



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 can submit the following to:

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Cover PHOTO

Since 1990, organizers for justice have peacefully gathered in November at the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, to commemorate the anniversary of the 1989 School of America graduate-led Jesuit massacre in San Salvador, and the many other thousands of victims of violence. Together they strive to close the military training program of Latin American soldiers. Many years, including this year, Dubuque Presentations sisters, associates and friends participate in the event. Left to right: Sisters Carla Popes, Julie Marsh, Mary Lou Specha, Lizzie Guiliani, Marge Healy and Joetta Venneman.

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

A Look Inside CONTENTS

Sisters of the Presentation | Winter 2009 | Volume 52 • Number 4

- 4 A Year of Celebration**
In celebrating the 225th anniversary of the death of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress; the 175th anniversary of the arrival of Presentations to America; and the 135th anniversary of the foundation of the Dubuque Presentation sisters, we take time to reflect on the past and recommit to the future.



- 6 Immersion and Service Opportunities**
Presentation Quest, an immersion and service program, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, provides and promotes opportunities in learning the root causes of poverty and in educating others in earth sustainability. Sign up today!

- 8 Resurrection School Receives Blue Ribbon Award**
The No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. Resurrection School was among those honored this year.



SPECIAL INSERT: Celebrating Nano Nagle and Her Companions
A close look at the faces of the Sisters of the Presentation and where they minister.

- 13 Life's Lessons Learned**
Holly Richard, employee of the Sisters of the Presentation, reflects on her journey to Bolivia to see first hand the ministry of Presentation sisters.

- 14 Walking in the Light of Nano**
A group of sisters and associates known as the "Lantern Keepers" do good deeds while following in Nano's footsteps.

- 19 Mount Loretto and Beyond**
We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation sisters, near and far.

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

How to Be About Something Greater Than Ourselves

With the coming of the holiday season, we may well find ourselves part of many different gatherings. The members of some groups are very closely intertwined: family constellations drawn together to share the pleasure of deepening bonds and forging lasting memories or the interaction with friends on an only-once-a-year basis to refresh relationships that are strong enough to bear the wear and tear of 12-month distances. However, we also have experiences of “required” rather than “chosen” moments of contact with others to whom we are less closely connected. Simply put, there are some circles of contact that we look forward to and others that seem to be less favorable.

I would dare to suggest that there are these variances of connection within the circles of both our religious congregation and our families that can bring us to a discussion of what it means to live with others...in community...in understanding...in acceptance...in reverence. Sister Joan Chittister, OSB offers some helpful insights:

“It is human community that tests the spiritual grist of the human being. Community calls us to the kind of relationships that walk us through mine fields of personal selfishness, that confront us with moments of personal responsibility, that raise us to the level of personal heroics and that lead us to the rigor of personal compassion day after day after day. It is when we see in the needs of others what we are meant to give away that we become truly empty of ourselves. It is in the challenges of the times that we come to speak the Spirit. It is when we find ourselves dealing with the downright intransigence of the other that we understand our own sin. It is when we recognize in the world around us the call of God to us that our response to the human race becomes the measuring stick of the quality of our souls. To be a real contemplative we must every day take others into the narrow little confines of our lives and listen to their call to us to be about something greater than ourselves.”

So the holiday gatherings that we will experience in the weeks ahead could offer us great blessings: the grace of stronger ties of friendship with those persons whom we truly treasure, as well as the opportunity to open wide our “narrowness” in order to learn about ourselves what those outside our intimate circle of friends might have to teach us. And it is likely that in the process of “un-narrowing” ourselves, we discover the ultimate meaning of Christmas...to find the presence of the Divine in unexpected places.

May we celebrate the Mystery of Love born amid the chaos and brokenness of our hearts and our world. May we trust that the needs of others will teach us how to be generous in the coming year. Then Christmas can happen day after day after day on the grandest of scales.



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

“Look at What You Started!” A Year of Celebration

written by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

While attending a boisterous family gathering of various generations, often someone teasingly says to a grandparent, “Look at what you started!” The response is a reflective, quiet moment accompanied with a gentle smile or a few tears as the elder recalls the in-between-years. Life lived deeply is a sacred journey and there is gratitude for love that has been a constant on the sometimes winding road. 2009 has blessed Presentations throughout the world with time to reflect, be grateful and recommit themselves to journeying as they say to their founding mothers, “Look at what you started!”

- **November 13, 2009: 135th anniversary** of the arrival in Dubuque of Mother Vincent Hennessy, Kate Reide, Ellen Ahearn and Alice Howley (November 13, 1874). Today, there are 129 Dubuque Presentation sisters and 115 associates.
- **September 21, 2009: 175th anniversary** of the arrival of four Presentation sisters in St. Johns Newfoundland—the first Presentation foundation beyond Ireland and the first in America (September 21, 1833). Today, there are 616 Presentation sisters and 450+ associates in North America.
- **April 26, 2009: 225th anniversary** of the death of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress in Ireland (April 26, 1784). Today, there are 2,300 Presentation sisters and 1,060 associates worldwide.

The celebrations were cause to ponder the harvest of a few women with a dream, to be grateful for the many sisters in the in-between years and to recommit themselves in the here and now.

In Newfoundland, Presentation sisters gathered from Australia, India, Ireland, Zimbabwe and various North American congregations to celebrate the 175th anniversary of their arrival in America. A spirit of oneness was evident in the singing, the dancing, the sharing of stories and the dreaming of new dreams. The 18th century beginnings in Ireland were recalled when Nano embodied the Gospel message to bring Good News to those heavily burdened as she tirelessly strove to meet the needs of the poor. Although the Penal Laws prohibited doing so, Nano set up schools to educate children, thereby challenging systems and structures that kept people poor. She walked the dark, winding lanes to attend the sick and dying. Her compassion allowed each person to experience their own dignity.

Two hundred twenty-five years after her death, Nano’s followers, having ventured to other shores, continue to ground themselves in God who became one with them. They recommit themselves to their 2007 statement made at the International Presentation Assembly in India when representatives from Zambia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Australia, Philippine Islands, Papua New Guinea and beyond stated: “We listen deeply to the cry of Earth heard most loudly in the cry of those made poor and we are moved to attend with urgency to the woundedness of our global community.” Unjust systems and structures are challenged through the work of Sister Fatima Rodrigo, PBVM, (India) UN-NGO representative in New York, countless justice contacts and individual sisters and associates. The compassion of Jesus is experienced and treasured today by the peoples of many continents.

The dream of their founding mothers are treasured, but new dreams are yet to be born—imagine what is yet to come. Thank you, Nano, for risking the first step.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION OF DUBUQUE

1718

Nano Nagle, a daughter of Ireland who lived under the oppressive Penal Laws of England, was born. She would grow to become a woman of great strength and determination.

