



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



# The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the Sisters of the Presentation  
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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 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

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# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## We Stand Together in Hope

Postal workers are on the front lines in providing our country a free and safe election. Sister Carolyn (Carrie) Link calls attention to the “downsizing of the postal institution” and the serious challenges this poses. With several friends she shared their message at the Monticello Post Office in Minnesota. The group was greeted by drivers waving and honking their horns.



**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](mailto:vocations@dbqpbvms.org)

CONNECT WITH US @dbqpbvms



SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION  
DUBUQUE, IOWA

## PLEASE CONNECT WITH US.

Due to the coronavirus, many activities have been cancelled. We continue to be closed to visitors at this time. We await the day we can fill the calendar with encounters with friends.

**December 1, 2020**

Giving Tuesday

*Help others through the gift of your time, treasure or talents.*

[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)

*To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org)*

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation, please visit our website at [www.dbqpbvms.org](http://www.dbqpbvms.org) or call 563.588.2008.

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

**October 9-11, 2020**

Virtual Community Days

**November 2, 2020**

Feast of All Souls

**November 1-7, 2020**

National Vocation Awareness Week

**November 13, 2020**

Foundation Day, 1874

Presentation Lantern Center

Established in 2002, Dubuque, Iowa

**November 21, 2020**

Presentation Day

**21st of each month**

Pray for Vocations

**25th of each month**

Pray for Benefactors



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## **O God, You will show me the path of life!**

*Psalm 16:11*

Our labyrinth is a path of prayer offering a walking meditation, a path of deep peace and connection with the Holy. There is no set ritual for walking a labyrinth. Enter calmly, quietly, a slow intentional walk, perhaps repeating a brief prayer. When reaching the center, pause to reflect, pray and listen. Return in the same manner. We welcome all to enjoy the beautiful, simple space of our labyrinth. May all who walk here find peace.



# Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

Just before Easter, in early April, a banner stating “We stand together in hope” was posted on the busiest street side of our Presentation property. It colorfully emphasizes the word “hope.” It was meant to be a sign that the Sisters of the Presentation stand with our city, our country and our world in hope that the suffering and death from COVID-19 would be overcome ... that our most fragile and elderly loved ones would be spared ... and, most of all that this pandemic would end quickly.

Now, several months later, we still stand in hope but sometimes it feels as though our hopefulness has been stretched to the limit. Before the virus could be brought under control, societal fault lines around racism, poverty, political divisions and nativism resulted in public protests and uprisings across the U.S. and in other parts of the world. In the light of all this distress, some of us have taken to “doom-scrolling,” a form of bingeing on bad news which can sink us deeper into anxiety and self-isolation.

This, then, is a good time to ask each other what gives us hope. Some will respond that their trust in God gives them hope. But what happens when that hope is tested? Think of the disciples at Emmaus saying, “We had hoped that Jesus was the one ...” In this story Jesus “opens their eyes” by unfolding the Scriptures. So it would seem that we frequently need an extra boost to restore our hope, someone or something that helps open our eyes.

The actor Christopher Reeve, who had been completely paralyzed by a fall, said, “Once you choose hope, anything is possible.” The recently deceased Congressman John Lewis chose hope in the face of suffering and sacrifice because he believed achieving dignity for all was worth the pain. In an essay published in the *New York Times* the day of his funeral, he invited all to be engaged in building the Beloved Community: “a nation and world society at peace with itself.”

There is an old joke about a person who kept hoping to win big on the lottery without investing in a ticket, sure that God was going to give a big win. In exasperation, God finally tells the person, “You have to buy a ticket.” Hope is an active agent. We don’t just sit back and wait for God to deliver the win. We roll up our sleeves and take action to make real the dream.

This issue of *Presentation Doorways* highlights hope in action. We remember Sister Marie Therese Coleman who touched the lives of many of our neighbors as she took her daily walks. When she died this spring, a number of those who knew her from her sidewalk ministry recalled her kindness. One article offers guidance on bringing wisdom and hope to our responsibility as moral voters. Another highlights the efforts of sisters and associates to be more anti-racist. Read about how Presentation Zoom lines have been abuzz as national and international connections are fostered via technology. We invite you to do a little “hope-scrolling” in these pages. We hope you are encouraged, challenged and, above all, united in spirit in meeting this time. For that is the basis of the Beloved Community “at peace with itself.”

*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*



Sister Richelle Friedman proudly wears a t-shirt that boldly proclaims, “Vote Humanity First.”

# Vote Humanity First

by RICHELLE FRIEDMAN, PBVM

Participation in public life is a privilege that must not be squandered. Citizenship brings with it the right and the responsibility to be involved in politics and to vote. We are all called by our faith to educate ourselves on critical issues from a values perspective – top of which is respecting the dignity of all, with special attention to the most vulnerable among us. This article focuses on our call to engagement as citizens, past and present obstacles to voting, remedies for enhancing voter turnout and proactive ways to influence outcomes.

## *Vote Humanity First*

The statement “Vote Humanity First” is unequivocal. The privilege of voting carries a serious moral responsibility that calls us to cast votes that respect the dignity of all.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops urge a political engagement shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences that are

focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. In *Rejoice and Be Glad*, Pope Francis talks about protecting the unborn and says, “Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery and every form of rejection.”

In a representative democracy, we give enormous power to elected officials to make decisions that impact the lives of all. Many laws consistent with furthering the common good and respecting human dignity have been enacted throughout our history. Sadly, over time systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and militarism have also become imbedded in our system due to laws that legislators have passed ... or have neglected to pass.

The 1944 post-WWII GI Bill, for example, gave many returning veterans access to education and housing, but it was structured in a way that shut the door to many of the 1.2 million Black veterans unable to access low-cost mortgages, loans and money for college tuition. Vestiges of that law can still be seen in ‘redlining’ which results in families of color disproportionately being relegated to poorer parts of cities and unable to pass home-related wealth down to their children. Today, data on racial and economic disparities in policing, healthcare, financing, education, housing and employment expose the flaws built into our systems and institutions.

**Responsible citizens educate themselves on current issues and learn candidates’ stances on those issues. To make informed choices, consult with non-partisan entities like the League of Women Voters and Vote Smart, listen to telecast debates, read trusted news sources and engage in conversations with others, especially those most impacted by the issues.**

Then take action to influence candidates and election outcomes. Write letters to the editor, respond to candidate’s surveys prioritizing issues and use social media to share ideas tagging candidates, journalists, debate moderators and other public figures. Participate in virtual town halls and be prepared to ask questions: Does the candidate support strengthening and renewing the Voter Rights Act? Does the candidate support a federal minimum wage of \$15/hour for all workers? What actions will the candidate support to address climate change? Does the candidate support welcoming immigrants, ending family separation and protecting DACA recipients? Is the candidate open to reducing waste in the Pentagon?

