



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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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:

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history: (left to right) doorway of the current motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road; doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque in 1879; doorway of Sacred Heart Chapel at the current motherhouse; doorway of the former motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta which was built in 1909; and doorway by which Mother Vincent Hennessy left Mooncoin, Ireland, to begin the Dubuque foundation in 1874.

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We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation sisters, near and far.

Cover PHOTO

A pattern of a labyrinth, used as an ancient practice of prayer, was mowed in the front lawn of the Presentation motherhouse. This space will be used for prayer and reflection during a charism retreat for the sisters in July. Walking among the turnings of the labyrinth, one loses track of direction and of the outside world, and thus quiets the mind. We invite you to take time out of your day to come, reflect and pray while walking our evolving labyrinth.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Openings

by BETH DRISCOLL, PBVM

The Power of Half

A couple of months ago I had the pleasure of reading Kevin and Hannah Salwen's book *The Power of Half*. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010) This is a true story about an Atlanta family whose life changes course when 14-year-old Hannah sees a homeless man on one corner while at the same time her eyes catch sight of another man driving a Mercedes coupe. "Dad, if that man had a less nice car, that man there could have a meal." Not wanting to let this teachable moment pass, Hannah's dad responds, "Um, yeah. But you know, if we had a less nice car, he could have a meal."

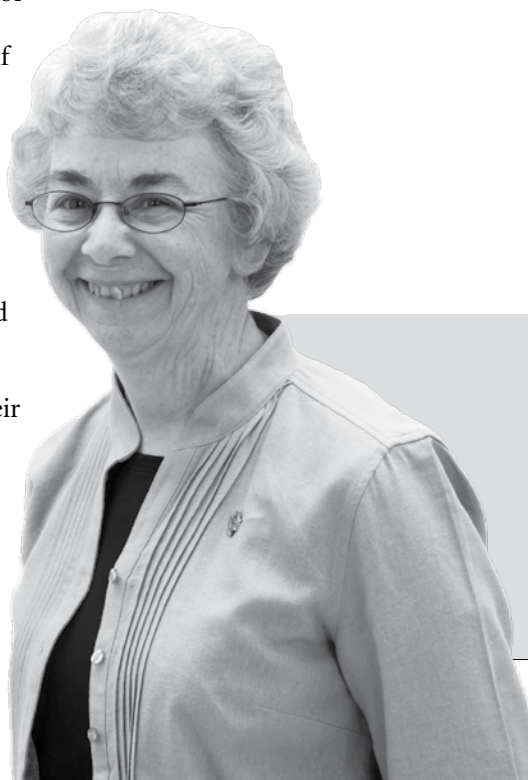
The sight of the homeless man disturbed Hannah. While she was sad for him she was also angry, angry mostly with herself, realizing that maybe she could do something for that homeless man and for other people who were poor, since she had so much.

The disturbing presence of the homeless man represented the glaring gap between the rich and the poor. When she informed her parents and brother that she didn't want to be the kind of family that just talks about doing things, but a family that actually does them, her mother put forth the bold challenge that they sell their house, move into a smaller one and give half of the sale price to charity. In due time they did this, along with making a five-year commitment to partner with the Hunger Project in Ghana, Africa. Not only did this project draw the family closer, but they discovered that half could be so much more.

The Power of Half. Why half? Because it's measurable and it can be anything you choose. I offer some possibilities: Cut in half the hours your family spends watching TV each week and use that time to do yard work for an elderly neighbor. If you're in the habit of dashing out of church on Sunday to head to Target, make the choice to join your faith community for coffee and donuts and take the initiative to visit with people you have never met. Cut in half the amount of money you spend eating out in one month's time and use this money to purchase food for your local shelter and/or soup kitchen and respectfully receive the stories of residents and guests. Cut in half the hours you spend in hectic busyness, spending that time in the solitude of your backyard and let the beauty and sounds of nature nourish your heart and soul. Cut in half the time you spend listening to the radio on your commute to and from work and use this time to pray for your suffering sisters and brothers around the globe.

Hannah's family realized that though their new house was smaller, their world had grown larger. It's not the amount we give, it's how our giving changes our lives and the lives of others!

Where will the Power of Half lead you?



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 Jennifer Rausch, president

Sister Marge Healy, vice-president

Sister Beth Driscoll, councilor

Sister Leanne Welch, councilor



Sister Margaret Anne Kramer (right) shares a light-hearted moment with Sister Dominic Church during her visit with the sisters in the Nagle Center infirmary.

Extraordinary Minister

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

When we hear the title “Extraordinary Minister” used in the Catholic Church it usually refers to those individuals who have been commissioned to assist in the distribution of the Eucharist at Mass. Sister Margaret Anne Kramer uses this title to describe her interaction with the sick and elderly as she serves as pastoral associate at St. Anthony Parish in Dubuque. “I believe my ministry is also extraordinary, not so much because of what I do but because of the people to whom I minister.”

Sister Margaret Anne uses a very gentle voice to reflect on the blessings that she has experienced during her 20 years in pastoral care. “As I visit with those who are sick and elderly, I listen carefully to them as they witness to their deep faith and trust in God. At this stage in their lives, they have their priorities straight. Many say that most of their days are spent praying for the needs of their family, praying for the world situation and praying for their parish. They truly know how to live in the present and to value each day.”

Attending to the sick and elderly brings Sister Margaret Anne face to face with the diminishment that is part of their lives – loss of mobility, limitations of sight and hearing, the loss of family members and friends at the time of their death. “I hear the pain and worry as they wonder what tomorrow will bring.”

As I visit with those who are sick and elderly, I listen carefully to them as they witness to their deep faith and trust in God. At this stage in their lives, they have their priorities straight. Many say that most of their days are spent praying for the needs of their family, praying for the world situation and praying for their parish. They truly know how to live in the present and to value each day.”

Sister Margaret Anne Kramer

And yet, she brings comfort and consolation during her pastoral visits. “What I try to bring them is a ‘catechesis of hope.’” She brings the gift of hope, and in turn, is gifted through the sick and elderly. “As I minister to many in their time of need, I receive far more than I am able to give. Their strong faith, their love of Christ, and their acceptance of life’s circumstances are treasures I will never forget.”

Sister Margaret Anne’s visits to the sick and elderly often brings her to another stage of ministry – that of being with the families as their loved ones die. She accompanies families as they experience their loss and grief. Through the vigil and funeral rites, she encourages families to treasure the memories they have of their loved one and to imitate his/her goodness in their own lives.

Sister comments, “This really tugs at my heart. I get attached to these dear people. I see them suffering. And then God calls them home to heaven. It leaves an empty space in my heart.” And, in this end-of-life process, Sister Margaret Anne has shared a special journey with those who are preparing for death. She has brought hope. She has brought peace. And it is this hope and peace that have inspired the sick and dying to say to her, “I’m not afraid, I’m ready to go.” And these words are proof that some “extraordinary ministry” has taken place – a heart-to-heart ministry.

Previous to her focus on pastoral care, Sister Margaret Anne ministered as a primary teacher at St. Columbkille in Dubuque; St. Germaine in Oak Lawn, Illinois; St. Odilia in St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. Patrick in Waukon, Iowa. Additional ministries included house coordinator at the Presentation motherhouse and principal in Waukon.

Born to Margaret and Leonard Kramer in 1944 in Farley, Iowa, Sister Margaret Anne came to know the Presentation sisters during her elementary and high school years at St. Joseph School in Farley. “I saw the sisters as fun loving and I was drawn to them. I recall all the time and energy that Sister Andrew (Ruth Marie) Holtzbauer put into our high school plays. We had a great time.”

Sister entered the Presentation community in 1962 after graduating from high school. “I am so grateful for the education and ministry opportunities that I have had as a member of the Presentation community.”



Sister Margaret Anne Kramer (left) visits with St. Anthony’s parishioner Mildred Fairfield during one of her visits to Mildred’s home.

As I minister to many in their time of need, I receive far more than I am able to give. Their strong faith, their love of Christ, and their acceptance of life’s circumstances are treasures I will never forget.

Sister Margaret Anne Kramer

Sister Margaret Anne celebrates 50 years in religious life this summer. Special celebrations in community and family will provide time for her to reflect on and savor her five decades of service to others – service as primary teacher, as Mount Loretto coordinator, as elementary principal, as pastoral associate. “This life has been a great blessing to me and I am grateful for all those who have graced me with their presence.”

Sister Margaret Anne has walked in the footsteps of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle. She has been a blessing for many – family, students, parents, community members, parishioners, professional colleagues, the sick and elderly. She has been a sign of hope. She has brought peace. Her life reflects this blessing, “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him.” *I Corinthians 2:9-10*

Thank you, Sister Margaret Anne, for loving well and loving wide. You are truly an “extraordinary minister.”



Karla Berns shares her many gifts and skills in her role as co-director of the Presentation Associate Partnership.

Dancing with the Stars

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Karla Berns entered the community of the Sisters of the Presentation, a 1958 postulant, not unlike the 11 other young women in her class. Like them, and many postulants and novices before her, she attended Clarke College. As a novice, newly-named Sister Mark chose a science major as her focus, though the faculty of the department had their wonderings when she nearly blew up the lab making naphthalene (moth balls). Subsequently, Sister Kathleen Dolphin, perhaps a more astute lab technician, stayed near her side for future experiments.

Evidently no one reported the above “concern” to Mother Estelle, because with her usual foresight into future community needs, she asked Sister Mark to begin a nursing program. With her degree nearly completed, Sister left Clarke and began a three-year hospital-based program at Mercy School of Nursing in Dubuque, receiving her diploma in nursing and her degree from Clarke in 1965. For five years she practiced nursing in the Mount Loretto infirmary and at Mercy Hospital.

As the months went by she found herself more involved in nursing at Mercy. Here she experienced the rewards of ministering to

the sick and aiding in their recovery. More and more hours were requested of her and not unlike saints of the past (and present), Sister Mark felt a new call: to give her life singularly to the nursing profession. As an independent woman she could pursue nursing with a stronger commitment and a greater freedom.

While she declares that she never really left the community, (and there is evidence to support this claim), Karla discontinued her Presentation membership in 1970 and before one could realize it, she was the highest-ranking administrator at NICC (Northeast Iowa Community College) in Peosta, Iowa. She was a student, a nurse, and “click,” she was teaching nursing, and “click, click,” she was directing the program and “click, click, click,” she was administering the nursing program at both NICC campuses and with several additional responsibilities in related areas.

The sequence goes like this. In 1969 Karla was invited to teach at the Mercy School of Nursing in addition to her hospital practice. After five years in this position she went to NICC as a full-time nursing instructor. In 1976 she was named chair of health occupations, adding new programs in radiology and medical

records. Four years later she became Chair of Health for the entire Area I District with added responsibilities in 1986. In 1990 Karla was chosen as Provost of the Peosta Campus and administered student services district-wide for admissions, counseling, student records, financial aid and more. In 2000 Karla was appointed vice president of educational services for the college, including both campuses. She retired in 2003 and in 2006 she became co-director of the Associate Partnership for the Presentation sisters, along with Sister Lynn Mary Wagner.

Interestingly, as Karla clicked (climbed) from one step (rank) to the next, on a kind of “stairway to the stars,” the next step was always provided by invitation, that is, she was invited to apply for each position. Liking, really enjoying, actually delighting in the personal satisfaction and service opportunities of her respective positions, Karla was always reluctant to leave her current role, even long enough to apply. Always open, however, she agreed to pray and think about each invitation. And each time she was the college’s choice for the new position.

Question: What kind of education prepares a young woman for a career of such service and leadership? Answer: Karla attended classes from kindergarten to eighth grade in a country school, taught all nine years by her mother! She attended high school for one year at St. Joseph in Garnavillo, Iowa, where she lived during the school week with an aunt. When this high school closed, she enrolled at St. Patrick School in Waukon, Iowa, taught by the Presentation sisters.

Or was Karla born with a silver spoon in her mouth? That question remains unanswered, but what is known is that she came into the world amidst a raging blizzard on November 29, the sixth child of parents Eleanora and Vernie Berns. A family with two older sisters and three older brothers, she was the youngest girl, and as her older siblings attest, she was a favorite, particularly of her dad – and spoiled. She also has a younger brother. And next year there will be a 70s party because all the Berns children will be in their 70s.

There’s Karla the professional and there’s Karla the person, who loves food, good meat and vegetables, reflective of her farm and garden growing-up experiences. For dessert, banana crème pie would be a preference, although when the retired former administrative team of NICC has its monthly luncheon at Country Junction, it’s sour crème raisin pie every time.

Karla enjoys polka and waltz dance music. She is well-traveled with memories of the light houses of the northeast United States, the wines and beautiful countryside of Italy, plus the history of Francis and Clare in Assisi, the calm beauty of Alaska, the simplicity of Ireland – and now with an eye to Austria, Switzerland and Germany for the next expedition.

Her friends say that Karla is gentle, determined, focused, generous, true-blue and professional. Since her retirement she has served a variety of volunteer needs in the SCRIP program and preparing for parish celebrations at her home parish of St. Columbkille. She lends a hand at the Dubuque Food Pantry, assists with DuRide, offering free transportation to senior citizens, and provides rides for friends and neighbors going to doctor and therapy appointments.

“I love my house,” says Karla, who lives in a brick bungalow on Grandview Avenue; “It’s a refuge.” The more recently closed-in patio makes a favorite reading spot for Karla, and a resting-in-the-sun-place for her Cavichon dog, Josie, the perfect companion.

Five-foot, seven and a half inches tall, God fashioned Karla after her mother, with strong bones and a healthy build. Her beautifully graying hair, groomed perfectly with every hair in place, matches strikingly with the bold colors of her bright wardrobe, which she wears with style. Karla has a rather regal bearing and confident composure; one might say there’s a “queen-like” air about her.

Her mother lived until she was only a month shy of her 102nd birthday, and Karla is well on her way to a long and healthy life. With her positive attitude and her expanded capacity for enjoying life, her high level of appreciation of the good things God has given, her deep family faith, instilled at a very early age and enhanced during her years with the Presentation community, Karla continues to share her many gifts and skills, her leadership and her organization, her planning and her creativity in her role as co-director of the Associate Partnership.

A prayerful, balanced person, Karla has a ready chuckle for almost any incongruity. Left-handed, but never empty-handed, Karla offers talents for sharing. She continues to follow in the footsteps of Nano Nagle, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, for her being exudes a Presentation spirit that springs forth with freshness and vitality from her happy heart and her gentle soul. She speaks life!

And she speaks Presentation as she wears her Presentation spirit well. She has been dancing with the stars (you didn’t know?) and that has fostered her spirit. Among the stars, no doubt, are Nano and Mother Vincent, along with Sisters Helen Marie Feeney, Martin McCormick and Georgia Schmeltzer, early teachers at St. Patrick in Waukon, as well as Sisters Mary Angela Feeney and George Marie Fluke, her summer vacation school religion teachers. Nano lives! Go, Karla!

Employment Opportunities

We invite you to become a part of the Presentation team.

For employment opportunities, visit our website.

WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
Under “Service & Opportunities”

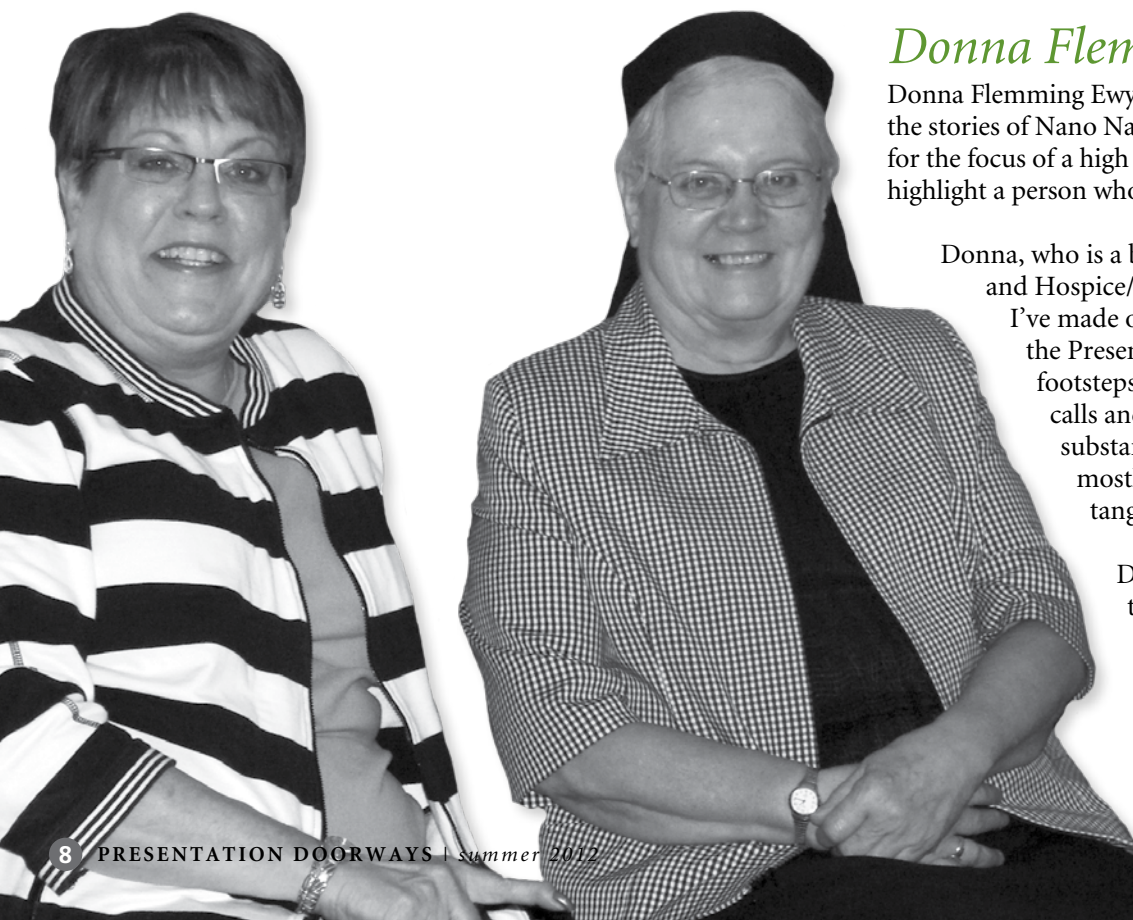
FORMER MEMBERS

Spreading the Gospel

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

Our Presentation charism of hospitality and our mission, especially as it focuses on women and children, is lived out daily by our sisters, our associates and our former members.

Women who have walked with us in religious life and then felt called to a different life style, continue to live out Nano's dream of responding to Jesus' mission to spread the Gospel. Each does so in unique and interesting ways. A few examples follow.



Ursula Condon Newkirk

Ursula Condon Newkirk reflects on being taught by the Sisters of the Presentation. "Four Presentation sisters taught all our classes. Emphasis was on the basics and our teachers worked with us until we mastered the curriculum. They also served as social and moral guidance counselors. We frequently sought their advice. Religious activities were an integral part of our daily life. It was only later in my life I realized how important my faith was. However, I know I thank the Presentation sisters for this gift."

Ursula continues, "For almost 40 years, I worked in Catholic education. I feel so blessed to be able to have spent my professional life doing what Nano Nagle did, spreading the light of the Gospel."

In retirement, Ursula and her husband, John, continue to follow Nano Nagle by visiting the homebound, bringing them Communion and parish bulletins. They assist an elderly neighbor by shopping for her, helping her pay her bills and taking her sight-seeing when she is able to go. In addition, they are generous in donating materials to domestic abuse victims and needy children.

Donna Flemming Ewy

Donna Flemming Ewy's immigrant children have grown up with the stories of Nano Nagle. Her daughter Kristina chose Nano Nagle for the focus of a high school religion class project that was to highlight a person who had a substantial impact on Catholicism.

Donna, who is a board-certified physician in Family Medicine and Hospice/Palliative Medicine, states, "Many decisions I've made over the past years have been influenced by the Presentation charism." Donna follows in Nano's footsteps by doing nursing home rounds and house calls and by serving a psychiatric hospital and a substance abuse treatment facility that cares for mostly uninsured persons who are caught in the tangle of the legal system.

Donna adds, "It is a special honor to care for those who are dying; I am certain that this was influenced by time spent with dying

Former member and associate, Kate Kleeman visits with Sister Louise Scieszinski during the annual associate and sister retreat.

sisters as they attended Mass until a couple days before their deaths or as we softly sang to them in their final days or hours. Whether they die in the hospital, at home or in nursing homes, I want my patients to die with comfort, peace, grace and love."

Donna also credits the Presentation community with making her a better mother and loves the fact that, as a community, they have participated in initiatives to assist immigrants. She states "My kids are immigrants. All three came from orphanages and very disadvantaged situations. Even though they were born on the other side of the planet, they were each hand-picked by God for Charles and me to love, nurture and attempt to fill the emptiness caused by their abandonments. These three beautiful young people are my primary mission, and yes, they've heard the stories of Nano. My prayer for them is that they learn to live lives of hospitality and service."

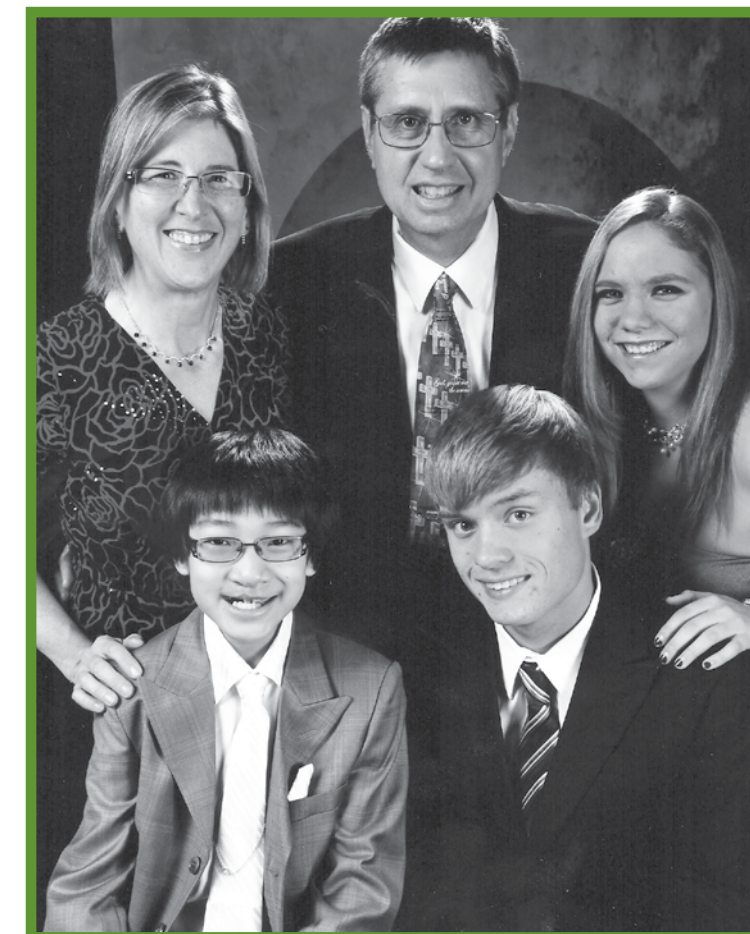


Former members Marilyn Bakewell Loewen and Ursula Condon Newkirk reconnect during a gathering at the Presentation motherhouse.

Kate Kleeman

Kate Kleeman, having been taught by the Presentation sisters, saw their hospitality in action. Having served as teacher, principal and guidance counselor, all in Catholic schools, Kate states, "I like to believe that when I began teaching in a Catholic school, I followed the example of the sisters. As I continue working in Catholic schools, I work hard at helping families and students become part of our school community. The sisters taught me 'to teach as Jesus did' which has influenced my life in many ways."

In 2010 Kate joined the Presentation associate program to further strengthen her involvement in the lives of the many people that the sisters serve. She states, "It has been an honor to work and pray with the Presentation community. I was also fortunate in being able to help out at the Presentation Lantern Center. The Presentation sisters have shown me how to use my talents to reach out in service of others. It's a lifelong lesson and I continue to be thankful for their gift of hospitality."



Left to right: Donna Flemming Ewy with her husband, Charles, and their children Aaron, Alex and Kristina.

Nano's chosen task of living the mission of Jesus is alive and well as sisters, associates and former members continue one pace beyond through their works of service, hospitality and support – both through prayer and financially.

*Together,
we make a difference*

Presentation sisters strive to create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in the United States and Bolivia. Your support, generosity and prayers truly make a difference, ensuring Presentation mission and ministries continue.

You can now donate ON-LINE by visiting:
WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
Under "Donate Now"



Far left photo: Associate Sandy Kahle incenses the retreatants during a closing ritual. Middle photo: Associate Karen Bonfig and her daughter Julianna provide music throughout the gathering. Right photo: Associate Harry Stanton and Sister Joan Lickteig share a moment at the social gathering.

Presentation Retreat

Pray Always Pray All Ways

by KARLA BERNS, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

Nearly 80 Presentation associates and sisters gathered on April 21-22, 2012, for a retreat weekend at the Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa. The theme for the weekend was “Pray Always-Pray All Ways” which provided the opportunity for the participants to spend time reflecting, listening and renewing their relationship with God using several different prayer forms.

Sister Rita Cameron introduced a CD by Judy Sinwell, OSF, called “Resting in God,” by having each participant get “in touch” with their body and the areas that provide strength, emotion, energy, love, truth and ideas. All were encouraged to ask themselves two questions: What interferes with your ability to rest in God? What does self-care mean to you? The group then completed a total body relaxation exercise with Sister Judy on tape.

In the session on Journaling as Prayer, Alice Ann Byrne, OP, stressed the need to write the truth in the presence of God; to be in the mystery of God but not to solve the mystery. Quoting Julian of Norwich, “Between God and me, there is no between,” Sister Alice Ann inspired the attendees to go to that place in each of them where God indwells. She shared many examples of how to journal and “dialogue with God” and provided practice time.

Presentation Associate Char McCoy proclaimed the dispositions needed in a Praying with Scripture session: faith, humility, openness and faithfulness. She stressed that one must take scripture, read it, hear it and be still – begin again and again, again and again. Using the Sunday, April 22, Gospel of Luke reading, each participant read the scripture and asked

what that passage was saying to them as an individual. Communal scripture reading was discussed also and how sharing among a group of people can be so good and profound.

Prayer rituals were an important part of the weekend. The opening and closing prayers focused on creation shouting for joy, preparation of the soil and the budding and blossoming forth of God’s grace in our lives. As participants brought soil from their homes, it was mixed at each table and then brought to a larger receptacle at the podium for further mixing. A rose bush was planted and became the center of the closing prayer with a water, incensing and candle lighting ritual. The rose bush will be planted on the Mount Loretto grounds at a later date.

Douglas Wood’s poem, “Granddad’s Prayer of the Earth,” provided a story of praying always in all ways. Members of the Living Lanterns associate group prepared the rituals (Karen Bonfig, Theresa Buss, Doris Bussan, Sandy Kahle, Sister Sharon Kelchen, Janet Leonard, Sister Carla Popes, Nancy Schroeder, and Becky Searcy). The retreat closed with Sunday liturgy and brunch. Associates and sisters were able to connect with one

another throughout the retreat but time was set aside especially for this on Saturday night at the social gathering. The overall planning committee for the retreat was Associates Darla Budden, Deb Jasper, Karla Berns and Sisters Rita Cameron, Dolores Zieser and Lynn Mary Wagner.

2012 Garage Sale Gold Mines



For the past eight years, the Sisters of the Presentation and their associates have been organizing and conducting an annual garage sale. It seems to get larger and larger each year. Each spring, a call goes out to the sisters, associates, employees and friends to bring gently-used items of all kinds to Mount Loretto for an April/May sale in conjunction with the Dubuque and Asbury city-wide sales. If one Googles the internet for tips on conducting a successful garage sale, there are many ideas shared such as:

1. Make your signage simple, readable and bright with arrows directing people.
2. Set up tables to display merchandise attractively. Make sure there is room between tables for shoppers to browse and not feel crowded.
3. Place similar items together.
4. Separate your clothes according to size.
5. Keep rearranging items on tables filling in empty spots.
6. Make certain items work such as lamps, radios, clocks.
7. Have bags/boxes handy for people who purchase multiple items. Recycle used paper and plastic grocery bags.
8. Towards the end of the sale conduct “Fill a bag for a set price.”
9. Be friendly and courteous.
10. Nothing ruins a garage sale faster than rain – be prepared.
11. Wear deodorant, because having a garage sale is hard work!

If you’ve been to the Mount Loretto garage/gym sale, you know that all of the above tips plus more have been used. There is a “promotion” clown at the driveway entrance periodically throughout each day encouraging shoppers to come to the sale. There is a direct correlation with having the clown and the increase in sales. This year, the sale offered a \$5.00 charge for “early bird” shoppers which was well received (those coming before 8 a.m. on opening day). The earliest shopper came shortly after 6 a.m. with 20-30 more shortly after that. The coffee and donuts available for purchase continued to add a warm welcoming feature to the day along with the bake sale. Having the gym available for the sale takes away any fear of rain spoiling the event. Many of the sisters and associates remember the first two years when only the garages and the outdoors were available for the sale set-up. Rain was always a threat and lots of plastic coverings were available. So, as one shopper stated this year, “This garage/gym sale has really become ‘up town.’ It is the sale of the year we look forward to. Everything is so neat and arranged so nicely with space to move between the tables.”

It is frequently said that what is one person’s trash is another’s gold mine! In this case, there was “gold” for both the buyers and the sellers. Buyers left happy with their purchases and the Presentation sisters and associates collected \$16,210.78 for the Student Endowment Fund at Newman Catholic Schools in Mason City, Iowa, and the Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Charities.

The core team working on this sale is very grateful to all who contributed, helped unpack, sort and organize the “gold,” made signs, encouraged customers to buy, donated fresh-baked goods and shared hospitality with all. There will be more “gold” next year and maybe some new ideas, like having easy listening background music for the shopper’s pleasure or more clowns. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Interested in Being an Associate?

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

**For more information, please visit:
WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
Under “Membership”**



SISTER BERNARD MAUSS

Takes Life as it Comes

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Picture a large farm with fields of corn, hay and oats, and pastures with cows, pigs and sheep, nestled in the hills of Allamakee County, Iowa. All of it means lots of work and any farmer, in his heart of hearts, would long for a son or two to help. But Joseph Mauss didn't get sons until children #8 and #9; even the youngest, #10, was a girl! So the seven oldest, all girls, had to do the farm work for several years and the oldest of all 10 children was Mary Eva Mauss, now known as Sister Mary Bernard Mauss.

"I was my father's 'hired hand' during my 18 years at home," jokes Sister Bernard. "I really treasure the life lessons I learned from that experience." And truly they have lasted a lifetime for her.

Mary grew up on the family farm in New Albin, Iowa, but their parish was in Lycurgus. After eight grades in country school, Mary attended high school in Waukon, Iowa. Her freshman year was at St. Patrick School, due to the generosity of a parish women's club that provided tuition. During this year Mary lived in town with her grandmother on weekdays. Her last three years were spent at Waukon Public School. "Attending the public school allowed me and my siblings to ride the bus, for which our dad must have been most grateful, because now we could be home each night to help with chores," says Sister.

But it wasn't all work. Mary and her siblings had a huge sandbank on which to play and in the hot summer they would walk around in the creek near their home. Sometimes they would take their fishing poles to the Upper Iowa River. Sister Bernard remarks, "We had to be more creative in our entertainment than is needed today; we made our own fun. And always we would all pile into the car to go to church on Sunday, unless weather prevented that, in which case we would say the rosary as a family instead."

Mary had always liked school, and somehow it developed within her at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher. In the public school, Mary received "normal training," which prepared her for that career. So, upon graduation, she taught for a year in the same country school which she had attended, and then she taught a year in a neighboring country school.

"Getting to know the Presentation sisters at St. Patrick School, however, had created a new desire within my heart: to be a religious." Mary also knew a young woman from her parish who had entered the Franciscan community some years before that, and seeing her on occasion was a further influence on her decision to become a sister.

Thus it was that in June of 1945, Mary entered the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque – the farthest she had ever been from

home. At her reception into the community, Mary received the name Sister Mary Bernard. Furthering her education through summer school, she earned her bachelor's degree from Loras College and her master's degree from Clarke College. Her first teaching assignment was to the small school in the St. John Parish of Placid, just outside Dubuque, where she taught grades 5-8, that occupied the district country school, while grades 1-4 had a classroom in the convent. "It was somewhat comforting, after all the adjustments I had been through from farming and teaching to novitiate, to be back in a peaceful country setting," she states.

Sister Bernard taught school for 53 years. After serving in Placid she educated students in Algona, Clare, Elkader, Mason City, Lawler, Sheldon, Waukon, all in Iowa; Winner, South Dakota; Oak Lawn, Illinois; St. Columbille in Dubuque and, lastly, Dayton, Iowa, from which she retired in 2001.

When one talks with Sister Bernard about teaching, she lights up. She tells how she loved working with the students, and how she always made it a point to remember that they were human, and so she was patient with their inevitable mistakes, but she also focused on the fact that people are important.

"I made a conscious effort to teach them 'proper behavior' toward one another, and to challenge them to modify their own behavior, rather than imposing rules on them," says Sister. Further, Sister Bernard worked to have the values of religion settle deep within the students, and coached them in practices which would help their faith to grow. She also made it a point to teach them responsibility, and to affirm their positive behaviors.

"I loved teaching," Sister concludes, "and I'd still be at it if I were able." But, having learned as a farmer to "take life as it comes," Sister Bernard is also very content with retirement. "I have enjoyed every bit of life," she comments. Today Sister likes reading, doing puzzles, exercising with a group and "being able to spend a longer time in chapel now." And most of all, she loves to visit. She enjoys having any of her family visit when they can, and she entertains the sisters with stories and anecdotes from earlier times. Her sense of humor has carried her through all these years, leaving her a gracious and grace-filled woman.



Left to right: Sister Ann Jackson looks on as Sisters Jennifer Rausch and Jessi Beck sign documents confirming Sister Jessi's vow renewal.

SISTER JESSI BECK

Renewal of Vows

In the following poem, Sister Corine Murray captured the spirit of the day Sister Jessi Beck formally entered the Presentation community on August 26, 2005.

**"Her knock at the chapel door declares readiness
to step into the mystery of community with Nano's daughters
and to dance among the folds of darkness and light
in the quest for God."**

On June 1, the Presentation community gathered in a spirit of celebration and gratitude to witness Sister Jessi renew her temporary vows. Sister Ann Jackson, formation director, greeted the community gathered, "Welcome! Grateful for the mystery of light and life in community; grateful and eager to celebrate the ever-deepening journey of a beautiful young woman, Sister Jessi Beck; grateful for the accompaniment of her contact sister, Sister Joy Peterson, and her local community, Sister Sharon Kelchen; and grateful for the on-going support of the leadership team, the general membership, and the support of the larger Presentation community! It is so good to celebrate!"

"As I celebrate this moment in religious life, I know this is where God has been leading me," states Sister Jessi. "I am inspired by the spirit of our foundress, Nano Nagle, and her passion for the mission of Jesus: bringing light to those living in darkness. Nano lived as a woman of hope. I, too, look toward the future in hope despite the uncertainties and challenges ahead. I see a network of Nano's daughters with great treasures to offer the world through their life and work. I see a mission and lifestyle that will continue to draw people to it because the world is crying out in need. I am energized by working together to make our world a better place for everyone but especially for those who are most in need. Jesus gathered a community around him because he knew the work ahead would require the gifts of many and he didn't want to do it alone. He knew that his companions, with all their imperfections, would help to bring forth the best in him."

Remembering 1902-1926

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

St. Aloysius School Calmar, Iowa: 1902-1912

St. Aloysius School saw several orders of sisters over the years including Milwaukee Franciscans (1901-1902), Dubuque Presentations (1902-1912) and LaCrosse Franciscans (1913-1986). The first Presentation sisters to teach in Calmar were Sisters Mary Ursula Farrell, Albia O'Brien, Petronella Clarke and Xavier Evans.

German and Bohemian were the dominant languages of the people in the area, who expected that German would be part of the curriculum. For a time one of the sisters who spoke German was able to give elementary language instruction.

When this was no longer possible, the sisters thought it would be best to withdraw, allowing the school to be taken over by a community of sisters who could better fulfill the language requirement. The LaCrosse Franciscans operated the school from 1913-1986.

St. Patrick School Audubon, Iowa: January-July 1903

Sisters Mary Margaret Duggan, Baptista Hussey, Augustine Rooney and Anicetus Quinn made the trek to Audubon in January of 1903 to find that the house was less than adequate. In fact, with no indoor water, the sisters had to cross a deep ditch on a plank in order to meet their needs.

The Presentation sisters ministered at St. Patrick School in Audubon only seven months, the shortest-lived stay in any of their missions. It is not mentioned in the early community annals, and little is recorded about the adventures of the sisters there. However, Sister Mary Anastasia Burns recalled stories told by Sister Mary Anicetus Quinn who was one of the four pioneers. According to Sister Anastasia's recollections:

"Foreign languages, of which more than one was requested as school subjects, was one deciding factor in the withdrawal of our sisters. Mother Angela Crowley, realizing the Sisters were not educated in the required languages, thought it only fair to leave the field open to a community with more foreign-born Sisters."

Other missions quickly absorbed the sisters who left Audubon in July of 1903.



Top photo: St. Aloysius School and Church in Calmar, Iowa, where Presentation sisters ministered for 10 years. Left photo: left to right: Sisters Berchmans Flanagan, Michael Laughlin (on car), Henrietta Teff and Bertille Morgan serving in Madison, Nebraska.

St. Leonard School Madison, Nebraska: 1903-1926

When the parishioners of St. Leonard Parish in Madison, Nebraska, wanted a Catholic school, they decided to build a new church and remodel the old church to serve as a school and convent. This was accomplished by the fall of 1903. At that time, four Sisters of the Presentation took over the administration of the school.

Sisters Mary Columba O'Callaghan, de Pazzi Curtin, Clare Meagher and Boniface Reiman moved into what was described as a "rickety old building" and began their ministry with 66 students. No money and no plan for building improvements on the part of the parish, coupled with the shortage of teaching sisters, caused the Presentation sisters to withdraw in 1926. The school closed.

According to parish records, the facility was re-opened as a boarding school in 1931 by the Missionary Benedictine Sisters. A new school was built in 1955 and continued in use until 1978 when the sisters left.

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



Mother Mary Camilla Keefe, Superior 1943-1955



Mother Mary Camilla Keefe, the 10th mother general of the Sisters of the Presentation, was born in Galva, Iowa. Presentation sisters had taught in the Sioux City Diocese since 1887 (Danbury), but Mother Camilla was the first congregational leader from the Sioux City Diocese.

Mother Mary Camilla taught at St. Vincent Academy, Dubuque, and in high schools at Clare and Farley, Iowa. The last sister to be elected as mistress of novices, she was the first superior to appoint a formation leader. After 12 years as novice mistress, Mother Camilla was elected mother general of the community. Though her personality was starkly different from that of her predecessor, Mother Perpetua, she was an effective financial manager, an efficient administrator and a community innovator.

In 1946 she established a building fund and supported it with a car raffle, donations, savings, interest and borrowed money. The amount of money needed for a new addition to the motherhouse was \$500,000 – at a time when elementary classroom teachers received a monthly salary of \$35 and high school teachers earned \$45. The new building was dedicated in 1952.

Changes: While formerly the mother general acted as local superior of the motherhouse, Mother Camilla appointed the first house superior for the Mount Loretto complex in her first year in office. Sisters traveled for the first time to far-away Eufala, Alabama, to teach summer religion classes. School staffings were exchanged in 1950 among the Presentation sisters, the Clinton Franciscans, and the Sisters of Mercy in Storm Lake, Danbury, and Charles City; a catechetical school opened in Osage, Iowa.

A quiet innovator, Mother Camilla invited the mothers general from the other North American Presentation convents to meet at Mount Loretto in 1953 to continue the discussion of some kind of unification among them. This informal association spawned The Federation of Presentation Sisters, later to be known as the North American Conference and still later The Conference. In 1953 Mother Camilla inaugurated the summer juniorate program for the continued training of young religious.

For a number of years Presentation sisters attended courses at Mount St. Francis motherhouse affiliated with Loras College; they did their student teaching at the Franciscan's Holy Trinity grade school. In 1950 the Franciscan sisters withdrew from their affiliation with Loras College and joined with their community-staffed Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. Presentation sisters, preparing for teaching, would now take their course work at Clarke College (presently Clarke University) and do their student teaching in the Presentation-staffed schools in Dubuque.

Mother Camilla's reelection in 1949 occurred during summer Chapter meetings. This particular Chapter produced multiple decision regarding minute concerns – 62 new rules, regulations and restrictions. It appeared that the multiple advancements and visionary changes that had marked Mother Camilla's years of leadership would now be overshadowed by the strictures, structures and stipulations of this six-year period. Fortunately, the historical focus of visions and dreams, mission and ministry were overriding and provided a more authentic community direction.

Upon completion of her 24 years of leadership, Mother Camilla returned to teaching until her retirement in 1963. After eight years of retirement she died in 1971, the last of her family to receive her heavenly reward. Her beloved nephew Reverend Robert Keefe of Fort Dodge concelebrated her funeral Mass with Archbishop James J. Byrne of Dubuque.



Exceptional Individuals Honored through Scholarships & Awards

by JANE BUSE

In commemoration of the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle's death and in the spirit of her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation initiated two scholarships and two awards to further her legacy of education. The sisters are pleased to honor the following well-deserved recipients.

Nano Nagle Service Award

The \$500 Nano Nagle Service Award is awarded to a person of exemplary service, nominated by a Presentation sister or associate. The service award may be used to benefit a service project or in some way aid the nominee in continuing the gift of service. This year's award nomination committee had a tie between Becky Derr and Nicole Feldhaus, both from Loras College in Dubuque.

Becky Derr, a recent elementary education graduate, was nominated by Sister Dolores Zieser who took great interest in Becky's January 2012 mission trip to Haiti. The week-long trip was spent working with young Haitian children.

"Becky is a person who is very dedicated to helping others and would not spare herself in giving service to those made poor and in need of education. As a recent committed Presentation associate, Becky has studied the charisma of Nano Nagle and the dedicated service given by our foundress in the streets and alleys of Cork, Ireland," states Sister Dolores. "It is heartening to know young people today who are willing to make sacrifices – Becky is one of those young people, a remarkable person."

Sister Rita Cameron met Nicole Feldhaus on a recent service trip to Vanceburg, Kentucky, where she witnessed firsthand the Nano-like

qualities Nicole exemplifies. Through this experience, Sister Rita felt compelled to nominate Nicole for the service award.

"Nicole is very compassionate, caring and kind. She is willing to take appropriate risks in inviting new experiences into her life. Her love of God is very evident in her interactions and sharing," states Sister Rita. "Aside from her involvement in service trips, Nicole has taken part in numerous activities at Loras and within her hometown of Davis Junction, Illinois. She has a deep faith and love for her neighbor."

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among the many high schools in which Presentation sisters have ministered. The scholarship was awarded to a student at Wahlert High School, Dubuque, Iowa in 2010; and Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa in 2011. This year's \$500 Nano Nagle Scholarship was awarded to Paige Halsted, a deserving senior from Newman High School in Mason City, Iowa, who models self-giving service to improve the lives of others; uses her God-given talents for the betterment of others; exemplifies exceptional service; needs financial assistance and plans to further her education.

Described as a true servant, Paige readily offers to help others on a daily basis. "Paige's willingness to help others is just part of the way that she is made," says Ms. Tammy Nettleton, theology/campus ministry department at Newman. "She exemplifies the spirit of service that Nano Nagle embraced. Paige is a kind and genuine person with a love for people and a desire to help those in need."

Nano Nagle Service Award

The nomination committee of sisters and associates gather to present the Nano Nagle Service Award. Pictured from left to right: Sister St. James Lickteig, Associate Virginia Lammer, Award Recipients Nicole Feldhaus and Becky Derr, Associate Carol Witry and Sister Ellen Mary Garrett.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In the celebration of Mother Vincent and the Dubuque Presentation foundation, the Sisters of the Presentation offer a \$500 Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship to a graduating senior from Wahlert Catholic High School (WCHS), Dubuque, which Presentation sisters have actively supported since its inception. This year's recipient is Edith Quiles.

Described as bright, articulate, responsive, self-motivated, intelligent, involved, hardworking, friendly and a person of deep service, Edith demonstrates scholarship and leadership in the various activities she is involved in. As stated by Ms. Barbara Ressler in her nomination letter, "Service both collective and individual comprises the woof and warp of Edith's being. She gets it. She contributes to the world not only by the many ways she learns, leads and serves but by the kind of person she is. Upbeat, creative, positive, kind, dependable, diligent and sensible, Edith is 'top drawer' as a student and person."



Nano Nagle College Scholarship

Paige Halsted from Newman High School receives the Nano Nagle College Scholarship from Sister Joan Brincks.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

Left to right: Wahlert Catholic High School student Edith Quiles (center) received the Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship from Presentation Associate and WCHS Teacher, Barbara Ressler, Sister Beth Driscoll and Sister Rita Cameron.



Presentation Mission Service Award

Sister Leanne Welch presents Chelsea McCarragher with the Presentation Mission Service Award.

Presentation Mission Service Award

The Presentation Mission Service Award is offered to a person(s), 18 years of age or older, committed to serving the Presentation mission and who may otherwise be unable to afford a mission immersion experience, locally, nationally or abroad. This year's recipient is Chelsea McCarragher, who attends Loras College in Dubuque.

This summer Chelsea will be traveling to Santarem, Brazil, with the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) group where she will do mission work among the orphans of the area.

In her nomination letter, Ms. Kim Koetz expresses, "Chelsea is reliable, dependable and committed to serving young people so they will open up to the love within themselves – love for God, others and self. She is a warm, outgoing, caring individual who is joyfully optimistic in the way she looks at living each day to the fullest. I cannot imagine a young woman more worthy of this award."



Ministering to God's People in the Footsteps of Nano

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

The Sisters of the Presentation mission statement calls each sister “to evangelize, offering hope and love to a broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God, confronting injustice and working for peace.” To do this the sisters minister to God’s people in a variety of ways to meet the needs of God’s people in today’s world.

As educators, services range from traditional Catholic school classrooms to the college setting to educating those who have no access to quality education. Parish ministries, while including education such as RCIA and catechetical work, expand to pastoral care, liturgical ministry and beyond. While all work with justice issues in some way, many give service to the marginalized or work for systemic change.

Each sister has a main ministry and also incorporates many other aspects. For instance, educators teach justice, those working directly with the poor educate, hospital mission awareness teaches ethics, and campus ministers root people in the mission of Jesus building up the kin-dom of God.

Retired sisters continue mission in a variety of ways: hospitality, community prayer, education, service to the marginalized and peace and justice activities.

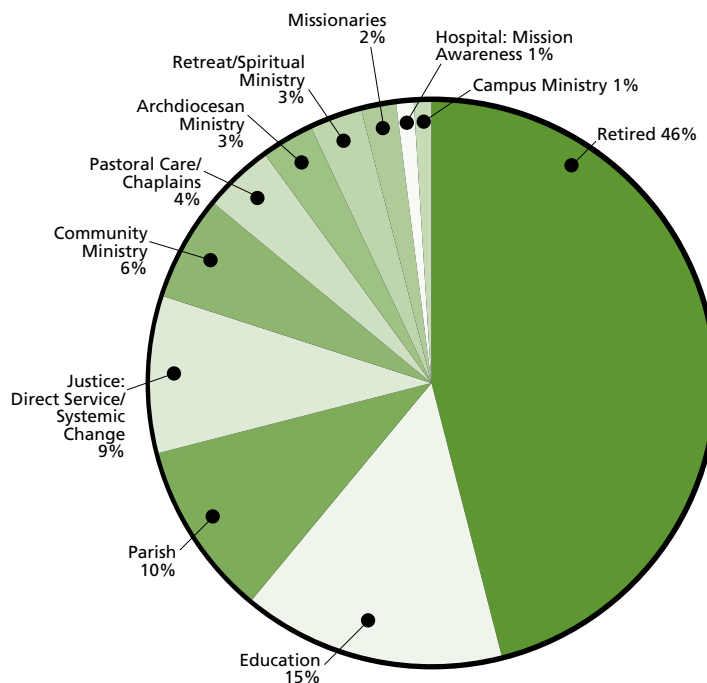
The sisters do all of this in light of the words of their foundress, Nano Nagle, “If I could be of service in any part of the world, I would gladly do all in my power to do so.”



Top photo: Sister Ruth Ann Takes (right) ministers in pastoral care at St. Therese of New Hope in Minnesota. Right photo: Sister Barbara Rastatter (right) serves the people of St. James Parish in Chicago, Illinois.



Ministries of the Presentation Sisters



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Quest to New Orleans

Sister Jessi Beck (middle) led a group to New Orleans, Louisiana, through Presentation Quest, an immersion and service program sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. The group spent time reconstructing a home in the Lower Ninth Ward.

New Rain Barrel at Mount Loretto

A 50-gallon rain barrel was installed in early June to provide water for the vegetable garden maintained by Sister Deborah Paige. The barrel was installed by maintenance staff, John Richman, Randy Engler and Jim Richman.



Please pray with us.

June 30, 2012

50th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Marilyn Breen
Sister Ellen Mary Garrett
Sister Michaeline Healy
Sister Margaret Anne Kramer
Sister Joellen Price
Sister Ruth Ann Takes
Dubuque, Iowa

July 21-26, 2012

Charism Retreat
Dubuque, Iowa

July 27-29, 2012

Community Days
Dubuque, Iowa

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

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.

Relay for Life 2012

Dubuque has been rated #10 in the nation for participation in the annual "Relay for Life" event. This year, there were 80 teams participating on June 1 at the Port of Dubuque. "Presentation Pacers" consisted of 20 members including Presentation sisters, associates and staff members. Sister Dolores Zieser and Associate Colleen Venter were co-captains.

The purpose of Relay for Life is to raise money for the American Cancer Society for research and direct help to cancer patients. Walking in relay fashion from 6 p.m to 6 a.m. is symbolic: darkness to light. A person diagnosed with cancer and journeying through treatment can experience a feeling of darkness. The journey to remission is a journey into light. In remembering those who did not survive cancer, it is the goal of research to find a cure, a hope for light in the future. Nine members of the Presentation Pacers are cancer survivors.

"We remembered all of our sisters and associates who are cancer survivors or who lived with cancer," says Sister Dolores Zieser. "The entire event reflected a fun atmosphere with food vendors, games and music entertainment. It was also noted that there was a very reverent and almost prayerful atmosphere with people walking the track in silence and encouraged to pray for those loved ones who had died of cancer and those who are survivors."

The Presentation Pacers raised \$2,326.55 through a fundraiser, bake sale and raffle, along with solicited donations. They were presented with a "Rising Star" award for their efforts. They look forward to taking part in the 2013 Relay for Life.



Presentation Pacers: left to right: Back row: Sister Rosalyn Ulfers, Jeff Lange, Sister Margaret Anne Kramer, Katie Chapman, Dolores Zieser, Mary and Ron Dankert; Front row: Sister Marilyn Breen, Jean Lange and Sister Donna Demmer. Not pictured: Sister Benjamin Duschner, Associates Jim and Sandy Kahle, Dick and Joyce Mahnke, Dwayne and Sue Murphy, Karen Vander Millen, Wayne and Colleen Venter and Jodi Cook.

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Please change this label and send it back to
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at
info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

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Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



Sister Beth Driscoll was invited to accompany Loras professors Kevin Koch and David Cochran and Loras students to the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland. While in Ireland, Sister Beth also had a chance to visit Nano Nagle's grave at South Presentation in Cork.



Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley and McCullough Creative received a Gold Addy and Final 15 award for the Women & Spirit local exhibit design at the Dubuque Mississippi River Museum in the category of Advertising for the Arts and Sciences sponsored by American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.



Presentation sisters, along with 10 communities of Catholic sisters in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, received the 365 Impact Award for 2012 sponsored by local media agency Dubuque 365.com. The award honors the sisters for their media campaign urging comprehensive immigration reform, inviting communities across the state of Iowa and the Upper Mississippi River Valley to be "Welcoming Communities."



The **Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America** held their annual meeting at Mount Loretto, May 30-June 3. The conference is comprised of the leadership teams of the eight Presentation congregations in North America: St. John's, Newfoundland-Labrador; San Francisco, California; Aberdeen, South Dakota; Fargo, North Dakota; New Windsor, New York; Staten Island, New York; Union of Presentation Sisters, United States Province; and Dubuque, Iowa.

Do you have news to share?

We would love to publish it.

**Please send your news items to:
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org**