1775

Nano Nagle established a religious community in Cork, Ireland. This community would later become known as the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1784

Nano Nagle died at South Presentation Convent in Cork, Ireland. Her life example would inspire future Presentation women to live her dream.

1833

Four Presentation sisters arrived in St. Johns Newfoundland to become the first Presentation foundation beyond Ireland and the first in America.

1874

Irish Presentation sister, Mother Vincent Hennessy, accompanied by three young women, left Mooncoin, Ireland, to establish a Presentation congregation in Dubuque, Iowa. This invitation from Bishop Hennessy of Dubuque, Iowa, would propel the community into the next 135 years.

1875

With a desire to minister as educators, these Irish sisters settled in Key West, outside Dubuque. Here they converted their convent parlor into a classroom. Twenty pupils answered roll call on the first day of class. The following September the enrollment would swell to 80.

1876

Now with seven Presentation sisters in the community, three were assigned to what is currently St. Anthony’s School. This first ministry would serve as a prelude to a total of 55 missions in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

1880

Mother Vincent died unexpectedly. Her death was a devastating blow to her young and fragile community. Nevertheless, through the grace of God, the sisters would carry the Presentation heritage into the future.

Sacred Journey

WARMED

BY A TURF FIRE

AND THE GOD OF BURNING STARS,
WOMEN WITH COURAGE IN BOTH HANDS
TRAVELED AN OCEAN
TO TRANSPLANT GOSPEL FIRE.

IN THE HEARTLAND

CHRIST, THEIR LIGHT,
WAS KNOWN IN LAMPS OF TRUTH,
IN LANTERNS OF HOPE
AND IN HEARTS AFLAME.

WITH THE TURNING OF THE SEASONS,

THE SACRED FIRE HAS BEEN PLANTED IN US
AND WE ARE CHARGED
WITH NOTHING LESS THAN
TAMING THE DARKNESS
IN OURSELVES
AND IN OUR WORLD.

CORINE MURRAY, PBVM

Foundation Day, 2009

The Dubuque foundation
begins with
Mother Vincent Hennessy.

written by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Ellen Hennessy attended the school staffed by Presentation sisters in her hometown, Castlecomer, Ireland. Here she became a Sister of the Presentation, receiving the name Sister Mary Magdalen. After serving effectively in her home community, the Kilkenny Presentation community requested that she join them, not an uncommon practice among the small Irish foundations.

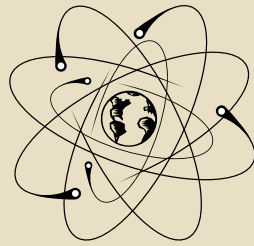
At Kilkenny there was another sister with the name Magdalen, so St. Vincent de Paul became the choice patron of our traveling sister and she became known as Mother Vincent Hennessy. Her responsibilities in Kilkenny consisted of assistant to the superior and treasurer. Some time later the Presentation Convent in Mooncoin requested her services. Upon her transfer, Mother Vincent was immediately elected Mother Superior; she served two terms.

On an October day in 1870, Bishop Hennessy, returning from the First Vatican Council in Rome, visited his homeland in Ireland, including Mooncoin. While waiting to confer with some priests, he walked about the village and noted a stately brick building that a young girl informed him belonged to the Presentation sisters.

The bishop called upon the sisters and upon introduction he was informed of a Mother Hennessy. No relationship could be identified, but the bishop continued his visit, speaking of the great need for missionaries in 19th century Dubuque Diocese, which comprised the entire state of Iowa.

A number of sisters expressed interest in the endeavor, but in the subsequent months Mother Vincent was the only one who persevered. She couldn’t, however, take on such a project by herself so she sought companions from former students and relatives.

Mother Vincent found willing souls in the persons of former student, Alice Howley, Alice’s cousin, Ellen Ahearn and Mother Vincent’s niece, Kate Reide. These four women, one sister and three generous, courageous women, left their homeland by boat, never to return. On November 9, 1874, they arrived in New York. Shortly thereafter, the Presentation missionaries boarded a train for Dubuque, reaching their destination four days later on November 13, 1874. Following two months of hospitality from the Sisters of the Visitation, they moved to their first home in Key West, outside Dubuque. Here they found an empty house with neither food nor furniture. Here, too, they endured months of extraordinary “pioneer” hardships, suffering from cold, hunger and serious inconveniences. Their faith and fortitude provided the foundation of the Dubuque Presentation congregation.



PRESENTATION QUEST

IMMERSION AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The phrase “think global, act local” has been around for decades. The words urge people to consider the health of the entire planet and to take action in their own communities. It also rallies people around many other social justice issues and points out the interdependence of all living beings.

To this effect, **PRESENTATION QUEST** was developed to invite others into grassroots reflection and action. The immersion and service program, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, has been operating for almost a year.

PRESENTATION QUEST provides and promotes opportunities in learning the root causes of poverty and in educating others in earth sustainability. These opportunities allow a deeper understanding of systems that make people poor, of stress on the environment, of diversity of culture and the realization of the need for personal growth.

PRESENTATION QUEST seeks mature, spiritually-motivated women and men in support of the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation and their associates. Young adults 18 years of age and older, Presentation sisters, associates, family and friends are encouraged to participate. Listed are the upcoming 2010 service and immersion opportunities. Sign up today!

Visit

WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG

to learn more.



Presentation Quest was an awesome experience that allowed me to use my gifts in a way that benefitted the community. It was rewarding when people commented on what a good job we were doing and expressed their thanks. We are living out God’s word while setting a good example for others. Hopefully, our actions will be contagious to others.

Stephanie Buse, student

JANUARY 3 - 9, 2010
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

IMMERSION AND SERVICE:

Operation Helping Hands/Catholic Charities, Café Reconcile ministry and Lantern Light

EXPERIENCE:

An immersion into the poverty of the South and the continued challenges of rebuilding New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Ministries include serving food at a day shelter to those who are hungry and homeless, harvesting vegetables for a non-profit organization that teaches culinary skills to young adults from at-risk communities, and rehabilitating houses by dry walling, interior and exterior painting and carpentry work.



APRIL 5 - 10, 2010
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

IMMERSION:

Urban Plunge/8th Day Center for Peace

EXPERIENCE:

An immersion into the systems and structures of the urban environment from the perspective of justice, spirituality and ministry. Participants will hear speakers and visit a variety of social services that impact people’s lives. Daily prayer includes scripture and reflection.



In the very act of doing service, I forget about myself and my needs and am reminded once again that happiness lies in giving and doing for others. It doesn’t matter how much gets done on the service experiences. I walk away from each experience enriched by the people I meet and whom I serve. It is an experience I never want to end because it is in serving that I find myself most happy.

