



COMMUNITY NOTES

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

JANUARY 2018

As we begin a year of celebrating the 300th birthday of Nano Nagle, we journey with her by way of excerpts from “Praying Our Journey,” a prayer resource compiled by the Nano Nagle Commission which is sponsored by the Union of Presentation Sisters. May we respond generously to Nano’s invitation!

The Young Girl

She was shielded and held in a web of loving relationships. In her childhood days her awareness of God grew through the experience of living relationships with both her family and her extended family. Nano grew up with an awareness of being cared for and, in the words of Pope Francis, “infinitely loved.” (*Anne Lyons, PBVM*)

The Young Woman

For Nano, God turned up in the guise of the poor waiting outside the church in Paris, in the missing roll of silk, brought from France to extend her fashionable wardrobe but sold by her sister Ann for the poor; and the grief that ensued following upon the deaths of both her father, mother and, in particular, Ann. Ann was the conduit of God’s radical call to her. (*Anne Lyons, PBVM*)

The Mature Woman

Nano became a prophetic, pioneering, courageous, daring voice for people who had long been held in the throes of despair and hopelessness, due to intolerable, unjust and oppressive systems. Now, entirely at the disposal of God alone, she becomes the Woman of the Lantern, whose words give voice to the voiceless and whose actions beam light into hopeless places. She becomes a wonderful agent of change and transformation for the people of her day and by the enduring power of her inspiration, for our world too. (*Anne Lyons, PBVM*)

The Invitation

We too are invited to follow in Nano’s footsteps and fan into flame the gift of God in our own lives and our own time:

The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of the soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy towards others – both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it.

(*Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Do Not Lose Heart*)

Sister Leanne Welch

Our Journey in Formation



In my writing for Community Notes I have often mentioned the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) for the variety of programming and resources the conference makes available. This month I am sharing more about the RFC and a particular group of resources available to us as a member congregation.

The mission and vision of the RFC states:

“The Religious Formation Conference educates and strengthens formators in their ministry of formation. The RFC engages religious communities with timely resources, services, and experiences that support initial and ongoing formation, that are responsive to an emerging future, in prophetic witness to Gospel values through personal and communal transformation.”

“The RFC will engage women and men religious in a variety of vibrant resources, service, and experiences that bring our rich religious heritage into interaction with the contemporary and cultural realities of our world by:

- *Promoting open, contemplative and collaborative dialogue;*
- *Modeling and encouraging inclusivity and respect for diversity;*
- *Welcoming inter-generational and inter-cultural viewpoints; and*
- *Responding to God’s ongoing invitation to the “new” of religious life.”*

One of the ways the RFC embodies these statements is through the online webinars they offer. With our congregational membership in the RFC, we each have access to register to view the webinar in real time or the archived recording of the webinar. Our membership entitles us to view webinars in either manner without cost. Each webinar is an hour long and offers a pdf document of the slides used in the webinar, if you wish to print or save them.

To access the list of archived webinars available:

- Go to www.relforcon.org.
- Click on “Member Login” in the top right corner of the home page.
- Use the following username and password to login.
Username: **dubuquepresentations**
Password: **12presentationsdbq**
- Click on the “Resources” tab and select “Archived Webinars.”
- Scroll down to see the list. Click on the “Watch Now” button to view the webinar of your choice.

(continued)

For a sampling of recorded webinars, below are the titles for 2016-2017. You will notice that the RFC has begun to offer webinars in Spanish when possible.

- Encuentro O Aislamiento – El Reto Del Papa Francisco
- Encounter or Isolation – The Challenge of Pope Francis
- Praying With the Arts: Blessed the Eyes That See What You See ...
- The Transformation of Religious Life: Reflections from “Younger” Members
- Mindfulness: A Window into the Sacredness of the Present Moment
- Kindling the Energies of Love
- Bridging the Social Media Gap: Considerations for Reflection in Consecrated Life
- Divine Mystery at the Heart of the Cosmos
- Hearing God’s Prophetic Call: A Model for Initial and Lifelong Formation

I receive email notifications from the RFC of upcoming webinars. If you would like me to forward these notifications to you, please contact me at formation@dubuquepresentations.org. These emails will include the link to register for the webinar. Thank you for our congregational investment of membership in the RFC!

Sister Annette Kestel

From the Office of... VOCATIONS

Spreading Good News with Social Media

Social media is great for connecting with friends and family especially those who live at a distance. It is also a helpful tool for connecting people who share common values and passion.

