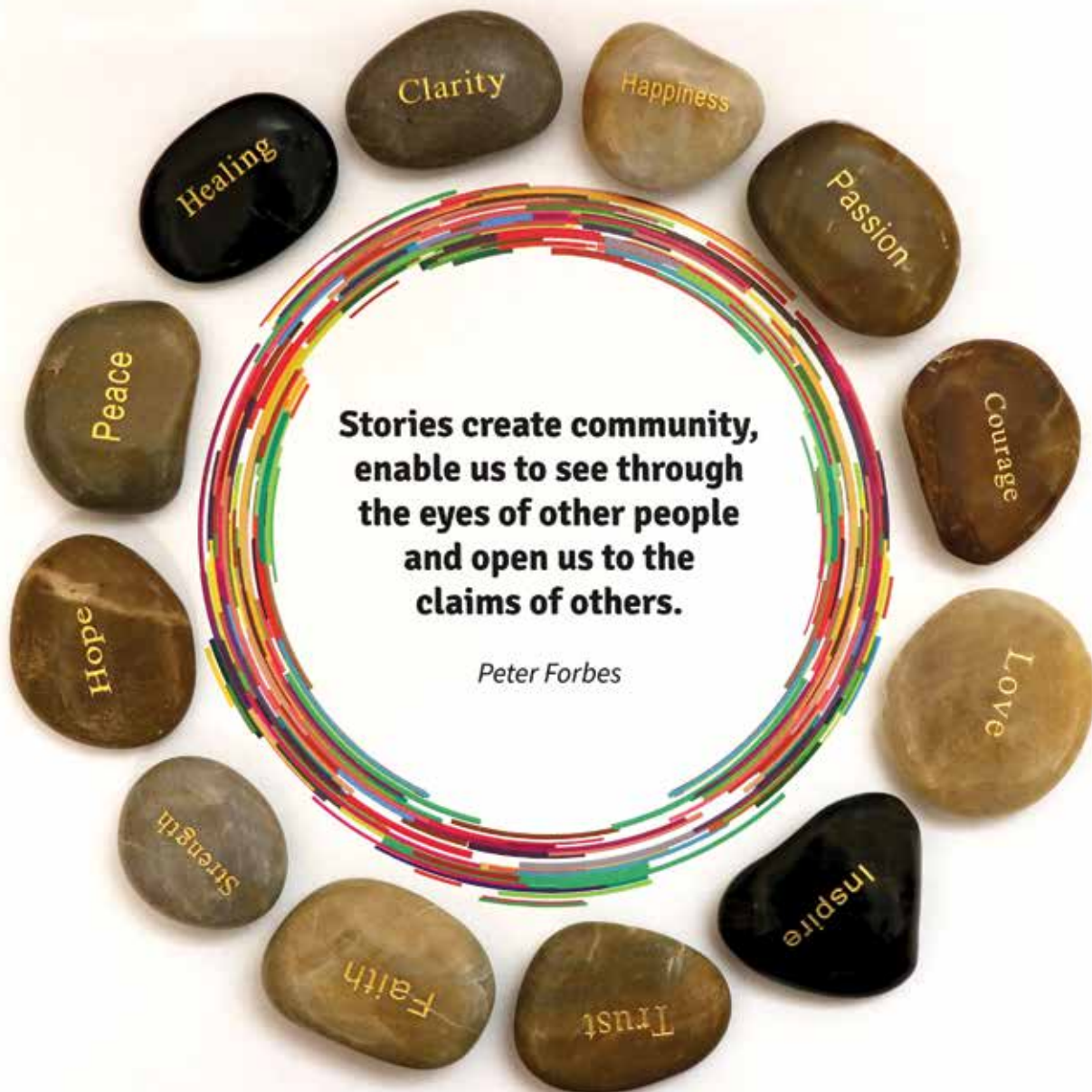




# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



**Stories create community,  
enable us to see through  
the eyes of other people  
and open us to the  
claims of others.**

*Peter Forbes*

# The COMMITTEE

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

## DOORWAYS COMMITTEE

Jane Buse-Miller, director of communications;  
Sister Carmen Hernandez; Sister Elena Hoye;  
Sister Joy Peterson; Cindy Pfiffner, associate  
co-director; Karen Tuecke, partners in mission  
coordinator

## The PURPOSE

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

## Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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

## Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of 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

Sisters of the Presentation | Fall 2021 | Volume 65 • Number 3

## A Look Inside CONTENTS

### 4 Celebrating a Season of Creation

*The Season of Creation invites us to re-awaken and transform the way we choose to live, relate and engage with creation.*

### 6 Recognizing the Hungers of All for Safety

*Early in 2021, the suffering of thousands of migrants at the southern U.S. border resulted in a request from Catholic Charities to communities of women religious to help support efforts to address the horrific situation. In mid-June, Sister Paula Schwendinger travelled to Laredo, Texas, to offer her gifts of fluency in Spanish and a love for immigrants. She shares some of her stories.*



### 8 Telling, Honoring, Embracing, Celebrating Our Story: 2021 Community Gathering

*Presentation Sisters and associates from all over the United States and as far as Bolivia gather in person after almost two years of being apart for their 2021 Community Days.*

### 10 Leaving Our Footprints

*In this issue, we highlight St. Dorothy School and Parish and the many sisters who ministered there. Sister Lou Cota, who recently retired, was the last Presentation Sister at St. Dorothy to serve, leaving a lasting impact.*



### 12 Better Together

*Presentation associates gathered with sisters to share in a meaningful and energizing Community Days gathering. All present renewed their promise to live radical hospitality in all relationships and to make room at the table for everyone.*

### 14 Building Awareness to End Human Trafficking

*The Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery sponsored a bus wrap in an effort to build awareness in ending human trafficking. The bus wrap will traverse Dubuque, Iowa, streets for the next year.*

### 17 Keeping Her Name Alive

*We remember Sister Mary Jo Leifker.*

### 18 Mount Loretto & Beyond

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

## Cover PHOTO

*Inspirational stones were placed on the tables during Community Days as sisters and associates recalled the stories and lessons of their lives over the past year. Used as talking pieces in small groups, the stones were passed around the table, allowing each person to embrace the stone in reflection and share their sacred story as table members compassionately listened.*



# Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by CARMEN HERNANDEZ, PBVM

Recently, we observed Labor Day, a federal holiday signed into law in June of 1894 by President Grover Cleveland. It is appropriate and important that the nation pays tribute to the creators of so much of the nation's resilience, freedom, and leadership: the American workers. This annual celebration was initiated to celebrate and recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. This day also serves as a reminder of the immense sacrifices and endless struggles people endured as they sought for just, unbiased, safe and reasonable treatment in their workplaces. Many are still struggling for these rights today. Work, as we are often reminded, is not just about earning a living; it is about the dignity of the worker, who at the same time contributes to the well-being of all other world citizens.