Sister Carmen Hernandez, PBVM

MAY 15, 2010 & OCTOBER 2, 2010
DUBUQUE, IOWA

SERVICE:

Adopt-A-Highway Program

EXPERIENCE:

A group effort in cleaning two miles on Highway 20 between Epworth and Peosta by removing trash and debris. This program is developed by the Iowa Department of Transportation to increase public awareness of environmental needs along Iowa highways.

JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2010
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

SERVICE:

Community Service

EXPERIENCE:

An effort in caring for Earth and the people around them with Presentation associates in the Kansas City area. There are a variety of services within the community – Operation Breakthrough, outdoor work at Powell Gardens, assisting at Alphapointe Association for the Blind and service at Christ the King Food Pantry.

JULY 5 - 9, 2010
(Participants may choose 1-5 days)
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

SERVICE:

Cedar Rapids Rebuild Project

EXPERIENCE:

The organized services of the Archdiocese of Dubuque Catholic Charities and the United Methodist Church rebuild a flooded community using skilled and unskilled volunteers for drywalling, interior and exterior painting, flooring, trim carpentry and insulation.

You are invited to serve with Presentation sisters currently ministering in the following six areas. Dates and length of service are adjustable according to your schedule...days to weeks are possibilities.

- 1 LANTERN LIGHT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**
A collaborative group of Presentation sisters in North America serve the poor and homeless of New Orleans. Volunteers may find themselves involved in reintegration services for those displaced, serving a daily meal, and helping to coordinate volunteer groups desiring to serve the community.
- 2 RECONCILE NEW ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**
In 2000, Reconcile New Orleans’ Youth Workforce Development Program was developed to meet the needs of youth who had experienced an array of socioeconomic challenges, including poverty, homelessness, arrested educational achievement and substance abuse. Areas of volunteering could include tutoring, construction and demolition, organization, landscaping, line serving, food preparation and office work.
- 3 AURORA HOUSE
WESLACO, TEXAS**
A care facility for patients in the process of dying who have been living in extreme poverty without resources or families to take care of them. This not-for-profit organization believes that all people have the right to die surrounded by respect and compassion. Volunteers could answer call bells, prepare meals, houseclean, read to residents, take residents outside or simply be with others in need.

**4 CULTURAL IMMERSION
OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI**
Okolona, marked with much poverty, is snuggled in the north corner of the state. The median income for a household is around \$25,000. Volunteers are welcome to help with renovation projects, the after-school tutoring program and/or in the resale store organizing donated items.

**5 PRESENTATION LANTERN CENTER
DUBUQUE, IOWA**
A drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children who are striving to better their lives. Volunteer opportunities range from tutoring those learning English and preparing individuals for the citizenship test to just sharing a cup of tea and enjoying adult conversation.

**6 DUBUQUE FOOD PANTRY
DUBUQUE, IOWA**
The Dubuque Food Pantry serves the people of Dubuque and the surrounding area. The pantry seeks volunteers to restock, pick up groceries donated by stores and help organize food baskets.

If you are interested in any of these experiences, please visit **www.dubuquepresentations.org** for more information or contact:

Sister Julie Marsh, PBVM
Coordinator of Immersion and Service
2360 Carter Road
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563-588-2008
service@dubuquepresentations.org



Resurrection School Receives Blue Ribbon Award

Article taken from *The Witness and Telegraph Herald, Dubuque*



Left to right: The Blue Ribbon Award committee members from Resurrection School are Brenda Norby, Kate Kleeman, Marianne Mullen, Sister Joan Lickteig, Marian Furst and Dave Gross.

The No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The program, started in 1982, honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as models for other schools throughout the nation.

Resurrection Elementary School, part of the Holy Family Catholic Schools in Dubuque, has been honored with the Blue Ribbon Award, a national award from the U.S. Department of Education naming top achieving schools. Six schools in Iowa received the award this year: Resurrection was the only Catholic school selected. During a school assembly on October 19, U.S. Representative Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, presented the students with a Blue Ribbon plaque and a flag that had been flown over the Capitol.

“I’m so proud that I got a chance to celebrate with you,” Braley said to those gathered at Resurrection. “When I found out about this amazing honor at Resurrection, I decided I had to do everything I could to make it here because it’s such exciting news.” He continues, “But I also know that an award like this just doesn’t drop down out of thin air. It’s the result of a lot of hard work and dedication.”

During his speech, Braley asked the teachers to stand and be recognized for their energy and commitment. He also honored the students. “You have a great opportunity to get a great education at Resurrection,” Braley said.

“In order to be named a Blue Ribbon School, we had to have good scores—in the 90th percentile in reading and math and that wasn’t a problem for us,” said Dave Gross, who is in his fifth year as Resurrection’s principal.

Gross attributes the award to the collaboration of the total community of faith—the parish, school staff, parents and students, along with the chief administrator of the Holy Family Catholic Schools, Steve Cornelius.

Although the celebration has ended, the determination to continue educational excellence has not. “Today is all about celebrating the Blue Ribbon but tomorrow we begin again,” said Jeff Henderson, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. “Tomorrow we roll up our sleeves and continue to strive for excellence at Resurrection.”

For nearly 50 years, Presentation sisters have served at Resurrection School and parish in the capacity of principal, faculty, instructional personnel, religious educators and pastoral ministers.



Celebrating
**NANO
NAGLE**
and
Her Companions

Over the past 135 years, many women have ministered as Dubuque Presentation sisters. Currently 72 are in active ministry, 56 are retired and 257 rest in peace in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Many other women have walked with us for shorter periods of time.

During this year of celebration, we, the Sisters of the Presentation, acknowledge your support and generosity over the years. As we journey through the next 135 years, may God’s love and peace be with you, as together, we continue to spread the Presentation tradition of service and hospitality.



S. William Allen
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Cecelia Marie Auterman
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Marie Barth
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Jessi Beck
Farley, Iowa



S. Diana Blong
Charles City, Iowa



S. Juanita Boom
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Emilie Bormann
Rochester, Minnesota



S. Marilyn Breen
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Joan Brincks
Mason City, Iowa



S. Julianne Brockamp
Entre Ríos, Bolivia



S. Roberta Burke
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Rita Cameron
Davenport, Iowa



S. Mery Cary Paz
Entre Ríos, Bolivia



S. Dominic Church
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Marie Therese Coleman
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Jane Conrad
Coleridge, Nebraska



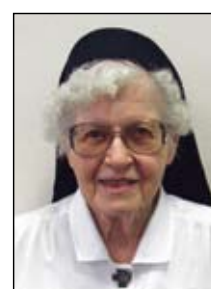
S. Therese Corkery
Alamo, Texas



S. Kay Cota
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Lou Cota
Markham, Illinois



S. Linus Coyle
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Kevin Cummings
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Matthew Cunningham
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Cheryl Demmer
Muscatine, Iowa



S. Donna Demmer
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Bonita Determan
Mason City, Iowa



S. Donna Determan
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Rayanne Determan
Mason City, Iowa



S. Louann Doering
Dubuque, Iowa



S. Kathleen Dolphin South Bend, Indiana
S. Martha Donnelly LaCrosse, Wisconsin
S. Sheila Ann Dougherty Cedar Rapids, Iowa
S. Beth Driscoll Dubuque, Iowa
S. Maria Goretti Dullard Dubuque, Iowa
S. Benjamin Duschner Dubuque, Iowa
S. Stephen Eswine Dubuque, Iowa



S. Pierre Kollasch Dubuque, Iowa
S. Margaret Anne Kramer Dubuque, Iowa
S. Beth Kress Dubuque, Iowa
S. Jeanine Kuhn Cedar Falls, Iowa
S. René Laubenthal Dubuque, Iowa
S. Lois Lehmann Dubuque, Iowa
S. Mary Jo Leifker Dubuque, Iowa



S. Lynn Marie Fangman Dubuque, Iowa
S. Angela Feeney Dubuque, Iowa
S. Gina Marie Foletta Highland Heights, Kentucky
S. Richelle Friedman Washington, DC
S. Michelle Gallagher Cedar Falls, Iowa
S. Suzanne Gallagher Guttenberg, Iowa
S. Ellen Mary Garrett Danbury, Iowa



S. Mary Dennis Lentsch New Orleans, Louisiana
S. Joan Lickteig Dubuque, Iowa
S. St. James Lickteig Dubuque, Iowa
S. Carolyn Link Monticello, Minnesota
S. Marjorie Loughren Woodbury, Minnesota
S. Agnes Marie Lynch Dubuque, Iowa
S. Julie Marie Marsh Dubuque, Iowa



S. Victoria Gereau Dubuque, Iowa
S. Janet Goetz Algona, Iowa
S. Eugene Goss Dubuque, Iowa
S. James Marie Gross Dubuque, Iowa
S. Elizabeth Guiliani Dubuque, Iowa
S. Janice Hancock Dubuque, Iowa
S. Therese Marie Hawes Dubuque, Iowa



S. Bernard Mauss Dubuque, Iowa
S. Jeanette McCarthy Dubuque, Iowa
S. Maura McCarthy Timboy, Bolivia
S. Anne McCormick Dubuque, Iowa
S. Dorothy McCormick Dubuque, Iowa
S. Louis McCormick Dubuque, Iowa
S. Rita Menart Entre Ríos, Bolivia



S. Marjorie Healy Dubuque, Iowa
S. Michaeline Healy Caledonia, Minnesota
S. Carmen Hernandez Mason City, Iowa
S. Elena Hoyer Yankton, South Dakota
S. Marilou Irons Cedar Falls, Iowa
S. Ann Marie Jackson Hiawatha, Iowa
S. Karen Jasper Dubuque, Iowa



S. Jean Ann Meyer Okolona, Mississippi
S. Madonna Meyer Dubuque, Iowa
S. Concepta Joseph Milinski Dubuque, Iowa
S. Dolores Moes Dubuque, Iowa
S. Jocile Moes Dubuque, Iowa
S. Lawrence Mulligan Dubuque, Iowa
S. Ellen Murphy Dubuque, Iowa



S. Clarice Kane Dubuque, Iowa
S. Eunice Kane Dubuque, Iowa
S. Sheila Kane Dubuque, Iowa
S. Sharon Kelchen Farley, Iowa
S. Annette Kestel Cedar Rapids, Iowa
S. Anne Marie Kollasch Dubuque, Iowa
S. Marita Kollasch Dubuque, Iowa



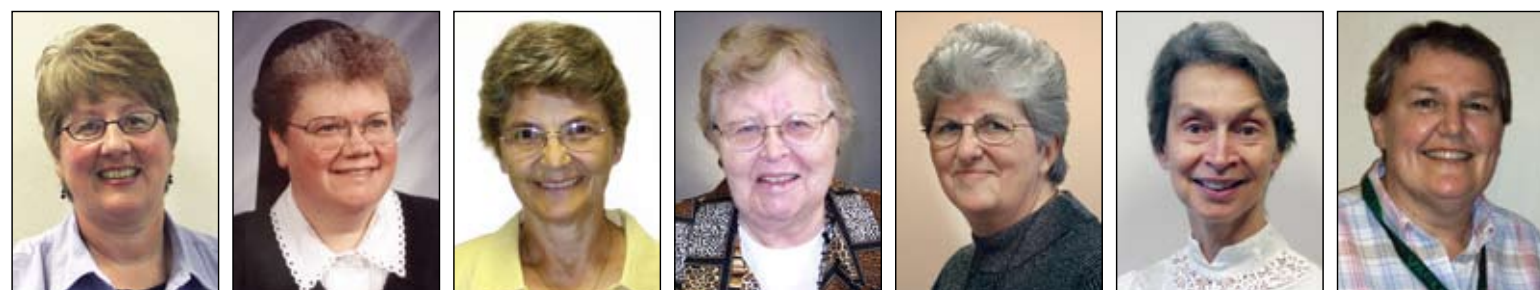
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S. Deborah Paige Dubuque, Iowa
S. Joy Peterson Dubuque, Iowa
S. Hermann Platt Algona, Iowa
S. Carla Popes Dubuque, Iowa
S. Francesca Preseller Dubuque, Iowa



S. Joellen Price Hiawatha, Iowa
S. Pamela Quade Dubuque, Iowa
S. Francine Quillin Dubuque, Iowa
S. Barbara Rastatter Chicago, Illinois
S. Jennifer Rausch Dubuque, Iowa
S. Linda Reicks Anamosa, Iowa
S. Irma Ries Muscatine, Iowa



S. Anthony Rottinghaus Dubuque, Iowa
S. Rosanne Rottinghaus Dubuque, Iowa
S. Dominica Schumann Dubuque, Iowa
S. Paula Schwendinger Wahnetta, Florida
S. Louise Scieszinski Humboldt, Iowa
S. Julie Siggelkov Dubuque, Iowa
S. Annette Skyles Dubuque, Iowa



S. Mary Lou Specha New Orleans, Louisiana
S. Brigid Stanley Coleridge, Nebraska
S. Janet Stelken Hopkins, Minnesota
S. Marian Sweeney Dubuque, Iowa
S. Raeleen Sweeney Chicago, Illinois
S. Ruth Ann Takes Dubuque, Iowa
S. Suzanne Marie Takes Entre Ríos, Bolivia



