



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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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 Céad Míle Fáilte (100,000 Welcomes) located on the property of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, 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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In each issue, we highlight Presentation dedications and memorials, honoring Presentation Sisters where they have ministered.

2020 Annual Report of Appreciation

Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2020. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



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Sisters Mary Lou Specha and Julie Marsh stand on their front porch within a 10-foot lantern designed to pay homage to Presentation Foundress, Nano Nagle, known as the "Lady with the Lantern." In an effort to spread light during these dark times, the sisters lit up their New Orleans neighborhood with a hope-themed house float called "Women of Light."

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by MARILYN BREEN, PBVM

This year's focus in Presentation Doorways is the common good. In this issue and those which follow we will consider the meaning of common good and offer some reflections on the challenge of living with the needs of all of creation before us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus calls us to "love one another as I have loved you." The life and teachings of Jesus give us an example of a life lived in service, truth and compassion for those he encountered. We might ask, "who do we love?" How can we have one heart for the world, a heart which is able to listen and discern what is in the best interest of all of creation?

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis says, "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brother and sisters all."

Drawing on the papal teaching from the preceding half century, the Vatican Council explained that the common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment." The world today is increasingly interdependent and we depend on other countries for our well-being. The common good now involves rights and duties with respect to the whole human race. Every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and even of the general welfare of the entire human family.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church presents a digest of three key elements that combine to shape our understanding of the common good: respect for the human person and an acknowledgment of the inherent dignity of all; prioritization of collective social well-being and development which affirms that all people have a right to food, clothing, shelter, education and employment; and the pursuit of peace which insures protection and safety.

As a community of faith, our choices must restore hope, speak for the needs of all and promote the well-being of our planet. COVID-19 has been a reminder that we are all connected; what happens anywhere in the world has an effect on all of us. We are constantly reminded of natural disasters, violence, racism, unemployment, discrimination and so much sadness that we can be overwhelmed. No one person can respond to all of these needs, however, we can each do something.

The annual report in this issue highlights sisters, employees and benefactors who have worked for the common good during this pandemic. Their love, service, compassion and outreach have kept others safe and healthy during this challenging time. We are grateful to you for partnering with us in serving the mission of Nano Nagle.

Reflect on the choices you have made which are for the common good. Consider what decisions you could make which would lead to a more just world. How can we have one heart for the world, a heart which is able to listen and discern what is in the best interest of all of creation?

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



A mural depicting the life of Nano Nagle decorates the walls of what used to be the sisters' community room in Dingle Co. Kerry, Ireland, where they spent their recreation period in the evening. International mural artist Eleanor Yates created this commemoration of Nano.

Common Good: A Call to Embrace Each Other

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

Two-hundred-fifty years ago, a woman filled with passion for life turned her energies toward educating Irish Catholic children who were refused schooling because of the penal laws that had been established for the “oppression, impoverishment, and degradation of a people, and the debasement in them of human nature itself . . .” (*Edmund Burke, Irish historian*) In time, her desire to recognize the human dignity of each child by providing basic literacy skills and a foundational faith understanding drew others to join in her efforts. This woman, Nano Nagle, became the foundress of the community known today as the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The quartet of founding members lived a simple life, dedicated to the education of children and the struggles of their elders for health and security. Despite the danger surrounding them in a political climate that favored the wealthy and continued to abuse anyone caught practicing the Catholic faith, this

small band lived a communal life filled with service and prayer, bravely venturing into their small schools in the day and the crowded dwellings of the ill and elderly at night.

In 2021, Nano’s dream of companions in service to those in poverty has expanded to six continents where over 1,400 sisters continue to form community in small and larger groups in 25 countries. The Dubuque Presentation Sisters’ Constitutions describe the core value of being in community this way: “Each member embraces every other member as her sister in Christ, cherishes her with the warmth of a loving heart, willingly stands in her shoes, carries her burden, is glad for her as for herself, and remembers her in prayer.”

Some readers of Doorways may have memories of sisters in habits arriving in the parish church for Mass, sitting together as a group. Both church tradition and society believed that a woman ought to have a companion, so rarely was a sister seen

in the public sphere alone. Since church leaders preferred a more cloistered form of religious life, especially for women, the life of the sisters was an effort to balance monastic practices with active ministries. The common life was prescriptive and structured with defined schedules in the monastic style fitted around going into schools and hospitals for service. However, the heart of community life was not in the regulation but in willingness to embrace each other in love and caring. Sitting together in the evenings sharing the stories of the day, preparing meals for the community, prayer times shared in common were essential elements to building community.

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, movements in the church had already begun to influence community life. After the Council, these movements were accelerated by the call to be the Church in the World. When Nano first founded the congregation, she resisted structures that would have kept the sisters more cloistered, thus preventing them from going into the lanes of Cork to minister to those restricted to their homes by poverty or illness.