## *Voter Suppression*

While most of us assume our right to vote, not everyone can. Voter suppression has left a long and sordid stain on our democracy. Despite the 1870 passage of the 15th amendment prohibiting state and local governments from denying citizens the right to vote based on a race, color or previous servitude, practices like codified literacy tests, poll taxes and direct threats of violence persisted.

In 1964 the Freedom Summer push for voter registration in Mississippi was met with resistance and violence. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, John Lewis and others organized a series of marches from Selma to Montgomery advocating for voting rights. On March 7, 1965, white advocates joined with Black activists for a peaceful march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge only to be violently assaulted by state troopers on what is known as “Bloody Sunday.” Sister Richelle Friedman was honored to talk with Representative Lewis about that event during which he shared his deep gratitude for Catholic sisters who cared for the injured. In the aftermath, pressure built and President Johnson oversaw passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One provision of the Act required jurisdictions with a history of voter suppression to seek preclearance from the federal government before changing voting laws, but in a pivotal 5-4 decision the Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional. Since that decision, 21 states, mostly southern, have enacted restrictive voting laws that increase voting requirements and create barriers to voting, overwhelmingly impacting communities of color.

## *Making Voting Easier*

Building on the legacy of Dr. King, the Poor People’s Campaign, a faith-driven popular movement, focuses on giving voice to those who have been excluded from the electoral process and disproportionately suffer from systemic poverty – people of color, women and children. Co-chair, Reverend Dr. William Barber, calls the right to vote “a matter of life or death.”

In a democracy, voting should be made easy and accessible. Some states have taken actions to make that happen. Currently, 39 states allow early voting, 28 states allow absentee voting without excuse, and three states mail ballots to all eligible voters. Other actions states could take include automatic voter registration, online registration, same-day registration, declaring Election Day a federal holiday, restoring voting rights to people with prior felony convictions, expanding early voting, simplifying absentee voting, prohibiting voter purges that kick eligible voters off the register and better training and oversight of election volunteers and improved infrastructure.

## *Iowa: A COVID-19 Election Success Story*

Over concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic could suppress voter turnout in Iowa’s June primary, Republican Secretary of State Paul Pate sent a postcard with information on how to request an absentee ballot to all registered voters. The 520,000 votes cast shattered the previous record of 450,000 cast in 1994. Rather than rejoicing, the legislature challenged the secretary’s ability to repeat that process. In a compromise, a bipartisan panel was established to determine if a similar process could occur for the November election. The panel unanimously agreed that it could. Iowa voters should have received the postcard. For others, see Voter.org. Those who vote by mail are strongly encouraged to request their ballots early and return them as soon as possible. In-person voters are also encouraged to vote as early as allowed in their state.

## *What Justice Demands*

Responsible citizenship demands that we exercise our responsibility to vote based on an informed conscience. In his September 2015 address to the United States Congress, Pope Francis said, “All political activity must serve and promote the good of the human person and be based on respect for his or her dignity.” We are called to vote humanity first.



*Signs are prominently displayed on the windows, doors and lawns of houses in affluent areas of the City of New Orleans.*

# Conversion Takes Courage

by JULIE MARSH, PBVM

When Sister Julie Marsh was a young girl in the early 1970s, captivated by appearances from commercials, magazine ads and TV programs, she remembers asking her mother, “Would you rather be a fat White woman or a thin Black woman?” She recognizes now that she was aware enough to see society treating Black people differently, even though there wasn’t a Black person within many miles from her in rural Iowa.

She remembers her mother saying, “Well ... it’s not that easy ... you see ...” and although her mother tried to change the subject, Julie pushed for an answer. Her mother finally said, “A fat white woman.” Julie was surprised at her mother’s answer. Her mother finished with, “Someday you’ll understand. It is very difficult being a Black person in the world no matter how beautiful or thin you are.” Julie started

asking questions of race and what impact having relationships with Black women and men would have on her family. These questions of an 11-year-old were challenging for her mother and still are for many people today.

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. worked endlessly to change the attitudes, hearts and society in relation to race over 50 years ago. What is happening in the United States today, or in our own lives, that calls us to desire change? Are we compliant within a system that degrades entire cultures and seems to have a lack of compassion for our Black and Brown sisters and brothers? The ideal perpetuated by the culture of the United States and across the globe moves many people with darker skin tones to purchase cosmetics and to spend money trying to lighten their skin. Our society has proven over time, that



with lighter skin, one is more likely to be offered a job, get a raise, be promoted and receive better treatment, including respect from people who are white. This is one way in which white privilege manifests and systemic racism can be seen.

Many people think that only White supremacists or extremists' groups commit acts of racism. However, racism is a systemic issue and is embedded in almost every structure that exists in the United States. Having lighter colored skin gives one multiple advantages, some advantages are more obvious than others. If we reflect on leadership positions, why are so many leaders white? If we think of the push for women leaders, how many women leaders are women of color? This might cause many of us to think about how this can be, if we call ourselves Christians and we have devoted our lives to living the gospel of Jesus.

This imbalance in society begins with race and racism. Ibram Kendi, a national award-winning author and author of the book, *How to be an Anti-racist*, describes racism as a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value and intersects with class, culture, gender, geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves."

Racism was constructed to keep the white people in power and continues to do so. This system hurts everyone. There is hope because if we are devoted to living the Gospel we can look deep into the context of Jesus' life. There was a false hierarchical system back in Jesus' day, however, Jesus wasn't buying into it and gave his life speaking out against the false understanding in a person's worth.

So where do we go from here? As Dubuque Presentation Sisters and associates, we need to advocate for anti-racism and be determined to "be dangerous as was Jesus in changing the system" of his day. What is anti-racism? Kendi explains, "An anti-racist believes in racial equality, locates the roots of problems in power and policies and confronts racial inequities." What are some tools we need in order to measure ourselves so we are not complacent? By Kendi's definition, to be anti-racist, we need to continue to reflect on how we participate in the roots of problems of power and policies. We need to actively speak out against racial inequalities. Perhaps we can use Jesus as our model.

