



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world

Merry Christmas

FROM OUR HOME

TO YOUR HOME



The COMMITTEE

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The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history: (left to right) doorway of the current motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road; doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque in 1879; doorway of Sacred Heart Chapel at the current motherhouse; doorway of the former motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue which was built in 1909; and doorway by which Mother Vincent Hennessy left Mooncoin, Ireland, to begin the Dubuque foundation in 1874.

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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Cover PHOTO

The Presentation community wishes you and your loved ones a very blessed holiday season. Left to right: Back row: Sisters Anne McCormick, Pierre Kollasch, Emilie Bormann, Julianne Brockamp, Ellen Mary Garrett, James Marie Gross and Josita Zieser, Employee Jean Lange, Sister Dolores Moes, Sister Leanne Welch and Employee Sue Brimmer; Front row: Sisters Rita Cameron, Carmelle Westemeier, Karen Jasper, Jeanette McCarthy, Francesca Presseller and Marie Therese Coleman.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Openings

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

Courage Doesn't Always Roar

I recently received a copy of the book “Courage Doesn’t Always Roar” by Mary Anne Radmacher. The book, which could easily have the subtitle “I will try again tomorrow,” is a meditation on the many faces of courage and where and how we find it in our own hearts.

So how can one live courage? Radmacher shares that it takes courage to:

- Try again tomorrow.
- Change your opinion.
- Let go of the weighty parts of your past.
- Find your own voice.

She says courage:

- Is content to make no excuses.
- Acts without regret.
- Laughs right out loud.
- Asks “How would I most like to remember this?”

Living a courageous life can mean speaking and acting for those who cannot do so for themselves, speaking and living the truth even when it isn’t easy and celebrating the goodness of others – especially when they have a hard time recognizing it within themselves. Or, as Peter Maurin, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, would say, “making it easier for others to be good.”

Exercising courage in one’s day-to-day activities has a number of reflection points:

- Being excited about the dream/vision which comes from one’s relationship with God and being willing to share it.
- Being confident enough to live from within oneself because Jesus is within each of us. In the hard times, Jesus may be all one has.
- Allowing one’s self to be consumed – being spent – being emptied – using all it takes to further the mission of Jesus.
- Developing others – recognizing that each person has something to give and respecting them enough to let them share – even if it may not be done the way we might do it or as well as we might do it.
- Living with conviction – seeing what needs to be done and seeing that it is done – by self, others or with others.
- Going one pace beyond as Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, did.

To quote Radmacher: “Courage ... is the trembled ‘oh,’ which comes before you do that thing you think you cannot do, and then it’s the sound you make after you do it Courage is a paradox. Courage is the willingness to aspire, reach and again believe in the promise of tomorrow.”

Our Presentation directional statement emphasizes relationships, unity, contemplation and partnerships. Each of these provides us many opportunities to live courageously.



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 mission with you.

Our DIRECTION

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

reverencing *relationships*
celebrating *unity*
engaging *contemplation* and
fostering *partnerships*

to transform ourselves
and our world.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



Colleen Vlasisavljevich (front left) feels enriched and empowered after enjoying conversation with her faith-sharing group.

Transforming the World Through Hospitality, Love, Word and Deed

Our Sacred Call

by KAREN TUECKE, Partners in Mission Coordinator

At the 2013 Community Days gathering, the Sisters of the Presentation, associates and employees identified and recognized a need to address more areas in the world that affect all. They recognized as one, they could educate themselves, share their knowledge and make a difference. The sisters, associates and employees listened to the call to develop “Emerging Circles,” groups designed to self-organize around the passions of the Presentation community that expand and embody their directional statement. One group, Spiraling Mission Circles, expands the desire of Nano, “If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the world, I would gladly do all in my power,” by focusing on present day issues in four sub-circles of earth care, women and children, human trafficking and immigration.

These four circles hold sacred the call to transform the world through hospitality, love, word and deed. They believe that what affects one affects all and that their actions intertwine. Knitted

together with clarity of purpose and ties that bind them to each other and to the least and last, they educate, advocate and serve.

Each circle is actively involved and meets via Zoom video conferencing, communicates through e-mail and utilizes Basecamp, a web-based project management and collaboration resource that enables them to have discussions, share ideas and information, sign petitions, advocate and act on current topics pertaining to the work of each circle.

“Without a vision, the people perish.” *Proverbs 29:18*

Earth Care

Since 2013, the Earth Care Circle has evolved. At the beginning, the circle was broken into sub-groups focused on topics such as global warming, fracking, ecology and recycling. Over time

the sub-groups conducted research on all of these topics and began knowledge sharing based on each member’s independent passion. The research continues to be recorded in Basecamp for all spiraling circles to see and contribute toward.

Sister Dolores Moes recalls, “In 2013 we were invited to live out our directional statement in a more concrete way by forming groups around important issues. Ecology and sustaining Earth was my choice. Fracking is a threat to our beautiful farmland and was our first focus; then we considered issues related to the use of wind, water, oil, coal, animals, pipelines and more.”

This year, at the Community Days gathering in July, the Earth Care Circle met as a whole to determine how they could combine the sub-groups to centralize their purpose and focus to make a greater impact, resulting in a unified passion around care of Earth.

The Earth Care Circle explored how they can make a difference within themselves and the earth as a whole. As the circle moves into the future, their mission, set during Community Days 2016, is as follows:

- Transform their lifestyle to become reflective of their commitment to Earth care.
- Implement creative ways to educate and communicate.
- Engage in political advocacy.
- Incorporate the faith component into their care for Earth.

The members of the Earth Care Circle believe, as ecological citizens, they are to protect their environment and pledge to use Earth’s resources in responsible ways. Some topics of interest that they have passion around are, but not limited to, global warming, fracking, ecology, recycling and consumption.

The circle created a list of focus areas including:

- Practice responsible use of the earth resources.
- Develop the habits of reusing and recycling.
- Change the harmful habits of consumption.
- Engage in environmental political action at local and national levels.
- Offer environmental education aimed at creating an ecological citizenship.
- Develop community environmental action networks.

Each member of the Earth Care Circle participates in gatherings multiple times a year via the web and/or in person. Recently many members have traveled to places including Iowa, Minnesota and Mississippi to advocate and express their concerns about sand fracking and the pipeline.

Sister Dolores Moes continues her life of service and mentions, “I keep a list of what I do such as weekly meetings, weekly Basecamp alerts, petitions and protest actions harmful to the earth and efforts to involve area Catholic sisters through Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (IPL). The Iowa IPL is a resourceful group that provides support, education, inspiration and the power to equip people of faith to be better stewards of Earth. Together, we can make a difference.”

Women and Children

The Women and Children Circle has also transformed since its inception in 2013. They support each other in prayer and try to make a difference for women or children on a personal basis. They see the emotional and financial impact on the women and children they serve. In 2016 the circle developed a mission statement to reflect the acts of kindness and hospitality they offer: “As sisters and brothers, we challenge the injustice of oppressive systems and spend ourselves to empower the disadvantaged.” As members, they can live this out from near or afar.

I am reminded of the challenge of St. Benedict to “treat all as Christ.” We can bring Nano’s love to our world that is so in need of hospitality to all. *Colleen Vlasisavljevich*

Focus areas for the Women and Children Circle include, but are not limited to:

- Offer financial and/or prayerful support for ministries focusing on the needs of women, children and indigenous people.
- Write a note of thanks, get well, sympathy and thinking of you to offer support.
- Phone people who would enjoy hearing from you.
- Offer companionship by sharing a meal or coffee.
- Contribute to agencies providing food for the needy.
- Sponsor a child in need.
- Become a mentor.
- Give praise to someone who has done an act of kindness.
- Volunteer to be a religious education teacher.
- Support schools with indigenous students.
- Become educated in the histories of the indigenous to be able to counteract ignorance and prejudice.

Associate Colleen Vlasisavljevich demonstrates how something so small can make such a big difference. “I still provide the hospitality of tea and faith-sharing every third Thursday of the month for a group of eight women whom I know leave my home as enriched and empowered as I am by the spirited sharing. I am reminded of the challenge of St. Benedict to ‘treat all as Christ.’ We can bring Nano’s love to our world that is so in need of hospitality to all,” states Colleen.

Sister Beth Kress reminds us, “Each of us finds and makes opportunities in our daily lives to walk with women and children, an individual woman or groups of women. We have shared our insights, learnings and graces received from these encounters. Therefore we help to sensitize one another to the hidden sufferings or to the beauties of others who might be disenfranchised in our society. This gives us ways to reach out individually and to invite others to join us.”

Human Trafficking

2016 has been an active year for the members of the Human Trafficking Circle. Several circle members are deeply involved in the Coalition Against Human Trafficking in the Tri-State Area, comprised of women religious and associates from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. From their experiences, the circle created a list of intentions and developed a mission: "As believers in the sacredness and dignity of human life, we stand with the victims and oppose all forms of exploitation."

The coalition receives many requests to give presentations on human trafficking to various groups in Iowa. Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty states, "These presentations are ways in which the coalition increases awareness and lives out their mission statement of 'engaging in education and advocacy in an effort to eradicate human trafficking.'"

Unfortunately the data and research does not show a precise number of victims fallen to human trafficking because of the nature of the illegal trade, but available research indicates that more people fall victim to sex trafficking rather than labor and organ trafficking. Unfortunately many forms of trafficking are taking place:

- Sex trafficking and prostitution.
- Children exploited for commercial sex.
- Child sex tourism.
- Forced and bonded labor.
- Debt bondage and involuntary servitude among migrant laborers.
- Involuntary domestic servitude.
- Forced child labor and child soldiers.
- Drug trafficking.
- Tissues, cells and organ trafficking.

Human trafficking is an international, national and local concern. It takes place in every town, every city, every state and every country. The Human Trafficking Circle has developed a list of individual ways one can assist in ending human trafficking:

- Read one article each month on this topic.
- Share something you have learned with another person.
- Be alert for ads featuring the objectification of women and express your objection to the company.
- Sign petitions for passage of stronger laws against trafficking.
- Promote fair trade products.
- Report suspicious behavior, call the Hotline #888-373-7888.
- Ask schools if school uniforms are "sweat-shop free."
- Practice responsible shopping – child labor and sweat-shop free.
- Pray for all victims of human trafficking.

The circle offers the following prayer: "Loving and compassionate God, we pray for the millions of victims of human trafficking. Free them from the chains of this modern-day slavery. Heal their pain, renew their hope and restore their sense of worth and human dignity. Convert the hearts of all whose actions contribute to the exploitation of the most vulnerable members of the human family. Touch our hearts, that we may be instruments of your justice, love and peace."



Left to right: Associate Becky Searcy (seated) and Sisters Irma Ries and Sheila Ann Dougherty share information about trafficking to the faculty and staff at St. Benedict School in Decorah, Iowa, where Becky teaches.

Immigration

The Immigration Circle lives their mission in all the work its members do: "As family, we welcome the stranger and keep company with those fleeing violence and intolerable systems from countries they call home."

The circle believes there is clear moral and spiritual crisis in our nation as it relates to immigrants, undocumented and documented. Communities of faith, including the Sisters of the Presentation, have been among the first responders offering hospitality and compassion to immigrant families and children as they advocate for comprehensive immigration reform.

The bottom line is – protect them. Help all to reunite with their families. Welcome the stranger. Welcome the children. Welcome the immigrant. Fix the broken immigration system. Isn't that what the Gospel asks of all in this moment? And isn't that what the heroes of our faith ask of us as well?

The Immigration Circle shares a list of ways to assist them in advocating for immigrants.

- Share stories of today's immigrants and their challenges, as well as your own relationships with immigrants.
- Sponsor an immigration simulation.
- Publish op-ed pieces.
- Identify Iowa state legislative pro-immigrant allies toward the goal of legal motor vehicle licenses for undocumented persons.
- Promote the adoption of local (municipal) identification documents.

After participating in a recent immigration simulation, Sister Paula Schwendinger expresses her observations, "I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in a immigration simulation to do so. It certainly helps to put things

into perspective. Sister Shirley Fineran, a Dubuque Franciscan Sister, developed a realistic way for others to experience the many frustrations immigrants face trying to obtain documents. During the stimulation, volunteers were translators, lawyers (some not-for-profit and others who would charge a significant fee), people selling false documents, a coyote who would bring someone across the border, a sheriff and a judge. In the simulation, seven real immigration cases were presented to the participants. The simulation only lasted one hour and a bell would ring every 15 minutes to indicate that four years had passed in the process. At the end, some took a citizenship test and passed and others expressed their frustrations in the process."

The Immigration Circle recognizes that the original foundation of the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation was ministry to and with immigrants. The circle's vision is that all will be aware of the reality of today's immigrants and will advocate on their behalf and extend hospitality to them, particularly toward undocumented immigrants.

Pope Francis reminds us, "I wish to ... call attention to the tens of thousands of children that emigrate alone, unaccompanied to escape violence and poverty ... This humanitarian emergency requires, as a first urgent measure, these children be welcomed and protected. Many people forced to emigrate suffer, and often, die tragically; many of their rights are violated, they are obliged to separate from their families and, unfortunately, continue to be the subject of racist and xenophobic attitudes." July 11, 2014

As each of the four circles move forward, a deeper sense of interconnectedness continues to evolve. The circles' vision for the future unfolds as they work together to embrace those in need and live with reverence, care and justice toward all creation.

Human Trafficking...
what is it, and what can I do to help END IT?

The Coalition Against Human Trafficking of the Tri-State Area, comprised of Sisters and Associates of area religious congregations, is available for educational presentations with materials and ideas for advocacy.

For further information, contact:
Lisa Schmidt at schmidt@osfdbq.org

Sinsinawa Dominicans, OP | Sisters of Charity, BVM | Sisters of Mercy, RSM
 Sisters of St. Francis, OSF | Sisters of the Presentation, PBVM

"Just Like Home"

Catholic Sisters from the tri-state area gathered with women from Opening Doors, Maria House and Teresa Shelter to help with the inaugural jar-filling event on October 26, 2016, for the "Just Like Home" program. This multifaceted program will provide both an education component and hands-on work experience to help women at Maria House and Teresa Shelter gain the self-confidence and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency. Program participants will produce cookies and cocoas in the "Just Like Home" product line that will be sold to the community as a revenue source to fund programs for Opening Doors. The product line will be expanded over the next two years.



For your holiday gift giving, you can purchase dry cookie mixes for \$10 and dry cocoa mixes for \$6 to help provide life skills programming to empower homeless women. To place an order, please contact Kathy Flynn at kflynn@openingdoorsdbq.org or call (563) 582-7480.

Arts & Crafts Boutique A Benefit to Support Charitable Ministries

The Sisters of the Presentation are happy to report that \$5,736.37 was raised from the Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 15, 2016. This amount was divided and donated to Habitat for Humanity of Dubuque and the Bolivian Ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation.

The annual event could not have been the success it was without the wonderful community of sisters, associates, students and friends who worked together.

Mark your calendars for next year's sale on October 21, 2017, where you will find unique, hand-crafted gifts of hand-woven baskets, trivets, watercolor paintings, jewelry, greeting cards, etc., and delicious pies and baked goods by Presentation Sisters, associates and friends.



Associate Becky Searcy enjoys spending time with her students during her music classes at St. Benedict School in Decorah, Iowa.

Associates Engage in Spiraling Mission Circles Advocacy and Action

by CAROL WITRY, Associate Partnership Co-Director

Go out! For need calls loudly in the winding lanes. And you must seek Christ there! *Raphael Consedine, PBVM*

Just as Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, heard the call to find Christ in the winding lanes of Cork, Ireland, Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and their associates respond to this call today. They reverence relationships, celebrate unity, engage in contemplation and foster partnerships in various focus areas of earth care, women and children, human trafficking and immigration through the Spiraling Mission Circles.

Love for children initially drew Associates Janet Leonard and Becky Searcy to the work of two of the Spiraling Mission Circles. “I chose to be part of the Women and Children Circle because it represents my life’s focus,” says Janet. “I’ve spent my career working with children as an elementary teacher. Helping them grow into the persons God created them to be is a challenge and a privilege.”

Becky’s motivation for her work with the Human Trafficking Circle is rooted in her identity as a mother, grandmother and teacher. “My concern for the welfare of children has led me to the issue of human trafficking. I’ve learned that most runaways are between the ages of 12 and 14 years, the very age of the middle school children I teach,” states Becky. “I try to teach my students through what I say and how I treat them that they are each made in the image and likeness of God. As teachers, parents and grandparents we can combat human trafficking by respecting and valuing each individual life.”

Participation in a spiraling circle offers Janet, Becky and other sisters and associates education and support. “Being part of a circle offers more opportunity to learn and be effective than trying to advocate on my own,” shares Becky.

Learning that over 100,000 people are trafficked each year in the United States, Becky joined with Human Trafficking Circle members, Sisters Sheila Ann Dougherty and Irma Ries, to offer a presentation to her school faculty and staff. “It was eye opening for many to learn that human trafficking is a problem right here in our Iowa towns and cities. Our presentation heightened awareness and provided important, basic information about this modern-day slavery.”



Associate Janet Leonard (left) prays with a resident at Good Neighbor Home in Manchester, Iowa.

Janet’s participation in the Women and Children Circle inspires her service in her local community. As a participant in her parish’s Befriender program, she visits women at a local care center sharing prayer and conversation. She also serves as a leader in her parish for children’s Liturgy of the Word. Her love for children extends to a home in Kentucky that provides safe, temporary housing for children whose parents are incarcerated or in a drug program. “I’m called ‘The Dollar Lady’ because I send the kids birthday and Christmas cards with a dollar tucked inside,” states Janet. “It’s a small gift, but it gives them joy and a feeling of being loved.”

Along with other sisters and associates, Janet and Becky connect with members of their circles through periodic face-to-face or video conference gatherings, and often via Basecamp by initiating discussions and posting messages and articles pertaining to the work of their circle. “The articles and comments posted on Basecamp continue to challenge and empower me to help raise awareness of the realities of human trafficking,” affirms Becky.

Janet states, “I posted a starter list on Basecamp of actions individuals can do to champion the dignity and rights of women and children. All sisters and associates are encouraged to add to the list and share it with others in their circles of influence.”

Both Becky and Janet acknowledge their circle participation flows from their desire to follow in the footsteps of Nano. “She worked tirelessly to provide education and dignity to children through her hedge schools,” recalls Becky. “Keeping Nano’s spirit alive through my ministry as a teacher and by bringing awareness of human trafficking to my school and parish communities is my mission.”

Janet adds, “Nano built a home for elderly women and had plans for a home for female prostitutes who wanted to find a way out of their troubles. I try to be a daughter of Nano in all my efforts; but when I’m helping women and children I feel most close to her.”

Like Janet and Becky, many sisters and associates have discovered their Spiraling Mission Circle offers a forum and community to share in the work of promoting justice. Members of each circle, through their area of focus, seek to answer the call to recognize and respond to Christ in the winding lanes of our time, a call which has spiraled through the centuries to be rooted in the hearts of sisters, associates and Presentation people everywhere.

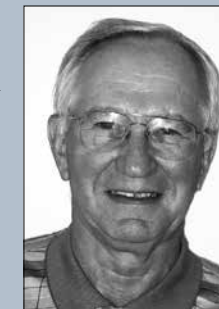
Associate Partnership

For more information, please visit:
WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
 Office of Associate Partnership
 563-588-2008
associates@dubuquepresentations.org

In Memory of Harry Stanton

March 30, 1934 - October 11, 2016

Beginning with summer service experiences in Oglala, South Dakota, and Mason City, Iowa, Harry Stanton was caught by the joy and hospitality of the Sisters of the Presentation. He and his wife, Mary Irene, became Presentation associates on June 14, 2001. Over the years Harry and Mary Irene’s dedication to the Presentation Associate Partnership was evidenced by their participation in the Cities of Faith associate group, their service for five years as members of the Associate Partnership Advisory Committee and their faithfulness to community and associate gatherings and retreats. Their commitment and enthusiasm also led them one pace beyond as they traveled to Okolona, Mississippi, to serve Thanksgiving dinner and to help students in the Excel program.



A long-time resident of Mason City, Harry made a joyful song to God by reverencing relationships. Mary Irene, family and grandchildren felt Harry’s love in words and deeds. Friends and neighbors experienced his wit and stories while sharing a cup of coffee, playing bridge, walking in the mornings and playing golf. Those in Beje Clark Residential Center encountered his compassion and guidance. Children in Lincoln Intermediate School were uplifted as he listened to them read or exchanged pen pal letters. People in Epiphany Parish St. Joseph Catholic Church were aware of his faith as Harry proclaimed God’s Word and served on committees. For 25 years, insurance clients knew of his caring heart.

Family, friends, Presentation Sisters and associates gratefully remember Harry’s love for God’s people shown through kindness, generosity and hospitality. He was a true witness as a follower of Jesus and Nano Nagle. May he rest in peace!



In retirement, Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty continues to experience much enjoyment by sharing her music with all.

SISTER SHEILA ANN DOUGHERTY

A Heart for the Poor

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Retirement? What on earth is that? This is a question Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty might legitimately ask after a few years of “retirement” and still being as busy as ever.

Sister Sheila Ann was born the daughter of Everett and Mayme Dougherty in Mason City, Iowa. The younger of two daughters, she and her sister, Mary Ellen, both attended Holy Family Grade and High School in Mason City before beginning their life careers.

Sheila knew from the time she was in third grade that she wanted to be a religious sister, a fact that made her parents very happy, and they were both encouraging in her desire. They prayed every day for their daughters, and they made their faith a very significant part of the lives of their family.



True to her declaration, Sheila entered the Sisters of the Presentation after graduation from high school. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in music from Clarke College in Dubuque, Sister Sheila Ann began teaching music, a career whose schedule automatically leaves very little personal time for the teacher. Sister began teaching in Monona, Iowa, then moved on to Osage and Algona, Iowa, and eventually on to Monticello, Minnesota.

After some time, Sister Sheila Ann returned to Dubuque where she taught music at Resurrection School for one year, then moved on to Wahlert High School where she taught instrumental music. While at Wahlert, she also went to grade schools in the city to teach instruments and to form small bands. For all of this work she was equipped by having played the saxophone since sixth grade, and having been in a band herself all through high school.

The poor have a strong place in my heart and I want to help the poor as long as I can. I want to see that not one more person falls through the cracks. *Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty*

Subsequently she spent eight years in congregational leadership for the Sisters of the Presentation. She then taught in Whittemore, Iowa, after which she became liturgy director for St. Joseph Parish in Dubuque. Sister Sheila Ann was also responsible for the RCIA Program, and for visiting parishioners in the hospitals. Eventually Sister Sheila Ann moved to Oak Lawn, Illinois, where she served as a pastoral associate at St. Germaine Parish. In that role, she formed small groups to discuss religious topics, formed a spiritual growth team which helped with formative activities and marriage enrichment offerings. Sister also began the practice of Taize prayer in the parish. In the meantime she received a certificate in spiritual direction in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Returning to Iowa, Sister went to St. Jude Parish in Cedar Rapids, where she was the music director, which included planning for weddings and the liturgical decor of the church. With the amount of work involved in parish life, Sister knew it was finally time for retirement at Mount Loretto motherhouse.

During her first year of retirement, she and Sister Joan Lickteig spent considerable time revising the “Liturgy of the Hours” booklet, the form of the Divine Office which the sisters pray every day.

Sister Sheila Ann’s father was a veteran of World War I, from which he suffered a life-time disability, in addition to problems with asthma. Watching him in this condition as she grew up, she developed a heart for those veterans who left the war with physical needs. Acting on that passion, Sister arranged to spend time at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, sharing her talents for the joy of the veterans who were permanent residents there. Spending about six hours a day at the hospital, she entertained them with her piano and music skills, and visited long-term patients. She formed small singing groups, and she would go to different floors and just play the piano during lunch hour. She also played for an hour at the entrance of the hospital, so that visitors, especially veterans’ family members, were greeted with the joy of music as they began, what was probably for many, a difficult visit with their loved one.

Sister Sheila Ann comments, “I have been very happy at Mount Loretto. I have kept up with the veterans, going about every three months to continue work with them in Chicago. And music is invigorating for me, so I take some time to play the piano every day.” She also plays for liturgies at Mount Loretto on a rotating basis, and during her first two years of retirement she played for liturgies at Holy Spirit Pastorate in Dubuque.

Additionally, Sister Sheila Ann has a passion for the poor and less fortunate. She learned this early in life when her parents took the girls to wakes and funerals, and when members of the Sodality made favors for people in nursing homes. “The poor have a strong place in my heart,” comments Sister Sheila Ann, “and I want to help the poor as long as I can. I want to see that not one more person falls through the cracks. We never had a lot of money growing up, but we made it work. For years my mother directed a camp for handicapped children in the summer and we would play our instruments for them. I learned that there were people worse off than we were, so we needed to help them.”

Sister truly lives those words. Even today she volunteers to serve meals to the homeless once a month at the Dubuque Rescue Mission, and helps at the local food pantry to package food for the poor. She has also worked at St. John Lutheran Church’s homeless center, registering the homeless who seek shelter.

Her latest venture has been to become part of a group on human trafficking, studying the problem especially as it exists in the Dubuque area, giving presentations and working with a coalition of other women religious to raise awareness of this major problem which takes advantage of various kinds of poor.

Now it is easy to see why Sister Sheila Ann doesn’t know the meaning of the word “retirement,” or perhaps it is just that her heart is so bent toward the poor that she cannot rest easy while they are in her midst.

Partnering in Mission

As partners in mission, your annual support is appreciated and vital to the growth of the ministries of the Sisters of the Presentation. You are the key to their success and you make it possible for the sisters to provide individuals and families in need with assistance and critical services. With your donation, you will help to sustain Presentation ministries throughout the world well into the future.



Online giving offers you a flexible, paperless way to contribute to the Sisters of the Presentation. You can make a one-time or monthly donation by visiting the Presentation website and clicking the Donate Now tab, which is secure, convenient and easy for an ever-growing community of partners, employees and associates, near and far.

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

Support to Bolivia and Beyond!

by KAREN TUECKE, *Partners in Mission Coordinator*

Janella Frankl Reicks and her husband, Ron, of Hidalgo, Texas, have a lifelong connection to the Sisters of the Presentation. “I am originally from Algona, Iowa, and am the youngest of nine siblings who all attended St. Cecelia Parish and School. Even my father, Gerald, went to school there. In fact, he was in the first graduating class at the then Presentation Academy, as it was known when it held all 12 grades. The Sisters of the Presentation taught there for many years including Sister Mary Isidore who taught Dad as well as all nine of my siblings,” states Janella.

When Janella was beginning her junior high years, her parents and younger family members moved to South Sioux City, Nebraska. She was taught by the Dominican Sisters and then in high school taught by the Sisters of St. Casimir in Emerson, Nebraska, only to find out later that the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation had taught there previously. When affiliated with a religious community, she found out the world is really small.

Janella smiles with joy as she recalls, “I heard the call to religious life my senior year in high school. I checked out several communities and Nano’s charisma matched mine. After volunteering my services at St. Peter School in Jefferson, South Dakota, the year following my graduation, and working with the Aberdeen Sisters of the Presentation there, I entered the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque in 1973.”

Janella’s journey as a Sister of the Presentation continued through 1996. She was a teacher in Key West of Dubuque for four years, spent another four years as teacher and principal in Whittemore, Iowa, and another four years at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. At the request of the Presentation community, Janella then went on to missionary work in Bolivia. Janella’s love of Bolivia shines through, “I was there for four wonderful years! I loved it and if my health could handle it, we would probably be there today.”

While in Bolivia, Janella went through six months of discernment. Following her heart, she found a deeper call with her husband, Ron, a former priest who came to Whittemore as a pastor during her years there. Their friendship grew over the



Left to right: Ron and Janella Frankl Reicks and William “Red” Alber are partners in mission to the Sisters of the Presentation.

years from the time they met in the 1980s. Janella recalls, “We decided to follow a deeper call within our vocations to minister together as a married couple, each marrying our best friend of 10 plus years! We continue to minister in and outside the Catholic Church every day and are very blessed.”

Janella and Ron are very supportive of the Sisters of the Presentation. For three weeks in April and May of this year, they returned to Bolivia. “Sister Suzanne Takes has been a close friend of mine since 1972 when I visited Mount Loretto,” says Janella. “She welcomed us back to Bolivia and it was awesome to be with our ‘family’ there again.” While there, Janella and Ron identified some immediate needs of the Presentation Bolivian mission and began talking to their church, friends and family about those needs.

“It was apparent that the roof of the sisters’ home in Timboy needed to be replaced and their current vehicles, a pick up and Jeep, are aged more than 10 years. For safety sake both need replacing for the mountainous roads they travel,” states Janella. “Our neighbor, William ‘Red’ Alber, who lives just across the lake from us in Texas, has been a great friend. Red joins Ron and me in supporting the Presentation mission. He contributes greatly to the Presentation Bolivian mission and the Sisters of the Presentation. If any *Presentation Doorways* readers want to join us in contributing to this cause, simply earmark your donation to the ‘Presentation Bolivian Mission’ and you will help realize our efforts to meet their immediate needs. Thank you in advance!”

For Janella and Ron, and Red, partnering with the Sisters of the Presentation is a way to show their gratitude and appreciation in the mission.

Dubuque Area Vocation Association Receives Mustard Seed Award

by RITA CAMERON, PBVM

On October 27-31, 2016, nearly 300 participants gathered in Overland Park, Kansas, for the 15th Biennial Convocation of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), a professional organization of vocation ministers who present religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. NRVC promotes vocation awareness, invitation and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother or priest. The organization reflects all forms of religious life and provides educational opportunities, resources and other supportive services for spiritual, professional and personal growth.

Participants represented 30 states and the District of Columbia, as well as 15 international guests representing Belize, Canada, England, Ghana, Grenada, Mexico, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme, “Awakened by the Spirit: Called to Discipleship,” emphasized the invitation from Pope Francis to those in consecrated life to “Wake up the World.”

During the convocation’s closing banquet on Sunday, October 30, the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA) received the Mustard Seed Award. This award honors an individual or group that has made a significant impact on vocation ministry through a small, local initiative that has grown to include other individuals, groups and organizations. Such local efforts help encourage a vocation culture and raise the awareness of the faithful about their shared baptismal call to holiness.

“It’s important for us to collaborate with each other and with other leaders in the archdiocese and the church,” said Len Uhal, a member of DAVA and the national vocation director for the Divine Word Missionaries who operate Divine Word College Seminary in Epworth, Iowa.

DAVA represents 12 congregations of religious women and men in the Upper Mississippi Valley who collaborate with the Archdiocese of Dubuque to promote vocation awareness. As vocation ministers, they reach out to nurture, promote, encourage and help those who feel called to religious life.

“We have such a similar ministry, it is good for us to work together to help increase the number of men and women entering formation,” notes Len. “We meet three to four times a year to plan different events that DAVA sponsors. These are events that either plant the seed of a priestly or religious vocation or help nurture one that is already blooming.”

DAVA sponsors numerous activities to promote vocation awareness, including presentations in parishes and schools; retreats for faculty; an annual Sixth Grade Vocation Day for the Catholic schools in the Dubuque area; annual talks in the archdiocesan high schools on the Christian call to mission; retreats, spiritual direction



Sister Rita Cameron, vocation director for Sisters of the Presentation, and Len Uhal, national vocation director for Divine Word Missionaries, accept the Mustard Seed Award on behalf of the Dubuque Area Vocation Association.

DAVA could not do all that it does to promote religious vocations without collaborating with high school and college campus ministers, DREs, youth ministers, leaders in local parishes and schools and so many others. *Len Uhal*

and discernment groups on college campuses; discernment weekends for those interested in religious life; a bi-annual program for youth and young adults featuring a national speaker on vocation/call; and promoting national/international events locally such as National Catholic Sisters Week, National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life and the Year of Consecrated Life.

“DAVA could not do all that it does to promote religious vocations without collaborating with high school and college campus ministers, DREs, youth ministers, leaders in local parishes and schools and so many others,” says Len. “DAVA’s work has helped create a culture of encounter, engagement and vocation that can and does serve as a model to other vocation ministry groups.”

REMEMBERING Epworth, Peosta, Placid, Iowa

1923-2009

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

The histories of three northeast Iowa parishes and schools are closely related, and in some cases intertwined. The following narrative relies heavily on the history of each parish according to Monsignor Justin A. Driscoll's account in "With Faith and Vision" (c.1967) to summarize the individual history of each place.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PEOSTA: 1923-1993

According to Monsignor Driscoll, the school in Peosta opened in 1923. The earlier attendance center had been in Centralia, Iowa, and was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque.

In 1923 the Sisters of Charity, BVM, took charge of the new building in Peosta with 62 students. Growing to include all grades first through 12, it was accredited by the State of Iowa in 1928. Enrollment fluctuated over the years because of the Depression, and in 1933 the high school was closed.

In 1993 the Peosta center merged with Epworth, Placid and the Farley-Bankston consolidation to form Seton Catholic Elementary School. Grades third, fourth and fifth were assigned to the Peosta center, and the system was placed under the direction of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque.

Another Presentation connection in the area was the Northeast Iowa Technical Institute School of Nursing. Sister Mary Rosalie Whalen was one of its nursing instructors from 1974-1989, according to records in the archives.

ST. JOHN, PLACID: 1894-1993

Originally named Pleasant Grove, Placid was later named after the abbot of New Melleray Abbey. The first school building in Placid was opened by Reverend James Commerford in 1894. The Franciscan Sisters of Clinton replaced several lay women who had taught the children before that time. The new school housed grades first through eighth.



St. Patrick School in Epworth, Iowa. Back row: Sister Mary René Laubenthal, Sister Paula Schwendinger; Front row: Sister Mary Walter Deardorf, Sister Mary Honora Sullivan and Father Clarence Raker.

In 1912 the sisters were unable to continue staffing the school, and lay teachers again stepped up to continue educating the young people of the area. By 1917 the Clinton Franciscan Sisters had returned. In 1946 Sisters of the Presentation took over the running of the school until they were replaced again by the Franciscan Sisters in 1952.

Placid became part of the Epworth-Peosta-Placid merger in 1968, and in 1993 that group merged with Farley-Bankston to form Seton Catholic Elementary School system.

ST. PATRICK, EPWORTH: 1935-2009

Epworth was a mission parish, served by the pastor at Placid, from 1879-1935. After the establishment of St. Joseph School in Farley, the Sisters of the Presentation from there attended to the catechetical needs of the children in Epworth.

With the opening of the parochial school in 1955, four Presentation Sisters were assigned to elementary grades. Students in St. Patrick School had the advantage of association with several outside groups. The seminarians from Divine Word College Seminary worked with seventh and eighth grade students in a kind of "Big Brother" relationship. In 1960 students were able to receive piano and organ lessons from the music teachers in the Farley center. The Dubuque County schools provided the services of a county nurse, a speech therapist, a psychologist and a special education director.

In 1968 the Epworth-Peosta-Placid merger meant that the Epworth school was no longer a separate entity. By 1993 it became necessary to consolidate further and the Seton Catholic Elementary School system was created. Grades kindergarten, first and second were assigned to the Epworth building.

In addition to the school connections, Presentation Sisters also helped staff the Divine Word Spirituality Center in Epworth from 1993-1996. Sister Julia Wingert assisted in this endeavor.

The last Presentation, Sister Mary St. James Lickteig, left the system in 2009, ending the era of Presentation presence in the area schools which began in 1887 at St. Joseph School in Farley.

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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

SISTER JEANINE KUHN *Special Recognition*



The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa gave special recognition to Sister Jeanine Kuhn on September 23, 2016, at their annual volunteer ceremony. Sister Jeanine was a volunteer at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo, Iowa, where she provided extraordinary service and devotion that enhanced the quality of life of terminally-ill patients, their families and the staff. Sister volunteered more than 424 hours in the last two and a half years with a mission to serve others as they enter their final life journey.

Sister Jeanine is currently offering spiritual direction in the Dubuque and Waterloo areas, as well as being part of the Presentation formation community.

Make a Difference Day

The Sisters of the Presentation sponsored a team that participated in Dubuque's Andrew Connolly Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 22, 2016. The purpose of the day is to provide service for people unable to do tasks such as cleaning, winterizing and yard work. The Presentation team helped three households by cleaning windows, painting, winterizing yards and raking leaves, performing some regular maintenance tasks, as well as enjoying treats and conversation with those they helped. The Sisters of the Presentation have joined in this event the last seven years. *Presentation team members had the pleasure of visiting the home of Rita Vogt. Left to right: Kate Uhal, Jeff and Jean Lange, Rita Vogt, Sister Anne McCormick and Jane Buse.*



You are invited to join us.

December 25, 2016
Christmas Mass
9:00 a.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

December 26, 2016
January 23, 2017
February 27, 2017
Centering Prayer
5:30 p.m. Evening Meal
6:15-7:00 p.m. Prayer
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

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

Please pray with us.

December 17, 2016
Christmas Dinner with guests from
Dubuque Rescue Mission and Hope House
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

March 8-14, 2017
National Catholic Sisters Week

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

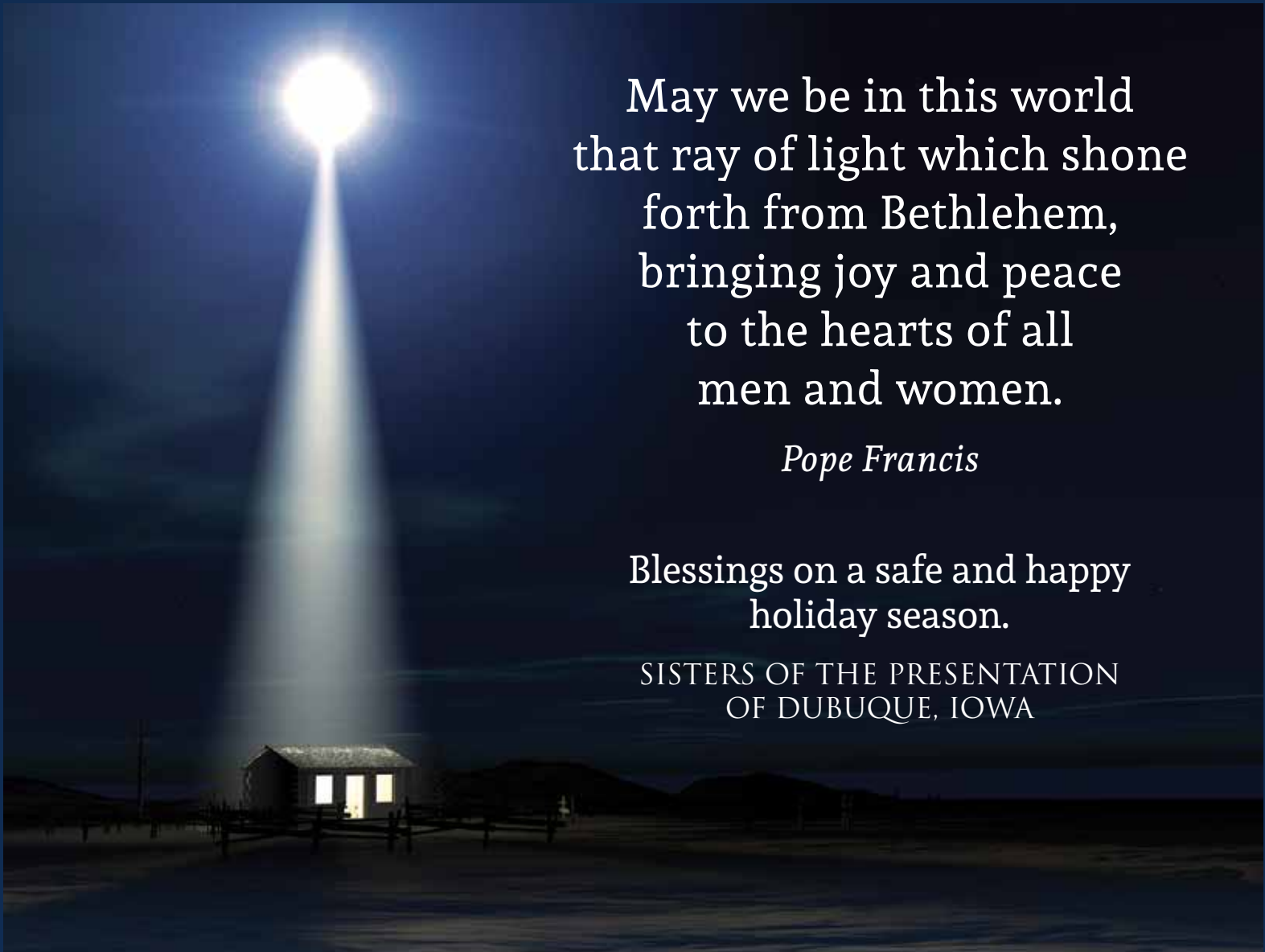
25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors



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May we be in this world
that ray of light which shone
forth from Bethlehem,
bringing joy and peace
to the hearts of all
men and women.

Pope Francis

Blessings on a safe and happy
holiday season.

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
OF DUBUQUE, IOWA