



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA
Phone: 563-588-2008 Fax: 563-588-4463
Email: info@dbqpbvms.org
Website: www.dbqpbvms.org

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE

Jane Buse-Miller, director of communications;
Associate Michelle Covey; Sister Carmen Hernandez; Sister Elena Hoye; Sister Joy Peterson; Cindy Pfiffner, associate co-director;
Sister Francine Quillin; Marge Reidy; Karen Tuecke, partners in mission coordinator

The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

Editor, Presentation Doorways
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997
info@dbqpbvms.org

Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

Sisters of the Presentation | Spring 2020 | Volume 64 • Number 1

A Look Inside CONTENTS

4 Presentation Call to Protect Human Rights

Every person, organization, and country have a role in safeguarding human rights for all. Sister Mary Therese Krueger shares her learnings after attending a training hosted by Edmund Rice International (ERI). She joins other Presentation Sisters and Brothers as they collaborate for justice and peace at the international level.



6 Sharing the Gift of Community and Belonging

Each year, Dubuque Presentation people honor and repeat the wish of their foundress, Nano Nagle to "spend ourselves for the poor" through hosting a Christmas dinner. This is one way to meet people where they are and to extend radical hospitality.

8 Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism

Racism continues to divide cultures one from another. Presentation Sisters and associates participated in an anti-racism workshop to better understand racism and learn tools needed in addressing racism, both individually and communally.

2019 Annual Report of Appreciation

Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2019. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



12 Leaving Our Footprints

In each issue, we highlight Presentation dedications and memorials, honoring Presentation Sisters where they have ministered.

13 Keeping Her Name Alive

We remember Sister Francesca Presseller.

15 Mount Loretto & Beyond

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

Cover PHOTO

Sister Mary Therese Krueger stands outside the United Nations at Geneva, Switzerland. Through her position as programme action leader for the International Presentation Association (IPA), she attended a training hosted by Edmund Rice International (ERI) which consists of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers around the world collaborating for justice and peace at the international level.

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by RITA MENART, PBVM

The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.

Pope Francis

Human rights are the focus of this year's issues of Presentation Doorways. Human rights should be a clear term to understand, but when it comes to practicing it, we falter. Cyndy Szederes, a children's book illustrator, defines human rights as "the ability to enjoy life, the expectation that others will respect that right, the conviction to maintain such a privilege, and the quest to make it happen for others."

As Presentation people [sisters, associates and others who support the Presentation charism], we have worked for years to promote human rights. Nano Nagle walked the streets of Cork, Ireland, bringing a bit of light and joy to the elderly trapped in their homes by fragility and sickness. She strove to bring education to those denied it, so they would have the tools to create fulfilling lives for themselves and help others do the same. That "quest to make it [human rights] happen for others" was passed on by Nano to us.

What happens when one's ability to enjoy life infringes on another's ability? If enjoying life for one person is to build buildings and cut down trees to do it, but another's is from the beauty of the trees, who gets to have it their way? Even more concerning is if one's desires pollute the earth and put another's ability to live in danger. Where is the division between the rights of a woman over her body and the rights of the unborn child within her? What happens to one's desire to have high quality products at low prices when children's health is destroyed by working long hours to produce them? We have much to learn to have a clear vision of these natural rights.

In this issue various approaches to human rights as defined above are presented. The mission dinner for the homeless filled the dining room with people who "enjoyed life" as they visited over a good meal. The "expectation that others will respect that right" was behind increasing understanding by attending the human rights training at the United Nations and writing the article to share the information. "The quest to make it happen for others" is evident in the Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism and Mentors in Violence Prevention training which confronts the unconscious attitudes within us that rob others of their natural rights. Our commitment to service and education through our various scholarships and awards even work to increase human rights.

The annual report in this issue highlights many people who have been part of efforts to make human rights real in the world. Short statements by Presentation people tell of work with veterans, young parents, immigrants, elderly, children, homeless, the grieving and others. The annual report gives recognition to all who have supported the work to make natural rights a reality through the Presentation mission.

We must continue to strive for human rights for all, the mentally ill, the children, the aged, those we like, those we do not like, our friends, our enemies and all others. These are all included in Pope Francis's "most in need." We need to find the balance point, so that all can have a joy-filled life even when desires conflict.

Our direction statement calls us to live the charism of radical hospitality. Providing an environment for all to have their unalienable rights is a part of that call. Thank you for your support and all you do to make a world where human rights and radical hospitality are abundant.

Sister Carmen Hernandez Sister Rita Menart Sister Joy Peterson Sister Marilyn Breen



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, Venerable 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 vision with you.