Pope Francis urges, "Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us."

If one has studied the themes of Pope John Paul II, one will find the common good and solidarity emphasized consistently when he speaks about labor. He encourages all, "to use their power not only for their own self-interest but also for the good of the whole society, especially those who are weakest and who are left out." Indeed, as he has said, "support of those who are weakest will be proof of the authenticity of your solidarity."

As we go about gaining our livelihoods, we can strive to use our greatest talents to transform the resources of the earth in favor of the needs and the happiness of the human community. On a personal level, as we realize and express our personhoods through our work, we also contribute to the common good. Or, as Mark Twain so humorously expressed it, "Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

The Presentation mission seeks to focus on livelihood, spiritual wholeness and the principles of social justice. Presentation Sisters and associates continually aim to make the world healthier for future generations; to advocate strongly for racial equality, fairness in housing and income; and to bring about the common good for all.

As you read this issue of *Presentation Doorways*, may we be ever mindful of the continuing struggle of those who seek fair, safe and equitable treatment, not only in their workplaces but also in their daily lives. May each of us do what we can to restore the dignity of work and to uplift and strengthen the voice and power of all. Together we can make a difference.

*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



# Celebrating a Season of Creation

by ANN JACKSON, PBVM

Crises we experience today – spiritual, ecological, political, global ... signify that we have lost consciousness (and perhaps conscience) regarding the sacred at the heart of all life. The *Season of Creation* invites us to re-awaken and transform the way we choose to live, relate and engage with creation.

The celebration was birthed in 1989 when the Eastern Orthodox Church recognized a Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1). Other Christian European churches, the World Council of Churches, the Ecumenical Assembly and Philippine Catholic Bishops embraced the effort. Pope Francis, too, signed on in 2015 launching *Laudato Si'*. In fact, the *Season of Creation*, between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, is now recognized as a liturgical season, when all Christians unite annually in worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

This year's theme "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos (home) of God" calls us as beloved community to reshape spiritual, political, social, economic systems to manifest just, sustainable economies of life, respecting the life-giving ecological limits of Earth.

## ***New Learning - Story Within Story***

Our story of creation has evolved with both scripture and science shaping and reshaping our understanding of ourselves, the world and our place within it. Cultural historian, world religion scholar and geologist Thomas Berry, CP, writes, "It's all a question of story. We are in trouble ... We are between stories. The Old Story – the [scriptural] account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it – is not functioning properly, and we have not learned the New Story." The loss of connection and orientation to and

with the natural world creates conditions that disintegrate our communal, global story. The greatest need of our times is to bring about healing of Earth through a deeper quality of human presence as and within the Earth community.

The *new universe story* builds on biblical/scriptural understandings about our identity as created by God. Through science and lived experience, we now understand that we are made from the same stuff of Earth. This new learning, coupled with foundational truths, provides us opportunity to see all of life with new eyes and to ascribe new meaning to our role. The work of science has not diminished the biblical truth of our origins but enhanced it. A new story is evolving!

### ***The Derecho Story and Learning***

August 10, 2020. Like most days, I was working at Prairiewoods Eco-spirituality Center in Hiawatha, Iowa, when a powerful derecho swept across the Midwest. Its widespread straight-line winds of 80-100 mph gusted consistently to 140 mph and hit us at 12:30 p.m., decimating all in its path: strewing debris, powerlines, vehicles, trees, roofs, crops ... EVERYwhere for a solid hour.

In its aftermath lay destruction and devastation. No power. Not for days. Not for weeks for over 200,000 people. Shortages of food, gas, ice, coolers, generators and other vital supplies followed. No birdsong. Few animal sightings. Travel was restricted by fallen trees, power lines and mangled light posts. Communication was next to impossible. It took days after the storm for the immensity of the crisis to be communicated and even discovered.

At Prairiewoods, stunned by the decimation and pervasive sense of loss, we walked the land to assess damage. We checked on neighbors. The derecho left whole populations of people homeless. Roofs caved to the weight of fallen trees or blasted off buildings due to wind gusts. Three neighborhood children stumbled toward us, inquiring, "Is she there? Is she okay?" They leapt over brush and limbs to see if their favorite tree – Grandmother Oak – survived. We told them we hadn't gotten to her yet, but when they did, they should yell to let us know. One half-hour later, we faintly heard their enthusiasm echo our way, "She's okay! She's still here!" A glimmer of light; hospitality of heart.

Well after dark, chainsaws hummed by flashlight. At 10:30 p.m. we realized we had lost our sense of direction due to all the fallen landmarks until, disoriented, we noticed the reflection benches weren't touched by a single limb! Simple signs of hospitality throughout the woods. Another glimmer of light. Sister Nancy Hoffman, FSPA, remembered and shared the wisdom of an ancient story in the Native American tradition: "One day the needs of the world will be so great that all the trees will split open offering their wisdom to meet the needs." Hospitality at its core. A glimmer of light and bolt of meaning resounded. We shared that story with every staff member, every volunteer who came to help.

Hospitality shed light in response to the derecho. One might say, we celebrated the *Season of Creation* early. A new story was emerging.

Church parking lots became public organization hubs. A local non-profit, Matthew 25, partnered with several agencies to co-create PATCH (Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners) to address structural damage to homes and land before winter.

Trees Forever launched a multi-million dollar effort, "Planting Hope: Hope for Today, Trees for Tomorrow" to restore the tree canopy. "ReLeaf" Cedar Rapids led creation of a visionary 10-year "green print" to regrow the canopy after losing some 669,000 trees.

Catherine McAuley Center, Together We March Forward, the Refugee and Immigrant Association, non-profits and churches diligently collaborated to assist in resettling almost 1,200 refugees from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Guatemala, Rwanda, Mexico, Tanzania ... displaced when their closely-clustered apartment buildings were demolished.

People met their neighbors (some for the first time). EVERYONE helped EVERYONE and all of creation – animals, plants, trees. An area-wide, online ritual of hospitality helped to grieve loss of trees, learn more about what trees have to teach us and celebrate new plantings.

Response to this challenge was a *Season of Creation*. Derecho damage covered 90,000 square miles, home to over 20 million people across the Midwest, causing \$13 billion in damage. And this, just one of numerous, worldwide, natural disasters Earth suffers: fire; hurricanes; tornadoes; oil spills; air, water, and light pollution ...

