



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

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The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history 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.

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Cover PHOTO

Megan Ruiz, executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center, presents Mohamed (Mo) Abidi with the Presentation Associate Scholarship. The scholarships are made possible by the generous support of the Dubuque Presentation associates and are intended to assist with education, job training, equipment or fees and expenses associated with the immigration process. See page 12 for more information and additional recipients.

A MESSAGE FROM *Openings* LEADERSHIP

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

What does it matter to a person living in the rural areas of the United States that inner city families live in “fence line communities” where hazardous petrochemicals released from local facilities cause high incidences of asthma in children? Does it matter to a person living within urban areas that mining in sacred native lands in rural Arizona will physically destroy environments held holy for eons? Or does it matter to a family whose faucets release fresh, safe water at the turn of a handle, that water stress in many places has increased migration and armed conflict for millions of people? When a family lives in the safety of respectful relationships, does it matter that two doors away a spouse cringes in fear every evening that her partner will come home angry and violent?

As families have struggled with the effects of a pandemic, just getting through the challenges of many days within their own home has seemed more than enough. Monitoring Zoom school lessons for children; working from dining room tables rather than office spaces; concern for making rent payments after job losses or reduced hours impact income are just a few of the difficulties faced in the past year. Isolation from family and friends has reduced the usual support systems, thus adding to the stresses.

As we continue to explore the theme of the common good in our Doorways’ articles, how do we make the links between local and global concerns? The pandemic has made it very clear that Earth is not home to nations existing in isolation. Oceans, borders, fences and armed militia do not seem to have been capable of stopping the spread of COVID-19. For example, in mid-May the COVID variant found in India appeared in rural central Iowa. Despite strict travel restrictions and quarantines, this disease continues to infect humanity on a global scale.

In his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis writes about living in a world where ordinary relationships and political institutions are permeated with a sense of care for the common good. Declaring that we are made for love, “a love that creates bonds and expands existence, it draws people out of themselves and toward others,” Francis urges all to go beyond the borders of the familiar and comfortable.

The Presentation commitment to radical hospitality finds support and direction for mission on every page of the document. Our desire as a community to offer radical hospitality through being anti-racist, non-violent, welcoming persons demands that we seek to address our own hesitations and then risk acting beyond our comfort zones. In the light of teachings of *Fratelli Tutti*, family violence, pollution, drought, environmental degradation, attacks on sacred lands are not far away problems to be solved by other individuals. We are each members of the human family with a duty to seek justice and compassion for all.

We join Pope Francis when he ends the encyclical with a “Prayer to the Creator,” imploring God to ... Inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

*May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects
and shared dreams. Amen.*

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



Supporting Life for All

Women and Children Free from Violence

Reflection by BILLIE GREENWOOD, ASSOCIATE

A possibility of a peaceful world rests on the necessity of creating a world providing justice for all. Unfortunately, women and children don't have equal advantages in our world. Their overall status is second class. But, in the words of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor: "Our humanity makes us each a part of something greater than ourselves." When most of us are diminished, none of us can be well. The common good of all must prevail as our highest value.

So, when the Presentation people from around the world gathered in Sydney, Australia, in 2017, to select global goals, one important focus they chose was women and children's rights. Several Presentation people from the Dubuque foundation were present, and I was fortunate to be among them. It was an experience of global commitment to the common good among those inspired by Nano Nagle, the Presentation foundress. Nano herself worked tirelessly and risked fearlessly on behalf of women and children.

To implement their selected goal, the International Presentation Association (IPA) honed the focus. Violence against women and girls continues to be one of the most widespread and devastating human rights violations. So, during this current two-year cycle of 2020-2022, IPA will honor and advance the rights of women and children by working to eliminate violence levied against them.

Each independent Presentation foundation, like ours in Dubuque, works in conjunction with others around the world to advance our chosen goals. We are all linked by a network of justice contacts. Sister Joy Peterson serves as the Dubuque community's designated justice contact. She relies on a team of volunteer justice promoters to design and execute ways to unite all sisters, associates and Presentation people in the work of justice. Currently there are nine Dubuque sister and associate justice promoters. Again, I'm fortunate to participate in that group.

The Dubuque justice promoters further fine-tuned the goal of eliminating violence against women and children by selecting three issues on which to concentrate. Our first issue lens has focused on the violence experienced by women and children migrants. Because there are thousands moving to migrate to the United States, much of our work centers on the perils they face. We've learned that our nation has created structures that imperil women and children, and we've taken action to reform those structures.

Further foci will continue the exploration of negative effects on the common good when violence is perpetrated against women and children. In upcoming modules, we'll examine the impact that racial injustice has on violence against women and children and later explore the impact of mental and behavioral health issues in exposing women and children to violence. These issues negatively impact the common good of us all, but they affect women and children in certain specific ways.

Through our local works for justice, we funnel our experience from our Dubuque foundation to the United Nations, where IPA has its own NGO representative, Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki. She incorporates our justice goals with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are universal goals for everyone, everywhere. Their motto is to "leave no one behind"—making them a road map of sorts toward the common good of humanity and Earth. All of us associated with IPA want to advance the SDGs by speaking up, staying informed, creating awareness, convincing people and being alert to the current moment.

Increasing women's and children's participation and decision-making powers in every aspect of society helps accelerate progress in eliminating violence against them. The empowerment of women and children lets them be good leaders, decision makers and participants in public life and politics, not to mention in their family and personal relationships.

Investing in women is one of the most powerful investments we can make in building a better future. Improving the lives of women and children is a United Nations commitment, and aligns with our faith perspective. "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," wrote Julie Payette, former Governor General of Canada.

Is that not simply a different way of expressing the words of Jesus, when he responded to the question, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ... and a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The Dubuque Presentation Sisters live out the values Pope Francis expressed when he called for "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."

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

The sisters have inspired all of us who read these *Presentation Doorways* pages. If not for their inspiration, would this publication even be in your hands?

But will their commitment to the common good, will their promotion of the human rights of more vulnerable populations – the female and the young – inspire us to similarly take action? That's a question only you can answer. You, too, can participate in their project to eliminate violence against women and children.

Journey with us. Learn and take action to eliminate violence against women and children. Promote the common good. Women and children populate your life. Your life will improve when they are all safe and well. We invite you to continue the charism of Nano Nagle with us. Will you work with us to level the playing field by eliminating violence? And, in so doing, will you make a healthy, happy life more possible for so many?



Follow our ongoing investigations into the common good of women and children at

DBQP BVMS.ORG

The Action for Justice page posts monthly updates.

Living Out Our Promises

Change for the Sake of All, Living Non-violence and Anti-racism

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

In his May 16 midday message to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square and online globally, Pope Francis appealed to Israelis and Palestinians "to find the path of dialogue and forgiveness to become patient builders of peace and of justice opening themselves, step by step, to a common hope and to a coexistence as brothers and sisters."

It is relatively easy, nowadays, to call out violence, racism and other injustices that we see on our local, national and global screen-feeds. Viewing devastation and hatred, we desire and hope for relief for victims. We cringe vicariously at the suffering, pain and injustice. Nevertheless, do we realize that the aggression or anger we ourselves direct toward any person could be passed on to another and another and yet another person and multiply the individual wars we each wage?

How can we move forward in our personal and individual lives every day to act with integrity and help build peace and justice?

Perhaps it means that we work harder to recognize within ourselves tendencies to demean or diminish others who are different from us – Black, Asian, LGBTQ, Muslims, women, children and many others.

Perhaps it means that we stand up and take the initiative as active bystanders who defend another being bullied, accosted or attacked. Perhaps it means that we learn to invite mindfulness and dialogue when conflict arises rather than countering or lobbing hurtful words or actions toward an aggressor.

For the past three years, the Sisters of the Presentation have engaged with their Presentation associates in deep reflection on the living of their shared mission of evangelization, justice and peace based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ *in the spirit of radical hospitality*. Recognizing that issues like racism, migration, climate change, violence and many more, are interrelated global crises affecting everyone, they are committed to living out the mission of the four community promises through the *lens of radical hospitality*. Forming "promise groups" of sisters and associates, each group has determined specific goals, strategies and initiatives to live those promises.

Consider here two of the four promises:

- To live radical hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication and education.
- To practice non-violence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systemically.

Radical Hospitality Promise Group

Early in the process, the Radical Hospitality Promise Group took up the challenge to study and reflect in order to learn about personal attitudes of racism that block radical hospitality. They heard how white people perpetuate attitudes of bias and racism toward people of color; and how racism and white supremacy in the Americas for 500 years is systemic. They desired to begin action to promote awareness of their racism beyond the promise group and, thus, invited small groups of individuals to reflect on, share and choose to be anti-racist.

With a definite focus on racism and anti-racism, several promise group members participated in a weekend anti-racist training bringing more learning and questions to the rest of the group:

- What are my *hidden biases*?
- What is *White Privilege* and how do I experience my own *White Privilege*?

Being introduced to the cultures of others, hearing the stories of persons of color, listening to them share personal experiences of racism can enrich one's learning and motivate one to help in the healing. Monthly "Let's Talk about Racism" online sessions with sisters and associates reflect on practical ideas and suggestions to transform attitudes about race and how to be more anti-racist. To learn about efforts at being anti-racist and other opportunities, contact the Presentation Sisters Justice Office at justice@dbqpbvms.org.