Our DIRECTION

Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle and united to Presentation Sisters and associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all people.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Carmen Hernandez

Sister Rita Menart

Sister Joy Peterson

Sister Marilyn Breen



Participants of the Edmund Rice International Human Rights and International Advocacy Training with the Irish Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Ireland.

Presentation Call to Protect Human Rights

As told by MARY THERESE KRUEGER, PBVM

If you were asked “What are human rights?” could you provide an answer? Could you name 10 human rights? Most people will struggle to define and name specific human rights, however the majority of people would also advocate that human rights are to be respected, even if not all can be named.

As a result of the experience of people in World War II, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly defining 30 human rights. The Preamble begins, “Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” This document has been translated into 80 languages and even into an illustrated version for children. Human dignity is not only an aspect of Catholic social teaching, but is discussed and defended at the international level.

This leads to the bigger question of, whose responsibility is it to ensure these human rights? It is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone has a duty to respect the rights of others and governments also have a particular responsibility to ensure, protect and uphold these rights for all people within and

outside their country. This is where the United Nations (UN) is integral. The UN in Geneva, Switzerland, is known as the home of human rights. Why is this? Geneva is home to the Human Rights Council which includes committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties.

The Human Rights Council oversees two important mechanisms for monitoring human rights, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Procedures. Special Procedures are when a special investigator examines and reports on the situation in a particular country or on a particular theme.

The UPR is a way of evaluating how a country has been ensuring every person’s human rights. Similar to how one might have a self-review and a peer review for a job evaluation, the UPR involves the particular government under review, civil society which includes all voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions that are part of society, as well as other governments. Every entity from their own perspective, can evaluate the country under

review by providing data and stories from the grassroots, to demonstrate the ways that particular country is supporting human rights and where there is room for improvements.

The most unique aspect is that every country is equal in their review and has the same process. It does not matter if you are a richer, larger country or a poorer, smaller country, each has an equal voice in the evaluation of human rights of a country. The country under review is also required to meet with local organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to gain a wider perspective on their actions. The United States’ UPR is scheduled for May 2020.

This may seem like a foreign language and a system with which you are not familiar. Sister Mary Therese Krueger had never heard of an UPR or that each country was officially reviewed by one another in their actions towards human rights. Sister Mary Therese had the privilege of attending a training in Human Rights and International Advocacy and observed part of an UPR at the UN on January 26-30, 2020.

Through her position as programme action leader for the International Presentation Association (IPA), she was able to attend the training hosted by Edmund Rice International (ERI). ERI consists of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers around the world collaborating for justice and peace at the international level. Our Presentation connection to ERI is much richer than only both being religious communities working together internationally for justice.

I’ve always had a passion for justice at the local level, but now I have a broader understanding and passion of working for change at the systemic, international level.

Sister Mary Therese Krueger

Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers, was inspired by Nano Nagle, the foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation. Following Nano’s example of opening a school for the young girls in Waterford, Ireland, Edmund opened a school for young boys in Waterford. Nano and the Presentation Sisters’ approach to social justice was one that was attractive and replicated by Edmund Rice, not only in Waterford but continued through the actions of the Christian and Presentation Brothers.

“There was a profound blessing in being able to learn about international advocacy and human rights from the religious brothers whose roots were inspired by Nano,” states Sister Mary Therese.



Presentation Brother Steve Fernandez, CFC; Pushpa Lalitha Anthonymuthu, PBVM from the North India Providence of Presentation Sisters; and Presentation Brother Augustine Jairaj, CFC, attended the training.

Presentation connections were also evident as Sister Pushpa Lalitha Anthonymuthu, from the North India Providence of Presentation Sisters, was in attendance with Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers. There were 12 participants in total from different organizations, yet there was a tangible relationship in their approach to living out radical hospitality and their commitment to social justice. The training focused on learning not only from ERI, but also to discuss and learn from one another.

Sister Mary Therese comments, “I found a new sense of hope and a renewal of my commitment to advocating and working for justice through this opportunity. I’ve always had a passion for justice at the local level, but now I have a broader understanding and passion of working for change at the systemic, international level. The words of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, continue to inspire me, ‘just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and inner peace.’”

In a world that seems to be faced with natural disasters, deaths, crime, discrimination, racism, systemic oppression, etc, it is easy to become downhearted. Sometimes working for justice feels like moving at a snail’s pace when the world is moving at the speed of light. However, Sister Mary Therese found renewed energy and motivation as she was reminded that inner peace comes from small actions toward respecting each person’s human dignity, honoring their human rights, and respecting the earth.

“With reflection on our day, on our actions and lack of actions, we will be able to see how each small step, even at snail’s pace, can make a global impact. This is the blessing of contemplation and action,” says Sister Mary Therese.