Dr. Amanda Quantz, a professor of theology at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, is the author of the book, *Radical Hospitality for a Prophetic Church*. Her writing focuses on the importance of owning our biases. Owning our bias is important when addressing any "isms" that divide a group. She elevates the importance of active listening which many religious communities practice today. This is the commitment to listen to the person speaking without formulating a response and to suspend any type of judgement. Your role is only to listen and take in what the person is saying. She writes, "If we recognized the fluid nature of the judgements we make in particular moments, and within unique cultures, we can grant ourselves the freedom to establish new paradigms." It is our role to dismantle systemic

**In a racist society,  
it is not enough to be non-racist,  
we must be anti-racist.**

*Angela Y. Davis*

racism side-by-side with all our sisters and brothers, creating a new just system, a new paradigm.

Kahlil Gibran said, "Your neighbor is your other self ... dwelling behind a wall ... and all walls shall fall down." Our call as Christians is to work to dismantle all walls that prevent justice and equity.

As women religious and with our Presentation associates, we understand that when we say that we love God, we include God's people in our love. We are called to "not words, but deeds." Loving God's people means being actively and aggressively involved in working against racism. Prayer is another way one can most certainly address the sin of racism. Praying for a "change of heart" as well as continuing to open our own hearts to our bias tendencies.

Another important tool towards working as an anti-racist is to not be afraid to enter into challenging conversations about race and racism. It can be difficult to engage with someone who is questioning the existence of racism. However, we need to keep advocating with our sisters and brothers of color. Educate yourself through reading, watching videos, watching entertainment with diverse producers and actors, and educate yourself on the history of racism in America.

Those of us who live in areas with diverse cultures can engage in different activities, events, prayers and worship from various cultures to broaden our horizons. Going outside our comfort zones into a new culture or situation requires courage and bravery. This is what we are called to do so we can begin to form mutually enriching relationships across cultures. Listening to the pain of personal experiences of racism can transform your heart. However, this work and transformation is a lifelong process. Martin Luther King, Jr. begged that we learn from the actions of oppression of the past and treat all people with love and respect.

As Sister Julie looks around the city of New Orleans, she can see more and more white families listening to their Black neighbors. She can see more and more "Black Lives Matter" signs in every neighborhood, not just diverse neighborhoods. Around the country, protests and marches for systemic change are happening. Listening to and learning from these stories is a powerful tool that we can share with one another. At this time in history, we are ready to move forward with the work of anti-racism standing on the shoulders of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and so many others who have gone before us in the name of justice and equality.



*Presentation Sisters use video conferencing tools to stay connected during the coronavirus pandemic.*

# *Using Creative and Virtual Technology* **Staying Connected Yet Apart**

*by* BETH KRESS, PBVM

“Staying at home,” “sheltering in place,” “social distancing” – all have become new ways of being since March 2020. During these pandemic months, Presentation Sisters have been part of groups and partnerships in which communication has taken on a new look. Individual sisters in ministry, sisters and their families and friends, the congregational leadership team and administrative staff, sisters as members of committees and groups near and far – all have shifted gears and creatively stayed connected while staying apart.

## ***Staying Connected at the Motherhouse***

Staying connected with family, friends and each other is a priority for sisters at the motherhouse. Since late March, the motherhouse has been closed to visitors and the sisters have been taking all the necessary precautions by social distancing and isolating. Communication by exchanging emails, making phone calls, writing letters, utilizing social media, video chatting via Facetime, gathering and meeting via Zoom video conferencing have allowed the sisters to stay connected with others while remaining safe and healthy.

**Sister Anne McCormick** enjoys reaching out to family friends, former teaching associates, Mount Loretto staff and sisters in a “no-contact” fashion. “It’s keeping us safe to be socially distant and socially responsible,” she declares. “The reward for whomever receives one of my communiques is a plate of my famous homemade cookies!”

**Sister Ellen Mary Garrett** resides in the infirmary at Mount Loretto. “Those of us in Nagle Center gathered in the lounge recently for a Zoom visit with the leadership team,” she shares. “It is also special to know that rocks painted with our names are placed in the courtyard so that others can remember and pray for us when they go there. Whoever found our rock also wrote us a letter.”

Other sisters in Nagle Center connect with family and friends by an occasional view through the windows. In addition, **Sisters Lois Lehmann, Marian Sweeney, Rosanne Rottinghaus** and Ellen Mary often pray together and play cards in a socially-distanced group.

Because our most vulnerable sisters are quarantined to the Nagle Center infirmary, **Sisters Rita Cameron and Paula Schwendinger** organize weekly entertainment to maintain a connection with other community members. Activities are presented in Presentation Center allowing other sisters to participate while Nagle Center sisters enjoy the activities on the in-house circuit big screen TV.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, sisters gather daily to pray a litany composed by Sister Paula entitled, *Companioning Our Vulnerable In Distress*. We continue to pray for healing and strength during these challenging times.

### *Staying Connected in the Workplace*

While communication with the sisters in Bolivia has progressed over the years, a new normal is in place with COVID-19. **Sisters Marge Healy and Therese Corkery** have been in Tarija in strict quarantine and are allowed one nine-hour day, weekly per person to be in the streets. In Entre Ríos **Sisters Mery Cari Paz and Suzanne Takes** experienced three-day periods of encapsulation (stricter limitations) because of new COVID-19 cases in town. All four sisters join the community through group Zooms.

Volunteer for Dubuque’s public library and food pantry, **Sister Leanne Welch** has found her work significantly altered due to the pandemic. “Delivering books to the homebound halted when the library closed, eliminating my opportunity to visit with clients. However my hours at the Dubuque Food Pantry increased due to COVID-19. I returned to two days a week and subbing for others. In this work, there is less chance to visit with clients who receive the food at their front door from a cart.”

**Sister Cheryl Demmer** has a new normal for doing ministry as director of faith formation for Muscatine/Wilton, Iowa parishes. “I use Zoom and make many phone calls to our older parishioners and to parishioners who have lost loved



*Rocks were painted with names of the sisters in the Nagle Center infirmary and placed outside in the courtyard for sisters and employees to find and remember that sister in thought and prayer.*

ones during this time. Communication with parents of our confirmation and Holy Communion students has been through mail.” Preparing for the 2021 faith formation year, Sister Cheryl has worked with Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic publisher, planning online programming with parents, online sacramental preparation and RCIA.

Always resourceful, **Sister Beth Driscoll**, liturgy and music coordinator at College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska, initiated “Mercy Mondays,” a bi-monthly midday prayer opportunity that focuses on the Sisters of Mercy, their foundations, ministries and critical concerns. “Participation via Zoom makes it possible for many faculty and staff members to join in this prayer,” comments Sister Beth.

