



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



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## Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email  
photos, stories and information about our  
sisters, associates, former members, family  
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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: (left to right) doorway of the current  
motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road; doorway of  
St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille)  
in Dubuque in 1879; doorway of Sacred Heart  
Chapel at the current motherhouse; doorway of  
the former motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta  
which was built in 1909; and doorway by which  
Mother Vincent Hennessy left Mooncoin, Ireland,  
to begin the Dubuque foundation in 1874.*

# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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Presentation sisters, near and far.*

## Cover PHOTO

*Sister René Laubenthal holds the newborn daughter of Kaoutar  
from Morocco who is a visitor at the Presentation Lantern Center.  
Sister René has been volunteering as a tutor at the center for nine  
years. She has been enriched and inspired by all those she has met  
through the center and feels privileged to help in any way she can.*

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

A wonderful tradition that surfaces in families during the holiday season is the telling of stories: winter sleigh rides in a horse-drawn cutter, the disappearance of a for-company-only cherry pie from the kitchen table, the heart-warming reminiscing about Aunt Joann who will celebrate her first Christmas in heaven. Every family has developed an oral tradition that memorializes those people and events that help to shape its personality for the present day. Storytelling highlights what we want to remember in the years to come.

As Presentation sisters, we have our “family stories” too. One of the most important chapters of our story occurred on Christmas 1775. It was then, after years of caring for the poor of Cork in southern Ireland, that our foundress, Nano Nagle, called together three dedicated women who opened their hearts to God’s plan. One of our most acclaimed Presentation storytellers, Sister Raphael Consedine, (1929-2000) of Australia, poetically summarized the event:

Here is a Bethlehem:  
a woman pierced by the Spirit’s light,  
waiting in stillness on the Spirit’s strength,  
empty of aught save the Spirit’s gift.  
A woman faithful to the Word received,  
whole in her heart and her hands to raise  
a house built leaning on the breath of God.

Bethlehem happened for the Presentation family 237 years ago and Presentation sisters and associates continue to live out the story of our beginning then and our becoming today in every corner of the world.

As a human family, we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus – his coming from the heart of God to help us to find Earth shimmering with Divinity. That is our task today – to be the gracious presence of God for each other, to reflect the reconciliation and mercy that Jesus showered on those who felt excluded or labeled, to live in the Spirit’s gift of peace. Sister Raphael used this word picture to capture the grace of Christmas Night:

And so this night all Christian folk  
light lamps of love  
And swing them out with joyful  
shout for life and birth  
For heaven on earth  
and word of peace  
for all God’s friends.

May your lamp of love light the way for one who is longing for a place to belong, for those who need courage in the face of the unknown, for families who strive to keep Jesus at their center. May the gift of peace grace our hearts and our world as we lean on the breath of God.

Blessings to you and your loved ones during this Holy Season of Christmas.



## Our PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the Gospel 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 invite others to become involved in our mission.

## 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, 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 mission with you.

### Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Sister Jennifer Rausch, president*

*Sister Marge Healy, vice-president*

*Sister Beth Driscoll, councilor*

*Sister Leanne Welch, councilor*





During a visit with the preschoolers at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Sister Joellen Price and one of the preschoolers say a blessing over cans of food that will be given to a needy family. Sister encouraged each of them to bring a non-perishable food item and visited with them about how “God can do big things with a small gift.”

## Saving Souls in Cedar Rapids, Iowa A “Conduit” in Action

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Nano Nagle once said, “If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power.” Nano herself never traveled outside of Ireland for ministry, but today she is alive and well through her daughters who minister all over the world. When Nano made that comment, she might well have been thinking of going to the obviously needy places in the world, such as India. But today she is well represented in the second largest city in Iowa by a Presentation sister who ministers daily to those made poor. And this is a ministry of evangelization, of “saving souls” by loving them as Christ would.

After years of serving as a music teacher, and then as a liturgy and music director, Sister Joellen Price hungered to conclude her active ministry years by serving those made poor. So she moved to St. Pius X Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 2007 to coordinate efforts for social justice and pastoral care. Never doubt the wisdom of the Spirit. Barely having time to have learned the names of the parishioners, Sister Joellen was faced with more need for outreach and pastoral care than she would ever have dreamed when she first

came to the parish, because in 2008 the Great Flood hit Cedar Rapids, and life has not been the same there since.

Both of Sister Joellen’s parents had been in the accounting business, so she learned very young about finances. “I knew how to budget a nickel,” she comments. Being the oldest of the four children of George and Irene (Jarosh) Price, she also learned quickly about organization and leadership. Additionally, she had earlier been the coordinator of the Presentation motherhouse, a position which required both organization and financial awareness.

Thus, as Cedar Rapids began to take in the terrible damage, loss and personal sadness caused by this disaster, there was great need for finding financial assistance, for organization, and, most of all, for a heart that could understand what had shaken this city. It had to have been the Spirit who had called Sister Joellen to Cedar Rapids the year before.

Sister Joellen calls herself a “conduit.” She channels resources and volunteers to the people and areas in need. Shortly after the flood, the first need was to get houses cleaned out and gutted so that next steps could be taken. “When visiting one house in my sandals, I realized immediately that this was not safe – for anyone,” says Sister Joellen. “So I immediately sought donations of boots and gloves and other items which would enable the workers to be safe.”

As she drives through the city, Sister Joellen points out places where whole neighborhoods have disappeared. After the houses were gutted, people couldn’t get insurance to re-structure them because they were in the 100-year flood plains so they had to go elsewhere. Consequently, the city, of necessity, tore down these homes.

Initially the 11 Catholic parishes in Cedar Rapids “divided up” the assistance to be offered, and St. Pius X became responsible for distributing food, while other parishes distributed clothing and other items of need. As the collection and distribution of food became too much for one parish, Sister Joellen and Sister Linda Bechen, RSM, who was in another parish in the city, collaborated and gradually began something new for all the parishes to support.

“It is called the ‘Metro Catholic Outreach,’ (MCO) and it is located on the first floor and basement of the Sister Mary Lawrence Community Center, built by the Mercy Sisters,” states Sister Joellen. “Part of the first floor and part of the second floor are occupied by charitable ventures, such as Catholic Charities; Gems of Hope, which makes jewelry for cancer patients; and a law center for children whose parents have divorced.”

As they began this venture, Sisters Joellen and Linda spoke to several groups in the city parishes, and they always took with them a picture of Nano Nagle, and a picture of Catherine McCauley (who founded the Mercy sisters after making her novitiate with the Presentation sisters in Ireland). They told their audiences that they were standing on the shoulders of their foundresses, these holy women who spent their lives in service of the poor.

Sister Joellen organized volunteers to make a survey of the city, to see what places were offering which services, so that they would not duplicate what others were doing. That list is now available at MCO, so that the volunteers who work there can refer people with needs to those centers. “MCO is a food pantry, with some limited emergency financial assistance available for rent and utility needs, staffed by one paid executive coordinator, Barbara Kane, and many volunteers whom Barb organizes,” says Sister Joellen. Businesses donated office furniture, computers...everything that was needed to set up the facility. Sister Joellen also coordinated the writing of grants for other needs at MCO.

Barbara speaks with passion about MCO; her heart and soul are truly with the people who come there and with the necessity of keeping the outreach going. They have a highly-organized schedule of volunteers to obtain and distribute the food. The public school children also bring food for MCO, and every parish contributes to the center. Barbara claims that Sister Joellen “works harder than any person I know. She is everywhere, doing what needs to be done.”

But more significant, even, than the founding of this center is the heart with which Sister Joellen works. Luz Espinosa shared the story of a driver hitting her house in the middle of the night, causing serious damage to her home. The driver had no insurance, and Luz was terrified that she would lose her job, having to spend time getting her life and family back together. She describes Sister Joellen as “an angel who truly saved my life. I was so scared, I felt lost, hopeless, mentally and spiritually devastated. Sister Joellen brought relief, peace, comfort, happiness to my children, food at Christmas. There was no end to what she did for us. I tried very hard to get myself back to my regular routine so that I wouldn’t have to ask for so much help.” Luz helps in the food pantry whenever she can.

It is impossible to adequately convey the loss suffered by the people, and the hope they have gained through the efforts of Sister Joellen inviting the other parishes to collaborate in this outreach. One has to experience it to appreciate the vision, the largeness of the effort, the gratitude of the people and the efficient leadership of Sister Joellen.