Non-violence Promise Group

Having read, discussed and promoted *The Nonviolent Life* by peace activist John Dear, the Non-violence Promise Group gained a better understanding about being non-violent toward ourselves; being non-violent to all others (including creation and creatures); and joining the global grassroots movement of non-violence. They share resources with the larger community and present their learnings online to amplify awareness of how to promote non-violence.

During 2019, the Non-violence Promise Group planned a violence prevention workshop for the larger community. In April 2021, they welcomed online more than 60 participants who openly shared throughout the day during a “Courageous Conversations” violence prevention strategies workshop by well-known presenter Dr. Alan Heisterkamp from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Using research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Dr. Heisterkamp shared how children are adversely affected by racism, community violence, family situations and natural disasters. He demonstrated how these forces affect children even into adulthood and that knowing these effects can lead to helpful policies for healthy social structures and organizations. He also offered techniques for learning about and responding non-violently to a person’s behavior in an effort to avoid negative effects:

- Don’t ask, “What is wrong with you?”
- Instead, ask, “Has something happened to upset you?”

To be an *active bystander* – one who witnesses – is to meet the challenges of injustices: to notice the event, to interpret it as a problem, to feel responsible for dealing with it, to possess necessary skills and to act with safety to assist. One has options in being an active bystander when recognizing a racist situation:

- Direct: respond with words to both aggressor and victim
- Indirect/distortion: shift the focus, use humor, tell story, current events
- Protocol: report to or inform person in charge, authority figure, supervisor
- After the fact/next day: when things calm down, check in to let the person know you care
- With an ally or friend: recognize another peer’s disapproval, act together

Each person expresses leadership in unique ways, working to be courageous together. To be an active bystander, one must also recognize that even small actions can be important.

Eleanor Roosevelt stated at the United Nations on March 27, 1958, “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” Racism and violence violate fundamental human rights. Presentation Sisters and associates take seriously the duty to seek justice and compassion for the good of all.

For Reflection:

- Do we sometimes lack the will to be an anti-racist and a non-violent person?
- What does it look like to step out in boldness to be anti-racist and non-violent?

TAKE THE TEST

"I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group."

Peggy McIntosh

What are my *hidden biases*? What is *White Privilege* and how do I experience my own *White Privilege*? Below are some questions that help identify some of the daily effects of white privilege in one’s life.

- I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.
- I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
- I have no difficulty finding neighborhoods where people approve of our household.
- I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children’s magazines featuring people of my race.
- I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having my co-workers on the job suspect that I got it because of my race.
- I can choose blemish cover or bandages in “flesh” color and have them more or less match my skin.
- I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a cultural outsider.
- If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven’t been singled out because of my race.
- I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the “person in charge,” I will be facing a person of my race.
- My children are given texts and classes which implicitly support our kind of family unit and do not turn them against my choice of domestic partnership.
- I will feel welcomed and “normal” in the usual walks of public life, institutional and social.

Peggy McIntosh is associate director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. This essay is excerpted from Working Paper 189. “White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women’s Studies” (1988), by Peggy McIntosh.

Exceptional Individuals Honored Through Scholarships & Awards

by JANE BUSE-MILLER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Many years ago, the Sisters of the Presentation instituted a number of scholarships and awards to further the educational bequest of the congregation's foundress, Nano Nagle. In the spirit of her desire to serve, the sisters are delighted to honor the following admirable recipients.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In celebration of Mother Vincent Hennessy and the Dubuque Presentation foundation, the Sisters of the Presentation offer a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating senior from Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, which the congregation has actively supported since its inception.



Evelyn (Evie) Ward

This year's recipient is **Evelyn (Evie) Ward**. Evie's steadfast service to her school, her parish and the wider Dubuque community makes her deserving of this scholarship.

Rooted in faith, Evie has a deep willingness to be of service to others. Within her home parish of Resurrection, she participates in Mass as a reader, cantor, altar server, Eucharistic minister and children's liturgy assistant; and volunteers at the parish festival, mobile food pantry and Vacation Bible School, among other services.

Deacon Jim Schmidt shares, "Evie is, from what I have witnessed, an outstanding young lady who is willing to give of herself in many ways. She has learned her faith but more importantly is living it. Her path of life, I'm sure, will be filled with helping serve the needs of others whenever she can."

Ellen Patch, Wahlert Catholic teacher and pastoral associate at Resurrection, adds, "I have known Evie since she was a very young girl. I have always admired her ability to adapt and persevere as she finds ways to accomplish her goals. Evie always gives 110% with a smile on her face and a compliment to offer. She is an excellent example of living a life of faith and service."

"My parents have always taught me and my five siblings to be of service to people," states Evie. "Going to school at Resurrection, I was taught by Presentation Sisters Benjamin Duschner and Donna Demmer. Their example of giving and service has inspired me to major in religious studies at Loras

College in the fall. My future profession in campus ministry compliments the Presentation mission of teaching and guiding young people. The sisters can count on me to be the type of student to make them proud."

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among Iowa high schools where Presentation Sisters have ministered. The \$1,500 scholarship, awarded to a student who models self-giving service helping to improve the lives of others, intends to aid graduates in the continuation of their education.



Hallie Ehn

This year's scholarship is awarded to **Hallie Ehn**, a student at St. Edmond High School in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Her tireless involvement in her parish, school and community serves as an outstanding example for people of all ages.

"Whether performing in community theater productions, singing with a community choir, serving as a cantor at church or organizing fellow students to help those in need, Hallie is a natural leader who strives to better those around her," shares Bruce Perry, Hallie's vocal instructor. "Witnessing the transformation from a rather shy and retiring fifth grader into a community leader, who is always quick to advocate for the betterment of all of those she knows, has been amazing."

Sarah Cosgrove, from the St. Edmond School English department, testifies to Hallie's leadership among her peers. "I have observed Hallie in several roles over the past years and have always been impressed with her sense of integrity as both a student and person. What is even more impressive is her genuine concern and care for others, which she displays on a daily basis. She uses her endless enthusiasm to build people up and brighten their days. She is a hard worker who loves life and improves the lives of those around her."

"Service has given me the opportunity to expand my horizons, meet new people and help those that need it the most. I have learned to never take anything for granted," expresses Hallie. In the fall, Hallie plans to attend the University of Iowa and study pre-pharmacy with assured admission to the pharmacy program. She also plans to audition for the Newman Singers at the Catholic church in Iowa City.

Presentation Lantern Center 2020 Service Awards

by SARA MILLHOUSE, PRESENTATION LANTERN CENTER

This March via Zoom, the Presentation Lantern Center celebrated its volunteers (the “heart of our organization,” in the words of the center’s foundress Sister Corine Murray), with a virtual appreciation event. Staff worked hard to create the same welcoming and uplifting atmosphere that exemplifies the Lantern Center mission. Attendees also took a moment of silence to reflect on those lost in the past year including steadfast and inspiring volunteers.

Two outstanding volunteers earned the Lantern award representing the lantern carried by Presentation foundress Nano Nagle when she brought the light of education to her fellow Irishmen. These volunteers have shown exceptional dedication to its mission of hospitality, advocacy and education for adult immigrants.

Eileen Meslar has been a tutor with the Presentation Lantern Center since 2018. She eagerly signed up to volunteer shortly after moving to Dubuque and always brought an upbeat, bright presence to the center. Patient, flexible and responsible, Eileen has tutored immigrants in English and citizenship from at least seven different countries. “She always has come in with a smile on her face and was happy to fill in and be a substitute tutor, going the extra mile at a moment’s notice,” says Megan Ruiz, executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center.



Eileen Meslar

The staff, students and tutors at the center cheered Eileen on as she played on Team USA in the ball hockey world championships in Slovakia. She even brought back a souvenir jersey for one student’s son.

Through tumultuous pandemic times, she has remained steadfast in her commitment to serving her neighbors and lending a hand where needed. She has helped deliver food and supplies to immigrant families in need of assistance; delivered care packages of books, clothing, stuffed animals

and toys to families in Dubuque and surrounding areas and continued to tutor remotely over Zoom even as her career as a photojournalist has taken her back to the Chicagoland area.

Sister Susan Ivis, OSF, has been a volunteer with the Lantern Center for approximately a decade. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the center including a master’s degree in nursing as well as her experience as a nurse.



Sister Susan Ivis, OSF

When Sister Susan first started at the center, she tutored a handful of students studying for their citizenship tests including a longtime owner of the much-loved Mexican restaurant, Los Aztecas, in Dubuque. She tutored husband and wife co-owners, as well as their daughter, who went on to successfully complete medical school training.

Sister Susan goes above and beyond when tutoring and takes radical hospitality to a new level by regularly inviting students for tutoring sessions at the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse in Dubuque. In the last two years, she has been able to use her nursing expertise to help a student who is pursuing his LPN degree. She cares deeply about the well-being of all her students who have become not just learning partners but friends. She says she has learned as much or more from them as they have from her.

“Thank you so much, Sister Susan Ivis, for your many years of dedicated service to immigrant friends and neighbors in our community and for your friendship,” states Megan.

These awards demonstrate the light these volunteers offer others through their hard work, presence and hospitality to immigrants, which is the core of the center’s mission. Tutors journey with their students and share life skills with them for a new culture. The Lantern Center team is grateful to be blessed with extraordinary volunteers.

Commitment to Service

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

Pete and Jeannie Kalb's story dates back to high school. They grew up as friends at Sacred Heart School in Oelwein, Iowa, where they both graduated. Then their life-long commitment began in marriage 58 years ago.

Today, Pete and Jeannie live on the family farm in Stanley, Iowa, located a few miles outside of Oelwein. "We have been blessed with five children; Bob, Mary, Larry, Beth and John, who all attended Sacred Heart. When our youngest started school, I began volunteering. I soon became a financial officer and served at that capacity for 15 years," explains Jeannie.

Pete and Jeannie describe their experiences with the Sisters of the Presentation. "We first became acquainted with Presentation Sisters when our grandchildren attended Sacred Heart. In 1996, Sister Benjamin Duschner became principal. We truly loved her from the start. She did a terrific job as the principal. Later, we were blessed to meet Sister Marilou Irons and Sister Diana Blong. We met Sister Diana at Chautauqua Nursing Home in Charles City where my sister resided. We appreciated her love and compassion. She checked in on my sister often. It was sweet of her. We give thanks to Sister Diana for driving over to Oelwein for my sister's funeral when she died. The sisters are truly blessings and we are fortunate to have them in our lives."

Jeannie reminds us that being present at a time of need is a perfect example of the common good. Pete and Jeannie have given service to their community for close to 60 years. "Pete, too, is dedicated to service outside of making charitable contributions. To date, Pete has more than 50 years as a member of the Knights of Columbus. We both feel it is important to give back."

Following retirement, the couples' support continues. "Common good is what makes the world better for all of us," states Jeannie. "To us, this means if we are blessed we have a duty to share those blessings and try to make life better for others. Sometimes we get so caught up in this crazy world we forget this is what God has commanded us all to do."

"After retiring, I continued my service at a different capacity. I volunteered at Sacred Heart School where our grandchildren were then students. Today we have 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. I am grateful for my time at Sacred Heart, as I volunteered until COVID-19 hit. Sadly, the school has closed," says Jeannie sorrowfully. "As for Pete, he has farmed all his life and is still farming with our boys, Bob and John. We are so fortunate to have them farm with us."



Jeannie and Pete Kalb, partners in mission from Stanley, Iowa.

As a tribute to the mission and ministries of the sisters, Pete and Jeannie show their appreciation through prayer and as partners in mission. "We see the work being done and make charitable contributions as our way to help others. Pete and I have been so blessed and feel it's our way of thanking God and making someone else's life better. The sisters do a good job at keeping us updated on what they are doing by hearing from our Presentation Sister friends. We always enjoy reading about the sisters and seeing pictures in the *Presentation Doorways*. We are happy to support the Presentation Sisters as our way of saying "thank you" and hoping to help in our small way for the sisters to continue the wonderful work they do. I challenge all to think about how you contribute to the common good."

For more information, contact:

Presentation Partners in Mission Office
563.588.2008 ext. 109
partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org

Gifting Options

Your partnership is vital to our ministry. Because of the ongoing support of our partners, we have been able to help many people who would not have received assistance otherwise. We simply could not do the work that we do without your partnership and prayers.

Charitable gifts can be made by cash, check, credit card (one time or recurring monthly, quarterly and biannually), as an in-kind gift, stock distribution and by means of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

You can also contribute securities or property directly to the Sisters of the Presentation and receive a deduction based on the current market value on the date of the gift. Doing so offers a twofold tax savings: not paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock and receiving an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

If you would like to make a gift to the Sisters of the Presentation, but need guidance on how to make the gift, contact Karen Tuecke, partners in mission coordinator, at 563.588.2008 or partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org.

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For additional help, contact Karen Tuecke at partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org

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, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL, GUTTENBURG, IA

"Every child is a gift, every child is gifted." Gifts come in many forms, and the giftedness of each child is different. For Sister Suzanne Gallagher, building on the gifts of each child was essential to his/her total development. During her tenure as principal at St. Mary, Immaculate Conception School in Guttenberg, Iowa, Sister Suzanne set about providing for the development of all aspects of the educational program.

Finding grants, managing fundraisers and putting her own talents to work, she ensured that students had opportunities for development in the arts, science, music, physical development and spiritual arenas. She was also known by the residents of the local nursing home for her compassionate visits to them.

Credited with major fundraising work toward the refurbishing of an auditorium, along with equipping a playground for the use of children, Sister Suzanne saw the fruition of her labors in the naming of Gallagher Auditorium and Gallagher Park and Field.

At the St. Mary Alumni Banquet on June 7, 2014, Beth Sadewasser remarked, "...God sees our needs and answers our prayers through the service of other people. In 1995, God answered our prayers with a gift. God gave us Sister Suzanne."



Gallagher Auditorium and Gallagher Park and Field were named in honor and in gratitude of Sister Suzanne Gallagher during a 2014 banquet.

2021 Presentation Associate Scholarship Recipients

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Due to the generous support of the Dubuque Presentation associates, four \$1,000 scholarships and one \$300 scholarship were given to clients of three ministries sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation: La Luz Centro Cultural in Hampton, Iowa; Hotel Hope in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, Iowa. The associate scholarships are intended to assist with education, job training, equipment or fees and expenses associated with the immigration process. Congratulations to the 2021 Presentation Associate Scholarship recipients!

Luis Pedreguera

Luis was born in Veracruz, Mexico, and came to the United States as a teenager. He was only able to attend two years of school in Mexico and did not learn to read or write. He married his wife in 2014, and they have two sons, ages five and one. Luis attended classes at La Luz Centro Cultural to learn English, computer skills and how to play the guitar. Sister Carmen Hernandez met Luis when she was director of La Luz and shares, "Luis is a hard worker and made great efforts to better himself so he could be the best for his family."



Luis Pedreguera

Faith is important to Luis, and he and his wife are involved in the Evangelical Church in Hampton, Iowa. Luis is working with an immigration lawyer to obtain citizenship, but the legal fees are very expensive (over \$5,000), so Luis will use the scholarship to help pay the cost. "My hope is to not have to worry about my family's wellbeing and to help others in any way I can, just as I have been helped," says Luis. "I would like to take my family to Veracruz to visit my parents and siblings, whom I have not seen in over 15 years. I would also like to have a business to help my family prosper in life. Finally, I would like to educate myself further in all areas. I know that living in the land of opportunities, all of the above are more than possible."

Constance A. Williams

Currently living in New Orleans, Constance was born and raised in Harvey, Louisiana, and is the mother of a young son. Being a single parent has been a struggle at times, but

Constance is a hard worker and determined to build a better life for her son. The workers and volunteers at Hotel Hope have helped Constance feel safe, respected and optimistic about the future. In 2017, Constance created a business selling handmade and consciously-crafted products to support her family. She has worked as an early childhood educator, has taken courses at Xavier University and has always had a passion for helping and healing others. Constance plans to use the scholarship money to continue her education to become a certified doula and help women and their families.



Constance Williams

Constance shares, "I am not perfect, but every day I do my best. It has been a long journey for me to get to where I am today, but I am very proud of the person I am and the woman I am becoming. I have so much to give the world, and I am determined to give it my all."

Juan Velasco

Juan is 31 years old, and Mexico is his birth country. He moved to the United States when he was 11 and graduated in 2008 from Perry High School. He attended college for one



Aimee Lenth, associate director of La Luz Centro Cultural, presents Juan Velasco with his scholarship check.

year but had to quit due to lack of finances, so he started working construction. One of Juan's dreams in life was to have a family of his own. In 2012, the dream came true when he married Liliana, and they now have three amazing children: Maxx, age eight; Alia, age five; and Mateo, age three. They like to do outdoor activities as a family.

Juan's biggest dream is becoming a U.S. Citizen, and he is working with an immigration attorney on the application process. Aimee Lenth, associate director of La Luz Centro Cultural, states, "Juan is generous with his time to us, and in 2020 even drove down to Des Moines with a trailer to pick up a major food donation for our agency's food pantry. I am honored to assist him with his citizenship paperwork as he strives to achieve this major step, not only for himself, but also as a role model for his children."

Mohamed Abidi

Mohamed (Mo) is originally from Tunisia, North Africa, and is 34 years old. He came to the United States to be with his wife, whom he has been married to for five years. Mo learned English at the Presentation Lantern Center and is presently studying for his U.S. citizenship. He loves playing soccer, and family is very important to him. Mo works full-time in a factory and has also started a snow removal and lawn care company. Mo shares, "I dream of getting a business degree to help me to expand my business." Those at the Lantern Center know Mo to be a very kindhearted, responsible, hardworking man.



Mohamed Abidi

Looking to the future, Executive Director Megan Ruiz states, "I think if Mo can grow his business, it will be great for the community, too, as he already has two part-time employees, and plans to hire more if business improves and he can afford more equipment for his landscaping and snow removal."

Diego Mejia Moreno

Diego is a junior at Wahlert High School and his favorite subject is math. He is the son of Julia Moreno and Ramiro Mejia and plays football, wrestles and runs track. He enjoys being outdoors and has maintained a 4.4 GPA throughout high school. Diego attended tutoring sessions with his mother for many years at the Presentation Lantern Center where he learned to speak English. Diego reflects, "My greatest aspiration is to make my parents proud and for them to see that all of their sacrifices have been worth it. I hope to go to college to be an architect or structural engineer, and then be able to give back to my community and all of those who have helped me."



Diego Mejia Moreno

With Gratitude

After almost 5 years of service as co-director of the Presentation Associate Partnership, Cindy Pfiffner has stepped down. Grounded in prayer, rooted in the Gospel and inspired by Nano Nagle, Cindy enthusiastically led from her heart. Cindy's skills in teaching and faith formation were an asset to her in developing materials and initiating new associates. Her commitment to service was evident as she planned for service opportunities for associates and sisters. COVID-19 made this difficult in the last years. Seeking to help associates live out their call and deepen their commitment, Cindy implemented the creation of the Associate Identity Statement which gives direction for associates in this time of change. We are grateful for her gift of embracing the call to leadership in further developing the Associate Partnership as it continues to evolve and transform.



Cindy Pfiffner

Sister Joan Brincks, co-director with Cindy, expresses her gratitude, "I deeply appreciate Cindy's sense of seeing the big picture of the associate movement. She could engage in the reality of the present and have vision for the future. With her gifts of listening, synthesizing and articulating, Cindy creatively moved the process forward. Her gifts of presence, support, guidance and wisdom will be missed."

Associate Janet Leonard gratefully shares, "Thank you, Cindy, for your leadership as co-director. Your organizational skills, passion for Presentation mission and charisma, and dedication to the Presentation family has made working with you on the Associate Advisory Committee a joy and a blessing. You leave huge footprints for someone to follow in your role!"

May God bless you, Cindy, with peace and joy as you journey into retirement.

For more information, contact:

Associate Partnership Office
563.588.2008 ext. 608
associates@dbqpbvms.org

Reflections on the Journey

Sister Agnes Marie Lynch

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

“I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the prayer that I raise.” Sister Agnes Marie Lynch prays this psalm from memory with a sturdy and trustful voice. When one approaches her chair to let her know who is present (because of her loss of eyesight), it is easy to see her as the quintessential wounded healer who warmly welcomes the friend or stranger.

Sister Agnes Marie, daughter of Raymond Lynch and Agnes O’Halloran, was born in Lawler, Iowa, and given the name Dolores Jean. Her father died before she reached the age of two leaving her with five siblings. Her mother, a nurse, moved with her young family to New Hampton, Iowa, where within walking distance of the local hospital she could practice her profession. Dolores Jean and her siblings attended grade and high school there.

Dolores Jean entered the Sisters of the Presentation with eight other young women after graduating from high school. Her cousin, Sister Alberta Lynch, was already a professed member of the congregation. Sister Agnes Marie chose food service as her ministry, especially needed at the time when several sisters were reaching retirement age. She also had vision in only one eye from the age of four, which made rigorous study difficult.

Because I know what it is like to experience and live with diminishment, I have grown in openness of mind and heart ... and feel deep compassion that moves me to reach out to those in need.

Sister Agnes Marie Lynch

After 25 years in her first ministry, Sister Agnes Marie transformed her service into pastoral ministry and elder care. She remembers that while she was working in pastoral ministry she wanted to be “a living reminder of Jesus, going among the people like Nano Nagle – listening to them, supporting, guiding, praying and helping them in their brokenness. Because I know what it is like to experience and live with diminishment, I have grown in openness of mind and heart to accept others as they are and feel deep compassion that moves me to reach out to those in need.”



Experiencing the challenge of low vision since age four, Sister Agnes Marie has learned to read with magnification using a telesensory machine.

Sister Maura McCarthy has a personal remembrance of her mother, Kathryn McCarthy, talking about her visits with Sister Agnes Marie and how they could talk about anything. “Sister is ‘so down-to-earth and so compassionate,’” she would say. Later, Sister Agnes Marie spoke about how Kathryn reminded her of her own mother.

Sister Agnes Marie was asked to be retirement director at Mount Loretto from 1989 to 1996. After this, she volunteered in the Dubuque hospice program, the bereavement program and in the emergency room area of Finley Hospital. She also considered herself privileged to have been able to care for her mother for two years in Stockton, Illinois, before her mother passed away.

In 2005, Sister Agnes Marie attended a one-week Senior Orientation for the Blind in Des Moines, where she participated in classes of Braille, cooking, crafts and instruction on using talking books from both the public library and Xavier Society for the Blind.

One of Sister Agnes Marie’s delightful and life-changing experiences was her participation in an eight-week mini-sabbatical at Manna House of Prayer in Concordia, Kansas in 1996. The program offered by the St. Joseph Sisters featured poetry and art, imagery and dreams, journaling, contemplative prayer and self-care. Sister Agnes Marie stepped more lightly upon her return home having reassessed her “one wild and precious life” and determined to rededicate herself to living that life to the fullest. And hasn’t she succeeded beyond our wildest dreams?

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



LIVE Join Us!
via Zoom,
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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.

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June 9, 2021: Racial Justice	November 10, 2021: Restorative Justice
July 14, 2021: Ending Human Trafficking	December 8, 2021: Affordable Housing
August 11, 2021: Eliminating Gun Violence	January 12, 2022: Education Justice
September 8, 2021: Economic Justice	February 9, 2022: Equitable Access to Healthcare
October 13, 2021: Food Security	March 9, 2022: Navigating the Road Ahead

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CHOOSE PRESENTATION.