Every person, organization, and country have a role in safeguarding human rights for all. What will we do to promote and ensure human rights to every person, especially those most vulnerable as a Dubuque Presentation family, individually and collectively?



Residents of the Dubuque Rescue Mission, Hope House and St. John's Guest House join the sisters for a Christmas dinner and meaningful conversation.

Sharing the Gift of Community and Belonging

by ANNE MCCORMICK, PBVM, and ASSOCIATE SHARON LOEFFELHOLZ

On Christmas Day, 1777, Nano Nagle, the foundress of the Presentation Sisters, together with her three companions, invited 50 poor people to Christmas Day dinner. Following this tradition, the Sisters of the Presentation have been inviting homeless men from the city of Dubuque for a Christmas dinner since 2009. Their guests have included residents of the Dubuque Rescue Mission, Hope House, St. John's Guest House and men living in transitional homes. They are invited to come, not only for a meal, but for mutual sharing at the table. The number of men who attend the dinner varies each year. This year 33 men were able to join us.

Homelessness is a huge problem in the world, this country, and here in Dubuque, too. Approximately 1.6 billion, more than 20 percent of the world's population, may lack adequate housing. The United Nations expert definition of homelessness is, "a condition where a person or household lacks habitable space with security of tenure, rights and ability to enjoy social relations, including safety. Homelessness is a manifestation of extreme poverty, and a failure of multiple systems that implement human rights."

Many people try to hide their situation for fear of being judged unfairly, yet they are human beings in need of assistance. Homelessness should not define a person as it is only part of their story. Some people who are homeless are trying to provide for their family and are working multiple jobs. Some are working full-time, but cannot afford rent, medical bills, food, child care, etc. Each person's story is different. During this Christmas celebration, all are able to share in each other's stories. The men that are able to attend the dinner from this area are faced with these tough

circumstances, including homelessness. Dubuque has many organizations to assist with the increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, yet it persists.

According to Rick Mihm, executive director of the Dubuque Rescue Mission, there are several reasons for homelessness in the Dubuque area. Among them are medical problems whether mental or physical, various types of addictions and lack of education leading to only qualifying for low wage jobs. Around 90 percent of cities around the world do not provide adequate or affordable housing to their residents. In Dubuque, the Mission offers these men shelter, spiritual support, food, clothing and job development. Normally, there are 32 beds set up. So far this year, the Mission has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of men coming for assistance. This requires more beds to be set in the halls and any available space to accommodate them all.

Over the past 10 years, the Christmas dinner sponsored by the sisters has grown. Originally held on Christmas Eve; now it is held on the Saturday closest to Christmas. Another welcome change is the involvement of Presentation associates in the planning, shopping and carrying out of the party details. However, one thing that has remained constant is recognizing the human dignity of the men that walk through the doors of the motherhouse.

In October the preparations begin, although Sister Louise Scieszinski starts crocheting the scarves and Sister Hermann Platt begins knitting some of the stocking hats shortly after the shared dinner. In November, financial donations are requested from sisters, associates, employees and other

benefactors and people's generosity continues to increase each year. Two sisters and two associates venture into Theisen's, in Dubuque, shopping for jackets, sweatshirts, socks, gloves and hats. Awareness of homelessness in Dubuque is shared with shoppers at Theisen's as they inquire about the large volume of clothes piled high in shopping carts. Some are moved to generosity and give a donation on the spot. The jackets and sweatshirts are packed up and taken to the Dubuque Rescue Mission and given to the men according to need after the Christmas dinner.

Homelessness is not only a loss of a house, but it is a loss of home, of community, of belonging. Through this Christmas celebration, the sisters and associates hope to give the guests not only clothing and a meal, but the gift of community and belonging. The party begins as the guests are warmly welcomed.

"Our guests are given a name tag and led to our parlors for introductions and conversations. Often our guests share that they came from Catholic backgrounds. While talking in small groups, conversation comes easily as the men share what brought them to the mission and the sisters share how they decided to enter the convent. Some men share about their families and how they are determined to get back to and to provide for them," states Sister Anne McCormick.

Sister Elena Hoye reflects, "I believe that our annual Christmas dinner is not just for our guests, but we, too, need this event. We, the sisters, need to be in the presence of men who are grateful with little, who smile quickly even when they are separated from their loved ones and who enjoy a good meal. We need them to help us know what is truly important and what is superficial. We need them to help us keep our priorities straight."

After visiting in the parlors, all gather in the dining room for a prayer blessing the food, plates are filled, and the conversations continue. Hospitality and love is easily found in everyone and everywhere you look. As Cornel West said, "never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."

