



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
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Cover PHOTO

Sister Mary Lou Specha pauses for a
photo with students in the Café Reconcile
culinary training program. Currently, they
are all successfully employed.

*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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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by MARGE HEALY, PBVM



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

My father had the Sunday night ritual of filling his recycling bin. The clean, well washed jars were in one plastic bag; the clean, without labels tin cans were in another. The newspapers were well folded and often in another plastic bag. Milk jugs were especially well washed to prevent the terrible smell and well stomped on to take up less space. Dad's ritual developed because years before official recycling services began our hometown had a volunteer recycling service. Jack Freese gave his time to do the weekly route. Newly retired, Dad occasionally volunteered to help him. He could not believe what a smelly, dirty job it was. His admiration for Jack grew and grew right along with his own habit of setting out a well ordered recycling bin.

Setting out the recycling bin is more than just about being "green." It is caring about the safety and dignity of persons who work in the recycling industry, it is caring about the environment for future generations, and it is caring for Mother Earth which is home to all our sisters and brothers. It is so much more than a once a week task on the to-do list.

As Presentation sisters and associates we hear the cries of victims of war, poverty and natural disasters and recognize our sisters and brothers. The sick, elderly, unemployed, addicts, etc. – all are our sisters and brothers. The suffering saddens us, angers us.

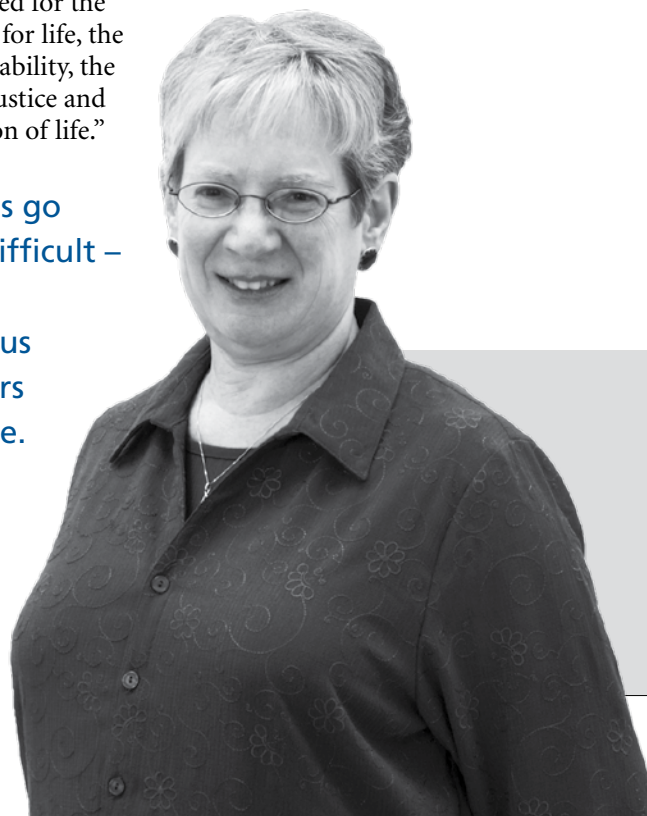
As Presentation sisters and associates we are committed not only to educate ourselves about root causes of poverty and earth sustainability but to move to action. We are all capable of recycling and of showing deeper reverence. We know the importance of building relationships not only with the victims of injustice but of building relationships with the groups, systems and individuals who can influence systemic change. We lobby, make phone calls and write letters to legislators, rally on street corners, write letters to editors and pray to the God of Life. We believe Earth can be a place where all live in dignity and safety – happily. We welcome relationships with others, with you, as we affirm the Earth Charter, "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the awakening of the struggle of justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life."

The Way is long – let us go together. The Way is difficult – let us help each other.

The Way is joyful – let us share it. The Way is ours alone – let us go in love.

The Way grows before us – let us begin.

Zen Invocation





Paula Friedman and Sister Francine Quillin meet with Angela Riesberg who is preparing to become a Catholic.

Being a Visible Presence

by JANE BUSE

For the past seven years, Sister Francine Quillin has been ministering as pastoral associate at Resurrection Parish in Dubuque, Iowa. As pastoral associate, Sister collaborates with Resurrection's pastor, Father Joseph Hauer, and associate pastor, Father Steve Garner, to implement the parish's mission by participating in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the parish's goals and objectives.

Life as a Pastoral Associate

The ministry of a pastoral associate is comprehensive, embracing a wide variety of needs in a parish community. Sister Francine Quillin welcomes these responsibilities whole-heartedly. A few of her roles include coordinating the adult faith formation, which includes RCIA; assisting in funeral preparations; visiting the sick and homebound; being a presence to people in many ways; helping with various projects in the parish; moderating M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mother's Sharing) and a Marriage Enrichment Group; working with CEW (Christian Experience Weekend); and coordinating the publication of the quarterly parish newsletter.

Because of the generalist nature of her position, Sister Francine often has to be flexible. On a daily basis, she must relate to a wide spectrum of people and have a willingness to be involved in a variety of parish activities.

"I try to be present to the people of Resurrection in many ways," responds Sister. "One way is being present at all the Masses to greet the parishioners as they come and go, getting to know faces and names. Perhaps the most visible way of being present is through visiting and what is for me the very special gift of bringing Eucharist to those who cannot come to Mass." Sister Francine adds, "Being the hands, feet and voice of the compassion of Christ to those in need is what is most energizing for me in this ministry."

Pastoral associates are characterized as persons of strong faith, blessed with a deep love of the Catholic Church, knowledgeable in its teachings and committed to its mission. By their lives, their attitudes and their ministry, they can enrich the parish community even as they, themselves, are enriched through the gifts of those with whom they work or to whom they minister. This is true for Sister Francine.

"The people of Resurrection parish have a wonderful spirit of welcome, outreach, concern for God's poor and care of the earth. They continually witness to these qualities by the way they respond to the needs of those in this city and those farther away. Those who can't go on service trips themselves generously support, both financially and morally, those who can, so that everyone is a part of the hands and feet and voices which 'tend God's sheep.'"

Being the hands, feet and voice of the compassion of Christ to those in need is what is most energizing for me in this ministry.

Sister Francine Quillin

Exemplifying Nano's Life

"Nano saw education as the key to eliminating poverty. For several years I formally taught at varying levels of education, and I still do with adults. But I also carry out Nano's passion for being present to adults whom she visited at night. Even being at parish meetings (which are always at night) is a continuation of concern for people as we plan how to meet the varied needs of the parish."

As Nano faced many challenges along the way, so does Sister Francine. "One of the challenges I continue to face is trying to know everyone in a large parish and to reach out to them in a significant way. Another is helping adults deepen and grow in their faith. This journey can be challenging yet, when achieved, it is one of the most rewarding parts of my ministry."

A Grateful Heart

When asked what Sister is most grateful for over the years in religious life and her ministries, she responds, "I am most grateful for God's love and care for me over the years. I am grateful for the education I have received and the opportunities that have been available to me. I have enjoyed every ministry I have been involved in and that is a grace. The gift of vocation itself and the grace to continually respond to that gift have opened the door to all the other opportunities over the years."

Sister Francine continues, "As the old adage says, 'We never see the real fruits of our ministry.' Contrary to this, I have been very fortunate to have people frequently affirm me. This indication is reassuring to me. As I walk the journey of life and faith with others, I often feel I am receiving more than I am giving."

When Sister Francine isn't working she enjoys music, reading and being with her family and friends.

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 Patricia Reide, Superior 1880-1895

Upon the sudden and unexpected death of Mother Vincent Hennessy, Dubuque Presentation foundress, Bishop Hennessy experienced grave concern for the fledgling community and its grieving members. The 20 sisters who survived Mother Vincent were themselves new religious; only 13 were professed. Even the three original members had experienced less than five years of community living under the direction of Mother Vincent. Within the week Bishop Hennessy, who had invited Mother Vincent and her companions to come to Dubuque, appointed Sister Patricia Reide, niece of Mother Vincent, to lead the community.

Worrisome poverty characterized Mother Patricia's leadership years. Her disquiet was exacerbated by the fact that Nano Nagle had established free schools for the poor, and the Irish rule of the Presentation community forbade acceptance of money from the poor as payment for services from the sisters.

With no means of support, Mother Patricia asked for student tuition. The ability to pay tuition, however, was nearly non-existent, with parents of large families eking out an existence, working in sawmills and lead mines. Music lessons seemed the only solution. After-school and Saturday lessons were compensated with food products, the basic means of survival for the sisters. This dependence of the community on reimbursement from music lessons continued for approximately 90 years, well into the 1970s when contracts assured specific salaries for services of the sisters.

Mother Patricia remained in office for 15 years as directed by the bishop – steadfast and faithful for 15 years of community leadership. This is the steadfastness that has characterized Presentation sisters through the years. Faithful to their calling, they have spent themselves in ministry to those in need. Intent on the words of Mother Patricia, "If it is God's will, it will go on," they trusted Divine Providence to direct and support them. Whether it was food for the sisters or money for the building fund of a new motherhouse, a mission in South America or \$5 to initiate a retirement fund, trust in God has provided the guiding light.



Left photo: Sister Mary Lou Specha pauses for grace before dinner is served during a Chef John Besh fundraiser dinner at Café Reconcile. Top photo: Café Reconcile student serves a softshell crab dish to the guests.



Café Reconcile

Building Hope, Changing Lives

by CARLA POPES, PBVM

Like just about every major American city, New Orleans has its share of deeply distressed and impoverished neighborhoods. Young people, often without any positive role models, quickly get absorbed into a culture of violence, destruction and despair. Drugs kill all ambition and a broken education system leaves too many children behind.

This depressing but realistic view of one neighborhood in New Orleans – Central City – led the late Father Harry Tompson, S.J., Craig Cuccia and Tim Falcon to establish a safe place for the youth of the neighborhood in 1997. Their primary goal at the time was to create opportunities where the youth of that area could learn skills to better their lives. In 2000, their vision evolved into Café Reconcile, a nonprofit lunch restaurant and culinary training program. Café Reconcile provides at-risk youth with life skills, job skills and hands-on work experience in all aspects of the restaurant business.

At its heart, Café Reconcile is about building community, rebuilding lives and rebuilding a neighborhood by nourishing the body and soul. From its inception, Café Reconcile has always been so much more than a restaurant or a job-training program. It has become a welcoming place where young people between the ages of 16 and 22 are loved and supported, and where many of them experience positive, caring role models for the first time in their lives. Since 2000, Café Reconcile has provided more than 500 at-risk youth with hands-on culinary training, placing them in stable food service jobs in New Orleans' restaurants, hotels, hospitals and universities.

Sister Mary Lou Specha joined Café Reconcile as executive director in 2008. Like Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, who spent herself for the poor in 18th century Ireland, Sister Mary Lou works to better the lives of these disadvantaged youth. She reflects, "I believe that many days Nano is walking with me, providing lantern light and guidance in what some call a very dark corridor of New Orleans. Nano's concern for the poor and her leadership in calling those with resources to assist the poor, gives me inspiration and drive to do the same."

Central City is plagued by generational poverty, violence, crime and poor educational opportunities. "You have to understand the background these kids come from," says Sister Mary Lou. "Many have left a home torn by drugs and abuse. They've gained the affection and approval of all the wrong people. Their moral code is to survive by whatever means they can. We are discouraged when any of our kids drop out, but we can't leave them in the streets to fail. We want to inspire young people, get them off the streets and into a safe environment. We want them to succeed."

Sister Mary Lou adds, "At our Café, I love seeing the mix of a CEO of a Fortune 500 company having lunch at a table next to a young single mother struggling to break the cycle of poverty. Café Reconcile brings people together to see the giftedness of each person and the opportunity to share those gifts in the community."

Sister takes pride in the fact that the presence of Café Reconcile in the community has sparked economic redevelopment to bringing hope and possibility to an otherwise downtrodden community. She feels that by her presence as a daughter of Nano Nagle, she is able to dispel the myth of darkness and shed the light of the many success stories of the students. "Nano's spirit inspires me, guides me and challenges me to keep going, even when I am tired and overwhelmed by the living conditions of the very poor," expresses Sister.

"The success stories of our students give me life," responds Sister Mary Lou about what motivates her. "I am so proud to see them work in some very high profile hotels in town and getting the praise and affirmation of the hotel staff. And I am even happier to see them return to us, with smiling faces, knowing that they have pulled themselves out of their unthinkable difficult situations, charted a new path for themselves and transformed their lives into something that they, and we, can be proud of."

For the last three years, Sister Carla Popes has participated in a week of service to New Orleans. At Café Reconcile she enjoyed mingling with staff and workers and helped wherever needed, growing to love them each of them. Sister Carla reflects, "A highlight was the morning breakfast. As part of the program, staff members and students gather daily at 8:00 a.m. for a nutritional breakfast and sharing a word for the day. The upbeat tenor at that early breakfast meeting welcomed every person returning for a new day. Each person present was called to experience community built on relationships worthy of trust. Sitting in the circle, listening to the stories of hope and grace, has renewed my spirit."



Melody Barnes, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu (pictured in the foreground) share lunch and conversation with students and staff of Café Reconcile.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Café Reconcile is a nonprofit restaurant that uses innovative strategies to provide life skills and job training to youth from at-risk communities in the New Orleans area. Since the restaurant opened in 2000, more than 500 young people (ages 16-22) have successfully completed the program and moved into permanent jobs in New Orleans' food service industry. Focusing on the kind of "soul food" for which New Orleans is known, the restaurant has earned high praise from local and national critics. Café Reconcile is not only a training ground for students; it is a nonprofit business whose proceeds go directly to program support.

Without the support of generous donors, Café Reconcile's mission of transformation would not be sustainable. In short, they need help from concerned individuals who are interested in joining the cause and partnering to change lives. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Café Reconcile today!

Visit
www.reconcileneworleans.org
 to make a donation
 or for more information.

Gathering of Temporary Professed

by JULIE MARSH, PBVM

One of the benefits of living in the Midwest and in close proximity to Chicago where many religious communities study and minister is the opportunity to get to know other men and women in religious life.

The Dubuque Presentation sisters have participated in programs such as the Inter-Community Pre-Novitiate program and the Inter-Community Novitiate Program for a number of years. These opportunities provide not only ecclesial learning and religious life skills but also a larger world view of religious life and social interaction among the newer members of religious communities. The experience of watching, listening and conversing with a variety of religious charisms in one room is an exciting dynamic for the future of religious life.



Sister Julie Marsh learns how to basket weave during a presentation.

Another experience is the Inter-Community Temporary Professed gathering. This group has not been in existence as long as the other programs nor is it as structured. Since newer members at this stage of formation are usually in full-time ministry or education and scattered around the country, it is difficult for everyone to meet. The communities that participate try to gather three times a year for one day at the various motherhouses. The topics range from prayer to ecology. The sisters in temporary vows are usually given time among themselves for personal sharing of their ministry or any challenges they may be experiencing in community living.

The Sisters of the Presentation hosted a gathering on March 21, 2010, entitled, "Are You a Basket Case, Yet?" Five religious communities of women, five sisters in temporary vows and four directors participated: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart from Frankfort, Illinois; Felician Franciscan Sisters from Chicago, Illinois; Congregation of the Humility of Mary from Davenport, Iowa; Racine Dominicans from Racine, Wisconsin; and Sisters of the Presentation from Dubuque.

Sister Ruthanne Reed, a Racine Dominican, experienced in the art of basket weaving and presently ministering as the formation director for her community, was the presenter for the day. She began the day with an e-mail conversation she had years ago with a woman interested in religious life. The conversation went like this:

Woman: "I am tired, frustrated and confused. And I don't feel I can talk without appearing ungrateful or disloyal or noncompliant. This process is painful. Does it have to be? I am a basket-case...in need of a basket weaver."

Sister Ruthanne: "In order to weave a basket, a tree has to be selected (a decision made) and the forest is never to be the same. It has lost a tree. It is chopped down and then cut to size and shaved and shaped - painful, right from the start. Then the reeds and splints have to be measured and cut and then soaked and shaped and woven. It is a moving from one form to another, giving up the familiar to take on something new. I'd guess it is always painful; it is part of the price for the new, a certain kind of trade-off. Is it better than simply staying put 'as is'?"

"Yes, it is difficult, what you are doing, as you make one decision after another and sense that the price is high. Leaving your home will be hard, even as you do it little by little. It is all part of a life that you have called your own for many years. Life here will be so different. Maybe you will need some time just to absorb a bit of these new parts of your life, as one decision or clarification follows the other. It is never easy!"

The woman has since entered the Racine Dominican community and taken temporary vows. The women participating in this day have not known each other for very long yet they all realize their need for emotional and spiritual support as they continue to discern this lifestyle for themselves into the future.

Sister Ruthanne's reply reminds all of us, regardless of the number of years we have lived in religious life, that life, in relationship to others, demands patience and love. The day generated energy around Mount Loretto and gave the professed sisters a greater perspective of the newer membership of today.



RECOMMITMENT AND SENDING FORTH

Sister Jessi Beck renewed her vows on June 1, 2010, during an evening prayer service in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto. She first professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the world in June 2008. Sister Jessi graduated from Roland-Story elementary and high schools and earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at the University of Northern Iowa. After graduation, Sister Jessi spent time working with the Amate House volunteer program in Chicago, Illinois. Currently, Sister is ministering at St. Mary School in Manchester, Iowa, as an elementary teacher.

The prayer service was structured as evening prayer with the renewal of vows following the Cantic of Mary. Prior to the closing prayer, Sister Julie Marsh, director of formation; Sister Lizzie Guiliani, another woman in the Dubuque formation program; and Sister Jessi were blessed by the community in preparation for their upcoming cultural immersion experience to South America. They will live in Bolivia for the month of June with sisters missioned there.

The Dubuque Presentation sisters have ministered in Entre Ríos, Bolivia, for almost 40 years. There are three Dubuque Presentation sisters, Sister Rita Menart, Sister Suzanne Takes and Sister Mery Cary Paz, a native Bolivian, presently ministering there.

Besides reconnecting with the sisters there, Sisters Julie, Jessi and Lizzie are teaching and ministering to the needs of the people in Entre Ríos, visiting other newer members to religious life missioned in Bolivia and learning for themselves the daily living of the Bolivian people.

"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 our foundress, Nano Nagle, and her passion for the mission of Jesus: bringing light to those living in darkness," states Sister Jessi. "I am looking forward to working closely with our sisters in Bolivia and experiencing firsthand working with those most in need."

Left to right: Before departing for Bolivia, Sisters Elizabeth Guiliani, Julie Marsh and Jessi Beck surround Sister Therese Marie Hawes who served in Entre Ríos for 32 years.

Nano Nagle COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

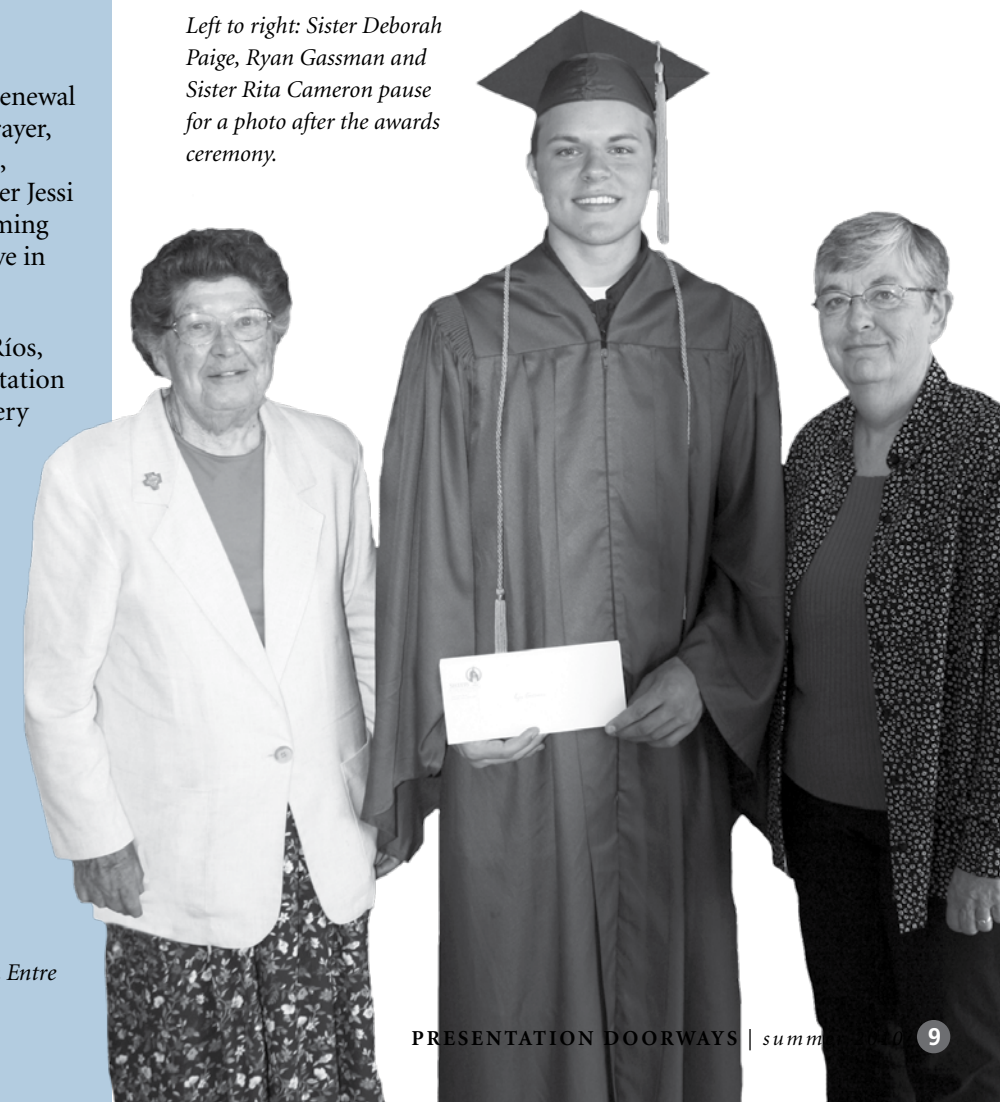
In commemoration of the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle's death and in the spirit of her desire to serve, the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation initiated a Nano Nagle Scholarship to further her legacy of education.

This year's \$500 scholarship was awarded to a deserving Dubuque Wahlert Catholic High School senior who models self-giving service helping to improve the lives of others. Sister Rita Cameron presented Ryan Gassman with the scholarship during an awards assembly at Wahlert on May 26. Ryan plans to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, in the fall.

In a letter of recommendation, Karen Zeckser, guidance counselor at Wahlert, says, "Character traits that hallmark Ryan are simple and humble integrity of life and purpose. Ryan's faith and good values are foundational to who he is and his outlook on life. While a very modest individual, Ryan is solid to the core with positive values, an excellent work ethic and contributed service."

Jennifer Kintzinger, teacher, echoes Karen's sentiments, "Ryan is a determined young man. He knows that a good education will help him achieve a good job. The responsibilities he has shouldered as a young adult will help him in his goal to be the best he can be."

Left to right: Sister Deborah Paige, Ryan Gassman and Sister Rita Cameron pause for a photo after the awards ceremony.





Left to right: Finalizing plans for “Dubuque’s Got Sisters!” are Dubuque area vocation directors, Presentation Sister Carla Popes; Sister Kathy Carr, BVM; Sister Lou Anglin, BVM; Sister Ginny Helderfer, OSF; and Sister Jeri Cashman, OP.

Circle of Friends

Sisters in Collaboration

by KATHY CARR, BVM, article taken from the SALT magazine

Presentation sisters refer to their foundress as “Nano Nagle and her companions.” BVM sisters refer to their foundress, Mary Frances Clarke, and her four Irish companions as a “circle of friends.” In both cases, these women were drawn to living in community—praying, discerning, laughing and ministering together. They lived out the meaning of collaboration, probably without ever using the word. Together they contemplated their decision to move from their homeland to minister to the Irish immigrants in America, and supported one another in all the challenges they encountered there. When decisions needed to be made locally, these women shared their preference, but affirmed the wisdom of the sisters most involved. Theirs was not a hierarchical model of leadership, but a collaborative one.

With the advent of the Second Vatican Council, religious were encouraged to return to the charism of their founders...and women religious in the United States took this to heart. One of the greatest blessings to emerge has been the sense of greater collaboration, both within individual congregations and among congregations.

This collaboration is evident in myriad ways: sharing prayer styles, working together in a variety of ministries, living together, sharing resources in support of our retired sisters, and taking actions on behalf of justice that we might not have had the capacity to undertake alone.

Working Together to Nurture and Promote Religious Vocations

A life-giving example of this intercommunity collaboration is the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA) in Iowa, composed of men and women involved in initial membership for their congregations. For many years DAVA members, representing about nine groups, have prayed, shared and planned together in order to nurture and promote vocations to religious life and the priesthood.

To be there to encourage one another, to understand, to be creative and not competitive, is really a gift we give one another and that is what a circle of friends does.

Sister Lou Anglin, BVM

“I think working collaboratively with the people in DAVA is more important than ever during these mysterious times in religious life,” says Initial Membership Coordinator Sister Lou Anglin, BVM. “As vocation ministers we don’t often know if our work is effective, productive or makes a difference. To be there to encourage one another, to understand, to be creative and not competitive, is really a gift we give one another and that is what a circle of friends does.”

During the past year, five of the DAVA members have entered into a special form of collaboration. They are women religious representing communities with motherhouses in the Dubuque area: Sisters Carla Popes, PBVM; Ginny Helderfer, OSF; Lou Anglin, BVM; Kathy Carr, BVM; and Jeri Cashman, OP.

It all began with “breaking bread” over lunch as they welcomed two new vocation directors. It became evident to all just how important it was to gather regularly in this small group in order to support and sustain one other in this challenging ministry.

Sister Ginny said recently: “As the ‘new kid on the block,’ I deeply appreciated the wisdom and support shared by the seasoned vocation ministers. Their encouragement and creativity caused me to think outside the box and to do this ministry more creatively.”

Sister Jeri describes the relationship this way: “Jesus, the great teacher, never missed an opportunity to use relationship to get his point across. He would say: ‘Well, the reign of God is like us all sitting around this table.’ Jesus taught us that everyone is invited and how absolutely wrong it is that any one of us would go without food, love or laughter in our life. That is exactly what it has been like knowing these four women! They, like Jesus, invited me into their lives with lunch . . . where we broke open tortillas together, shared our stories, and plotted our vocation ministry efforts that have, from the beginning, been based on the strength and support of these relationships. It’s true: Dubuque’s Got Sisters!”

Sister Jeri’s reference to “Dubuque’s Got Sisters!” taps into a collaborative effort that has blossomed beyond the group’s original vision. They started out trying to find a different name for a vocation event often referred to as a “nun run” . . . an opportunity to visit several motherhouses/convents within a 24-hour period. The group came up with “Dubuque’s Got Sisters!” which not only describes their event, but has become their common theme for all the collaborative advertising they do in college newspapers and websites, the archdiocesan newspaper, parish bulletins and even a billboard.

Collaboration Symbolizes Solidarity and Mutuality

“For us, these efforts in collaboration are an important sign for our church and world—a symbol of the value of working together, modeling inclusivity, nonviolence and respect. Through our collaboration with one another, we have replaced competition with solidarity, individual efforts with mutuality,” states Sister Kathy. “We are invited into a circle that asks each of us to let go and at the same time to receive the richness of all those in the circle. As we engage in collaboration, we become something greater than any one community.”

Sister Carla says it well: “In this group of vocation directors I experience a circle of collaboration. The circle of relationships and the gifts each member brings into the circle has birthed a deeper appreciation for the charism of each community and has opened us to dream of new ways to connect and accompany those interested in religious life. Relationships of collaboration are probably the single most important model that religious life offers for our world.”

One of the blessings of collaboration is a birthing of hope . . . hope for the future born out of communion with one another and with our God. This hope is beautifully expressed in a prayer attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was martyred for his work with the oppressed people of El Salvador:

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between
the master builder and the worker.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

(Selected passages)



DUBUQUE'S
got
SISTERS

Join us for an inside look at religious life!

Are you interested in checking out religious life?
Then contact one of these communities to learn more:

Dubuque Franciscan Sisters
Ginny Helderfer, OSF
helderfer@osfdbq.org

Sisters of Charity, BVM
Kathy Carr, BVM or Lou Anglin, BVM
newmember@bvmmcong.org

Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters
Jeri Cashman, OP
jeri.cashman@gmail.com

Sisters of the Presentation
Carla Popes, PBVM
vocations@dubuquepresentations.org

Presentation Sisters Celebrate 60 Years of Gratitude

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

“What shall we give to God for all God has given to us?” is the jubilee theme for nine Presentation sisters observing 60 years of religious life this year. The sisters celebrated with members of the Presentation community at a Mass, brunch and dinner on April 11, 2010, at Mount Loretto motherhouse in Dubuque.

Sisters Mary Dominic Church, Bonita Determan, James Marie Gross, Therese Marie Hawes, Joan Lickteig, Madonna Meyer, Annette Skyles, Marian Sweeney and Dolores Zieser entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1949 and professed final vows in 1955.

Sister Mary Dominic Church

Sister Dominic Church, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is in community prayer and service. She has served as an elementary teacher and high school math teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Dubuque, Elkader, Humboldt, Storm Lake and Waukon, Iowa. She also served on the congregational finance team.

Sister Dominic enjoys playing cards, doing puzzles of any kind, reading, crocheting and in earlier days, silk screening.

Reflecting on how she lives the mission of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress, she states: “I see the carrying out of our mission through prayer and hospitality, especially at Mount Loretto, and in the works of charity of all our sisters.”

Sister Mary Bonita Determan

Sister Bonita Determan, presently of Mason City, Iowa, is a hospice volunteer. She has served as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools or parishes in Elkader, Humboldt, Key West, Mason City, Osage and Whittemore, Iowa; Oak Lawn, Illinois, and Monticello and Winona, Minnesota. She was pastoral minister in Whittemore, Iowa.

“I am filled with joy and gratitude to my God, my parents, family, priests and sisters in my life, especially Sister Erigina, BVM, who placed me on the altar and offered me to God on the day of my baptism,” recalls Sister Bonita. “In high school I thought about being a Medical Missionary sister, but God’s will for me was to become a Presentation sister like those who inspired and taught me at St. Joseph School in Mason City. Nano Nagle always inspired me to bring Jesus’ love and service to others.”

Sister Bonita enjoys talking and visiting with people.

Sister James Marie Gross

Sister James Marie Gross, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is coordinator of mission materials and a tutor at Presentation Lantern Center and Resurrection School. She served as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Waukon and Dubuque, Iowa; she taught mathematics and education at Clarke College in Dubuque.

“The genuine hospitality, simple lifestyle and commitment to serve the needs of the church are what attracted me to this community,” states Sister James Marie. “With this celebration of jubilee, memories of the many people whose lives we touched and, hopefully enriched, bring much joy and gratitude for the many ways community supported our efforts to bring the good news to especially the poor and disadvantaged.”

Cultivating roses, knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, cards and exploring the Internet are among Sister James Marie’s many interests.

Sister Therese Marie Hawes

Sister Therese Marie Hawes, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is in community prayer and service. She taught kindergarten and primary grades in Catholic schools in Clare, Sheldon, Dubuque and Cedar Falls, Iowa. She served as principal in Catholic schools in Monona and Humboldt, Iowa; was formation director for junior professed sisters; and a missionary in Bolivia for 32 years.

Sister Therese Marie reflects on the value-based influence her family life had on her years as an educator and missionary and on her life as a Presentation sister. “In a family of six children, raised by a young widow, I learned the core values needed for a missionary heart. Mother taught us how to be there for other people. She taught us a lot of common sense and the value that we are all responsible for each other.”

Sister Therese Marie has always enjoyed doing calligraphy and art, and baking, especially making bread, Mexican Fudge and popcorn.

Left to right: Back row: Sisters James Marie Gross, Bonita Determan, Marian Sweeney, Annette Skyles, Joan Lickteig and Dolores Zieser; Front row: Sisters Madonna Meyer, Therese Marie Hawes and Dominic Church.

Sister Mary Joan Lickteig

Sister Mary Joan Lickteig, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is currently working on a commission to write a congregational history. She served as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Dubuque; an elementary school consultant for the Archdiocese of Dubuque; a professor of education at Clarke College; a congregational leader from 1985 – 1989; and a literacy coordinator at Resurrection School.

“My response to this jubilee occasion is gratitude to God, community, family and friends. It has been a joy!” states Sister Joan. “I am excited about the energy and creativity that are generated when sisters and associates share ideas, insights and perspectives about the charism of our foundress, Nano Nagle, in meeting the needs of people today.”

Sister Joan has always enjoyed her work and learning. She loves walking, reading and spending time with friends and family.

Sister Mary Madonna Meyer

Sister Mary Madonna Meyer, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is in community prayer and service. She served as musician for St. Henry Parish and School of Religion, Monticello, Minnesota; and taught elementary school music in Catholic schools in Clare, Dubuque, Elkader, Storm Lake and Whittemore, Iowa.

“Nano Nagle’s example to reach out and help others was what I saw in the sisters at Key West and St. Columbkille,” recalls Sister Madonna. “Sister Mary Jerome O’Brien was a kind and gentle person. My sisters and I would go to weekly devotions and then stop over at the convent afterwards. Sister Jerome always welcomed us. As my seventh- and eighth-grade teacher, she challenged me in school to do my best. She was someone whom I could talk to about anything and that helped me in my decision to become a sister. I am grateful for the grace of God, for my parents and family and for the kindness of the Presentation sisters as I followed my vocation.”

Playing jazz piano and pops organ, calligraphy and art are among Sister Madonna’s hobbies throughout the years.

Sister Mary Annette Skyles

Sister Annette Skyles, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is in community prayer and service. She served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Epworth, Key West, Osage, Storm Lake and Waukon, Iowa, and Oregon, Illinois.

“As I celebrate 60 years as a Presentation sister I am most thankful to God for all the blessings I have been given: the love and support from my family, community and friends. I thank God for my good health which helped me to be able to serve as a teacher for 52 years and to be one of God’s instruments in helping children to know



the love God has for them,” reflects Sister Annette. “I continue to carry Nano’s lantern by being of service to those with whom I live and work.”

Sister Annette enjoys playing cards, calligraphy, watching sports and a good tease. Others will testify that she is always there when someone needs a helping hand.

We, nine sisters, have stayed together for over 60 years and now we celebrate our 540 years of faithfulness.

Sister Marian Sweeney

Sister Marian Sweeney

Sister Marian Sweeney, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is congregational archivist. She has served as an elementary school teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Dougherty, Lawler, Mason City, Ryan, Sheldon, Iowa and Winner, South Dakota; and junior and senior high school librarian in Catholic schools in Algona, Dubuque, Mason City and Waukon, Iowa, and librarian in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“We, nine sisters, have stayed together for over 60 years and now we celebrate our 540 years of faithfulness,” states Sister Marian. “Being present to our world and its events challenges us every day as women religious. We are living in a time of change in all forms of life. I hope that in religious life we will be willing to change and use our gifts for those who need them the most.”

Sister Marian enjoys playing cards, reading, travel, sewing, art and “interior decorating.”

Sister Mary Dolores Zieser

Sister Dolores Zieser, presently of Dubuque, resides at Mount Loretto and is in community prayer and service. She served as an elementary teacher and high school art teacher in Catholic schools in Algona, Cedar Falls, Charles City, Dubuque, Lawler and as principal in Osage, Iowa; she served as retirement director at Mount Loretto; a pastoral minister and RCIA coordinator in Algona and as pastoral care coordinator at St. Therese Southwest Residence in Hopkins, Minnesota.

“The theme of gratitude for our jubilee reminds me of all the gifts God has blessed me with in my 60 years as a Sister of the Presentation. The opportunities for prayer, community living, education and people who have entered into my life would not have been possible had I not been a woman religious. I have been greatly enriched,” shares Sister Dolores. “Our Presentation charism encourages us to reach out to those in need; there are so many opportunities and needs in our world today to serve the poor and abandoned. I am heartened that our newest sisters and lay associates are following that path. I pray that they always will.”

Sister Dolores enjoys making baskets, traveling, playing cards and attending a good concert.

NINE IS THE NUMBER

Sister Joan Lickteig shared her thoughts as the “dinner speaker” during her 60th jubilee celebration.



I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about my class. You thought we looked very ordinary, didn’t you? Not much to get excited about. Actually, we are quite an unusual class, the nine of us. We had the right number for a baseball team, but some of us were worthless when it came to sports. So that never materialized.

Nine is the number. We had nine members when we celebrated our 25th jubilee, nine when we celebrated our 50th jubilee, and nine for our 60th jubilee today. We thank God for this gift of length of days.

In our good days, we could have operated an entire school. One wonders why the Mothers General of those days did not see fit to put us all together in one school, because we had primary teachers, middle grade teachers and upper grade teachers; we were all teachers. And we had a few principals thrown in for good measure.

But let me tell you more about my class, and how it was that we were so self-sufficient, though no one noticed. Neither did I until recently.

We had our own music teacher, Sister Madonna Meyer, and can she play the piano! We had our own art teacher, Sister Dolores Zieser; the fine arts were important to us. We had our own librarian, Sister Marian Sweeney, properly named, Marian the Librarian, for we knew that reading and research are important in learning. We had our own mathematician, Sister Dominic Church; she taught computer skills, too. We had our own social worker, Sister Bonita Determan; we have to be concerned about the needs of others. Likewise, we had our very own foreign missionary, Sister Therese Marie Hawes, who spent 32 years in southern Bolivia; that’s a long way from home. We had our own talented and gifted member, Sister James Marie Gross. She can do anything: cook, bake, sew, design, garden, crochet, knit, quilt, with a little music and art and lots of math and lots of teaching. In fact, she’s still teaching math. I saved the best title ‘til last, for my friend, Sister Annette Skyles. I call her Servant of the Servants of God. Of course, it’s one of the titles used for the pope, but if the shoe, or the mitre or the pallium fits, wear it. Sister Annette is always present where there is a need, always helping anyone and everyone in the house. She peels apples, irons blouses and operates the gift shop. She cleans out and sorts and throws away when sisters change rooms. Wherever there’s something that needs to be done, wherever help is needed, that’s where you’ll find Sister Annette. This gives her a bit of an edge in this wonderful class of ours because Matthew 25 says that’s the ticket to heaven.

So, we thank you for celebrating with us. Sorry for the interruption, but you could very well have overlooked the talents of my classmates; they are just so humble.

Remembering Danbury

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

When in 1887 Bishop Hennessy requested Mother Patricia to assume control of two schools built that year, Danbury and Farley, Iowa, she had only four sisters available for both places. No happy anticipation was hers, facing that difficult situation. “Send two sisters to each place for the present,” was the Bishop’s apparently easy solution of the problem. With ideas of her own regarding regular community life, Mother Patricia, contrary to her good judgment, complied reluctantly with the Bishop’s request.

Although named Superior of the little outgoing band, childlike Sister Mary Angela Crowley was anything but a support to her lone companion. “Sister Mary Cecilia,” she sobbed at parting, “if I’m alive when we reach Danbury, I’ll give you something nice.” Not only did she survive the trip, but she spent many happy years in Danbury, loving its splendid people and calling the place home. When Sister Mary Cecilia chided her neglect of reward for safe transportation, Sister Mary Angela would come back with, “You’re in Danbury now. What greater recompense could you wish?” (From *Annals of Mother Benedict*, pp. 44-45)

St. Patrick School began in a two-story, wooden, eight-grade school with an enrollment of 85 students, some of whom were boarders. By 1890 the school extended to 11 grades.

Sister Mary Angela, the first postulant received after the founding of the community in Dubuque, served Danbury from 1887 until



Sister Ellen Mary Garrett and her students perform a science experiment.

1898. Shortly after leaving Danbury she was elected Mother Superior of the community. While in this role she was visiting Danbury in 1906 when she contracted pneumonia and died in the Sioux City hospital.

In the early 1900s, plans were made to build a new four-story brick school (with full basement) since the academy had become too small. The new school was ready for classes by fall of 1908.

In 1951, the two schools of the city (St. Patrick and St. Mary) were merged. The grade school became “St. Mary’s” and the high school became “Danbury Catholic.” The Sisters of the Presentation left (having been asked to staff Storm Lake instead of Danbury) and the Sisters of St. Francis of Mt. St. Clare of Clinton, Iowa, staffed the schools.

In 1997, the Presentation sisters again started serving Danbury Catholic when Sister Jane Conrad joined the staff. She was joined by Sister Ellen Mary Garrett in 1998, who served there through the spring of 2010.

Vocations to the Sisters of the Presentation from Danbury include the following, all of them deceased: Sisters Mary Canice O’Connor, Paul Drea, Angela Kelly, Ambrose Reilly, Regina Reilly, Bertille Morgan, Irene Collins, Consuela Fitzpatrick, Aloysius Rush, Gerard Murphy, Isabel Julian, Pauline O’Connor, Anne Uhl, and Alice Marie Crilly. Because of the close association of the Keefe family with the founding pastor of St. Patrick’s, Danbury also laid claim to Ida Grove residents Mother Camilla Keefe and Sister Mary Raphael Keefe.



Left to right: Back row: Sister Calasanctius Kelly, Father Tim Meagher and Sister Paul Drea. Front row: Irene Collins (second from left) sits with her high school class in 1910. She later became Sister Mary Irene.

Sharing the Journey through Sacraments, Grace and Prayer

by KARLA BERNS, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

On April 17-18, 2010, over 80 Presentation associates and sisters gathered for a retreat weekend at the Mount Loretto motherhouse reflecting on sacraments, grace and prayer. The speakers were Associate Carol Witry, Sean Bradley and Sister Joellen Price.

Associate Carol Witry read from the poem *Aurora Leigh* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "Earth is crammed with heaven and every common bush afire from God, but only he who sees takes off his shoes. The rest sit around it and pluck blackberries." Carol emphasized the importance of becoming more alert to "the more" in the midst of the ordinary in our lives. Nothing is off limits for the indwelling of divinity. She encouraged the group to encounter the sacred in each happening in each day. These happenings are all sacraments – visible signs of God's presence along the roadways of our lives. Jesus is the perfect sacrament. Carol pointed out that God said, "Be in relationship with My Son and know Me." The God of Relationships, the Living God, yearns for a personal relationship with each of us. Carol then spoke of the seven sacraments and the role they play in our relationships and that God is in all and all is gift.

Quoting Anne LaMott in her book *Traveling Mercies*, Sean Bradley stated, "Anne says grace meets us where we are, but doesn't allow us to stay there. Grace is what God does. It is God's transforming power, that which will make us into what God wants us to be. Grace is our sharing in God's life by sharing in God's love. It is what binds us to God, the Creator, and God, the Sustainer, and all else in creation. It is that simple." Sean challenged the group to think of a surprise they encountered on their faith/life journey and how they responded to it. He identified ways for them to meet their surprises in life more gracefully with gratitude and prayer. Using John the Baptist as the ultimate spiritual director, Sean states, "What John the Baptist says to me is that our first and foremost responsibility is to act justly and with integrity in the relationships we already find ourselves in. Then, future actions can grow and grow and grow." He adds, "Social justice, at its best, is when we are all willing to walk with each other, to live all our relationships in a way that witnesses to the unity, the oneness of all creation." Sean called the group to move beyond their present circumstances and follow the light of the lantern bearer that leads them to the pure light that is their God.

Sister Joellen Price shared secrets of the "sojourn" into stillness, silence and solitude through prayer. The following opening prayer by Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, was used:

*Deep within your soul, there is a KNOWING PLACE,
A sanctuary where gifts are nurtured.
Spend time there tending your gifts.
There in the chapel of your heart
You will become a gift to be given.*

Sister Joellen quoted Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." She used Meister Eckhart's words in, "There is nothing so much like God in all the universe as silence." And, the Serbian proverb, "Solitude is full of God." The group was given time to enter the "sacred space in the chapel of their hearts" by walking outside, going to the chapel, individual labyrinths or in a quiet spot in one of the parlors. They then prayed together, "Lord, may the seeds of the tree of stillness bear fruit for us and for all the restless world..."

The day left the group with much to ponder. Associate Pat Albrecht shares, "The entire day was a blessing – not only the programs, but visiting with the sisters and other associates – even the peacefulness of the outdoors as it was a beautiful day."

Yvonne Kenne, a guest, adds, "I treasured the holiness I felt present here, the welcoming from all of the sisters and a feeling of family and of love."

"One of the most positive aspects of the day was the great spirit of community and bondedness being nurtured between sisters and associates...such excitement," comments Sister Julia Wingert.

The weekend concluded with Liturgy and brunch on Sunday morning and a prayer for all to have a safe journey and be "a gift to be given."

The entire day was a blessing – not only the programs, but visiting with the sisters and other associates.

Associate Pat Albrecht



Left to right: Top photo: Speakers Associate Carol Witry, Sean Bradley and Sister Joellen Price; Middle photo: Associate Janet Leonard and Sister René Laubenthal participate in a table discussion; Bottom photo: Associate Ron Weaver, Sister Bonita Determan and Associate Judy Munshower share ideas after one of the presentations.

Garage Sale Treasures Net Over \$14,500 for Various Ministries

The Presentation sisters and associates hosted their sixth annual garage sale on April 22-24 and April 29-May 1, 2010, in conjunction with Dubuque and Asbury citywide garage sales. In this time of economic blight, garage sales have grown tremendously. Seventeen years ago, Dubuque registered 70 sales throughout the city; this year they registered more than 400.

"One person's trash is another person's treasure." Nowhere else is that statement more true than at garage sales. The Sisters of the Presentation advertised that they had something for everyone and, indeed, they did. Many shoppers came and found "treasures" galore. There was a Christopher Radko Christmas ornament; Belleek Irish dishes; books; DVD's/CD's; seasonal decorations; floral arrangements; furniture; lamps; bedding; radios; clocks; plants; clothing of all sizes for men, women and children; exercise equipment; lawn mowers – you name it!

The sales yielded over \$14,500 this year, all of which will go to the following three ministries:

- The Haiti Relief Fund
- The Dubuque Hispanic Ministry
- Student Tuition Assistance to support Catholic education at Danbury Catholic in Danbury, Iowa.

The Sisters of the Presentation are very grateful to all who contributed treasures; helped unpack, sort and organize the treasures; directed traffic; made signs; encouraged customers to buy the treasures and shared the treasure of hospitality with all. The bake sale was a treasured success also and we thank those who donated fresh homemade cookies, brownies, pies, breads, muffins and cakes. We hope to see you all next year!



Associate Orientee Susan Murphy sells baked treasures at the garage sale.

SISTER MARIAN SWEENEY

The Librarian

by JANICE HANCOCK, PBVM

"Marian, the librarian" became one of her many claims to fame.

Sister Marian Sweeney holds a copy of a McGuffey Reader book from 1879, which was the first reading book used in the U.S.



Sister Marian Sweeney who hails from Bernard, Iowa, lived on a farm and delighted in a one-room school education through grade eight. In her high school days, Sister Marian attended St. Columbkille in Dubuque staying with her aunt and cousins during the week, returning to her family on the weekends. Her dad was an Irish farmer and her mother a homemaker. Sister is the oldest of two brothers and one sister. After graduation, she joined the Presentation sisters "up the hill" from St. Columbkille on September 8, 1949. Sister Marian received her bachelor's degree in History from Clarke College in Dubuque and a master's degree in Library Science from Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois.

Sister taught in various schools in Iowa; Winner, South Dakota, and St. Paul, Minnesota, teaching every grade with the exception of grade eight. Sister served as the librarian in St. Paul, at Newman High School in Mason City, Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona and Wahlert High School in Dubuque. To feed and savor her passion for reading, she made many trips across the famous Music Man Bridge in Mason City to the public library. "Marian, the librarian" became one of her many claims to fame.

Quoting classmate, Sister Joan Lickteig, "One of Marian's best gifts is her love for books. And what a reader she is! As a result she's an excellent conversationalist. She is at her best when she's sharing a favorite work or summarizing a story; her voice reveals her pleasure and her delight is contagious. I want to rush right into the library and check out her latest favorite."

When Sister Marian came to Dubuque on July 1, 1999, she did not "retire" as such. Sister continued to minister in the Mount Loretto library and archives. Her research and generous sharing of the early history of the community has been a delight to the sisters.

Sister Dolores Zieser speaks from experience about Sister Marian's love for travel. "Sister Marian could be called a world traveler. She has traveled far and wide across the United States and Europe with her Presentation sisters, family and friends. Ask Marian about any place in the world, and she can probably tell you some of its history."

Sister Marian's appreciation of art history has taken her to Chicago to see the Vatican Art exhibit and to the Minneapolis Art Institute to view the work of Grant Wood. She also enjoys sewing for herself and doing mending for other sisters. Sister delights in a good game of cards, crossword and jigsaw puzzles and crafts.

Always up for a good laugh, Sister Marian appreciates the humor of others, as well. When asked, "How do you see yourself following in Nano's footsteps," Sister quipped, "Nano didn't live to old age!"

Halos of Love

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

Have you seen any angels lately? When you ask this question of Sister Kevin Cummings she responds in the affirmative and then crafts her answer in the form of Korean poetry called sijo.

**Our angels sometimes wear
White, but often they are clad
In chartreuse, turquoise, orange,
Or red, perhaps with a
Touch-or splash-of blue or green.
Always wearing haloes of love.**

These angels are more commonly known as the nurses and aides who staff Nagle Center, the department at Mount Loretto which provides assisted and skilled care for Sisters of the Presentation. Many an aching joint has relaxed at the touch of an aide who offers sisters the relaxing experience of a whirlpool bath or a soothing back rub. Many an anxious heart has been calmed by a nurse who honored the sister recovering from surgery by being a listening presence and who took the time to hear the message expressed between the words. The limitations brought on by senior years are mitigated as Nagle Center staff assist in so many ways. One resident delightedly expressed her gratitude in this way, "The nurses and aides will do anything for you...even before you can ask!" The sisters' eyes sparkle as they describe those who

minister in Nagle Center and pronounce high praise with phrases such as: "The nurses are 100 per cent and I love every one of them. They are the sweetest!" and "They are flying back and forth all day long tending to our needs." "One could not ask for more." "Their professional manner provides a security for me." "I never dreamed retirement would be so special and so life-giving."

It is a privilege and honor to care for the sisters. And here at Nagle Center, we have the best staff in the Dubuque area.

Linda Hinzmann, RN, Director of Nursing

The 27 full time/part time staff members likewise reflect a great love for sister residents. Nurses and aides comment on the "home-like atmosphere" of Nagle Center. "This is a wonderful, friendly, pleasant place to work." Another staff member remarks, "I feel fulfilled being here." Director of Nursing Linda Hinzmann, RN, serves as a true advocate for sisters as she accompanies them to medical appointments. She states, "It is a privilege and honor to care for the sisters. And here at Nagle Center, we have the best staff in the Dubuque area." Another employee declared, "It is just heaven to work here."

So, angel spottings are frequent in Nagle Center...there are angel-nurses and angel-aides who wear haloes of love. There are choruses of "thank yous" from the residents who have benefited from the ministry of kind, respectful and friendly attendants. And very noticeably, there can be heard almost any time of day or night a whispered "God bless you" as a sister thanks a staff member and as a nurse or aide blesses a sister. Is this heaven?...no, this is Nagle Center.



Left to right: Director of Nursing Linda Hinzmann, RN; Sister Therese Marie Hawes, Olga Kazberouk, CNA; Sister Jocile Moes and Michelle Hein, RN.

AN ALWAYS PERSON

*Sister Mary Lawrence Mulligan**September 12, 1917 - March 19, 2010*

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Lawrence Mulligan might be characterized as an “always person.” Always courteous and gracious, always congenial and pleasant, always positive and friendly, Sister Lawrence warmed any room or setting in which she found herself. Likewise, she always wore a smile with her coordinated clothes.

Sister Lawrence so enjoyed reading the newspaper, and in her later years spent hours doing so. As a Dubuquer, she was interested in all things pertaining to Dubuque, and as a social studies teacher, she was interested in world and national news. Perhaps that contributed to her being an excellent conversationalist, along with her desire to bring an interested presence to the table or the parlor.

Sister Lawrence, at age 92 and looking 52, had ten siblings, five of whom preceded her in death and five of whom survive her. While she was growing up, her home was at the end of the garden path of the 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue Presentation motherhouse, the Presentation’s closest neighbor to the east. Living so near the convent and attending school taught by the Sisters of the Presentation at St. Columbkille, it’s little wonder that this oldest daughter of James and Lena Mulligan chose to become a Presentation sister.

Having received her bachelor’s degree from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, and her master’s degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, she did graduate studies at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Sister Lawrence made good use of her education; her teaching career spanned 55 years, taking her to Waukon, Algona, Lawler, Humboldt, Osage, Farley, Storm Lake, and Dubuque, all in Iowa.

Her ministry experiences, which demonstrate her versatility, included elementary, middle school, high school and part-time library staff at Wahlert High School in Dubuque (1987-1993). With her entire religious life centered in the field of education, she taught CCD classes, went on several service projects and worked with the Legion of Mary as a spiritual director. She retired to Mount Loretto in 1993, where she used her library skills in the motherhouse library for a number of years.

While the most common image we carry in our minds might be that of Sister Lawrence reading the newspaper, in addition to reading she also enjoyed theater, music, crafts, travel, prayer, community service – and the celebration of holidays and special occasions with her family, who during her retirement years in

Dubuque, included her in their invitations. Over the years Sister Lawrence demonstrated some endearing mannerisms. She punctuated her conversation with chuckles of laughter and held her water glass or her teacup with her little finger extended, curved ever slightly, in a most genteel manner. Whatever else she did, Sister Lawrence was always a perfect lady.

One question needs to be raised, “Has anyone alerted the heavenly dining room to stock up on hot chocolate?” In the earlier days it wasn’t on the menu, but a special retirement-benefit for “Lawrency,” as she was affectionately called, was the regular serving of a colorful mug, steaming with hot chocolate. Her response to this treat projected such delight that student servers vied with one another to deliver the hot chocolate to their favorite recipient.

Born in Dubuque on the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, September 12, 1917, Sister Lawrence entered eternal life on March 19, 2010, the feast of St. Joseph, patron of a happy death. She seemed to have had “heavenly connections” from beginning to end. How fitting the words of the gathering song for her wake service: “Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home.” Go now in peace, faithful friend of God.

Sister Lawrence might be characterized as an “always person.” Always courteous and gracious, always congenial and pleasant, always positive and friendly, Sister Lawrence warmed any room or setting in which she found herself.



A LIFE OF LEARNING AND LOVING

*Sister Mary Victoria Gereau**March 16, 1917 - April 27, 2010*

by BETH KRESS, PBVM, NIECE

“She loved God and others. She loved learning. She was kind and faithful to us all.” These words, from an epitaph by her niece, Jeanne Kress, summarize many of the sentiments heard over the years and during the rituals and liturgy celebrating Sister Mary Victoria Gereau’s new life in Christ.

Family, friends and community remember Sister Victoria’s dedication to teaching and to long lasting friendships. They recall her many days and hours given to creating beautiful designs that became greeting cards. They recall her great interest in each of her family members.

“Sister Victoria was friendly and always caring. She had kind and welcoming words for children and adults. At times she had demonstrated a strong will, but she loved and cared for all. Her family was part of her life always. Her kindness and love showed in her interest in us all. Her love of God taught her and all of us that being a child of God and a member of God’s family draws us all together forever,” reflects Jeanne.

Teaching was Sister Victoria’s first passion as some of her former students relate.

“Sister Victoria taught my brothers at St. Columbkille High School. They speak highly of her as a teacher,” shares Sister Marlene McDonnell, SCC. “Sister was always hospitable and gracious to me when I visited.”

It was her love of teaching that inspired a love of learning in Sister Victoria’s students. “She was an excellent teacher who kept a pleasant and organized classroom,” recalls Sister Louann Doering. “Seeing her lovely smile, you could tell that she loved to teach. She was serious and had good discipline and she helped us enjoy subjects that were hard.”

Through teaching, Sister made friends. “She taught me and my three sisters,” says Sister Donna Determan. “She was always our good friend and that of our dear mother, always asking about us.”

Working hard to earn her bachelor’s and master’s degree, including certification in Latin and French, Sister Victoria lived Nano Nagle’s mission throughout 39 years in Catholic grade and high schools in Iowa and for six years tutoring French students after she retired to Mount Loretto in 1988. She continued her hobbies of crocheting, playing guitar and violin, calligraphy and silk-screening greeting cards. She loved to sit in the sun in the four seasons room, go to the chapel and be with her Lord or do spiritual reading.

There were many things her family loved about Sister Victoria: her smile, her gentle touch, her eye for the beautiful and creative and her love for family. She made it important to know all her nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. She remembered family birthdays with a yearly silk-screened calendar containing all the family’s dates of the living and deceased.

As sister and aunt, she was with family as often as possible. She and her sisters slept in the same bed. She enjoyed the same prom as Betty. She picked apples and carrots with brothers Roy and Frankie. She babysat Mary Virginia (Honey) before entering the convent. She spent many summers with her mother Anna when home visits began. She shared most of her religious life with her sister, Sister Virginia.

Visiting Mount Loretto with her classmate, Sister Bonita Determan for jubilee in April, Mary Jane Hale Porter from Mason City wrote to Sister Victoria shortly before Sister’s passing: “Sister Victoria, I loved being able to see you! You look beautiful probably because you lived a beautiful life. I know you were a wonderful teacher. Every time my class gets together, we rave about how much we loved being in your class. I am eternally grateful.”

Sister Victoria traveled a journey of learning how to let go when hanging on and wanting to be with others was her preference. And yet, in her final days, she took plenty of time to let all say ‘goodbye.’ She never did anything fast. She was deliberate and precise. On April 27, after family and community had sat and prayed with her for a week, she slipped away to God quietly and alone, filled with a life-time of learning and loving.

A WOMAN OF WISDOM AND WIT

Sister Mary Dominica Schumann

May 30, 1916 - May 9, 2010

by MARGARET ANNE KRAMER, PBVM

“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me to come home. Come home, you who are weary come home, earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home.” This song was sung as we gathered to welcome Sister Dominica Schumann’s body home to Mount Loretto. These were the same words Sister Dominica heard Sunday morning on May 9, 2010, as she left her community in the early hours to go home to her Lord.

Sister Dominica, Beatrice, daughter of Frank and Clone Schumann, was born on May 30, 1916, in the small town of Lawler, Iowa. Living near the school and the Presentation sisters, Sister Dominica spent a great deal of time with the sisters as she grew up. Having been taught by them, she often said her vocation came out of her close relationship with the sisters.

Sister entered religious life in September 1934 when she journeyed from Lawler to Dubuque, Iowa, to join the other young women who were entering, who would become her life-long companions and friends.

She received her bachelor’s degree of Music from Loras College in Dubuque and DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. Sister’s career in music as a classroom teacher, piano and organ teacher, parish liturgist and adult choir director spanned over 50 years. Her ministries took her to Ryan, Humboldt, Monona, Whittemore, Storm Lake, Charles City, Algona, Waterloo and Waukon, Iowa. Often it was said that she could make the piano and organ sing.

Retirement in 1986 came with ease as she continued to use her music skills as a musician and liturgist. She could also be seen with a watering can and clippers as she cared for the plants around the motherhouse. Sister Dominica would say, “I enjoy watching a plant flourish by the simple work of my hands. The end result is always amazing to me.”

Whether it was playing the piano for a sing-along, enjoying a delicious meal, a drive in the country, watching Josie, her friend’s dog or visiting with family and friends, Sister Dominica knew how to enjoy life to the fullest.

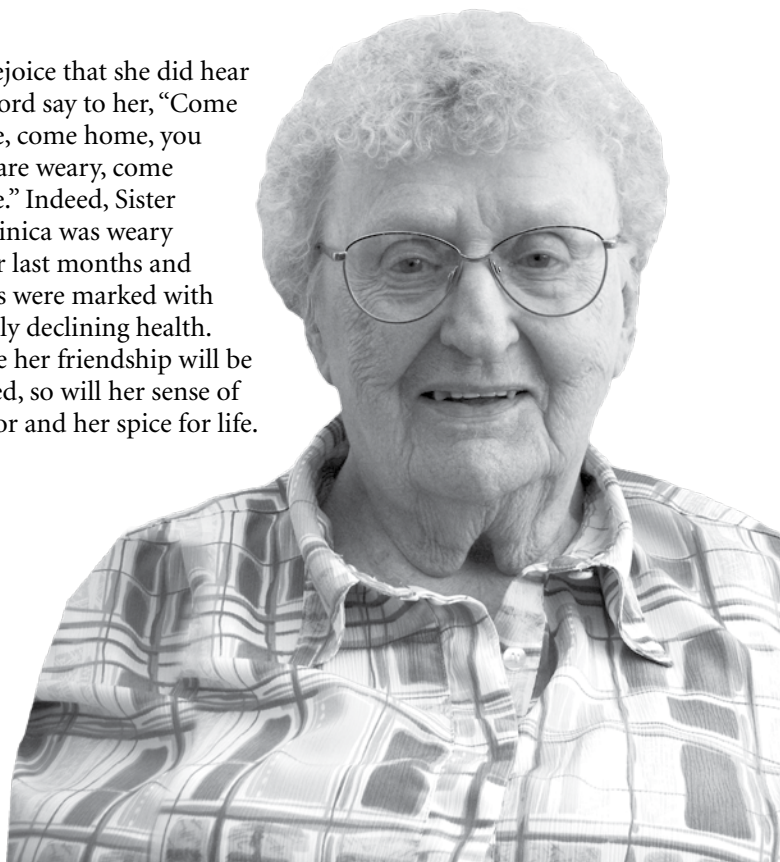
Father Doug Wathier, chaplain at Mount Loretto, reflected on Sister Dominica at her funeral liturgy, “In my experience, Sister Dominica was a real day brightener. There was a sparkle in her eye. She was committed to her family and her community. A wry observation, a quick comment, a killer smile - that was

Sister Dominica. She was kind and generous. She was stubborn and outspoken. She was utterly fun. She was big on life and big on people. Sister Dominica was a straight shooter and a truly loyal friend. She was a maker of music and a healer of hearts, a purveyor of laughter. Her music was a reflection for her zest for life. And her life was a reflection of her faith. Today we give thanks for the many ways she brought Christ to life – over and over again. She helped people hear that wonderful human song.”

A wry observation, a quick comment, a killer smile - that was Sister Dominica. She was kind and generous. She was stubborn and outspoken. She was utterly fun. She was big on life and big on people. Sister Dominica was a straight shooter and a truly loyal friend. She was a maker of music and a healer of hearts, a purveyor of laughter.

Father Doug Wathier

We rejoice that she did hear the Lord say to her, “Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home.” Indeed, Sister Dominica was weary as her last months and weeks were marked with rapidly declining health. While her friendship will be missed, so will her sense of humor and her spice for life.



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



The Lesson of Service

Sister Joan Brincks, teachers and K-8 students at Newman Catholic in Mason City, Iowa, are connecting with students across the states. These students are sharing their talents by writing stories and poems in notebooks that will be used by Presentation Sister Jean Ann Meyer's students in the EXCEL program in Okolona, Mississippi. Pencils, folders, markers and other supplies were also given. EXCEL's purpose is to further education, promote community building, encourage community service and foster healthy lives.

Nano Nagle SERVICE AWARD

In addition to the Nano Nagle Scholarship, the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation initiated a Nano Nagle Service Award to further Nano's legacy of education and in the spirit of her desire to serve. To be eligible for this \$500 service award, a person is nominated by a Presentation sister or associate and identified as a person of service. This award may be used to further opportunities of service, benefit a service project, help with education related to serving the needs of the poor or in some way aid the nominee in continuing his or her gift of service.



This year's service award was given to Donna Cota. Sister Catherine Wingert, who nominated Donna, describes her as "...a faith-filled woman with a passion for the poor. Donna exemplifies Nano Nagle in her willingness to sacrifice her vacation time, in her determination to help wherever and whenever she can, and in her generous sharing of her God-given talents and abilities. She has a passion to bring people together!"

Donna actively and generously serves in a variety of ministries in her parish of St. Peter & Paul in Sherrill, Iowa, and plans and executes youth service trips to Kentucky. Recently, Donna has responded to the call of the Iowa floods of 2008 and the earthquake in Haiti, donating numerous hours.

Left to right: Sister Catherine Wingert presents Donna Cota with her award.

You are invited to join us.

June 27-July 2, 2010
QUEST Service Opportunity
Kansas City, Missouri

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.

July 16-18, 2010
Community Gathering

August 29, 2010
60th Jubilarians
Sister Marie Barth
Sister Stephen Eswine
Sister Michelle Gallagher
Sister Marita Kollasch
Sister Agnes Marie Lynch
Sister Dolores Moes

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors

WOMEN & spirit
CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

**Discover a world few have seen,
millions have shared.**

Women & Spirit Exhibit Schedule

May 9, 2010 – August 28, 2010
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage
Cleveland, Ohio

September 24, 2010 – January 22, 2011
Statue of Liberty National Monument/
Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Liberty Island, New York

February 2011 – April 2011
National Mississippi River Museum
Dubuque, Iowa

**For more information,
visit Women & Spirit at:
www.womenandspirit.org**

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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



Sister Joan Lickteig, 2002 Gold Star recipient, was guest speaker on May 20, 2010, for the Gold Star award ceremony. The Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching is co-sponsored by R. J. McElroy Trust and KWWL, Iowa's News Channel. Each year ten teachers are chosen from the school systems of Dubuque County.



Sister Rita Cameron of Davenport, Iowa, was named St. Ambrose University Staff Person of the Year on May 6, 2010. Sister Rita ministers as the director of music ministry/spirituality.



Sister Corine Murray received the Award of the Year from the Notre Dame Club of Dubuque for her ministry at the Presentation Lantern Center. She is the executive director of the center.



Sister Carrie Link has completed "Tending the Holy," a two-year ecumenical certificate program in spiritual direction through Christos Center for Spiritual Formation in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Congratulations to **Sister Elizabeth Guiliani** who was granted Clarke College's annual "Sister Mary Ellen Caldwell Religious Studies" award on April 30, 2010. This award honors her pursuit of excellence in religious studies and her commitment to social justice.

Do you have news to share?

**We would love to publish it.
Please send your news items to:
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org.**