



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



# The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the  
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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 partners, 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 invite 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 purpose 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 Cead Mile Fáilte (100,000 Welcomes) located on the property of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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## Cover PHOTO

During the Community Days gathering on July 20, 2024, Presentation Sisters and associates came together for opening prayer, embracing the gift of relationship, particularly their relationships with one another that nurtures, guides and challenges them to deeper growth as followers of Jesus and Nano. Together, they lifted their candles singing, "I am the light of the world."

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

*Openings*

by MARY LOU SPECHA, PBVM

## 150 Years of Tending the Light

Over the past century and a half, our journey has been marked by unwavering faith, dedicated service and a deep commitment to peace and justice, with special emphasis on serving women and children. We honor the pioneering spirit of our founders and the countless sisters who have walked this path with us, spreading the light of hope and love into the world. Their legacy continues to inspire and guide us in our mission.

The founding members of the Sisters of the Presentation were Irish immigrants who arrived in Dubuque, Iowa, on November 13, 1874. These four women, inspired by the vision of foundress Nano Nagle, sought to extend their mission of education and care for the poor in their new homeland. Their story – our story – is one of profound faith, resilience and a commitment to serving the poor.

As we continue to respond to our gospel call, our ongoing journey toward advocating for social justice remains central to our mission. We tend the light of hope and transformation through our commitments and actions. Our steadfast passion for empowering women and children stands firm by offering support and resources. Our commitment to the care of creation is clear as we steward our resources and work toward protecting Earth for future generations. We are actively engaged in environmental stewardship, promoting sustainable practices to safeguard our planet. We continue to work to eliminate human trafficking, advocating for the voiceless and providing support to victims. Through educational scholarships, we empower individuals, providing them with the assistance needed for a brighter future. We support their educational journeys, as they open doors to opportunities in hope of transforming lives and uplifting communities.

Additionally, we believe in an investment strategy that aims to generate social change. We align our financial decisions with our values, as we hope these decisions can make an impact on society. Addressing these social justice issues and others animates our commitment to serving the people of God.

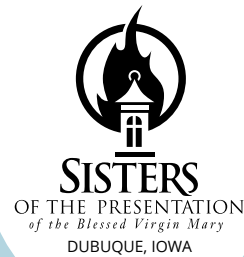
Today, Presentation Sisters and associates continue to uphold our storied history and to honor Nano Nagle's legacy by addressing challenges in our world today. We continue to tend the light with deep compassion, resilience and an unwavering commitment to women and children, social justice and care of Earth, believing God's spirit is always guiding us along the way.

Starting on November 13, our congregation's foundation day, we will celebrate a significant milestone – 150 Years of Tending the Light! This anniversary year offers us an opportunity to look back on the ways we have been a source of light and look forward to how we can continue to be a beacon of hope and service in the years to come.



*Sister Carmen Hernandez Sister Rita Menart Mary Lou Specha Sr. Joetta Venneman*

Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart, Mary Lou Specha, Joetta Venneman



### *Our* MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are called to evangelize, offering hope and love to our broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God, confronting injustice and working for peace.

### *Our* DIRECTION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, Associates and Companions in Mission, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in response to the cry of women and children made poor, our wounded Earth and all creation.

### *Our* COMMITMENTS

We invest time, energy and resources to a process of inner work, opening ourselves to personal and communal transformation.

We listen and respond to the cry of women and children and advocate for racial equity and immigration reform.

We foster connections with people and land to nurture healing of our wounded Earth.



Left to right: Sisters Jennifer Rausch and Marilyn Breen smile for a photo op during break; Sisters Beth Kress and Linda Reicks share with one another during small group discussion; Associate Dora Serna and Sister Julie Marsh enjoy time to reconnect; Participants reflect on what is the grace they need during this community gathering and wrote their reflections on a card; Sister Rita Cameron receives a blessing from Associate Lisa Schmidt; Sisters Hermann Platt, Joan Brincks and Jessi Beck are blessed with gratitude for their service to the community through their roles as archivist, associate partnership co-director and vocation director.

# Graced Transformation Community Days 2024

by MARILOU IRONS, PBVM

## *Holding On While Letting Go*

Prior to the community's October 2022 Chapter of Affairs and as a continuous focus, Presentation Sisters and associates encouraged each other to spend time reflecting and discussing Ted Dunn's "The Inner Work of Transformation." As the July 18-21, 2024, Community Days gathering progressed, it was obvious participants had delved into his ideas, struggled and grown in personal transformation and in the desire to be honest, nonjudgmental, open and vulnerable in sharing hopes and dreams in light of living mission in the years ahead.

Ted Dunn's work, coupled with other futuristic thinkers, challenges the Presentation community to name personal and communal abundance, and to engage hearts and souls in the dynamics of change. This kind of change enables the community to address concrete realities and creatively yet collaboratively plan to share their resources of wisdom, both personal and financial, to carry on Nano Nagle's legacy of service to women and children and to Earth.

The Community Days gathering entitled "Graced Transformation" was comparable to an elegant banquet. Just as a hostess prepares every detail for the gathering while knowing some aspects may change, the leadership team had an extensive plan to gather individuals and committees to enliven the theme of graced transformation. As time together unfolded, so did layers of organization as

well as the energy brought by participants to listen, ponder and enjoy new learnings. Groups were often encouraged to remember the past, live the present and explore the future with uncluttered hearts and minds.

Rather than a main entree, multiple side dishes or a dessert, the hostesses nourished all with soul-searching prayer, speakers' input, table conversations, sharing of demographics and thought-provoking discussions. One could state that the time together was a feast of ideas, rekindling of relationships and, most importantly, conversations that were grounded in respect for the other, integrity and honesty.

Little did those in attendance know that when they accepted an invitation to attend, they would be bountifully sustained by three components of the feast: naming reality and embracing the now, embracing the possible and embracing relationships.

As wise hostesses tend to do, the banquet members were tabled with a variety of new friends and long-time acquaintances. Those at tables shared insights, questions and feelings as to how one holds on while letting go of misinformation, judgments or past missteps. Refreshing and enriching parts of conversations were shared in the large group thus keeping all informed of shifts in acceptance of possibilities, questions that lingered and wisdom revealed.

These themes, like a banquet's thirst-quenching punch or an excellent aged wine, were interwoven throughout the conversations as the facilitator, Sister Kate DuVal, SSND, guided the process of committee reports, prayer and addressing concerns that arose.

## *For One Hundred Fifty Years*

For nearly 150 years, Presentation Sisters were summoned to prayer and meditation by the warm gentle sounds of chimes calming the mind and heart in preparation for quiet times with God. Chimes probably rang out for Nano Nagle in Ireland and, most definitely, for Mother Vincent Hennessy in the community's first home in Key West. During these days, the ringing of a chime echoed in prayer spaces. It reminded all present to gather and for some to recall the distant times of chanted psalms sprinkled with short periods of silence.

Faintly sounding chimes could not diminish the delight heard in voices nor stop the welcoming hugs that were part of sisters and associates greeting each other upon arrival. The persistent chimes gently announced opening prayer reminding those present that the journey of transformation being undertaken would name the community's current realities such as commitment to mission, demographics and future uses of properties.

Following opening prayer, Sister Maura McCarthy, explained the paths she has traveled, many of them chosen for her rather than by her. Sharing of her life's dream of being a missionary and the challenges to reach that goal inspired her listeners. Her journey of personal transformation to hold heart, mind and soul open, remaining faithful to her dream and willingness to be a daughter of Nano, reminded the group of the hundreds of untold stories of other daughters desiring to be faithful to their call to serve women and children.

**We walk without a map, but we walk confidently because we have chosen to be lights for each other, while on the way. We travel acknowledging our vulnerabilities. We travel with arms outstretched, as one called to the hope of graced transformation.**

*Edward Hays, paraphrased*

Sister Maura reiterated, "We travel in need, dependent on Holy Mystery for strength and on each other for assurance." Following Sister Maura's sharing, sisters processed their feelings around personal dreams and struggles to faithfully live their mission and values. Acknowledging that holding onto dreams, even when possibly crushed or out of reach, may enable one to become more aware of God's new or different possibilities. After listening to one another's aspirations and faithfulness, participants concluded with the words of Edward Hays' poem, "So now we begin anew, in good company, open to the grace that leads to transformation."

Energized by the sharings, the community soon delved into embracing future possibilities that call for deep listening while being open to diverse opinions or ideas that lead to unimaginable paths to fully living the Presentation mission together. They believe these possibilities have happened in the past and will continue to enrich and guide their lives, grounded in relationships, while tending Nano's light through service to women and children and Earth.

So now we begin anew,  
in good company,  
open to the grace that  
leads to transformation.

Edward Hays

### Celebrating The Work Ahead

Part of the future work is found in the community's commitments to Earth as presented by the Laudato Si' committee, the Land Justice Team and the associates' New Eyes Service Group. Inspired by the members of these groups' stories of new knowledge and shared experiences, coupled with deep passion, all present pledged to increase their care for all beings by increasing prairie pockets plantings, gaining more solar panel knowledge and joining the land justice endeavors. Such commitments are possible because all continue working together.

Celebrations like this recent community gathering would never be considered "perfect" if a time for relaxation and laughter were omitted. Both were evident when the red carpet was rolled out for a skit announcing the community's 150th anniversary events. All enjoyed the "Christmas in July" social and a harpist performing at the Saturday evening meal. Just as important were times during the discussions when a light moment, joke or misspeak caused smiles and laughter to ripple in the air. In those times of merriment, a vast variety of other's talents were revealed to be among the group and hopefully will be shared in future gatherings.

Sisters and associates journeyed home with thoughts of many possibilities created by their graced time together.



Sisters and associates release leaves into the pond on the Mount Loretto grounds. Written on the leaves are notes to Mother Earth with their intentions to protect and walk in unity with all beings.



# GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Even though there is a good chance you have heard of it, you might still be wondering, "What is GivingTuesday, exactly?" GivingTuesday began in 2012 as a simple idea: a day encouraging people to do good. It has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity, with more than 80 countries participating each year.

This global social movement works every day to fuel more philanthropy in order to build a more just and equitable world. This year, our annual day of celebration is on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. During GivingTuesday, the whole world comes together to give back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent or treasure.

**Please consider supporting the Sisters of the Presentation on GivingTuesday as we continue our mission to help those most in need, especially women and children.**

To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dbqpbvms.org) or visit [www.dbqpbvms.org/give-back/givingtuesday](http://www.dbqpbvms.org/give-back/givingtuesday).

# Sister Marge Healy Receives Champion Award

by JANE BUSE-MILLER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

On June 19, 2024, the Presentation Lantern Center held its annual volunteer appreciation event, recognizing the invaluable contributions of those who dedicate their time and skills to support the center's mission. In 2023, volunteers invested an impressive 3,729 hours teaching English, building friendships and helping students feel at home in the Dubuque community. Among the 12 volunteers honored with the prestigious Champion Award was Sister Marge Healy, celebrated for her assistance to a student with unique and critical needs.

"Sister Marge, having served in ministry for countless years in the Spanish-speaking countries of Guatemala and Bolivia and as a former one-on-one tutor at the Lantern Center, responded to the call to assist one of our students through the grieving process," shares Megan Ruiz, executive director at the center. "As a bilingual companion, Sister Marge provided essential support to a woman whose English proficiency was at a beginning-intermediate level. Grieving the loss of a loved one is an isolating experience, made even more challenging when one cannot express oneself or receive support in their native language."

Through their meetings, Sister Marge discovered that the woman was also in the process of obtaining her driver's license and moving from a small town to Dubuque to improve her employment prospects and access essential services. Despite the Lantern Center staff's efforts to provide transportation, limited resources and high demand made it difficult to offer consistent, personalized support. Sister Marge's bilingual background and dedication filled this gap, providing the woman with the necessary assistance to navigate her challenges.

"Sister Marge's compassionate heart and near-native fluency in Spanish were critical in offering the woman the emotional and practical support she needed," Megan explains. "The Lantern Center staff simply did not have the time or specific skill set to provide such intensive, one-on-one assistance. Thanks to Sister Marge's generosity and love, the woman gained confidence, secured a new apartment and job and continues to process grief. She is now working full-time, has an apartment in Dubuque, new friends, a church community, and is close to obtaining her driver's license. The student fondly refers to Sister Marge as 'one of my angels,' a sentiment we wholeheartedly share."



Presentation Lantern Center volunteer, Sister Marge Healy is presented with the Champion Award for her invaluable contributions to the center by Sue Ellis, education director at the center.

Reflecting on her experience, Sister Marge expresses, "The opportunity to be part of the lives of persons from various parts of the world is a great gift in my life. Mutual learning and struggling to 'get things right' can be heartbreaking, laughable or just one more step of a very long journey. At the Presentation Lantern Center, volunteering with persons facing multiple unknowns brings challenges, surprises and new friendships."

The Presentation Lantern Center's annual event not only highlights the dedication of volunteers like Sister Marge but also underscores the profound impact of their work on the lives of those they serve. Their collective efforts transform challenges into opportunities and build a stronger, more inclusive community.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**  
If you are interested in volunteering,  
email [info@thelanterncenter.org](mailto:info@thelanterncenter.org).



Founding members of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery: Front row: Sister Marie Barth, PBVM; Sister Irene Lukefahr, BVM; Sister Mira Mosle, BVM; Sister Diane Rappozo, BVM; Back row: Sister Joy Peterson, PBVM; Sister Mary Lechtenburg, OSF.

# Human Trafficking: A Crime Against Humanity

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

**Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.**

*Pope Francis*

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois). Established in 2014 by Catholic women religious in the Dubuque area, the coalition now includes over 20 women and men from the tri-state community, including members from the Sisters of Mercy (RSM), Sisters of Charity (BVM), Sisters of the Presentation (PBVM), Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa (OP) and Sisters of St. Francis (OSF).

“Ten years ago, women religious gathered to address human trafficking in the Dubuque area and spent countless hours developing an effective approach to eradicate this evil,” comments Sister Joy Peterson, PBVM. “Our initial efforts focused on raising awareness in the community, countering the misconception that trafficking only happens in distant large cities or impoverished countries. These early efforts have grown into a well-respected program of awareness-raising, advocacy and outreach to end human trafficking in the tri-state area.”

“Our first year involved educating ourselves about human trafficking, presenting our organization to various groups and forming committees. We trained nurses, teachers, bus and truck drivers, advocated for anti-trafficking bills and wrote to legislators urging them to pass laws to eradicate human trafficking,” shares Sister Diane Rappozo, BVM.

“Over the past 10 years, we have given presentations to various groups, trained hotel workers, educated teachers, school staff and parents, informed bus drivers and

sponsored a bus wrap for three years. We visited businesses to explain Businesses Against Trafficking (I-BAT). There is still much work to be done,” states Sister Irene Lukefahr, BVM.

Sister Marilou Irons, PBVM, adds, “Collaborating with other area organizations, the Tri-state Coalition connects with Iowa businesses, hospitality industry, church and civic groups and libraries, among others. We train employees of businesses and staff information booths at farmers’ markets, Juneteenth celebrations and the Dubuque County Fair.”

**Our mission is to raise awareness and educate the community on what to look for regarding human trafficking.**

*Sister Mary Lechtenburg, OSF*

The coalition sponsored a January 2023 conference and worked with local city councils to proclaim January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. They also purchased area billboards with awareness messages. In 2022, the coalition received a Volunteer Service Award from the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking. They are also members of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking.

“Our mission is to raise awareness and educate the community on what to look for regarding human trafficking. Many people have heard of it but still have questions. We have provided numerous informational presentations to groups of all sizes,” states Sister Mary Lechtenburg, OSF. “I have great compassion for the victims and survivors who are deceived and trapped into a life they never planned on.”

Educating all ages in the community about the signs of human trafficking and slavery is central to the coalition’s mission. Human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for involuntary labor or services through force, fraud or coercion for exploitation.

“When I joined the coalition, I knew little about the issue, but I have since learned and contributed at both local and state levels,” says Deborah Albert. “Human trafficking involves the buying and selling of people as commodities. Eliminating this crime requires a community with diverse skills. Our group volunteers engage in raising awareness, advocate for stricter laws and collaborate with law enforcement and social services.”

Networking reaches out to local and state governments. “Our efforts to train hotel and motel employees led Iowa state legislator Chuck Isenhardt to propose mandatory training for all hospitality sites doing business with the state,” explains Sister Mira Mosle, BVM. “With the passage

of this legislation, the Department of Public Safety now provides the necessary resources and accreditation, resulting in hundreds of hotels and motels taking this online training.”

The small “seed” planted in the tri-state area has borne fruit on a much larger scale. “When we started, people would stop at our table at the county fair and say, ‘That doesn’t happen here,’” recalls Sister Marie Barth, PBVM. “Now, people not only acknowledge the need for awareness but share actual incidents of trafficking.”

“The impact stretches beyond the tri-states,” shares Sister Reg McKillip, OP. “The Sinsinawa Dominicans’ anti-trafficking group in Madison has benefitted from the Tri-State Coalition. They have been a valuable resource for us in planning our educational programs, working on bus wraps and having a table at farmers’ markets in Madison.”

Human trafficking, a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry, affects over 40 million people worldwide. It ranks among the top three global crimes alongside drug trafficking and illegal weapons trade. It occurs everywhere, including every state in the United States, affecting people of all ages, genders, ethnicities and classes.

Ending human trafficking requires everyone’s help. Whether through prayer, education, advocacy, survivor services or financial support, you can make a difference.

**If you see or hear something suspicious, call the Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or your local law enforcement at 911. Do not risk harm to yourself or the victim by approaching the suspected trafficker. To learn more about the coalition or to schedule a presentation, email [tscapt@gmail.com](mailto:tscapt@gmail.com).**



Sister Reg McKillip, OP; Sister Marilou Irons, PBVM; and Sister Mary Lechtenburg, OSF, accept the proclamation from the city council declaring January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.



The Land Justice Team is made up of Dave McDermott, justice promoter, Sisters Suzanne Gallagher, Jessi Beck and Rita Menart.

# The Story of Land from Native Care to U.S. Property

by DAVE MCDERMOTT, JUSTICE PROMOTER

Recently, the Sisters of the Presentation, led by the Land Justice Team, joined a cohort of other religious communities to work with Land Justice Futures, previously known as Nuns and Nones. The Land Justice Futures organization walks with religious communities to educate them about the history of local land and the people who occupied the land before European colonization. A component of this collaboration allowed Jessica Intermill, a treaty lawyer, to present a detailed history of the land the Sisters of the Presentation reside on and the area surrounding Dubuque.

When the French began colonizing the Midwest, they called the Meskwaki people who lived in the area, “renard,” which means fox in French. It was not a compliment. Meskwaki actually means “red-earth people” and for centuries they cared for most of the land in the Midwest surrounding what is now Dubuque. This land included the important river valley west of Lake Michigan which is now called the Fox River, a remnant of the disrespectful nickname for the Meskwaki. Needing the Fox River system to ship furs, the French declared war with the Meskwaki who immediately

allied with the Sauk tribe who lived to the north. This alliance of the “Sauk and Fox” tribes lost the war with the French and were pushed off their land and moved further west.

William Henry Harrison, who later became the ninth U.S. President, moved into the newly-conquered Fox River valley area in 1801 and immediately began working toward President Thomas Jefferson’s goal of acquiring as much land in the area as possible. Harrison knew acquiring the land would be difficult. He wrote to Jefferson: “The Indians are remarkable for deliberation in all of their councils. They are more so whenever the subject before them relates to their land. Propositions to purchase their land, abruptly made, agitates them to the extreme and is very rarely successful.”

In 1804, members of the Sauk and Fox tribe went to St. Louis to help atone for the murder of four white settlers which had occurred earlier in the year. The group had no intention of discussing land and had no authority to do so. After the representatives of the United States allegedly got the four natives drunk, they had them sign a treaty that sold over 51 million acres of land to the U.S. government

for \$2,234 down and a \$1,000 annuity. It was a treaty that Blackhawk, the leader of the tribe, never considered valid.

In 1832, Blackhawk and his people returned from their annual hunting grounds in what is now Iowa to find squatters in their settlement, now Rock Island, Illinois. Unwilling to cede the land and still finding no authority in the 1804 treaty the U.S. used to purchase it, Black Hawk warred with U.S. authorities. This war culminated in the Battle of Bad Axe which killed hundreds of Black Hawk’s people and forced their surrender. The U.S. government then leveraged this victory to purchase six million acres west of the Mississippi at a price five times less than it was worth as a punishment to Black Hawk and his people. With this purchase, all of the land surrounding Dubuque was moved from native care to U.S. property.

Upon purchasing the land, the U.S. immediately subdivided it and settlers, mostly immigrants from Europe, started moving in and “staking their claim.” William Carter, born in Kentucky, was the first man to stake a claim on the land where the Sisters of the Presentation now reside. He came to the area to mine lead. Soon after he arrived, he struck one of the most abundant lead seams ever found in the area – a seam reportedly worth over one million dollars at that time.

White European settlers and their descendants begin the history of this area when their ancestors arrived, omitting thousands of years of history and culture of the people who lived here before them. A fuller understanding of history unveils some uncomfortable truths for those who have benefited and continue to benefit from that history. Those uncomfortable truths include dubious land purchases, mass displacement of indigenous people, massacres, boarding schools and environmental devastation.

## Land Justice Futures

The Land Justice Futures work is part of a broader movement of religious communities who are attempting to better understand the history and importance of land and trying to create right-relations with the indigenous people who were removed by colonization. In partnering with Land Justice Futures, the Presentation community has committed to two years of intense learning and relationship building. A national meeting in Racine, Wisconsin, in late April 2024, gathered all the participating communities for a session of listening, dreaming and networking. The hope is that these learnings will provide a lens through which future community decisions can repair relationships with indigenous people and the land.

## Communities Taking Action

Action is already happening with communities who have engaged with the Land Justice Futures program. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood, New Jersey, are collaborating with the Shinnecock people to support kelp farming in their waters as they had traditionally done for centuries.

**My motivation to join and promote this movement stems from a desire to create a better world for all ... Participating in land justice offers a path to heal the wounds of centuries of colonization. I am grateful to be working towards building relationships and healing for both oppressors and the oppressed, and for Mother Earth.**

*Sister Rita Menart*

A Presbyterian church building on the Hudson River was donated to the Ramapough Lenape people to be used as a center to promote the welfare of indigenous people. These actions offer a glimpse of the partnerships that are beginning to happen with the hope that many more examples will follow.

## Testimonials by Land Justice Team Members:

“Being part of the Land Justice Team has been a deeply reflective and emotional journey,” shares Sister Suzanne Gallagher. “Our exploration of colonial history and our land history at 2360 Carter Road has uncovered painful truths, such as the Catholic Church’s Doctrine of Discovery, which devastated indigenous people and their lands. This has evoked emotions of shame, anger and profound loss, which have fueled my passion for this work.”

“After attending the spirit-filled national Land Justice gathering in April, it is clear that God is at work in this movement,” expresses Sister Jessi Beck. “Land Justice resonates deeply with our commitments and Nano’s founding spirit, emphasizing personal and communal transformation, racial equity and healing Earth by connecting land and people. The Land Justice Futures program explores creative possibilities and partnerships with those historically dispossessed or denied land access. So, I ask myself, what is mine to do now? Land Justice invites me to wrestle with difficult questions. First, can I see how the harm done centuries ago continues and is connected to today? Second, how can I respond in a way that contributes to repair, healing and wholeness?”

Sister Rita Menart states, “My motivation to join and promote this movement stems from a desire to create a better world for all. Working for 10 years with the Quiché people in Guatemala, I witnessed their resilience in the face of genocide and repression. This has happened to indigenous in my country as well and I have benefited from it. Participating in land justice offers a path to heal the wounds of centuries of colonization. I am grateful to be working towards building relationships and healing for both oppressors and the oppressed, and for Mother Earth.”



Above photo: Sister Ann Jackson teaches a holistic healing retreat at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha, Iowa, where she has ministered for 21 years. Right photo: Sister Ann multitasks effortlessly, giving participants rides during a Prairiewoods fundraiser, showcasing her dedication and versatility in every aspect of her job.



In 1997, Sister Ann received a master's degree in pastoral studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis with emphasis on leadership and facilitation. She was invited by Sisters Betty Daughtery and Lucille Winnike, FSPA, to do an internship at Prairiewoods. This experience turned into an invitation to join their spirituality team where Sister Ann's creativity, service for the common good and deep love of Earth synced so beautifully with the spirit and mission of Prairiewoods.

Contemplation, collaboration and servant leadership characterizes Sister Ann's 21 years of ministry at Prairiewoods. The very nature of the work and mission provide her with much exposure to the latest thinkers, authors, scholars and speakers. She embraces cultural diversity and has a deep understanding of working with various faith traditions. Sister Ann is charged with creating and delivering a variety of workshops, retreats and courses in addition to providing spiritual direction. During her five-year term on the congregational leadership team from 2013 to 2018, she made a creatively spiritual impact on the congregation.

Marie Stratford, a friend from Prairiewoods, comments, "For me, Sister Ann is a very gentle – very grounded – presence who joins me on my path and sees me and hears me as I look back and honor how God has been in my life. God lives through her and touches me in a variety of ways when we meet and share space and time. Sometimes it is a time of celebration for how I have grown or deepened my relationship with God – a gentle guide walking beside me – never leading – sharing space for me to hear God. Yes, a gentle, kind, caring, loving guide who shares light."

For Sister Ann, the example of fidelity and resilience of the senior Presentation Sisters has been her inspiration. "I feel grounded and grateful for the realization that I stand on their shoulders." She adds, "I love life and am grateful daily as 'each day is a gift.'"

## Our Beloved Visitation Sisters

In 1871, six sisters of the St. Louis order of the Sisters of the Visitation (SVM) were invited to Dubuque by then-Bishop John Hennessy. It was the beginning of the Visitation order in Dubuque. At its height, the order had more than 60 members, now, two sisters remain. Sisters Paula Maloy, 90, and Patricia (Trish) Clark, 87, are grateful for their life paths, their careers, the contributions they made to the community and their collaboration with the church, particularly with the Sisters of the Presentation, who have provided them with a home for the past few years.

On June 9, 2024, Sisters Patricia and Paula transferred their congregational roles as president and vice-president to Presentation Sister Carmen Hernandez, or her appointee, to execute the implementation of their Covenant, or final disposition plan, upon death of their last member or when there are no members legally competent to manage their affairs. This plan will allow Sisters Patricia and Paula to live the remaining years of their earthly life in peace and comfort, knowing they will be cared for by the Sisters of the Presentation.

The Sisters of the Presentation share a kinship with the Visitation Sisters since 1874 when they extended hospitality to Dubuque Presentation foundress, Mother Vincent Hennessy. "We feel deeply blessed to assist Sisters Paula and Trish in carrying out their decisions about their future. We will walk with them in their waning years, assisting them individually and as a congregation, embracing an experience of mutuality in serving the Gospel," states Sister Carmen Hernandez.



Visitation Sisters Paula Maloy and Patricia (Trish) Clark

# Creative, Collaborator, Companion Sister Ann Jackson

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Sister Ann Jackson, a much-esteemed staff member of Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha, Iowa, is the daughter of Joan Lee (Koenig) and Frederick H. Jackson of Menominee, Illinois. Growing up in a family of six children in a small rural community where everyone, young and old, contributed diverse gifts imbued a deep sense of hospitality within her. Sister Ann credits and remains grateful to her parents and siblings for instilling in her the values of cooperation and collaboration. She received her elementary education at Nativity BVM school in Menominee, and attended East Dubuque High School. She then obtained her bachelor's degree in English literature from Clarke College in 1988.

Barb Ressler, Presentation associate, shares, "I first met Ann in 1988 when she was assigned to student-teach English at Wahlert High School with me. Her strong work ethic, intelligence, depth and gentleness impressed me. Ann prepared and delivered interesting, excellent lessons; she was collaborative and her great sense of humor made it a joy to work with her. We have been lifelong friends

**I love life and am grateful daily  
as "each day is a gift."**

*Sister Ann Jackson*

ever since." Ann taught English at Garrigan High School in Algona, Wahlert High School in Dubuque and Beckman High School in Dyersville, all in Iowa.

Sister Ann entered the Sisters of the Presentation in August of 1994, and was office administrator for Fred Jackson Tuckpointing of Dubuque her first year in the congregation. She participated in the Iowa-Wisconsin InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate program and during her apostolic year was enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Gundersen-Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Later she became coordinator of resident services for Heartland Housing in Dubuque.





Members of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), the Sisters of the Presentation Hennessy Trust board and the congregation's justice promoter pause for a group photo when gathered in June for a board meeting.

# Investing for Social Justice

by DAVE MCDERMOTT, JUSTICE PROMOTER

The work for social justice on a community level sometimes happens in unexpected places. One of those places is in the Presentation community's investment practices. In collaboration with Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), the Sisters of the Presentation work to leverage their investments to promote social justice and create a positive impact on society.

## Understanding Catholic Responsible Investing

CBIS offers Catholic Responsible Investing (CRI) to select investments based on ethical, social and environmental criteria. This means avoiding companies that engage in harmful practices and supporting those that contribute positively to society. Catholic Responsible Investing may include investments in renewable energy, affordable housing and companies with strong labor practices.

## Engaging in Shareholder Advocacy

The Presentation community's investments have the power to influence corporate behavior. Shareholder advocacy involves using rights as a shareholder to promote change within companies. This can include filing shareholder resolutions, engaging in dialogue with company management and voting on key issues at annual

meetings. Advocacy can address issues such as labor rights, environmental sustainability and corporate governance. At a recent meeting, CBIS explained their position on ExxonMobil in exactly these terms. When questioned about why they are involved with ExxonMobil, CBIS responded it is to help push the corporation toward clean energy adoption and decrease carbon emissions. When CBIS feels that their shareholder advocacy is not having the desired effect, they divest and put the money in a more responsible investment.

## Monitoring and Measuring Impact

"It is important to track the impact of our investments to ensure they are meeting our social justice goals," states Sister Joy Peterson. "CBIS has tools and resources to continually track these goals which helps us, as a community, make informed decisions and adjust our strategy as needed."

Investing for social justice is not just about avoiding harm; it is also about actively contributing to positive change. By working with CBIS, the Sisters of the Presentation have the ability to use community resources to build a more equitable and sustainable world.

# Voting is Social Justice

by JANE BUSE-MILLER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in the world.**

Pope Francis

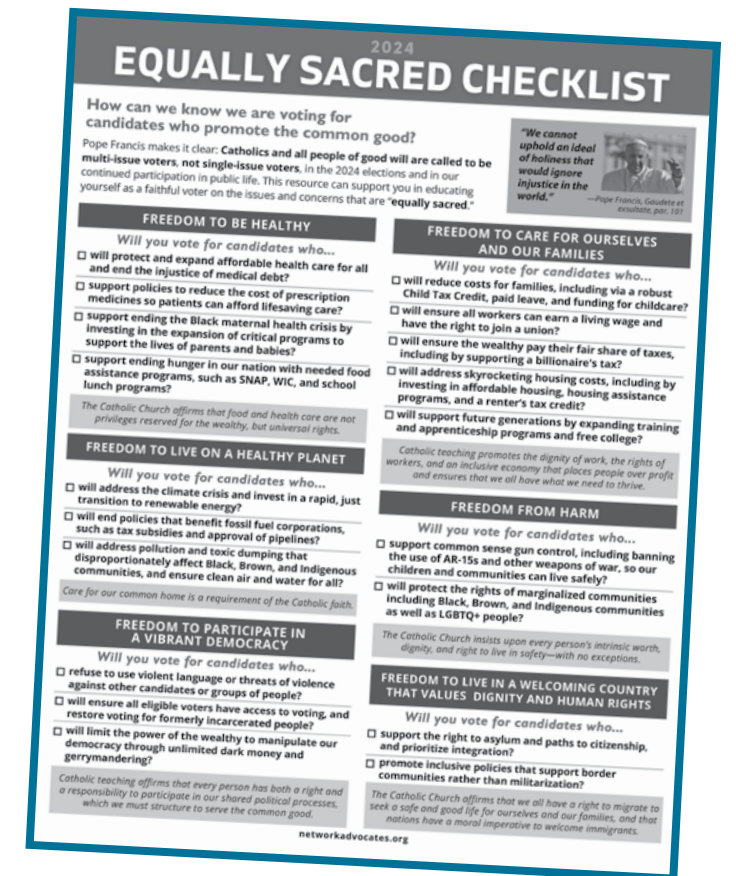
Participation in public life is a privilege that must not be squandered. Citizenship brings with it the right and the responsibility to be involved in politics and to vote.

In November 2023, in their introductory letter to the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," the U.S. Catholic Bishops urge us as citizens to reflect on the parable of the Good Samaritan to rediscover our vocation as citizens to build a new social bond. They remind us that we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good.

We are called by our faith to educate ourselves on critical issues from a values perspective. Our political engagement must be shaped by the moral convictions of a well-formed conscience that focuses on the dignity and protection of every human being, with special attention to the most vulnerable among us and the pursuit of the common good.

How can we know we are voting for candidates who promote the common good? Pope Francis makes it clear: Catholics and all people of goodwill are called to be multi-issue voters concerned with the matters of justice that support flourishing lives, not single-issue voters. Responsible citizens must educate themselves on current issues and learn candidates' stances on those issues. To make informed choices, read trusted news sources, engage in conversations with others, especially those most impacted by the issues and consult with non-partisan entities like the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights ensuring everyone is represented, and NETWORK, an inclusive, national, Catholic advocacy working to achieve equity and justice for everyone.

NETWORK developed a guiding document for their Vote Our Future campaign called the Equally Sacred Checklist. This resource supports voters in educating themselves as faithful voters on the issues and concerns that are "equally sacred" such as health care, economic justice, climate justice, community harm (violence), democracy and immigration.



**To make informed decisions, download the Equally Sacred Checklist provided by NETWORK:**

<https://networkadvocates.org/equally-sacred-multi-issue-voter-checklist>

Take action to influence candidates and election outcomes. Write letters to the editor, respond to candidate surveys prioritizing issues and use social media to share ideas tagging candidates. Participate in virtual town halls and be prepared to ask questions.

Responsible citizenship demands that we vote based on an informed conscience shaped by our faith and our values, prioritizing the needs of the vulnerable and the principles of justice and equality. In order to do so, we must be informed, engaged and committed voters this election year. As Pope Francis says, "The only future worth building includes everyone."

# Partner in Mission Helps Tend the Light

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

Partner in Mission, Jim Cole embraces his past to describe how he grew into the person he is today, “Growing up in Dakota City, Iowa, I experienced firsthand the warmth and love of family, despite the early challenges of my parents’ divorce. My mother and I lived with her parents due to her poor health, and they became my primary caretakers and sources of strength. This period of my life instilled in me a profound sense of family and community, values that have guided me ever since.”



Jim Cole

In 1979, Jim married Dorothy Barrett, and had one son, Christopher, born in 1983. Dorothy was the light of his life, and their family was the center of her world. In 2000, their lives took a turn when Dorothy discovered a lump on her arm, which was diagnosed as liposarcoma, a type of cancer. Despite undergoing surgery and radiation treatments, the cancer spread, and Dorothy passed away in 2003, just six days after Jim’s 55th birthday. Her passing was a significant moment of loss, but it also reinforced the importance of cherishing every moment and supporting each other through life’s trials.

Throughout Jim’s life, the Presentation Sisters have been a constant source of inspiration and guidance. “My relationship with the sisters began during my years at St. Mary School in Humboldt, Iowa. Starting in the second semester of first grade, I was blessed with exceptional teachers who not only imparted academic knowledge but also nurtured my faith. Sister Mary Lawrence Mulligan, my seventh- and eighth-grade teacher, was particularly influential. Her dedication and compassion left a lasting impression on me, shaping my values and beliefs.” Jim attributes the person he is today to how faith and education was impressed upon him at a young age.

“Although my mother preferred that I attend the local public high school, the education and moral foundation I received from the Presentation Sisters proved invaluable. The lessons in faith, service and community that I learned during those

formative years have stayed with me throughout my life,” states Jim. “They have inspired me to give back to the Sisters of the Presentation, whose mission continues to make a significant impact on the world today.”

“My monthly contributions to the Sisters of the Presentation are small tokens of my gratitude for the profound influence they have had on my life. This consistent giving allows me to support their mission of evangelization, offering hope and confronting injustice. The work they do is truly Christlike, extending from education to social services, advocacy and beyond. Their dedication to helping those in need, including prison ministries and international missions, resonates deeply with me and fuels my desire to contribute to their cause.”

“Looking to the future, I am inspired by the transformative work of the Sisters of the Presentation. Transformation, whether personal or societal, is a continuous journey. At age 76, I see the need for change more clearly than ever. Our society is deeply divided by political, religious and ethnic conflicts. Economic and social inequalities persist, and hatred seems to pervade our world. Yet, I believe in the power of organizations like the Sisters of the Presentation to bring about positive change through their commitment to justice, peace and the hospitality of God.”

**In my own life, tending the light means honoring the legacy of those who came before us, living out our values in the present and working towards a brighter future.**

*Jim Cole*

Jim’s faith, shaped by a Catholic upbringing and now expressed through his beliefs as an Episcopalian, remains a cornerstone of his life. “My faith guides my actions and inspires me to strive for a better world. The values I learned from the Presentation Sisters continue to influence me, reminding me of the importance of compassion, service and community.”



Christopher and Jim Cole enjoy time together over the holidays.

“Tending the Light” is a powerful metaphor for the work of the Sisters of the Presentation. It is about nurturing the spark of hope, faith and love in ourselves and others. This light has taken many forms throughout history. The early sisters left their countries and families, venturing into new lands, often under challenging conditions. They demonstrated hospitality by welcoming strangers and providing education to those in need. Their courage and commitment set the foundation for the work the sisters continue today.

“In my own life, tending the light means honoring the legacy of those who came before us, living out our values in the present and working towards a brighter future,” expresses Jim. “It involves supporting the sisters in their mission and recognizing the transformative power of their work. Whether through education, social services or advocacy, the Sisters of the Presentation are a beacon of hope in a world that desperately needs it.”

“This sense of mission and hospitality continues to inspire me,” shares Jim. “It reminds me of the importance of opening our hearts and homes to others, of seeing Christ in every person we meet. It is a call to action, urging us to be instruments of God’s love in the world.”

The journey of embracing our past, living our present and exploring the future is a continuous process of tending the light. It is about honoring those who have paved the way, living out our values in the present and working towards a better future. “The Presentation Sisters exemplify this journey through their commitment to education, social justice and radical hospitality,” states Jim. “Their work is a testament to the power of faith, love and community. As we support them, we, too, become part of this transformative mission, tending the light and spreading hope in a world that needs it more than ever.”

## All Souls’ Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2024



**Come to me, my precious ones,  
and know that we are all one.  
As your journey continues,  
know the spirit is with you  
and promises you eternal life.**

*Sister Elena Hoye*

November is a month of remembrance for our deceased loved ones. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1 and the Commemoration of All of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls’ Day on November 2.

On All Souls’ Day, we take time to reflect on the lives of those we have lost, which have shaped our journey and continue to inspire us. The Spirit comforts us, as mentioned in the Book of John, “Trust in my promise, and you will have eternal life.”

Remembrance cards will be mailed in late September. We encourage you to return the card with the names and dates of those you mourn. On All Souls’ Day, and throughout the month of November, the Presentation Sisters will remember your loved ones and pray daily for all those who have died – may their spirits find eternal peace.

Intentions can also be submitted 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 \_\_\_\_\_



Newly-committed associates: Marge Reidy, Bonnie Hancock, Kathy Petitgout and Connie Bellaver

# Welcome New Associates

by RADIE ROBERTS and SISTER RITA WATERS, RSM, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTORS

On May 16, 2024, four women professed their commitment to the Presentation Associate Partnership in a beautiful ceremony in Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto. The joyous occasion included talks by each candidate, readings of the Presentation mission statement and associate identity statement and the signing of commitment. Each new associate was given a Presentation pin or pendant. After the commitment ceremony, they were lovingly greeted and welcomed by sisters associates, family and friends.

Together these associates chose the group name of Nano's Lanterns of Hope. They are inspired by Nano Nagle's vision and courage and want to take her lantern light, now shining in them, into today's challenging times that each of them agreed are so urgently in need of hope.

**Connie Bellaver** is a retired nurse practitioner and has been married to her husband Peter for 56 years. They have two children, Noelle and Andrew. As a "Martha," a do-er, Connie says she needs to be involved, making a difference. Her goal is to leave this world better than it was when

she entered it. To that end, Connie feels that it is a joyful challenge to participate in the drive and work that fuels the Presentation mission.

**Bonnie Hancock** is also a retired nurse, having enjoyed a 47-year career in pediatrics and hospice. Seeds of interest in the Presentation way of life were planted many years ago through her aunt, Sister Janice Hancock, and in spiritual conversations with Sister Julia Wingert. The seeds have grown to the commitment she made to the Associate Partnership. A recent debilitating disease put her life of active service on hold. Now, Bonnie is discovering that her ministry is evolving into one of deep prayer, as well as letter writing to promote justice.

**Kathy Petitgout** learned of the Associate Partnership through her mother, Charlotte Danner, who was an associate. Kathy enjoys retirement by volunteering at her parish and as an emergency room companion for the Sisters of Charity (BVM) in Dubuque. Continuing Nano's journey with the lantern, Kathy hopes to bring light to the world by deepening her spiritual being and by ministering

**If I can help with the poor and marginalized, pointing all to God who is everywhere, seeing Him in the small things that need to be done, I will be a blessed associate.**

*Associate Kathy Petitgout*

to and with persons made poor. Kathy states, "If I can help with the poor and marginalized, pointing all to God who is everywhere, seeing Him in the small things that need to be done, I will be a blessed associate."

**Marge Reidy** has known the Presentation Sisters for as long as she can remember through her aunt, Sister Robert Reidy, and her sister, Sarah Kane, who was a member of the community. Marge is the oldest of eight children, attended St. Patrick School in Ryan, Iowa, and then taught with Presentation Sisters at Wahlert High School in Dubuque. Marge retired from teaching in 2011 but enjoys substitute teaching. Following Nano's pioneer spirit in Catholic education and advocacy for the poor, Marge intends to offer hope and love to our broken world, as well as confront injustice. She wants to share the life, spirituality, mission and radical hospitality of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters.

The Presentation community welcomes and congratulates Connie, Bonnie, Kathy and Marge, certain their lives will be enriched by the many gifts of these four women.

## Associate Joins Lantern Center Board

The Presentation Lantern Center is thrilled to welcome Presentation associate Dianne McDermott to their board of directors. Dianne and her husband Lloyd have devoted their lives to helping international students, and their charitable efforts have extended to other countries.



*Dianne McDermott*

Dianne states, "I hope that by joining the Lantern Center board, I can come to better understand the problems immigrants face in our area. I hope to play a part in helping the many immigrants the center advocates for to build a better life."



## Community Days 2024 Associate Gathering

On Saturday, July 20, Presentation associates convened in the beautiful chapel gathering space at Mount Loretto for the 2024 Community Days. The morning began by acknowledging and honoring the associates who passed into eternal life in the last year. Following that beautiful remembrance ceremony, the newest associates were introduced, as well as those who will begin the associate orientation process this fall.

Led by Associate Partnership co-director, Sister Rita Waters, RSM, the group then explored the theme of graced transformation. Sister Rita unpacked the meaning of "trance" formation and "trans" formation explaining that because change is hard, people try to control it. Instead they need to identify negative patterns that prevent change. Associates met in small groups to share patterns or "trances" recognized in themselves. They came back to the large group to consider graced transformation, which gives the power to bypass fear when surrounded by the hug of grace.

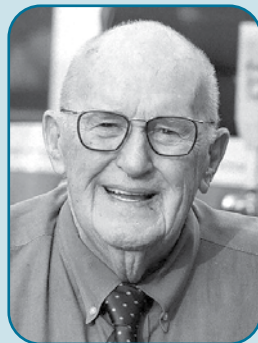
As the gathering closed, associates discussed how it felt to create deeper relationships with fellow associates while doing small group sharing. Associate Janet Leonard states, "I was able to share something very personal with two people I have never met, but they are Presentation associates so there was already a level of trust and love."

Associate Carol Wyatt expressed gratitude for the gathering and the time to delve into how grace has shaped her personal life. She reflects, "The blessing of grace for me is not that warm cozy hug but simply knowing and believing grace does exist."

## In Loving Memory Associate Dennis Ryan

April 25, 1939 – February 14, 2024

Associate Dennis P. Ryan of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, died at age 85 on February 14, 2024, lovingly surrounded by Rita, his wife of 63 years, and their four children, their spouses, their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dennis previously resided in Dubuque for 35 years and first knew the Presentation community through Sister Carla Popes.



Dennis Ryan

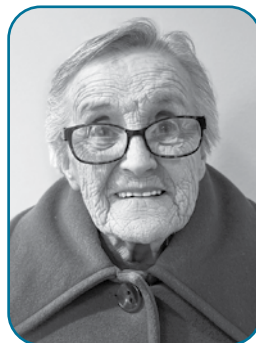
A friend who worked with Dennis said he was such a lovely man – smart, kind and gracious, with a delightful smile, and she was lucky to have met him. Presentation Sisters and associates were also blessed to have him as an associate for 24 years. Dennis professed his commitment on June 16, 2000, the first year of the Associate Partnership.

Dennis stated that he was challenged by the vision, “Not to rest in firelight certainties, but to move one pace beyond,” and wanted to be part of the “Go out” action to help those in need. He found the associate prayer and sharing enriching and he strove to live with Christ-like values and Nano-like fervor.

## In Loving Memory Associate Margaret Barton

August 8, 1938 – May 4, 2024

Associate Margaret M. Barton, age 86, of Dubuque, Iowa, passed away on May 4, 2024, with family by her side. She was born on August 8, 1938, the daughter of John and Margaret Hoyne. She married “the love of her life” Ron Barton; and they enjoyed 23 years together before his death in 1987. They had two children, Elizabeth and Paul, and six grandchildren.



Margaret Barton

Marge lived her life according to three core values: faith, family and friends. She was an active member of Resurrection Church for over 50 years and felt honored to serve as a Eucharistic minister to those who were homebound. Marge graduated from The Academy of the Visitation and throughout her lifetime, cherished her monthly lunches with the “Visitation girls.” Catholic education remained an important priority to her. Her children attended Resurrection Catholic School, where she met the Presentation Sisters, and Wahlert High School.

Marge embodied a deep devotion to her faith, her family and her friends. She became a Presentation associate in November of 2003. A person of prayer, Marge made her ministry one of praying the rosary. She helped at the local food pantry, donated Christmas gifts to the Presentation Lantern Center and served meals at the shelter. Full of life to the end, she loved spending time with family.

## In Loving Memory Associate Judi Weydert

April 30, 1949 – June 26, 2024

Associate Judi E. Weydert, age 75, passed away on June 26, 2024. She was born Judi Wertzberger on April 30, 1949, to parents David and Delores. She married David Weydert on October 12, 1973, at Nativity Catholic Church in Dubuque and together they had three sons, Russ, Andy and Chad, and a daughter, Gina.



Judi Weydert

A creative person, Judi’s profession was a hairdresser and teacher of cosmetology. She owned two salons, the Looking Glass and New Image Styling Salon, and also did hair for the Sisters of the Presentation.

On February 11, 2007, Judi became an associate. In her commitment statement, she shared that prayer was important to her, feeling its power of guidance and healing as she sought to grow spiritually.

She enjoyed traveling to national parks, the ocean, Europe and around the United States. She liked to entertain, especially on holidays and special occasions. She golfed, biked (even RAGBRAI), and was active in her church. Her most cherished time was spent with her two grandchildren.

## In Loving Memory Associate Rosie Metzger

September 24, 1932 – July 24, 2024

Rosalla “Rosie” Metzger, age 91, passed away on July 24, 2024, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was a Presentation associate for almost 20 years and an aunt to Lisa Schmidt, a current associate. Rosie was an active member of St. Michael Parish in Whittemore and Holy Family Catholic Church in Emmetsburg, both in Iowa.



Rosie Metzger

Born September 24, 1932, to Mary and Adam Laubenthal, Rosie grew up on the family farm near West Bend, Iowa. She married Wilmer Metzger in 1956 and they farmed together west of Whittemore, raising their four children. Rosie’s pride and joy were her eight grandchildren with whom she enjoyed sharing her love of reading, playing cards/games, as well as attending their sporting events.

She was passionate about her profession, serving as a registered nurse, night supervisor, mentor of young nurses and organizer of the first nurses’ collective bargaining union at Palo Alto County Hospital.

Through the years, Rosie served as a role model for continuous learning, exhibited by her love of overcoming new challenges. In her early 60s, she learned to swim. As a strong woman of faith, she believed in the power of endurance, with the love of friends and family by her side.

## Music in the Gardens

In early June, Presentation Sisters and associates gathered at the Dubuque Arboretum for one of the Music in the Gardens performances. The lively concert was performed by Elton Jeff & the Honkey Cats, while wine and pretzels added a little extra enjoyment to the evening. It was fun to be together!

Left to right: Attendees - Associates Ben Roberts, Radie Roberts and Carrie Breitbach with her granddaughter, Sister Rita Waters, Sister Donna Demmer, Associate Dora Serna, Sisters Margaret Anne Kramer and Rita Cameron.



## Let us answer your questions.

To learn about the Presentation Associate Partnership, feel free to contact Sister Rita or Radie at:

563.588.2008 Ext. 608  
associates@dbqpbvms.org

CONNECT WITH US @DBQPBVMS



WWW.DBQPBVMS.ORG



### 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.

# Reflections on the Journey

## Sister Julianne Brockamp

by JOY PETERSON, PBVM

One of the names for God and the energy of God in the universe is Divine Providence. Just like every other attempt to label or identify God, there is no absolute definition of providence. It might be like many things in life: you know it best when you see or experience it.

Anyone who has met Sister Julianne Brockamp soon comes to recognize that her life experiences have been framed with a deep trust in Loving Providence and a strong dose of good humor. Events such as being on a bus in the treacherous mountains of Bolivia when a tire fell off and rolled down a steep cliff or crossing winding rivers, and living through a tornado catching her up and throwing her into a hole many feet away are part of her story.

When she describes these incidents, it is clear that she has been supported by the roots of faith instilled by her parents, Julius and Mary (Crain) Brockamp, and her siblings, Walter, Jim, Carolyn, Colette, Andrew and Rita. Her 70 years of being a Presentation Sister have been gifted by their faith as well as that of Presentation foundress Nano Nagle. Despite the many setbacks Nano experienced, it was said that she “went forth with laughter in her heart.” These words have been inspirational for Sister Julianne.

A native of Timber Lake, South Dakota, Sister Julianne heard the invitation to a life of service early in her life. She tells of a moment while hanging clothes as a youngster and hearing a call to be a missionary. A few years later when she explored that question with one of the Presentation Sisters who had come for summer vacation school, she was assured that the sisters were about to embark on a mission to South America. In 1974, 20 years after she entered the congregation, that dream of being a missionary was fulfilled as she and Sister Therese Marie Hawes journeyed to join Sisters Maura McCarthy and Therese Corkery in their work in southern Bolivia. Historically, Bolivia has struggled with poverty due to chronic malnutrition, income disparities, underdeveloped educational systems and ongoing high unemployment rates. The sisters have worked in rural areas of Bolivia for over 50 years now, encouraging the development of strong faith communities, access to civil rights and basic human needs.

In 1985, Sister Julianne returned to the U.S. and began serving youth groups in New Mexico. In 1989, the community chose her as congregational leader and she served one four-year term. During these years, the



*Sister Julianne Brockamp enjoys time to absorb all of nature's beauty.*

community participated in pastoral planning for living out their mission statement's commitment to evangelize, offering hope and love to a broken world.

After leaving leadership, Sister Julianne returned to her home state of South Dakota, serving in Spearfish and then as parish life coordinator of Our Lady of the Sioux Church in Oglala. It was during this period that the tornado struck. At the end of her term in South Dakota, Sister Julianne was invited to consider a return to Bolivia to accompany Sister Mery Cari Paz as she became the first Bolivian woman to join the Presentation Sisters. Even as she engaged in Sister Mery's formation program, the call to serve the people of Bolivia resulted in her monthly travels to a distant village to teach in an adult vocational training school.

As Sister Julianne says, “You have a general plan, but you are never sure of the exact details.” It was not her plan to return to congregational leadership but when the community elected her as president in 2013, she generously accepted the invitation. Her skills at accompaniment, visioning and gracious hospitality guided the next five years. At the end of her term, she again returned to her beloved South Dakota people, continuing her commitment to “bring hope and love” to those in poverty. Recently, Sister Julianne has moved to Dubuque among her sisters where her love of learning and of her sisters make her a companion to doctor's appointments, a good table tennis partner and always a listener in meaningful conversation.

# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## The Gift of New Friendships

The Presentation community welcomes two new Dominican Sisters who will be living at Mount Loretto while studying at Divine Word College. Sister Nga Thi Phan and Sister Ngan Thi Mai from Vietnam were delighted to meet Sister Therese Corkery (middle), their online English tutor, *in person* upon arriving at Mount Loretto.



SHOW LOVE. OFFER HOPE. LIVE HOSPITALITY.  
**EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY**

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Contact [vocations@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:vocations@dbqpbvms.org)

### PLEASE CONNECT WITH US.

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 JOIN US.

**December 3, 2024**  
Giving Tuesday

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

**November 2, 2024**  
Feast of All Souls

**November 3-9, 2024**  
National Vocation Awareness Week

**November 13, 2024**  
Foundation Day (1874)  
150th Anniversary Celebration Begins



**November 21, 2024**  
Presentation Day

**November 28, 2024**  
Thanksgiving Day

**21st of each month**  
Pray for Vocations

**25th of each month**  
Pray for Benefactors



**SISTERS**  
OF THE PRESENTATION  
*of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
2360 CARTER ROAD  
DUBUQUE, IA 52001-2997

*Help us keep our database up-to-date.  
Send changes to [info@dbqpbvms.org](mailto:info@dbqpbvms.org)  
or call us at 563.588.2008. Thank you.*

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## CELEBRATING 50 AND 60 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE



*Left to right: Back row: Sisters Diana Blong, Beth Kress, Richelle Friedman, Elena Hoye and Suzanne Gallagher.  
Front row: Sisters Cheryl Demmer, Pam Quade, Gina Foletta and Corine Murray.*

**We honor and give thanks for the lives and ministries of nine Dubuque Presentation Sisters who celebrated their jubilee on July 17, 2024, at the Sisters of the Presentation (Mount Loretto). All celebrated 60 years of religious life except Sister Gina Foletta who celebrated 50 years.**

These nine extraordinary witnesses of endurance, grace and dedication have been a blessing for many – families, students, parents, community members, parishioners, professional colleagues, the sick and elderly. We are grateful for their combined 530 years of faithfulness and the impact they have in our lives.

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