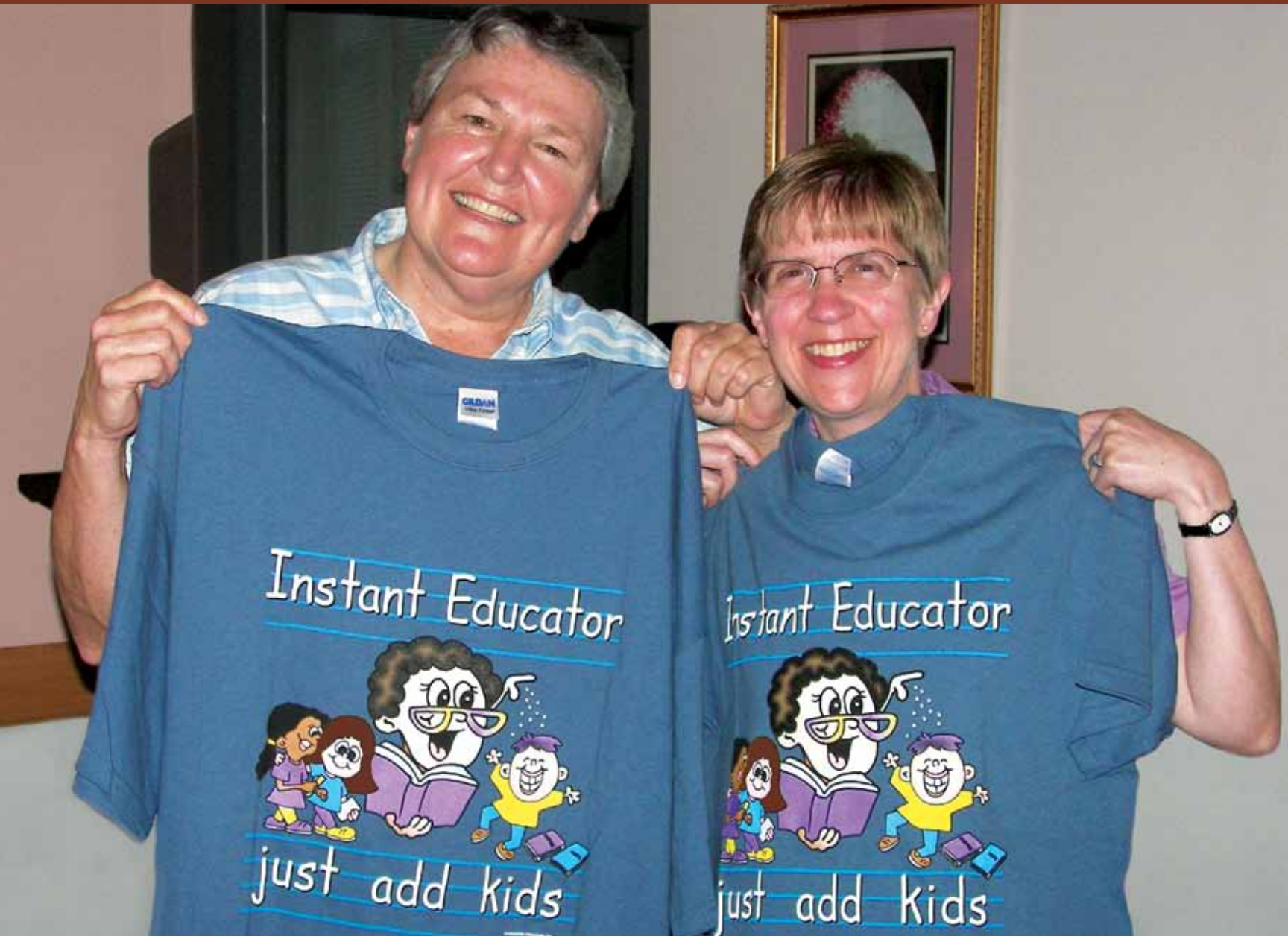




PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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. You may submit the following to:

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Cover PHOTO

Sisters Suzanne Takes and Joan Brincks admire the t-shirts Sister Joan will use in her classroom this year.

Photo by Barbara Ressler

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant moments 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.

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by BETH DRISCOLL, PBVM

“To be with others in their moments of great joy or suffering is a privilege. It is the way we touch others at the most intimate – the most mystical – points of their lives, the points at which the action of God is most palpable. At any given moment in a community, one or more of us is experiencing this ‘moment of truth.’ To be with others – to support, accept and love them – in these moments is the meaning of community itself.” *Seasons of Grace; Mother Gail Fitzpatrick, OCSO*

In recent months I have had the privilege of witnessing God’s palpable action, not from the mountain, desert or seashore...but from the unlikely place of a piano bench.

From my place on the bench, I had the honor of providing music for my niece Jill’s wedding. To witness the joy of family and friends who gathered at this wedding was indeed a moment of grace. There was one group of guests, in particular, who caught my attention. Moments before the ceremony began, I noticed them smiling and waving at my sister and brother-in-law (mother and father of the bride) when they first spotted them in the church. There they sat, together, this group of loyal friends, offering their presence and support to my sister and her husband, as they had offered it for more than 25 years. Companions on the journey – sharing the good times along with the bad, raising children together, enjoying one another’s company, being committed to serving others and living with grateful hearts. Having been nurtured in a family of faith and friendship, Jill and Bruce didn’t surprise anyone when they chose Colossians as one of the readings for their wedding. “As God’s chosen ones, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive each other, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” *Colossians 3:12-16*

From my place on the bench, as I played soft piano music in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto, I observed one of our sisters making her way up the middle aisle. Slowly, steadily and with the aid of a walker, she reached the casket, where the body of her friend lay. I imagined the memories she held in her heart of the two of them growing up together, attending the same parish school, entering the Sisters of the Presentation in 1935, dedicating their lives to serving the mission of Jesus. She paused and gazed lovingly at her friend before returning to her place among the sisters. Together they sang, “Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling.” Their faces reflected faithfulness, faithfulness to living “caritas,” the motto of our congregation. “Each member embraces every other member as her sister in Christ, cherishes her with the warmth of a loving heart, willingly stands in her shoes, carries her burden, is glad for her as for herself and remembers her in prayer.” *Constitutions of the Sisters of the Presentation*

Whether it be at home, in a parish, a workplace or a neighborhood, we can all foster community. How do you respond to this invitation?



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



Clockwise: Sister Pierre Kollasch trays up some goodies for dessert. Sister Concepta Joseph Milinski has a steady hand making Sacred Heart badges for new mothers. Sister Bernard Mauss works diligently shredding papers from the finance office.

Continuing the Mission

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

Our mission statement includes the phrase “incarnating the hospitality of God.” One dictionary definition of being hospitable is “being favorable to life and growth” – what better way to incarnate the hospitality of God.

The sisters at Mount Loretto are rich examples of being favorable to life and growth – sisters who continue to make a difference in the lives of many. These sisters are in what Marc Freedman, in his book *Prime Time*, terms their “encore years” – a time to expand opportunities and options, not obligations.

Many sisters expand their opportunities and options to groups beyond Mount Loretto. Sister René Laubenthal volunteers at the Dubuque Rescue Mission. She, along with Sisters James Marie Gross and Dolores Moes, also tutor at Presentation Lantern Center, our community-sponsored project that offers hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children who are striving to better their lives.

Sister Louise Scieszinski mentors new principals in the diocese of Sioux City; Sister Donna Determan helps with a local religious education program; Sister Anne McCormick does substitute teaching; and Sister Roberta Burke sorts stamps to be redeemed for our underfunded ministries. In addition to the above, many sisters are involved in letter writing on civic issues, respect life and peace activities and tutoring individual students.

Some sisters have decided to expand their opportunities and options by serving among those with whom they live. Coming in the front door, you might see Sister Francesca Presseller at the reception desk greeting you with a ready smile of welcome.

As you leave the entrance area you would notice the feminine touch of ribbons and bows decorating our community symbol, the lantern – a display seasonally changed by Sister Eugene Goss. If you meander to the kitchen, you would find Sister Pierre Kollasch creating a delightful noon dessert or Sister Deborah Paige bringing in fresh vegetables from the garden. In the dining room you would notice the colorful centerpieces supplied by Sisters Anthony and Rosanne Rottinghaus. On the way you might have stopped in the gift shop aptly run by Sister Annette Skyles. Among the items for sale you would see baskets hand-woven by Sister Dolores Zieser, art designs by Sister Marie Barth, photography by Sister Kay Cota and other items and cards made by a variety of our sisters.

Next to the gift shop is the library where you would find Sister Kevin Cummings researching interesting items on the internet, Sister Linus Coyle preparing a remembrance for an employee’s birthday or Sister Ellen Mary Garrett shelving books.

Moving further down the hall, Sister Josita Zieser might be preparing greeting, sympathy and get well cards for the sisters to send or you might see Sister Agnes Marie Lynch gathering soiled towels from the beauty salon to return them refreshed.

Going up to the chapel one might see Sister Stephen Eswine preparing flower displays for the chapel from the plants in the yard, Sister Karen Jasper serving as sacristan, Sisters Sheila Ann Dougherty and Hermann Platt practicing their music or Sister Anne Marie Kollasch preparing to lector.

Arriving at Nagle 3, our skilled care unit, you would find a lot of activity. For example, Sister Louis McCormick would greet you with a smile and little dance; you might see Sisters Dominic Church and Marita Kollasch crocheting for nursing homes; Sister Therese Marie Hawes keeping floors and table tops spotless; or Sister Maria Goretti Dullard tracking the ins/outs of shipments from the Mission Room. If it were evening Sister Joan Lickteig might be there making her weekly trip to visit with the sisters or if it were Sunday, Sisters Madonna Meyer and Matthew Cunningham might be helping with the sing-a-long.

A delightful sight in this area happens when fresh green beans or another vegetable needs to be prepared for the kitchen. A ‘vegetable bee’ might find Sisters Dorothy McCormick, Jocile Moes, Angela Feeney and Marian Sweeney lending busy fingers.

If you visited with any of the sisters you would learn that each contributes in significant ways to the lives of their sisters: Sister Damian O’Brien giving a ride to anyone who needs it; Sister Sheila Kane welcoming groups who wish to speak to the sisters; Sister Lois Lehmann helping another sister with her laundry; Sister Concepta Joseph Milinski making Sacred Heart badges for new mothers; Sister Juanita Boom preparing meditative materials to share; Sister Bernard Mauss shredding papers from the finance office; Sister Marie Therese Coleman sorting mugs for quick use at the coffee urn; Sister Mary Jo Leifker recycling materials; Sister William Allen doing alterations as well as the starching and ironing of delicate doilies; Sister Louann Doering companionship a sister to an appointment;

My crocheting gives joy to my family who choose articles for their homes and it provides proceeds for our annual garage sale.

Sister Clarice Kane

and Sister Catherine Wingert planning parties and get-togethers, in addition to writing to the elderly.

With all of the expanded opportunities and options in which the sisters are involved they still find space for extended time in personal and communal prayer, faith sharing and scripture discussions.

Our senior sisters are hospitable, that is, favorable to life and growth, as in their encore years they continually find ways to expand their opportunities and options. Our commissioning ceremony at our annual community gathering this past July closed with the song, “Go Make a Difference.” These sisters continue to make a difference on a daily basis.



Top photo: Sister Francesca Presseller enjoys working the reception desk while she assists Sister René Laubenthal. Bottom photo: Sister Annette Skyles restocks the gift shop with many treats and homemade items.



Top photo: The Dubuque community of the Sisters of the Presentation gathered for a family photo. Bottom photo: left to right: Associate Carol Rausch and Sister Rita Cameron listen closely to the table discussion.

Living Wholeheartedly Community Gathering

by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

While we are grateful to those sisters who have brought us thus far, at times we have an impatience to get onto the next steps of life. Like our foundress Nano Nagle, Presentation sisters carry in their restless hearts a deep desire for God's Reign of peace, justice and love. In the second half of the 18th century in Ireland, Nano had the heart to love into reality the hope that destitute poor and the uneducated children could have a different life. During our annual community gathering on July 16-18, Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates owned their history and present moment, explored possibilities and accepted the challenge to live into new questions and models of ministry and community owning their charism to be hospitable in a divided and fragmented world.

Owning Our History and Present Reality of Being Passionate About Mission

There is reason to celebrate because 122 Dubuque Presentation sisters are present in 36 cities/towns, in 12 states, the District of Columbia and Bolivia. Enriched by associates, together they are present in 77 cities/towns, 14 states, the District of Columbia, Bolivia and Japan. There are young and elderly members. Living community in diverse manners and being present in varied ministries we give thanks to God who walks with us and gifts us on the journey.

Exploring the Interplay of Mission and Community Life

A panel of sisters from other Presentation congregations shared their stories of living Nano's dream.

Sister Maire Sullivan (San Francisco Presentation) found herself, while participating in the discernment process for the Presentation collaborative ministry in New Orleans, "surprised" by the Spirit who opened her eyes and heart to remain in California. A chance delivery of "leftover" pizza to day laborers gave her the opportunity to see the many levels of hunger among the immigrants. Their ministry grew. Their center, Lantern Center for Hospitality and Education, a gathering space for life and learning recently slipped into a Presentation presence when a small group of sisters moved into a nearby convent.

Sister Darlene Gutenkauf (Aberdeen Presentation), with another Aberdeen Presentation, accepted the congregation's directive to search out a rural parish ministry in South Dakota. In an organized manner they researched where, how and with whom. Church leaders did not respond to their offers in the "expected" locations. Then came a request from Timber Lake, where Dubuque Presentations previously ministered for 62 years. The team of two went to Timber Lake with the agreement that they would remain for five years to

Let us give space to what has not yet been seen, to what is waiting for our hospitality. Here, in the community of uncertainty, we may hear the whisperings of the mystic... an invitation to watch and wait with hope.

Anne Siddal

accompany the people of three communities and to work in the development of leadership so that ministries could thrive into the future. Five years passed quickly and the departure, while painful for both the sisters and communities, provided the occasion to recognize the mutuality of the giftedness of those years.

Sisters Mary Dower and Dorothy Corrigan (Newfoundland/Labrador Presentations) responded with other sisters to a congregational invitation to explore/discern vocation ministry and were led to begin Presentation Sisters Retreat House on Virginia Waters and, thereby have helped preserve a small piece of land from commercial developers. By offering educational opportunities to find ways to reclaim and restore a sense of sacred to the whole Earth community, the sisters in ministry and community life have celebrated fruits they had never imagined when the original discernment group gathered.

Sister Francine Janousek (Fargo Presentation) has been renewed and refreshed over and over as she has walked with associates. Convinced that Nano herself began the associate process through her relationship with Teresa Mulally, Sister Francine and the Fargo sisters' sense of being Presentation has flourished.

Sister Linda Isola (Staten Island Presentation) shared her congregational history of pastoral care and compassion in the ministry of the sisters from their beginning days of caring for orphans. The same qualities and gifts fostered through that ministry continue to guide the works of those involved in ministries today. Sister Linda loves being a pastoral minister. Her sharing helped Dubuque sisters understand their own history as we reflect on Dubuque history and the welcoming of the Presentation sisters from Oregon, Illinois.

Left to right: Top photo: International Presentation Sisters Maire Sullivan, Mary Dower, Linda Isola, Dorothy Corrigan, Darlene Gutenkauf, Francine Janousek and Mary Catherine Redmond. Bottom photo: Sisters Elena Hoye, Carmen Hernandez, Julianne Brockamp, Jane Conrad and Brigid Stanley enjoy time together.

Sister Mary Catherine Redmond (New Windsor Presentation), vocation director for her community, shared that among women interested in religious life today there is a desire for community. Reflecting on the challenges and gifts of her own experience of entering religious life well after Vatican II and of not having peer support, she challenged us: "The world needs our charism. What am I/we willing to risk? What can I/we legitimately expect others to risk for our future? How and where do we initiate the conversations about our risks?" Her honesty and humor gifted us with new insights.

Living Into New Questions and Models of Ministry and Community

During a process facilitated by Sisters Diana Blong and Rita Menart, individuals stated their hopes and commitments. "As we live into new questions and models of ministry and community, we hope..."

- to be creative, open and willing to take risks for the mission.
- to listen to dreams of the dreamer and to listen to whisperings of the Holy Spirit.
- to deepen our prayer that we will attend to the needs of God's people and surrender rather than grasp and cling to past certitude.
- to first think about possibilities and not about impossibilities.
- to trust one another, listen with our hearts, engage in honest conversation and act with integrity, out of deep love and respect for one another in community.

Sisters Julia Wingert, Jeanine Kuhn and Ann Jackson presented dispositions and models for discernment to aid us as we make life decisions both individually and communally.



Like Nano, I feel that all students need a chance to be loved, a chance to be all that they can be. Through my work with young students, I feel that I am following Nano's call by teaching reading, writing and the value of a good work ethic.

Associate Lois Loughren

Through the years Dubuque Presentation sisters have started the new fall school year in over 65 elementary and high schools since the humble Iowa beginnings 135 years ago. Today sisters serve in Catholic schools in roles of administrator, teacher and support staff. Many sisters, previously full-time teachers and administrators, currently share their years of professional experience as tutors and mentors in Catholic schools and other settings.

Sister Marilou Irons, principal at St. Patrick School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, opens her school year with a resounding thought that "Anyone involved in Catholic education these days is blessed." She specifically cites teachers and students who care for each other and use opportunities for prayer throughout the day. Sister Marilou speaks of supportive parents who encourage their children to learn and who consider themselves partners in the education of their children.

At the outset of a new school year, Sister Janet Goetz, registrar at Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa, is mindful of the value of Catholic education in the lives of young people. She sees students growing in their faith life through daily curriculum and through experiences of weekly school liturgy and monthly days of Eucharistic Adoration, as well as volunteer participation in local and neighborhood school service projects.

Presentation Associate Lois Loughren, currently teaching in a public school, begins her new school year with a clear awareness of her role as professional and personal. "Like Nano, I feel that all students need a chance to be loved, a chance to be all that they can be. Through my work with young students, I feel that I am following Nano's call by teaching reading, writing and the value of a good work ethic."

Faith formation expanded from the school setting to meet contemporary needs in parish religion programs, beginning in Monticello, Minnesota, in 1941 under the direction of Sister M. Callista Ryan, and continues today in many areas around the Midwest. As the concept of faith formation broadened, the Presentations sisters' ministry reached out to missionary work in Alabama as early as 1949, and later in Bolivia and Guatemala.

Further extension of faith formation work has occurred through Presentation sisters' engagement in parish programs including religious vacation school, RCIA, sacramental preparation, adult faith education, youth ministry and college campus ministry. Sisters today continue participation in the faith formation ministry by both direct involvement and volunteer work in Catholic school and parish programs. They hold positions as principal, teacher, director of religious education, registrar,

substitute teacher and classroom associate. Sisters not formally involved in the education of young people and adults embody the charism of Nano Nagle through their presence and commitment to those with whom they work and serve in such works as tutoring and translating, assisting in parish religious education programs and teaching college courses and life skills.

Presentation sisters and associates strive to follow the selfless example of Mother Vincent Hennessy and her early companions, walking in the footsteps of Nano Nagle who left us her legacy in this statement: "If I could be of service in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power." *Walsh, Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters*



Top photo: Sister Marilou Irons, principal at St. Patrick School in Cedar Falls, enjoys actualizing the potential of elementary students. Bottom photo: Sister Janet Goetz keeps things running smoothly as registrar of Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona.

Back to the Classroom

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM
and LOUISE SCIESZINSKI, PBVM

"I often think that my schools will never bring me to heaven, as I only take delight and pleasure in them."

Walsh, Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters

The statement by Walsh speaks volumes about Nano Nagle's desire to work with poor children of her day and through them to help their disenfranchised parents.

Each fall begins a new school year and a fresh start in faith formation programs for Presentation sisters and associates, who engage in various types of ministries in the Church. The sisters are inspired by Nano Nagle who opened her first school in a mud cabin in 1749, a risky and radical venture in a penal Irish society, where it was illegal to educate Irish children in their Catholic faith. Later, in 1775, Nano established a congregation of religious women, the Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, now known as the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to provide for the continuance of her schools. Her focus remained unyielding: to teach the knowledge and love of God to poor Irish children who had no other means of education available to them.

A century later, in 1874, Mother Vincent Hennessy and three young women ventured to Iowa to continue Nano's mission. The Dubuque Presentation sisters began teaching in Key West early in 1875, shortly after their arrival from Ireland. This endeavor soon expanded from Dubuque to other parishes, beginning in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and South Dakota. Sisters taught full time in the schools and were responsible for multiple evening and Saturday religious education classes.

Dispositions for Discernment in Everyday Life

by JULIA WINGERT, PBVM

“Give me discernment, O God, that I may live.”

Psalm 119:144

Discernment is an ongoing process and we are each responsible for attending to and listening for God’s guidance for our lives.

Most of us probably think of discernment as something one does at the major crossroads of life such as choosing a vocation or career, changing jobs or ministry, living in community, moving toward retirement, and rightly so. And yet, every day we are constantly discerning in small matters as we strive to radiate God’s love in all we do. As the hours of the day go quickly by, we make many spontaneous discernments or choices – to smile at a passerby, to say thank you to the clerk in the store, to compliment a co-worker, to dismiss an impulse to gossip, to be critical or speak negatively about another, to remain silent when tempted to complain or to offer an act of kindness.

Discernment is an ongoing process and we are each responsible for attending to and listening for God’s guidance for our lives. The following dispositions are helpful in developing discerning hearts.

Prayer

First and foremost, if one is seriously seeking to know the ways of God, one must pray. Prayer is central to developing a discerning heart. Reading and prayerful listening to the Scriptures, especially the Gospels, is one way of opening ourselves to know God’s way for our lives that helps us move to the freedom and the objectivity needed for discernment.

Create a Place of Stillness & Silence

In Psalm 46:10, we are invited to “Be still and know that I am God.” In Psalm 62:1, we pray: “For God alone my soul waits in silence.”

We must create a place of stillness and become a friend of silence if we are to practice discernment. Stillness attunes our minds and hearts to notice the traces of God in our lives and in the world. In silence we cultivate an attitude of openness to God. Silence helps us to detach from our agendas – our to-do lists – so we can listen and hear the voice and movement of the Spirit of God. Creating a space of stillness and silence lets us hear what God wants us to hear.

Openness to God

Discernment depends upon our openness to the multiple ways God speaks to us. Openness to the ordinary and extraordinary action of God in every day contributes to our

Sister Anne Marie Kollasch listens for God’s voice as she prays and ponders the Scriptures of the day.

readiness to be more open when discerning major changes in our lives and, subsequently, at peace when, after discernment, a decision has been reached. Without prayerful openness to God, one may make a decision, but one is not discerning.

Where do you create spaces of stillness – of silence – in your day? How do you make time for prayerful openness to God?

Know Your Gifts

Discernment flows out of our identity as one deeply loved by God and gifted by God. Discernment assists us in knowing our personal giftedness for mission, for furthering God’s reign, in the place where we are and in the world.

- What are your gifts?
- What are you passionate about?
- What do you like to do?
- When are you your ‘best’ self?
- What gives you energy and life so that you can give life to others?

Pay Attention & Listen

Author Wendy Wright tells us that “Discernment requires that we pay attention.” Through the prophet Isaiah, God extends this invitation: “Pay attention, come to me; listen and your soul will live.” *Isaiah 55:3*

Too often we wait for God to appear to us in a burning bush or a whirlwind. But God is usually more subtle than that. It is paramount that we pay attention, that we listen in order to notice the delicate action of God in our lives.

- To what shall we pay attention?
- To what shall we listen?

Certainly, as mentioned earlier, we need to be intentional about and faithful to listening as God speaks to us in Scripture and in our prayer.

We also need to listen to our body! Our bodies are gifts from God. They can and do provide clues to God’s desires for us. Body wisdom is a tool we often ignore in discernment. Honor your body as one very significant way God speaks to you. Pay attention. Learn to listen to the clues – the signals – your body gives you.

Our bodies know instinctively when we are not using our gifts, when we are making poor choices or when we are traveling a path contrary to God’s desires for us. Daily attentiveness to what is going on within our bodies can give us clues about whether we are following or resisting God’s call.

Once you know the rhythm of your body and the wisdom it offers, you can use that information in everyday discernment and in more complex decisions when needed. God’s guidance for our lives begins in our own body, mind and heart. Pause for a moment to listen.