Sister Joellen has a bachelor’s degree in piano and music education from Clarke College, a master’s degree from Notre Dame in liturgical studies and is a certified spiritual director. The latter has been invaluable as she listens to people in need and seeks to give them hope and deepened faith, as well as food for the table. She also serves as a spiritual director for persons in Lay Ministry Formation and other persons in the area who seek this service.

Nano Nagle must smile at the Holy Spirit who guided Sister Joellen to Cedar Rapids just in time to be of unimagined service, and Nano must beam with pride as she sees one of her daughters serving with joy and humility, saving souls by offering both spiritual and physical food.



Confirmation candidates help Sister Joellen Price prepare baskets filled with a turkey and all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner donated by St. Pius X parishioners.





# Choosing Life

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” This line from John 10:10 sheds light on Catholic social teaching as it pertains to those most vulnerable in regard to their lives and their quality of life. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin is well-known for his concept of a “consistent ethic of life” or “seamless garment” approach to moral issues expressing that life issues such as abortion, nuclear war, hunger and human rights, euthanasia and capital punishment are separate and unequal but related topics. This is living out the words of Blessed Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*, “As disciples of Jesus, we are called to become neighbors to everyone (cf. Luke 10:29-37), and to show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone and most in need. In helping the hungry,

Helping others overcome some mistakes they have made just feels like the right thing to do. Some will benefit from this and some will not. My wife and I have mentored together and we like to work together to help others in any way we can. *Harry Stanton, Associate*

the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned – as well as the child in the womb and the old person who is suffering or near death – we have the opportunity to serve Jesus.”

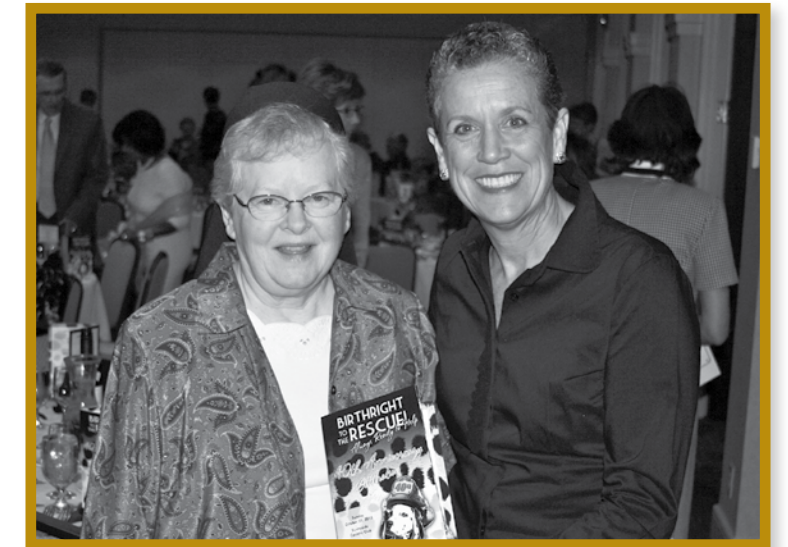
Presentation sisters and associates support these significant life issues through their ministries and volunteering among those most vulnerable. Their work encompasses many aspects, a few of which are described here.

Among those ministering among the vulnerable are Sisters Jeanine Kuhn and Michelle Gallagher who express the teaching that life begins at conception by their visits to Planned Parenthood in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Sisters Deborah Paige, Dolores Moes, Marie Barth and Donna Determan who do so in Dubuque. The sisters quietly hold up signs to remind those driving by and entering Planned Parenthood that life is to be respected. Sister Deborah shares, “Every Monday morning I take my sign and proclaim my belief that all life is precious and comes from God.” She also states that, “Occasionally a young girl will stop and tell those holding signs there that she decided to have her baby because of the signs the people were holding.”

Sisters Jeanine and Michelle are also involved with Birthright, an organization that provides caring, loving, non-judgmental support to women and girls who are distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. Sister Corine Murray accesses the services of Birthright to assist the women with newborns who are visitors to the Presentation Lantern Center.

Sisters Mary Jo Leifker, Marie Barth and Dolores Moes are dedicated to reminding those traveling by the intersection of Asbury and Carter Road that peace is important for all. Each Tuesday afternoon they hold signs for those traveling by to “Pray for Peace.” Sister Dolores states, “I do this activity to remind the many who pass by to reflect on the gift of peace. The responses from the drivers are often a wave, a smile or a honk that says they want it, too.” She also shares, “A man at the red light called out from his car, ‘I was over there and know what it costs.’” At the same time the sisters are holding signs, Sisters Linus Coyle and Bernard Mauss spend time in the chapel praying for peace.

Associates Harry and Mary Stanton choose life by their prison ministry which helps those who made mistakes get a new perspective on life. Harry states, “Helping others overcome some mistakes they have made just feels like the right thing to do. Some will benefit from this and some will not. My wife and I have mentored together and we like to work together to help others in any way we can.” He continues, “Mary and I met with a middle-aged lady who spent a short time in prison because of



Left to right: Sister Jeanine Kuhn visits with Mary Pederson, speaker for the 40th anniversary celebration of Birthright of Blackhawk County, where Sister Jeanine volunteers.

drug charges. She was pretty negative when we first met her, but over the years she grew to be more positive about life and began to be more active in her church. Now she has returned to her home town in another state and is going to college.”

Sister Lynn Mary Wagner assists with the hunger issue through her position as manager of the Dubuque Food Pantry. Sisters and associates help at the pantry on a regular basis and many more volunteer for the assistance given to the hungry by way of the Christmas basket.

Associate Becky Derr traveled to Haiti last January and witnessed the volunteers, staff and students at Louverture Cleary School, which is supported by The Haitian Project, reach out to all people in their community no matter what the individual’s situation. Becky states, “These people are my role models for respecting and choosing life. I work to choose life everyday through treating everyone I meet with respect and dignity solely because they are human and that’s how they deserve to be treated.”

A number of sisters and associates walk with the terminally ill as they serve as chaplains, in pastoral care positions or in parish settings. Sister Martha Donnelly, in her work as hospital chaplain in the palliative care unit at Gunderson Lutheran in La Crosse, Wisconsin, walks with those who are on their final journey to God. Palliative care is a service that provides pain and symptom management and often eases the transition into hospice care. Both services offer wonderful support and comfort to patients and their families. Sister Martha states, “In my 15 years of ministering with those at the end of their lives, I have seen very few difficult deaths. Most persons remain peaceful and pain free. The final journey can be more difficult for the family than for the person dying.”

Many more sisters and associates are involved in all of these significant life issues, living and promoting a consistent ethic of life as they live the gospel mandate from John, “I have come that they may have life, life to the full.”



May the LORD Bless You  
Keep You, and Give You Peace.



Left to right: Sister Anne McCormick and House Coordinator, Jean Lange, meet to go over sisters' appointments and daily scheduling of the Mount Loretto cars.

# Woman of Light

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

She is, what many would call, exceptional! The wide variety of tasks in her role as Mount Loretto house coordinator, is both the most challenging aspect of Jean Lange's administrative position and the most interesting dimension. But her favorite part is the daily contact with the sisters, those who live at Mount Loretto as well as those on mission. Her hobby is cleaning and organizing; can you believe? Lucky for Mount Loretto. To balance things a bit, her favorite pastimes are reading and playing volleyball.

And how is it that Jean "fits" so well in this significant position that touches every person and every aspect of life at Mount Loretto and beyond? Sisters and lay staff alike experience Jean as down-to-earth, pleasant, soft-spoken, calm, even-tempered and a genuine listener. All appreciate her open-door policy. Her

efficiency and organization get things done now, and she does it creatively, with a special "Jean-flair."

Speaking of creativity, there were the Halloween costume contests for employees and sisters alike, the "Minute-to-Win-It" game at the employee Christmas party and the invitation for Nagle Four residents to think of their relocation for painting and carpeting renovation as "camping out," that is, taking only the minimal with them. What about the bulletin board, the bane of the life of previous coordinators? Yes, Jean conquered the unruly dimensions of the hall bulletin board, the central communication location of the house: ordered it, organized it, dressed it up and now provides daily updates and lists of upcoming activities. Communication *par excellence!*

Yes, she is truly exceptional. Perhaps it's rooted in her extraordinary Bellevue, Iowa, family. Jean is the third oldest in a family of 10 girls. That's right – no boys. Nine children survived to adulthood and all nine, along with their mother, Clara, still live within a 90-mile radius of Bellevue. Jean and her sisters, a regular beauty pageant line-up, assisted their dad with chores on their family dairy farm. Their parents provided a Catholic education for the entire family, contributing to Jean's passionate appreciation of education for all people, of all ages. A lifelong learner with many interests, she loves to write, to read – and experience. A safari in Africa, with hunter-husband, Jeff, would be of great interest as a travel site, but generally the Dubuque area where family and friends reside is Jean's overall favorite place to be.

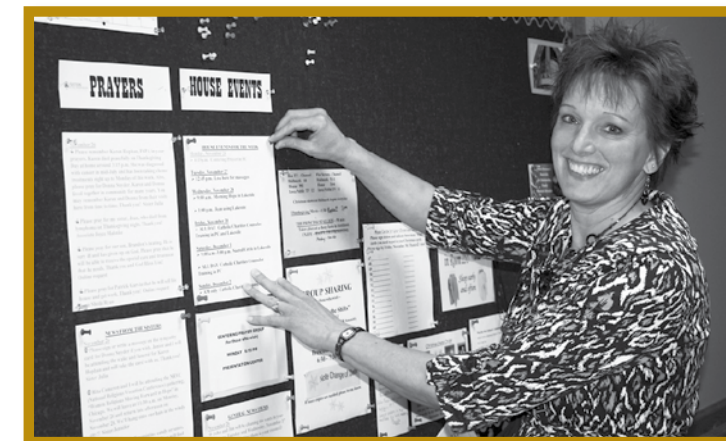
Husband, Jeff, works as a self-employed floor installer, with an impressive portfolio of custom tile showers and hardwood floors. They are parents to four children, three boys and one girl, all graduates of St. Columbkille School, Dubuque, still the home parish for the Lange family. Three of the four children attended Wahlert High School. The two older boys have degrees in engineering and their younger brother, likewise, leans toward engineering. Daughter, Stacy, is an elementary teacher who married Andrew, a kindergarten teacher. Stacy and Andrew are expecting the first grandchild in Jean's family. Exciting!

Loras College is Jean's alma mater, for both graduate and undergraduate degrees: secondary education and elementary administration. Her teaching experiences span an area including Dubuque, Iowa; Cassville and Platteville, Wisconsin; and an outlier, Keller, Texas, for one year. Her longest tenure, 15 years, was that of teacher and technology director at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque. Jean came to Mount Loretto, to her "best-job-ever," after a five-year principalship at St. Mary School in Platteville.

Jean's a mover! Beginning with her home in Bellevue, Iowa, to her varied teaching locations and the eight different places she has lived in Dubuque, it is not surprising that at one point Jean's family threatened not to help her move, ever again. So far, they always have. Jean's family members are working-together folks.

Describing herself as "a hopeless romantic and believer in fairy tales," Jean's all-time favorite movie is Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Her favorite actress: Julia Roberts. Her favorite actor: Denzel Washington. Chocolate tops her dessert list, preferably with some gooey additions. Pizza and most things Italian comprise a favorite meal, though it could be any meal she doesn't have to cook. That's *Amore!*

Jean maintains a professional presence, and a sensitive, pastoral heart; she's energized and energizing – fun, too. Her colleagues describe her as always respectful, the queen of team players and the perfect person for her position. Mission-minded and faithful in stewardship, she encourages sisters in service projects and personally participates in Presentation activities. Jean represents the Presentation community well as she embodies the Presentation charism of hospitality on a daily basis. She walks heartily in Nano's footsteps, and lights the way on her circuitous daily paths through the halls.



Jean Lange posts daily updates on the community bulletin board.

Where did Jean get all this: fountain of gifts, talents spilling over, blessings shared? Credit could be given to her family, her education, her teaching and leadership experiences, her management skills, her life as a wife and mother, her personality, her religious practices.... You ask again, "But where *did* she get all this?" And with grateful hearts the Sisters of the Presentation pause – to give gracious thanks to God for this woman of light, this modern-day Nano who generously serves day after day.

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**To register or for information:**

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newmember@bvmcong.org  
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**Register by  
Friday, March 22, 2013**

Sponsored by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, and Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters.





Sister Catherine Wingert enjoys the camaraderie of her close friends in community. Left to right: Sisters Lois Lehmann, Donna Determan, Rosanne Rottinghaus, Anthony Rottinghaus, Catherine Wingert, Francesca Presseller and Annette Skyles

## SISTER CATHERINE WINGERT *Mentor and Friend*

by JANE BUSE

How *does* one begin to describe Sister Catherine Wingert? Sister Julia Wingert, niece of Sister Catherine, accepts the challenge. “Sister Catherine is a woman of simplicity, common sense and wisdom. Her consistent concern is for the common good. She exudes a zest for life, a positive attitude and a love for fun. She is quick to offer a word of thanks, an affirmation or praise for a contribution, no matter how small. She is grateful for every kindness shown her.”

“By her words and actions, Catherine taught me not to squander the luxury of being human,” adds Sister Suzanne Gallagher. “Sister Catherine is accepting and non-judgmental and lives her life totally dependent on God and filled with gratitude. She is a celebrator! Always ready for a party – any occasion.”

Sister Catherine was born Mary Cecelia Wingert, named after St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians. Her mother wanted her daughter to be a music teacher. Sister Catherine has a deep love

for her parents and credits her steadfast work ethic to them, often quoting her mother’s words: “It’s better to wear out than rust out.” She declares that she has big hands because she helped her dad milk cows.

“My parents provided me with everything I needed for a good education,” Sister Catherine remembers. “My family accepted me just the way I was – a live-wire,” she grins. “I still remember one thing my dad said to me when I entered religious life, ‘Don’t you ever change.’ And I haven’t.”

Sister Catherine ministered as a teacher and principal for more than 50 years. Her first principalship was at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque, where the enrollment neared 1,000 and she had no assistant, not even a secretary. It was at St. Columbkille that she mentored beginning Presentation teachers. Sister Catherine recalls some of her first young teachers, “I remember my teachers were scared to death standing in front of the

classroom. I would gently put my arm around them, take their book and continue reading to the students, giving them time to collect themselves. In later years, many sisters told me how much that meant to them. I didn’t give it a thought; I just didn’t want to see them shaking,” she adds.

“Sister Catherine was my principal when I began teaching,” shares Sister Louise Scieszinski. “Her enthusiasm, energy, direction, commitment, challenge to professional excellence, care for students and their families and insistence that every student needed to and could succeed were clear guidelines for a new teacher, unsure of the road. In fact, it was “wise use” of one’s professional training to create ways to assure that every child experienced success and that all students recognized and expressed peer respect.” Sister Louise continues, “Sister Catherine constantly found ways to improve the instructional program for students and helped teachers implement purposeful instruction. She never met a stranger, nor was any student or teacher ever lost from her loyal concern and direction. Her humor and enjoyment of people combined with dedication to learning enabled ‘continuous improvement’ to become a reality for students and teachers.”

Sister Raeleen Sweeney also benefitted from Sister Catherine’s guidance, “I share my Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching with Sister Catherine because from the beginning, she challenged me as a teacher, guided me, mentored me and modeled accountability, discipline and excellence in teaching. She continues to be a mentor for me today.”

The last school principalship for Sister Catherine was St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois, where she ministered for 15 years. At St. Dorothy’s, Sister worked closely with the African-American community and made many good friends with whom she continues to stay connected. “I am most grateful for the opportunity to have experienced another culture. Their friendships provided me with a new perspective.”

Sister Lou Cota, who worked and lived with Sister Catherine for over 20 years in Chicago, adds, “Sister Catherine exemplified the charisma of Nano Nagle in her administrative role. She was loved by teachers, students, parents, her parish and her community. Her talents were recognized when she was named the Outstanding Principal of the Year by the Archdiocese of Chicago, subsequently as Outstanding Principal in the region and finally as one of the top eight principals in the nation.” Sister Lou continues, “Like Nano Nagle, Sister’s day was hemmed in by prayer, beginning early in the morning and concluding with Vespers and Compline. Her dedication to the service of others was a great inspiration to me. She consistently went out of her way to be of service, while ignoring her own needs.”