“When school closed last March and students left campus, I made the commitment to keep in contact with those who had served in liturgical ministries. I sent individual emails every two weeks while they were at home taking online classes,” shares Sister Beth.



*Daily, sisters gather in Sacred Heart Chapel to pray a litany for all those affected by COVID-19.*



*Sister Marilou Irons (right) enjoys visiting “social-distantly” with residents at the senior independent living facility where she serves as manager.*

She has enjoyed being invited for ice tea or coffee and scones while socially distancing with Omaha friends on their front porches. She continues to enjoy Zoom faith-sharing with parishioners from St. Joseph the Worker in Dubuque and connects with her family via phone calls, texts and an occasional Zoom gathering.

Following CDC guidelines at her place of work is how **Sister Marilou Irons** approaches her ministry as resident manager for a senior independent living facility in Dubuque. “We wear masks while sitting outside and catch up on each other’s lives. Add relaxing, chatting and telling jokes and we have a great recipe for a new social event.”

After work hours she participates on Zoom with committee members of the Tri-state Coalition against Human Trafficking and Slavery. She also enjoys connecting with her six sister siblings. “We now have regular telephone conference calls. We have always been able to finish one another’s sentences, so we have had to learn how to do that with seven of us on one call. Once we sharpened our listening skills, we were again in sync and enjoying conversation and many laughs.”

In preparation for her final vows, **Sister Mary Therese Krueger** was to participate in the Life Commitment Program of the Religious Formation Conference in July. This 8-day immersion program was to bring together women and men discerning/anticipating profession of final vows. Due to the pandemic, plans changed to offering the program using Zoom. Taking part in this program allowed people to participate from around the globe including the United States, Kenya, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. “To be able to share this experience with the other participants and to have a global perspective of religious life was a blessing,” shares Sister Mary Therese.

“However, the challenge of the virtual experience was not being able to have the side conversations or informal social time,” comments Sister Mary Therese. “We felt this

loss during our program and have decided to continue to meet once a month via Zoom to continue to deepen our relationships and together navigate perpetual vow preparation in a time of a global pandemic,” she adds.

The congregational leadership team, together and individually, claim virtual technologies keep them connected to various groups that do visioning and planning.

**Sister Rita Menart**, a member of the core team for the 2020 Gathering of Presentation People sponsored by the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America, has joined in many Zoom meetings to help plan the September gathering of sisters, associates and employees in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. “After months of planning for an in-person gathering, the focus shifted to preparation of a virtual gathering,” she shares.

“Many meetings of groups within the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) were accomplished virtually before the pandemic. For the first time the national meeting in August was held virtually for nearly 1,000 attendees,” states Sister Rita. “Virtual gatherings are not equal to in-person communication, but it is good. For some groups Zoom is a plus, because it would not be possible to meet as many times in person,” she adds.

“Zoom meetings do have certain advantages, remarks **Sister Marilyn Breen**. “It seems that on Zoom we can quickly gather for a specific issue and respond more quickly than if we need to meet in person. The meetings can be more focused.”

“Without Zoom, the Conference of Presentation Sisters annual meeting in June would not have happened as members from across North America could not travel to Dubuque,” states Sister Marilyn. “I think we were still able to do the work in an efficient way although the personal connections were the greatest missing piece.”



*The congregational leadership team gathers during the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in August. Due to COVID-19, the conference was virtual offering both advantages and challenges.*

**Sister Carmen Hernandez** concurs, “What’s missing for me is the interaction one has between sessions with individuals and small groups. Catching up with old friends and meeting new ones are some of the benefits I look forward to when attending conferences in person.” Another challenge for Sister Carmen is the dedicated time it takes to focus using Zoom. “If you have several virtual meetings in a day your eyes begin to feel the stress of looking at a screen all day.”

**Sisters Elena Hoye** and **Marilyn** co-facilitate the process for leaders of four promise groups that guide the community direction and actions at this time. “I think eyes were opened to a new way of gathering in small groups via Zoom generating an energy for our June gatherings. Video conferencing has the ability to include people from all over the U.S. and beyond in conversations,” states Sister Marilyn.

“The ability to hold committee meetings or discussions with people around the world opens up endless possibilities of who can participate and how they can do so with little to no expense,” comments Sister Elena. “Not having social interaction in online communication is a challenge. It is much more difficult to build trust and team cohesion as the interpersonal chemistry and synergy of face-to-face meetings can be lost in a virtual meeting. In addition, it can be somewhat frustrating when not all participants have adequate equipment or internet access and the learning curve for participants can be quite steep.”



*Sister Elena Hoye facilitates meetings of community promise groups over Zoom.*

Are virtual meetings the future for the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and the many groups and networks with whom they interface? As Sister Elena remarks, “This new mode of communication can bring wisdom from people of diverse backgrounds and voices of those not normally at the table.”

And, perhaps a spiritual connection is virtually at hand offering newer, even deeper, connections and relationships.

**I am more than grateful for the technology which has allowed for keeping connections alive in ways that something like phone conference calls could never do.**

*Sister Joy Peterson*

When part of the administrative staff was working away from the office, **Sister Joy Peterson** facilitated weekly meetings designed to foster communication and updates among the team. As a board member of the International Presentation Association (IPA), Sister Joy has participated in the process to develop an advocacy focus for IPA work at the United Nations. “We worked on Zoom to create a unity of spirit among the IPA justice contacts, meeting with facilitators to clarify the process for the nearly 30 justice contacts from around the world. Our terrific facilitators created virtual meetings that allow for broad participation and input.”

Sister Joy adds, “While many Zoom meetings can be exhausting over time, I am more than grateful for the technology which has allowed for keeping connections alive in ways that something like phone conference calls could never do.”



## *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](mailto:info@dbqpbvms.org) and we will add you to the list.

# Giving While Living

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

“I grew up on a farm in Clare, Iowa. There were four girls and one boy in our Catholic family. All of us went to Catholic school and we were taught by the Presentation Sisters. We also attended Mass regularly. Pat, whom I married in 1959, was not as lucky as me! He also attended Catholic school but did not have the Sisters of the Presentation,” expresses Maureen Hobart, Presentation partner who has included the Sisters of the Presentation in an estate plan as part of her living trust.

“Throughout our life together, Pat developed a good sense of business. Prior to his death in 2016, he worked in a funeral home and observed how others were giving to charity and inquired on how he could too,” shares Maureen. “He knew we could do something that matters, thus he received a recommendation of an attorney and began talking to him to arrange gifts to charities.”

