp in 1954 with the South Dakota wind in her hair, a pioneer spirit in her heart and her saxophone in its case to make music at Mount Loretto. Born in South Dakota, Bernice Kathleen, daughter of Julius and Mary (Crain) Brockamp, was educated in the Timber Lake schools, including St. Joseph School. Having not yet completed high school when she entered, Bernice attended St. Columbkille High School in Dubuque, graduating in 1956. In 1959 Sister Julianne graduated from Clarke College, Dubuque, and later earned two master’s degrees.

Teacher, scholar, leader, innovator, minister with indigenous peoples and tornado-survivor, Sister Julianne first served as an Iowa elementary teacher and principal before answering a missionary invitation to Entre Ríos, Bolivia (1974). Following 11 years in South America, she continued Hispanic ministry, this time in Alamogordo, New Mexico, only to be called to Dubuque – for community leadership. She came, this second time, with a missionary spirit in her heart, her integrity and vision to lead us and her humor to cheer us.

Her leadership term (1989-1993) was marked by creativity and innovation with the pastoral planning process, imbuing ownership of the mission statement. The first directional statement followed, stating concerns for the marginalized, ecological needs and fair distribution of the world’s resources.

The leadership team’s four years might be viewed as Nano’s prairie fire. Integrative changes based on a new church model, new theology, feminine psychology, and new understandings of church and religious life re-founded and grounded the community. Monumental changes in thinking and theology moved the community on – paces beyond.

New directions resulted as the World Vision Committee, along with the leadership team, contributed significantly to a community awareness and appreciation of local and global needs. Increased interest in justice efforts spawned new ministries. More sisters worked in the area of social justice and participated in an array of ministry choices. As a result, living groups became smaller and some sisters, out of ministry necessity, lived alone. Collaborative justice stances were taken with other Dubuque religious communities opposing increased military activity in the Persian Gulf, and with LCWR against racism.

On July 26, 1992, the first reunion of Presentation women who had entered and the left the Dubuque community was held, a day of prayer, sharing and reminiscing for present and former members.

Having completed her leadership term in 1993, Sister Julianne served as director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish and in campus ministry at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. Three years later she joined the ministry team at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Oglala, South Dakota. In 2004 when she was invited to serve as vocation-formation director for Bolivian women, she returned again to her beloved Bolivia. Her work in Bolivia completed, Sister Julianne turned to Hispanic ministry, this time in the public school system and St. Rose of Lima Parish in Hill City, South Dakota. From there she was again called to leadership.

She came to Dubuque this third time, bearing the same open attitude, accompanied with the same spirit of prayer, discernment and acceptance, but with a new energy and youthfulness, topped with her warm Brockamp smile and a heart generous enough to pay the personal cost of still another leadership term – evidence of God’s Providence, as from the beginning of Presentation history.

AN ESSENCE OF KINDNESS

Sister Dorothy McCormick

September 8, 1925 - October 8, 2013

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Mary Dorothy McCormick, born in Waukon, Iowa, to Edward and Rose (Heim) McCormick on September 8, 1925, one of 11 children, was baptized Loretta Rose. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, September 8, 1945, her 18th birthday.

Sister Dorothy received her bachelor's degree in education from Loras College, Dubuque, and a master's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Blessed with a life span of 88 years, Sister Dorothy spent 70 of those years with the Presentation sisters. She served as teacher and/or principal in 12 different elementary schools in Iowa, Minnesota and San Antonio, Texas.

Sister Dorothy was recognized, in and beyond the community, for her exceptional teaching skills. Following the notice of her death, one student wrote to say that she had Sister Dorothy to thank for her love of reading – a lifetime gift. Parents, students and fellow teachers admired her competency and educational leadership. She was equally effective as an administrator. Little more than five feet tall, she was not intimidated by either the size or the bravado of a pastor, maintenance person or other official. Guided by her lofty principles and goals, she forged ahead to achieve the necessary services a student needed or to offer support for a just cause.

Sister Dorothy could be described as a model religious – always in the right place at the right time, a hard worker in her classroom and in community, but never calling attention to herself. She seemed to live the maxim, set forth as an ideal by St. Francis de Sales: “Ask nothing; refuse nothing.”

Or what Mother Teresa would later prescribe: “Do little things with great love.”

As in any living/working situation, the circumstances and conditions are often less than ideal, but Sister Dorothy never complained: about her teaching assignments, even when her student roster had 50 names, or her convent duties if they demanded extra hours or when the decision was made that her classroom would be relegated to the basement floor.

Even-tempered, pleasant, hospitable, gentle and the essence of kindness, Sister Dorothy went about her duties in a quiet, unassuming manner, accepting responsibility, responding with graciousness and good cheer.

In her pre-retirement years, Sister Dorothy continued to share her leadership beyond the classroom, serving as chairperson of the Northeast Iowa's Community Action Program in Waukon, Iowa. Here she was instrumental in the startup of a meal program, complete with transportation to the meal site for senior citizens.