After dinner, the Scripture story of the First Christmas is read and the dining room fills with voices merrily singing Christmas carols. Santa's helpers (sisters and associates) distribute gift bags filled with several pairs of warm socks, gloves, scarves, stocking hats and fresh fruit. They also receive the traditional Christmas stockings donated by Associate Sue Murphy. Sue and her helpers, and the sisters in the infirmary, have filled the stockings with candy, nuts, fruit drinks and cookies. All efforts are made to have the day be a traditional Christmas celebration filled with love and generosity, reminding everyone present of the true meaning of Christmas.

"It is most gratifying to see the smiles and appreciation on the men's faces as they try on their warm winter gifts of new scarves, hats and gloves. This year the men gathered in front of the room and raised their hands over all of us praying a beautiful blessing," recalls Associate Sharon Loeffelholz.

The Presentation community is extremely grateful to all donors in the community for their willingness and generosity, especially Theisen's Store for their continual support in helping reduce costs each year. Because of this, monetary gifts not used for shopping were sent to the Dubuque Rescue Mission for future needs. The sturdy gift bags provided each year by HyVee are greatly appreciated. Without these donations, this event could not happen.

"We feel Nano would be pleased with our sharing of radical hospitality. It was and is our intent to hear and answer the cries of those less fortunate right here in our city. It is our plan going forward to continue the Christmas dinner. Until there are no longer homeless people in Dubuque, we need everyone's help," says Sharon.

What can you do to help those who are experiencing homelessness?

Final Vows Preparation

After discerning a response to God's call, Sister Mary Therese Krueger will profess perpetual vows with the Sisters of the Presentation on December 12, 2020.



At a "Walking With" ceremony on March 4, 2020, in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Presentation motherhouse, the sisters promised to pray for and to support Sister Mary Therese throughout the coming months. During this ceremony, Sister Carmen Hernandez, congregational leader, prayed these words, "Through the times of joy and laughter, through the sorrow, pain and tears, make your life a song of faithfulness, love that deepens with the years. May these months of preparation for final vows bring you gratitude, joy and great peace."

Sister Mary Therese will spend the next months preparing to embrace a lifetime commitment to consecrated life by reflecting on the prophetic mission and nature of this call. By profession of vows, all sisters make a commitment to God and to one another. These vows compel them to build community and work for justice and peace wherever they are sent on mission. Community, prayer, study and ministry are the essential elements of this life.

Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism

by CARLA POPES, PBVM, and ASSOCIATE BECKY SEARCY

In January, Presentation Sisters and associates participated in a workshop sponsored by Chicago Regional Organizing for Anti-racism (ROAR) titled “Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism.” The training explored the historical development of institutional racism in the United States, and how it impacts society today. The trainers began to create a shared language for talking effectively about systemic racism and how it operates. In order to begin to move towards anti-racist transformation, participants were taught a framework for examining culture and values. As women religious and associates, the group was humbled to learn through this examination, that religious communities have helped to create this experience of racism as a reality for many of their brothers and sisters.

The first exercise was to complete a timeline beginning with 1492 to the present. Those gathered were invited to grow personally in their understanding of systemic racism and these days did just that. “We learned that acknowledging that racism is enmeshed in the fabric of our country and that racism underlies all the social justice disparities,” states Associate Donna Ewy. “We are here to examine deeply the roots of this evil and to explore our efforts to become anti-racist so that we may move toward a more just world.”

Participants learned that race is an artificial construct by those in power. By identifying others as inferior, those in power enhance their own power and wealth at the expense of those they label as “other.” They explored the deep wounds pervasive in the history and policies of American institutions, hopefully to be able to move forward as a positive force toward a more just world.

Sister Mary Therese Krueger reflects, “Racism continues to hurt our community and those we encounter. This workshop gives me hope that as Presentation people we can begin to develop the language, the capacity, to engage in conversations around white supremacy and racism. There is a dire need to begin the transition of transforming our Presentation community into an anti-racism team. It will be difficult, painful and challenging, but also it is the call of the Gospel. I believe we are ready and hopeful for the future.”

“One of the most challenging exercises for me was addressing my internalized racial superiority,” shares Sisters Mary Lou Specha. “The way I was socialized by my immediate family and my Presentation community taught me to live out and accept my white superiority. The workshop provided a space to name our own behaviors, design some strategies to address this mindset and begin to understand systemic racism.”



Presentation Sisters and associates attend a workshop to more fully understand systemic racism. Left to right: Sisters Mary Lou Specha and Mary Therese Krueger, Associate Donna Ewy, Sister Carla Popes, Associate Becky Searcy, Sisters Elena Hoye and Julie Marsh.

“When we talk about white supremacy, it is not limited to the extremists . . . it includes you and me, all of us. We have to be critical lovers when looking at ourselves and racism,” expresses Sister Julie Marsh.

One of the most telling moments happened after the group learned that all of them are racists. Everyone has power on many levels. Racism continues to divide cultures one from another.

We ask, “Why do institutions need to address systemic racism?” Institutions must address this because real peoples’ lives are at risk! As a Presentation community, we must do our part to transform our surroundings to be more just. This is an urgent call for all.

In her book, “The Time Is Now,” Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, reminds readers to refuse to quit! We each are called to be prophets and prophets never give up. “Prophetic leadership lies in the vision of goodness it puts before us. It challenges us to compare the lives we live and the dreams we have for them with the commitment to the ‘liberty and justice for all’ we talk about. It sings of peace and equality. It walks where the people walk, carrying their babies and their burdens, their fears and their faith, right into the mouth of the yawning dragon called profit and exploitation, slavery and sexism, power for the few and powerlessness for the many. It awakens people to hope again, to believe again, to begin to re-create the world again.”

How are we reflecting and examining our racist attitudes to transform ourselves, individually and communally, to live out our call to radical hospitality?

Reflections on the Journey Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM and MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

“Put another nickel in, In the nickelodeon, All I want is loving you, And music, music, music.” Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus, the youngest of 10 from Dougherty, Iowa, reminisces that from a very early age she wanted “music, music, music.”

“As a young child, I loved to push the pedals on the player piano that would allow the older siblings and their friends to dance,” recalls Sister Rosanne. She, christened Rose Marie, began to study piano and later organ.

Henrietta and Frances, her two older sisters, entered the Dubuque Presentation Sisters from Dougherty and took the names Sisters Anthony and Michael. Their entrance inspired Rose Marie to consider her vocation.

Rose Marie was in fourth grade when the family moved close to Charles City, Iowa. During her high school years, she played the organ for the morning Masses at Immaculate Conception Church in Charles City.

During a high school sophomore retreat, Rose Marie experienced God’s call to religious life. Her pastor agreed, but after graduation asked her to wait because her two older brothers were serving in the Korean War. When one brother received a medical discharge, the pastor approved her entrance.

Sister Rosanne clarifies that she had planned to enter the Sisters of the Presentation. She enjoyed family food preparation and was an excellent baker. Since Sister Anthony taught music, Sister Michael taught grade school, she offered to be a cook! But Sister Mary Irene Collins, the Presentation education supervisor, promptly assigned her to study piano and organ with Sister Zita Lynch, preparing her for additional music classes at Loras College.

Thus began Sister Rosanne’s journey of experiencing God through music. Her earliest experiences of prayer were learned from her parents. Now she was praying in music and song, often in Latin. The spirit of joy inspired by music became for her an enduring gift of the Spirit.

Sister Rosanne has countless memories of musical adventures at her missions. In Clare the pastor insisted that she initiate a boys’ choir. She practiced diligently with the youths in preparation for Christmas. In the recesses of the sacristy some red cassocks and white surplices were discovered and carefully laundered and pressed. The Clare Boys’ Choir resembled or perhaps rivaled the Vienna Boys’ Choir.



Music has always held a very special place in the heart of Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus and her deceased sisters, Sister Michael and Anthony, whose memorial funds went toward purchasing the above piano.

Also in Clare, Sister Rosanne prepared the entire school for Rogation Days. The senior high school boys needed to learn the Litany of the Saints in Latin as they processed the entire area encircled by parents praying for timely rain and fair weather for planting and harvesting. Sister Rosanne discovered that the inventive students could cleverly substitute secondary phrases for the Latin rogations, but found them to be highly respectful in the presence of the ambulatory congregation.

In 1978, the town of Whittemore was preparing for its Centennial celebration. The civic authorities proposed that a town chorale would honor the event. Sister Rosanne was delegated to prepare the singers. The Protestants and Catholics were quite segregated at the time and unaccustomed to working together. The choral members hid their discomfort behind the song sheets. But with each practice the separation seemed to lessen and the harmony of their voices amazed them. Cordiality and common purpose began to emerge. Sister Roseanne mused that the experience helped transform and unify Whittemore.

Sister Rosanne served as a parish minister for 13 years in Osage, Iowa. She, not only prepared a choir that attracted a city-wide audience at Christmas, but also brought joy to the lonely and needy. All, especially the sisters at Mount Loretto, witness her joyful and compassionate spirit, even at a game of “500.”

“The journey of my life,” says Sister Rosanne, “has been MUSIC and the journey of my heart is a song of thanks, so how can I keep from singing?”



Passionate Love of Nano Nagle Lives On Presentation Associates

by JOAN BRINCKS, PBVM, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Born in Ireland in 1718, Nano Nagle, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, spent most of her life as a lay woman ministering to those in need. During the day, she secretly taught poor children catechism, reading, writing and mathematics as the Penal laws barred Catholic children from attending school. Nano became known as the “Lady of the Lantern,” as she could be seen late into the night carrying her lantern through the winding lanes of Cork, Ireland, to bring comfort, food and medicine to the sick and elderly. Presentation people around the world continue to be energized by Nano’s life and vision of service which inspires them to live Gospel hospitality and compassion for Earth and people made poor. Nano transformed the lives of others through her compassion, love and courage. Today Presentation associates are called by God to do the same, interweaving Nano’s example of loving ministry into their lives.

Through long hours of prayer, attentive listening and openness to God, Nano walked with deep trust in Divine Providence. Associate Jean Lange reflects on that trust, “Faith in God’s protection allowed Nano to teach the children in her hedge schools, even in the face of persecution. Her love of children and pursuit of knowledge surely motivated her. Coming from a background of teaching children, while not in hedge schools and not under threat of persecution, helps me understand Nano’s passion and zeal for imparting her knowledge to the Irish Catholic children. I am not sure I have ever had her kind of courage. However, throughout the ups and downs of my life, I have always trusted in the Providence of God. Through raising children, losing parents, and *loving*

While certainly my trials have been on a smaller, safer scale than Nano’s, I have always known, like Nano, that God is walking beside me and continues to have a great plan for my life. Associate Jean Lange

grandchildren, the strong, solid upbringing in the faith provided to me by my parents and a good Catholic education has sustained me in much the same way I believe Nano was sustained. While certainly my trials have been on a smaller, safer scale than Nano’s, I have always known, like Nano, that God is walking beside me and continues to have a great plan for my life.”

Nano’s zeal was for love in action. Her heart burned within her and that love could not be contained. Associate Janet Leonard was touched by Nano’s zeal and reflects, “Nano is my heroine and example of how I want to live my life. She risked her freedom and later her health to reach out to others in need to make a difference in their lives. One way I try to make a difference in the lives of marginalized people is to volunteer weekly in the memory care unit of a local nursing home. These wonderful people sometimes don’t know their own name, let alone mine, but they recognize my face and smile

Left to right: Sister Dolores Moes with Associate Jean Lange; Associates Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, and Janet Leonard; Associates Jody Tomkins, Jenny Schultz and Kim Schmidt.

when they see me because they know I have come to bring some joy to their lives. My volunteering is a tiny way I try to follow in Nano’s gigantic footsteps.”

Faced with resistance and uncertainties, Nano went forth with courage. Sister Noela Fox, PBVM, in her book *A Dream Unfolds* speaks of Nano’s courage, “All my life I have been warned to be careful, and I have been, but I won’t let my work, God’s work, be stifled because of fear.” Being influenced by Nano’s courage to step farther out of her comfort zone, Associate Kim Schmidt states, “Nano Nagle’s characteristic of courage is beyond enlightening and helps me strive to live a more selfless way of life. Since becoming an associate, our group has come together many times, and with that I have grown in faith and charity, by way of examples and education. I feel called to share my heart with others as part of this process. As a group, we are currently discerning the most fulfilling path to take in that endeavor, with human trafficking and jail and prison ministry being at the forefront. I am praying for the courage to step out in faith with an abundance of zeal and a heartfelt compassion to touch the lives of others with the grace that God so graciously shares with us.”

Over the years, Nano’s lantern light burns brightly through the winding lanes of our time. Her distinctive passionate knowing that the poor are Christ is rooted in the hearts of Presentation Sisters and associates who are called to offer their prayers, their gifts, their voice and their actions to ensure that the light of Nano’s hospitality, compassion and love is carried into the places and to the people where they are and into the world.

Annual Benefit Garage/Gym Sale

The 2020 Presentation Garage/Gym Sale is right around the corner and work is already underway! The 2019 sale raised \$23,000. For the past 15 years, many of you have helped support the sale through donations of sale items, baked goods, purchases and precious time. Can we count on you again this year?

EARLY BIRD SALE - \$10 Donation

Thursday, April 23
7-8 a.m.

WHEN:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
April 23, 24, 25, 2020

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
April 30, May 1, 2, 2020

(Thursdays, Fridays 8 a.m.-dusk; Saturdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.)

WHERE:

Garage and gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation Motherhouse
2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa

WHY:

The proceeds from the 2020 sale will go to:

- Crescent Health Center, Dubuque, Iowa
- Kino Border Initiative, Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico

Spring Cleaning? Donate to Cause!

Please bring gently-used items: clean adult, children and baby clothing; household items; books; CDs; furniture; games, toys, etc. Plants such as hostas, ferns, schefflera, crotons, etc., sell very well too. (Please no shoes, computers/accessories, entertainment units, TVs, baby cribs or car seats, Nordic tracks or treadmills.)

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of usable items from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Monday, March 30 until Saturday, April 18. **No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 18.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, tool items, sports equipment, gardening, bikes, etc. should be dropped off at the white garages across from the gym

Homemade baked goods will be sold. Wrapped baked goods may be brought to the gym on April 23-25 and/or April 30-May 2.

Leaving Our Footprints

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

Nano's lantern continues to bring the light of Christ in places where Sisters of the Presentation have ministered, even after they are no longer physically present. In future issues, we will highlight Presentation dedications and memorials in honor of Presentation Sisters.

ST. COLUMBKILLE PARISH, DUBUQUE, IA

St. Columbkille Parish has two spaces which honor the memory of the 214 sisters who were part of the parish from 1879 to 1993.

Presentation Hall was dedicated on June 12, 1993, with a Mass, social activities and a time for reminiscences by parishioners and sisters alike. Seventy sisters, many of whom had served in the parish and school, participated in the festivities, sharing first-hand experiences of their time at the Rush Street address.

Father Pat Geary, in his homily at the Mass of dedication, talked of the Eucharist as a time of remembering and reviewed the history of the Sisters of the Presentation from Ireland to their presence in Dubuque. Calling them "some of our Eucharistic partners," he recalled the kinds of gifts the sisters had given to the parish: solid education, First Communion, Eucharistic spirituality, training of altar servers, Masses celebrated with children and parishioners, and the sharing of their lives, wisdom and faith.

On May 14, 2017, parishioners and sisters gathered to bless the renovated prayer garden in front of the school. A procession including the school choir, first communicants, Sisters of the Presentation, Knights of Columbus, volunteers and others kicked off the dedication.

After a blessing of the refurbished statue of St. Columbkille, a lantern was placed at the entrance to the garden to light the way for those who wish to enter in memory of Nano Nagle and the Sisters of the Presentation. This symbol represented past teachers and administrators whose dedication to their task of passing on the faith was a large part of the history of the school and parish.

"The students will be reminded that God worked through these men and women, and all the men and women that came before us are present with us and will come after us," said Barb Roling, the school's principal, calling the garden "a place of prayer and reflection."



Top photo: Sister Dolores Zieser (right) processes in with a lantern and hands it to Barb Roling, principal of St. Columbkille Elementary School. Bottom photo: Jeanette O'Hea, one of the coordinators for the celebration of the dedication of Presentation Hall, unlocks the door for the sisters.



Word of the Day Inspiration for 2020

Every day in 2020, a Word of the Day post is shared on our social media channels with the hope to inspire all to live a healthier and happier life. **Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @dbqpbvms!** Or, if you would like to receive these daily reflections by email, please send your email to info@dbqpbvms.org and we will add you to the list.

A SISTER FOR ALL SEASONS Sister Francesca Presseller

July 26, 1921 - January 3, 2020

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Mary Francesca Presseller was a sweetheart! No matter that she was 98 years old, her community just wasn't quite ready to let her go and her passing left a palpable sadness. Born in Robbinsdale, Minnesota, on July 26, 1921, daughter of Paul and Anna (Weiss) Presseller, she was baptized Elizabeth Theresa. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1948.

A primary teacher, Sister Francesca ministered in nine different parishes in three states. A sense of humor, jovial, easy-going and decidedly without pretense, Sister Francesca wore hospitality on her sleeve. Loved by students, neighbors, faculty, parents and parishioners in her places of ministry, people were drawn to her.

During her 20 years of retirement, Sister Francesca demonstrated ingenuity and generosity. How did she know about Young-Uns Day Care Center and the opportunity to rock the babies and read to the young children? When the Presentation Lantern Center for immigrants opened, she was "on board" the first day and served as a tutor every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning for at least seven years. In 2009, she received the Lantern Service Award for her faithful contributions. From her dancing brown eyes to her easy laughter, her welcoming heart and her soft embrace, Sister Francesca was a favorite. She was everyone's friend.

Easily engaged with life, she loved all things community: community prayer, community service, community parties, sing-alongs and playing cards big time, with a little gambling thrown in for good measure. A "people-person" of good cheer and good nature, even-disposition and dependable, positive and fun-seeking, being around Francesca was a joy.

Sister Francesca enjoyed the outdoors, appreciated the beauty of nature and delighted in bird watching. Reading was a favorite pastime and she devoured books, reading nearly everything in the library during her switchboard duty in her early retirement years. Movies, popcorn, crocheting and conversation were other favorites. Well rounded and personable, she was comfortable with herself and with others. Good food rated high among her favorites but there was no meal that couldn't be enhanced with a big, juicy dill pickle.