Globally, we can foster the ecological conversion that Pope Francis calls for: "We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged and at the same time protecting nature."

### ***For Reflection:***

- How might you participate in the *new story* that is shaping the future of this planet?
- What calls for radical hospitality in your local area?

See possibilities for engagement at:  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

# Recognizing the Hungers of All for Safety

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

Poet Warsan Shire, a Kenya-born Somali woman, now British citizen, writes, “No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark. You only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well, your neighbors running faster than you. No one leaves home unless home chases you, fire under feet, hot blood in your belly ... it’s not something you ever thought of doing until the blade burnt threats into your neck ... You have to understand that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land, no one burns their palms under trains beneath carriages, no one spends days and nights in the stomach of a truck, feeding on newspaper, unless the miles traveled mean something more than journey. No one crawls under fences, no one wants to be beaten, pitied ...”

Early in 2021, the suffering of thousands of migrants at the southern U.S. border resulted in a request from Catholic Charities to communities of women religious to help support efforts to address the horrific situation. As thousands of unaccompanied children crossed the border there was a special need for volunteers who speak Spanish. Many border centers, including Catholic Charities in Laredo, Texas, offered to host sisters and associates able to provide service by meeting immigrants who had been freed

from U.S. Immigration and were on their way to sponsoring relatives and friends. After suffering from the insecurities of leaving all they have known behind, finding hospitality and warmth in the Catholic Charities Respite Center was an opportunity to regain a sense of their own dignity.

In mid-June, Sister Paula Schwendinger travelled to Laredo to offer her gifts of fluency in Spanish and a love for immigrants. Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation and generous donations from supporters, Sister Paula met families who had made their way to the border through South and Central America. While she was in Texas, each day she posted some of the stories she heard from families at the center. Some of them are offered here.



**Day 1:** Yesterday I spent several hours talking to the migrant families as they were released from detention. Immigration officers escort them to be sure they are not robbed or taken for ransom while they wait for the Catholic Charities bus to take them to the Respite Center. Before they arrive at the bus, they have been tested for COVID-19 and if they test positive, they are taken to another center to quarantine.

I met one family from Central Mexico who owned a food store. One day the drug cartel arrived demanding an exorbitant amount of money or they would take their children, ages 10, six and five. The family immediately got on a bus with just the clothes on their back and rode 12 hours to the border town of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, seeking asylum. After being in detention for four months, they were freed. They had a sponsor in Los Angeles, but had to wait for money to be wired for bus tickets. When I left them yesterday, the father and son were going to the bus station with someone from Catholic Charities to purchase the tickets. I may not see them again but I assured them of prayers for their journey.

**Day 7:** Gisela, 55, is Cuban. She was an accountant and her husband was an ironworker. They left Cuba because they had spoken out against the government, putting their lives at risk. They travelled by plane, bus and on foot for two months and 10 days to get to the border. You may wish to find a map to trace their journey: Cuba - Guyana - Brazil - Perú - Ecuador - Colombia - Panamá - Costa Rica - Nicaragua - Honduras - Guatemala - México.



*Sister Paula Schwendinger works with other volunteers in preparing packages of diapers for travelling migrants.*

After the long journey together, the couple was separated at the border. Gisela spent four days in detention and was released. Her husband had been released a day earlier and was waiting for her with cousins in San Antonio (two-hour bus ride). They then will fly to Miami, where they have two sons, ages 32 and 30, who also arrived as migrants and are awaiting their court date. Gisela was very traumatized by the whole experience, and I was grateful that I could be a listening, peaceful presence in the midst of the chaos.

**Day 10:** Today, I spent time with a young couple from the Congo. It was difficult communicating since the wife spoke no Spanish and the husband interspersed Spanish with Portuguese. The husband left the Congo 11 years ago in search of work in Brazil. The language he spoke in the Congo was French and he learned Portuguese in Brazil. His wife joined him in Brazil five years ago. They have darling four-year-old twins who speak only Portuguese, so are unable to communicate with their French-speaking grandparents in the Congo.

The husband worked for a construction company and delivered cement, wood and other materials. The company recently started hiding drugs on his truck. When he realized this, he expressed that he did not want to be involved in anything illegal. They threatened him and even went to his house when he was not there and threatened his wife and children. They knew they had to leave.

They packed up and started their two-month journey through Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. The worst part of the trip was the 66-mile trek through the jungle known as the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama. There were 40 of them traveling together, because it is too dangerous to travel with only one family or small group. The family is going to Maine, where they have relatives waiting for them.

**Day 14:** A young couple from Honduras was traveling with their two-year-old daughter. In Honduras, they sold tortillas and he did mechanical work as well. He was also a catechist and was happy to be teaching children about God.

The gangs threatened him often, but one day they fired a shot as he ran from them and, luckily, the bullet went through his leg. On another day, he was driving his motorbike when a group of gang members stopped him. They surrounded him, pulled out a machete and threatened to cut off his head. He gave them all his money and his phone, and fortunately, they spared his life.

After those experiences, the couple knew they had to leave. They could not make enough to live. If they paid their utility bills, which kept increasing, they could not pay for food. They had other family expenses, including helping with cancer treatments for the wife's mother.

The young family left Honduras in June by bus. They went to the border of Guatemala where they were robbed of their



*Sister Paula Schwendinger cares for the youngest migrant allowing her mother to shower.*

phone and most of their money. They walked and were sometimes given rides in the back of trucks to Mexico. The police in Mexico took the remainder of their money. People on the way generously shared food with them, especially when seeing their little girl.

When they reached the Rio Grande River family members in Oklahoma had to wire money to the smugglers who were transporting them across. Even though these trips only take 10 minutes in an inflatable raft, they need to be made at night so that migrants are not seen.

When Immigration encountered this family, they spent one day in the “freezer” detention center, so-called because it is very cold there, and families are only given Mylar aluminum covers. All other blankets, even for their children, are taken away from them.

The family then spent three more days in another detention place. They will be glad to arrive in Oklahoma after almost three weeks of traveling.



Catholic Social Teaching is grounded in honoring and respecting the dignity of every human person. In his annual message for the 2021 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis chose the title “Towards an Ever Wider ‘We.’” The stories Sister Paula shares invite readers to recognize that the hungers of every family for a safe home and honorable work are universal. The “we” in humanity that Pope Francis speaks to reminds readers to acknowledge “the truth that we are all in the same boat and are called to work together ... to become a single “we,” encompassing all of humanity.”



# *Telling, Honoring, Embracing, Celebrating Our Story*

# 2021 Community Gathering

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

On Wednesday afternoon, July 14, the bursting of song and fresh life resounded in Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto. Presentation Sisters and associates from a dozen states and Bolivia filled the hallowed space to celebrate the 80th jubilee of Sister Linus Coyle and the 60th jubilee of Sisters Janet Goetz, St. James Lickteig, Carla Popes and Rosalyn Ulfers.

Sister Joan Lickteig proclaimed the jubilee recalling the remarkable vocation origins of these women who chose religious life 80 and 60 years ago. Father John Haugen emphasized that the faithful living of the Gospel in Nano Nagle's tradition implied standing on the shoulders of many Presentations who preceded them. After the inspiring liturgy and congratulatory greetings, the entire assembly passed to the dining room for a festive dinner.

Sister Marilyn Breen opened Community Days the next morning with the warm Irish greeting, "One hundred thousand welcomes. We are gathered to remember, tell stories, sing, have fun, converse, hear ideas related to areas of decision and direction in 2022, look to the future, talk with justice promoters, update the promises for direction made in 2017-18 and commission one another to mission."

For the first day together, song and story were intermingled for a retreat-like experience. A special guest was the singer-songwriter, Sara Thomsen, from Duluth, Minnesota. Sara is known in her local press as "one of Northern Minnesota's best kept secrets." Her gentle ways invited those gathered into deeper reflection and participation.

After reading the parable of the mustard seed, sisters and associates at each table participated in the ritual planting of seeds in containers, remembering that Nano Nagle planted figurative seeds in 18th century Cork, Ireland, which flourished around the world, even to the present. Each participant was challenged to address the question: "What has the experience of this last critical year been like for you?"

The participants at the tables shared their experience of living through the COVID-19 shutdown. Following the table sharing, Sara sang a poignant rendition of "Somewhere to Begin," by T.R. Ritchie, "People say to me, 'Oh, you gotta be crazy. How can you sing in times like these? Don't you read the news? Don't you know the score? How can you sing when so many others grieve?' ... By way of a reply, I say, 'A fool such as I who sees a song as somewhere to begin.'"

The morning continued with a sharing of sources of consolation and peace during this time and later reflecting on what this experience continues to ask us by way of response. The sense of taking time to look at self-care and the needs of others emerged from the conversations. Various individuals shared personal and moving reflections that emphasized their vulnerability, helping all recognize the loss, grief and hope of the last year. The gifts of connecting with loved ones and the preciousness of life were evident and appreciated.

"Community Days 2021, for me, was indeed a gift of 'coming home' and celebrating life with our Presentation family of sisters, associates and staff," shares Sister Raeleen Sweeney.





*Community Days provides an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Left to right: Inspirational stones on every table offer words for reflection; Associate Colleen Vlasisavljevich waters seeds planted during a prayer ritual with Sister Marjorie Loughren; Plante Moran staff – Erin George, Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, and Jerry Gumbleton; Singer-songwriter Sara Thomsen shares her presence and soothing voice during a day of song and storytelling; Sisters and associates gather for a festive celebration – Sister Suzanne Gallagher, Sister Irma Ries, Bridget Lahart, Billie Greenwood, Sister Mary Lou Specha, Sister Marilou Irons, Sister Carmen Hernandez and Sister Dolores Zieser; Sisters Marge Healy, Gina Foletta and Julianne Brockcamp spend time visiting with one another.*

“Beginning with song and stories we were gifted with an ongoing, rippling effect of peace and hope for our daily lives. I imagined the light in Nano Nagle’s eyes as we renewed our promise to her missioning spirit of going one pace beyond!”

Sara Thomsen completed the day with her song, “Rhapsody of Rest,” highlighting thanks and gratitude for each part of the day. She invited sisters and associates to join in this song with movement. Sara’s presence and soothing voice inspired everyone and all were grateful for the day’s experience.

Later that afternoon, Sister Rita Menart introduced the members of the Chapter Preparation Committee and reviewed the purpose of Chapter of Affairs and Elections, a meeting of the community that concludes nearly a year and a half process of prayer, reflection, serious listening to God and each other. This meeting happens every five years to determine the focus and direction of the community’s energies, resources and actions and to elect a new leadership team. The members spoke about the responsibility of Chapter and the tasks and challenges to be honored in regard to the congregation’s present realities.

On Friday morning, staff from Plante Moran, a recently employed innovative planning team, met with the sisters. The staff, consisting of Erin George, Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, and Jerry Gumbleton, had previously explored the mission, charism and direction statements of the congregation and accessed the social and material capital of the sisters. Their challenge is to assist the congregation in building a bridge from the past to the future. The emphasis is not on diminishment, but on abundance and new opportunity. All is seen through the lens of radical hospitality.

In the afternoon, the Plante Moran staff met with both associates and sisters. Sisters articulated clearly that the presence of associates heightens and illuminates the

Presentation mission and charism and leverages the mission into the future. Both associates and sisters spoke powerfully of the sense of unity between spirituality and justice. This commitment to justice places special emphasis on women and children, indigenous people and care for creation. This year brought about a greater commitment to racial justice, in regard to Black Americans, refugees and immigrants.

“As helpful as Zoom meetings have been for the past year and a half, we were delighted to be together face-to-face. Great energy,” says Sister Corine Murray. “Together, we looked at the crying needs of the world and what needs doing, as well as considerations for our own future.”

On Saturday, the justice promoters led prayer and recalled the mission statement calling for radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all people. They reviewed the promises that solidify the mission statement. A video clip of Carrie Newcomer’s “Room at the Table,” reminded all present to make room at the table for everyone. Later they provided a simulation workshop challenging members to choose between possible responses when one encounters situations of domestic violence or other scenes of violence.

Promise groups updated the community on their recent activities. The Governance and Communication Promise Group posited the possibility of associates participating in the next General Chapter of Affairs. There was an overwhelming response to include associates in the Chapter of Affairs of 2022 and into the future. The Nonviolence Promise Group spoke of the highlights of the “Courageous Conversations Workshop” and gave helpful suggestions on how to respond to extremely inappropriate remarks. The Radical Hospitality Promise Group reported on the planning stages of partnering with a professional organization to provide anti-racism training for the Presentation community, other religious organizations, nonprofits and civic and educational personnel.



*Left to right: During a commissioning ritual, Sister Linda Reicks, Sister Marge Healy and Associate Carol Witry bless each other's ears; Sister Richelle Friedman shares during small group discussion; Associate Laurie Noel and Sister Dolores Moes offer a smile for a photo op.*

"I have the deepest of trust in the Spirit, and our promise groups' wisdom and learnings guiding us. The reports gave me a sense of calm as we face the unknowns in our lives and embrace what will be," shares Sister Suzanne Gallagher.

Saturday afternoon concluded with a festive gathering in the courtyard and celebratory dinner.

On Sunday morning, the liturgy of the Eucharist featured Sister Julie Marsh as homilist inspiring all to search for God's strength within to meet the challenges of these times. The commissioning at the end of the Mass was a blessing of one another's ears to listen, mouth to speak with hope and love, hands to serve and comfort, and heart to welcome newness and the Eternal source of love.

"Gathering as a community became an organic process," expresses Sister Beth Kress. "The coming together of sisters, and associates distanced for so long, clicked and congealed. Each day and each experience led to the other and produced a beautiful gift of 'one though many.' From the opening of hearts and voices in song and reflection, to deepening our call, to promise groups sharing the fruits of labor, to celebrating with jubilarians and commissioning one another – here emerged a strength and courage to keep on keeping on for the sake of the mission and legacy."

Community Days, July 15-July 18, offered rich insights to Presentation Sisters and associates. Story telling strengthened the communal memory of "who we are and why we are here." Planting seeds called all "to give your breath like a tree, set your soul's deep love free." Time together evoked the ongoing work of justice for Earth and all people, especially for women and children; nonviolence and anti-racism; and to reassess the corporate use of resources and the realities of governance and communication. Parker Palmer offers a reminder that "abundance lies in belonging to a community where we can give those goods to others who need them – and receive them from others when we are in need."

## *Stimulus Funds Address Needs*

A special commission of Presentation Sister volunteers was charged with the decision about how to allocate to the needy the \$150,000 in stimulus funds received by the sisters from the United States Government. The commission decided on five categories: wellness/mental health, housing, immigration, food insecurity, and racial inequity. The following are the destinations for the stimulus funds:

1. \$25,000 to Catholic Social Services of Rapid City, South Dakota, for the Uplifting Parents Program (Program UP) – a program created to empower single parent families by providing resources to support their advancement in education; and the Lakota Circle of Hope – an innovative program to teach Lakota values.
2. \$25,000 to Presentation Partners in Housing – an initiative of the Fargo Sisters of the Presentation that provides permanent housing for homeless, some who are victims of COVID-19. An old United Way building will provide temporary housing for people on the waiting list.
3. \$25,000 to Annunciation House, Casa de Refugiado – used for immigrants coming out of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), especially for food and hygiene.
4. \$25,000 to Mississippi Food Network – a food assistance program for the hungry in Mississippi.
5. \$50,000 to racial inequality efforts of the Radical Hospitality Promise Group – used for anti-racism training for Presentation members, other religious organizations, nonprofits and civic and educational personnel.

# Giving Tuesday

On November 30, millions of people will come together to show their generosity in a variety of ways on #GivingTuesday. #GivingTuesday is a global giving movement built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities around the world. It is an opportunity for people to stand together in unity by helping others, volunteering, advocating and giving to causes they believe in.



In the wake of #GivingTuesday, #iGiveCatholic emerged to garner support for the Catholic community. #iGiveCatholic inspires faithful stewards to “Give Catholic” on #GivingTuesday. #iGiveCatholic’s mission is to unite Catholic communities throughout the country.

People can show their generosity in a variety of ways during #GivingTuesday – whether it’s helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or supporting your favorite cause – every act of generosity counts.

To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org) or follow the steps below to make a donation.

1

VISIT [iGiveCatholic.org](http://iGiveCatholic.org)

2

SEARCH for Sisters of the Presentation,  
Dubuque, IA (PBVM)

3

DONATE \$20 or more

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



Give early! Advanced giving runs  
November 15-29, 2021.

# All Souls' Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2021

Perhaps  
they are not stars, but  
rather openings in heaven  
where the love of our lost ones  
pours through and  
shines down upon us  
to let us know  
they are happy.

ESKIMO PROVERB

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

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

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

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

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Leaving Our Footprints

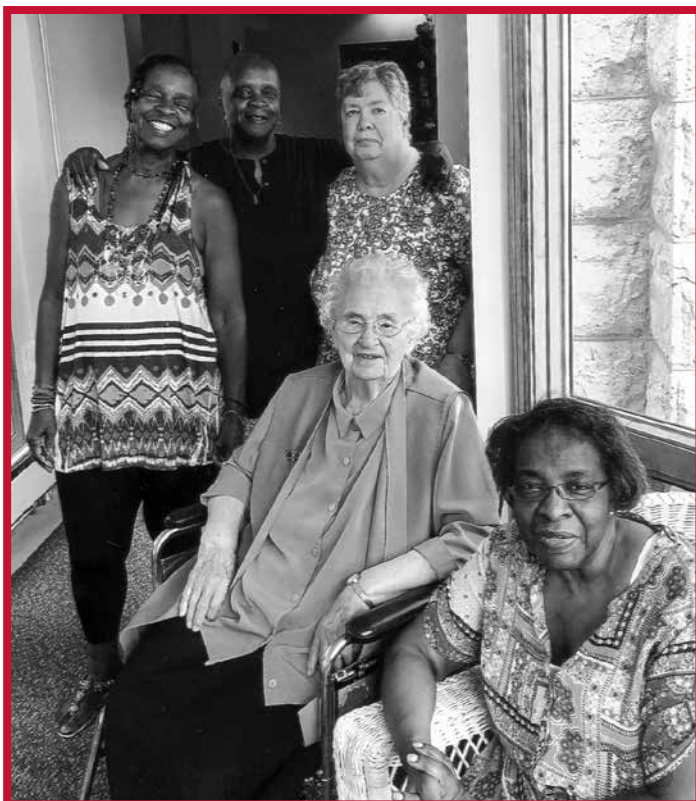
by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

Nano's lantern continues to bring the light of Christ in places where Sisters of the Presentation have ministered, even after they are no longer physically present.

## ST. DOROTHY PARISH AND SCHOOL, CHICAGO, IL

The Presentation journey with the members of St. Dorothy Parish and School in Chicago, Illinois, began with a summer volunteer program called KAIROS. For three summers, Presentation Sisters used this "opportune time" to visit homes and teach summer school as needed by the parish.

By 1979, at the persistence of the pastor, Father Michael Nallen, four sisters were assigned to minister at St. Dorothy School, with principal Sister Karen Pollard, BVM. Sisters Lynn Mary Wagner, Kathryn Long, Sara Ann Reidy and Francesca Presseller experienced unlimited hospitality from school and parish members as they worked to adjust to the restrictions of inner-city life and the pain of racism experienced by members of the Black American community.



Sisters Lynn Mary Wagner (top right) and Francesca Presseller (middle) visit with three sisters from St. Dorothy Parish.

Following her two summers as a KAIROS volunteer, Sister Lynn Mary Wagner and her three companions joined the St. Dorothy faculty. From the beginning, they felt like an integral part of the wider community.

Sister Francesca Presseller, having spent her previous teaching years in the Midwest, talked about her experience of adapting to a new culture in the city. She described the Black students as constantly on the move and eager to learn. The parents were determined to have their children get a solid traditional education along with the moral development that is instilled in a parochial school.

In 1982, Sister Catherine Wingert joined the faculty as principal and a year later Sister Lou Cota joined her. Sister Catherine found the pastor, school board and parents very warm and supportive of the teachers. She remarked that she felt "cared for" as she and the other sisters settled into their roles as white teachers on a mostly Black faculty learning a new way of looking at life in general and at school life in particular. The enthusiastic welcome they received quickly put them at ease.

The school population stood at 497 in February of 1988. In addition to the basic subjects, the curriculum was designed to provide opportunities for the development of Christian values. Students participated in daily religion classes, unit liturgies, all-school liturgies and a monthly family Mass with their parents who also received instructions from the parish priests. Enrichment classes included art, music, Spanish, computer and physical education.

Family involvement in the school and parish left no doubt about the parents' value of caring for the young people entrusted to them. Family, in the broader sense, included the neighborhood. Friends were called "Auntie" and acted as part of the family. Sister Lou Cota says, "In one sense it was like growing up in rural Iowa. The neighbors were expected to help keep you in line when your parents weren't around." Raising the children truly involved the whole village.

Eager to have their children experience a different culture, parents readily agreed to "exchange" weekends with St. Dorothy's students spending a weekend with Dubuque families and Dubuque students in the Chicago scene. At one point a group of students from St. Dorothy came to share their music with the sisters at Mount Loretto, creating another bond between the two groups.



Before retiring from St. Gerard Parish, Sister Catherine Wingert was honored during a farewell gathering of family, friends and parishioners.

Social gatherings, block parties and ladies' guild memberships kept the lines of communication open and offered avenues of support for one another. The convent was open for meetings of various groups, praying together and sharing stories.

In 1997, Sister Catherine retired from principalship at St. Dorothy and transitioned to volunteering at St. Gerard Parish in Markham, Illinois. Sister Lou moved with her to St. Gerard, driving back and forth to teach at St. Dorothy and to volunteer in the parish. In 2009, Sister Catherine retired to the Presentation Motherhouse leaving Sister Lou with a decision: to remain in Markham or to join the larger community in Dubuque. She chose the former, continuing to serve the people she loved. Sister Lou remained at St. Gerard, dividing her time between there and St. Dorothy until 2015-2016 when it merged with neighboring schools to form Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy.

"It was an awesome experience!" This is the way Sister Lou Cota described her years teaching and volunteering at St. Dorothy School and Parish. She found the people strongly supportive of family and community, with a



Sister Lou Cota loved teaching science and technology to junior high students at St. Dorothy.

**I loved every minute of time spent there. The warmth of the people, the social gatherings and the informal camaraderie emphasized the feeling of extended family that was so much a part of the parish.**

*Sister Lou Cota*

firm commitment to education for their children and grandchildren. Students were expected to do well in school and learn the discipline necessary to achieve this.

After the school became a part of a merged Catholic school, Sister Lou transitioned to volunteering at both parishes. She says of these years, "I loved every minute of time spent there. The warmth of the people, the social gatherings and the informal camaraderie emphasized the feeling of extended family that was so much a part of the parish."

With changing populations and shortage of priests, the parishes in the area began to merge. Both St. Dorothy's and St. Gerard's centers were closed. These changes, and health concerns, brought Sister Lou to the decision that it was time to retire from active ministry. She now lives at Mount Loretto in Dubuque. "But I still keep in contact with some of the people in Chicago and Markham. Friendships don't depend on physical presence."

Over the years between 1979 and 2021, 12 Presentation Sisters were members of the St. Dorothy's parish family. All would be quick to say that their lives were greatly enriched by the experience, and treasured memories remain.



Sister Lou Cota enjoyed visiting with former student, Darian and his grandmother, Florence, parishioners of St. Dorothy.



A bus wrap, sponsored by the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, will traverse Dubuque, Iowa, streets for the next year.

## *Building Awareness*

# Ending Human Trafficking

A Jule bus with a strong new message is traversing Dubuque, Iowa, streets. The Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery sponsored the wrap, featuring a photo of a young girl, to drive home a growing reality: “Not for Sale: Stop Human Trafficking.” It includes the national hotline number: 888-373-7888. The coalition was founded in 2014 by members of the Dubuque area Catholic women religious communities including the Sisters of the Presentation.

The wrapped bus will spread this message for the next year. It is a follow-up to human trafficking awareness training sessions given to approximately 70 local Jule bus drivers. Funds for the wrap come from the coalition’s budget and generous donors to the project.

The coalition’s hope is that the awareness of and response to human trafficking will prevent vulnerable young persons from becoming victims of this crime against humanity and encourage people to contact the hotline if they witness anything suspicious.

“We want to help people realize that no person is a commodity to be sold,” says Sister Irene Lukefahr, coalition member and Sister of Charity. “Each person is a beloved daughter or son of God, worthy of dignity and respect, not a tool for pleasure and profit.”

This same message is posted on a billboard on U.S. Highway 20 between Dyersville and Dubuque. The timing is

**As a coalition, our focus is educating a variety of public groups.**

*Sister Marilou Irons*

intentional. Large public events like athletic contests and fairs are a magnet for traffickers, and in Dubuque County none was bigger this summer than the major league baseball game on August 12 between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Yankees at Dyersville’s iconic Field of Dreams. Eight thousand fans cheered on their team, and ancillary events were also full-throttle ahead.

“As a coalition, our focus is educating a variety of public groups. This bus wrap is just another way to get the word out about the evil of human trafficking,” states Sister Marilou Irons, coalition co-chair and Dubuque Presentation Sister. “Having been a teacher and principal for over 40 years, I feel a deep responsibility in working to keep children safe. How could I not raise awareness to end human trafficking in the tri-state area?”

The coalition has expanded to include other members in the Dubuque community and tri-state area who are dedicated to the eradication of this de-humanizing, criminal enterprise.

# Reflections on the Journey

## Sister Rayanne Determan

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Bonnie Rae Determan, who became known as Sister Mary Rayanne, was born in Mason City, Iowa, on New Year's Day, the second daughter of Raymond Bernard Determan and Bonnie Ruth (Shire) Determan. Sister Rayanne was the second Determan daughter to enter the congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation, following Myra, known as Sister Mary Bonita. Later, Dollie Mae, the fourth Determan daughter, also became a Presentation Sister after attending Clarke College (now Clarke University) for two and a half years. The third Determan sibling, Donna Lu, born on November 21, Presentation Day, married Robert Umbarger at St. Joseph Parish in Mason City, and they became the parents of four children.



As a young woman, Bonnie Rae treasured sports, dancing and reading. She loved to attend the Friday evening dances at St. Joseph's gym. She played basketball with the St. Joe's girls' team and became the neighborhood ping pong champion. She had some advantage perhaps, because the ping-pong table was located in the Determan family garage.

Her mother was affectionate and hospitable, making all feel welcome in the Determan home. Bonnie Rae attended daily Mass at St. Joseph Church on Fifth Street, where both the school and church were a block and a half from the Determan home. Bonnie Rae was an officer in the Sodality of Our Lady and also active in the Mission Club. The associate pastor at the time of her high school graduation, Father Al Heuring, was a graduate of St. John's in Collegeville, Minnesota, and encouraged several students to pursue their college studies there. Bonnie Rae chose the nearby College of Saint Benedict, a women's college in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She studied there for two years and was very attracted to the Benedictine way of life, but decided to follow her older sister's example and become a Presentation Sister in Dubuque.

Sister Rayanne majored in history at Clarke College and later specialized in religious education at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is an avid reader. She especially loves stories from Scripture, history and the mystics. She came to know the Benedictine mystics from her studies including

St. Anselm of Canterbury and St. Hildegard of Bingen. Sister Rayanne's favorite Scripture quote is from St. Matthew, "Behold I am with you all days, even to the end of the world."

Her mission of teaching led her to many small towns of Iowa, St. Paul, Minnesota and Oak Lawn, Illinois. In their retirement years, Sisters Rayanne and Bonita made elder care their mission, not only for their mother in Mason City, but also for the sick, secluded and dying of that city. Sister Rayanne's concerned presence and spirit was noted even by the students at Newman Grade School. An accidental fall caused Sister Rayanne to reside permanently at Mount Loretto, where she actively joins the third floor communal praying of the Liturgical Office.

The Determan sisters were asked some years ago what it was like to be three sisters in the Presentation congregation. They replied that it was wonderful to be together for community gatherings and to get together with their sister Donna Lu and husband Robert and family for celebrations. "Being Presentation Sisters together is a joy and a blessing," they said. "Striving to be the best Presentation Sisters we can be and living out Nano's mission is important to us."

It is interesting to note that the Rottinghaus sisters, Anthony, Rosanne, and Michael, were the only other three siblings to become Presentation Sisters. There were four Sullivan Presentation siblings: Reginald, Sarita, Ita and Alexandra. There were 27 sibling pairs, three pairs who are still with us: the Cotas, the Demmers and the Ziesers.



*The Determan Sisters: Sisters Donna, Bonita (deceased) and Rayanne.*



# 2021 Presentation Associate Gathering Better Together

by RADIE ROBERTS AND COLLEEN VENTER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTORS

With thankful hearts, Presentation Sisters and associates gathered in person for the 2021 Community Days to share in the theme “Telling, Honoring, Embracing and Celebrating our Story.”

Associate Donna Ewy describes it best when she states, “After a long, painful, lonely year and a half in the world of COVID-19, what a wonderful gift it was to see each other again! My spirit is re-invigorated to continue my mission with a little extra dose of radical hospitality.”

Sue Brimmer, a Presentation associate, recounts the time together, “Our Community Days began and ended in such a beautiful way with sisters and associates all gathered in the chapel participating in music and prayer. The theme interwoven throughout our days together was to tell our stories so they would be honored, embraced and remembered to inspire and connect us. We planted seeds to represent our hopes and dreams, to watch them take root and to grow. We renewed our promise to live in radical hospitality in all relationships and to make room at the table for all. It was a wonderful experience of prayer, connecting, reflecting and sharing.”



Sue Brimmer and Rachel Evans

Friday morning, the sisters and associates gathered separately. Led by Sister Carol Crepeau, CSJ, the associates began by praying together in small groups. Associates experienced a form of prayer called “sharing the state of the heart.” Those gathered shared one word to describe a time God asked them to “get up.” Sister Carol defined these getting up experiences as graphic moments of God’s real presence in our lives. After everyone had responded with their chosen word, each person in the small group shared why they chose that specific word. This allowed time to get to know fellow associates on a deeper level. Sister Carol explained the mission as a way of life rooted in the Gospel and radical hospitality as the core of our charism. She emphasized the associate identity statement, which reads:

**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 charism 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.**

Sister Carol described the partnerships between sisters and associates as on a continuum, both doing the work, living out the charism and mission both separately and together.



## A Warm Welcome

The Sisters of the Presentation are delighted to welcome Colleen Venter and Radie Roberts as the new co-directors of the Associate Partnership. In July, they joined Co-Director Sister Joan Brincks. Both Colleen and Radie bring an enthusiastic spirit and gifts of creativity and openness to this role.

Colleen and her husband, Wayne, have been blessed with a beautiful family of five married children, 12 grandchildren and a goldendoodle, Maggie. Colleen is a retired nurse and has been involved in Catholic school and church ministries. Being an associate for 11 years, Colleen is grateful for the opportunity to serve as co-director and states, “Family, faith and community are very important to me. I feel a strong connection to Nano Nagle, the Presentation Sisters and other associates. I believe I have the gift of leadership and the energy that will be required to deepen our relationships with each other and to live out the mission and charism we have been called to share.”

Radie and her husband, Ben, have been associates for 10 years and have three children. Graduating from Clarke College (now Clarke University) with a degree in psychology, Radie then completed a year of service as a Holy Cross Associate in Brockton, Massachusetts. She returned to Clarke to work as a campus minister for seven years and now divides her time between Seton School and the co-director position. As campus minister, Radie coordinated mission trips and days of service. Believing these skills will transfer, Radie offers her dream, “My passion is service and I hope to provide service opportunities as a way to encourage associates to gather in person and connect with each other in carrying out the charism of radical hospitality.”



Left to right: Associates Becky Searcy, Char McCoy and Bren Connors reconnect at a break; Small groups talked about their hopes and dreams for the Associate Partnership; Sister Carol Crepeau, CSJ, facilitated the associate gathering during Community Days; Associates Sister Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, Carol Witry, Karen St. John and Marlene Von Fumetti enjoy seeing one another in person.

**After a long, painful, lonely year and a half in the world of COVID-19, what a wonderful gift it was to see each other again!**

*Associate Donna Ewy*

Associates then brainstormed about the following questions: What is your hope now for the Presentation Associate Partnership and how can this hope be realized? Suggestions included service projects, prayer opportunities, more involvement with the sisters and increased communication.

Associate Karen St. John left the gathering energized, “I think that this was the best community gathering I have ever attended. The discussions were lively and full of new ideas. Planting the seeds shows how we can grow and make changes in our life. We need to leave our palace and go out and do what needs to be done for a better future for all people.”



*Karen St. John and Donna Ewy*

Associate Rachel Evans shares, “Being able to hear how people coped, what they lost, what they gained and how they gave back over the past two years was a true testament to how radical hospitality can build a good story.”



*Associate Partnership co-directors: Radie Roberts, Sister Joan Brincks and Colleen Venter.*

# COMPASSIONATE ADVOCATE, RELUCTANT PROPHET

## Sister Mary Jo Leifker

*February 1, 1924 - June 1, 2021*

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Mary Jo Leifker was born Eleanor Rita on February 1, 1924, in Galena, Illinois, daughter of Julia (McKernan) and Benjamin Leifker. She was supported by her six sisters: Lucille, Emily, Ursulene, Florence, Mary Ann, Clara and six brothers: Raymond, Irenus, William, Delbert, James and Edward. She is survived by her sister, Clara (Bob) Snyder, her beloved nieces and nephews and the Sisters of the Presentation with whom she shared her long and loving life.

She entered religious life on August 15, 1947, as a Presentation Sister of Oregon, Illinois. She professed her perpetual vows on January 3, 1953, and ministered for 16 years before her small Oregon community merged with the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation in 1963.

An energetic person, Sister Mary Jo pursued many interests, among them: enjoying nature, praying, dancing, learning, cleaning, visiting and caring for Earth. She worked hard. Sister Mary Jo exemplified “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Her cleaning standards were among the highest and few could satisfy her expectations. After completing her housekeeping responsibilities, she engaged in even more cleaning, redoing what had been done “unsatisfactorily” by another. This sometimes “got her into trouble” for taking on “unassigned” duties. So, she turned to tidying up the front entrance to the motherhouse - sweeping - be it leaves, bugs or snow. There were no contenders for this job and it was appreciated by all.

Like Presentation foundress Nano Nagle, Sister Mary Jo befriended those marginalized. She found no one too handicapped or disadvantaged to be beyond her love, support and care. She was a cheerleader for all persons in need, demonstrating, like Jesus, a genuine and deep concern for them. Often we would hear Sister Mary Jo paged by the receptionist because guests had come to visit with her. In her retirement she was “volunteer extraordinaire,” racking up 12 separate certificates of appreciation for her services. When Hospice of Dubuque requested volunteers, Sister Mary Jo responded with her trademark gentleness and compassion. She regularly visited with residents of local nursing homes, assisted handicapped persons with religious education and assisted stroke victims with reading and writing skill recovery.

While Sister Mary Jo didn’t complete a formal education degree, she taught us all. She read widely and audited courses for personal information and enrichment. When it came to protecting Mother Earth, Sister Mary Jo was a prophet with an environmentalist’s heart. She pioneered efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle to shrink the carbon footprint of Mount Loretto. Her actions to avert climate change were met with criticism at times from those who lacked understanding. Sister Mary Jo walked lightly upon Earth. Gradually others became more knowledgeable and joined her efforts. It is no surprise that she chose a green burial. Nature nurtured Sister Mary Jo’s contemplative spirit.

She spent hours in the chapel. In later years, after dozing off, upon awakening she would lament her drowsiness. Sister Mary Jo desired to be attentive to her God.

Soft-spoken, hospitable, risk-taker, advocate and reluctant prophet, Sister Mary Jo aspired to live to 100. Exhausted and physically worn – her spirit was willing, but her body weakened by age and years of ministry. She danced into God’s embrace at only 97, her brown eyes wide and her smile welcoming.

We recognize Sister Mary Jo in Jesus’ words, “Whatever you did for the least of my sisters and brothers, that you did for Me.” She showed us how to live, how to care for others and for creation. Sister Mary Jo, we thank you for making love real for all. We love you and miss you.



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



**LIVE** Join Us!  
via Zoom,  
YouTube or podcast  
[exploringintersections.org](http://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

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

**REGISTER or VIEW past episodes at [exploringintersections.org](http://exploringintersections.org)**

Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region X | [exploringintersections.org](http://exploringintersections.org)

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



*Is religious life for you?*

**CONNECT WITH US @dbqpbvms**

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.

### September 19, 2021

Lighting the Lantern Virtual Event featuring Associate Billie Greenwood  
To purchase a ticket or table, go to [www.TheLanternCenter.org](http://www.TheLanternCenter.org) and click on "Donate." Include the memo "Lighting the Lantern" and your email address to assure that you receive the Zoom link by September 19.

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

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

### September 23-25, 2021

Gathering of Presentation People  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

### October 2, 2021

Rite of Welcoming  
Candidate Rachel Dunlap  
Sacred Heart Chapel  
Dubuque, Iowa

### November 7-13, 2021

Vocation Awareness Week

### 21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

### 25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

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

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



*Clockwise left to right: Sisters Carla Popes, St. James Lickteig, Janet Goetz, Rosalyn Ulfers and Linus Coyle.*

## *Celebrating 60 and 80 Years of Religious Life*

After a year of waiting, our 2020 jubilarians were finally able to celebrate 60 and 80 years of religious life on Wednesday, July 14. “Graced with God’s Abundance” was the jubilee theme for Sisters Janet Goetz, St. James Lickteig, Carla Popes and Rosalyn Ulfers who celebrated 60 years of religious life and Sister Linus Coyle who observed 80 years of religious life.

Reflecting on this jubilee year, they express, “We have been graced with God’s abundance these past 60 and 80 years. We thank each of you for your presence at this celebration of jubilee and for your encouragement on the journey. All is gift.”

**{ Read more about each sister at [dbqpbvms.org/news-events/jubilees](https://dbqpbvms.org/news-events/jubilees). }**