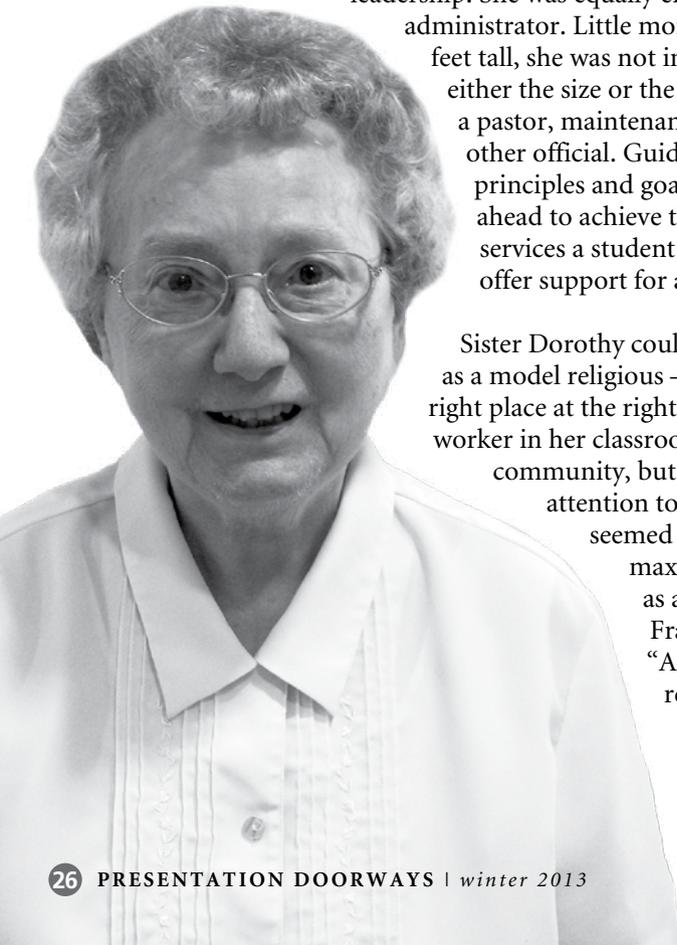
Following her 51 years of active ministry, Sister Dorothy retired to Mount Loretto in 1997, where she modeled volunteerism, offering service in seven different ministries before she experienced failing health and memory decline. The virtues she practiced throughout her ministry years were apparent again in her later years in Nagle Center: the same patience, acceptance, graciousness, kindness and good cheer. Sister Dorothy offered an example worth imitating! May her reward be great in Heaven.

Making a Memorial Gift

One way to honor loved ones is to remember important values and hopes that were dear to them. When you make a gift in memory of a loved one to the Sisters of the Presentation, you are keeping their values and hopes alive through the sisters' works of charity, education and service. Memorials can be sent to Sisters of the Presentation, 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 563.588.2008 or email

development@dubuquepresentations.org



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Nano's Nine Celebrate

The Nano's Nine associate group gathered in November to celebrate recommitments and one another. Pictured left to right: Associate Deb McClimon, Sister Lynn Fangman, Associate Mary Drees, Associate Dawn Olberding, Associate Sharon Loeffelholz, Sister Carmen Hernandez and Associate Delynn Fangman.

Catholic Youth Conference

Sister Rita Cameron (left) and Sister Ginny Heldorfer, OSF, of the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque, volunteered at the National Catholic Youth Conference in November. The sisters answered questions on vocations and led activities at the "understanding" virtue station of the Inspiration Junction, a theme park that focused on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Please Join Us

Centering Prayer

Join us for an evening meal at 5:30 p.m. and Centering Prayer from 6:15-7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month. Centering Prayer is a spiritual practice of acknowledging God's presence and action within a person. One enters into this prayer by sitting in silence for at least 20 minutes, freeing oneself from any particular thoughts, making oneself completely available to God. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer, rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active kinds of prayer, verbal or mental, into a receptive prayer of resting in God.

Liturgy Celebrations

The Presentation tradition of prayer is central at Mount Loretto. We gather daily for prayer in our Sacred Heart Chapel. We invite you to join us for Mass and Liturgy of the Hours.

Mass Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 4:50 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 7:30 a.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Hours

Monday, Friday: 7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 4:15 p.m.

You are invited to join us.

December 23, 2013

Centering Prayer
5:30 p.m. Evening Meal
6:15-7:00 p.m. Prayer
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

December 25, 2013

Christmas Mass
9:00 a.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

April 11-12, 2014

Dubuque's Got Sisters
Discernment Weekend
Area Motherhouses
Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, please visit our web site at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.

Please pray with us.

December 14, 2013

Christmas Dinner with guests from Dubuque Rescue Mission and Hope House
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

February 2, 2014

World Day for Consecrated Life

May 11, 2014

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

November 2-9, 2014

National Vocation Awareness Week

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

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

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

Christmas Blessings to You

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas BEGINS:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

