



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of Céad Míle Fáilte (100,000 Welcomes) located on the property of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

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Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2021. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



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Our nursing staff and sister relationships are deepened by sharing experiences and laughter, spending time together and getting to know one another. Left to right: Sister Emilie Bormann, Jeannine Lawver, Christen LaFayette and Sister Carmelle Westemeier get crafty making St. Patrick Day decorations for Nagle 3 skilled care floor.

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Every five years, the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation take dedicated time to review and renew our commitments to mission, to our ministries and to each other as members of the congregation. We call this renewal time the General Chapter, a description rooted in early monastic times when the members of a monastery gathered each day to listen to a reading – a caput – from the rule book. Eventually, this meeting was identified as Chapter, from the root caput, when discussions involved all in considering applications of the rule. By the middle ages, religious institutes were required by church law to gather in Chapter to renew governance structures and elect leaders. In October, our community will convene their 2022 General Chapter with the theme – Embrace the Journey: Dare, Trust, Begin.

The journey theme is as old as the stories of humanity. Mythology, the Bible, adventure stories, literature and common conversation are full of journeys' tales. Humanity seems inextricably linked to searching for new undertakings. Adventure is not the only force behind journeys. The latest estimate on the number of migrants on Earth speculates that in 2020 there were 281 million migrants, an increase of 3.6% since 1990. Many of these people were displaced within their own countries due to civil wars, destructive weather events or the desire for a better life.

During these years of COVID-19, the curtailment of physical travel has been felt as one of the greatest hardships. Is it in hopes of the end of the pandemic struggles that the Chapter Preparation Committee chose to name this theme? Or, is there something else to be considered? As physical journeys were delayed, perhaps more internal journeys were embraced. When a person cannot physically journey, what daring new approaches are established?

The generosity of you, our donors, also took new forms and partnerships in this time. Some families made extra financial contributions to the sisters, while others offered important gifts like handmade face masks, extra produce from home gardens and singalongs in the Mount Loretto courtyard. For our 2021 annual appeal, when the leadership of the congregation invited you to partner with us in donating to charities rather than to the sisters, remarkable responses were sent. Many of you shared information about local programs you were supporting, highlighting the good things being done there. Through you, the light of Nano's concern for those most in need was allowed to shine in new spaces.

Now that COVID-19 seems to be lessening, many pundits are speaking about "getting back to normal." The Chapter invitation to "Dare, Trust, Begin" conjectures that normal might not be the ideal space to which to return. In April, Sister Lynn Levo, CSJ, a noted lecturer and psychologist, will speak to the sisters and associates on the challenges and invitations in daring, trusting and beginning in the journey ahead for the community.

This issue of *Doorways* includes articles on the strategic planning being undertaken by the congregation; the efforts of the Nagle Center skilled care staff to provide vital living experiences for sisters; the energizing work of the associate partnership; and the focus on individual sisters' journeys. Central to the issue is the annual report where the big-heartedness of our Presentation friends is highlighted along with an accounting of how your generosity helps the Presentation Sisters promote our mission and the care of our members.

In 1945, after years of war and uncertainty, the musical "Carousel" produced the song, "You'll Never Walk Alone." As the sisters embrace the future in journeys yet to be clarified, the partnerships of friends and generous financial supporters is a constant reminder that these journeys cannot and will not be made alone. Thank you for embracing the journey with us.

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



The Strategic Planning Team meets with Plante Moran, a consulting firm providing support and guidance with long-range planning for the community.

Embracing the Journey Dare, Trust, Begin

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

On Christmas Day 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope was launched to search for solutions to the mysteries of the solar system, to look into distant worlds and to probe the origins of the universe and humanity's place in it. During the last month's preparation, scientists admitted that there were specifically 344 things that could go wrong before the launch even happened. And yet they persevered and succeeded in launching and directing the largest, most complex, most powerful telescope into a spot one million miles away from Earth where it will be sending more information about space and the universe than has ever been known.

As was noted in the opening *Doorways* article, the committee planning for the 2022 General Chapter of the Sisters of the Presentation chose the theme – Embrace the Journey: Dare, Trust, Begin. While this Chapter is not the same as sending a telescope one million miles into space, the community stands at a point of the unknown, relying on a history of serving a mission for nearly 175 years and planning to further that mission with creativity and ingenuity suited to the times.

At the 2017-18 Chapter, the Sisters of the Presentation made four specific promises to be lived with intention.

- 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;
- To form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission;
- To implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.

Groups were formed centered on these four specific promises. By early winter 2018, sisters and associates were invited to join one of the groups according to their willingness to engage with the focus of the promise. Few could have predicted how the world would change in the years since these promises were written. The call to live radical hospitality in all relationships and to practice non-violence could not have

been timelier after the murder of George Floyd highlighted the systemic racism and culture of violence endemic to society. As the community grapples with fewer members, the invitation to form partnerships and utilize resources offers an opportunity to dream new ways of living the Presentation charism and mission. Years ago when the focus of a Chapter might include changes to the religious habit or adjusting the prayer hours of the community, a hierarchy of decision-making was the norm. As always, dialogue, communication and transparency are essential to governance practices and require continual attention and review.

Over the last several years, the sisters have lived with an awareness that religious life as it has been known has experienced a dramatic shift. The number of women considering entrance has diminished while the aging process has gradually shifted the median age of a congregation upward. Currently, the median age of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters is 77 with 84 members, including 32 in their 80s. Numbers do not tell the whole story. Those 32 women are as full of passion for the mission as they were years ago. But the reality of these facts also calls for good stewardship and effective long-range planning. The need for planning and stewarding assets became the primary focus of the Partnerships and Resources Promise Group. Months of consultation with other congregations of sisters and knowledgeable planners resulted in the group developing a request for proposals (RFP) that went out to several companies with a history of working with religious congregations.

In early 2021, Plante Moran Real Estate Investment Advisors from Southfield, Michigan, was selected as the partnering company. Plante Moran has worked with other Presentation Sisters in North America where they have become familiar with the charism of Nano Nagle and the common focus on mission, especially to women and children. Plante Moran and the Strategic Planning Team, comprised of the leadership team and two members from the Partnerships and Resources Promise Group, were tasked with identifying the most critical challenges for future stewardship of Presentation properties and to develop a plan of action that successfully addresses these challenges.

For those who thought that the first task of Plante Moran would be to assess the brick and mortar issues, an adjustment was required. In early spring 2021, the team of Erin George, Jerry Gumbleton and Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, held virtual listening sessions with sisters, associates and Mount Loretto administrative staff. In preparation for a community gathering in July 2021, all were invited to read and reflect on an article called "Esther's Gamble" written by Sister Mary. In the Book of Esther, a Jewish woman, who is a favorite of the Persian king, is reminded that the first claim on her heart belongs to God and her Jewish community, not to the comforts of the "empire" provided for her by the king. She must risk the securities of the "empire" to protect her Jewish community, her "neighborhood." Participants in the community gathering were invited to come ready to share their reflections from the article in light of the Presentation call and commitment to live

In many ways these shifts are both the challenge and the opportunity that religious communities face today as they consider how to leverage their resources through the lens of their mission in service to the needs of the day.

Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, Esther's Gamble

the charism of radical hospitality in the midst of the current circumstances of the church and the world.

Recently, the sisters participated in a process designed by Plante Moran to deepen the reflection on the tensions between "empire" and "neighborhood" and the shifts needed to become more responsive, resilient and flexible in order to effect mission-driven social change. While the "empire" relies on fear, isolation, scarcity and control, the "neighborhood" instills cooperation, trust, transparency and an assumption of abundance. In recent years, the question of what is meant by "radical" hospitality has been the topic of community gatherings. Under the guidance of Plante Moran, this question is moving from definitions toward specific actions that will have a transformational impact now and into the future.

When the promise group developed the RFP, a key recommendation was the ongoing need for vibrant community living. Creating a congregational culture of vital living and lifelong engagement in community and mission for all sisters across life spans, circumstances and capacities is an essential aspect of the call to live radical hospitality in the overall planning process. To assist in these efforts the Strategic Planning Team created a Vital Living and Member Well-being Working Group.

"In many ways these shifts are both the challenge and the opportunity that religious communities face today as they consider how to leverage their resources through the lens of their mission in service to the needs of the day. It allows communities to think differently and perhaps more freely about the resources for stewardship and the decisions that they make and need to make in order to place their resources at the service of mission, vision and charism - not only for their own sakes, but for the sake of the Gospel, of those they serve and of the legacies they will leave." *Esther's Gamble*

Just as the years of development for the James Webb Telescope required moving into new ways of collaborating and creating, the work of the Presentation Sisters to identify new systems and structures toward deepening the commitment to a culture of radical hospitality is an invitation into the unknown. The prayers of generous companions and the faithfulness of God are the known and that makes all the difference as the journey is embraced.



Sister Linus Coyle expresses gratitude to Donna Behrens who assists with her medication.

Friendships Embraced

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Close friends are truly life's treasures. Sometimes they know us better than we know ourselves. With gentle honesty, they are there to guide and support us, to share our laughter and our tears. Their presence reminds us that we are never really alone.

Vincent Van Gogh

When one passes through our 3rd floor skilled care, more commonly known as Nagle 3, we discover that Nagle 3 is a dynamic neighborhood, with plentiful talent and a sense of mission among both the nursing staff and the sisters. Upon entering, one is greeted by the nurse on duty attending the needs of one of the sisters. All this and more are observed as our nursing staff and sisters spend time together.

Seasonal decorations are tastefully positioned on the vast window leading into the kitchenette and dining room, adding smiles and brightness to all who pass by. Sister Marian Sweeney uses her creative talent and is always thinking ahead of important days to highlight. Taught by Sister Marie Barth, an excellent art teacher, Sister Marian is grateful for her learned skills.

Weaving in and out of sisters' rooms is Christen LaFayette, a certified nursing assistant and, more recently, new life enrichment aide. Christen plans varied activities for both individual and group needs and interests of the sisters. These activities are designed to encourage confidence and growth in the sisters' strengths and abilities. "Being the life enrichment aide is an exciting opportunity for me to work with the sisters in a different capacity," expresses Christen.

"Building meaningful relationships is so important in my role of providing support to and enhancing the well-being of each sister. As I interact daily with each sister, I'm getting to know her on a deeper, more personal level. My hope is to enrich the sisters' lives as their presence has enriched mine."

Sister Carmelle Westemeier is often in the hall moving her wheelchair by hand, exercising her body as encouraged by the staff. "How are you today, Carmelle?" one asks. Her reply is an optimistic, "Wonderful!" And, if one questions why such a positive response, Sister Carmelle clarifies: "I've faced some really hard times in life and survived them all. I choose to be grateful for all of the gifts God has given me."

In June 2021, Beth O'Connell joined the staff as the director of nursing. She articulates immediately, "I like it here. We have a very good team – caring, warm persons and good nurses who are here because they want to help others." One of Beth's important contributions has been to recruit excellent staff members for Nagle Center during an extremely difficult period for the health field.

Sister René Laubenthal observes, "I see the Nagle staff as a great team: the nurses, the aides, the cooks, the drivers, the maintenance persons and the housekeeping staff. It is so good to be greeted by the morning nurse, 'Good morning, René. How are you this morning?' If I have a need, she is there to help, even if it is helping me advance to the next level of Candy Crush," she smiles.

Every night, Sister Emilie Bormann is graced by a visit from Sister James Marie Gross, who looks forward to watching the news and enjoying a Dixie cup of ice cream with her dear friend. Sister Emilie participates in swim therapy aerobics three days a week. She is a former lifeguard, an expert swimmer, known by her therapy companions as "the fish" and by Sister James Marie as "the imp" for her water mischief.

"What an incredible group of women I have the privilege to take care of and call friends," expresses Donna Behrens, nurse. "Every day I witness the love these sisters have for each other as they pray together, share community life and enjoy meals together. That same love is carried over to the nursing staff in more ways than I can count. I feel their gratitude for the little tasks I perform as a part of my nursing duties and beyond. When health issues took me out of work for a month over this winter, my mailbox at home overflowed with cards expressing words of encouragement and promises of prayers for a full recovery. I am blessed to be a part of this family."

One is drawn naturally to the smiling face and gracious manner of Visitation Sister Bernadine Curoe, SVM, in the hall of Nagle 3. Sister Bernadine joined Nagle 3 in February 2021 and fit in seamlessly just as Visitation Sister Paschal Kelly did years ago. Feeling at home, Sister Bernadine instantly and graciously commented, "Now I know why Sister Paschal liked it here so much." Known for her classy manner, Sister Bernadine is also characterized as the "Energizer Bunny" for always being full of energy and on the go.

Building meaningful relationships is so important in my role of providing support and enhancing the wellbeing of each sister. As I interact daily with each sister I'm getting to know her on a deeper, more personal level. My hope is to enrich the sisters' lives as their presence has enriched mine.

Christen LaFayette, Life Enrichment Aide

Sister Rayanne Determan and her sister, Sister Donna Determan spend quality time together each day. Sister Donna says that they do not talk a great deal, but Sister Rayanne greatly enjoys her reassuring presence and attentiveness.

Having worked as a nurse in Nagle Center for five years, Jeannine Lawver states, "I thoroughly enjoy being a part of this nursing team. Each day is filled with such kindness from the sisters, concern for their staff and a deep appreciation for the care they receive. Every sister has such a different sense of humor. There is lots of laughter going on."

Jeannine always enjoys visiting with Sister Linus Coyle, who takes great interest in her family and loves hearing stories of her grandkids. "Before the pandemic, I would occasionally bring my granddaughter to visit the sisters. Sister Linus would



Sister René Laubenthal appreciates technology help from Amy Katzenburger.

always say to her, ‘Well, aren’t you just the prettiest little thing.’ I’m not sure who enjoyed the visits more – the sisters or my granddaughter.”

Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch is a gentle presence on Nagle 3, as she is often seen taking contemplative walks throughout the long halls each day, quietly promoting justice by her gift of simple living.

Sister Jeanette McCarthy responds enthusiastically to conversational Spanish, as noted by the Spanish speakers of the house. For those less versed, she eagerly finds opportunities to teach others Spanish words or phrases. She especially loves when the room fills with song and music from someone playing the guitar.

Sister Anne McCormick offers vital services to the Nagle staff and sisters by carefully recording the medical and dental appointments for each sister and scheduling drivers and companions for appointments. When one is asked to accompany a sister to an appointment, Sister Anne responds with a sincere expression of gratitude. How could one ever refuse?

Sisters who are unable to attend Mass in the chapel are able to attend virtually on the large television screen in the third floor prayer room. They also receive the Eucharist there. Each day, Sisters Lois Lehmann and René take turns leading the Liturgical Office so that sisters unable to read the psalms can pray by listening and voicing the “Glory be” and the “Our Father.” In addition, Sisters Lois and Linus gather to pray the rosary every morning.

“Both personal and communal prayer is such a vital part of the sisters’ daily lives,” states Sister Margaret Anne Kramer. As pastoral care minister, Sister Margaret Anne prays the Daily Office with the sisters whenever she can, meets with staff for care conferences, connects with family members and assures that final wishes are followed, among other responsibilities.

“I’m so grateful for the excellent care offered to sisters by the



Cambray Olson, nursing assistant and caregiver, pauses to smile and say “cheese” with Sister Carmelle Westemeier



Sister Karen Jasper relishes the tender care of Anne Schrobilgen who approaches 30 years working as a certified nursing assistant for the Presentation Sisters.

Nagle staff. Recently, I witnessed a staff member just quietly and gently holding a sister’s hand. This comforting gesture of care is so important, especially for sisters who are no longer able to respond.”

Without reservation, Nagle 3 staff acknowledge that “Annie” is Sister Karen Jasper’s favorite. When Anne Schrobilgen walks into her room, Sister Karen’s face immediately lights up. This mutual loving bond was formed almost 30 years ago when Sister Karen hired Anne. “My relationship with the sisters spans over decades. The sisters are my family,” smiles Anne. “All of them are so special and I love and care for each one. The ultimate reward is their friendship, and the greatest challenge is when it’s time to say goodbye. I wouldn’t want to work anywhere else.”

We all have a variety of different relationships – with God, family, friends and co-workers which are deepened by sharing experiences and laughter; spending time together and getting to know one another, our common interests, feelings and little tidbits about each other’s personal lives. Whether one is on the giving or receiving end, the compassion, the appreciation and the love shown between sisters and staff is immeasurable as they embrace each other in this journey of life.

**That our receiving may be like breathing:
taking in, letting go.**

**That our holding may be like loving:
taking care, setting free.**

**That our giving may be like leaving:
singing thanks, moving on.**

Jan L. Richardson, Midwives of an Unnamed Future

Reflections on the Journey Sister Dolores Zieser

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Arlene Lucille Zieser, the fifth of 14 children, was the first daughter born to Joseph and Martha Haxmeier Zieser of Walker, Iowa. Arlene, along with her siblings, attended one-room rural schools near Monti. She shared a room with her younger sister, Mary Lavonne, and the two eventually shared life as Presentation Sisters, known as Sister Dolores (Arlene) and Sister Josita (Lavonne).

Arlene credits growing up in a large family with the desire and ability to share activities with many others, also increasing her organizing skills. Since the family owned one car, they attended Mass in two shifts – eight went to the early Mass and the remaining eight attended the later Mass.

Taught vacation school religion classes by the Presentation Sisters, Arlene still remembers how much she loved these classes and the warmth and friendliness of the sisters. She muses about Sister Mary Pius Zwack’s palpable spirituality and how Sister Marie Celine Farrell enlivened the ball games at recess. Already Arlene wanted to become a Presentation Sister.

The Zieser family moved closer to Ryan, Iowa, when Arlene was entering her sophomore year so that she and her siblings were able to attend St. Patrick grade and high school there. Arlene was continually impressed by the teaching skills of the sisters at Ryan as well as by their faith, kindness and love. Arlene felt called to Presentation religious life at age 16, after completing her junior year at St. Patrick. She was accepted into the congregation in September with a class of 12 postulants. Arlene and Patsy Bieth completed high school at St. Columbkille in Dubuque and participated in religious life classes at the motherhouse. After reception, Sister Dolores attended classes at Clarke College and practiced teaching before beginning her teaching career in the primary grades in Charles City, Iowa.

As Sister Dolores began religious life at a young age, she also took on leadership early in life, becoming principal and local director in Osage, Iowa, and later local director, primary teacher and art coordinator at St. Columbkille. She completed her bachelor’s degree in art at Clarke College and her master’s degree in art at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls during the summers. She continued her art studies at various workshops through the years. Sister Dolores developed an art syllabus for all grade levels while teaching at St. Columbkille and St. Patrick in Cedar Falls.

Sister Dolores prizes all of the art mediums: drawing with pencil, chalk or charcoal; painting with water colors or oils;



Sister Dolores Zieser displays her creative work in basket weaving.

pottery and basket weaving. She was asked to design the altar and stained glass windows for the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Cecelia Church in Algona, Iowa. She became the full-time art teacher for Garrigan High School in Algona.

Sister Dolores also served as pastoral minister in Algona preparing the adults for baptism through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). She was asked to be retirement director for her Presentation community and later was assigned as pastoral care coordinator at St. Therese Southwest, a senior citizen residence in Hopkins, Minnesota. Associate Carol Kane gives personal testimony of Sister Dolores’ “vibrant presence” there when Carol’s mother, Marcella Kane, was in residence.

Sister Dolores celebrates her abundant blessings affirming, “I have had a very fulfilling life as a Presentation Sister with positive experiences of teaching all grades for over 50 years, serving adults in parish work and pastoral ministry to senior citizens. I am especially grateful to share religious life with my blood sister, Josita. This special opportunity of sharing a life commitment with a sibling provides a blessing and joy that pervades all of life. All of this reminds me of the scriptural quotation from Psalm 128: ‘Happy are those who fear the Lord, who walk in His way.’”



Left to right: Archbishop Michael O. Jackels; Franciscan Sister Kathy Knipper, OSF; Sister Carmen Hernandez, PBVM; Jeff Henderson and Sister LaDonna Manternach, BVM, meet to discuss ways to deepen the dialogue and conversation regarding the Synod.

Walking Together Synod on Synodality

by CARMEN HERNANDEZ, PBVM

The Synod on Synodality is a two-year process of listening and dialoguing begun October 2021 and culminating October 2023.

The purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.

“A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening ‘is more than simply hearing.’ It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn,” declared Pope Francis on the 50th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops established during Vatican II. “The word ‘synod’ is about cooperation,” he added. “For the disciples of Jesus, yesterday, today and always, the only authority is the authority of service, the only power is the power of the cross,” he affirmed. The word “synod” comes from Greek words that mean “walking together.”

The current “Synod on Synodality” began in October 2021, and will culminate in October 2023 with the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. In preparation for the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis has invited the people of God to reflect and add their voices to the mutual listening process of the church.

Recognizing that Synod discussions for the Archdiocese of Dubuque were underway, Sisters Carmen Hernandez, PBVM; Kathy Knipper, OSF; and LaDonna Manternach, BVM

Women’s congregations have a vital role to play in this Synod ... Their hope is that many and diverse groups will become the voice of the Synod creating a more viable church.

initiated a conversation with Archbishop Michael O. Jackels, stating in a letter, “As women religious, we are committed to participating by giving voice to support this important effort. We would like to dialogue and join with you to ultimately enrich the life of the church in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.”

Archbishop Jackels responded by inviting these religious leaders and other women and men religious of the area to a meeting at the Dubuque Archdiocesan Center facilitated by Jeff Henderson, director of pastoral planning and leadership development.

In the light of mission, communion and participation, the religious raised questions to expand and deepen the dialogue and conversation regarding the Synod.

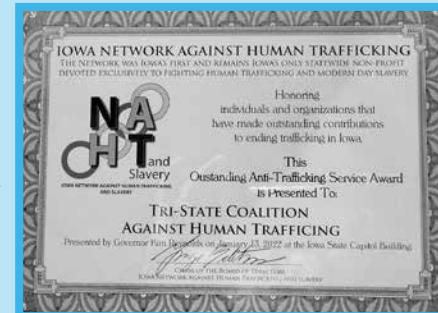
- How will those on the margins of our church be included?
- What do we see as the mission of the church today?
- What gives one life when we think about church?
- What do the people of God need from the church?
- Who are the new groups that we find at the table today?
- Who is no longer at the table?
- Who needs to be welcomed to the table?
- Who doesn’t feel comfortable or welcome to come and why?
- How can conversation with these groups open our eyes and hearts?
- How will the voices of all be heard?
- How will the voices of women religious be heard?
- What is our role as women religious?

Archbishop Jackels stated that the archdiocese would certainly want the input of women religious. Feedback will be gathered through a survey and/or participating in parish discussions. An invitation was also extended to religious communities for an in-person overview of the Synod by an individual from the Synod planning committee.

Women’s religious congregations have a vital role to play in this Synod. Their call is to be active participants, listening deeply and sharing their wisdom and insights. They have frustrations and sufferings within the church and questions that beg for responses, many of which for centuries have been swept aside and too easily forgotten. This Synod is an opportunity for sisters to reflect and share perspectives from their lived experience and assure that the prophetic questions are included. Their hope is that many and diverse groups will become the voice of the Synod creating a more viable church.

Anti-Trafficking Service Award

On January 13, 2022, the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking received the Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Award from Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery.

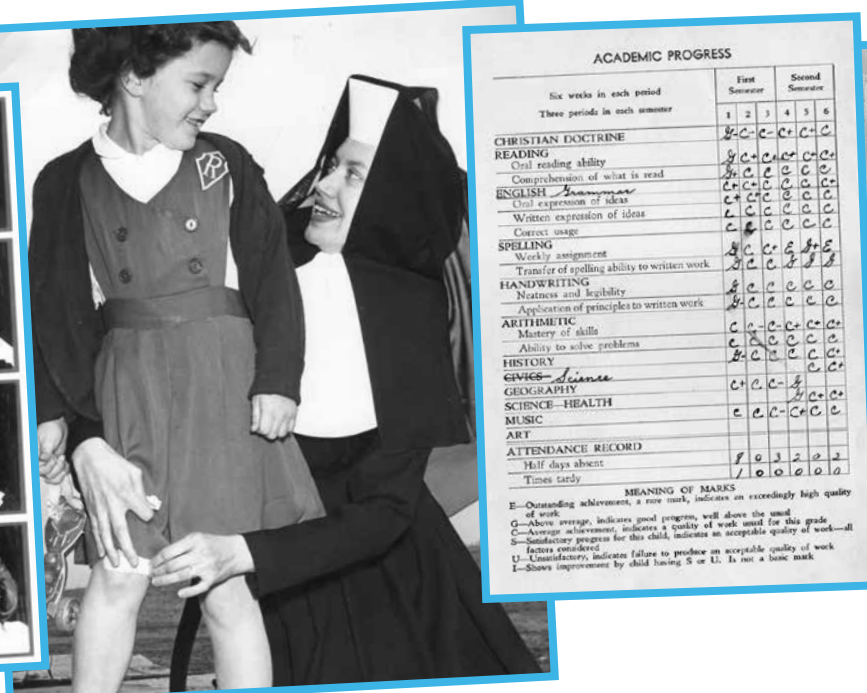


Initiated in 2014 by Catholic religious sisters and based in Dubuque, Iowa, the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking is a faith-based collaborative effort fighting human trafficking in portions of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The coalition was formed with the purpose of educating people of all ages on the signs of human trafficking. Various subcommittees focus on topics of education, advocacy, outreach and hotel/motel employee training. Even during the pandemic, the coalition has trained city bus drivers, hosted a booth at the Dubuque County Fair, posted a billboard on Highway 20 during the Major League baseball game in Dyersville, Iowa, and purchased a wrap advertisement on a city bus for one year.

Countless volunteer hours have been dedicated to community awareness, in-school student education, hotel/motel training, influencing anti-trafficking public policy, training of rural law enforcement and advocacy for survivors. Several members have partnered with the Iowa Network in preparing resources for the training of hotel and motel employees, by working on the script for a video and preparing handouts for the employees. The coalition welcomes new members as they introduce the Iowa Businesses Against Human Trafficking (IBAT) program, designed to assist Iowa businesses in forming policies and procedures against human trafficking.

“I am honored to be working with and among these dedicated coalition members. We are willing to become involved in whatever aspect we can to end the horrors of human trafficking,” states Sister Marilou Irons. “Our collaborative efforts and connections are key components of our work to end human trafficking. We are committed to continue these efforts. Our next steps are to continue hotel/motel training and educate ourselves and others on the new IBAT initiative to end the demand for human trafficking.”

Visit www.humantraffickingiowawil.com if interested in joining the coalition’s efforts to end human trafficking.



ACADEMIC PROGRESS						
	First Semester			Second Semester		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE						
READING						
Oral reading ability						
Comprehension of what is read						
ENGLISH						
Oral expression of ideas						
Written expression of ideas						
Correct usage						
SPELLING						
Weekly assignment						
Transfer of spelling ability to written work						
HANDWRITING						
Neatness and legibility						
Application of principles to written work						
ARITHMETIC						
Mastery of skills						
Ability to solve problems						
HISTORY						
CIVICS - Science						
GEOGRAPHY						
SCIENCE - HEALTH						
MUSIC						
ART						
ATTENDANCE RECORD						
Half days absent						
Times tardy						

MEANING OF MARKS
 E - Outstanding achievement, a rare mark, indicates an exceedingly high quality of work.
 C+ - Above average, indicates good progress, well above the usual.
 C - Average achievement, indicates a quality of work usual for this grade.
 C- - Satisfactory progress for this child, indicates an acceptable quality of work - all factors considered.
 U - Unsatisfactory, indicates failure to produce an acceptable quality of work.
 L - Shows improvement by child having 5 or U. Is not a basic mark.



GROWTH IN DESIRABLE HABITS AND ATTITUDES						
	First Semester			Second Semester		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Growth in Religious Habits						
Participates in religious activities						
Is present at prayer and in church						
Practices self-control						
Obeys promptly and willingly						
Growth in Social Habits						
Respects authority						
Works and plays well with others						
Conforms to school regulations						
Is courteous in speech and manner						
Accepts responsibility						
Keeps desk and materials neat						
Respects private and public property						
Growth in Work and Study Habits						
Begins work promptly						
Completes work on time						
Keeps profitably busy						
Works up to his ability						
Cooperates during class						
Growth in Health and Safety Habits						
Is careful of personal appearance						
Observes simple health rules						
Observes traffic and safety rules						
Manifests happy mental state						

No mark appears if growth is satisfactory.
 A check (✓) means that improvement is needed.



Left to right: 1985-1986 St. Columbkille School faculty photo; Sister Joan Lickteig shares a smile with a student on the playground; Handwritten report card showing academic progress; Sister Philip Jasper assists students with filling in their bingo cards; Handwritten report card showing growth in desirable habits and attitudes; Sister Lynn Fangman joins students in a moment of laughter and arm wrestling.

The Impact of the Journey Education Connections

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

Born in Ireland in 1718, Nano Nagle, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, spent most of her life as a lay woman ministering to those in need. During the day, she secretly taught poor children catechism, reading, writing and mathematics as the penal laws barred Catholic children from attending school. The Presentation Sisters carried on Nano's work in their long history of teaching in Catholic schools, and the lasting connections made are evident by the anecdotes we received from Presentation associates who were taught by Presentation Sisters and later became teachers themselves.

Linda Dolphin

"I owe the sisters a debt of gratitude for their commitment and genuine caring. I met the Sisters of the Presentation when my family moved to St. Columbkille Parish. From eighth grade through high school, I received an education that inspired me to be a lifelong learner. The sisters exemplified a dedication and deep joy for teaching which led me to pursue the teaching profession. The Christian principles they embodied and passed onto me guided my philosophy that children of all ability levels had the right to receive a quality education that would enable them to realize their best potential. Thank you Sisters of the Presentation!"



Colleen Vlasisavljevich

"My introduction to the Presentation Sisters happened in 1962 when I was 13 years old. My family moved from Maple Lake to Monticello, Minnesota. The public school I attended had release time for students who were bused to their respective churches during the school day once a week for religion classes. My teacher was Sister Eunice Kane, who also monitored the Catholic Youth Club meetings of which I was a member. For two years I took piano lessons at St. Henry Convent from Sister Marie Barth. They were both instrumental in fostering my vocation and eventual membership in the Presentation community.



A story I loved was told by my father who grew up in Monticello and was part of a young adults group organized by Sister Eunice. On his wedding day, he brought his bride, my mother, from St. Michael Church, where they were married, to Monticello so he could introduce her to Sister Eunice. As my father did, I also thought highly of her, inspired by her dedication to ecumenism and belief in the involvement of young people in the life of the Catholic Church."

Carol Kane

"I was taught by Presentation Sisters from kindergarten through 12th grade. I remember something I learned in each and every grade. In being called to be a Presentation Sister, I also felt called to teach children. With truly wonderful teacher training, I became a teacher for 41 years. I taught with the sisters in Mason City, Iowa; Shoreview, Minnesota; Oak Lawn and South Chicago, both in Illinois. In those years I also taught four or five years in the summer graduate program at Clarke University. I then moved to the Twin Cities and taught middle school in the Minneapolis public schools for 13 years."



Janet Leonard

"I was a fifth grade teacher for 30 years and then I retired and taught part-time as an elementary literacy teacher and substitute teacher at Maquoketa Valley. I finished my career as a library aide. I was introduced to education by the Presentation Sisters at St. Joseph School in Elkader, Iowa. They taught me from first grade through eighth grade and instilled in me a love for learning and teaching."



Virgie Luchsinger

"I attended St. Columbkille High School from 1950 to 1953. I was taught piano from fourth grade through high school graduation and voice lessons in high school by Presentation Sisters. My mother attended St. Vincent Academy and took piano lessons in Lawler, Iowa, before she came to Dubuque, so our family connected to the Presentation Sisters long before starting school."



Becky Searcy

"I had taken piano lessons all through my grade school days at St. Mary Catholic School in Waucoma, Iowa. In high school, I began clarinet and bassoon lessons, and really wanted to continue with my piano lessons. My parents discovered Sister Joellen Price teaching at Mt. Carmel Catholic School in Lawler, just 15 miles away. They signed me up for lessons, and were committed to that commute each week!"



I thoroughly enjoyed my piano lessons with Sister Joellen, and grew in my love of music. My dream was to become a music teacher and that dream came true! I continued my lessons and study in college and beyond. I'm grateful to Sister Joellen for helping me to see the gifts God had given me and encouraging me to practice, improving day by day. The practicing continues to this day!"

Nano dared to dream of a world where all children could be educated. From the Archdiocese of Chicago to Bolivia and many locations in between, the Dubuque Presentation Sisters have carried Nano's vision to another generation who continue to inspire and educate children to this day.

Presentation Associate Identity Statement

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.

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.

SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL

On the site of the Xavier University campus in Chicago, Illinois, are three memorials. A maple tree on the Andrew Conference Center lawn honors the work of one of Nano Nagle's daughters, Sister Raeleen Sweeney. Under the tree stands a boulder on which a plaque reads, "For inspiring Golden Apple Scholars, Sister Raeleen Sweeney, PBVM, June 29, 2012." Also, near the blessing font in the university chapel a plaque is placed on a pew labeled, "In honor of Sister Raeleen Sweeney, PBVM."

Sister Raeleen is quick to acknowledge that these memorials honor not only her work with the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, but also the heritage of Nano Nagle who struggled to provide education for the children of Ireland under the penal laws of her day. At her retirement from the foundation, after 22 years of dedication to developing the skills of teachers in the state of Illinois, Sister Raeleen remarked, "I was honored and happy to represent my Presentation community as an educator."



The Golden Apple Foundation is dedicated to meeting the needs of young teachers, both in their preparation and in their ongoing work in the classroom. Educators with expertise in specific areas mentor new teachers through ongoing contact. In return, each recipient of this mentoring pledges to spend five years teaching in a school of need in Illinois. The Golden Apple teacher retention record is one of the highest in the nation, with 82% beyond the five-year commitment.

Annual Garage Sale DISCONTINUED

The Sisters of the Presentation are permanently ending the annual spring garage sale. Due to COVID-19, we have been unable to host our sale during 2020 and 2021. For 14 years, many people helped support our garage sale through donations of sale items, baked goods, purchases and time and energy in volunteering.

The garage sale has provided a place for many to gently pass on beloved treasures and items no longer needed, has kept "stuff" out of the landfill and, most importantly, offered an opportunity to build and strengthen friendships with customers and fellow workers, while in the end giving a financial boost to many organizations and scholarships for high school students.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
AND COLLABORATION!
We couldn't have accomplished it
without you.**

In our efforts to continue helping those in need, we have offered our gym space to Resources Unite, a Dubuque-based, non-profit organization that connects people to resources and volunteer opportunities that lead to a happier and more engaged way of life. Individuals stop in their office each day in need of housing, utility assistance, food, counseling and so much more. Their work focuses on building meaningful relationships with the people they serve that will last a lifetime.

One of the many programs they have to help people realize a happier way of life is a program that provides men with new dress clothes include, but are not limited to, suits, dress shirts, pants, ties, belts and socks. "We know that many of the people we serve do not have the means to purchase new clothes," says Josh Jasper, CEO of Resources Unite. "We also know that when interviewing for a new job, applying to college or anything else, the first impression matters. In partnership with the Sisters of the Presentation, we are able to store the large quantity of new clothing for people in need in their gym. We would in no way be able to afford storage for this quantity of new clothing and sincerely appreciate their support. Resources Unite also appreciate the ongoing relationship with the Presentation Sisters in several of our programs."

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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

Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2022

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

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



To apply, visit
www.dbqpbvms.org/contact-us/scholarships-awards



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EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY

FOLLOW US @DBQPBVMS | WWW.DBQPBVMS.ORG



Contact Sister Jessi Beck at vocations@dbqpbvms.org

PLEASE CONNECT WITH US.

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

PLEASE JOIN WITH US.

April 3, 2022

Virtual Lenten Women's Prayer
Open to single women ages 18-45 seeking prayer and faith sharing.
Do not need to be discerning religious life.
RSVP: <https://bit.ly/pbvmLent2022>

April 30, 2022

Dubuque's Got Sisters Retreat
Sinsinawa, Wisconsin
Open to single women ages 18-45 discerning religious life.
RSVP: discernyourvocation.org

May 21, 2022

Chicago's Got Sisters Retreat
Chicago, Illinois

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.

April 8-10, 2022

Pre-Chapter Community Gathering
Dubuque, Iowa

May 8, 2022

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Pray for Benefactors



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of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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"The future does have a name and its name is hope."

Pope Francis

***May the peace and hope of the Easter season fill the hearts of all.
With you, we pray for a world unified in compassion and love.***

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION | DUBUQUE, IOWA