I recognize there may be some mixed feelings within the community about the use of social media. I invite you to consider the benefits.

For example, the January 3 Facebook post about celebrating Nano's 300th year has reached 13,000 world-wide viewers so far. It was liked by 265 people and shared 83 times and counting.

A big shout out to Jane Buse Miller for continually providing high quality content for our website and social media pages!

I would encourage you to like and follow our community pages on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and Twitter. The next step is to like, share and re-tweet our community posts weekly. This way the good news about our mission and spirituality spreads to your nieces, nephews, siblings, cousins, other family members and friends. You may also discover new friends who share your passion and values!

Here are links to each of our pages:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dubuquepresentations>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/dbqpbvms>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dbqpbvms>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dbqpbvms>

Happy connecting!

Sister Jessi Beck

Upcoming Events

I welcome your prayers for the following upcoming events. I also encourage you to extend invitations to women you know who might be interested in attending.

Jan. 21: Confirmation Retreat (Cresco)

Jan. 24: CAVA - Amate House Pizza Night

Jan. 30-31: DAVA Faith on Fire Speaker
(Waterloo and Dubuque)

Feb. 3-4: World Day of Consecrated Life

Feb. 13: Jr. high vocation talk (Hampton)

Mar. 4: Dubuque's Got Sisters
Whole-hearted Living Evening (Clarke)

Mar. 11: Dubuque's Got Sisters
Whole-hearted Living Evening (Loras)

March 8-14: National Catholic Sisters Week
Mini-grant project (New Orleans)

Mar. 9-10: Chicago's Got Sisters Nun Run

Mar. 11-15: Service and Discernment Trip
(Chicago)

Mar. 13: DAVA 6th Grade Day (Epworth)

Mar. 24-29: Service and Discernment Trip
(New Orleans)

Thank you for all the unseen ways you promote vocations each day!



From the... *Associate Partnership Office*

Cindy Pfiffner, Co-Director
Joan Brincks, PBVM, Co-Director

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY NANO NAGLE!

by Associate Rose Rauch

The Presentation family, sisters and associates, join in celebrating the 300th year milestone of Nano's birth.

Why do we celebrate birthdays?

- to show appreciation for the person.
- to celebrate the gift of life God has given each person.
- to celebrate the blessings that God has given each person.
- to celebrate their "yes" to those blessings.
- to give gifts that are representative of each person's life.
- and to have FUN.

Let's have a birthday party for Nano!

A question each sister and associate might ask is, "If Nano were here today, what gift would I give to her?" The following are some suggestions given by sisters and associates:

- praying
- giving money to charities (housing for homeless, etc.)
- finding ways to help with mental health issues
- transportation for those needing a ride to their destinations
- joining local parish/community organizations that serve people in most need
- send a note to someone who is lonely, etc.
- responding with Radical Hospitality

While each of us reflect on our own unique gifts to give to Nano, it is our challenge to remember that, "Nano allowed life to speak to her and worked out a way to make her schools sustainable. This evolved during her lifetime. She must have wondered what would happen to her schools and the poor ... If she had waited for the 'big plan' perhaps it would never have happened. The need of the people made her brave." (*Nano's Echo*)

Nano met the needs of the people of her time. Our gift to Nano is to meet the needs of the people in our time.

In celebration of Nano's birth 300 years ago, you have received a 2018 calendar honoring her legacy. In gratitude we thank Sisters Julianne Brockamp, Beth Driscoll, Ann Jackson and Leanne Welch; Sister Elena Hoye, International Presentation Association Networker; Sister Joy Peterson, Justice Promoter, Sisters of the Presentation; and Jane Buse Miller, Director of Communications.

Associates ...

You are invited to take part in any part or all of the Mt. Loretto Retreat as your schedule allows:

Sunday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. to Friday, February 9 evening meal

Theme: Bearing Witness to the Holy

Facilitator: Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

To bear witness is to point by one's very existence to the presence of the Holy among us. In this retreat, we'll be invited to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and to reflect on our own lives as manifesting the Holy in every day. This guided, silent retreat will include the arts, prayer and ritual, presentation, times of stillness, sharing and imagination.

Conferences (Chapel)

Sunday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 5 through Thursday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. (Chapel) and 3:00 p.m. (Presentation Center)

Celebration of Eucharist (Sacred Heart Chapel)

Monday, February 5 through Friday, February 9, 4:50 p.m.