An estate plan involves formalizing how you want to be looked after both medically and financially when something happens to you or when you’re unable to make decisions for yourself, and, how you want your assets to be protected while you’re alive and distributed after you pass away.

Within an estate plan, one could have a living trust and include a charitable remainder trust (CRT), as Maureen has, and/or qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Presentation associate Dr. Janine Idziak is familiar with QCD’s and has an estate plan to include the Presentation Sisters as well. “In fact I converted the stocks in my retirement portfolio into an IRA in order to make QCD’s,” states Dr. Idziak.

A living trust, also known as a revocable trust, is a written legal document through which your assets are placed into a trust for your benefit during your lifetime. At the time of your death, your assets are then transferred to designated beneficiaries by your chosen representative, called a successor trustee.

Maureen adds, “Creating an estate plan was not difficult. Pat really was the one who looked into creating one. The attorneys did their homework, provided us with advice and presented us with options. Some of our favorite charities include helping individuals with disabilities, the Archdiocese of Sioux City and the Sisters of the Presentation. The development of our will and estate plan was not a hard job but it does take time.”

Creating a living trust and will prohibits the estate and charitable contributions from going to probate thus eliminating sometimes prohibitive estate taxes. Property left through a living trust does not pass through probate. Property left through a will does go through probate. Probate



Maureen Hobart and her husband Pat

**If you’re going to live,  
leave a legacy.  
Make a mark on  
the world that  
can’t be erased.**

*Maya Angelou*



Dr. Janine Idziak

is the court system designed to wrap up a person's affairs after their debts. Probate takes a long time, can be very expensive, and for most estates, isn't necessary.

In contrast to Maureen, Dr. Idziak had obstacles to overcome before she created her estate plan. “The most difficult thing about making out a will was psychological. I had to squarely face up to my own mortality. But I recognized that making out a will was a way for me to ensure that my money would be used to do good. It is a matter of ‘stewardship.’”

How does one go about creating an estate plan with the options the benefactors above utilized to make contributions? “Giving While Living” can be done in conjunction with a financial planner or an attorney. Maureen explains a bit about her experience “I was lucky, my husband was really the driving force behind preparing our legacy and we knew God was guiding us to where we need to be.”

One may question, what is the difference between an estate plan and a will? A will may be a relatively simple document that sets forth your wishes regarding the distribution of property such as cash, land, automobiles and items like jewelry; it may also include instructions regarding the care of minor children. An estate plan goes much further and deeper into your assets than a will.

“We created an estate plan because we knew we wanted to leave part of our estate to charity. This makes me happy and I know it is what Pat wanted before he passed away. The Presentation Sisters were my educators. My sister, Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch, is a part of the congregation and we even celebrate reunions and come to visit the motherhouse at Mount Loretto. We wanted to give back to charities that matter to us,” states Maureen as she expresses her love for the Presentation Sisters.

**Making out a will was a way for me to ensure that my money would be used to do good.**

*Dr. Janine Idziak*

Dr. Idziak concluded with emotion and compassion, “As an associate of the Presentation Sisters, I felt I should support the ministries of the community. I especially appreciate the Presentation Sisters commitment to works of social justice. This is why I have included the Sisters of the Presentation in my estate plan.”

## *Giving Tuesday*

December 1, 2020

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in countries around the world. Millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.

In an increasingly divided world, #GivingTuesday represents a new global ritual based in joy and hope.

You can show your generosity in a variety of ways during #GivingTuesday— whether it’s helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, every act of generosity counts.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to share #MyGivingStory on #GivingTuesday with #dbqpbvms

**To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org)**

# *Preparing a Will and Estate Plan*

*Recently the Sisters of the Presentation received a monetary gift from a partner in mission who received an inheritance and wanted to contribute to the ministries she loves like Hotel Hope, Presentation Lantern Center and the Hispanic missions in Hampton and Bolivia, to name a few. She was not sure how to best do this, so she worked with her financial advisor, who made the gifting process so easy.*

It is important to have a will and an estate plan. In both of these documents, a person or persons can plan to take care of their loved ones and provide support to charities. Although most Americans recognize that people should have their affairs in order before they turn 50, only about half have a will by that age. Less than one in five have prepared a will, advance health-care directive and durable power of attorney, even though most acknowledge that lack of planning can leave their families in a bind.

“Planning your legacy can give you the reassurance that you have done all you can to organize your life, articulate your wishes and shape how you will be remembered,” says Kevin Hindman, managing director for Retirement & Personal Wealth Solutions at Bank of America. To get the essentials in place, he suggests, “seek trusted advice from family, friends and financial, legal and medical professionals. And make sure you have advocates who know your wishes and can work on your behalf.”

“Key to the legacy-planning process is communicating your wishes to your family. One potential way to start that conversation is to bring up a personal story – perhaps the loved one of someone you know recently became gravely ill, causing upheaval in a family that was unprepared,” suggests Cynthia Hutchins, director of financial gerontology at Bank of America. “You could follow the story with, ‘That made me start thinking about what would happen in our family. Here’s how I would like to see us handle it,’” she adds. “You might start by telling young adult children that you have a will, and that you have designated people you trust as your powers of attorney until your children are ready to assume those roles. Over time, you can share more details of your wishes and increase the depth of the conversation.”

**If you are ever interested in more information about an estate plan, contact:**

Presentation Partners in Mission  
563.588.2008 ext. 109  
[partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org)

# Separated by Distance, Together in Mission

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE and CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Presentation associates are called to share in the life and mission of the Presentation Sisters and support one another to stand up and speak out for justice, care of the Earth and a culture of respect and peace. For many years sisters and associates have gathered regularly in small groups known as “associate groups” for sharing and growth in community and service. Supporting and sharing among associates has been challenging in the midst of the pandemic as opportunities to gather with one another have been cancelled or postponed. These groups, like so many others, were faced with finding creative ways to continue gathering without their usual face-to-face meetings. Could associate groups successfully gather via Zoom video conferencing? If you ask the members of at least one associate group, the answer is a resounding “yes!”