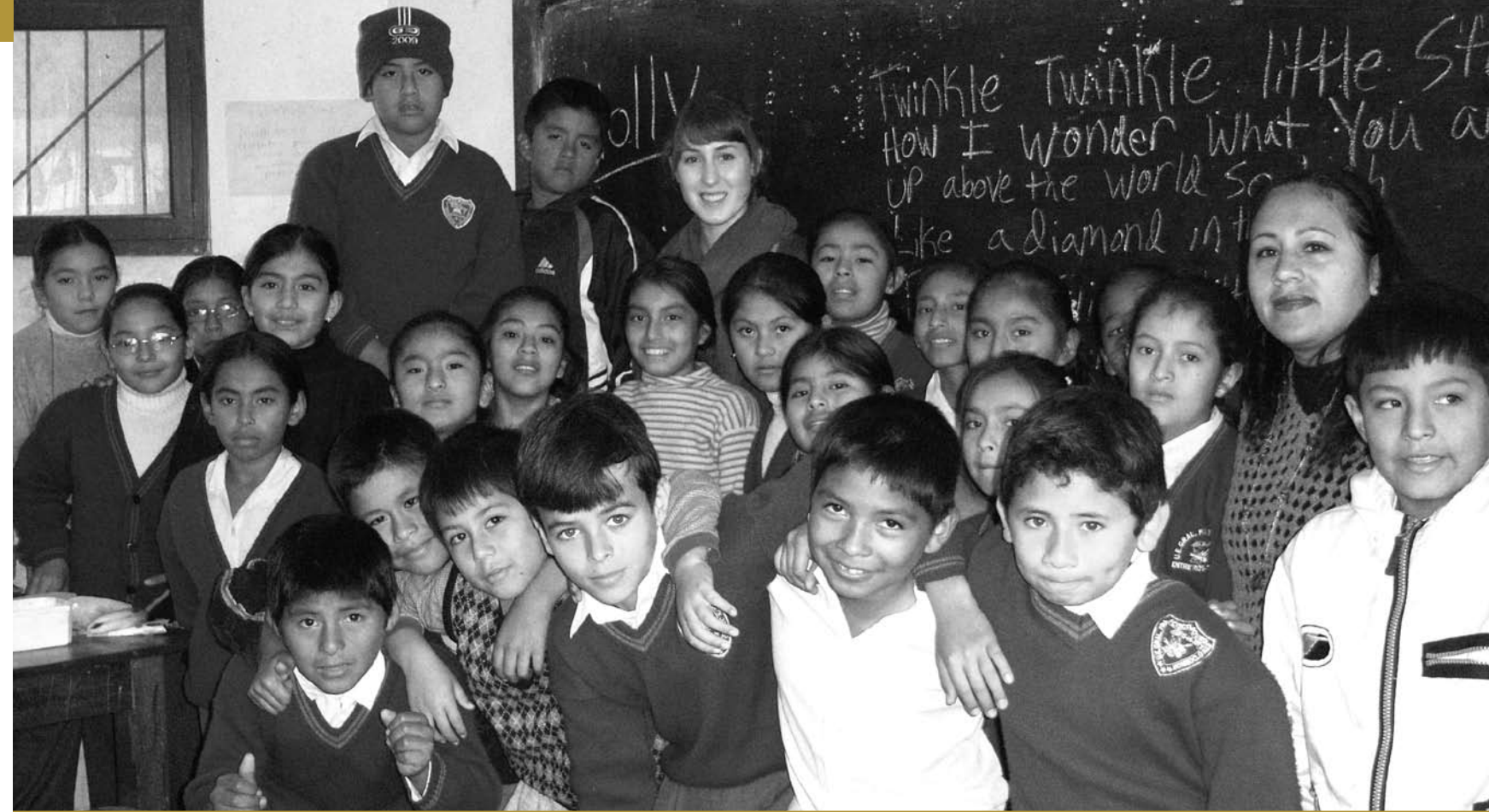
S. Rosalyn Uffers Dubuque, Iowa
S. Joetta Marie Venneman Louisville, Kentucky
S. Lynn Mary Wagner Dubuque, Iowa
S. Leanne Welch Dubuque, Iowa
S. Carmelle Westemeier Dubuque, Iowa



S. Catherine Wingert Dubuque, Iowa
S. Julia Wingert Dubuque, Iowa
S. Dolores Zieser Dubuque, Iowa
S. Josita Zieser Dubuque, Iowa



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Life's Lessons Learned

written by HOLLY RICHARD

Since 2007, Holly Richard has worked at the Sisters of the Presentation. This past summer, she traveled to Bolivia where currently five Dubuque Presentation sisters minister to the poor of the country.

Over the summer, I was granted the opportunity to visit Las Hermanas de la Presentación in Entre Ríos, Bolivia. With a passion for travel, I jumped at the chance to see more of the world with people who had an intimate relationship with the country.

Flying into the city of La Paz, I was greeted by Sister Julianne Brockamp, our driver Rojelio and the cold morning air so contrary to the humidity of the Iowa summer I left behind. Winding through the streets of El Alto, my jet lag and excitement struggled against each other; my eyes were wide and heavy simultaneously. Excitement and nerves caused by the fast paced winding on narrow ledges and busy streets, eventually overpowered my fatigue. I stared with wonder at the light-speckled bowl of La Paz. It was as if the stars were on the ground below instead of in the inescapable sky. I was soon to learn, however, that Bolivia wasn't

solely a place of beauty but also a place with a tumultuous history and in places, extreme poverty. Just by tearing my eyes away from the distant lights of the city within the bowl, I could see the run down houses and those who were already awake in the chilled 4:00 a.m. air to try to make enough money to live.

I remember later in my journey a young boy no older than three asking me for a boliviano so he could buy a piece of bread. I remember staying with Sister Julianne in Tarija for five days as we waited for the blockades set in place by angry compañeros to be lifted from the roads so we could continue on to Entre Ríos. I remember attending a meeting to discuss the necessity of the local Guarani to attain land in an effort toward self-sufficiency. More than any of the harsh realities of the country or the beauties of the land, what I remember most are the people I met. The Presentation sisters with their passion and kindness, and others who were willing to open their doors, share their food and their stories with a complete stranger.

I am forever indebted and grateful to Sisters Julianne, Maura McCarthy, Mery Cary Paz, Rita Menart and Peggy Ryan, OP, for taking me into their lives for a short time and teaching me life lessons they themselves may not even have realized they were teaching.



Left to right: front row: Mary Jane Besch, Rita Plathe, Joan Montag. Back row: Karen St. John, Hazel Wagner, Ruth Ludwig, Patricia Baumann, Carol Schmidt, Pat Albrecht and Zelma Sholly. Not pictured are Paulette Besch, Virginia Fuschen, Rosie Metzger, Donna Muller and Chuck Schmidt

“Lantern Keepers” Walking in the Light of Nano

written by KARLA BERNES, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

In 1999, a team of sisters (Sisters René Laubenthal, Annette Skyles, Michelle Gallagher and Ruth Marie Holtzbauer) asked a number of people from Algona, Iowa, and the surrounding communities to join them in establishing a Presentation associate group. A group of 12 began the orientation process and made their commitment as associates in 2000. As Nano Nagle, the foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, walked the streets of Cork over 200 years ago, the sisters and associates from Algona joined in the mission to witness to love by their many activities for others.

The group continues to meet once a month (September through April) under the leadership of Associates Karen St. John and Pat Albrecht at the Algona Public Library. Some of the group members help with the leadership of meetings also. This year, Sister Herman Platt joined the group and they are very grateful for her new ideas and her sharing in the discussions. Each May, they meet at Associate Pat Baumann’s home for a potluck and wrap-up meeting for another year.

Every year, the Lantern Keepers try to do a larger project. In the past, they have donated to food pantries in Kossuth, Palo Alto, Spencer and Humboldt counties; the Family Crisis Center of North Iowa; various Presentation missions and adopted a family at Christmastime. They also do what they can individually in helping others.

The following associates shared their stories about what being an associate means to them as they continue to walk in Nano Nagle’s footsteps:

Karen St. John became an associate of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Cloud a number of years ago. “When the Sisters of the Presentation started an associate program, I joined them as it is closer for me to attend programs. I also have a sister, Sister Julia Wingert, and an aunt, Sister Catherine Wingert, in the congregation. I enjoy being an associate and carrying out Nano’s works. I like to do for other people: giving rides, listening or whatever they may need. I will continue to walk in Nano’s footsteps for as long as I can,” states Karen.

Mary Jane Besch comments, “I really appreciated all the Presentation sisters have done to teach and stretch the talents of my children when they were in school. Their presence in our parish was a gift to me, personally, and to our parish and community. I had always wanted to go to “sister school.” My one experience in Bancroft only lasted two months when my dad became ill and had to quit his job. I was in seventh grade then. I want to be more faithful to my commitment as an associate and to the Presentation sisters.”

Pat Baumann shares, “I have always had a lot of love and admiration for the Presentation sisters. When I was asked to join the Presentation associates, it was a real pleasure for me to say ‘yes.’ It has enriched my prayer time and I try to reach out to others whenever I can.”

For Rita Plathe, “It is a joy to be an associate and join in the Presentation mission, a deepening prayer life, faith sharing and prayer meetings. We can do small things to share with one another and can do something good with the help of many. We need to help in our small way to further the Presentation mission.”

Joan Montag states, “Becoming an associate gives me the opportunity to feel at home with friends who like myself are seeking to grow in spirituality. It encourages me to seek times to help others in the tradition of Nano Nagle.” Her husband, Raphael, was also an associate prior to his death in 2004. Joan has a sister in the congregation, Sister René Laubenthal.

Hazel Wagner is so happy for this opportunity to again become a part of this wonderful, caring community. She states, “I have renewed my associate position with the Sisters of the Presentation for five years. It is good to help carry on the hospitality, vision and ministry of Nano by helping others in need. I wish to share the gifts and talents God has given me so that by my example others may experience God’s goodness and love.”

Zelma Sholly thanks Sisters René Laubenthal and Annette Skyles for her becoming an associate. She shares, “I try to do things for others as Nano Nagle did during her life. I make pies, cakes and breads and share them with all those in my apartment circle. I have a neighbor who is bipolar and needs someone to talk to. I can get him calmed down and help him solve his problems. I also visit a couple of friends who are ill.”

Pat Albrecht directs a thank you to Sister Janice Hancock for sending her information several years ago regarding Presentation Association and the sisters who guided their group through the formation process. “The fact that I am an associate allows me to attend meetings with people who share my faith and I enjoy helping those in need, hoping to make a difference in their day. As I’ve grown older, I realize how being kind to others is an important part of our faith. As I carry Nano’s lantern on the journey through life, I feel it lights my path and allows me to see God more clearly. I’m truly grateful for the other associates and sisters I have met. We’re all making this trip together and coming closer to our Lord with each step we take,” states Pat.

Ruth Ludwig shares, “What an honor and privilege it is for me to be a part of the Presentation Associate Partnership. I’ve always had great respect for the religious life. Like Nano Nagle and the sisters, I, too, can continue to walk in their footsteps to help make this a better world.”

Carol Schmidt and Rosie Metzger shared that they too enjoy being Presentation associates and are eager to attend the group meetings to share ideas, do good deeds and pray together.

It is very evident that the Lantern Keepers are following in the footsteps of Nano Nagle. Nano stated that it is “Not words, but deeds.” This group of associates are doing many good deeds as they grow in holiness by “walking in the light of Nano.”

ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP

In Memory of Mary R. Cullen

June 10, 1928 – October 17, 2009



Associate Mary R. Ewert Cullen graduated from St. Columbkille High School in Dubuque, Iowa, and worked part-time for Weber Paper Company for many years. The Sisters of the Presentation were an important part of her and her family’s life. Mary tells of her Presentation connection:

“My brother, Father Mike, and I were taught by the Sisters of the Presentation at St. Columbkille School. When I married my husband, John, our children attended Resurrection School where they were taught by Presentation sisters. So, I took the opportunity to be a Presentation associate and be with the sisters again. What a blessing! I am most thankful.” Mary made her initial commitment as an associate in June, 2004. We remember her with love and gratitude.

EMBRACING EARTH

Going “Greener” for the Holidays*

written by DIANA BLONG, PBVM

Let us replace our “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” refrain with the three green R’s in our spirit of decorating, gifting and celebrating the holidays: “Let’s Reduce! Let’s Reuse! Let’s Recycle!” Not only can we make our world greener, we may even “save some green.”

Decorating?

- Select a potted tree that can be planted later for a greener planet.
- Reduce the carbon footprint by using a timer or limiting when lights are switched on; if purchasing new lights, select LED efficient bulbs.
- Reuse old ornaments in new ways: place them in baskets or bowls with some greens; add a personal touch with a name or a ribbon; share family decor with the next generations.
- Plan a family night for stringing popcorn and berries for a traditional touch, and then share the fruits of that time with our feathered friends.

Gifting?

- Love to shop? Buy locally; walk or carpool with family and friends; map out a route, making only right turns when possible (UPS finds it more efficient and safer and less idling saves fuel)!
- Select items that are energy-efficient or from recycled materials; support fair trade retailers to help those in developing countries; choose locally grown or hand-crafted items from the area.
- Make the wrappings a part of the gift by making cloth bags that can be reused or by going to www.wrapsacks.com or call 800-505-3365 to purchase reusable, hand-dyed cloth bags. To encourage their reuse, the company created a Web log where gift givers can follow each wrapsack’s journey from person to person.

Don’t Need Any More Things! Consider Alternative Gifting?

- Design personal “gift certificates” that can respond to needs/shared time throughout the year: snow removal; grocery shopping; a popcorn party; a casserole or dessert on request; a movie night; a fireside chat; a promise of prayer on a special day; endless possibilities!
- Clean closets and create anew out of family heirlooms: photos, jewelry, toys, clothing, trinkets. Let the imagination run wild: frame photos with old toys; make a decorative pillow; create a desk or door nameplate out of building blocks; make vases or bookends.
- Adopt a needy family on their behalf; donate to one of your favorite charitable groups; support a group that responds to the needs of Earth and the poor.

Celebrating?

- Celebrate a “Green Party” by inviting all to arrive in their “greenest” way.
- Each bring a food item that has one or more locally or organically produced ingredients.
- Avoid disposable place settings and utensils.
- Exchange recipes and ideas for “going green” during the holidays and all year long!



GENTLE AND PATIENT Sister Mary Nora Welter

October 3, 1941 - October 18, 2009

written by MARK McDERMOTT

Knock, Knock. Is Sister Nora here? Knock, Knock. Is Sister Nora around? Those are the requests I would hear quite frequently from former patients of Sister Nora or family who lost a loved one at Mercy. And a hospital is usually a place people don’t want to return to, but people would come back to see Nora. They would come and sit in her office and share their stories, their loss and their tears with her. And Nora would listen to each person as if she had all the time in the world for them. One gentleman, named George, still would come by again and again, even after Nora left Mercy to ask how she was doing. Each time he came he would tell me, “Sister Nora helped me when my wife died.”

As I got to know Sister Nora better I would come to understand why they came. They came back because they wanted again to experience that special presence—the presence of the divine within themselves, which Nora would help them know and feel. That was Nora’s special gift she gave to the sick, the dying and those who were grieving. Nora had a caring smile that was so warm and welcoming, gentle and patient and so very accepting of where people were in their lives. She truly had the compassion of Christ, because often times I saw when her heart was broken at the loss of people she cared for.

One day a lady in tears walked into the Pastoral Care office and said, “I just lost my sister.” Nora got up, embraced the lady, held her ever so gently, took her into our conference room and said, “Tell me about your sister.” They were in there over an hour. Not many have that particular charism—to be able to really listen, be present and enter into the pain of another. She did that every day.

I had to smile when I saw the scripture readings Nora picked for her funeral because that is what Nora truly believed and shared with people. Isaiah says, “God will

provide and wipe away every tear from all faces, he will destroy death forever.” No matter what their condition, Nora knew God was present. And so she comforted them.

Sister Nora will be greatly missed because she truly was an instrument of Christ’s healing presence. She knew God was concerned for each and every person in that hospital, and so she was. Nora knew that God was kind and merciful, so she was. Nora knew that God was understanding, so she was. And she knew God heard the prayer of each person—so she prayed with them.

I can’t even begin to imagine all the hours upon hours and stories upon stories that Nora heard over the years. And at the end of each day, she would sit at her desk and journal. And she would pray for those she had seen that day. I believe that is one of the sources from which she drew strength. That is where her compassion flowed from. She would reflect and write and pray. That was very important to her.

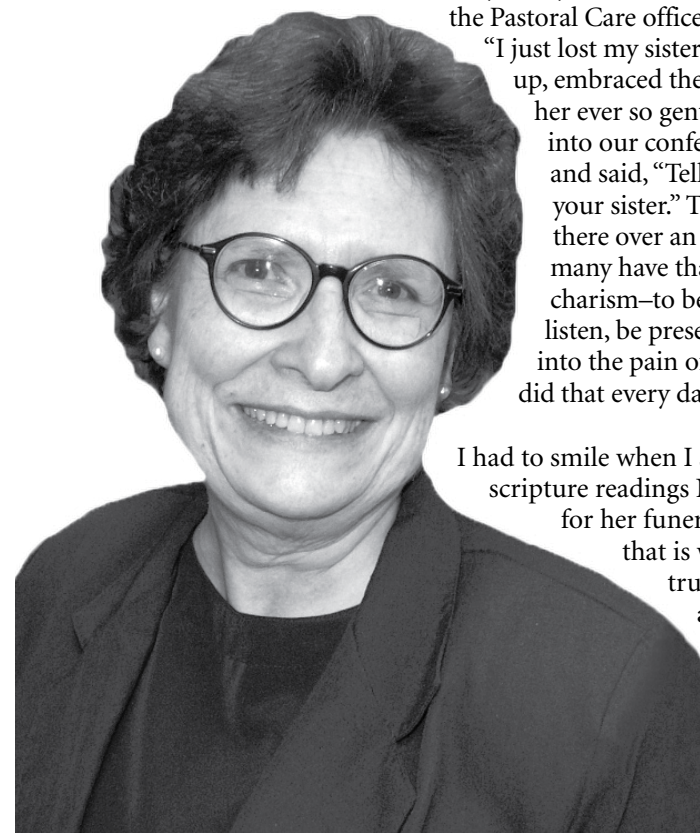
I noticed prayer gave Nora a certain power. One day a patient was giving the nurses a lot of trouble and then security had to step in. Security couldn’t get him to settle down and then in walks Sister Nora with a bible. She places the bible on the man’s lap and said, “Henry, we need to pray.” The man settled right down, became quiet and Nora prayed with him.

Next October Nora would have celebrated 50 years as a Sister of the Presentation. Nora lived a “call.” A call from God that told her to comfort people who are suffering. A call surrounded by grace that told her God will be with her every step of the way.

On a daily basis Nora had to consult with all different types of doctors, nurses and social workers. She carried a pager, which meant she was awakened many times in the middle of the night to pray over someone who was dying, or comfort a family who just lost a loved one. Each time, each page, each person she cared for, was answering God’s call to her.

Knock, knock. Is Sr. Nora here? Yes, she is, here and present in such a special way. She is here and alive in each person she loved and cared for. And still sharing with us Jesus’ words she picked out in the gospel, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and have faith also in me.”

Mark McDermott is the Director of Pastoral Care at Mercy Hospital Iowa City. He served with Sister Nora as a chaplain for three years.



SIMPLE AND PROFOUND

Sister Mary Anna Howley

March 5, 1917 - November 8, 2009

written by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Sister Anna Howley was a scholar and, in God's goodness, is now among the saints. She lived a full life and witnessed to these lines from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins. Sister Anna had shared the poem in its entirety with many before she died on November 8. She had found that it expressed the deepening surrender in her life.