After years of generously giving of herself in active ministry, as educator and principal, Sister Catherine retired in 2009 and is now taking delight in a more leisurely schedule. Along with playing cards several nights a week, reading, writing to her friends, and visiting, Sister Catherine enjoys line dancing. When she’s up to it, she teaches line dancing classes on Saturday mornings. In retirement prayer continues to outline her day. “Each day I want to put into my prayer something that struck me when I talked with others. Their hardships teach me a great deal, especially not to complain. I have a wonderful life,” smiles Sister Catherine.

## A Lasting Impression

Reflection by KEVIN KISTING

This past April while my wife Mary was away visiting relatives, I was home alone to care for our three cats. Being “empty-nesters” for many years, we find we’ve become all too attached to our ‘furry kids.’ Our dear Leo, a long-haired Himalayan, to whom we were extraordinarily attached, suddenly took ill and over the course of a few days his health declined rapidly. Despite critical veterinarian care, feline leukemia became a losing battle for our little buddy.

During his last day, a Sunday, subsequent to returning from 6:30 a.m. mass, I spent the entire day at his side, talking to him, praying over him and blessing him countless times with holy water. I sat beside him at eye-to-eye level for hours, watching him labor to breathe. It was a spiritual event for me...watching this little animal face death so valiantly. About 7 p.m. Leo drew his last deep gasps as death overtook him, and my eyes welled over uncontrollably.

The next day was a Monday, with a dentist appointment no less. No comfort in that surely. With a quiet but heavy heart I kept my appointment, and as it drew to a close, I began to hear this vibrant voice in the booth next to me. In just a few minutes, I was struck, overhearing this woman speak with such vigor and enthusiasm about how the sun was shining and it was a good day to be alive. My heart felt lifted immediately from my sorrow. I asked my friend, Dr. Kevin, if I could introduce myself to this enthusiastic patient. He replied, “Certainly.” Upon doing so, I learned this woman to be Sister Catherine Wingert. She acknowledged my introduction replying, “Now I know TWO Kevins!” Sister and I chatted only briefly, but I was indeed taken by her mood.

When I returned to my office, I found my sorrow a lighter burden for the balance of my day, a gift I credit Sister Catherine for exclusively. I was so moved by her gift – her spirit of life that I felt compelled to thank her personally. I stopped by the convent that evening on my way home with a small bouquet of flowers. How would she understand what she’d done for me that morning? Would I embarrass myself describing the event from which she had started me towards healing? When Sister Catherine came into the lobby and greeted me, there was only more of the same lifting spirit. She had been raised on a farm, had pet cats, and fully understood how they touch you, and the pain of losing a loved pet. It was the beginning of a friendship we’ve maintained by mutual correspondence.

Since meeting Sister Catherine, each morning I include her in my daily morning prayer petitions, thanking our Lord for sharing her life with mine. I have often reflected on this event, coming to the conclusion that Christ used both this tiny creature, Leo, and Sister Catherine, to reach out to me.



# Living Nano's Charism

## Offering Hospitality, Prayer, Service and Compassionate Presence

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Teaching young children about their Catholic faith; caring for the sick and elderly; providing food for the community; greeting friends and guests with gracious hospitality; seeking out those most in need – all of these phrases describe Nano Nagle, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation. The same words also describe four Dubuque Presentations who celebrated 80 and 60 years of religious life in October.

On October 7, at Mount Loretto motherhouse, Sister Mary Jocile Moes commemorated 80 years as a Presentation sister; Sisters Maria Goretti Dullard and René Laubenthal commemorated 60 years; and Sister Mary Rayanne Determan observed her 60th jubilee this fall in Mason City, Iowa.

### 80 Years of Religious Life Sister Mary Jocile Moes



Sister Jocile, a native of Dubuque, Iowa, entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1932 and pronounced final vows in 1938. Sister served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Iowa. Presently Sister Jocile is in community prayer and service.

In her early years of retirement, Sister Jocile enjoyed baking for the sisters. She was one of the care-takers of the roses planted by Sister Mary Edward Dolan.

Traveling a little or going out to eat with her sisters was a cherished part of early retirement days for Sister Jocile. “Whether shopping together or travelling to Nashville, Tennessee, or Iowa City, Iowa, to visit family, the Moes girls had great fun together,” states cousin Sister Dolores Moes.

Sister Jocile's spirit of going places continues today when, on good weather days, she enjoys a trip in her wheelchair to the four seasons room where she contemplates the beauty of nature, especially the roses and other flowers.

“Sister Jocile loves to sing,” remarks Sister Dolores. “She remembers fondly how as novices she and Sister Xavier Corrigan were asked by music supervisor Sister Zita Lynch to sing a

community favorite ‘Heart of Jesus’ for a special celebration.” Music continues to delight Sister Jocile as many in the chapel could see her directing the songs that were sung at her jubilee liturgy.

Sister loves going to the beauty salon to have Angey Lochner give her a beautiful wash and set. Sister Jocile enjoys watching a little television. Re-runs of the Lawrence Welk Show or Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians and Wheel of Fortune are her favorites. Add to this the gift of flowers from family or a piece of chocolate candy for her and some to share with her visitors and you have Sister Jocile's recipe for good entertainment.

Although Sister suffered a stroke some years ago, she keeps all on their toes when she stands up. “Like all the Moes family, she still walks so fast considering her age,” remarks Sister Dolores.

Now that she spends much of her days in Nagle Center, Sister Jocile has deepened her love for community. “I have community up here and I like it,” she comments. As the currently eldest living Dubuque Presentation, Sister Jocile stretches her arms outward, smiles widely and states, “I love you all THIS much!”

“Oh, yes, I am grateful,” responds Sister Jocile with a great energy exuding from her at nearly 100 years, “and I know I am going to go to heaven some day!”

### 60 Years of Religious Life

Sisters Maria Goretti, René and Rayanne entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1952 and pronounced final vows in 1958.

### Sister Maria Goretti Dullard



Sister Maria Goretti, originally of West Union, Iowa, served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Iowa and South Dakota. In her earlier retirement years she served as co-coordinator of the missions clothing room and as a receptionist at Mount Loretto motherhouse. Presently Sister Maria is in community prayer and service and is a member of a Presentation associate group.

When she entered the Presentation community Sister Maria appreciated the connections she had with her cousin Sister Thomasine. “She accepted me as I was and helped me to get to know the community better at a time when I didn't know completely what I was getting into.”

Although it was “plain hard,” Sister enjoyed her third and fourth graders, her reading, math and social studies groups and the library work she was able to do while serving in Catholic schools. Such dedication was evident when she was able to enter into and enjoy the 1984 centennial celebration of the presence of Presentation sisters hosted by St. Patrick Parish and School in Waukon, Iowa.

Giving of her time and talents as she helped Sister Presentation Dalhauser in the initial years of the mission room, Sister Maria Goretti sewed and mended, especially making pants and shirts for boys. She continued that ministry with Sister James Marie Gross by mending, addressing boxes to send to the missions until several years ago.

A lover of games, Sister Maria enjoys playing Tri-Ominos with a group of sisters on Wednesday nights. On Friday and Saturday nights she plays Scrabble with Sister Cecelia Marie Auterman, who tends the Mount Loretto switchboard at this time. “It keeps me awake and gives us both time for good exchange and keeping mentally alert,” states Sister Cecelia Marie. When she is in her room in Nagle Center, Sister Maria enjoys reading and praying.

As a member of an associate group, Sister Maria appreciates the times they spend together in prayer and offering service or support to those in need. “I really enjoy when my friend and associate Linda Dolphin comes to visit and shares a meal with me,” says Sister.

“I give thanks to the Lord for helping me get through these years,” reflects Sister Maria Goretti who entered the convent as one who has been physically challenged since age four. “I was determined to carry out the mission. Faith and prayer have been my strength. I love to be with people and that has also helped me.”

### Sister Mary René Laubenthal



Sister René, a native of Emmetsburg, Iowa, served as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois and Minnesota. She also served as a volunteer parish minister, RCIA team member and as parish recording secretary. Presently, while in community prayer and service, Sister René is a volunteer tutor at Presentation Lantern Center and a member of a Presentation associate group.

Sister René has been involved in the Presentation Associate Partnership since its inception. She assisted an associate group's beginning in Algona, Iowa, and served on the Presentation

Reflecting on 60 years of religious life, I am filled with gratitude and joy for the blessings of church, family, sisters and friends that have nurtured me on the journey. As a Sister of the Presentation, I have been blessed to walk in the footsteps of Nano Nagle, teaching and participating in works for peace and justice. I am most grateful for God's faithful love as I celebrate jubilee. *Sister René Laubenthal*

Associate Advisory Committee for six years. Sister is currently a member of the Dubuque “Servant Seekers” associate group who walk “in the footsteps of Nano” as they focus on women and children and look to the needs of other groups.