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SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA

PLEASE JOIN 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.

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.

July 14, 2021
80th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Linus Coyle

60th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Janet Goetz
Sister St. James Lickteig
Sister Carla Popes
Sister Rosalyn Ulfers

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 jubilee celebrations were postponed until 2021.

July 15-18, 2021
Community Gathering
Dubuque, Iowa

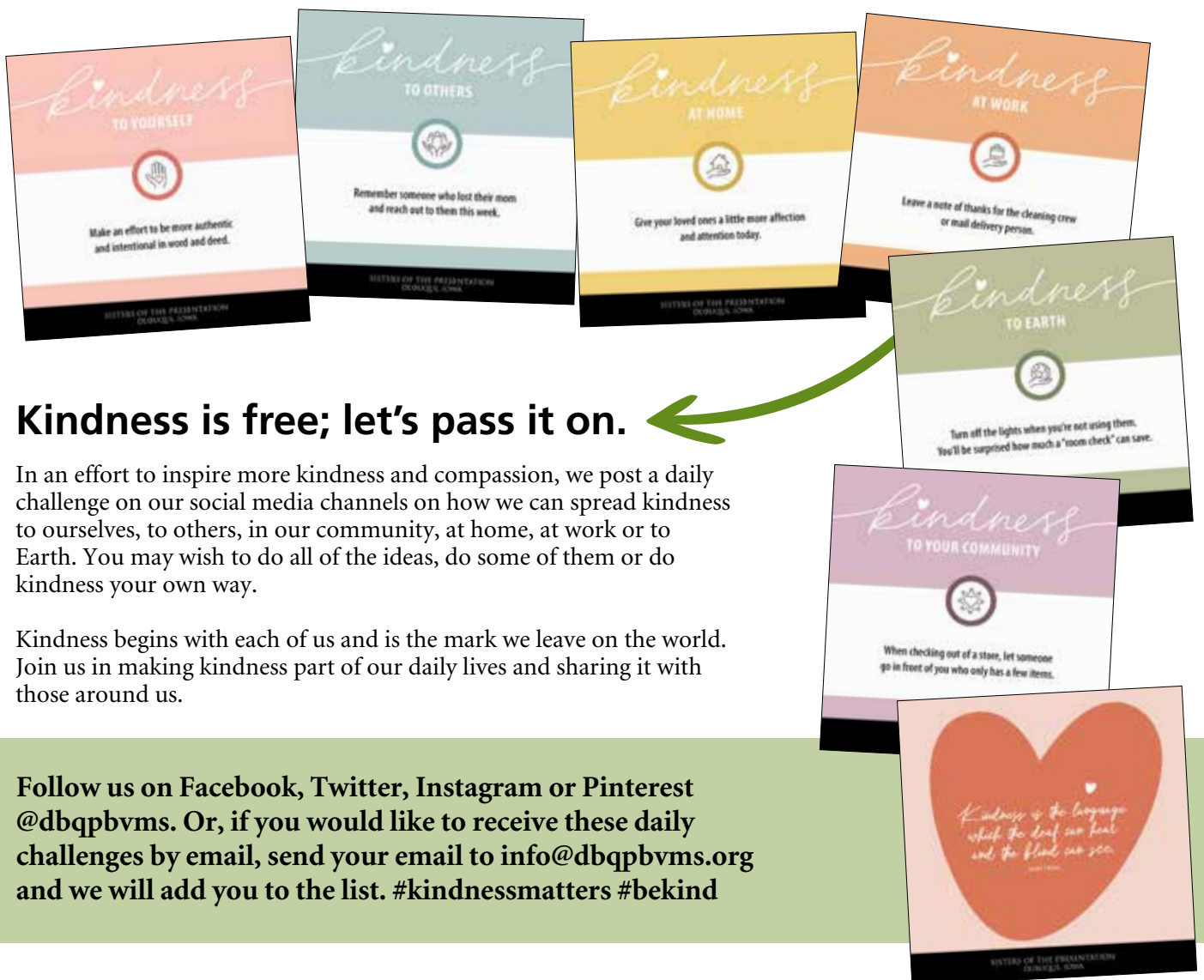
September 23-25, 2021
Gathering of Presentation People
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors

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Kindness is free; let's pass it on.

In an effort to inspire more kindness and compassion, we post a daily challenge on our social media channels on how we can spread kindness to ourselves, to others, in our community, at home, at work or to Earth. You may wish to do all of the ideas, do some of them or do kindness your own way.

Kindness begins with each of us and is the mark we leave on the world. Join us in making kindness part of our daily lives and sharing it with those around us.

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