...So heart, be still.
What need our little life our human life to know,
If God has comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife of things both high and low,
God hideth his intention.
God knows. His will is best...

Born in Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, Sister Anna was an Ursuline sister in England, until she transferred her vows to the Dubuque Presentations in 1976. Joining her sister, Sister Mary Alicia Howley, Anna became a member of the community their great-aunt, Mother Mary Josephine Howley, helped found in 1874. Sister Anna became a United States citizen in April 1982.

Sister Anna was a highly educated woman (Oxford University, University of Liverpool, and Archdiocese of Westminster, England). Throughout 49 years she was a teacher and administrator in England; she taught junior high and high school religion and history in Catholic schools in Iowa and Minnesota.

"She had a fine mind, an exceptional educational background," recalls Sister Joan Lickteig. "Anna had a wealth of lived experience from which she shared endless, fascinating, varied stories. She could change a meal into 'a moment to remember.'"

Lisa Meyer, a friend from Dubuque, shares that her friendship with Sister Anna began through Sister Basil Taylor. "I was Sister Basil's primary nurse when she had surgery 20 years ago. I would bring my four children to the Presentation convent for visits. Sisters Anna and Basil watched them grow up. Sister Anna adopted me with Sister Basil's death. As our friendship grew, I looked to Anna for comfort, advice and prayers."

Recalling one of Sister Anna's favorite pastimes, Sister Agnes Marie Lynch states, "When Anna and I, both sight impaired, worked on jig saw puzzles we came to realize that we could do the puzzles with our fingers and that it took both of us to get it done. Through accepting her illnesses, Anna taught me that God calls us to these moments."

Sister Sharon Kelchen reflects on the life of her friend: "I think of Anna's life journey as profound yet simple. She seemed to let go,

to be open to a new country and community in her fifties when most of us think we are secure. She could relate with hope and fear and 'be with' her final days. As she shared her journey of dying she gave that final nod saying 'everything will be okay.'"

Caring for Anna's personal needs was a gift for Sister Eugene Goss. "Anna's total, quiet acceptance of her illness was surrounded with God's presence."

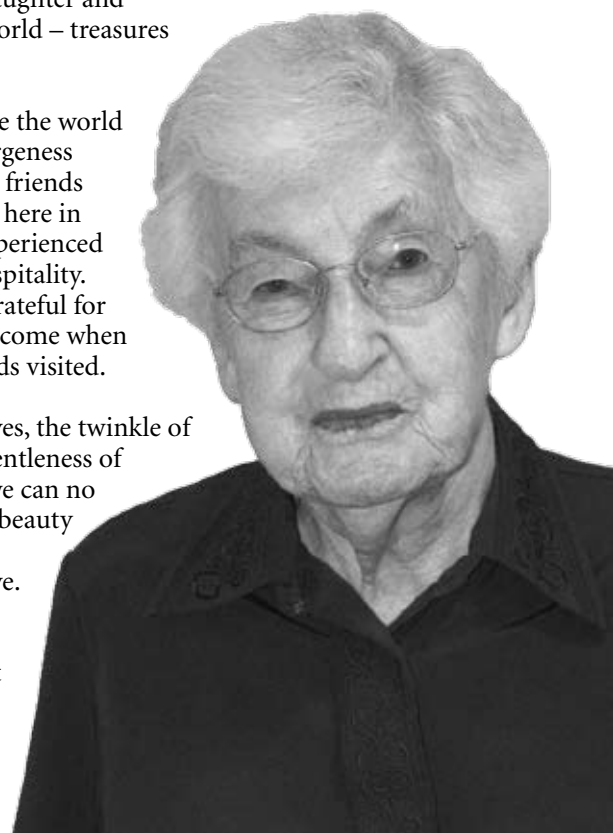
Sister Anna was always a teacher. "She has been a wonderful mentor throughout my life," states Sister Elena Hoye. "When I was a young sister and upset with something that happened at school, I would complain, she would drink tea, and then I would drink tea. When I was asked to be formation director, Anna came to live with the formation community. I would worry, she would pray, and then I would pray. I will always treasure her fundamental wisdom: to drink tea instead of being upset; to pray instead of worrying."

In writing this article, I reflected on Sister Anna's gifts to me: I learned from her a patience that crosses the oceans and is not subject to time zones. I was enriched by her stories of Ireland and England, especially her days as head mistress at the girls' school in Brentwood. She brought a great sense of 'beyond borders' to our shared years in serving the International Presentation Association. She added humor, laughter and intelligence to my world – treasures to me forever.

Sister Anna could see the world with big eyes and largeness of heart. Family and friends across the pond and here in the United States experienced her Presentation hospitality. And she was most grateful for the Presentation welcome when her family and friends visited.

The beauty of her eyes, the twinkle of her smile, and the gentleness of her soft white hair we can no longer see – but the beauty of her soul we can always know and love.

"So heart, be still," she prayed and went to God.



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Farmscape

On November 13, the Sisters of the Presentation, Loras College and the Sisters of St. Francis co-sponsored "Farmscape: Documenting the Changing Rural Environment," a play by Mary Swander. Farmscape puts a human face on the issues facing agriculture and rural life. Left to right: Paul Mausser, from Epworth, one of the cast members, and Joann Koopmann, staff member at Epworth Elizabeth Seton Pastorate, visit with Sister Marge Healy after the performance.



DUBUQUE'S
got
SISTERs

Join us for an inside look at religious life!

Are you interested in checking out religious life?

Then join us for a 24-hour tour of four tri-state area convents to share life through praying, dining and storytelling. Local transportation will be provided. There is no fee to attend.

When:

Friday, April 9, 2010 at 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010

To register or for more details,

e-mail Sister Carla Popes at vocations@dubuquepresentations.org or call (563) 588-2008.

Sponsored by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, and Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters.



You are invited to join us.

December 25, 2009

Christmas Mass

9:00 a.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

Dubuque, Iowa

January 31 | February 28 | March 28, 2010

Taize Prayer

7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

2360 Carter Road

Dubuque, Iowa

January 3-9, 2010

Presentation Quest

New Orleans, Louisiana

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

March 6-7, 2010

Experience Presentation Life Retreat

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 9-10, 2010

Dubuque's Got Sisters

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 17-18, 2010

Presentation Associate & Sister Retreat

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

Please pray with us.

January 11-17, 2010

National Vocation Awareness Week

February 2, 2010

World Day for Consecrated Life

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, please visit our web site at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.


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Christmas Blessings

As Mary waited in joyful hope
for the coming of her baby,
may we be filled with joy
as we hope for a better tomorrow.

Blessings on all who work for a
just and peaceful world. May
the new year be a time
of renewed hope and courage.

Peace and joy to you from
the Sisters of the Presentation.