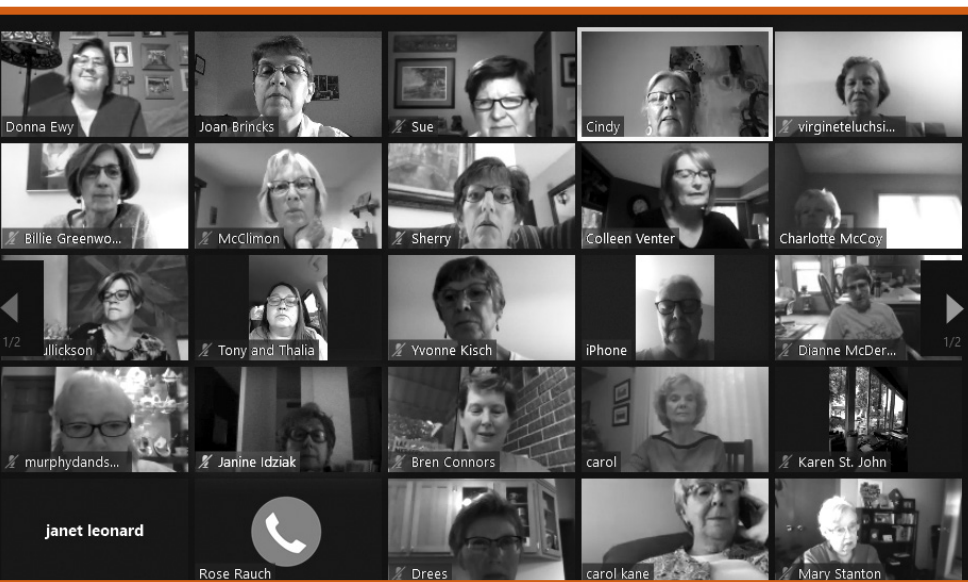
Sitting in front of a computer screen may not be the preferred way to have a conversation with colleagues, friends or family, but it is a valid way to connect with others and nurture relationships. Even with frustrating technical difficulties, awkward silences or distracting background noises, the virtual experience of Zooming offers a genuine opportunity to be in the presence of others.

Over three years ago, a “Zoom Associate Group” was formed in response to the desire to offer associates living in various geographical areas the opportunity to gather – and it has been going strong ever since. Comprised of a sister living in New Orleans and associates in Denver, Wichita, Kansas City, Davenport and Dubuque, the Zoom Associate Group meets monthly via Zoom video conferencing.

Beginning their gatherings with a “check-in” to catch up on happenings in each person’s life, the remainder of their meeting involves prayer and conversation on various topics shared through the lens of the Presentation mission and direction statement. Group member, Associate Billie Greenwood explains some of the practicalities: “We take turns leading or facilitating each session. This may involve choosing a topic or article for discussion. I usually send out an invitation for the next gathering which provides a link to the meeting. We try to keep our sessions about an hour in length.”

Often the group selects a book to guide their conversation. Currently they are reading and reflecting on *The Time is Now* by Joan Chittister, OSB. “Every conversation we have shared around this book has served to heighten our awareness of our call to confront injustice. It has been helpful to hear how each person is trying to respond to this challenge in their personal lives and ministries,” says Associate Bren Connors.

While group members would enjoy meeting face-to-face, they are quick to point out the positives of meeting via Zoom. Associate Donna Ewy notes how long-distance relationships among group members have formed and deepened: “It is a fun group! We enjoy each other’s company and we do not even have to leave the house to participate. Over the years I have grown in respect for the commitment and integrity of each person in our group. Whether we are talking about a justice issue, an author’s perspective or a personal experience, we all bring an allegiance to living in the ways of Jesus and our foundress, Nano Nagle, to our conversation.”



Associates utilize Zoom video conferencing to stay connected and support one another during the pandemic.





Left to right: Associate Partnership co-directors, Cindy Pfiffner and Sister Joan Brincks visit with Lisa Schmidt, associate orientee, over a Zoom call.

Associate Bernie Graves shares, “Each person contributes something important to our gatherings. As I listen to their struggles, questions and insights, I am challenged and inspired to engage more fully in our Presentation mission.”

Associate La Veta Jarrett adds, “I always come away with some new perspective or deeper understanding that impacts how I live my life.”

Commenting on group member’s varying locals, Sister Julie Marsh states, “I think our experiences of living and ministering in different areas bring a richness to our conversation. We learn how each of us is striving to walk in Nano’s footsteps in our unique circumstances and lifestyle.”

Associate Carol Witry sums up her Zoom experience: “Zoom is a great way to gather when circumstances prevent face-to-face meetings. Even if you consider yourself to be ‘tech challenged,’ Zoom is pretty easy to learn. With each meeting, we have grown more comfortable with communicating this way. I think I speak for everyone in our associate group when I say that our Zoom sessions have offered all of us an effective way to stay connected to each other and to the Presentation mission.”

Zoom conferencing has been used in other ways. Associate candidate, Lisa Schmidt, completed her associate orientation over Zoom rather than wait until a time in the future when she could safely meet face to-face.

Two Dubuque associate groups recently Zoomed together to learn about and discuss issues around racism, and 28 associates gathered by Zoom to simply “catch up” with one another and consider how to best use Zoom in the next months to continue to stay connected and educate themselves about social justice issues.

Presentation associates may currently be separated by distance, but thanks to Zoom, they continue to be together in mission.

# With Deep Gratitude

For over 25 years, Father Doug Wathier has been chaplain for the Sisters of the Presentation. The sisters are most grateful for Father Doug’s faithful service, joyful presence and daily inspiring words.

“We have always appreciated his concerned attention to each of us and the quality of his daily homilies,” expresses Sister Carmen Hernandez. “He always believed that each sister deserves recognition and gratitude for their lifetime commitment to consecrated life by personalizing jubilee, funeral and other homilies related to specific sisters. He will be deeply missed and we wish him well in his next assignment.”



Father Doug Wathier

Now serving as the parish priest of St. Mary Parish in Waverly, Iowa, Father Doug states, “I consider it a blessing to have been able to serve as chaplain at Mount Loretto for two and a half decades. I so appreciate the joy of the women at Mount Loretto.”

On July 19, the Presentation community gratefully welcomed Father Mark Ressler who will now serve as their chaplain. Previously Father Mark taught at the high school and college level and served as pastor of St. Joseph the Worker in Dubuque and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hiawatha, both in Iowa.



Father Mark Ressler

“I served with Father Mark at St. Joseph the Worker and know that he is an energetic, thoughtful and supportive presence,” shares Sister Marilyn Breen. “Father Mark is a lifelong learner who will embrace the challenge to get to know us and to learn more about our foundress, Nano Nagle, as he breaks open the Word and shares Eucharist with us each day.”

# Reflections on the Journey

## Sister James Marie Gross

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM



*In retirement, Sister James Marie Gross enjoys many handicrafts such as knitting, crocheting, sewing and quilting.*

The parents of Mary Evelyn Gross (Sister James Marie) were Jacob Gross and Mary Dynan who lived near Rockville, Minnesota, near the Sauk River in the granite country. Mary Evelyn was taught to read by her Aunt Evelyn, an educational supervisor, before she began country school allowing Mary Evelyn to immediately enter second grade. An avid learner, she loved everything about school and enjoyed playing teacher at recess. From that time on clearly her passion was for teaching.

On the morning of her First Communion, Mary Evelyn forgetfully took a drink of water, prohibited before receiving the sacrament. Her mother assured her that God wouldn't worry about such trivial slip-ups. Within her emerged a new consciousness of God as a kindly friend. By eighth grade, Mary Evelyn was already considering becoming a religious sister, after meeting the Benedictine and Franciscan Sisters in catechetical classes in her hometown.

Mary Evelyn went to Teachers' College in St. Cloud, and then taught in Kimball, and later in Monticello, all in Minnesota. Mary Evelyn attended daily Mass at St. Henry Church before each school day. At the time four Presentation Sisters, among them Sister Eunice Kane, were teaching release time religion classes at St. Henry Catechetical

School. The sisters invited her to their local convent to get acquainted and to experience community life. Mary Evelyn was intrigued by Sister Paschal Cunningham, their musician, who invited her to dance. This gesture made her feel like she belonged. Sister Eunice invited her to visit the motherhouse in Dubuque and Mary Evelyn soon made plans to enter the Sisters of the Presentation in the fall of 1949.

Mary Evelyn joined a class of 11 postulants. When she received the habit, she took the name "Sister James Marie" honoring her parents, Jacob and Mary. After teaching several years and studying mathematics at Notre Dame, Sister James Marie began a 34-year career as a mathematics professor at Clarke College in Dubuque. She was honored for her innovative approaches and frequently demonstrated "new math" to both new and experienced teachers. She had a "sixth sense" when a concept needed clarification.

In retirement Sister James Marie tutored English at the Presentation Lantern Center for 15 years and did math tutoring. From both of her parents, she learned handicrafts such as knitting, crocheting, sewing and quilting and continues to enjoy these crafts. In addition, she packs clothing for various missions, makes reusable bags and colorful tops for nurses, cultivates roses, checks in library books, reads avidly and enlightens friends by dispersing humorous wisdom pieces with email.

Community members observe that Sisters James Marie and Emilie Bormann watch out affectionately for one another. They are often seen dancing at the end of a sing along. Sister Emilie gives a push to Sister James Marie's wheelchair, helps to pack clothes in the mission room and helps care devotedly for the roses. Sister James Marie checks to assure that Sister Emilie is present for community activities and the two of them are often seen comfortably crocheting together in the lounge as they watch a movie.

One of Sister James Marie's theme songs is: "Qué será, será? Whatever will be, will be, the future's not ours to see ..." She daily reflects on the liturgical readings before centering herself in contemplation. A phrase from the Liturgy of the Hours often summons her heart to mindfulness. From where does this born teacher's confidence and tranquility spring? "Qué será?" What will it be?

# All Souls' Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2020

## IN LOVING Memory

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
still loved, still missed  
and very dear.*

*Author Unknown*

From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead. Scripture declares it is good and pious to pray for those who are deceased. Tradition tells us we have a role to play interceding for each other, including those who have died.

Throughout the month of November, the Sisters of the Presentation commemorate the faithfully departed. Remembrance cards are mailed in late September. The sisters encourage you to return the card with dates of those you mourn, and the sisters will remember them in daily prayer.

You may also submit your intentions to Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org) with the following information for each loved one:

Name of Loved One \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Loved One \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

# 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. Here we highlight dedications and memorials in honor of Presentation Sisters.

## PRESENTATION CHAPEL, MONTICELLO, MN

Presentation Chapel, a part of the Church of St. Henry in Monticello, Minnesota, was dedicated on May 1, 2001, "In honor of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who faithfully served the parish of St. Henry for 60 years." A stained glass window depicting the Presentation of Mary in the Temple is a visual reminder of the educational and spiritual legacy which the sisters have given to the parish.

The above quote from the Centennial Booklet (2009) speaks of the years of service in the parish by Presentation Sisters, beginning in 1941 and continuing today. The chapel, a part of the church which was dedicated in 1999, provides a space for small group or individual prayer.

Beginning in 1941 as teachers in a catechetical school, the sisters became part of the parish through their work in liturgy, on parish committees, and lately in the work of Sister Carrie Link as RCIA coordinator, spiritual director and local artist. Notable among the 36 sisters who have ministered in the parish was Sister Eunice Kane, who spent over 27 years teaching, developing programs, training teachers and encouraging the development of faith for parishioners from preschool through adulthood.



*A stained glass window depicting the Presentation of Mary in the Temple is displayed in the Presentation Chapel in the Church of St. Henry in Monticello, Minnesota*

# BELOVED TEACHER, NATURE LOVER

# Sister Marie Therese Coleman

*December 7, 1924 - June 2, 2020*

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Marie Therese Coleman, 95, daughter of John and Gertrude Coleman, was born in Old Mines, Missouri, on December 7, 1924 and baptized Rose Mary. She entered eternal life on June 2, 2020.

Rose Mary was born into a large family, who lost their father at a young age. The older brothers remained in the St. Louis area while her mother, with the younger children, moved to Algona, Iowa. Her six older brothers and three younger sisters preceded Sister Marie Therese in death.

Rose Mary, a young woman of deep faith, from a family of deep faith, joined the Sisters of the Presentation in 1943 from Algona. Totally given to the Christ she professed, devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, faithful to the rosary and her Holy Hour, given to her vocation and service, Sister Marie Therese's inner and sacred spirit outshone her diminutive frame.

Committed to ministry and enchanted by children, Sister Marie Therese loved teaching and experienced notable disappointment when asked to discontinue. Her teaching experiences took her to various elementary schools in Iowa. While at Resurrection School in Dubuque, her last assignment, she enthusiastically biked from Mount Loretto to the school.

In her early retirement days, she walked all over the city, visiting and sharing with the people she met, her walking-ministry – reflecting shades of Nano Nagle in Cork, Ireland.

Sensitive, sincere and simple in lifestyle, Sister Marie Therese went about her community service with dedication. Unassuming in manner, she delighted in service to the community and in giving to others. No task was too menial for her. One example of her joy in giving came as she collected copies of the *Telegraph Herald* TV guides and distributed them to sisters who wanted them. An early riser, she used to set the coffee pot in motion for those who would come later. She never missed a day. In contrast to her steadfastness in daily duties, it has been noted that she liked to change the date of her feast day on a regular basis.

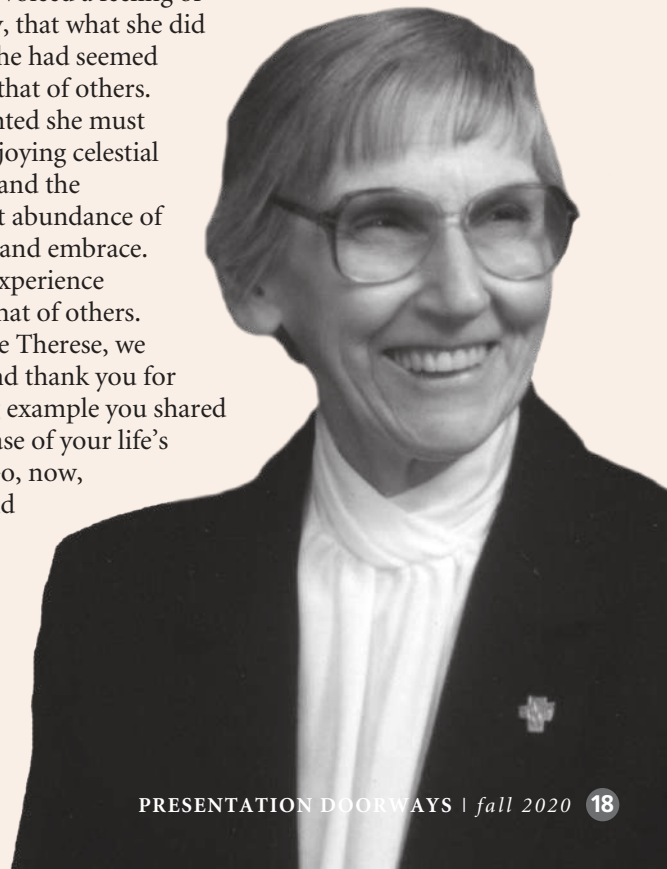
Sister Marie Therese spent a lot of time enjoying the outdoors, communing with God through nature and companioning God's creatures: birds, dogs and cats. She "majored" in kittens, to which she somehow fell heir. At some time or other most

visitors met up with Tigger, Smoky or Molly and Missy. She walked with them and talked to them; she held them, nurtured them and collaborated with Sister Deborah Paige to provide a warm winter shelter for them.

From her corner chair in the last row of the chapel seats, Sister Marie Therese sang her praises to God – and visited with the guests as they stopped to greet her when they entered and exited the chapel on Sunday mornings.

When Sister Marie Therese's health declined, the sisters visited her in her room, simple in appointments, consisting of a few statues and religious articles. She would be found sitting quietly and contemplatively with the television tuned to the house channel where she could view the chapel altar. Always appreciative of a visit, like St. Francis de Sales, she asked nothing and refused nothing, as she waited for the Lord. Others were inspired by the contentment of her long-suffering days.

Sensitive, perhaps from the deprivation of her early life, she sometimes voiced a feeling of inadequacy, that what she did and what she had seemed inferior to that of others. How delighted she must be now, enjoying celestial generosity and the extravagant abundance of God's love and embrace. Now, her experience surpasses that of others. Sister Marie Therese, we love you and thank you for the shining example you shared in each phase of your life's journey. Go, now, in peace and glory.





# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



# The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the Sisters of the Presentation  
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Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA  
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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 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:

Editor, Presentation Doorways  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997  
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## 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

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## A Look Inside CONTENTS

### 4 Vote Humanity First

The privilege of voting carries a serious moral responsibility that calls us to cast votes that respect the dignity of all. This article focuses on our call to engagement as citizens, past and present obstacles to voting, remedies for enhancing voter turnout and proactive ways to influence outcomes. Pictured to the right is Sister Richelle Friedman with the Honorable John Lewis.



### 6 Conversion Takes Courage

Engaging in radical hospitality by going outside our comfort zones into a new culture or situation requires courage and bravery. This article provides us with helpful tools to become an anti-racist as we reflect and open our hearts to our own bias and tendencies.

### 8 Staying Connected Yet Apart

During these pandemic months, Presentation Sisters have been part of groups and partnerships in which communication has taken on a new look. They have learned to shift gears and creatively stay connected while safely staying apart.



### 12 Giving While Living

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Supporting and sharing among associates has been challenging in the midst of the pandemic, as opportunities to gather with one another have been cancelled or postponed. Many associate groups have utilized Zoom video conferencing to stay connected and to continue the work of the Presentation mission.



### 18 Keeping Her Name Alive

We remember Sister Marie Therese Coleman.

### 19 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

A banner stating "We stand together in hope" is posted on the Presentation property as a sign that the Sisters of the Presentation stand with our city, our country and our world in hope that the suffering and death from COVID-19 will be overcome ... that our most fragile and elderly loved ones will be spared ... and, most of all that this pandemic will end quickly.

# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## We Stand Together in Hope

Postal workers are on the front lines in providing our country a free and safe election. Sister Carolyn (Carrie) Link calls attention to the “downsizing of the postal institution” and the serious challenges this poses. With several friends she shared their message at the Monticello Post Office in Minnesota. The group was greeted by drivers waving and honking their horns.



**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](mailto:vocations@dbqpbvms.org)

CONNECT WITH US @dbqpbvms



SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION  
DUBUQUE, IOWA

## PLEASE CONNECT WITH US.

Due to the coronavirus, many activities have been cancelled. We continue to be closed to visitors at this time. We await the day we can fill the calendar with encounters with friends.

**December 1, 2020**

Giving Tuesday

*Help others through the gift of your time, treasure or talents.*

[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)

*To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org)*

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation, please visit our website at [www.dbqpbvms.org](http://www.dbqpbvms.org) or call 563.588.2008.

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

**October 9-11, 2020**

Virtual Community Days

**November 2, 2020**

Feast of All Souls

**November 1-7, 2020**

National Vocation Awareness Week

**November 13, 2020**

Foundation Day, 1874

Presentation Lantern Center

Established in 2002, Dubuque, Iowa

**November 21, 2020**

Presentation Day

**21st of each month**

Pray for Vocations

**25th of each month**

Pray for Benefactors



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## **O God, You will show me the path of life!**

*Psalm 16:11*

Our labyrinth is a path of prayer offering a walking meditation, a path of deep peace and connection with the Holy. There is no set ritual for walking a labyrinth. Enter calmly, quietly, a slow intentional walk, perhaps repeating a brief prayer. When reaching the center, pause to reflect, pray and listen. Return in the same manner. We welcome all to enjoy the beautiful, simple space of our labyrinth. May all who walk here find peace.