Contact Sister Annette Kestel at formation@dubuquepresentations.org or 563-588-2008 with any questions.

Your presence was felt among the sisters during the days of Chapter. Being led by the Holy Spirit, together we move forward embodying radical hospitality. The new leadership team, Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen, will be furthering the steps for the implementation of the new directional statement after they assume leadership on June 2, 2018.

Thank You

Dear Associates, we are grateful for the support and prayers you sent our way as we gathered for Chapter. Your lovely notes and letters were displayed and served as a reminder to us of your thoughtfulness.

Thank you so much!

The Sisters of the Presentation

Thank you again to all who contributed to the 2017 Advent Reflection Book. Since there are so many other Lenten resources and options, both printed and on the internet, we have decided not to offer a Lenten Reflection Book for 2018.

REMINDER

If you have information to share or a prayer request, please send it directly to Carol Heim carol@dubuquepresentations.org to be put on List Serve.

If you send it to the Associate Partnership Office, it may be delayed, as there is not someone in the office on a daily basis. We encourage you to continue to use List Serve as it is a great communication tool and allows us to stay connected and pray for one another.



HISTORY HAS SHAPED US. TODAY WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEGACY.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ...

Sister Mary Anastasia Burns, March, 1995

Presentation Sisters' arrival in Key West, January, 1875, is recorded by Sister Francis Bannon in her Annals. Sister Francis entered the Presentation Sisters in 1876, hence she would have heard the following story from Mother Vincent Hennessy herself.

"When leaving Dubuque on January 7, 1875, no one thought of bread. The morning after their arrival, as the sisters left the church site after Holy Mass, a young girl, who had assisted at Mass, approached them and after kindly greeting them, asked if she could do any thing for them. Katie O'Hea (the girl), our first friend in the new home, hearing of their need, walked a mile in the cold and snow to Rockdale but could not procure what was so very necessary. Most likely her good mother supplied the want. From that day, no matter what was needed, Katie or someone equally kind, would attend to their messages. Many names are kindly and lovingly remembered at this distant day of those who sought by kind acts to help out the little band of Missionaries."

At St. Columbkille High School in the 1940s Sister Anastasia Burns was teaching journalism. One of her students was Delmer "Del" O'Hea who was a descendent of Katie O'Hea. He describes her as his "great, great aunt."

In February, 1995, when Del was asked to drive for the Presentation Sisters, Sister Anastasia felt it would be interesting if she would give him another assignment in journalism. She had great faith in his ability to fulfill it as she recalled that he had been the co-editor of the school paper, THE BLUE AND WHITE, for 1948-1949.

This is Del's response to her assignment:

"About 120 years after arriving in the Dubuque area (January 7, 1875), the Presentation Sisters would again receive the benefit of the kindness associated with the O'Hea name in their history.

"In need of a driver to take the sisters to various places – Delmer 'Del' O'Hea was asked to drive their car from February 1 to March 15. He was delighted to help them out because of the 11 years the Presentation Sisters had taught him at St. Columbkille Grade and High School."

"In the ensuing month and a half, many happy memories were exchanged by himself and the sisters while reminiscing about old sayings and happenings!"



Del O'Hea

NEWS & INFORMATION



SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Associate Partnership Commitment Ceremony

5:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel (in lieu of Evening Prayer)

Two associate orientees, Sue Brimmer and Sarah Gieseke, have requested to make their initial commitment as Presentation Associates. Sisters Rita Cameron and Marilou Irons and Associates Mary Lou Mauss and Dianne McDermott have walked with Sue and Sarah through the orientation process. Please join us in welcoming our newest associates. They and their guests will be sharing in supper at Mount Loretto, so you will have the opportunity to meet and congratulate them.

Saturday, April 14, 2018

2018 Spring Retreat for Associates & Sisters

Embracing Hope in Challenging Times

Sisters of the Presentation

The Spring Retreat is an opportunity for sisters and associates to gather with one another to deepen their relationships with one another and to be attentive to God's presence in their lives.

The theme of this retreat is hope, and sessions will be presented by Sister Joan Brincks, Sister Theresa Marie Tran, SCC, and Associates Billie Greenwood and Cindy Pfiffner.

There will be time for prayer and quiet reflection, as well as sharing and socializing.

Registration information will be available starting in February.

June 20-23, 2018

Service Opportunity at La Luz Hispana in Hampton, Iowa

Serve three days with Sisters Maura McCarthy and Carmen Hernandez working with children at day camp, painting and doing odd jobs at the center and with Latino families, and helping with an immigration simulation. Housing and meals will be provided.

Theme: Bearing Witness to the Holy

To bear witness is to point by one's very existence to the presence of the Holy among us. In this retreat, we'll be invited to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and to reflect on our own lives as manifesting the Holy in everyday. We'll cultivate contemplative consciousness of all that our world loves, pursues, and suffers. This guided, silent retreat will include the arts, prayer and ritual, presentation, times of stillness, sharing and imagination.

Retreat Director: Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

For those outside the Mount Loretto community who wish to attend this retreat, please contact Sister Annette Kestel (formation@dubuquepresentations.org) and Jean Lange (jean@dubuquepresentations.org) to make room reservations.



REMINDER!!!
February 4-9, 2018
Winter Retreat
at Mount Loretto



Thanks to all who donated to the dinner for the clients of the Rescue Mission and Hope House which we hosted at Mount Loretto during December. We distributed 30 bags of socks, gloves, scarves and hats, plus 20 jackets. We had some money left over and we have sent that to the two places also.

God bless you!

Sisters Anne McCormick and Hermann Platt

A very special thank you to all the sisters and associates who have been frequent contributors to the container in the mailroom marked "Contributions for Chicago." Those bars of soap, small bottles of shampoo or lotion are given to the homeless or people in need who come to the St. James Food Pantry.

Thank you again for your concern and generosity.

Sister Janet Stelken



Open Social Justice Coordinator Position

The (congregations of the) Sisters of St. Francis and Sisters of Charity, BVM are currently welcoming applications for the role of Social Justice Coordinator. Inspired by the mission and values of both congregations, the individual in this role will promote justice education, advocacy, and action with respect to current issues of social justice. Responsibilities include:

- Planning and implementing advocacy, action, and communication on behalf of the congregations regarding critical justice concerns
- Offering a variety of educational opportunities focused on justice, Catholic Social Teaching, the congregations' corporate stances and peace-making skills
- Advocating on behalf of those in need at local, state, and national levels

Qualified candidates will demonstrate a knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching, a strong commitment to and passion for justice, and an understanding or willingness to learn the congregations' charisms. Must possess strong organizational, written and verbal communication, leadership and technology skills and be open to varied points of view and cultures. Bachelor's degree and/or a minimum of five years' experience in justice ministry preferred.

Interested candidates email a resume and letter of interest to humanresources@bvmcong.org or mail to:

Sisters of Charity, BVM
Attn: Human Resources
1100 Carmel Dr
Dubuque, IA 52001
EOE

MONTHLY CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |

(B) = birthday
 (F) = feast day
 (R) = reception
 (b) = baptismal

- 1 Sister Brigid Stanley (F)
- 2 Sister Mary Therese Krueger (B)
- 3 Sister Janet Stelken (B) / Lisa Zwanziger
- 8 Sister Annette Skyles (B)
- 10 Sister Joellen Price (B) / Karen Kurtt
- 14 Sister Carmelle Westemeier (B)
- 17 Radie Roberts
- 18 Sister Carla Popes (B) / Bernadette Graves
- 19 Mary Jane Besch
- 20 Helen M. Thielen
- 24 Sister Mary Jo Leifker (b)
- 27 Sister Richelle Friedman (B)
- 28 Sister St. James Lickteig (B)

Special Events

- 5 St. Joseph Key West First Class (1875)
- 14 Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday
- 18 First Sunday of Lent
- 19 Death of Mother Vincent Hennessy (1880)

PRAYERS & UPDATES



Prayers: December 14, 2017 - January 14, 2018

12/14 Please pray for Associate Lorraine Rudish, a member of the Cedar Rapids Associate group. She fell in her home on Tuesday and broke her right hip. She had surgery on Wednesday at Mercy in Cedar Rapids and will go to Manor Care Health Services for rehabilitation on Saturday. Her address will be as follows:

Lorraine Rudish
Manor Care Health Services
1940 1st Ave. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

12/18 Please pray for my niece, Cheri, who is in ICU in Nebraska, after having been shot by her husband, and he later committed suicide by running the car in a closed garage. *Sister Therese Corkery*

12/19 Please pray for my dad. He has stage 4 melanoma that has spread to several tumors. He completed one cycle of the standard treatment and it's not working. He's now starting a clinical trial medicine in conjunction with the regular treatment. I'm on my way to Iowa City to be with him for the first treatment. *Associate Bren Connors*

12/21 I just arrived in Iowa. Dad had an appointment today and learned the type of cancer he has. It is a non-hodgkins B cell Lymphoma. Less than 1% of population has this. They say it's aggressive but curable. Not inherited. He needs a lumbar punch/ tap and bone marrow sample/biopsy to further pinpoint more than 500+ types of non-hodgkins B-cell lymphoma. He will get this on Friday if we can get to Rochester. He begins chemo next week for 8 hrs (1st time), then every three weeks-four hour treatments for six months. Then a PET scan to see if it has shrunk or disappeared. He had "something" around his heart last week but found out the shadow near heart is not lymphoma. Echocardiogram shows loose mass outside, but no danger. Not pressing. The road is long so we begin the journey. Keep the prayers coming. *Sister Julie Marsh*

1/2 We are pleased to share that the following sisters have been elected to our Leadership Team for 2018-2023:

Congregational Leader: Sister Carmen Hernandez

Assistant to the Congregational Leader / First Councilor: Sister Rita Menart

Second Councilor: Sister Joy Peterson

Third Councilor: Sister Marilyn Breen

Our son Mike's ex-wife, Jodie, has our grandkids in Tennessee for Christmas visitation. There are BIG issues happening Saturday, December 30, when she is supposed to have them back in Iowa.

We will be going back to Cedar Falls today. Kate and Sam have school tomorrow. They are doing fine and enjoyed spending time with all the family. Abby is still in the hospital in Kentucky and Jodie will not give us the access code so we cannot get any information from the hospital.

Because of the holiday it was difficult to find anyone who could make a decision. We talked with Mike's lawyer last night so things should start happening today.

I can't imagine how Abby is feeling! We will be going back as soon as possible to pick her up. Please continue to pray for Abby, Kate, Sam, and Mike too. He's in Afghanistan and can't do much but worry and pray. God Bless and Thank you so much for the prayers.

Associate Mary Lou Mauss

1/8 Please pray for Cathy Lehmann who is hospitalized at St. Mary's in Rochester for blood clots in both of her lungs. Cathy is the niece of Sister Lois Lehmann and Associate Florence Jaeger.

1/11 First of all, thank you for your prayers for my niece, Cheri and please continue them. Many of you have asked about Cheri so I will give you an update on her condition.

Her sister, Patty Larsen, writes: "Thanks to all who have offered love, support and prayers throughout Cheri's recovery from the Traumatic Brain Injury ... the bullet remains embedded in her skull/brain and will not be removed. The road ahead is long and may be bumpy at times but we know she is strong and resilient.

Cheri is currently in Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (Omaha, Nebraska) and it is hoped she will be moved to a Skilled Nursing Facility (Omaha) sometime this month, where she will continue with occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and physical therapy. She is currently in a wheel chair."

Cheri's two sons (and wives) from her first marriage as well as her brother, Steve (Houston, Texas), and sister, Patty (Phoenix, Arizona) rotate being there with her.

Sister Therese Corkery

1/14 Please pray for Associate Stephanie Jacobson (jacobsonsd@yahoo.com) She fell on the ice near her apartment building and broke the first lumbar vertebrae in her back. She appreciates your prayerful support during this time of healing.

Also prayers for Associate Mary Standing Bear who needs another surgery in Iowa City. She appreciates your prayers. She has had one surgery already but is waiting for the second one.

1/14 Jodie has filed an emergency no-contact order against us for Abby. We have a hearing date scheduled in Tennessee Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. Our Tennessee lawyer is asking that it be dismissed. If that happens we will, hopefully, be bringing Abby home with us. Jodie has already made it is clear that she will not let that happen. This whole situation is really hard on Abby and her transition back will not be easy for her. Please keep everyone in your prayers --- especially Tuesday morning. Lord, please hold Abby in the palm of your hand. Amen

Associate Mary Lou Mauss

1/16 Just wanted everyone to know they've had two inches of snow here in Clarksville, Tennessee, and they've closed the courthouse and cancelled everything. Our lawyer is trying to reschedule our hearing for next Tuesday because that's the only day they hear these cases. We will be heading home today and coming back next week. Thank you for all the prayers ... please pray for safe travel home and then for court next week. God Bless.

*Associate Mary Lou Mauss
mauss@mchsi.com*