Sister René considers attitude as a key to a happy life in community and in ministry. “Community life at Mount Loretto is a blessed experience,” states Sister. “Getting to know sisters whom I had never lived with before is one of the blessings. I help others when I can and enjoy the shared times at table, prayer and socializing.”

Presentation Lantern Center is another recipient of Sister René's service. “I have been volunteering as a tutor at the center for about nine years. Each person I have tutored has been so grateful for the opportunity to learn English and it has been a humbling experience to share my teaching skills on their behalf,” Sister states. “I think it has been enriching to share our cultures with one another,” she adds. “Often at break time different ones will tell things about their culture. It may be different foods or about their name or families. Friendships continue to grow as we share.”

For Sister René the gifts of religious life are prayer, community and ministry. With a grateful heart she reflects on the blessing of sharing with her sisters while witnessing their faith and care for others.

“Reflecting on 60 years of religious life, I am filled with gratitude and joy for the blessings of church, family, sisters and friends that have nurtured me on the journey,” comments Sister René. “As a Sister of the Presentation, I have been blessed to walk in the footsteps of Nano Nagle, teaching and participating in works for peace and justice. I am most grateful for God's faithful love as I celebrate jubilee.”



## Sister Mary Rayanne Determan



Sister Rayanne, originally from Mason City, Iowa, served as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools in Iowa and Minnesota and later in eldercare. Presently, Sister Rayanne resides in Mason City and is a volunteer visitor to the local hospitals and care centers.

With her eldest sibling, Sister Bonita Determan, Sister Rayanne continues to offer a compassionate presence to people in Mason City. By participating in Eucharist at St. Joseph and Holy Family parishes and Mercy Medical Center, they stay updated on who needs visitors at the hospitals or in their homes.

“Sisters Rayanne and Bonita are very loving and caring to the elderly and sick,” comments their younger sibling, Sister Donna Determan of Dubuque. “When a neighbor is hospitalized, they also visit the sick person’s family.”

**Every day is a celebration. There are many people to visit in the hospital and elsewhere. I enjoy and celebrate meeting people from here and many places around the world.**

*Sister Rayanne Determan*

Reading is one of Sister Rayanne’s favorite pastimes. She enjoys the spiritual reading book club offered at St. Joseph Parish. Gardening is also important to Sister Rayanne who tends to her deceased mother’s beautiful flowers and yard at the Determan residence. “And Rayanne loves to play ping pong,” adds Sister Donna.

Sisters Rayanne and Bonita can be seen at the Knights of Columbus fish fry and at Newman Catholic elementary and high school activities. Both are great Newman Knight fans. This carries over into a witness that was heard when Sister Rita Cameron did a vocation talk at the elementary school recently. When she asked if the children knew any sisters, one youngster raised his hand and said, “Sisters Bonita and Rayanne!”

The Determan sisters living in Mason City number three. Sister Bonita, Sister Rayanne and Donna Determan Umbarger spend good times together. On holidays they gather with Donna’s four grown children, the daughters and sons-in-law and the 10 grandchildren.

Reflecting on her 60 years as a Presentation sister, Sister Rayanne states, “Every day is a celebration. There are many people to visit in the hospitals and elsewhere. I enjoy and celebrate meeting people from here and many places around the world.”

# CHARISM'S FIRE TRANSFORMING OUR JOURNEY

## Presentation Chapter December 28, 2012 – January 2, 2013

Today 2600 Presentation women minister in 27 countries, yet their beginning was quite simple. On Christmas Eve, 1775, Nano Nagle, with three other like-minded women, established a religious community that was later known as the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These women, nourished by a deep love of God and aware of the extreme poverty of the people of Ireland, zealously committed themselves to respond to those needs. Relying on Divine Providence, they trusted the Almighty to direct their path when certainty was absent.

The evening of December 27, 2012, the Dubuque Presentation congregation will gather to celebrate the Christmas spirit and to enter into a week-long community Chapter. The Chapter, which occurs every five years, provides the time and place for rekindling the original fire of Nano as the congregational direction and leadership are discerned for the next five-year period (2013–2018).

The prayer support of associates and friends is gratefully welcomed. If you are in the Dubuque area and your schedule permits, you are invited to the motherhouse to pray in the Sacred Heart Chapel or the large parlor on second floor during the following times as the sisters are gathered in their meeting space:

Friday, Saturday and Monday (December 28, 29 and 31)  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

If you cannot come to Mount Loretto, please pray for the sisters and their deliberations from wherever you are on December 28 through January 2.

Know that the many and varied ways you, too, walk on the Presentation journey both enrich and inform the journey for all. As you support the sisters in prayers know that they will be gratefully remembering you in their prayer.

*Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern, and the women who follow in her footsteps.*

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

*The Lady of the Lantern*

# NANO Lives



## Sister Helen Marie Feeney, Superior 1967-1977



Following in the footsteps of her colleague and friend, the reserved and demure Mother Estelle Pillard, Sister Helen Marie Feeney was elected to lead the community at the age of 41.

Energetic, enthusiastic, and devoutly religious, Sister Helen Marie loved life, her vocation, teaching, community, family

and administration – whatever she did. Her outgoing personality and spirit of joy attracted others. A considerable number of students followed her to religious life. Wherever she went, her charisma assisted her in doing God’s work with apparent ease.

Facing varied perceptions of religious life after Vatican Council II, Sister Helen Marie led the congregation through challenging times. Unrest and uncertainty, mistrust and insecurity were signs of the times. It was a season of challenges and changes and more changes. There were changes in ceremonies, rituals, rules and regulations, titles and attire and names. There were changes in philosophy and practices, in local leadership, in housekeeping and ministries, including school closings. It was the age of service programs, school consolidations and interparochial high schools. Home visits were extended to two weeks, and the Chapter directed the establishment of a community archives under the able direction of Sister Mary Vivia Cranny.

In keeping with the call of the Church and of Vatican II to share resources/personnel of religious communities, Sister Helen Marie and the Council chose Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, as a foreign mission site. Sisters Ileen Marie Sweeney and Maura McCarthy became the first Dubuque Presentation foreign missionaries.

Then even the motherhouse address changed. The Sisters of the Presentation moved from their 60-year-old address of 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue to 2360 Carter Road when they purchased the St. Bernard Seminary building. Nine months later the former motherhouse was purchased by the Dubuque Archdiocese to be used as the archdiocesan center.

Born in 1920, Helen Marie Feeney joined the Sisters of the Presentation after completing high school, coming from Lawler, Iowa. She earned degrees at Loras College in Dubuque and at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She received honorary doctorates from Clarke College in Dubuque and from St. Mary University in Winona, Minnesota, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Award from Loras College. Sundry commissions, associations, boards and councils profited from her membership and her leadership.

The community recognizes Sister Helen Marie as the one who, by way of her natural talent, as well as her association with the Christian Brothers Investment Services, established a solid fiscal foundation for the Sisters of the Presentation. Although a business teacher, Sister’s specific interest in finance became firmly rooted at the time she assisted Mother Estelle (1961-1967), also skilled in financial matters. Together these financial visionaries started a community retirement fund with a mere \$5.00. For 20 years, in her post-congregational leadership years, Sister Helen Marie worked with various religious congregations, assisting them with financial planning.

In 1989, Sister completed 15 years of service on the Loras College Board of Regents, retiring in 1997. This amazing global woman shook hands with two popes, and gave formal presentations from the United States to Newfoundland to Rome to Puerto Rico. Energetic leadership characterized Sister Helen Marie’s active years. She loved life and lived it to the fullest. In her later years, she maintained her continued interest in community and inspired others by her stalwart faith and patience in suffering. Her retirement years were marked by ill health until her death on February 23, 2002.



# Associates & Sisters

## Linking the Scriptures to Those in Need

by KARLA BERNS, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to proclaim the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

Luke 4:18

The above scriptural quote is what the three associate/sister groups featured in this article are all about. The groups are primarily faith-sharing groups who come together, generally once per month, to share faith and Sunday Scriptures. Then, either individually or through their groups, they put their faith into action ministering to those in need.

### Branches of the Word

The “Branches of the Word” prayer group meet regularly and feel strongly that the sharing in their group helps them live what the scriptural readings suggest – to witness to others God’s message. In addition to their discussions, the group sends cards to the sick, elderly or someone in need which includes prayers for them. When possible, the group helps with projects that the Presentation community brings to their attention. Sister Dolores Moes, as leader of the group, shared that “as we meet and grow, we thank God for one another and continue to ask the Holy Spirit to help us follow God’s will in each of our lives. Each of us can be that branch that continues to grow in spreading God’s word through prayer and action.”

Members of the “Branches of the Word” group are Associates Mary Bear, Phil and Mary Lockhart and Marilyn Jacobs, Sisters Agnes Marie Lynch and Dolores Moes. Judy and James Kluesner and Joanne Frey join the group as they begin the orientation process in January.

### Nano’s Companions

“Nano’s Companions” associate group members are Associates Marge Barton, Florence Jaeger, Virginia Lammer, Marlene Von Fumetti, Sisters Mary Rosalyn Ulfers and Margaret Anne Kramer. Each in the group feel blessed by the support they receive from each other in furthering their mission as daughters of Nano Nagle. As leader of the group, Sister Margaret Anne shared that they have been involved in such activities as retreats, community gatherings, liturgies and praying with the Advent and Lenten reflections. They have provided food for the shelters, made blankets for the needy and shared time and talent at the Presentation Lantern Center. Some have individually helped at the Dubuque Food Pantry. As Sister Margaret Anne states, “In these activities, we received far more than we gave.”

### Circle of Faith

Another faith-sharing group, later named “Circle of Faith,” formed in 1995. At that time Sister Mary Jacqueline Quillin, congregational leader, invited sisters to form faith-discussion

*Branches of the Word: Left to right: Back row: Associates Phil and Mary Lockhart, Associate Mary Bear, Joanne Frey, Judy and James Kluesner; Front row: Associate Marilyn Jacobs, Sister Dolores Moes and Sister Agnes Marie Lynch.*

groups and include friends from the neighborhood. Four of the original members remain in the group to date. With a current membership of eight, the composition is well-balanced with two married couples, two single women and two sisters. Among group members are three Presentation associates, Barbara Ressler and Mary and Ron Dankert and two Presentations, Sisters Marilyn Breen and Joan Lickteig. Presentation friends, Joe and Louise Ottavi and Gwen Nilles are also part of the group. In addition to their sharing of faith and Sunday Scriptures, the “Circle of Faith” group makes donations to Hope House, Dubuque’s Catholic Worker House. Group members continue to be actively involved in their local parishes, participate in varied personal charities and join in activities sponsored by Presentation sisters and associates: the associate retreat, Relay for Life, food pantry, art and craft sale, garage sale, mitten project and Jim Ott’s workshop. Sister Joan Lickteig, as group leader shared that concern for those in need offers the area of greatest interest and focus for the group.

Though the three associate groups above identify themselves as primarily faith and Scripture-sharing groups, it is evident through their activities that each of them are “proclaiming the gospel to the poor” as cited in Luke’s 4:18.



Marge Barton



Florence Jaeger



Virginia Lammer



Marlene Von Fumetti



Sister Margaret Anne Kramer



Sister Rosalyn Ulfers

*Circle of Faith: Left to right: Back row: Associates Mary and Ron Dankert, Sister Joan Lickteig, Joe and Louise Ottavi; Front row: Associate Barbara Ressler, Sister Marilyn Breen and Gwen Nilles.*

## Arts & Crafts Boutique

### A Benefit to Support People in Need

The Sisters of the Presentation are happy to report that \$4,490.70 was raised from the Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 20. This amount will be divided equally, and each of the recipients below will receive a check for \$1,496.90:

- Guadalupe Mission in Wahneta, Florida, where Sister Paula Schwendinger ministers
- St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois, where Sister Lou Cota ministers
- P.I.N. (People In Need) in Dubuque, Iowa, an organization that assists those temporarily in need by offering limited help in exceptional circumstances.

The sale took place in Presentation Center at the motherhouse which was filled with tables for art, crafts and baked goods. A new addition this year was, “A piece of pie and a cup of coffee” which proved to be quite popular as pies were sold out by noon. Sisters and students from Wahlert Catholic High School and Mazzuchelli Middle School dressed as clowns to welcome people.

The annual event could not have been the success it was without the wonderful community of sisters, associates, students and friends who worked together to make it as great as it was.

Mark your calendars for next year’s sale on October 26, 2013, where you can find unique, hand-crafted gifts by Presentation sisters, associates and friends. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings to photography to jewelry to greeting cards and



*Left to right: Sister Josita Zieser, Christine and Wayne Dieckhoff (friends from Brodhead, Wisconsin) and Sister Dolores Zieser. Christine is holding a basket and other items which she purchased at the craft sale and Sister Dolores is holding a book of poetry recently published by Christine.*





# Remembering Dougherty

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

Dougherty, “The Garden Spot of Iowa,” first welcomed the Presentation sisters in 1907. At that time the Holy Ghost sisters, who had run the school since 1897, decided to concentrate their efforts in the Dubuque area.

According to an early annalist, “To the credit of their former teachers, be it said that the sisters found a well-trained, carefully instructed group of children in St. Patrick, Dougherty.” This small town boasted a mile-long main street, with the business area and the Church at opposite ends, and “just an inviting bit of country road without even a sidewalk” in between.

Sisters Mary Fidelis Martin, Loyola Murphy and Dorothy Delaney ventured to this small town to spread the spirit of Nano Nagle in Cerro Gordo County in north central Iowa. They found a convent/school building ready for them and students ready to learn.

Father Patrick O’Reilly, pastor in 1907 when the sisters arrived, saw to the needs of the newcomers and assisted in the religious instruction of the students. The fact that many of the students traveled a good distance to attend St. Patrick School was evidence of the value their parents placed on Catholic education.

The zeal of the early pioneers had kept alive the faith they had brought with them from Ireland, and they worked to ensure that instruction in that faith was available to their children. Further evidence of this zeal was shown in the prompt replacement of the school and church, both of which were destroyed by fire in 1895.

Illness visited the little community, causing Sister Fidelis to resign early in the second semester. Her death in May of

1908 left two grieving sisters to carry on the work for the remainder of that first school year.

By 1917 more space was needed and two more schoolrooms plus extra living space for the sisters were added to the existing structure. This building saw more additions over the years, and served the needs of the school until 1965 when it was replaced by a brick structure. A separate convent had been built in 1956, and so the new building was used strictly for school.

St. Patrick High School was accredited by the state of Iowa in 1923, and was maintained until 1964. From 1968-1973 the grade school was consolidated with Rockwell, and in 1973, the Dougherty center closed due to lack of students. A total of 74 Presentation sisters ministered in the school during its 66 years of operation.

Sister Mary Ita Sullivan was assigned to Dougherty from 1917-1919. In an interview for an oral history tape, she gave a job description for Sister Mary Loyola Murphy who was middle grade teacher, local superior, principal, bursar and general administrator. “You see,” she commented, “in those days it was not a matter of multiple choice, but multiple jobs!”

Sister Fleurette Einikey, on the same tape, tells of Sister Clementina Mackey who was compassionate, and “listened to a person’s

heart.” Sister Clementina kept her Irish heritage alive with sayings such as this one referring to her five-foot status, “I’m every inch of it.”

Sister Pauline O’Connor was, according to descriptions from her contemporaries, able to corral the most boisterous of second graders. “One week under her guidance and one would note the primary students marching in to attend daily Mass with eyes lowered and hands folded.”

Sister Sacred Heart Rooney was the first Presentation vocation from Dougherty, and the first to enter the newly-erected motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta Avenue in Dubuque. Eleven other young women followed her example over the years swelling the ranks of those who follow Nano Nagle.

Jim Boyle, a graduate of St. Patrick, describes the sisters in the following manner: “Dedicated teachers they surely were; and living saints, maybe, for they didn’t go raving mad working under excessive class loads and crowded room conditions.” Of Sister Mary Scholastica he noted: “Sister Scholastica...did a remarkable job of introducing students to instruments and getting them to harmonize as a unit of 26 pieces.... Methinks a special crown in heaven awaits all teachers of ‘beginners’ band.”  
*St. Patrick’s in the Roarin’ Twenties*



Left to right: Sisters Sacred Heart Rooney, Walter Marie Murphy, Margaret Donnelly, Marie Louise Murphy, Juanita Boom, Ellen Murphy, Michael Rottinghaus, Jean Murphy, Anthony Rottinghaus, Paschal Cunningham, Louise Scieszinski and Xavier Corrigan – all women who entered the Sisters of the Presentation from Dougherty. Right photo: St. Patrick School in Dougherty, Iowa.



After the closing of the school, the sisters maintained their presence by conducting weekend renewal programs for several years. These included visiting the sick and elderly, religious education classes grades 1-12, liturgies, adult discussion groups, inservice for religion teachers, music and pot luck dinners.

On July 28, 2012, a final liturgy was celebrated in the parish, bringing to a close a span of 155 years of church ministry in the area. Parishioners looked back on the history of the parish with gratitude for the blessings received during those years.



Left to right: Back row: Sisters Cecelia Loes, Barbara Oyens and Clementina Mackey; Front row: Pauline O’Connor, Fleurette Einikey and Clifford Cody.

## Celebrating Vatican II: Sharing the Vision



The Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley are sponsoring “Celebrating Vatican II: Sharing the Vision,” a four-part lecture series that reviews and renews understanding and appreciation of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hailed for its spirit of open-mindedness and change, Vatican II was referred to as a “bringing up to date” or *aggiornamento* of the church in the modern world by Pope John XXIII in 1959. The term became a key word in describing the council, which has been called “one of the most important religious events of the 20th century.”

The series began on October 21 in Davenport, Iowa, with a presentation by Dr. Richard Gaillardetz who addressed “What Happened at Vatican II? Keys to Understanding the Council,” exploring the enduring significance of the most important event in Roman Catholicism in four centuries and probing its implications for the present and future.

On December 2, Dr. Zeni Fox spoke on “The Laity after Vatican II: Collaboration in Ministry” in Dubuque, Iowa. Dr. Fox described the call to an awareness of lay ministry as one of the great fruits of Vatican II.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE LAST LECTURES: Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Massimo Faggioli will speak on “Liturgical Reform: the Crucial Impact and Legacy of Vatican II” at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hiawatha, Iowa. Dr. Faggioli will reflect on how the liturgical constitution is central to the achievements of Vatican II, to the core theology of the Council, and to its impact on Catholicism throughout the world.

### Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, and Bishop Daniel Turley, OSA, will speak on “The Church in the Modern World: Vatican II’s Challenge for Our Time” at Prince of Peace Church in Clinton, Iowa. The lecture will describe Vatican II’s invitation to read the signs of the times and respond in dedicated service, reflecting on ways the Church is called to solidarity with people throughout the world.

All are welcome. Events are free and open to the public. “Celebrating Vatican II: Sharing the Vision” is sponsored by Carmelite Nuns, Eldridge, Iowa; Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Davenport, Iowa; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin; Sisters of Mercy, West-Midwest Community, Omaha, Nebraska; Benedictine Sisters, Rock Island, Illinois; Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa; and Sisters of Charity BVM, Sisters of the Presentation, Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of the Visitation, and Trappistine Nuns, all of Dubuque, Iowa.



# Presentation Lantern Center 2002-2012

## Shining a Light in the Hearts of Immigrants

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Presentation Lantern Center, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, is a drop-in center in Dubuque, Iowa, especially for women and their children who are striving to better their lives. Many individuals, groups and organizations of the tri-states partner with the center in welcoming visitors from across the street and around the world. This year is the 10th anniversary of the center.

Since opening on November 13, 2002, the center, currently located in the former St. Mary's rectory, has provided hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to nearly 1,000 newcomers who have journeyed from five continents and 44 countries to make Dubuque their home. These visitors have enriched the diversity of neighborhoods, schools, businesses and faith communities.

"At the Presentation Lantern Center, newcomers find friends, overcome the bonds of isolation and improve their English skills," comments Executive Director Sister Corine Murray. "Eventually, many secure gainful employment. Nearly 40 have prepared for and passed the U.S. citizenship test. Many of these new citizens chose to make a permanent home in the area, while others moved to various regions of the United States."

As the visitors, volunteers, board members, sisters, friends and benefactors gathered at the Sisters of the Presentation on November 8 to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Presentation Lantern Center, it seemed only natural to have story-telling, lively conversation and refreshments. Visitors and volunteers shared their experiences with stories about the light of welcome they experience at the center. Following are some of the stories and reflections of that night and earlier.



**Dora Serna (Colombia)**, who came to the center 10 years ago, holds a degree in international business and has a graduate degree in economics. She had worked as an administrative manager in Colombia. Because she did not speak English she was not able to apply her professional skills for employment in the United States. Dora shares the meaning of the center in her life these past 10 years.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in... (Matthew 25:35)," begins Dora.

"But I wasn't hungry," she states. "I was alone and at the Lantern Center I found good friends; I wasn't thirsty, I was very sad, and you gave a reason to be happy, and I succeeded again. I was a stranger, an immigrant, with a language and cultural barrier and you welcomed me with open arms and warm hearts. You made me feel like a new person."

For Dora, the passage from Matthew describes the Presentation Lantern ministry. "I went to the center in hopes of learning a language but got much more in what became a life-changing experience. I found a light to guide my path in a new life."

Dora knows firsthand what it is like to seek assistance in understanding not only the language but the culture. She has shared her story when giving presentations with the Dubuque International Speakers Bureau.

"The light of the Lantern guides the way for families from many countries around the world that have come to Dubuque seeking a better life," she explains.

"During this process immigrants confront obstacles, encounter fears and experience isolation from the family and friends left behind. There are new customs that need to be learned and a culture that needs to be adapted to in order to fulfill their American dreams," she reflects. "The light from the Lantern shines in many hearts, because light doesn't know about barriers and speaks a universal language that everyone understands – hospitality."



**Don Koppes** is a retired high school teacher in Dubuque who began tutoring at the Presentation Lantern Center four years ago. This is where Don met Argaw from Ethiopia.

"The opportunity to tutor at the Lantern Center has changed my life," states Don, who met Argaw in 2008. "Argaw had won the Diversity-Visa lottery in 2007 which meant that he could come to the United States and not have to endure years of waiting. His family sold their home to help Argaw purchase a plane ticket to the U.S."

At first, Argaw lived with a friend in Ohio and tried to find a job. Another friend, a student at the University of Dubuque invited Argaw to come for a visit. Argaw started to come to the Lantern

Center. Don was his tutor at the center. After their son left for college and they had a spare room in their home, Don and his wife Caroline invited Argaw to live with them.

Don not only assists Argaw in studying English but helped Argaw to get a job at Hy-Vee. He taught Argaw to drive and to do many things that survival in a new country demands.

"When Argaw announced plans for his wedding in Ethiopia, Caroline and I traveled to the wedding to meet Argaw's family and his bride," says Don. The children in the local village school sat on the ground. They had no floor and no desks. Having seen the local needs in Argaw's hometown, Don set up a non-profit organization to provide floors and to supply needed items for the schools and students.

"Now I know what I am going to do until I can't do it anymore," exclaims Don. He continues as a mentor for Argaw.



**Joe Featherston** was the director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Dubuque when Sister Corine began the research for a ministry of welcome sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. What was clear from the beginning was that hospitality was the starting place for service with a focus on women and their children.

"Today, hospitality is all over the place down there," states Joe, who affirmed Sister Corine 11 years ago as she began to identify the need for persons from other countries. At the center those who do not speak English have the opportunity for one-on-one learning and small group gatherings in a safe environment.

After retiring from Catholic Charities and considering ongoing ways to serve others, Joe became a volunteer tutor this fall. "It has made me realize just how hard the English language is to learn. I have so much more empathy for anyone from outside the country who wants/needs to learn our native tongue. The Lantern Center is such a welcoming atmosphere in which to learn," comments Joe.

"The most enriching part for me has been to stretch my own experience of doing something I've never done before and realizing that I do have something to contribute. My student is patient with me as I make my mistakes. The thing that is more important than grammar, though, is the relationship. I feel like I'm doing my part to help international relations. I'm also learning a lot about countries like Mexico, Ukraine, South Korea, Russia and Bosnia and I don't even have to travel out of the U.S. to do this."



**Mary Jean Gregory** began tutoring at the Lantern Center eight years ago and is presently president of the Lantern board of trustees. "Words were the 'hook' that brought me to the center and words sustain my relationship there," reflects Mary Jean. "The words of Sister Corine, who spoke so enthusiastically about the Presentation sisters' new mission, led me to become a volunteer tutor. The words spoken



Left to right: Top photo: Cheyenne, Marilyn and Ellien, three generations from the Marshallese, enjoy the center's anniversary celebration. Right photo: Tutor Pam Miller and Ying from China, who comes to the center with her mother, enjoy a conversation.



with an accent or written with a few grammar mistakes, the words sent through body language – words are the reason I am quite passionate about this wonderful place."

"The words were written by my student from Japan who said, 'I have very big news. I'm pregnant. I want you to know first.' What courage she had to come to a foreign country as a newlywed and to give birth to her first child so far from home and family."

The words were spoken by another of Mary Jean's students, who told her about a complicated recipe she had put together. 'Easy, Mary. I make this camping.' She meant camping in a Bosnian refugee camp, where she made the dish on a blanket on the roadside. Such resilience and resourcefulness," says Mary Jean.

"No words were spoken by the Chinese woman. She was studying for the citizenship exam, and we were assembling her documents, ticking them off of our checklist," recalls Mary Jean. "Something slowed me, though, when we came to her husband's death certificate. When I looked at my student, tears were streaming down her face, no doubt for her loss, for their unrealized dreams. Yet, here was this 72 year-old woman studying to complete one part of the dream, to become an American. Such determination!"

Presentation Lantern Center is about life, birth and death and the hard realities and challenges in between. But the center is even more about life's rewards and celebrations, the shared success of making one's way in a new place and meeting new people and making new friends. Every visitor has an amazing story that reflects great character, and each one is teaching others how to live – with courage, resilience, resourcefulness, determination, and, above all, gratitude for the simple things.



# Presentation Sisters Witness for Peace



Presentation sisters from Dubuque, Iowa and Aberdeen, South Dakota, attend the School of Americas Vigil in Fort Benning, Georgia. Left to right: Sisters Joetta Venneman (Dubuque), Mary Dennis Lentsch (Dubuque), Pam Shepherd, Myra Remily (Aberdeen), JoAnn Sturzl (Aberdeen) and Joy Peterson (Dubuque).

From November 16-18, thousands converged at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to call on the Obama administration to end the U.S. militarization of the Americas and to close the School of Americas. Dubuque Presentation Sisters Mary Dennis Lentsch, Joetta Venneman and Joy Peterson, joined two Aberdeen Presentations at the rally.

Sister Joetta reflects on her experience:

*Each year those killed by the graduates of the School of the Americas are lifted up in voice as those gathered respond uniformly with the word, "PRESENTE." This prayerful vigil is emotional for those who gather as they hear witnesses from Central and South America describe the violence done in the name of Americans.*

*The event invites all of us as global citizens to reflect upon the policies of our government and the disturbance that this brings within, when one realizes what is done in our name. When contemplated, it causes one to weep and yet it is one of the few places where civilians of our "crimes" are remembered.*

*Emotions become deep as individuals can come to a point where they desire to physically perform civil disobedience by entering School of the Americas' property. Others join in solidarity through spirit with anyone who chooses to cross this barrier. Intentionally discerning and engaging in such an act this year was Theresa Cusimano of Denver, Colorado. She crossed the line for the second time following the solemn funeral procession.*

*Watching Theresa scale the fence with her "camper ladder" and piece of carpet, so as not to get scratched by the wire on the top of the fence, struck a deep sense of commitment to action in solidarity with those in Central and South America who struggle with American policies. Their struggle is certainly our struggle until human dignity is achieved and all are free of the structures keeping them in poverty.*

## PRESENTATION QUEST

### IMMERSION & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

#### July 28 - August 3, 2013: Appalachia

Please join Presentation sisters in a week of community at Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. Volunteers are invited to join the community in living the Gospel cornerstones of community, service, prayer and simplicity.

Visit [www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org) for more information or contact:

Sister Rita Cameron  
Presentation Quest Coordinator  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, IA 52001-2997  
563-588-2008  
[service@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:service@dubuquepresentations.org)

## Scholarship Opportunities Apply Today

Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, was a young Irish woman who spent her days teaching those who would have otherwise been deprived of an education. Her evenings were spent walking through the streets of Cork, Ireland, bringing food and medicine, comfort and hope to those in need. Nano Nagle was a woman of service. Today the Sisters of the Presentation follow in Nano's footsteps by serving in education, pastoral ministry, chaplaincy and advocacy for the disadvantaged and those made poor throughout the United States and Bolivia.

In the spirit of Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates established four scholarship opportunities.

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

To apply, visit:

[WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG](http://WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG)  
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

Featured below are special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation sisters and associates, near and far.



## Celebrating Together

In honor of Foundation Day and Presentation Day, sisters, associates and friends in various areas gathered to celebrate and enjoy one another. Left photo: Sisters and associates from Algona, Cedar Falls, Mason City, Oelwein, Forest City, Charles City, all in Iowa, gathered in Belmont, Iowa, on November 17 to celebrate Presentation Day. Bottom photo: On November 13, Father Doug Wathier, with students and staff from Loras College, enjoyed breakfast at Mount Loretto in honor of Foundation Day and Father Doug's birthday.



## Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



**Sister Beth Kress** begins a three-year term as a member of the board of directors of the National Communicators Network for Women Religious (NCNWR), a network of professional support and education for members who promote understanding of women religious.



**Sister Lynn Mary Wagner** has accepted the president-elect position of DACU (Dubuque Area Congregations United) for 2013, moving into the presidency in 2014. DACU's focus is to foster an awareness and understanding of and response to human needs.



**Sister Benjamin Duschner** received the Alumni Award from the Seton Catholic School in Peosta, Iowa, for her work as the first principal of the school formed from five parishes/schools.



**Associate Karla Berns** illustrated two children's books written by her friend Geri Althoff. *Do You Know the Way to the Quiet Spot?* and *Christmas at the Quiet Spot* can be purchased at Amazon.

## You are invited to join us.

**December 25, 2012**  
Christmas Mass  
9:00 a.m.  
*Sisters of the Presentation*  
Sacred Heart Chapel  
Dubuque, Iowa

**April 5-6, 2013**  
Dubuque's Got Sisters  
Discernment Weekend  
Area Motherhouses  
Dubuque, Iowa

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

## Please pray with us.

**December 15, 2012**  
Christmas Dinner with guests from Dubuque Rescue Mission and Hope House  
*Sisters of the Presentation*  
Dubuque, Iowa

**January 13-19, 2013**  
National Vocation Awareness Week

**February 3, 2013**  
World Day for Consecrated Life

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

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

## Thursday Thoughts

Throughout Advent, "Thursday Thoughts" by Sister Joan Lickteig will offer brief reflections on random Scripture passages.

Visit

[www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)  
PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY



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info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

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 Remove my Name  
 Receive Duplicate Copies  
 (please indicate which is correct)



# Blessed Christmas

*May our global home be a place of justice and peace for all.*

This holiday season and going forward into 2013 we encourage you to shop with a purpose. Our hope is to inspire conscious consumerism and show how an everyday purchase can change lives in a whole community. Through purchasing fair trade products, you help bring an end to child and forced labor and trafficking worldwide. Help us keep this movement going. When you buy a gift through the following sites know you are also giving the gift of hope and making a difference in someone else's life.



**Live FashionABLE**  
[www.livefashionable.com](http://www.livefashionable.com)

A fashionABLE scarf is more than just an accessory, it's a means to a new life. Your purchase creates sustainable businesses for women in Africa who have been exploited by the effects of poverty. Each scarf includes a story of the woman who made it.



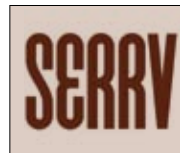
**Global Girlfriend**  
[www.globalgirlfriend.com](http://www.globalgirlfriend.com)

Global Girlfriend is a fair trade boutique offering a line of trend-setting, women-made, fair trade products including stylish apparel, accessories and gifts with one purpose – helping women in need help themselves.



**Made By Survivors**  
[www.madebysurvivors.com](http://www.madebysurvivors.com)

Made by Survivors employs and educates survivors of slavery and other human rights abuses, including women and children living in extreme poverty. The beautiful handmade jewelry, handbags and gift items provide income, dignity, a new identity and a bright future for the survivors.



**SERRV**  
[www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

SERRV's mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Shop SERRV's unique and handcrafted fair trade items from around the world. Fill your home and kitchen with authentic décor, handmade dishware, and stunning handcrafted baskets. Adorn yourself with gorgeous fair trade jewelry, scarves and bags.