The Second Vatican Council call to religious communities to renew themselves in the spirit of the founding charism opened the door for new ministries and new forms of community living. Sisters who were involved in multiple parish activities such as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or adult faith sharing groups were no longer home every evening to share in structured hours of “recreation.” Parishes that could not sponsor a Catholic school began to invest in hiring a sister to serve in pastoral ministry or religious education. That meant that instead of five or 15 sisters in a convent, maybe only two lived there.

Each member embraces every other member as her sister in Christ, cherishes her with the warmth of a loving heart, willingly stands in her shoes, carries her burden, is glad for her as for herself, and remembers her in prayer.

Constitutions of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters

These changes called for new ways of embracing each other as sister in community. During the past few years, another way to address this care of others in community has been to employ the language of the “common good.” When large groups of sisters are not sitting down at the dinner table with each other or in weekly community meetings, individual sisters take responsibility for community life into account by living with much more intention and mindfulness that the choices of one affect the whole, not just of the Presentation community but also of all life.



Left to right: Sisters Suzanne Gallagher and Donna Demmer enjoy the warmth of the sun and sharing stories of the day.

Pope Francis frequently speaks of an integral ecology, meaning that all of creation is interconnected. In addition, he links this ecology with mindfulness for the common good. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes common good as requiring respect for the rights of each person; the social development of the group; and peace and security for all. A community life that calls for dialogue and communication in decision making for the good of all is much more demanding than allowing the decisions of the sister superior to determine what can or cannot be done.

The Pope writes, “The word ‘solidarity’ is a little worn and at times poorly understood, but it refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mind-set that thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few.” Living in community does not always mean living communally, but it does mean that a sister’s view holds the mindset referred to by Francis – the good of all.

COVID-19 has offered challenges and graces that none could have imagined at the beginning of 2020. A grace of this time has come through the technology of Zoom. The inability to meet physically as a community has resulted in numerous Zoom conversations. This technology has allowed for the development of groups coming together to share contemplative prayer; to share the work of deepening our commitment to radical hospitality and non-violence; to enjoy the companionship of age cohorts; of studying topics related to the future of the congregation. These exchanges are strengthening the sense of the common good by creating moments to share in each other’s burdens and joys so that when the moment comes for physically embracing each other there is a fresh recognition of God’s goodness alive in the community’s midst.



The “Wall of Hope” float displays a large painted figure of Nano dressed in a midnight-blue cape and holding aloft a lantern, surrounded by doves of peace presenting the names of other women who brought light to the world in their own unique ways.

Women of Light Sharing Hope

by BETH DONZE, CLARION HERALD, *reprinted with permission*

Venerable Nano Nagle – the foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who famously defied 18th century politics to serve the poor of Cork, Ireland – would have relished the sight: A large painted figure of the Irishwoman leads her very own “house float” emblazoned with the theme “Women of Light: Sharing Hope.”

The inspirational tableau is the latest installment in New Orleans’ ongoing “Yardi Gras” phenomenon that’s turning the city into one huge stationary parade.

Located at the Central City home of Presentation Sisters Julie Marsh and Mary Lou Specha, the spectacular house float honors 15 women of various ages and races – both living and deceased – whose lives of service and achievement broke down barriers and continue to inspire a world hungry for hope.

“It looks so sophisticated and it looks fun. That’s what we were aiming for,” says Sister Julie, marveling at the artistry unfolding January 29 as a team of professional float builders deployed by the Krewe of Red Beans turned her modest shotgun home into a traffic-stopping work of educational art.

“The world seemed so dark – everywhere you looked there was a darkness and almost a hopelessness,” recalls Sister Julie of the first 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That gloom was followed by the sudden stroke of genius from the Krewe of Red Beans: Why not ask New Orleanians to keep out-of-work parade artists employed – and resuscitate Mardi Gras 2021 – by paying those artists to turn their homes into floats?

“We were trying to find something that would bring the liveliness and the joy of the Carnival season back with that whole symbolism of light,” states Sister Julie. “And what better person to do that than our foundress!”

Four female powerhouses placed out front
Standing out amid the dozens of pieces of exquisitely painted plywood and 3-D flowers is a 10-foot lantern on the home’s front porch on South Saratoga Street. The lantern sculpture pays homage to Nano, who was known in 18th century Cork as the “Lady with the Lantern” due to her secret nighttime street ministry of offering the poor education, food and

medicine during a time most Irish were denied pathways out of poverty by the ruling British government. Nano, who died of tuberculosis in 1784 at age 66, was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2013.

Three other women are honored on the house float's porch side: Mother Vincent Hennessy, the Irish-born sister who established the first North American community of Presentation Sisters in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1875; Venerable Mother Henriette Delille, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans – the country's first community of Black religious sisters – in 1836 and who educated and nursed the city's enslaved and other persons of color; and Ruby Bridges, the kindergartner who in 1959 became the first African-American child to desegregate an all-white public elementary school in New Orleans.

Doves of peace fly against 'Wall of Hope'

Thanks to the empty lot next door, the side elevation of the sisters' home is visible from the street and provided additional "canvas space" to the house float's chief designer, Caroline Thomas.

Thomas, who in non-pandemic years is employed by Royal Artists as a float-maker for the Krewe of Rex, used this longer side of the house to depict a traditional "crowd's view" of a Carnival float. In Thomas' design scheme, the figure of Nano stands in the queen's position, dressed in a midnight-blue cape and holding aloft a smaller lantern than the one out front.

Doves of peace, flying against a backdrop of yellow, orange and purple clouds, form the float's "Wall of Hope" and present the names of other women who brought light to the world in their own unique ways:

- Sojourner Truth, who escaped enslavement to become an abolitionist and women's rights activist;
- Sister Thea Bowman, the Mississippi-born, African-American Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who raised awareness of the beauty and contributions of the Black Catholic Church;
- Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg, who at age 18 is a world leader in the fight to address climate change;
- Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani advocate for women's education and the winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize;
- Rosa Parks, whose refusal in 1955 to give her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, was a watershed event in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s;
- St. Teresa of Calcutta, who cared for the poorest of the poor in India and founded the Missionaries of Charity religious congregation in 1950;
- Breonna Taylor, who became a symbol of police brutality and racial inequities after being shot to death by police in her Louisville, Kentucky, home last March;
- Rigoberta Menchu, a champion of indigenous rights in her native Guatemala;

Anyone can accomplish anything and rise to the challenge as long as they are willing to work with others, to let go of the personal agenda, to reach a higher goal, and to do what is right for the common good.

Julie Payette

- Amelia Earhart, the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and a best-selling author;
- and New Orleans-born Oretha Castle Haley, the late Louisiana civil rights activist.

"We all know women do so much for justice, but we are not familiar with some of their names," Sister Mary Lou states. "(The float's honorees) are all people who lived through very difficult times but were somehow able to overcome disparities."

You can't stop Mardi Gras from coming

The desire to participate in the Krewe of Red Beans' house float endeavor came to Sister Julie late last year, after she read about the Krewe's appeal to residents to assist float builders who had been temporarily laid off following the cancellation of live parades.

"We were seeing how the pandemic was causing more and more unemployment, and we thought, 'What can we do? We don't want to see more homelessness,'" says Sister Julie. Given the green light to proceed with their plan and armed with a



A 10-foot lighted lantern on the home's front porch pays homage to Nano, who was known in 18th-century Cork as the "Lady with the Lantern" due to her secret nighttime street ministry of offering the poor education, food and medicine during a time most Irish were denied pathways out of poverty.

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.

ST. MARY PARISH, STORM LAKE, IA

A flowering snow crab tree stands in front of St. Anne Convent in Storm Lake, Iowa, a tribute to Sister Margaret Donnelly, who ministered in St. Mary Parish from 1974 until her death in 1996. Sister Margaret was fondly remembered as a teacher, mentor and parish worker. The tree represented "her strength, acceptance of all and her ability to be a calming influence on any situation," according to Father Michael Erpelding who blessed the tree in Sister Margaret's honor in May of 1997.

Between 1959 and 2009, 102 sisters served in various positions in the school and parish. In May of 2010, as reported in the *Pilot Tribune* (May 1, 2010), a newly-erected playground was dedicated to the Sisters of the Presentation. In honor of that service, and "for all the joy in the activities and friendships that will be made here ..." (Father Bruce Lawler at the dedication ceremony).

A collaborative effort between individual donors and the Buena Vista County Foundation financed the purchase of equipment. Included in the park is a distinctive representation of a Presentation Sister by local chain saw artist Jeff Klatt.

Three sisters represented the Dubuque congregation at the dedication – Sister Catherine Wingert, principal at St. Mary School

from 1975-1978; Sister Dolores Zieser, represented her sister, Sister Josita, a long-time teacher at the school; and Sister Donna Determan, 17-year veteran at St. Mary. Sister Donna remarked, "It is great to be back. Once a Panther, always a Panther!"



A wooden sculpture of a Presentation Sister carved by a local artist.

generous seed donation from their Iowa motherhouse, Sisters Julie and Mary Lou launched a Go Fund Me page, ultimately exceeding their goal of \$10,000 – the cost of having a house float designed and installed by a team of professional artists and carpenters.

To add a special element of interaction to their house float, Sisters Julie and Mary Lou invite visitors to write the name of their own personal "Hero of Hope" on a dove-shaped sticker and leave it on the Wall of Hope.

"I'm going to put my grandma on it!" says Sister Mary Lou. "Even though she didn't make the (float's official) Wall of Hope, she made the wall in my heart!"

A joyful vocational path

The sisters are hoping their float's inclusion of five world-changing women religious, coupled with the fact that contemporary religious sisters participated in such a fun, worthy and high-profile project, will increase the public's awareness of the merits of religious life. Coincidentally, National Vocation Awareness Week is held annually in January, and on February 20, religious brothers and sisters from across the Archdiocese of New Orleans will gather at St. Rita Church in New Orleans for their annual Mass celebrating consecrated life.

"Religious life is alive and well in our country and in our city. There are still young sisters out there," says Sister Julie.

Another hoped-for outcome of the house-float "buzz" is acquainting locals with the Presentation Sisters' two main outreach efforts in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, both located in Central City and which focus on helping the homeless gain independence: Hotel Hope, which offers temporary, hotel-style shelter to homeless mothers and their children as they work toward employment and permanent housing; and Lantern Light Ministry, which provides an array of daytime services at the Rebuild Center, located on the Tulane Avenue grounds of St. Joseph Church. Lantern Light, which sparked the Rebuild Center collaborative that now includes Father Harry Tompson Center, Depaul USA and St. Joseph Church, began after Hurricane Katrina as a small feeding ministry called "Feed Jesus." Lantern Light has since expanded its services to include weekday breakfast and lunch, laundry facilities, a mail center and ID services.

"We have people all over the country watching (the house float effort) now – from Iowa and Chicago and Florida and Ohio – so, we just want to spread the wealth, the knowledge and, basically, have some fun!" states Sister Mary Lou, crediting Nano for planting the seeds of the house float, with its giant lantern that emits an amber glow at night.

"Nano Nagle always had a spirit of vitality – I always say she is the reason I became a Presentation Sister," says Sister Mary Lou. "If you meet Presentations from all over the world, you realize that they all share that same deep joy for life. I think that's what she put in our heart – that joy and that deep passion for service."

Reflections on the Journey

Sister Linus Coyle

by LOUISE SCIENZINSKI, PBVM

What does a long 96 year life look like? Especially one seemingly packed with intentional living? And when it is lived faithfully in quiet dedication, deep simplicity, otherness, and a flair for delight and fun? After living through valleys of loss, pain, searching, self-giving? And mountains of joy, blessings, ministry, commitment, prayer and religious community life?

Born Eileen Olive Coyle, Sister Mary Linus is the fourth of the ten children born to John and Sarah Coyle in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. Her oldest sibling, Linus, died at age 10 and it was his name that she took when she was received into religious life. The faith she learned and lived in early family years undergirds her long life.

Sister Linus' academic and graduate degrees were a kernel that rooted her years of ministry which included a broad range of teaching and administration, religious education, and adult education. She also spent four years in mission work in Costa Rica. Recently she shared some reflections.

Sister Linus named the two "greatest pieces of my life." The first is teaching, "which I always liked, always." Her reason is direct: teaching was her way to "help children know and love God more" and "make sure the children had a good purpose for their life." The second piece was her four years of mission work in Central America. She recalls being called and told by her Major Superior that she was to leave immediately to fill a sudden vacancy for a full-time principal, teacher and bookkeeper. She was told by the Superior "I knew that you would say 'yes' because you never say 'no' when asked." She was to "take over the school and learn the language all at once." Sister Linus remembers that soon after arriving, the mountain volcano erupted 40 miles away, surrounding her school "with ashes that covered the grass like snow." A beginning not to be forgotten!

Sister Linus is a lifelong learner with a wide array of interests, including creation and nature, science, math and computers. Of all that she has learned through the years, the "most important and hardest is to always go where sent ... wherever I was asked to go" and "give God whatever He wants, whatever He asks of me."

Sister Linus describes her favorite memories as "Everything!" She includes "being able to go to Central America, even though the hard part was not knowing the language at first." She also includes "always being asked to do something I never knew how to do." She adds that her greatest challenge



Sister Linus Coyle with former employee, Megan Viertel.

was "being fearful ... because I was often just not sure what I had to do." Her greatest challenge came when "God asked me to change provinces in my first community and later to change congregations." She caps off her life experiences by saying, "The Lord knows me better than I know myself."

Sister Linus is ever joy-filled and at peace. She is "most grateful to end up where I am and be with all the sisters here." Her advice to others, especially those younger, is to "be ready and grateful to do whatever God asks of you ... Give God what He asks."

Sister Linus summarized her musings by adding, "It is interesting how God works." Then with twinkling eyes and a wry smile, she continued, "I was always the second one asked to do things, never the first, and when the need was great, it was always at the last minute." She recalled the assignment to Central America and later her decision to change congregations. Then she smiled happily and with satisfied emphasis said, "Second." Then she ended, "This makes me really grateful for life. My answer is always 'yes.'"

Those who know Sister Linus know her penchant for writing poetry about meaningful moments and experiences. She once wrote an individual birthday poem for each of the 77 sisters living at Mount Loretto that year. Fittingly she ended her thoughts by adding, "It's all in the poetry book. I did most of that while praying."



Presentation Associates Deepen Identity

by JOAN BRINCKS, PBVM, and CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTORS

People belong to groups, clubs and organizations for many reasons: friendship and camaraderie; sharing a common interest; service; a work expectation. Becoming an associate is more than joining a club. It is a call from God to live the Gospel life in relationship with a particular religious community and share in their spirituality and charisma as lay women and men in the world. The call to commitment requires discernment and a desire to live the values and mission of the community.

Associate Anastasia Nicklaus-Schmelzer explains her commitment, “Being in relationship with the sisters and associates has opened up my mind and my soul to the needs of the world in a greater way. I live in a greater sense of solidarity and earth-consciousness, all guided in faith. I embrace the community’s charisma and am amazed that I can contribute to furthering the values of the Presentation Sisters within my little part of the world.”

Sister Diana Blong sums up her experience of journeying with associates through the discernment process, “The associates’ interest and excitement in exploring the life of Presentation foundress Nano Nagle renewed and rekindled my own desire to walk in her spirit in my life. Our conversation reveals the rich heritage we share in Nano’s call to respond to those in need in her time in history, and our call to do the same.”

Associates are not “wanna-be sisters” or the answer to diminishing numbers of women religious. Associates are

women and men who seek to live the charisma and spirit of the congregation within their primary vocation in society. Associates possess gifts and experiences distinct and independent from the sisters; and their relationship with the community offers fresh and creative life to the expression of the charisma in present times. It is a mutually-enriching relationship that recognizes that we are better together than we are alone.

Engaged with associates, Sister Rosalyn Ulfers comments, “I have been edified by the women and men who have committed themselves to become Presentation associates, as they are people of prayer and dedicated to serving in their parish, community and family. As associates, they enhance our mission, and we mutually benefit each other.”

Pondering on her personal experience with associates, Sister Julia Wingert adds, “I am always inspired by the many ways our associates reach out in care and compassion. They assist people in need and work for the common good in whatever way possible in the places where they live and work.”

Associate Sharon Loeffelholz notes how the associate relationship impacts her life, “The women in my associate group are faith-filled. Supporting one another and praying together, we discuss problems in our community and the world and try to find ways to help relieve some of the pain and misfortune of others. I would not have been able to do this on my own, but with my associate sisters I feel stronger and have more courage.”



Left to right: Sister Jeanine Kuhn, Sister Lynn Fangman and Associate Mary Lou Mauss; Sister Richelle Friedman and Associate Bren Connors; Associates Carol Wyatt, Judy Zahren-Kalb and Ben Roberts; Associate Linda Dolphin, Associate Marlene Von Fumetti, Sister Leanne Welch and Associate Sue Murphy.

Many religious communities are currently entering into conversations with associates about how to deepen the relationship and mutuality between sisters and associates while honoring the distinct gifts and experiences that both bring. Together they are discerning how to recommit to the charisma and mission of the foundress of their prospective institutions.

The Dubuque Presentation Associate Partnership has been in existence for over 20 years and continues to grow and flourish. During this past year, Dubuque Presentation associates created an associate identity statement that expresses the essence of who they are to themselves, to one another and to the world in being called to the mission and charisma of the Presentation Sisters. Giving energy and focus to their lives, the statement speaks to the purpose and expectations of associates and is intended to remind and challenge them to live out that commitment. The Dubuque Presentation Associate Identity Statement reads as follows:

Dubuque Presentation associates are women and men called to share in the life, spirituality and mission of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters. Grounded in prayer, we support and encourage one another as we seek to embody the Presentation charisma of radical hospitality both individually and communally. In the spirit of Nano Nagle, we reach out with hospitality and compassion as we seek justice and respond to the needs of the world.

The statement was presented to all of the Dubuque Presentation associates in December of 2020. They were invited to pray with the statement, to reflect on how it speaks to their heart and how they currently live out the associate call and to deepen that call in their life.

Associate Deb Jasper prayerfully considered the statement and affirms, “My relationship with the sisters and associates has made me more open to look beyond my own doorstep; in other words, to be aware of people in need and how I could help. From my personal experiences with the Presentation community over the years, I believe I am more and more aligned with the mission. Being an associate only enriches my life and makes me a better person.”

Inspired by Nano and the desire to live radical hospitality, Associate Judi Moritz states, “As a Presentation associate, I am challenged to foster the practice of radical hospitality and hone my skills every chance I get, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The example of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters is always top of mind and empowers me to find a way to extend radical hospitality to others as I become more aware and informed of social justice issues.”

Allured by Nano’s vision and passion, associates continue to strengthen their evolving identity and commitment as they are called to embody the Presentation charisma so that it is a part of their very being and gift to the world.

Associate Partnership

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GOD, FAMILY, COMMUNITY

Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus

February 19, 1933 - January 15, 2021

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

On February 19, 1933, Rose Marie was born, youngest daughter, to Catherine (Gudenkauf) and Joseph Rottinghaus in Dougherty, Iowa. On January 19, 2021 the Presentation community participated in the Celebration of New Life for Sister Rosanne, one month shy of her 88th birthday. She is survived by one brother, Joseph.

The Rottinghaus family comprised a balance of five girls: Winifred, Mary Catherine, Henrietta, Frances and Rose Marie and five boys: Anthony (Bud), Raymond, Raphael, John and James. Noteworthy is the fact that three of the five girls: Henrietta, Frances and Rose Marie became Presentation Sisters. Rose Marie entered the Sisters of the Presentation from Charles City, Iowa, on September 8, 1951, was received and named Sister Mary Rosanne in June 1952, and professed her perpetual vows in 1957.

Sister Rosanne earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College and served as music teacher and parish liturgist in Algona, Cedar Falls, Clare, Key West, Dubuque, Fairbank, Humboldt, Marion and Whittemore, all in Iowa, and in Timber Lake, South Dakota. She also served as pastoral associate in Osage, Iowa. Sister Rosanne valued prayer and community service and contributed her share to both. After 46 years of ministry, she retired to Mount Loretto in 2000, where she appreciated a more contemplative lifestyle, as well as more time with her siblings, Sister Michael and Sister Anthony. Working collaboratively, this artistic trio kept the Mount Loretto dining room decorated for each season and for all manner of special celebrations.

Sister Rosanne loved: God, family and Presentation community. Likewise, she loved life, fun, music, singing, dancing – and her prayer time. Each day she could be found occupying her favorite spot on the right-hand side of the chapel, sitting with open Scripture in quiet reflection. A favorite message from the prophet Isaiah (*Isaiah 43: 1-3*) is the one she chose as the first reading for her funeral liturgy. “Thus says the Lord, who created you and formed you. Fear not; I have called you by name: you are mine.” These words speak mightily of her vocation response and illumine her steadfast faith.

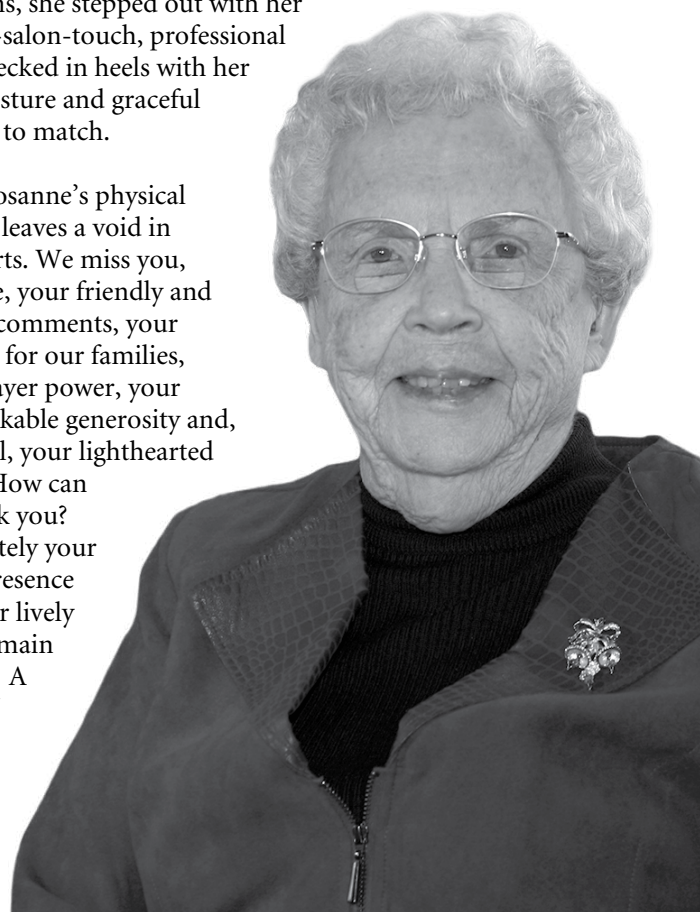
Outgoing, with a sense of humor and appreciation for socializing, Sister Rosanne could be counted on for a good

party, any time of the day or night – the cards always ready for dealing. Queen of hospitality, she usually provided the food as well, a snack or homemade dessert. Each of the “Three R’s,” as they labeled themselves for ready identification and quick sign-outs, was a superb cook and exquisite baker.

Sister Rosanne believed that the proper way to finish a meal was with a sweet treat or dessert of some kind. If such wasn't forthcoming she tapped into her personal resources housed in her desk drawer. She was a confirmed “snacker” be it sweet or salty with a choice of Cheetos, popcorn or marshmallow cookies. Sometimes she just had to sneak some Cheetos from her “stash” to get through the afternoon on a dull day, only to be discovered by the telltale orange smears around her mouth. Nighttime treats? Ice cream, preferably Blue Bunny, strawberry cheesecake, please, supplied by niece Judy – or popcorn, puppy chow, party mix – all to be shared.

Consistent with her sparkly personality, Sister Rosanne liked dressing up. On Sundays, holy days and special occasions, she stepped out with her Angey's-salon-touch, professional attire, decked in heels with her good posture and graceful carriage to match.

Sister Rosanne's physical absence leaves a void in our hearts. We miss you, Rosanne, your friendly and snappy comments, your concern for our families, your prayer power, your unmistakable generosity and, above all, your lighthearted spirit. How can we thank you? Fortunately your party-presence and your lively spirit remain with us: A game of cards, anyone?



JOYFUL TEACHER, GRACIOUS FRIEND

Sister Michelle Gallagher

August 6, 1930 - February 9, 2021

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Mary Michelle Gallagher, daughter of Theresa McNertney and William Gallagher was born, second youngest child, on August 6, 1930, in Vail, Iowa, and baptized Theresa Darlene. Her family totaled five boys: Arnold, Lloyd, Merle, Leo and Gerald, and four girls: Rita, Nelda, Theresa and Jean; all of the family preceded Sister Michelle in death.

Receiving her Bachelor of Arts from Clarke College, Sister Michelle taught children in primary grades from Algona, Dubuque, Epworth, Mason City, Storm Lake, Waukon and Whittemore, all in Iowa, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Scripture verses Sister Michelle chose for her funeral liturgy teem with welcome, faith and love, reflecting her life. In the Letter to the Romans (*Romans 12:9-13*) our Christian duties are identified: Love one another, show respect, be fervent in spirit, rejoice in hope, be patient, persevere in prayer and be generous in offering hospitality. Sister Michelle embodied these gifts throughout her life.

As a first-grade teacher, from day one, Sister Michelle's kind, gentle and humble manner was embraced ... beloved by students and parents alike. Hosting a flawless Irish complexion and rosy cheeks, she could have modeled for the then-popular sister dolls. With the poise of a dancer, in her floor-length habit, she created the sensation of gliding wherever she went. Like Peggy O'Neill, of Irish song fame, Sister Michelle had eyes as blue as skies and she smiled all the while. No wonder students felt cared for and comfortable in her classroom. She was often remembered and appreciated as "their favorite teacher" long after the first grade.

Always happy, Sister Michelle enjoyed the good things life had to offer: tapioca pudding, chocolate, Scrabble and after-dinner naps. In high school she played basketball and was chosen as Homecoming Queen. In community she shared her gift of leadership by frequently serving as house superior or local director where she was appreciated for her listening and her kindness.

God was in her eyes.

Sister Michelle loved people, especially family, friends and her students. When she went on home visits, it was as if she were magnetic; everyone gathered around. Nieces and nephews looked forward to these times of fun as she played along with

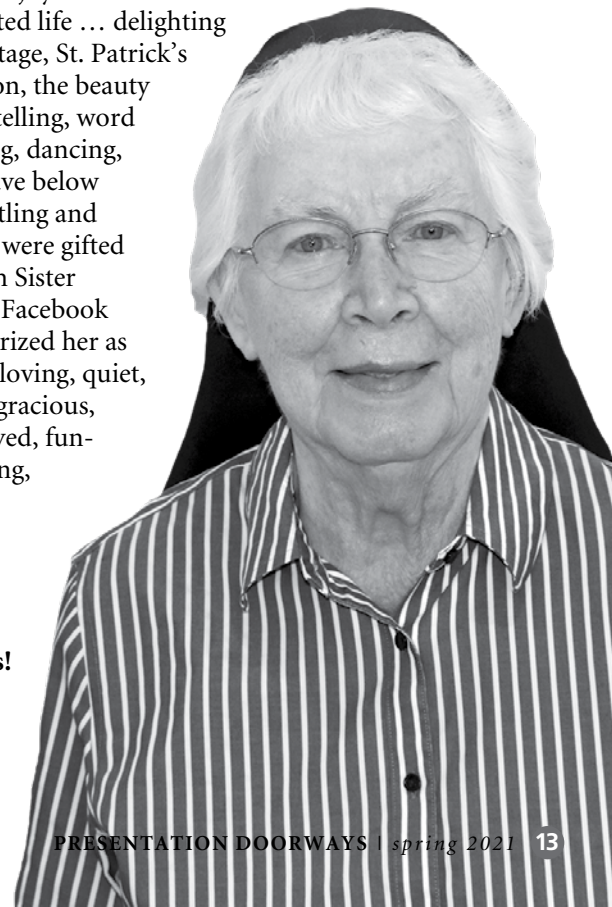
them, whether it was blowing bubbles or spraying with water guns! Sister Michelle's niece, Sister Michaeline Healy, also a Presentation Sister, is currently ministering as a pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish in Caledonia, Minnesota.

Retiring from teaching, Sister Michelle volunteered at American Martyrs Retreat Center in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she assisted her friend, Sister Mary Jeanine Kuhn, retreat house director, by welcoming and registering guests and managing the gift shop, as well as doing a variety of housekeeping duties. In addition, she shared evening liturgy with the students from the University of Northern Iowa and offered spiritual companionship and mentoring to students from the university. Sister Michelle was a gifted listener and made people feel comfortable; it was the twinkle in her eye, the way she tilted her head and offered her warm smile. Faith and compassion grounded her.

God was in her heart.

Sister Michelle enjoyed life! She loved life! She celebrated life ... delighting in her Irish heritage, St. Patrick's Day, her vocation, the beauty of nature, storytelling, word searches, praying, dancing, singing (an octave below the choir), whistling and welcoming. We were gifted to share life with Sister Michelle whose Facebook friends characterized her as ladylike, joyful, loving, quiet, contemplative, gracious, gentle, bright-eyed, fun-loving, easy-going, prayerful. "She sparkled."

She is in God's heart, and remains in ours!



Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



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

Training sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation will take place virtually on Zoom.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

EARLY registration is strongly encouraged.
Space is limited so please honor
your registration commitment.

HOW TO REGISTER
http://bit.ly/register_MVP_Training

For More Information
Visit www.dbqpbvms.org/nonviolence-workshop

Questions?
Email adminassist@dbqpbvms.org



Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2021

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

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

To apply, visit
[www.dbqpbvms.org/contact-us/
scholarships-awards](http://www.dbqpbvms.org/contact-us/scholarships-awards)



LIVE Join Us!
via Zoom,
YouTube or podcast
exploringintersections.org



Join Catholic Sisters for a yearlong, monthly conversation series "Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate." Each month, panelists will explore a social issue and how it intersects with racism, migration and climate in a thought-provoking and engaging conversation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 14, 2021: Care of Creation

May 12, 2021: Migration

June 9, 2021: Racial Justice

July 14, 2021: Ending Human Trafficking

August 11, 2021: Eliminating Gun Violence

September 8, 2021: Economic Justice

October 13, 2021: Food Security

November 10, 2021: Restorative Justice

December 8, 2021: Affordable Housing

January 12, 2022: Education Justice

February 9, 2022: Equitable Access to Healthcare

March 9, 2022: Navigating the Road Ahead

Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region X | exploringintersections.org

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Our new website is live and full of new features.
We invite you to browse the pages and enjoy learning
more about the Sisters of the Presentation.

WWW.DBQPBVMS.ORG

SHOW LOVE. OFFER HOPE. LIVE HOSPITALITY.
CHOOSE PRESENTATION.



CONNECT WITH US @dbqpbvms

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA

PLEASE JOIN 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.

There will be no annual garage sale this year.

April 10, 2021

Courageous Conversations: Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Training
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This training sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation will take place virtually on Zoom.

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

PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

February 21-March 28, 2021

Women's Online Lenten Retreat
Dubuque, Iowa

April 25, 2021

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors



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Please change this label and send it back to
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at
info@dbqpbvms.org. Thank you.*

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(please indicate which is correct)

The Blooming

In the grip of a desert
stubborn seeds
mirror the journey
of seasoned disciples.

At a favorable time
the entombed
reach for the stars
and transform barren landscapes
into flower gardens
of clear-eyed witnesses
that celebrate
the transforming power of water,
Living Water.

Corine Murray, PBVM

*May our desert seeds bloom with
Easter blessings.*

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA