



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the
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, Director of Communications

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE

Francine Quillin, PBVM; Karen Tuecke, Partners
in Mission Coordinator; Leanne Welch, PBVM;
Carol Witry, Associate Co-Director.

*The congregation is a member of Sisters United
News of the Upper Mississippi River Valley,
Communicators for Women Religious and the
American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.*

The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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

A Look Inside CONTENTS

Sisters of the Presentation | Fall 2015 | Volume 59 • Number 3

4 Teaching with a Passion

With a passion for math and desire to help others, Sister Gina Marie Foletta loves her ministry of mentoring and supervising student teachers of math.



6 Community Days

Sisters and associates from as far north as Minnesota, as far south as Bolivia, as far west as South Dakota, as far east as Washington D.C., and points in between, converged upon Dubuque, Iowa, for their Presentation Community Days 2015 gathering.

8 Celebrating Jubilee

Ten Presentation Sisters celebrated 75, 60 and 50 years of religious life on July 14-15 surrounded by their Presentation community, associates and employees.



11 Profession of Perpetual Vows

On August 1, Sister Jessi Beck celebrated her profession of perpetual vows surrounded by her Presentation community, family and friends. Sister Jessi is a blessing to all who experience her energetic spirit, her radiant smile and her graciousness.

12 Associate Gathering

Presentation associates gather during Community Days to share conversation and ideas about new possibilities to strengthen their Presentation partnership.



14 Where in the World is...

Sister Lois Lehmann continues to enjoy her daily walks, saying the rosary and the beauty of creation in her retirement.

16 Remembering Our Roots

We remember our years spent in Osage, Iowa, and the many stories during that time.

19 Mount Loretto & Beyond

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

Cover PHOTO

In an employee gathering during Community Days, Sister Emilie Bormann guides a group of Presentation employees through the labyrinth as she explains the process involved when one enters this path.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Openings

by ANN JACKSON, PBVM

Communion in Mission

Pope Francis cites in his “Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People,” “Living the present with passion means becoming ‘experts in communion,’ ‘witnesses and architects of the plan for unity.’” Francis proclaims:

“... So be women and men of communion! Have the courage to be present in the midst of conflict and tension, as a credible sign of the presence of the Spirit who inspires in human hearts a passion for all to be one (cf. Jn. 17:21). Live the mysticism of encounter... ‘the ability to hear, to listen to other people, to seek together ways and means.’ Live in the light of the loving relationship.” (12)

“We embody communion by allowing the Holy Spirit to stir thirst,” suggests Stephen Bevans, SVD, keynote speaker at the 2015 Leadership Conference of Religious Women (LCWR). Bevans suggests the world thirsts for the: water of integrity, wine of hope, elixir of beauty, nectar of justice.

Bevans inspired those gathered to consider thirst a grace, suggesting that perhaps most importantly, the world **thirsts for the water of integrity**. In light of the global breakdown of institutions and information overload, discerning truth poses challenge. Where do we seek and find authentic relationships? Referencing Pope Paul VI, Bevans provides a litmus test, “The world no longer listens to leaders, but to witnesses – and *only* to leaders who witness.” Effective leadership today is experiential and transparent – of the collective rather than the individual.

When thirst is denied, violence arises. “You will need a sturdy heart,” poet Regina Bechtle advises. Contemplative prayer offers opportunity to **drink deeply of the wine of hope**. Contemplation shifts minds and hearts toward a new consciousness – a new way of seeing and being. It supports silence, slowing down, reflection, deeper conversation and surfaces creative possibility and emerging options. Bevans quotes St. Augustine of Hippo, “Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.” What does it mean to be hopeful people of communion and mission?

Mary Oliver’s poem *Thirst* reflects how contemplation stretches us to be people of communion and mission:

“Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have ... Love for the earth and love for You are having such a long conversation in my heart ... already I have given a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning.”

Conversations of our hearts serve life and inspire hope.

The elixir of beauty reflects the possibility and healing present in the universe. Cecily Jones in *The Wine of Hope* writes, “Holding hands, we risk our way across / to cheer and weep, protest and mourn / as, wary of each revelation of the heart, / we balance on the thin tensility of hope.” How do you experience **thirst for the elixir of beauty**? Author Mary Lou Kownacki suggests, “Beauty uncovers the lie of violence, despair and lack of hope and helps us imagine a world beyond our present reality.”

“Thirst is grace,” says Bevans, “a yearning for something more.” **Sharing the nectar of justice** challenges us to shift against commercialism, competition and egotistical aspiration. What are we attending to? What preoccupies us as individuals, as community and as culture? Are we attending to the dream of God? To the joy of the Gospel? We quench the thirst of the world in communion for mission, generously sharing creativity, ingenuity, vitality, beauty and expansive energy.

For more of the selections provided above, visit: bit.ly/1Mo17SJ



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.

Our DIRECTION

Ignited by the fire of God’s love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, participate in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos by

reverencing relationships
celebrating unity
engaging contemplation and
fostering partnerships

to transform ourselves and our world.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



Sister Gina Foletta (middle left) enjoys supervising her student teachers of math at Pennsylvania State University.

SISTER GINA MARIE FOLETTA

Teaching with a Passion

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM



Some people traverse the globe, but Sister Gina Marie Foletta has made her way from coast to coast – with a few stops along the way!

Born Virginia Evelina Foletta in Modesto, California, to Robert and Evelina Foletta, Sister Gina has one sister who is married with two sons. Gina’s father, Robert, loved “arithmetic,” could even do many problems in his head, and he passed this gene on to his daughter who, consequently, has lived in the math world for a long time. She was fortunate to have teachers in fourth and fifth grades who shared the same passion, and thus had a positive influence on young Virginia.

After finishing high school in Modesto, Virginia went to California State University Stanislaus in Turlock, California, earning her bachelor’s degree in physical sciences. As required by that university, she spent a fifth year obtaining her teaching credential with a specialty in mathematics. Subsequently she taught high school math in Stockton, California, for six years. In 1971, as Providence designed, she received a National Science

Foundation Grant in Mathematics for a program in Missoula, Montana. There she met Sisters Kathleen Dolphin and Kevin Cummings, both Dubuque Presentations, and both there for further education. Common interests like hiking and tennis drew them together, and many good conversations occurred.

The memory of that summer lingered as Virginia returned to teach. She had a particular image of religious, which the two she had met in Missoula didn’t seem to match. The sisters she knew “looked old,” and seemed more distant. These two were fun to be around. Now curious, Virginia asked her new friends if she could visit them in Mason City, Iowa, over the Thanksgiving week. She came into a convent of about 20 sisters, at least 15 of whom were “young.” Now her old image was totally shattered.

But, wisely, Virginia took time to reflect. As is normal, sometimes she wanted to join the Sisters of the Presentation; sometimes she didn’t. The following summer she travelled the Western states, going to places like the Sierras, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, all the time reflecting on her life vocation.

During Christmas vacation of 1973, Virginia went back to Mason City to visit to the sisters and at that time they brought her to the Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa. As they were winding up the driveway, Virginia thought: “This looks like a college dorm,” which was a pleasant experience because it again shattered her image of what convents must be like. Inside she met more sisters, both young and elderly, and everyone was friendly and hospitable. More shattering.

In August of 1974, Virginia found herself moving into that “dorm,” not only having made her decision, but also having weathered the hard thing of telling her parents. Evelina had always taught her daughters to “Dream big, do things, make your own decisions,” so, as hard as this was, her mother couldn’t object when Virginia followed her advice! Still, she did comment a bit wistfully, “Don’t they have any sisters in California?”

Unfortunately, Robert died in 1976, so Evelina came to spend Christmas at Mount Loretto. Experiencing the same warmth and hospitality that Sister Gina did a few years earlier, Evelina reflected to her daughter, “Now I know why you wanted to come here.”

During her formation years at Mount Loretto, Sister Gina taught two classes in math at Wahlert Catholic High School. But, much as she enjoyed teaching, her great love was her canonical year which provided her the opportunity to further develop her own spirituality and to absorb the “wonder of religious life.”

After her first profession of vows in 1977, Sister Gina moved to Storm Lake, Iowa, to teach high school math, and she added mechanical drawing to her repertoire. Sister Dominic Church had started that class, and Sister Gina loved geometry, so it was a perfect fit. But a new “invention” had arrived – computers! Sister Gina became well acquainted with technology, and she took some of her high school students to use the computer facilities at Buena Vista College. In 1986 she earned a master’s degree in computer science at the University of Oregon.

The biggest “plus” of Storm Lake was that she loved the lake! She thought of Iowa as pretty “land-locked,” so the lake in the south part of the city gave her the opportunity to enjoy nature as she loved to do. And it was, again, a place of reflection and prayer for her. After four years, however, Sister Gina went to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to teach at St. Edmond High School where she taught math and computer programming. Subsequently Sister Gina moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she taught at Regis High School and, after three years, she began doctoral study at the University of Iowa, where she also had an assistantship.

The next part of her journey took her to the “other” coast, where, for the next 18 years, she taught math and statistics at Northern Kentucky University. Still filled with energy, Sister Gina began to supervise student teachers of math at Pennsylvania State University in August of 2013. “It seems like the perfect way to round off my career, because I love working with student teachers, joining in their “excitement and energy for teaching,” states Sister.

Having also worked with student teachers at the Northern Kentucky University, Sister Gina remarks, “Pennsylvania State University is even better because now my whole focus is on working

with the student teachers, and I love that!” She slyly adds, “There are also fewer meetings and no pressure for research!” However, she has done her share of that over the years, writing articles for various math journals, and giving presentations at math conferences, which have also been published in the conference proceedings.

Sister Gina was brought up in a faith-filled family. When she was still in Modesto, she used to go to a center to make a retreat “to develop my own spiritual life. That’s why I loved my canonical year so much, because it put a clear focus on the spiritual life.”

She sees her teaching as a real ministry, the service aspect of being a Christian and a woman religious. And she is grateful for community. “The on-going support of the sisters is sheer gift. Many people juggle a lot and don’t have all that support.” But Sister Gina does her share of juggling, staying active in community through membership in various committees and as a member of the Hennessy Trust Board, all of which involve meeting with Presentation Sisters, associates and employees. Still she keeps in touch with family and friends on the “other” coast, and visits there whenever she can.

Although she loves hiking, snow skiing, all of nature, her greatest love is to ride the hills and vales which a roller coaster provides! “It’s the closest you can get to flying,” chuckles Sister Gina. The next time you see a roller coaster, look up to see the “Flying” Nun! She is, to put it mildly, the most rounded and amazing person you will ever meet!

All Souls Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2015

*Father of all, we pray to you for those we love,
but see no longer: Grant them your peace;
let perpetual light shine upon them;
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power,
work in them the good purpose of your perfect will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Throughout the month of November, the Sisters of the Presentation will commemorate the faithful departed. Remembrance cards will be sent in early October. You are encouraged to return a card with the dates of those you mourn, and the sisters will remember them in daily prayer.

You can also submit your intentions to Karen Tuecke at partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org with the following information for each loved one:

Name of Loved One _____

Relationship _____

Date of Death _____



Community Days is an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Pictured left to right: Sisters Lou Cota, Mary Jo Leifker, Richelle Friedman and Partners for Mission Coordinator, Karen Tuecke; Sisters Annette Kestel, Raeleen Sweeney and Rita Cameron; Sisters Jeanine Kuhn, Ann Jackson and Carrie Link; and Sister Diana Blong and Joan Brincks.

Associates valued their time together to pray, share and reflect on an article on lay association. They shared their calls to follow the Gospel in the spirit of Nano, the challenges of balancing family life, work and their commitments. Service to the poor and meeting the needs of others is a gift they share as they dream the future of their special gift of partnership.

Impelled by the Legacy of Nano Nagle... Community Gathering

by DIANA BLONG, PBVM

Presentation Sisters, associates and employees envisioned possibilities for the future as they assembled in Presentation Center beneath an illuminated reproduction of the spiraling “Rose of the Galaxy Nebula,” captured by the Hubble Wide Field Camera 3.

The fiery, starry spiral image invited those gathered to enter into ever-widening circles of reflection in communal discernment through contemplative silence and engaging conversation. Process facilitator, Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, challenged participants to engage one another in the ongoing unfolding of God’s dream for the whole community, and all affected by it.

“Sacred sharings” by both sisters and associates inspired those at tables to share their own stories. Refrains of songs by Kathy Sherman, CSJ, echoed throughout the daily prayer rituals and in the introductions to each Emerging Circle’s group presentation.

This ONE Story

*In this ONE story is all our stories
full of promise and possibility!
In this ONE story that we are learning
is hope for finding our true identity!*

Come to the Circle

*Come to the circle and tell your story.
Listen and share the world inside you.
Come to the circle, your friends are waiting
to listen and share their stories, too.*

The theme of this year’s community gathering, “Impelled by the Legacy of Nano Nagle,” prompted a series of questions calling forth a deeper consciousness of Presentation heritage and implications for the present and future:

“*What did you do when you knew, Nano?*” highlighted Nano’s life story as she grew in awareness of her call to respond to the needs of her times and her congregation.

“*What did we do when we knew?*” recounted the life of the early community in Ireland, Mother Vincent Hennessy’s mission to Iowa, the development of the Dubuque foundation, the extensive adaptations in light of the signs of the times and the expansion of relationships and partnerships.

“*What do we do? What will we do?*” called forth representatives of each of the Emerging Circles to present their progress and to invite ongoing conversation.

Emerging Circles

The Emerging Circles groups are designed to self-organize around the passions of the Presentation community that expand and embody the directional statement.

The Collaborative Leadership Circle offered insights on leadership and raised questions for communal listening at tables, followed by large group sharing. The Initial Formation Circle hosted a panel of three sisters who are active in “Giving Voice,” a group of

newer members of various religious communities, to share their perspectives on living religious life today.

The Futuring/Configuration Circle presented the collated responses of the values and strengths that would move the community forward as a Dubuque Presentation entity or that would move to a consideration of other possibilities. Sister Kathy clarified the meanings of “viability,” “sustainability” and “vitality.” Each table then engaged its creative imagination in portraying what it would look like in five years to move forward as a Dubuque Presentation entity.

The image of “threshold” informed the work of the Stewardship, Property and Sustainability Circle. Ways of making the Presentation motherhouse a “home,” awareness of environmental concerns and the need for strategic planning for the future were offered. Three models of discernment processes for congregational leadership guided the small and large group sharing directed by the Election Process Circle.

The Partners in Mission/A Thousand Welcomes Circle expanded its title to more faithfully reflect its focus. Energized by a variety of partnering stories, all were encouraged to pursue partnerships in places where they live and minister.

The Spiraling Mission Emerging Circle expanded the desire of Nano, “If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the world, I would gladly do all in my power,” by focusing on these present-day issues: ecology, women and children, immigration and human trafficking.

Added Gift of Time for Engaging

Extending the length of community days this year created an opportunity for special morning gatherings on Friday. The sisters considered their resources for mission in light of Nano’s injunction to “spend yourself for the poor,” and affirmed their “desire to move into the future as the Dubuque Presentation entity.”

Employees enjoyed a morning of learning to deepen their understanding of the community directional statement as it relates to them and the meaning of evolutionary consciousness. Sisters Rita Cameron and Margaret Ann Kramer told their personal vocation stories to the group. Following Sister Emilie Bormann’s explanation of the labyrinth, employees were led on this spiritual path, allowing them time for reflection on their own personal and inner journeys.

While most evenings were free for socializing, one evening included short presentations:

- Highlights of the “RUAH” renewal experience in Ireland that traced key moments in the life of Nano Nagle by Sisters Corine Murray, Sharon Kelchen and Jessi Beck.
- An overview of the vision, projections and opportunities for partnering with Hotel Hope in New Orleans by Sisters Mary Lou Specha and Julie Marsh.

Saturday morning found the Emerging Circles groups in locations throughout the building as they reviewed what happened as each particular circle engaged the large community. Each circle considered its next turn on the spiral and the questions that will draw it forward. These circle offerings opened the process and co-missioning ritual, which was celebrated with expressions of gratitude, reflective readings, blessings and song urging further exploration of “this ONE story.”

“So listen well and open up your hearts. It’s time for us to make a brand new start. Earth is waiting to see what humans will choose.”

Energized and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, sisters, associates, employees and Presentation partners together went forth, aware that, like the poem, “Beyond,” by Sister Raphael Consedine, PBVM:

*“The spiraling energies of God defy containment!
The Spirit sweeps aside our fragile windbreak,
and with a shout summons us beyond.”*

Ten Presentation Sisters Celebrate Jubilee

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Coming together to reflect on the Word, to break bread and to socialize has long characterized Presentation festivities. Celebrating 75, 60 and 50 years of religious life, 10 Dubuque Presentation jubilarians led the gathering of sisters, associates and employees during their annual community gathering on July 14-15 at the Presentation motherhouse. An evening social, a Liturgy of the Eucharist, renewal of vows and a brunch with the community marked the occasion.

The theme for the jubilee was “Impelled by the Legacy of Nano Nagle,” as expressed in the 2012 congregational directional statement and reflected in the combined lives and ministries of the jubilarians. Like their foundress Nano Nagle, they have been teachers and leaders with the young and old, have worked among those made poor and disenfranchised and have been present to the sick and elderly. They have walked spiritual journeys with many and committed to hold others in prayer. For a total of 615 years the 10 celebrants have continued to be on fire with the mission of Jesus in the spirit of Nano.

75-Year Jubilarians

Sisters Mary William Allen and Anne Marie Kollasch began religious life in 1940 and professed final vows in 1946. Sister Mary Linus Coyle entered in 1940 and professed final vows in 1947. All three sisters have served in Catholic schools and parishes throughout the Midwest and one in Central America and Eastern Europe, following in Nano’s footsteps to bring her light to children and families.

Sister Mary William Allen, a native of Clare, Iowa, served as a teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Charles City, Dubuque, Elkader, Epworth, Humboldt, Sheldon, Storm Lake and Whitemore, all in Iowa; Oak Lawn, Illinois; and Winner, South Dakota, also serving as principal in Monona, Iowa. She served as motherhouse coordinator from 1955-1961. Sister began community prayer and service at the motherhouse in 1987.

“As I celebrate these years of religious life, I am reminded of God’s goodness to me and the opportunity of 75 years of service to community and God’s people,” states Sister William. Summarizing it in a favorite saying, she shares: “Happy Moments: Praise God. Difficult Moments: Seek God. Quiet Moments: Worship God. Painful Moments: Trust God. Every Moment: Thank God.”

Sister Mary Linus Coyle, originally from Cross Plains, Wisconsin, served as a teacher, principal and computer lab coordinator in Catholic schools in Chicago, Illinois; Keyesville, Lancaster and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Yazoo City, Mississippi; Moravia, Costa Rica; Charles City, Dubuque, Epworth and Mason City, Iowa; and St. Paul, Minnesota. She also served in many summer catechetical programs throughout her teaching career. Sister Linus retired to community prayer and service in 2001.

“I thank God for all the blessings of family, friends and my sisters in community whose lives have continually portrayed Christ’s love and presence in our world,” says Sister Linus. “I entrust all to the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Gratitude, praise and humility echo and resound in my heart as memories flip the pages of a life lived in dedication to God for over 75 years.”

Left to right: Sisters Anne Marie Kollasch, Linus Coyle and William Allen celebrate 75 years of religious life. Sisters Maura McCarthy, Francine Quillin, Carmelle Westemeier and Lou Cota celebrate 60 years of religious life.



Sister Anne Marie Kollasch, a native of Whitemore, Iowa, served as a teacher in Catholic elementary and junior high schools in Charles City, Dubuque, Mason City and Waukon, Iowa. For 15 of her 46 years as a teacher she was a certified reading specialist in a federally-funded reading program in Algona, Iowa. For two years she served in parish ministry in Algona, leading scripture-sharing and visiting the sick and shut-ins in the hospital, care centers and private homes. She began community prayer and service at the motherhouse in 1993.

“In celebrating jubilee I give thanks for the hundredfold which Christ promised and has lavished upon me through the years spent in religious life,” states Sister Anne Marie. “I am grateful for the support of my family, friends and religious community who have accompanied me on my pilgrimage as a devoted daughter of our Blessed Mother and our foundress, Nano Nagle.”

60-Year Jubilarians

Sisters Mary Lou Cota, Maura McCarthy, Francine Quillin and Carmelle Westemeier entered the Presentation community in 1955 and professed final vows in 1963. All four sisters have served in Catholic schools and parishes or in food service and nursing assistance throughout Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. One has worked among Latinos and indigenous peoples in Latin America. Each has answered a call to follow the winding lanes and to carry Nano’s lantern where they otherwise might not have dared to go.

Sister Mary Lou Cota, originally from Harpers Ferry, Iowa, has served as teacher in Catholic schools in Ryan, Lawler (where she also served as principal), Farley and Dubuque, Iowa. Since 1983 she has been teaching at St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois. This fall Sister Lou became a staff member of Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy, a merger of St. Dorothy and St. Columbanus Schools.

“My heart is filled with gratitude for being part of the lives of so many people, places and cultures. God became so visible in the many faces, events, occasions and locations during these 60 years,” Sister Lou reflects. “We can learn and appreciate much when we focus on cultural and religious similarities rather than on differences.”

Sister Maura McCarthy, a native of Hanover, Iowa, north of Waukon, taught for 17 years in Catholic schools in Osage and Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; and St. Paul, Minnesota. She served as a missionary first in Entre Rios, Bolivia, for 10 years. Later, with an international solidarity team cooperating with the Guarani People’s Assembly in Timboy, Bolivia, she engaged in promotion and liberation of Guarani Indians for 23 years. In 2010-2012, she walked with Hispanics in Wahneta, Florida, attended a sabbatical program in San Antonio, Texas, and participated in an internship at the United Nations. Currently Sister Maura is associate director of La Luz Hispana, a center of hospitality and education for Hispanics in Hampton, Iowa.

“The jubilee represents a time of celebration in gratitude: a time to give thanks to God, parents and family, to friends and community and to all of creation,” reflects Sister Maura. “I experience a strong sense of the giftedness and grandeur of the life that has mysteriously chosen me. I am so grateful for my companions on this journey of life.”

Sister Mary Francine Quillin, originally from Waukon, Iowa, has served in education as a junior high teacher in Catholic schools in Osage, Iowa; Oregon, Illinois, where she also served as principal; as theology instructor at Loras College and Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa; in religious formation and congregational administration for the Sisters of the Presentation; as director of the Tribunal at the Archdiocese of Dubuque and as pastoral associate at the Church of the Resurrection in Dubuque. Presently she serves in volunteer pastoral ministry for the Church of the Resurrection.

In reflecting on her religious vocation Sister Francine states, “My interest in becoming a sister was fostered by the faith life of my parents and by the example of the Presentation Sisters who taught me through grade and high school. I am grateful to them and to all who have encouraged me through these years. The strength of the community and the example of dedicated lay people have increased that gratitude and called forth from me the desire to live ever more fully the charism of Nano.”

Sister Mary Carmelle Westemeier, was born in Cascade, Iowa, and is formerly of Elkader, Iowa. She began a food service career for the Presentation Sisters in 1955-1958 during her formation years and in the mid-1960s became food service director at Mount Loretto. By the early 1990s she served in food service at Marion Home in Fort Dodge, Iowa; she also served in home health care and as a nursing assistant. Sister Carmelle retired to community prayer and service at the motherhouse in 2005.

“The meaning of my vocation as a Presentation Sister has been to live a life of prayer and service,” comments Sister Carmelle. “We need to be real and make a difference – in education, food pantries, ministry to those made poor and marginalized. Now I pray for those in active ministry. At this time in my life, I am thankful for and remember the good years.”

50-Year Jubilarians

Sisters Lynn Marie Fangman, Marjorie Healy and Jennifer Rausch entered the Presentation community in 1965 and professed final vows in 1972. All three sisters have served in Catholic schools and parishes in Iowa and have engaged in global Presentation networking. One has been a missionary in Central and South America and one has served in Ireland.

Sister Lynn Marie Fangman, originally from Dubuque, Iowa, has served as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Algona, Sheldon and Dubuque, Iowa; as an associate director for the Office of Education for the Archdiocese of Dubuque; and as treasurer and personnel director for the Sisters of the Presentation. Currently she is general treasurer for the Sisters of the Presentation and director of stewardship for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

“Jubilee is a time to look back in great appreciation and thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings of 50 years,” states Sister Lynn Marie. “For me, to follow the call to live in the spirit of our foundress Nano Nagle is a call to live the Gospel in a spirit of joy and hospitality – a call to do so in unity with others of like intention and calling. I can't think of a better way to have spent the past 50 years!”

Sister Marjorie (Marge) Healy, originally from Farley, Iowa, taught in Catholic high schools in Algona and Waterloo, Iowa; served as a missionary and pastoral minister in Entre Ríos, Bolivia, and Chupol, Guatemala; served in formation ministry and as a member of the leadership team for the Sisters of the Presentation; and was special populations outreach worker for Mercy Medical Center in Mason City, Iowa. Currently she continues missionary work in Entre Ríos, Bolivia.

“Jubilee is a time to remember and cherish the people and events that enrich one's life journey,” comments Sister Marge.

Left to right: Sisters Jennifer Rausch, Lynn Marie Fangman and Marge Healy celebrate 50 years of religious life.



Jubilee is a time to look back in great appreciation and thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings.

Sister Lynn Marie Fangman

Jubilee is a time to remember and cherish the people and events that enrich one's life journey.

Sister Marge Healy

“I am awed and grateful to the wise people who, amidst poverty and injustice, have taught me strength, hope and love as we have journeyed together – laughing and crying, planning and regrouping as God's kin-dom unfolds.”

Sister Jennifer Rausch, was born in New Hampton, Iowa, and is formerly of Charles City, Iowa. Sister Jennifer has served as a junior high and high school teacher in Catholic schools in Cedar Falls and Waterloo, Iowa; as a director of religious education in Algona, Iowa, and Monticello, Minnesota; as associate vocation director for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, and for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa; as director of vocation recruitment at Saint Paul Seminary School of Theology; as a member of the leadership team and as congregational leader for the Sisters of the Presentation; as pastoral associate at Immaculate Conception Parish in Charles City, Iowa; and as director of the Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland. Currently she is coordinator of pastoral care at St. Therese Southwest in Hopkins, Minnesota.

“I am recalling with a grateful heart the blessings of the past 50 years as a Presentation Sister,” states Sister Jennifer. “These words of John O'Donohue reflect my experience: ‘Jubilee ... to recall each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.’”

Profession of Perpetual Vows Sister Jessi Beck

by MARILYN BREEN, PBVM

There was excitement in the air which could be felt throughout the Presentation community as family, friends and sisters gathered for the celebration of Sister Jessi Beck's profession of perpetual vows on August 1, 2015. Sister Jessi's faith journey began when she was brought to St. Gabriel Church by her parents, Art and Diane Beck, to be baptized and claimed as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jessi and her sister, Izzie, grew in age and grace surrounded by family and friends in Roland, Iowa. Little did anyone know then how Jessi would come to know and be inspired by an 18th century Irish woman named Nano Nagle.

Sister Jessi reflects, “As I celebrate this moment in religious life, I know this is where God has been leading me. I am inspired by the spirit of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, and her passion for the mission of Jesus – bringing light to those living in darkness.”

The story of Nano Nagle and her work with the poor of Cork, Ireland, was recalled as the Eucharistic celebration moved from dance to storytelling, song, scripture, prayer and ritual. The Gospel story of the widow who gave her few coins, reminded all present of Nano's life and all that she gave, and all gathered rejoiced with Sister Jessi as she proclaimed her desire to give all. Sister Joy Peterson, in her reflection for this day, reminded the congregation that “we are all asked to give our lives in love to be stretched until all we are able to give is out of the poverty of our lives.”

Sister Jessi's journey to this day included peer ministry experiences at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls, Iowa; praying with the Benedictine Sisters in Rock Island, Illinois; and volunteering with Amate House in Chicago, Illinois. More recent ministry experiences include teaching at St. Mary School in Manchester, Iowa, and Our Lady of Tepeyac in Chicago. In each of these experiences Sister Jessi has continued to be led by the voice of God nudging her to a commitment to those made poor.

Courage and hope are qualities needed today when a commitment to religious life is not chosen by many, yet Sister Jessi is hopeful. “I see a network of Nano's daughters with great treasures to offer the world through their life and work. I am energized going into the future knowing I walk with so many amazing people; my Dubuque Presentation family, Presentation people around the globe and a network of young sisters across the country. We all work for the common mission of making our world a more just and loving place.”

I am energized going into the future knowing I walk with so many amazing people; my Dubuque Presentation family, Presentation people around the globe and a network of young sisters across the country. We all work for the common mission of making our world a most just and loving place.

Sister Jessi Beck

Throughout the ages oil has been used to anoint those called to leadership bringing healing and blessing. As Pat Bergen, CSJ, anointed Sister Jessi, she prayed for the courage to be ready with a radiant smile and tender touch, to take one more step to reveal God's love. “Remember,” Sister Pat says, “you are a Presentation, a lantern of Nano's love in the world!”



We change the world by changing ourselves
 Acknowledge our differences
 Community Share gifts
 Oneness
 Living Gospel values
 Accountability
 Common purpose
 United
 Kindness
 Future full of hope
 Passing on Relationships
 Compassion Service Evolving
 Experience of belonging
 Fundamental choice
 Committed Emergent reality Transformation
 Stand outside the norm
 Charism
 Movement is young

Images, words and phrases surfaced in associates' reflection on the role and call of associates.

COMMUNITY DAYS 2015 Associate Gathering

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

It was a first for associates! While sisters and employees met in their own sessions, Dubuque Presentation associates gathered during Community Days 2015 for a morning to pray, share, reflect and dream the future of the Associate Partnership. "It was great to get to know other associates better, share our ideas and stories and talk about new possibilities to strengthen our mission as Presentation associates," notes Associate Laurie Noel.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to hear how each person felt called to be a part of this group," comments Associate Dianne McDermott. "It reminded me that the associate movement truly is a work of the spirit."

Offering a rhythm of prayerful silence and sharing, the morning included reflection on the role and call of associates as well as dreaming the future of the Associate Partnership.

As associates reflected on an article on lay association, many shared their assertion that associate life is a gift that is part of a larger call from God. The members of one small group put it this way: "We are called to something more as associates in following

While our future may offer new and different challenges, we will continue to listen to the Spirit and let Nano's light shine in our families, workplaces and communities.

Sue Murphy, Associate

Nano's example of loving and serving." Another group noted that associates are on a journey together and offer each other spiritual companionship as well as encouragement and witness in living Gospel lives. Still another group stated, "Our gifts are shared in many different ways. As associates, we use our gifts to respond to needs where we are – in our families, workplaces and the world."

Associate Carol Kane sums it up, "The associate session reinforced our sense of fundamental commitment to our charism and the community's movement forward in the fire of Nano's legacy. It reminded me to constantly choose to seek information and respond to the needs of our world in a real way, and to infuse my daily life and choices with spiritual purpose – the fire of Christ and Nano."



Left to right: Associates gather for a large group discussion during Community Days 2015; Associates Mary Lou Mauss, Colleen Vlasisavljevich and Janet Leonard converse during a break; Sister Joan Brincks and Associates Jane Nagy, Karen St. John and Mary Stanton share reflections.

The second segment of the session found associates reflecting and sharing on the question, "Where is our charism and mission leading us as we dream the future of the Associate Partnership?" The high energy of conversations produced a wide variety of responses and many questions. One group pondered, "What does changing the world by changing ourselves look like?" Another asked, "How will the Associate Partnership move forward as the number of sisters lessens?" Noting that while they had no definitive answer, they were sure of their grounding: "We will continue to go back to our foundress, Nano Nagle and our charism, to give service to the poor and meeting the needs of others."

Yet another group discussed the challenge of balancing family life, work and other commitments with their commitment as associates. Acknowledging that one person can do only so much, they considered the gift of association as a way of accomplishing much more by working together with sisters and other partners.

Dreaming about resource sharing and being bridges to connect those in need with resources was the focus of another group. They vowed to "carry forth the lantern light in our choices, actions and personal presence."

Reflecting on the spirit of the session, Associate Sister Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, notes, "I felt much energy and enthusiasm from this exchange of associates. Our small group sharing enabled irreplaceable interest and investment."

This commitment and passion will serve the Associate Partnership well as it continues to evolve. Associate Sue Murphy notes, "While our future may offer new and different challenges, we will continue to listen to the Spirit and let Nano's light shine in our families, workplaces and communities." Associates will do this in varied and unique ways. An anonymous comment offered by an associate on one of the session evaluations encapsulates this vision well: "May our ministry and 'association' become one in our lives!"

In Memory of Mary E. Hoyer

May 2, 1919 - August 19, 2015

Presentation Associate Mary Hoyer has shared her journey with the Dubuque Presentation community in many ways over the years beginning when Presentation Sisters at St. Mary School in Storm Lake, Iowa, taught her children. Mary's Presentation connections grew when her daughter, Sister Elena Hoyer joined the community in 1964 and her Presentation bond was deepened when she made her first commitment as a Presentation associate on September 23, 2000.



Mary and her husband Tom raised their family of five children with love and devotion. They were all the beneficiaries of her deep faith and compassion as were countless others. Over the years, in addition to her work as a nurse's aide, cook and administrative assistant, Mary served her church community faithfully as Eucharistic minister, RCIA sponsor and as a member of the Sursum Corda prayer group.

As noted in her obituary, Mary had an infectious smile, a deep-seated competitive streak in a game of cards and a love of her Irish heritage and Catholic faith that was unmatched. Mary loved to travel and the highlight of her travels was her visit to Ireland. Nano is surely among those loved ones who have welcomed Mary into eternity! The Presentation community remembers her with love and gratitude.

SISTER LOIS LEHMANN

A Presence of Christ

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

A familiar figure can be seen walking around the motherhouse grounds on almost any given day. While Sister Mary Lois Lehmann keeps her daily commitment to walking, she is also saying a rosary, praying for the needs of the world or enjoying the beauty of creation. “As long as I live, I will continue to walk ‘one pace beyond,’ with my Model T walker or my modern cane,” laughs Sister Lois with firm resolve.

In a 61-year journey of carrying Nano Nagle’s lantern in full-time ministry, Sister Lois walked many steps to spread the Good News spending 43 years as an elementary teacher and 18 years as a pastoral minister. “Like Nano I traveled many roads to serve God’s people in 12 Catholic schools and parishes in Iowa, South Dakota and Illinois. Teaching gave me a love for each child; I rejoiced at each one’s progress.”

Recalling a day while teaching first grade in Algona, Iowa, Sister Lois remembers the pastor asking what the children were doing in religion. The answer was “telling stories about Jesus.” Joey volunteered his version of the wedding of Cana. “Jesus and his friends went to a wedding and Mary heard the guys talking. She said to Jesus, ‘They have no whiskey. Do something.’”

“In pastoral ministry I became involved in the local community,” states Sister. Using her abilities to initiate a conversation and help folks be comfortable, she would introduce herself and let people know she was there for them and interested in what each person was doing. “I joined the Dayton Senior Citizens and the Women’s Club and visited three care centers,” she says. “To offer hospitality was always my goal – in sorrows, pain and joys. I participated in their activities and even danced with some residents, much to their delight.”

While assisting with Catholic liturgical preparation, music, religious education and bereavement for grieving families at wakes and funerals among the Catholic parishes of Dayton, Odgen and Boone, Iowa, Sister Lois was recognized for outstanding involvement, service and her ecumenical presence.

“I was ready to retire to Mount Loretto in 2008. In leisure time I play Triominos, Rummikub, Racco and Euchre. I enjoy visiting with Nagle Center sisters, just being with sisters and entering into many activities, enjoying a more leisurely life,” she continues. “Walking is a special healthy pastime. My room displays many of my art projects which I also like to share with family and friends.”

Well known as a conversationalist and storyteller, at the same time Sister Lois has found a challenge within retirement ministry. “I still long to go out daily to visit the elderly and lonely in the parishes and be a care review advocate for residents in care centers. I miss visiting people in their homes to share some of my treats or garden products. Realizing my limitations, however, I know that living the life of this community is exactly the place I need to be now.”



Sister adds, “To be faithful to daily prayer and able to spend extra time in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament gives me strength to continue my journey with the Lord.”

Sister Lois truly feels that she is making a difference for others at this time in her life. “Although my ministry is more limited, I am still able to encourage, affirm and be an example of faithfulness to prayer and to my vocation as a follower of Nano and keep her lantern burning brightly,” she states. “And I know that I continue sharing Nano’s charism.”

Travel with friends, family and community has been part of Sister Lois’s experiences. Over the years she has visited Bolivia; Guatemala; Mexico City; Lima, Peru; the Holy Land; Rome and Assisi, Italy; Germany; France and Ireland.

Sister Lois’s hobbies include playing the guitar, doing puzzles, playing cards and exploring her gifts in art class. “A special interest is keeping the family history up-to-date with many new members each year,” she shares. “I now have 78 grandnieces and nephews and 53 great grandnieces and nephews – with more on the way.”

Reflecting on her life at 90 years, she says, “I am grateful for my faith, family and Presentation community. I have a deep gratitude for the many people with whom I journeyed over the years. I pray that I helped spread the Gospel message by sowing seeds of love, joy, hospitality, generosity and peace.”

Sister Lois is happily engaged in community prayer and service with a deep appreciation that she has been able to walk with others. “I was able to be a visible presence of Christ and the Church, to bring the consolation of prayer to the dying and to minister to people of all faiths,” she states as she continues walking her journey.

Be Sustainable, Go Paperless

Online giving offers supporters a flexible, paperless way to contribute to the Sisters of the Presentation. You can make a one-time or monthly donation by visiting the Presentation website and clicking the Donate Now tab. Many partners use this secure option to make their gifts.

In an effort to be sustainable, more than half of all charitable gifts are made online to support not-for-profit agencies. Join an ever-growing number of partners managing their contributions online. Donate Now is convenient and easy for an ever growing community of Presentation Sisters, partners, employees and associates, near and far.

To make your gift, visit:
www.dubuquepresentations.org
 or call the Partners in Mission Office
 at 563.588.2008 ext. 105

DONATE NOW



DUBUQUE'S got SISTERS

Discernment Weekend November 13-14, 2015

You are invited to quiet, to prayer and to learn how you might experience God’s truth within you. Join us for a day, or two, of input and reflection.

Location:

Mount Carmel Motherhouse
 1150 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA



To register or for information:
 Sr. Kathy Carr, BVM
 at kcarr@bvmcong.org
 563-588-2351 ext. 5133.
 Register by
 Monday, November 2

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.

Remembering Osage, Iowa

1947-1985; 1987-2001

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM



Sacred Heart Convent in Osage, Iowa, in the Fall of 1947

“In the name of the parish ... especially on behalf of two generations of Sacred Heart families, we publicly express our gratitude to the Presentation community and to all the individual sisters who have served ... at Sacred Heart.” (Father Leon Connolly, parish bulletin, 1985) These comments recognized the 58 Presentation Sisters who ministered in Osage, Iowa, in the catechetical school, Sacred Heart Grade School, and in parish ministry.

Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1878, with the appointment of Reverend James Saunders as the first resident pastor. When the first church, built in 1879, burned in 1928, the result of a chimney fire, Mass was held in the Osage Theater until a new brick structure was completed.

The year 1947 saw the beginnings of a catechetical program under the direction of Presentation Sisters Mary Damian O'Brien, Jeanne Marie Chute and Columba Offerman. The sisters began classes in the convent, the church basement, and the bank building, with music lessons in the convent after school. Students were released from the public school for religion classes two times per week. The sisters taught in Osage, Mitchell, Riceville, St. Ansgar and Orchard for pre-school through high school youth.

According to the Parish Directory published in 1973, “The church expected an arrangement for the building of a convent school to be completed in the spring of 1889.” A school building was eventually completed in 1955 and was used for released time religion classes for two years. Over the years, the parish has seen 15 women enter religious life and six men become priests or religious brothers.

In 1957 Sacred Heart School began operation with a full curriculum of studies for 96 students in grades 1-4; one grade was added each year until 1961 when grade 8 was reached. The first sisters to staff the school were Sisters Mary Dorothy McCormick, Annette Skyles, Roger (Dolores) Moes and Joseph Marie (Marie) Barth. Sister Dorothy applauded the pastor, Father Thomas J. Conroy, for his generous assistance in helping to supply whatever the sisters needed.

The erection of a gymnasium in 1966 came from a recommendation by the State Department of Education that a

full physical education program be implemented. Conroy Hall became a center for parish and school activities. In 1967 grades 7-8 were admitted to shared time classes, with the opportunity for students to take typing, home economics and shop at the public school. A learning center was added in 1969.

By 1985, due to the shortage of sisters, the Presentation community withdrew from Sacred Heart School. Classes continued under the direction of a lay principal and staff until the spring of 2012. At that time the local school board made the decision to close, “after concerns of low enrollment and continuing financial woes became apparent ... According to school and parish officials, Sacred Heart School has always been known for its spirit of service and community.” (*The Witness*, April 15, 2012)

At an all-school reunion in 2002, the most frequent comments from students cited the great lunches, especially the pizza made by Theresa Waters. Others expressed appreciation for the opportunities to help prepare for and participate in school Masses, “always a wonderful experience.” The science fair in Des Moines got several mentions, as did “getting chicken pox from my 1st and 2nd grade teacher!” Music and band experiences were fond memories for many.

Sister Francine Quillin recalled Father Conroy's concern “that the sisters did what they were supposed to do, because he liked having the younger sisters there ... he used to call if we had clothes out on the line and it started raining. And he would make sure we were in by 9:00 p.m. One time a priest was visiting Sister Dorothy, and at 9:00 p.m. Father Conroy called the convent to tell the priest to leave because the sisters were supposed to begin silence at that time!”

Sister Marilou Irons recalled the enjoyable family Halloween parties, especially the family that came dressed as Smurfs, blue hair and all. Several teachers and students alike mentioned roller skating in the new gym before the tile floor went in. When an addition was made to the convent, the workers on the other side of a plastic sheet could be heard making comments which Sisters Dolores Moes and Marie Barth surmised were intended to be heard by the sisters as they ate their supper.



Sister Jeanne Marie Chute



Sister Damian O'Brien



Sister Columba Offerman

Presentation Sisters returned to Osage in the person of Sister Mary Rosanne Rottinghaus, who served in parish ministry from 1987-2001. She worked with the Renew program, with married couples and with religion classes. Planning for and providing liturgical music and visiting the elderly in their homes meant a full schedule for her. Sister Rosanne says, “I enjoyed the cooperation and spirit of the people in the parish. I am grateful for the friendships made there during those years.” Sister Rosanne retired in 2001, ending Presentation involvement in the parish.

A Benefit to Support Charitable Ministries Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 17
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa
Lakeside Door Entrance

Call Sister Dolores Zieser at 563-588-2008
for more information.

Human Resources Coordinator

In March 2015, Nicole Baumgartner accepted the position of Human Resources Coordinator. Nicole has acclimated herself to the position and culture by cultivating relationships with Presentation Sisters, employees and associates.



“Advocating for a fair and peaceful workplace is of utmost importance in my role. I believe work should be a nourishing life experience not just a job. I love to bring a sense of joy into every day.”

Prior to accepting this position, Nicole worked in the publishing industry for just under 20 years. Nicole chose this role for the opportunity to assist in the development of Presentation employees and organization and to play a part in influencing strategic business decisions by using her knowledge of experiences, law and ethics. She is also deeply committed to understanding and participating in the mission and ministry of the Presentation community.

Faith is extremely important to Nicole. “I know that I have been called to serve others, this position allows me to bring that aspect of service into my everyday work life and encourage those around me in their roles.”

Nicole was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa. She and her husband, Max, have two children, Emilee, 15, a sophomore at Senior High School and Noah, 11, a fifth grader at Hoover Elementary. They are active parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish in Dubuque. Nicole and Max are second grade religious education catechists, serve on several parish committees and actively participate in Christian Experience and Marriage Encounter weekends. Emilee and Noah are active in the parish and their respective schools, as well. Nicole is continuing her education by taking evening classes through the University of Dubuque LIFE program.

“I'm excited about the opportunity to serve the community and staff in my new role and am looking forward to a rewarding future at the Sisters of the Presentation,” states Nicole.

AN IRELAND PILGRIMAGE

RUAH ~ Spirit

Reflection by SHARON KELCHEN, PBVM and CORINE MURRAY, PBVM

Sisters Corine Murray, Jessi Beck and Sharon Kelchen participated in the RUAH 2015 Program in Ireland entitled, “Come to the Edge.” RUAH is a Hebrew word that means “spirit.” For two weeks in June, Presentations Sisters, Presentation Brothers, Christian Brothers of Ireland, associates, co-workers and friends from 14 countries went on a pilgrimage to holy places steeped in tradition, culture and spirituality. The experience created a holy time for these pilgrims to listen, pray, visit, share stories, gain insights and expand their vision for what could yet be. They reflected on the lives of Venerable Nano Nagle (1718-1784), foundress of the Presentation Sisters, and Blessed Edmund Rice (1762-1844), founder of the Presentation Brothers and Christian Brothers of Ireland.

“My heart is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be with this global community in the places where Nano grew up and ministered. There was and continues to be a deep sense of connection and unity in the diversity of the group that is hard to capture in words,” shares Sister Jessi.

Margaret Silf, renowned author and spiritual director, led the retreat in Galway, a city on the edge of western Ireland. She facilitated inner journeying through her input, marvelous stories and seasoned wisdom. Margaret invited the group to explore new possibilities and utilized the lives of Nano and Edmund as the lens for deep seeing. The sharing times were wonderful. The opportunity to see how the charisms of Nano and Edmund continue to touch and change lives on five continents was so meaningful.

Nano and Edmund never actually met, but they knew firsthand the terrible suffering of Catholics during the harsh Penal times that began in the 1690s. During the following century Catholics lost 95 percent of their land. To survive, they were forced underground. Priests caught celebrating mass were shot. Children were denied the opportunity to go to school. Hard times indeed!

Edmund was very impressed with the Presentation Sisters’ work to educate girls. As a man of great means, he was challenged to do the same for the boys. He accepted that challenge. Years later, Edmund and the first men who joined his Presentation Brothers’ community professed their vows in the Presentation convent in Waterford, the convent he built for the sisters. In the midst of terrible suffering and at personal risk both Edmund and Nano founded religious communities to continue their work.

The stories of these two individuals came to life in creative displays and in the holy ground of Ballygriffin, Cork, Callan,



Nano’s Choice
Privilege and poverty
met at the crossroads
of her own great heart.
With trust in God
and fire for the doing,
Nano chose love.

Corine Murray, PBVM

Left to right: Top photo: Sisters Corine Murray, Jessi Beck and Sharon Kelchen visit Ballygriffin, the birthplace of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress. Middle photo: Participants of the 2015 RUAH Program. Bottom photo: Sister Jessi Beck visits the ruins of a monastery with other RUAH participants who are preparing for final vows, together representing three continents.

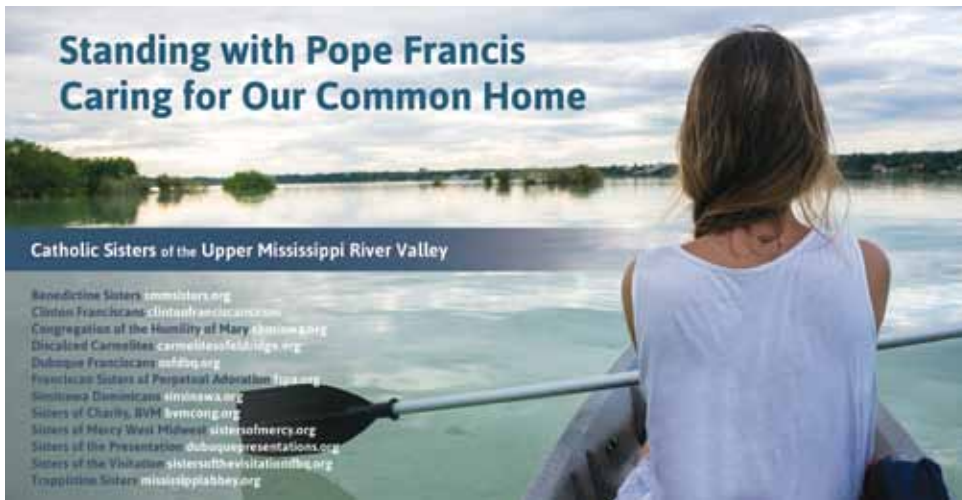
Galway and Waterford. Visits to their birthplaces and their special projects spoke so clearly about two people whose God was not confined. Nano and Edmund faced so many difficulties in a country where most lived in extreme poverty. Looking not down but beyond the edge, they had a vision of what could be and courage to make it happen.

“They were open to change and left a legacy of courage and strength for the creation of a ‘new morning’ within God’s dream for each of us,” offered Sister Sharon. “As we move forward, we need to keep these questions before us: Where are we? What time is it?”

The cries of the poor ring around the world. The needs are many. “Especially at this time,” comments Sister Corine, “may the witness of Venerable Nano and Blessed Edmund continue to challenge and inspire others.”

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Happy Retirement Darlene Richard

The Sisters of the Presentation honor Darlene Richard, who retired this summer as their receptionist. For 13 years, Darlene was a friendly face that greeted sisters, guests and employees at the front door. Always ready with a smile and a chat, Darlene faithfully fulfilled her role as receptionist.

Sister Anne McCormick, fellow receptionist, knows this about Darlene, "To me, Darlene was always a perfect example of hospitality. Every one that entered Mount Loretto was greeted with a smile that said, 'I'm happy to see you.' That person might be someone here on business, pleasure or perhaps one of the sisters who live here. I could use many words to describe Darlene, but happy and helpful would be at the top of the list."



Darlene Richard with Jean Lange

"One of the things I will remember most about Darlene is the depth of her gratitude for her job. She told me of the difficulty she faced when her husband passed away and how her job as receptionist for the Presentation Sisters saved her by providing her a place to go where she was surrounded by love, friendship and support," comments Jean Lange, house coordinator. Her repayment was to strive to share that same love, support and friendship in greeting those who entered the Mount Loretto building. The Presentation community will miss Darlene's young heart and friendly smile at the front door.

You are invited to join us.

September 28, 2015

October 26, 2015

Centering Prayer

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

October 17, 2015

Arts & Crafts Boutique & Bake Sale

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

November 13-14, 2015

Dubuque's Got Sisters

Discernment Weekend

Sisters of Charity, Mount Carmel

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.

November 13, 2015

Foundation Day, 1874

Presentation Lantern Center

Established in 2002, Dubuque

November 21, 2015

Presentation Day

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

Please help us keep our database up-to-date.
Please change this label and send it back to
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at
info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

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

Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



The **Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America** held their annual meeting at Presentation motherhouse on July 23-27 in Dubuque, Iowa. The conference is comprised of the leadership teams of the seven Presentation congregations in North America: Union of Presentation Sisters, Newfoundland-Labrador Province; San Francisco, California; Aberdeen, South 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.

Ministry Updates



1 Sister Marilyn Breen, Claret Center, Internship for Spiritual Direction, Chicago, Illinois



2 Sister Lou Cota, Teacher, Augustus Tolton Academy, Chicago, Illinois



3 Sister Janet Goetz, Parish/School Volunteer, Algona, Iowa



4 Sister Marilou Irons, Principal, St. Thomas Aquinas School, Webster City, Iowa



5 Sister Annette Kestel, Pastoral Associate, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Hiawatha, Iowa and Formation Coordinator, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



6 Sister Mary Therese Krueger, Physical Therapy, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, Illinois



7 Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch, Catholic Worker Community, Knoxville, Tennessee



8 Sister Janet Stelken, Volunteer Ministry to the Elderly, St. James Parish, Chicago, Illinois