LISTEN TO YOUR BODY!

- Where are you relaxed? Comfortable?
- Where are you tense or feeling stress?
- Where are you hurting?
- Where in your body do you feel connected?
- In balance? At one?

LISTEN TO YOUR MIND ... YOUR THOUGHTS!

- What are you thinking?
- What is on your mind?
- Are your thoughts generally positive, cheerful, and optimistic or are they negative, anxious, and fearful?

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART!

- How is your heart? Peaceful? Joyful? Sad? Hurting? Discouraged? Content?
- What is it that God wants you to hear?

Coming Next Issue...

Dispositions for Discernment in Everyday Life:
Listen to Your Life!



Sister Louann Doering finds stillness for prayer in the chapel at Mount Loretto.

SISTER HERMANN PLATT

Rooted in Family and Faith

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

“Give me only your love and your grace and that is enough for me.” This is the mantra that graces the mind and heart of Sister Hermann Platt each morning.



Trust that is so foundational to Sister Hermann’s life was carefully incubated in her childhood home shared with parents, Joseph and Elizabeth, and nine siblings in Algona, Iowa. When Sister Hermann was only five weeks old, the family was shaken by the death of their husband/father. The strength and nurturing of their mother sustained the family. A phrase used frequently by her mother attested to her great faith in God, “The Almighty will take care of us.” Like mother...like daughter.

Sister Hermann graduated from St. Cecelia Academy in Algona in 1956 and that fall began her life as a Presentation sister. As she came to know the heart and soul of the community and its foundress, Nano Nagle, she would likewise dedicate herself to the education of children. She completed her education by earning a bachelor’s degree in English at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, and a master’s degree in Library Science from Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois. With this academic background, she ministered for 49 years in positions as junior high teacher, principal, archdiocesan educational associate, curriculum director, religion coordinator and librarian in Osage, Storm Lake, Dubuque, Whittemore and Algona, all in Iowa, and Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Her eyes sparkle as she summarizes her teaching experience, “I had so much fun with my students...even when they connected my name to ‘Herman’s Hermits,’ an English pop band formed in 1963.” Recalling another classroom delight, she refers to a seventh-grade student who responded to her English assignment to compose a request to visit a local business. This clever young gentleman crafted his letter to a local bank and included the details that he would like to visit at midnight and that he would bring sufficient dynamite to make it a “successful” endeavor. “And the best part of this story is that I had to give him an ‘A’ on the assignment because it was so well-written.”

Sister Hermann cherishes the interaction that she has had with parents and teachers over the years. “I was so inspired by parents at conference time because they were truly interested in both the academic and spiritual growth of their children.” She continues, “Teachers were so motivated to share their understanding of the Catholic faith with students and with their own children.” Like foundress Nano Nagle...like daughter of Nano Nagle.

Sister Hermann now begins a new adventure as archivist for the Presentation community. “This will be a new way to use my organizational skills for the benefit of the community. It is a privilege to be entrusted with keeping the community history and documents.” She is now under the able tutelage of Sister Marian Sweeney who has served in this capacity for the past 11 years.



Year 2010 marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the Associate Partnership of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque. The first candidates were received as associates in the year 2000. A celebration of 10 years was held at Mount Loretto on Friday, July 16, 2010.

Who Are Associates?

Associates are Christian women and men seeking to live their baptismal commitment more deeply by sharing in a religious congregation’s charism and ministry. The Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation Associate Partnership is about celebrating the mutual relationship and commitment to spread the Gospel and foster the charism of Nano Nagle. As we journey through the next 10 years, may God’s love and peace be with us as, together, we continue to help spread the Presentation tradition of service and hospitality.

We invite you to become a partner in the Presentation mission. For more information, please contact the Office of Associate Partnership by calling 563.588.2008 or emailing associates@dubuquepresentations.org.



Pat Albrecht Badger, Iowa	Betty Allen Dubuque, Iowa	Margaret Barton Dubuque, Iowa	Patricia Baumann Whittemore, Iowa	Susan Bennett East Dubuque, Illinois	Karla Berns Dubuque, Iowa	Mary Jane Besch Iowa City, Iowa
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Frank Schaefer Lemont, Illinois
Carol Schmidt West Bend, Iowa

Presentation Hospitality Through Service Opportunities Flood Update

by JOELLEN PRICE, PBVM

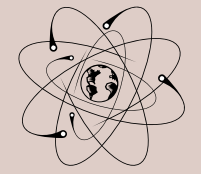
After the early days in 2008 of mucking and gutting many flooded homes in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, area and also participating in over 30 rebuild projects, Sister Joellen Price and volunteers from St. Pius X Church and other Catholic parishes joined forces with the Linn Area Long Term Recovery Coalition (LALTRC). The LALTRC coalition has since closed its doors. This, however, does not mean that all the flooded homes are repaired. Right after the flood, leaders from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque stated, "Even after all the emergency agencies have left your city or closed their doors, there will still be much work and the parish communities will continue the work that needs to be done." Linn Area Community Organizations Active in Disaster (LACOAD) begins as LALTRC ends.

Block by Block, an organization of the United Methodist Church, will be the longest established program for continued leadership in the recovery efforts in Cedar Rapids. Throughout these past three summers, they have organized hundreds of volunteers who have come to help rebuild the city. Volunteers from the Presentation Quest teams have been assigned work through Block by Block whose mission is to rebuild, re-energize and revitalize Cedar Rapids neighborhoods one block at a time with the help of many volunteers. Presentation sisters, retired individuals and people still actively employed in their communities pooled their gifts, talents and skills to provide assistance through the Block by Block program. Feeling the fulfilling effects of service, volunteers comment: "The experience was a giving one but we also received," and "Helping those less fortunate makes us so grateful for our comforts and willing to help again." Another states, "I think I've always had the Cedar Rapids flood victims in my heart, but I just didn't realize the vast needs of the people. I would like to do more."

Soon after the flood, many parish volunteer food teams were established. Meals were prepared and served in parish halls and delivered to the jobsites. A unique program, Tuesdays at Two, was established in the early days of recovery involving many parishioners making hundreds of cookies to be delivered every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to all the volunteers working in the flood zone. It is just one small way of saying "thank you" to all the volunteers in Cedar Rapids.

The flood took away much of Cedar Rapids' affordable housing. St. Pius X Social Justice and Outreach Commission received a grant of \$210,000 from the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation to be used in partnership with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity. The parish "new construction teams" work on the third Tuesday and Saturday of the month to help realize these goals: 15 major home rehabs, 30 minor home repairs, restoration of hope in neighborhoods hit hardest by the floods in 2008, re-establishing a sense of pride in neighborhoods where priceless historical cultures were threatened by the natural disaster and the establishment of a viable, much-needed neighborhood revitalization program that extends beyond flood-affected neighborhoods – A Brush With Kindness.

As Cedar Rapids and other devastated communities move on, preparedness, readiness and mitigation are being worked on at all times, not just following a disaster. For information on how you can become involved, contact Sister Joellen Price at St. Pius X Church by calling 319-393-4445 or emailing joellenp@crpiusx.org.



PRESENTATION QUEST

IMMERSION & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

October 2, 2010

Adopt-A-Highway Program

A group effort in cleaning two miles on Highway 20 between Epworth and Peosta by removing trash and debris.

November 19-21, 2010

School of the Americas—Fort Benning, Georgia

Protest and education regarding training of military leaders from other countries in hopes of closing the school.

April 25-30, 2011

Urban Plunge/8th Day Center for Peace

An immersion into the systems and structures of the urban environment from the perspective of justice, spirituality and ministry.

June 26-July 1, 2011

Kansas City, Missouri

An effort in caring for Earth and the people in the Kansas City area.

Date to be determined

New Orleans, Louisiana

Working with Operation Helping Hands/ Catholic Charities, Café Reconcile Ministry and Presentation Lantern Light.

Date to be determined

The Cedar Rapids Rebuild Project

Organized services of the Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Charities and the United Methodist Church helping to rebuild a flooded community.

Visit www.dubuquepresentations.org for more information or contact:

Sister Rita Cameron, PBVM
Coordinator of Immersion and Service
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, IA 52001-2997
563-588-2008
service@dubuquepresentations.org



Chuck Schmidt West Bend, Iowa
Cathy Schmitz Sumner, Iowa
Nancy Schroeder Guttenberg, Iowa
Kathryn Scudella Oak Lawn, Illinois
Becky Searcy Decorah, Iowa
Dora Serna Dubuque, Iowa
Zelma Sholly Spencer, Iowa



Betty Simon Farley, Iowa
Betty Spehar Greendale, Wisconsin
Karen St. John Wesley, Iowa
Rita Stanley South Sioux City, Nebraska
Harry Stanton Mason City, Iowa
Mary Stanton Mason City, Iowa
Helen Marie Theilen Dubuque, Iowa



Marlene Von Fumetti Dubuque, Iowa
Hazel Wagner Algona, Iowa
Donna Weaver Manchester, Iowa
Ron Weaver Manchester, Iowa
Marlene Weber Peosta, Iowa
Judi Weydert Dubuque, Iowa
Carol Witry Dubuque, Iowa

We remember the following associates who have passed away since 2000.



Mags Young
Dubuque, Iowa

Janet Auterman
Theresa Bauer
Mary Cullen
Ida Farnan
Alice Hamilton
Catherine Jane Hansen
Catherine "Kay" Hauge
Doloras Hendricks
Raphael Montag
Al Myers
G.T. "Tom" Reilly
Mary Ann Cichowski-Schaefer



www.dubuquepresentations.org

The Beginnings of the Associate Partnership

1989

The implementation of an associate program was approved.

1998

The Associate Process began.

2000

Forty-nine lay women and men committed as associates.

2007

The Associate Process was renamed the Associate Partnership of the Sisters of the Presentation.

2010

The 10-year anniversary of the Associate Partnership was recognized with 114 active associates. Twelve associates are deceased.

Presentation Sisters Celebrate 60 Years of Gratitude

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Six Presentation sisters observed 60 years of religious life this year. “Love-Lived in Community” was the jubilee theme for the sisters who celebrated with their Presentation family at Mount Loretto on August 29, 2010.

Sisters Marie Barth, Stephen Eswine, Michelle Gallagher, Marita Kollasch, Agnes Marie Lynch and Dolores Moes entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1950 and professed final vows in 1956.

Sister Marie Barth

Sisters Marie (formerly Joseph Marie) Barth, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, guides groups to blend art and spirituality. Previously she served as a classroom and music teacher and liturgy coordinator in Catholic schools in Algona and Osage, Iowa; Timber Lake, South Dakota; and Monticello, Minnesota; as director of religious education in parishes in Garnavillo, Elkader, Monona, Charles City and Roseville, Iowa; as associate director of religious education for the Archdiocese of Dubuque; and as retreat director at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota.

“My eighth-grade teacher at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque, Sister Mary Edward, encouraged me to take charge of the bulletin board. Later when she asked me to help other students with their art projects, she said I would make a good teacher. A seed was planted in me. I remember seeing how the sisters welcomed the other sisters when they returned from a trip. That sense of community and happiness in service were inspirational to my vocation,” states Sister Marie.

Sister Stephen Eswine

Sister Stephen Eswine, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, focuses on community prayer and service. She served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Charles City, Dubuque, Elkader, Ryan and Waukon, Iowa and Timber Lake, South Dakota.

Reflecting on living the charism of her Presentation foundress, she says, “I believe I carried the lantern of Nano Nagle when teaching little children. They loved our religion classes as I did. The example we gave each other was important. To this day, more than 60 years later, I still believe that example speaks more loudly than words.”

Sister Michelle Gallagher

Sister Michelle Gallagher, presently of Cedar Falls, Iowa, serves as a volunteer at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls. Previously she served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Dubuque, Epworth, Mason City, Storm Lake, Waukon and Whittemore, Iowa, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

“As I celebrate 60 years as a Presentation sister, I thank God for the opportunities I have had to help others know and love God,” states Sister Michelle. “I enjoyed 47 years of teaching and now I enjoy volunteering at American Martyrs Retreat House. I ask God’s blessings on my family, community and friends who have loved and supported me.”

Sister Marita Kollasch

Sister Marita Kollasch, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, dedicates herself to community prayer and service. She served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Bankston, Dubuque, Farley, Lawler and Waukon, Iowa. After retiring, she worked as a seamstress at Mount Loretto and, today, enjoys crocheting for nursing homes.

“I have gratitude to God for my vocation as a Presentation sister, to my parents and dear ones and to the Sisters of the Presentation for their support, prayers and example through the years,” remarks Sister Marita.

Sister Agnes Marie Lynch

Sister Agnes Marie Lynch, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, engages in community prayer and service. She served in pastoral care in parishes in Osage, Madrid and Waukon, Iowa, and Oak Lawn, Illinois; she did eldercare in Stockton, Illinois. Sister served as retirement director for her congregation. After her own retirement, Sister Agnes Marie was a volunteer with Hospice of Dubuque. As a member of the Tri-State Independent Society for the Blind, Sister is a participant in weekly activities and is a member of the executive board.

“I am grateful to have served God’s people in the spirit of Nano Nagle, especially the elderly. I am grateful for the love and support of my family, community and friends,” states Sister Agnes Marie.

Sister Dolores Moes

Sister Dolores (formerly Roger) Moes, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, devotes herself to community prayer and service. She served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Dubuque and Osage, Iowa, and Oak Lawn, Illinois; as an elementary principal in Algona and Lawler, Iowa; as house coordinator and retirement coordinator and in the infirmary for her congregation; as pastoral associate in parishes in Buffalo Center, Forest City and Lake Mills, Iowa; and most recently employed at Seventh Heaven, a residence for elderly in Dubuque.

“My gratitude for 60 years as a Presentation sister is for the countless blessings God has sent me in serving our sisters and God’s people wherever I have been,” says Sister Dolores. “The journey supported by family, sisters, priests and friends has a special place in my heart. I am most grateful for their encouragement and support. Nano Nagle, our Presentation foundress, inspired me through my education at St. Columbkille School and the Presentation sisters. I am still inspired today to continue her dream to help those in need.”

Left to right: Sisters Michelle Gallagher, Agnes Marie Lynch, Dolores Moes, Marita Kollasch, Stephen Eswine and Marie Barth.



Celebrating 25th Jubilee Sister Martha Donnelly

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

“Let us be grateful to those who make our souls blossom” was the jubilee theme for Sister Martha Donnelly, who observed 25 years of religious life. She celebrated with family, friends and her Presentation community on June 19, 2010, during an evening prayer followed by dinner at Mount Loretto.

Sister Martha, presently of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is chaplain at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1985 and professed final vows in 1994. Sister received her bachelor’s degree at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and her master’s degree at Viterbo University in La Crosse; she earned a Certificate of Gerontology at St. Mary of the Woods, Notre Dame, Indiana; and CPE training at Bethany Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas.

Previously Sister Martha served as an elementary teacher in Catholic Schools in Algona, Dubuque, Epworth, Farley, Mason City, Peosta, Placid and Sioux City, all in Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois. She was a member of the pastoral care staff at Mount Carmel, Sisters of Charity, BVM, in Dubuque.

“I think that women religious are a light in the Catholic Church and to the rest of God’s people during this time when there are so many issues affecting so many people,” reflects Sister Martha. “In healthcare I encounter the uninsured, the undocumented, the divorced Catholic, those looking for peace at the end of their lives. I remind the lonely and frightened of God’s presence within and around them.”

“It is a challenge to witness Gospel values,” she continues “because what things society says are important and needed are not the values in my life. Today, we, as Presentation sisters and associates, continue the mission of our foundress Nano Nagle by educating women and children, tending to the sick and dying, confronting injustice, working for peace and promoting the sustainability of Earth.”



Left to right: Sister Joan Lickteig celebrates with Sister Martha Donnelly.



Left to right: Sisters Catherine Wingert, Donna Determan and Dolores Zieser, who represented her sister, Sister Josita Zieser, came back to St. Mary's this spring for the dedication of Presentation Playground. Photo courtesy of Lorri Glawe, Pilot Tribune. Bottom photo: Wood carving of a Presentation sister. Photo courtesy of Dolores Cullen, Storm Lake Times.

59 Years of Service in Storm Lake, Iowa

End of An Era

adapted from an article published in THE STORM LAKE TIMES

Almost a year after the departure of Presentation sisters from the school and parish of St. Mary in Storm Lake, Iowa, Presentation sisters were welcomed back for a special dedication. On May 10, 2010, the new playground equipment at St. Mary was dedicated in honor of the Dubuque Presentation sisters who served as teachers at the school from 1950-2009. United for Kids, Buena Vista County Foundation and individual donors provided funds for the playground renovation. Also dedicated was a nun carving created and donated by Storm Lake's wood carver Jeff Klatt. The carving stands in the Presentation Playground, watching the children as they play.

In June 2009, both Sisters Donna Determan and Josita Zieser retired from St. Mary making it the first time in 97 years that no religious sister was teaching at St. Mary School and no sisters living in the St. Anne Convent. Sister Donna retired from teaching and Sister Josita from the parish administrative office. They are the last of a long line of Presentation sisters to serve St. Mary Parish and School since 1950. Religious sisters have been a strong presence in St. Mary School since the doors opened in 1912 when it was staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa. The Franciscans traded residences with the Presentation sisters in 1950, who were in Danbury, Iowa, at the time. Since then, the Presentation sisters have diligently taught and formed thousands of students since they arrived.

"We are grateful for the long and faithful service of the Sisters of the Presentation to St. Mary Parish and School. They touched many lives both by their direct involvement with our children in the classroom, and by their witness as women committed to the religious life. St. Mary's will be less without them," said St. Mary Pastor Father Bruce Lawler of the departure of the sisters.

St. Mary School Principal Bev Mach also expressed sadness at the prospect of no longer having the Presentation sisters at St. Mary's. "It is with a heavy heart that we say good bye to our beloved Sisters of the Presentation. Their loving presence and giving spirit is a true testament to their deep faith and love of the Lord. Our roots run deep at St. Mary's and the Presentation sisters have nurtured those roots for many years."

A total of 102 Presentation sisters ministered at St. Mary School and Parish over 59 years.



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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.

The Lady of the Lantern

NANO
Lives



by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Mother Josephine (Alice) Howley, Superior 1895-1898

Mother Josephine (Alice) Howley, third superior of the community and one of the original foundresses, was the first elected leader of the Dubuque Presentation community. Mother Josephine, great aunt of the Howley sisters, Sisters Alicia and Anna, deceased members of the Dubuque Presentation community, was a sister of their grandfather. Young Alice Howley was the first of the three women to volunteer her services, traveling with Mother Vincent to a new land for the sake of the Gospel.

From the very beginning of the Dubuque foundation, there had always been a member of the Howley family in the Dubuque Presentation community, and there had always been native-born Irish sisters. When Sister Anna died on November 8, 2009, the 135 year-Howley tradition ended as well as the long line of native Irish-born sisters.

Born in Mooncoin, Ireland, Alice attended the local Presentation school. An excellent student, she prepared her assignments quickly and easily, leaving her free time to make mischief. Her innocent pranks offered entertainment for her classmates, leading the teachers to assign her additional tasks to assist other students with their learning. Subsequently she devoted her talents to teaching, unwittingly preparing herself for the professional leadership needed in faraway Iowa mission land.

With her experience as a teacher in the National Schools of Ireland, Sister Josephine was the first teacher of the first Presentation school in Key West – in the convent parlor. Later she took the required exam and became the first certified teacher of the pioneer group. She was the first to establish a Presentation school outside Dubuque, in Ackley, Iowa. During her leadership of the congregation, before summer schools came to be, she arranged for home courses for the sisters, and secured qualified teachers to direct them. Hers was a significant contribution toward launching the Dubuque foundation's long-term ministry focus on education.

In the Annals (1933) Sister Mary Rosalia Plamondon described Mother Josephine as "quick in repartee and lively in movement, seeming always to have a heart dancing with mirth." What a gift for any community!

At one point in her life Mother Josephine spent some weeks at the motherhouse. In the evenings she played Irish music on the Mount Loretto chapel organ to the delight of the retired sisters. Weaving song into the early Presentation story, she "made melody," which has characterized the community throughout its history. Lots of music and lots of parties distinguish Dubuque Presentation sisters.

The last of the original Key West group to receive her heavenly reward, we honor Mother Josephine Howley as one who instructed others to justice and who shines in our hearts as a star for all eternity.

Presentation Lantern Center
Helps Newcomers Adjust to Country

A Light for Immigrants

adapted from an article by DANIELLE KRAMER, TELEGRAPH HERALD STAFF WRITER

International travel can be stressful and scary for many people, especially when language is a barrier. Uprooting your family and immigrating to another country can be even more daunting if there's nowhere to turn for help.

We want to make people feel welcome. When you're new to the country, you're scared and you probably don't know any neighbors... We help them so they can become a little more active in the community.

Sister Corine Murray

But, for the past eight years, one Dubuque organization has been providing a place to turn for that help. As a resource for newly immigrated Dubuque families, the Presentation Lantern Center is helping to ease the transition into a new country and decrease the culture shock many immigrants face.

"We want to make people feel welcome," said Sister Corine Murray, the center's director. "When you're new to the country, you're scared and you probably don't know any neighbors or know how to find things like bus schedules or library cards, especially if you don't speak English. We help them so they can become a little more active in the community."

The center is sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation and funded through various grants, including a recent "Discover Dubuque" grant from the Dubuque Racing Association, which allowed members to learn about the city and visit places like the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and Mathias Ham House, take trolley rides, a boat ride on the Mississippi River and a picnic at Eagle Point Park to play games and connect with other immigrants.

All positions at the center are volunteer-based and include many retired sisters, retired teachers and students.

"When they get here, there's a lot of friendship, and there's not a lot of pressure," said volunteer Joe Hermann, a senior at Wahlert High School. "They all want to be there and they all want to learn." Murray said the center has helped immigrants from 38 countries, and members are able to have one-on-one sessions with the staff to help with skills such as English and cooking.

"It's very useful for me, for my English. When I came here I couldn't speak English," said Ken Du, who came to Dubuque from China a year and a half ago.

Beyond helping immigrants adjust to their new lifestyle, the center also helps families organize and plan for school, jobs and their children's future.

ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP

In Memory of Doloras M. Hendricks

September 8, 1917 - August 15, 2010



Presentation Associate Doloras M. Hendricks considered it an honor and a privilege to be "connected" to the Dubuque Presentation sisters all of her life. She was educated by them during part of her grade school years at St. Joseph in Farley, Iowa, and graduated from St. Columbkille High School in Dubuque. Through the example of two aunts and a cousin who were Presentation sisters, Doloras knew the answer was "yes" when asked if she would like to become an associate. She made her first commitment as a Presentation associate on November 2, 2003. She has three sisters who are also Presentation associates: Charlotte Danner, Mary Danner and Jean Foust.

How fitting for Doloras to enter heaven on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she had such a great devotion to Mary. Doloras was also born on the Blessed Mother's birthday. The love of her faith, her family and her compassion for others was exemplified in the way she lived her life. She will be missed by all who knew her. We remember Doloras with love and gratitude.

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND



Left to right: Top photo: Olga Kazberouk, Presentation Lantern Center visitor and employee of the Sisters of the Presentation, enjoys cruising down the Mighty Mississippi with her friend, Danielle. Middle photo: Sisters Jeanine Kuhn and Therese Marie Hawes enjoy a walk around the Mount Loretto grounds. Bottom photo: Through a collaborative effort between the staff at the The Witness and the Young-uns Child Care Center, a bench, placed in front of the daycare, was engraved in memory of Sister Ellen Murphy, who faithfully volunteered at both places.

The People's Theologian Monika K. Hellwig

by KATHLEEN DOLPHIN, PBVM

I have two dear friends who are Senior Fellows at the Woodstock Theological Center (WTC) at Georgetown University: John Haughey, SJ, and Dolores Leckey. Several years after Monika Hellwig's death in 2005, the three of us had a conversation about producing a book that would commemorate the life and legacy of this remarkable woman. We decided to invite seven authors, each of whom knew Monika very well, to contribute a chapter on a particular aspect of her life: Monika, as personal friend, as colleague, as mother, as professor/mentor, as member of a Christian Life Community at Georgetown University, as parishioner and as a deeply spiritual Catholic woman.

Monika was a Senior Fellow at WTC, so John and Dolores were not only personal friends of hers, but also colleagues. I was familiar with Monika's work and I had met her on several occasions. I felt honored to work with Dolores and the seven authors. Indeed, I may not have had the good fortune to know Monika personally, but by the end of this book project, I can say that I certainly grew in my understanding of her as a woman theologian who truly lived the lay vocation.

So that others, too, could become acquainted with Monika's life and work, the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College hosted a symposium in October 2009. Almost all of the authors were present. It was the first time that they had met as a group. They shared their experience of writing the chapters and commented further on how Monika's wisdom can be a resource for addressing issues related to Catholic intellectual life, the role of the laity in the institutional Church, and the fostering of a genuinely mature spirituality. To discuss these issues further, a follow-up seminar on Monika's legacy is scheduled for September 29, 2010, at WTC.

Sister Kathleen, pictured below, will continue her connection with WTC as she has been invited to serve on a national committee to advise WTC on women's issues.



SPIRIT OF INVIGORATING WIT AND JOY

Sister Mary Ellen Murphy

February 28, 1921 - June 29, 2010

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Irish to the tip of her toes and Presentation to the core of her being, sharing hospitality by the armloads – that was Sister Ellen Murphy. Sister Ellen was born February 28, 1921, in Ada, Minnesota, to parents John and Rose Reilly Murphy. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in September 1940.

It would take a litany of adjectives to describe Sister Ellen: prayerful, practical, loving, sincere, compassionate, considerate, and happy – so happy! The rising tides of her life, it seems, were faith, family and fun – gifts she shared with community, family and friends. These gifts were expressed in her friendly ways and outgoing hospitality, often inviting others for a meal and conversation.

Sister Ellen went “wherever need called,” meeting the obligations and expectations of 17 different mission assignments in numerous Iowa parishes, including Algona where she was assigned four different times for a total of 14 years. Her 54 years of teaching took her also to Presentation schools in South Dakota, Illinois and Minnesota.

As a primary teacher Sister Ellen prepared hundreds, even thousands of children for Reconciliation and Eucharist, including the children in her regular classroom assignments, as well as those attending religious vacation schools. Among other locations, she was a faithful religious vacation schoolteacher in the parishes of her priest brother, Father Joseph Murphy.

Retiring to Mount Loretto in 1997, Sister Ellen volunteered at the Young-Uns Child Care Center, where each week she rocked babies and read to young children. She tutored at the Presentation Lantern Center, assisting and bonding with friends from other cultures. Every week, for the last 12 years, she did a variety of office tasks at the Archdiocesan Center for *The Witness*, the Catholic newspaper of the Dubuque Archdiocese. Her colleagues there called her a “treasure,” and said that she “lit up the room when she entered.” Her smile and her “sparkle” brightened the days and the lives of all she encountered.

When there was an opportunity to go to Mason City or Dougherty, Sister Ellen knew about it and took advantage, a chance to visit her family who rejoiced at her arrival. Writing thank you notes, messages of encouragement or concern, birthday and anniversary greetings, over the years Sister Ellen kept in touch with friends and family: siblings and their spouses, nieces

and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and great-grand nieces and nephews. They all loved her and they all came to pay their respects when she died. Relatives, friends, associates and colleagues came from a variety of places because of the multiple connections Sister Ellen had made over the years. Forever young at 89 years, her life and her charm were like a magnet for those she met. There was standing room only for her funeral liturgy, an appropriate tribute to a well-loved woman.

Small in stature, large in heart, loving everything Irish and garnering any occasion for fun and laughter, Sister Ellen donned her leprechaun costume each St. Patrick’s Day, complete with green suit, picture-perfect green and black striped stockings, elf shoes and a suitable bright green elfin hat. She offered a change of pace for folks here and there, as she paraded her outfit, and her delight, for a variety of groups and celebrations.

Sister Ellen gave a kind of Irish lilt to the pronunciation of some of her words, but sounded particularly Irish when, with a wave of her hand and an “Oh, go on with you now,” she readily dismissed any compliments offered her.

While her six brothers and two sisters preceded Sister Ellen in death, her few days in the infirmary made it seem as if she had rushed off to Heaven, before we could realize what was happening, before we were ready to let her go. Her 70 years in the community seemed all too brief. We will do well to keep her spirit alive among us, a spirit of invigorating wit and joy.

Considering the great loss she represents in many lives, we must also ponder the merrymaking that will take place in Heaven on St. Patrick’s Day, with a Presentation leprechaun leading the singing and dancing, her Irish eyes smiling.

A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME

Sister Mary Eunice Kane

January 9, 1912 - July 7, 2010

by ELIZABETH GUILIANI, PBVM

“I read of a reverend who stood to speak at the funeral of his friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning...to the end. He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth...and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.”

This poem “The Dash,” written by Linda Ellis, comes to mind when I reflect on the life of Sister Mary Eunice Kane. As the newest member of the Sisters of the Presentation, it is an honor and grace to share what that little line was worth in regard to the eldest member of our community at the time of her passing.

Born on January 9, 1912, to John and Frances (Fettkether) Kane, in Fairbank, Iowa, Sister Mary Eunice Kane was baptized Bridget Eileen Kane. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in June of 1928 and professed her perpetual vows on December 27, 1933.

My first introduction to Sister Eunice was in the dining room at Mount Loretto, where she took her meals and shared her life’s journey with those who would join her at table. I was awestruck by her commanding presence, her ability to listen, ask insightful questions and her desire to know you as a person, a child of God. And when one was in the presence of Sister Eunice it was as if you were the only person in the room and she connected with you in your journey at the deepest level. Sister Eunice did this not only with the sisters with whom she lived but with the wonderful staff here at Mount Loretto. When staff members struggled, or their families struggled, Sister Eunice walked right along side them, offering to carry their cross of pain and suffering.

Sister was indeed a great communicator known for her passion for politics; she would craft letters encouraging elected officials to work for social justice and to do the right thing. Letters were penned to those incarcerated, letting them know they were loved by a

forgiving God. They were not alone; Sister was holding them in her thoughts and prayers.

Though Sister Eunice struggled over the years with frail health (which challenged her physically), her mind was an absolute wonderment of vitality and activity. From her wheel chair Sister Eunice continued being a prophetic witness of her faith and active participant in life and in the Presentation community with whom she shared life for 82 years. Her ministries included teaching at all levels from elementary through college, her years as director of religious education, religious education consultant and Sauk Valley Area religion coordinator. Sister Eunice was instrumental in establishing training at the Midwest and national levels for catechists through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Leadership courses.

“Sister Eunice was decidedly a woman ahead of her time,” says Sister Joan Lickteig. “Her mind was bright, her perceptions keen, her insights far-reaching and her questions challenging. Whether it was politics or community direction, Sister Eunice was interested, involved, invested and participative.”

As a new member to community one looks to those on whose shoulders we stand on, to watch, to learn and to listen. Last fall I visited with Sister Eunice as she shared her life story and her deep faith in God to whom she vowed obedience, poverty and chastity a life time ago. She told me it was her prayer life that sustained her and the relationship with her Beloved everyday of her life. On the occasion of her 75th Jubilee, Sister Eunice stated, “As I walk this final bridge on the sunset side of life, my heart sings with thanks to Jesus, whose rod and staff give me courage and strength.”

Two days before Sister Eunice passed away Sister Marilyn Breen and I visited her in the hospital. So very frail, struggling for breath, and yet her mind was alert and she recognized and greeted us. We stayed just briefly as not to tire her. Before leaving we told Sister Eunice we would say a prayer with her. We did. Then with all the strength she could muster in a strong voice she offered this prayer that I know she would want us to share...

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul to you in peace.
And may my last words be Jesus, Mary and Joseph.*

And with this prayer her Dash is now complete.



A JOYFUL SPRITE

Sister Mary Julie Siggelkov

January 7, 1940 - July 24, 2010

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Julie Siggelkov, born in Fairbank, Iowa, missed the New Year's beginning by only seven days. Her birth date, 70 years ago, was January 7. She was baptized Madonna Christine Siggelkov, but took the name Sister Julie at her reception into religious life, a name which, she said, was short like herself. An avid reader with a degree in library science, steady and committed, she dedicated herself to her teaching ministry for 42 years.

Sister Julie possessed an inner freedom – and a wonderful gift of humor; she was a relentless teaser. At her medical appointments in Iowa City, and even on the way to surgery, she carried jokes to share with her doctors. After surgery, when they didn't know whether her name was Madonna (her baptismal name) or Julie (her sister name), she explained to the doctor that the Government made her do it; it was the only way she could get her bills paid.

Visits from family and friends brought questions regarding health concerns, but following brief responses, Sister Julie would add, "That's enough about me."

As individuals and as community we strive to live simply. Sister Julie showed us how. She dressed simply and wore her hair in a simple style, with that cute pixie cut, no perm, no curling iron, no rollers required. Her room was simple – and so were her expectations. Julie taught us how to live simply and die peacefully.

Sister Carrie Link, her classmate, was the homilist for Sister Julie's funeral liturgy. "The grace of God was apparent in Julie in the last months of her life. Her faith brought peace to those who visited her as, once again, she became the teacher." Quoting Sister Julie, "God holds each moment," Sister Carrie said, "It seemed that Julie was embracing those final moments as she prepared her family and community for her death. A blessed state of full surrender was the lesson she taught, giving herself over to the care of God's Providence. Trusting all to God, she had nothing to fear."

Sister Mary Linus Coyle taught with Sister Julie at Immaculate Conception School in Charles City. She shared, "Julie was always Julie, her own person and never any pretense, loved by students, teachers and parishioners. Fun-loving, she planned surprise parties and picnics, retreat weekends and field trips such as Amana Colonies and Living History Farms. She loved nature and rejoiced in God's creation. And when she came to prayer in the chapel, she calmly unfolded the footstool her brother-in-law, Dennis, had made for her because at 4'10" her feet didn't touch the floor."

The hymns Julie had previously chosen for the liturgy to celebrate her new life, reflected her special themes. Appreciation of nature brought her delight, with reminders to others to notice the touch of the Creator. At her funeral we sang, "The heavens are telling the glory of God, and all creation is shouting for joy."

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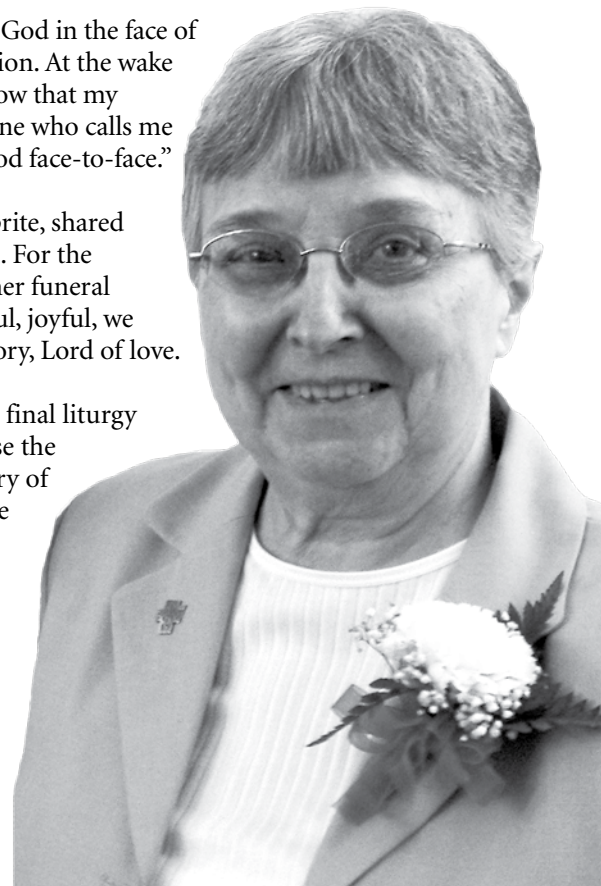
Sister Linus Coyle

Sister Julie exemplified exceptional acceptance of her illness, to the edification of community, family and friends. At the gathering ritual we sang, "Peace now I give to you. My peace I pour through you. Not as the world gives, but ever more sure."

Her faith and trust in God in the face of death offered inspiration. At the wake service we sang, "I know that my Redeemer lives, the One who calls me home. I long to see God face-to-face."

Sister Julie, a joyful sprite, shared her sunny disposition. For the recessional hymn of her funeral liturgy we sang, "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love."

For the Gospel of her final liturgy Sister Mary Julie chose the post-resurrection story of Jesus walking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Walking with Jesus and Sister Julie, we keep her name alive, sharing a spirit of joy, good humor, and trust.



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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

Ministry Updates



1 SISTER JULIANNE BROCKAMP: *Translator/Aide, Hill City School District, Hill City, South Dakota*

2 SISTER RITA CAMERON: *Vocation Director and Coordinator of Quest: Immersion & Service Program, Sisters of the Presentation*

3 SISTER SHEILA ANN DOUGHERTY: *Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto*

4 SISTER LYNN MARIE FANGMAN: *General Treasurer, Sisters of the Presentation; Associate Director, Office of Stewardship & Development, Archdiocese of Dubuque*

5 SISTER ELLEN MARY GARRETT: *Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto*

6 SISTER CARMEN HERNANDEZ: *Hispanic Outreach Ministry, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

7 SISTER ANN JACKSON: *Formation Director, Sisters of the Presentation; Coordinator of Retreats, Prairiewoods, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

8 SISTER ANNETTE KESTEL: *Pastoral Associate, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

9 SISTER MARY DENNIS LENTSCH: *Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center, Washburn, Tennessee*

10 SISTER JULIE MARSH: *Director of Campus Ministry, University of St. Mary, Leavenworth, Kansas*

11 SISTER MAURA MCCARTHY: *Volunteer, Guadalupe Mission, Wahneta, Florida*

12 SISTER HERMANN PLATT: *Archivist, Sisters of the Presentation, Mount Loretto*

13 SISTER CARLA POPES: *Pastoral Associate, St. Mary's, Strawberry Point, Iowa; Director of Religious Education, Sacred Heart, Volga, Iowa*

14 SISTER LOUISE SCIESZINSKI: *Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto*

15 SISTER RUTH ANN TAKES: *Pastoral Care Associate, St. Therese of New Hope, New Hope, Minnesota*



You are invited to join us.

September 21, 2010
UN International Day of Peace
Loras College
Dubuque, Iowa

October 2, 2010
QUEST Service Opportunity
Adopt-A-Highway Program
Dubuque, Iowa

October 8-9, 2010
Dubuque's Got Sisters
Dubuque, Iowa

November 19-21, 2010
QUEST Service Opportunity
School of the Americas
Fort Benning, Georgia

November 22-25, 2010
QUEST Service Opportunity
Okolona, Mississippi

November 28, 2010
Spirituality Retreat
Sisters of the Presentation
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.

October 16, 2010
50th Jubilarians
Sister Mary Janet Goetz
Sister Mary St. James Lickteig
Sister Mary Carla Popes
Sister Mary Rosalyn Ulfers

November 13, 2010
Foundation Day, 1874
Establishment of Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, 2002

November 21, 2010
Presentation Day

December 2, 2010
Sisters Remembering Sisters
30th Anniversary of the Death of Four Church Women in El Salvador
Dubuque, Iowa

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors

Do you have news to share?

We would love to publish it.

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

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Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



Sister Kathleen Dolphin was visiting professor in the Department of Philosophy at the Fudan University in Shanghai, China, this spring. She presented lectures on spirituality with a focus on medieval Western European Mysticism, met with faculty and student groups and thoroughly enjoyed becoming acquainted with Chinese culture.



Associate Judy Munshower, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics at Clarke University in Dubuque, along with fellow colleagues, recently received a \$84,721 grant from the Grow Iowa Values Fund to continue their work in developing a set of tools for physicians to use in analyzing HIV data to affect treatment options.



On May 26, 2010, Resurrection staff and students gathered to thank the representatives from the Loras College literacy program for their sizable donation of new books for Resurrection students. At the same ritual, the room where the books are housed was dedicated to **Sister Joan Lickteig** for her years of service.



Sister Leanne Welch, councilor, is currently teaching two courses at Loras College. "The Displaced Person: Human Dignity and Human Rights" is a general education Catholic Tradition course and "Reading in the Secondary Schools" is in the Education Department.



Sister Joellen Price recently completed the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program, a three-year program offered by the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and is now a certified spiritual director.



Sisters Marie Barth and Dolores Zieser attended the Presentation Spirituality and Charism Retreat in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on August 5-12, 2010.