Her wardrobe spelled simple, very simple, but no one had as many decorative pins to dress up an outfit, as Sister Francesca

had accumulated from family and friends over the years. The collection became so large that eventually she needed a display board for easy and artistic selection. The nurse's aides rivaled one another in choosing the perfect pin for the day, and Sister Francesca was pleased.

She also had a collection of owls – cute, charming, friendly owls. And don't forget the bobbleheads on her window sill which she enjoyed the most when someone stopped by to watch their antics with her. For Frannie, everything was better with people

Most of all, Sister Francesca loved God and her family of 12 siblings, her nieces and nephews. Probably her most painful experience was the loss of her younger sister, Sister Mary Elizabeth. Though they couldn't have been more different in personality and personal style, their bond was tight and ran deep. Their ministries took them in different directions without a lot of together-time, but when they did get together, particularly for family visits, it was obvious they belonged together. They had such good times: playing cards, visiting, joking and snacking, loud with love and laughter – happy sisters from a happy family who could make their own fun and at the same time give praise to God.

Following her first year in the novitiate, a class of 12 entered the community; a major adjustment since Sister Francesca was the single canonical novice, the only one in her class. Seventy years later, we reflect on her life among us, and conclude that, in more ways than one, she was in a class by herself! And in our hearts, Francesca, that class is first class!



Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief

You are Invited to Attend Courageous Conversations: Mentors in Violence Prevention Training

The signs of the times call for courageous conversations. Join us for this practical, interactive workshop to help us individually and collectively raise awareness of non-violent communication. Practical applications will offer multiple ways to prevent potentially harmful or abusive situations. Activities embedded throughout the day will raise awareness, challenge thinking, open conversations and inspire leadership!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, IA

Fee: Free will donation is welcome.
Lunch and snacks will be provided.

EARLY registration is strongly encouraged.
First come first served basis. Participant capacity: 120.
Please honor your registration commitment. Last minute cancellations will prevent others from attending.



MVP TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Free will donation enclosed (optional): \$ _____

Please make checks out to the Sisters of the Presentation and mail to Sisters of the Presentation, c/o Jean Lange, 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001.



Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2020

In the spirit of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation offer the scholarship and award opportunities:

- Nano Nagle College Scholarship
- Mother Vincent Hennessy Scholarship
- Nano Nagle Service Award
- Presentation Mission Service Award
- Dubuque Presentation Associate Scholarship

To apply visit www.dbqpbvms.org
OPPORTUNITIES

A Nun's Life Ministry New Board Member

A Nun's Life Ministry welcomes Sister Jessi Beck as a new member to its board of directors. Board members help guide A Nun's Life into the future, building on over a decade of growth at the internet-based ministry. A Nun's Life engages with people in 175 countries and all walks of life through the aNunsLife.org website and social media.



"Our new board members exemplify the spirit of A Nun's Life," said Sister Maxine Kollasch, IHM, executive director. "They bring great energy, expertise and insight to our mission of helping people discover and grow in their vocation, wherever God is calling."

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Celebrating 100 Years

On March 30, our dear Sister Damian O'Brien will celebrate her 100th birthday. In celebration of her birthday, the Presentation community will host an open house for family and friends on April 5. Sister Damian recently retired from the Archdiocese of Dubuque where she worked in the archives office.



ROOTED IN PRAYER

STRENGTHENED BY COMMUNITY

CALLED TO SERVE

We are the Sisters of the Presentation

Is this life for you?

Contact Sister Jessi Beck at vocations@dbqpbvms.org

CONNECT WITH US @dbqpbvms



SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA

PLEASE JOIN WITH US.

March 23, 2020

April 27, 2020

May 25, 2020

Centering Prayer

5:30-7 p.m. Evening Meal followed by Prayer

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

March 28, 2020

11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Seeking God Women's Retreat

Dubuque, Iowa

Holy Week Mass Schedule

April 9, 2020

Holy Thursday at 7 p.m.

April 10, 2020

Good Friday at 3 p.m.

April 11, 2020

Holy Saturday at 7 p.m.

April 12, 2020

Easter Mass at 9 a.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Sacred Heart Chapel

April 17-18, 2020

Chicago's Got Sisters

Chicago, Illinois

April 23-25, 2020

April 30-May 2, 2020

Annual Garage/Gym Sale

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation, please visit our website at www.dbqpbvms.org or call 563.588.2008.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

March 28, 2020

DAVA Women's Retreat

Dubuque, Iowa

May 3, 2020

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Dubuque, IA
Permit No. 477

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

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

*Let us bring life, blessing and healing
to this earth, this world.*

POPE FRANCIS

As the earth reawakens with the splendor of new life,
may your spirit be renewed and refreshed.

Easter Blessings!

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA