



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
and friends, or any ideas which relate to the
aim of this publication. Submit to:

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Cover PHOTOS

*The doorways represented on the cover are
snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation
history: (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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*We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque
Presentation sisters, near and far.*

Cover PHOTO

*Supporters gathered in the 1600 block of Jackson Street in downtown
Dubuque to greet the Nuns on the Bus, a group of Catholic sisters on a 15-
day bus tour through nine states in opposition to the service cuts in the Ryan-
House budget. Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK,
addresses those gathered regarding the Nuns on the Bus initiative, the
wonderful outpouring of support from people around the country, her
media journey, specifics of the proposed budget – what it means for funded
programs and suggestions of how “WE” can invest in our future together.*

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Openings

by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Now is a four-year-moment in U.S. political life – a presidential election. For Dubuque Presentations this is also a five-year-moment when time is set apart for reflection as congregational directions and leadership are chosen. It is a sacred and serious moment to consider the gaps between God’s dream for our world and the reality of what is.

As Christians called to live the mission of Jesus and as women religious following the example of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress, we are challenged with thoughtful decision-making. Recognizing the existence of many injustices in the world, how does one respond? A summer time experience provided me a quite simple response. The City of Dubuque and St. Luke’s United Methodist Church work together to provide families with wading pool gardens. The garden results were quite surprising – more than produce.

When I sought my landlord’s approval to participate, he replied in the affirmative and added, “See if your neighbors in my other rental property would like to apply for a garden.” The neighbors’ response was, “¡Por supuesto!” meaning “Of course!” Pool, dirt and seeds arrived. With neighbors who are Caucasian, African American, Latino and Marshallese, gardening experience varies. The ritual of watering the garden allowed time for neighbors to share both curiosity and wisdom.

Ten-year-olds often had the very same comment, “I go by here two times a day and every time, I look. I look.” The kids vary but from the first day when the pool just held dirt until now when tomatoes are ripe, the opening comment is often the same. “When I go by, I look!”

The other day a couple of eight-year-old girls walked by, turned around and emphatically declared, “You plant GOOD. You plant GOOD.” Later when two young boys stopped, I offered them cherry tomatoes. One, who did not like tomatoes, declined. The other tried it. His big smile indicated that the taste was delightful – causing the other boy to try just one. He was converted.

Some neighbors, struggling with English, were awed when they finally realized what “green” onions were. Another, pointing to green tomatoes, wanted to know if they were apples. A 12-year-old, sharing his gardening expertise, critiqued my watering method suggesting it should be done three times a day. He assured me that someone would be in the apartment at noon and most certainly could help with the watering. To my surprise a young woman, who had moved into the apartment two days before, was an unsolicited volunteer.

So, as decisions for U.S. President and Presentation Chapter need to be made:

- Look. See what is really around us. Look again.
- Plant. Risk getting involved. The results may not be what you expect. You may be changed
- Clarify. Are these apples or green tomatoes?
- Network. Ask others what they think, what they experience. Ask for help. The answer may be “¡Por supuesto!”



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



Sister Linda Reicks (front row far left) gathers with students of Carlson College of Massage Therapy in Anamosa, Iowa.

For Sister Linda Reicks, the heart of Presentation mission includes hands of Presentation mission. Sister



Linda ministers as a massage therapist. Certified by the State of Iowa and the National American Massage Therapy Association, she has a clinical practice known as "Touching Humanity-Therapeutic Massage" in Stone City, Iowa. Her clients range from 10 to 101 years of age and benefit from her training in Swedish massage as they experience stress reduction, health promotion, pain management, relaxation and injury recovery.

The Heart that Understands, The Hand that Soothes

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

By way of background, Sister Linda Reicks grew up in Carroll, Iowa, the daughter of Rita and Raymond Reicks. She graduated from Kuemper High School in 1972 and attended Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. Sister earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Clarke College (University) in 1978. Over the years, she taught second grade in Catholic schools in Epworth, Key West, Storm Lake and Waukon, all in Iowa; and St. Paul, Minnesota.

I will be a teacher all my life. Through the teaching of massage, I can help students tap into their own healing center so that they can bring healing to others. I can teach them to be more compassionate. I can affirm them as they discover their own personal gifts that surface in the client-practitioner relationship. Growth has happened in me and I am delighted when I observe growth occurring in my students. *Sister Linda Reicks*

Sister Linda graduated from Carlson College of Massage Therapy located in Anamosa, Iowa, in 1995. As a full-time student there, she completed 775 hours of instruction. Her classes focused on massage as both a healing art as well as a science. She acquired a balance of academic and technical knowledge, clinical skills, dexterity, sensitivity and awareness. She was then prepared to minister to individuals as a certified practitioner.

"I move into a partnership with my client so that he/she can learn that body, mind and spirit are each important parts of his/her very being. It is important to learn that pain is a friend. It announces that something is wrong," comments Sister.

Sister Linda demonstrated expertise during her certification program at Carlson College and was invited to join the faculty in 2000. She is now the lead instructor at Carlson and accompanies students through such classes as Anatomy/Physiology/Pathology, Hot Stone Massage, Hydrotherapy, Reflexology, Soft Tissue Release, Wellness, Swedish Massage, Myofascial Massage, and Pregnant/Side Lying Massage.

"I am privileged to be a teacher-mentor who empowers in students the freedom to discover who they are," says Sister Linda who sees herself as living the charism of Nano. "I will be a teacher all my life. Through the teaching of massage, I can help students tap into their own healing center so that they can bring healing to others. I can teach them to be more compassionate. I can affirm them as they discover their own personal gifts that surface in the client-practitioner relationship. Growth has happened in me and I am delighted when I observe growth occurring in my students."

Massage therapy may be the oldest and simplest form of medical care. Egyptian tomb paintings show persons being massaged. The Chinese culture from 2700 BCE recommends "massage of skin and flesh, and exercises of hands and feet" as appropriate treatment. Massage offered pain relief for Greek and Roman athletes. The medicine of India places great emphasis on the therapeutic benefits of massage with aromatic oils and spices. Most familiar to Western culture, the 19th century Swedish doctor, poet and educator, Per Henrik Ling, developed a system of physiotherapy based on the study of gymnastics and physiology. Today therapeutic Swedish massage is recognized as a wellness and healing component.

Sister Linda has served her professional colleagues by acting as treasurer of the Iowa American Massage Therapy Association for 11 years. This organization establishes and maintains professional



Sister Linda Reicks ministers to a client through the healing effects of hot stone massage.

standards for both individual practitioners and massage training programs. Sister remarks proudly, "Graduates from Carlson College are held in high esteem because of their excellent training in neuromuscular rehabilitation to treat chronic or acute muscular dysfunction." Carlson College of Massage Therapy is the only school of massage in Iowa that is recognized by the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation.

Sister Linda's 12 years as an instructor at Carlson College have brought her in contact with many students. She summarizes, "Students bring their personal gifts to this profession. As their instructor, I have the privilege to help them develop their skills. Because of their growth in their personal and professional skills through the Carlson program, they will never be the same." One student affirmed her Carlson experience in this way, "As I came to learn the trade of massage and during the program I also came to know myself in greater depth."

Sister Linda holds the following quote from poetess Maya Angelou as a favorite describing the art and science of massage therapy: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

The walls of Carlson College of Massage Therapy are covered with many artistic and poetic gifts from graduating classes. One reads, "It's the heart that understands...and the hand that soothes." And thus, Sister Linda uses both her heart and her hands in her mission of healing.



Left to right: Sister Julia Wingert, finance assistant, and Chris Jackson, fiscal manager/human resources, team up to keep the Finance Office running smoothly.

Woman of Competence & Contrasts

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

That's Chris with a "C" – for Chris, competence and compassion. Christine Mary Jackson dons two significant "hats" at the Sisters of the Presentation: fiscal manager and director of human resources. Some job! It's matched only by Chris' warm, welcoming, pleasant manner and her sense of humor.

Five-foot-nine, slender, with attractive honey blond hair and large blue-green eyes, Chris appears as if she just stepped off the cover of Glamour magazine. Her appearance is rivaled only by her intelligence and depth of character. No wonder Sister Ann Jackson says, "I'm honored to be her sister."

A January birthday, the youngest in her family of three boys and three girls, Chris' early years found her in awe of the cartoon heroine, "Strawberry Shortcake," a bright and energetic little girl who was kind, resourceful and always ready to help a friend in need. Sound familiar?

Today her colleagues identify her as the "epitome of professionalism, astute in business and finance, a woman of strength and a creative problem-solver." While her demeanor designates her "delightful," her spirit "fun-loving" and her manner "gentle," she's no push-over in areas of management. Rather she operates in a reasonable, fair, ethical manner – firm and straightforward. Committed to doing what is best, she ministers with the sisters and employees, offering her multi-faceted job-and-people-skills.

Chris loves learning and is a "quick study." Thorough, and with a wide acquaintanceship, she seeks wisdom from a range of people, and then makes well-informed decisions.

As fiscal manager, it is not surprising that sleuthing to find the one penny that interferes with balancing the account constitutes her pet peeve. Likewise, it is no surprise that her favorite color is

green, the color of life, vitality – and margaritas. As far as music is concerned, she likes it all, but has a slight preference for country. Her favorite movie? "Gone with the Wind." Actually, she likes any movie with a good plot, but it's even better if Nicholas Cage is starring in it.

Favorite saint? St. Anthony, of course, an affinity she learned from her mother, who readily looked to St. Anthony when she lost something and suggested that Chris would do well to pray to him, too. Her favorite Scripture? Psalm 119:105 "You, O God, are a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Chris has lived in her current home for seven years, a small, cozy "haven" surrounded with lots of flowers and lots of people who regularly "come knocking." Among them, Jean, whom Chris teasingly calls "Jean, Jean, Jelly Bean." These two look out for each other. Though even Jean would say, "it's not the same, however, since Chris' 13-year-old sable Sheltie, friend and companion, Melody, died in December."

Chris' artistic, creative flair is evidenced in her home décor and design. She can sew, decorate, do crafts and has multiple interests. P.S. She needs a lot of sleep!

Bliss is joining friends for a meal of fine food and choice wines (aka Isaiah 25). Most of all she likes to have fun; family, friends – people are most important to her.

Chris would enjoy living any place where the thermometer registers 70 degrees and skies are sunny. Of the places she's visited, she really enjoyed Boston, and now she'd like to travel to New Orleans, especially to sample the food.

Any ordinary day she's a meat and potatoes girl, but lasagna would be a nice change, as well as anything Italian. When it comes to dessert, it's chocolate all the way. Eating out on special occasions, her choice would be Vinny Vanucchi's, but for today, her own grill will suffice.

Chris enjoys cooking but her real passion is relaxing on the river, which, since childhood, offers leisure and peace. After years of saving, she now owns a boat – the finest of therapies – keeping "river-deprivation" at bay.

Golf is Chris' favorite participation sport; football taking second as a spectator sport. Her favorite pastime, however is reading, but she experiences the universal struggle of the busy professional – finding time to read.

Excelling in finance and human resource skills, Chris isn't easily ruffled. Modeling integrity, she offers compassionate listening as she considers the big picture of any situation. Chris asks insightful questions and serves as an effective team member. She thinks first, then responds – in an articulate and succinct manner. Amid challenges, she recalls another of her mother's useful sayings: "This too shall pass." For Chris, the glass is always half-full.

Chris' many gifts and talents reflect both style and substance. Comfortable in a pair of heels, enjoying Isaiah's fine food

and choice wines and driving a 2008 white Sebring Chrysler convertible speak style! Her substance? A keen mind and compassionate heart. In only her third year of employment, she's treasured by the Sisters of the Presentation – and beyond. Chris offers her own lamp and light on the Presentation path.

Employment Opportunities

We invite you to become a part of the Presentation team. For employment opportunities, visit our website.

WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
Under "Service & Opportunities"

New Office Book Psalms for the Seasons



Sisters Sheila Ann Dougherty (left) and Joan Lickteig (right) completed their year-long project of compiling a new office book. "Psalms for the Seasons" is a book of psalms, readings, reflections and prayers used for morning and evening community prayer by the sisters at Mount Loretto and in active ministry. Psalms were selected from "Psalms for Praying," Nan Merrill's translation.

Celebrating 50 Years as Daughters of Nano Nagle

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

The light of Nano Nagle's lantern has inspired many to become Presentation sisters including the six Dubuque Presentations who are observing 50 years of religious life this year. They began their celebration on June 30 at the Sisters of the Presentation motherhouse with a prayer service and dinner shared with family, friends and Presentation sisters and associates.

As all gathered in Sacred Heart Chapel the music rang with joy and gratitude. The community sang, waved the jubilee banners and danced in celebration of these six women and their combined 300 years as Presentation sisters. Reflections on jubilee and on the chosen scripture provided much for which to be grateful. A candle lighting and reading celebrated each jubilarian personally.

Sister Marilyn Breen

A candle was lit and the reader began, "Sister Marilyn Breen brings a quiet but deep presence into a group. Her artistic abilities, whether with food, flowers, environment or liturgy, are treasured gifts in community. An intelligent woman, Sister is competent with computers and is an excellent practical problem-solver. She is deeply connected to her family and enjoys gatherings with family and friends. A woman of vision, Sister Marilyn gifts others with 'big picture thinking.'"

Currently of Dubuque, Sister Marilyn taught in Catholic elementary and high schools in Algona, Dubuque and Farley, Iowa. She served as director of religious education at St. Patrick Parish, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and St. Columbkille Parish, Dubuque. She was in congregational leadership from 1989-1998, serving as vice president from 1993-1998. Sister Marilyn is director of religious education at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Dubuque.

"As I celebrate this year of jubilee I am aware that God has graced my life with community, family, friends and opportunities to grow as a person of faith. I have been challenged to use my abilities and to accept my limitations. This is a time of thanksgiving, of remembrance and of forgiveness. The light that I received at Baptism continues to offer hospitality and life to those I meet. My life is much different than I would have imagined in 1962, however, it is filled with peace, challenge and hope as I consider the future bearing the lantern of our foundress Nano Nagle," states Sister Marilyn.

Sister Ellen Mary Garrett

With the candle lit the reader said, "Sister Ellen Mary Garrett has gifted us with a gentle spirit, with intelligence and good humor. Sister's family has grounded her in simplicity and love of the land. Her days have been spent in teaching youth. She has done this faithfully and with care. In gentle ways Sister Ellen laughs at life's incongruities and lives with a connectedness to the earth. A person of gratitude, she celebrates life and offers a warm and hospitable welcome to all."

Presently of Dubuque, Sister Ellen Mary taught at Catholic schools in Charles City, Danbury, Dubuque and Key West, Iowa; Shoreview, Minnesota; and Timberlake, South Dakota; she was principal in Osage, Iowa. Sister is in community prayer and service as librarian and communications assistant at the motherhouse, Dubuque.

Reflecting on the celebration of jubilee, Sister Ellen Mary says, "As Nano Nagle responded to God's inspiration to improve the lives of Irish children through education and works of mercy, with

the community's support I have shared my gifts in teaching with fervor for the faith and connectedness to the earth. Celebrating jubilee to me means declaring the blessings that God has graced me with family, teachers and friends who encourage me in resolve to offer faith and hospitality to others and their relationship with the world."

Sister Mary Michaeline Healy

The reader began as the candle was lit, "Sister Michaeline Healy is a true servant leader who is connected to the people she serves. Her strong compassion for those in need is demonstrated in her untiring service to her parish community. Sister has been supported and companioned by her faithful and devoted twin sister Mary. Because she enjoys sports, Sister Michaeline has been dubbed "Coach" by members of the Presentation community. While she is a deliberating thinker, Sister also displays the twinkle of her inherited Irish humor."

Currently of Caledonia, Minnesota, Sister taught at Catholic schools in Algona, Bankston, Bode, Dubuque, Farley, Osage and Salix, all in Iowa. She served as parish minister in Salix. Sister Michaeline is pastoral associate of St. Mary Parish in Caledonia.

"Our year of jubilee is a wonderful time to reflect on Nano Nagle's words, 'Go out into the winding lanes and there you will find Christ,'" states Sister Michaeline. "My heart is filled with joy and gratitude for those who have daily touched my life through teaching, ministering to the sick and dying and celebrating new life. Nano's words have come true each day. I am tremendously grateful for those who have walked with me."

Sister Margaret Anne Kramer

A candle was lighted and the reader began, "Sister Margaret Anne Kramer loves life and people with zest and joy. An outgoing person, she is always ready for experiences of fun and laughter. She draws strength from her deep faith and helps others to accept difficulties and loss. Her pleasant and steady presence brings strength to others while her laughter and playful banter convey an energetic delight."

Presently of Dubuque, Sister Margaret Anne taught at Catholic schools in Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; and St. Paul, Minnesota; and was principal in Waukon, Iowa. She served as coordinator at Mount Loretto; pastoral minister at the Cathedral of St. Raphael, Dubuque; and associate director for catechesis for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Sister Margaret Anne is pastoral associate of St. Anthony Parish, Dubuque, and director of pastoral care for the Sisters of the Presentation at Mount Loretto, Dubuque.

Reflecting on this jubilee, she says, "My heart is filled with joy and gratitude for the many blessings I have received during these 50 fulfilling years. I thank family, friends and community for their continued love, prayers and support. I look forward to the tomorrows and know the Lord's everlasting love will be with me."

Sister Mary Joellen Price

With the candle lighted the reader said, "Sister Joellen Price partners with God by always working with creative hands. Stitching, quilting and making music have been some of her lifetime endeavors. Always open to the new, she volunteers at a local food pantry and retreat center and delights in the Amish community nearby. Gifted with a symbolic connection between faith and life, Sister Joellen, is a genuine problem-solver who is willing to take risks."

Presently of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sister Joellen taught music at Catholic schools and parishes in Algona, Key West, Dubuque, Lawler, Sheldon and Storm Lake and was liturgist in Sioux City, all in Iowa. She was coordinator of Mount Loretto. She served as liturgist at Christ the King Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. Currently Sister Joellen is pastoral associate of St. Pius X Parish, Cedar Rapids.

"The Presentation sisters have always been in my family's life, beginning at St. Joseph School in Mason City, Iowa, when my mom was their student. I first learned Nano's story by observing the sisters living out her vision in their daily lives."

"During the past 18 months I have helped develop a collaborative project with the 11 parishes in the Cedar Rapids area. Metro Catholic Outreach (MCO) is a center which provides a food pantry plus a call center for referrals and emergency financial assistance for those in need. As MCO has unfolded and become a reality, I have often reflected upon Nano's dependence on God as she took risks to reach out to those made poor," states Sister Joellen reflecting on her ministry as a Presentation sister.

Sister Ruth Ann Takes

The reader began as the candle was lit, "Sister Ruth Ann Takes is rooted in the rural life of Monti, Iowa, and from there brings a knowledge of and care for the land. She is energetic with a quick step to help another. Her generous, loyal and industrious spirit are part of her passion for service and caring. As a musician Sister Ruth Ann likes to sing and dance, stepping lightly with a song in her heart."

Currently of New Hope, Minnesota, Sister Ruth Ann taught music at Catholic schools and parishes in Timber Lake, South Dakota; in Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Humboldt, Mason City, Varina and Whittemore and was pastoral minister and liturgist in Varina, all in Iowa. She was pastoral administrator in Clara City, Minnesota; and coordinator at Mount Loretto. Presently Sister Ruth Ann is pastoral care associate of St. Therese Care Center, New Hope.

Reflecting on jubilee, Sister Ruth Ann states, "Nano's life and values reflect my own life and values: Nano's daily routine in the schools and the evening outings to care for the sick reflect my daily routine of teaching classroom music for many years and now ministering to the sick and dying. Nano's early morning prayer prepared her for the day's challenges as my morning prayer fills me with the Spirit who guides me in my daily ministry. I see this jubilee year as a time to recall my first love and dedication to God, a time to return to my roots, to reflect on God's divine plan as lived these past 50 years and dream into the future."



Left to right: Sisters Ellen Mary Garrett, Joellen Price, Ruth Ann Takes, Margaret Anne Kramer, Marilyn Breen and Michaeline Healy.



15-Day Tour NUNS on the Bus

by DEBORAH WEINSTEIN
ADAPTED FROM HUFFINGTON POST



Top photo: Take one bus, wrap it in a colorful message, add Catholic sisters and supporters across the country and you have a great road map for education and acting toward justice. The Nuns on the Bus stopped at the Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque on Day 1 of the 15-day tour. Bottom photo: Josiah (left) and Sister Richelle Friedman (right) at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

A throng of admirers crammed in front of the United Methodist building across from the U.S. Capitol, waiting in the 95 degree heat for the “Nuns on the Bus.” This was the last stop of a 15-day tour through nine states, with opposition to the service cuts in the Ryan-House budget. Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, wouldn’t lead an enterprise like this just to oppose something. The “Nuns on the Bus” were there to celebrate the work of agencies across the country that utilize federal funding to help the poor with love and respect and effective skill, and to promote an alternative vision.

Presentation Sister Richelle Friedman was one of the sisters participating in the tour. Sister brings her fierce passion for justice to her work as director of public policy for the Coalition on Human Needs. She joined the tour in Philadelphia and stayed through the end. Visiting the poverty-fighting sites and large gatherings en route, Sister Richelle shared the following thoughts about her experiences.

“From the moment I stepped on the bus on day 12 of this incredible 15-day journey with my co-travelers, we heard and

saw amazing and powerful testimony of the proud work done at service organizations by Catholic sisters and others we met along the way and of the many success stories of those on the receiving end of those services,” says Sister Richelle. “All understand how detrimental Representative Paul Ryan’s House-passed budget would be to their efforts to provide nutritious meals, a place to call home, a safe and nurturing atmosphere for children to learn and a place for seniors and persons with disabilities to come to experience companionship and respect and yes, even fun!”

“The first night I was on the bus I met Colleen, a young 26-year-old social worker who works in the Kensington neighborhood, one of the poorest in Philadelphia. She spoke about the people they welcome with deep compassion and care to the Community Center at Visitation, and who in turn inspire her and capture her heart. Colleen understands that they are the ones who will be most adversely affected by the Ryan Budget.”

Sister Richelle learned that Pennsylvania would receive 159 million fewer emergency meals if the Ryan budget were to be carried out.

“Then there is Joe,” Sister recounts, “a homebound diabetic in his 70s who is visited weekly by a healthcare worker from the Center – a worker who herself could well lose her job under the Ryan plan.” Sister quoted Colleen, who said, “By eliminating key services, we don’t give our brothers and sisters who are already vulnerable a decent chance at survival, and if they falter we all do. We need to stand up for change, believe in hope, and trust the promise that our neighborhoods and neighbors are worth it.”

The bus stopped often at ministries that cherish individuals and strengthen communities. Sister Richelle visited Mercy Neighborhood Ministries in Philadelphia (MNM), where she received a tour of a classroom by 11-year-old Josiah and his teacher Sharon.

“Josiah proudly led the way,” Sister Richelle shares. “In a brightly painted and decorated classroom Sharon uses music, beautiful pictures of nature, breathing techniques and exercises to assist the children in developing the inner peace and strength she knows they will need to face adversity and make hard choices.”

MNM is providing a respite from neighborhood violence and strengthening children’s inner reserves to withstand it in their own lives. “Children as young as three come to MNM for daycare, children are taught in afterschool classes, adults learn computer skills and complete GEDs and eldercare provides a place of dignity for seniors and a respite for caregivers,” observes Sister Richelle.

The “Nuns on the Bus” went to the district offices of 10 members of Congress who had voted for the Ryan budget. “One day on our tour people gathered on a blacktop parking lot in over 95 degree weather in front of the Richmond, Virginia, office of Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who strongly supports the Ryan budget,” says Sister Richelle. “They came to our press conference to express their gratitude to us for spreading the word about an alternative vision of federal policy that acknowledges our country’s deficit and holds up a vision for meeting basic needs in a way that makes us a stronger nation. There I met Charlie and Donna who drove over two hours to be present. They told me they have done well financially and believe that they and others like them can contribute more in taxes to maintain programs vital to vulnerable families and individuals. They inspired me.”

The alternative vision the sisters raised is called the Faithful Budget. Developed by representatives of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faiths, the Faithful Budget calls for investments in education, health care, housing and economic development to lift people out of poverty and increase economic security for all. The budget does all this while gradually reducing the deficit “through a tax system founded on fairness and shared commitment, where those who have reaped extraordinary benefits contribute proportionately to the good of all.” NETWORK, a progressive voice within the Catholic community for peace and justice for more than 40 years, helped to draft the Faithful Budget.

The “Nuns on the Bus” talked about this vision, and boiled it down to five words, “Reasonable Revenues for Responsible Programs.” Sister Simone and her companions on the bus asked those who came to the press conferences and evening ‘friend raisers’ to repeat the mantra three times. They were then asked to



Left to right: Companions on the Journey: Sisters Diane Donahue, SSS; Richelle Friedman, PBVM; Marge Clark, BVM; Mary Ellen Lacy, DC; and Simone Campbell, SSS.

repeat it four more times after they left the gatherings. “It seems there’s something about saying something seven times. As Sister Simone says, ‘After three times you remember it and after seven times you begin to truly believe it!’” states Sister Richelle.

As Sister Simone said at their Washington, D.C., event, “Sisters don’t just do it with grace. For heaven’s sake, we need money!”

The “Nuns on the Bus” discovered, in Sister Richelle’s words, that “all who gathered understand that taxes need to be raised in order to maintain the programs vital to their communities.”

Representative Ryan’s budget is the antithesis of the vision held by the “Nuns on the Bus.” Instead of “reasonable revenues for responsible programs,” the House-passed budget slashes trillions in taxes even beyond the Bush-era tax cuts, overwhelmingly benefiting the rich. It makes massive cuts in virtually every domestic program, while increasing funds for the Pentagon. Thousands of people throughout their 2,700-mile tour came out to show that they rejected the Ryan budget and were grateful to the sisters for demonstrating an alternative rooted in faith and also in patriotism and common sense.

“As Catholic sisters, we are missioned to stand with people in need and to be witnesses for economic justice,” expresses Sister Richelle. “Every hour of each day, we stand in solidarity with all who live in poverty, and we work toward confronting injustice and systems that cause suffering.”

Coalition of Human Needs

Author Deborah Weinstein is the executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs and Sister Richelle Friedman is the director of public policy. The Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance of national civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. Visit www.chn.org for more information.

Meeting, Working & Praying Together Connected in Colorado

by ASSOCIATE BREN CONNORS and KARLA BERNIS, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR



Left to right: Back row: Associate Judy Hughes, Denise Roberts, Pam Hoggins and Associate Sara Kammer; Front row: Donna Baiocco and Associate Bren Connors; Not pictured: Associate Maureen Dobel.

The Colorado Presentation associates enjoy their time together. They are a group of seven women, four who are associates and three who are “associates to the associates.” They spent a year gathering, sharing and learning as they walked through the steps to officially become associates. At the end of that time, four made their commitment as Presentation associates and the other three felt they were not being called to do that at this time. Because they find such strength, support and fun in the group, all of them wanted to stay connected. And so they are!

Through a variety of connections, from shared parish life, shared work life and/or mutual friendships, the group was formed. Over half of the women are former members of religious orders. They bring a wealth of history from their past and have blended that together and learned much from each other.

Each member of the group is involved in ministry, whether that is through her employment or her volunteering. One is a fourth-grade teacher in an inner-city Catholic grade school. One is a hospice chaplain. Another works at a Catholic parish filling a variety of roles from facilities to running a fair trade store to managing the books. One is an attorney who spends nearly as much time volunteering at church and other places as at her work.

Two work in the arena of affordable housing. Finally, one is a social worker who runs “The Guadalupe Project.”

When the group spends time together they always share food. That seems right in keeping with Nano’s philosophy of feeding both body and soul. They pray together and share about their lives, ministries and concerns. As women who spend their days nurturing and ministering to others, they really want time to come together to be nurtured themselves. All of them have commented on the strength they receive in this community of women.

But being the people they are, they wished for their associate community to be of service to others and not merely to themselves. As a group, they have adopted “The Guadalupe Project” in a particular way. The mission of the organization is to be “dedicated to family preservation and child safety.” This mission is accomplished by assisting with reunification, child advocacy, expedited permanency and prevention or abbreviation of out-of-home placement. The project works with struggling

families to either keep them together or reunite them when they’ve been separated through the social services system.

What the Colorado associate group has taken as their task is to stock a “non-food pantry” of items that these families cannot purchase with food stamps. This includes such basics as cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, soap and shampoo, toilet paper and feminine protection. Pam, who is the social worker in the group, told about one family that was working hard to get their children back in the home but each time the social services person came to the house, there were piles of unwashed clothes. It turns out they could not afford laundry soap to wash the clothes. Something as basic as that was keeping the family apart. Each time the associate group meets, members bring supplies and piles them into Pam’s car for her to take to her office. Pam shares that the supplies often last only a few days but expresses how grateful she and the families are for the group’s support.

The Colorado group is pretty far away from Dubuque, but feel connected to the Presentation community and to the story and mission of Nano Nagle. The group would love to have visitors if you happen to be coming to or through Colorado!

Associate Partnership

On July 10, 2012, Mary Bear and Barbara Foust Sauser made their first commitment as Presentation associates. Sisters Jennifer Rausch, Damian O’Brien and Ellen Mary Garrett conducted the orientation and shared in the commitment ceremony.

The two newly committed associates joined 127 other men and women associates in sharing their belief in the mission of Nano Nagle and their desire to foster the Presentation spirit and charism while continuing within their own lifestyle.



Mary Bear



Barbara Foust Sauser

In her request for initial associate commitment, Mary Bear expressed that her personal charism is the ability to encourage and listen to people, especially the lonely or overwhelmed. She believes strongly in the power of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit and desires to be part of a prayer group.

Barbara Foust Sauser credits her mother and aunts who are associates for her interest and decision to become a Presentation associate. Newly retired, Barbara shares that she will have more time to give of her talents and experience to Presentation service projects and faith sharing.

ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP

In Memory of Jean Foust

December 28, 1925 - June 12, 2012



Presentation Associate Jean Ann Foust desired to share her life and spiritual journey with the Presentation sisters as an associate and made her first commitment on June 16, 2000. Jean has two sisters, Charlotte Danner and Mary Danner, and a daughter, Barbara Foust Sauser who are all Presentation associates. Another sister, Doloras Hendricks who preceded her in death was also a Presentation associate.

As a registered nurse, Jean worked at Mercy Medical Center for 18 years and for two years at the Presentation motherhouse before retiring. In retirement, she kept very busy with volunteer work – a patient advocate at Ennoble Manor; a hospice volunteer; volunteer in her parish and school lunch program and at the Presentation Lantern Center. The love of her faith, her family and her compassion for others was exemplified throughout her life. We remember Jean with love and gratitude.

A Benefit to Support People in Need Arts & Crafts Boutique

Saturday, October 20
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa
Lakeside Door Entrance

Find unique, hand-crafted gifts by Presentation sisters and associates. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings to photography to jewelry to greeting cards and much more. Avoid the consumer rush and start your Christmas shopping now. There will also be delicious bakery items for sale. Call Sister Dolores Zieser at 563-588-2008 for questions or more information.



Left to right: Anne Schrobilgen, certified nursing assistant in Nagle Center, and Sister Dorothy McCormick enjoy an afternoon stroll together.

SISTER DOROTHY MCCORMICK *Faithful to Her God*

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Sister Dorothy McCormick was reputed to be one of the very best Presentation primary teachers. The story is told that in one school in which she was teaching, a mother came to the principal at the beginning of the year and asked to have her child moved from Sister Dorothy's classroom. The principal refused, repeating the above praise about Sister's teaching. At the end of the year, the mother returned to the principal, this time to thank her for not acceding to her earlier request. The child had learned volumes!

Sister Dorothy was born Loretta Rose McCormick, the eighth of 11 children born to Edward and Rose (Heim) McCormick in Waukon, Iowa. Although her older sister, Sister Mary Louis, had entered the Sisters of the Presentation earlier, Sister Dorothy says it was not just the model offered by Sister Louis, but especially her own discernment that drew her to religious life. "I truly felt the call of God, a call I have lived faithfully for 69 years."

The summer before Sister Dorothy entered the convent, she worked in the cafeteria at Loras College where she met Dorothy Fluke. Dorothy was planning to enter the community of Franciscan Sisters who had taught her, but through coming to know Loretta Rose, she became a Presentation, later known as Sister George Marie Fluke.

Taught by the Sisters of the Presentation in Waukon, Sister Dorothy learned from some of the best teachers. In addition, however, she had her own innate qualities of organization, planning, being very thorough and loving children. In fact, she is described as a perfectionist, a trait which can be both gift and burden.

These skills inevitably drew Sister Dorothy into the role of principal of various schools, one of which was a newly-opened school in Osage, Iowa. So respected was she as an educational leader, the Presentation community sent its newest professed members to begin their teaching careers under her tutelage.

Sister Dorothy retired to Mount Loretto in 1997, enjoying the opportunity for a more intense ministry of prayer for her sisters still "in the field." She and Sister Louis enjoyed several of their retirement years together, and when Sister Louis' health began to fail, Sister Dorothy was an ever-faithful caregiver and companion to her sister and friend.

Now in somewhat failing health, Sister Dorothy keeps her loving smile and her very gracious manner, not worried about what tomorrow may bring, because she has remained faithful to her God who first called her to the Presentation community. It is now her former student teachers, former teachers and colleagues who "rise up to call her blessed at the city gates." (Proverbs 31.28)

By Lantern Light

by BETH DRISCOLL, PBVM

"Into the quiet God calls you, calls you each by name..." This sung mantra invited 90 Dubuque Presentation sisters to Mount Loretto for the Charism and Spirituality Retreat held July 21-26, 2012. Grateful for the opportunity, Sister Anne Marie Kollasch remarks, "The retreat was one of the finest retreats I've made since entering our congregation 72 years ago. The theme, 'By Lantern Light' captured the significance of Nano Nagle's dedication to be another Christ to whomever she ministered as she carried her lantern by night to find her way through poverty-stricken winding lanes."

May God set a fire within our hearts as we tend the light of Nano. May it burn within us and transform our lives as we cast her fire on Earth.

Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty

Traveling from the winding lanes of Ireland, two Union Sisters of the Presentation who are scripture scholars, Sisters Mary O'Brien and Anne O'Leary, facilitated the retreat. Sister Mary is a professor at St. Patrick College, Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland; and Sister Anne most recently taught at St. Mary University, San Antonio, Texas, and currently serves on the congregational leadership team of the Union of Presentation Sisters.

"The spirit of Nano was so present during our days of retreat," notes Sister Janet Stelken. "Sisters Anne and Mary awakened in us anew the realization of the wonderful legacy we have been given through Nano Nagle and revealed new information about this dynamic woman and the community she founded."

Daily presentations focused on the theme based on Psalm 119:105, "By Lantern Light: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Each day offered a balance of individual and communal prayer, theological reflection, hearth-group sharing, Eucharist and twilight prayer. All occurred within an atmosphere of gentle silence. Sister Cheryl Demmer notes that retreat birthed a new image of light for her, "Lantern Light...Nano danced lightly in



Top photo: Sister Rita Menart leads the procession by the light of the lantern. Middle photo: Sister Carla Popes portrays Nano Nagle reading the Passion, as was the custom of Nano who read to her students during Holy Week. Bottom photo: Sister Jean Ann Meyer raises the globe as intercessions were offered for the suffering people in all parts of the world.

making the Gospel her way of life. She fell in love, stayed in love and it decided everything."

"What I remember of the retreat is 'zeal,'" reflects Sister Rita Menart. "I thirst for a zeal like Nano had and pray that I receive it from God."

The retreat preceded the congregation's annual Community Days gathering. Sister Raeleen Sweeney cites the benefits of retreat: "I very much appreciated the deep immersion, history and theology of Nano Nagle's life and her ongoing impact throughout the world. An added bonus was the 'ripple effect' of the retreat to our Community Days, providing us with great hope, clarification, openness and courage to continue our work of Nano Nagle with new vision, focus and energy."

Retreat challenged sisters to boldly fan the flame of Nano while serving the mission and to move forward with courage and hope. Powerful song lyrics composed by Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty inspired sisters for the challenge, "May God set a fire within our hearts as we tend the light of Nano. May it burn within us and transform our lives as we cast her fire on Earth."



Community Days 2012

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Sisters from as far north as Minnesota, as far south as Bolivia, as far west as South Dakota, as far east as Washington DC, as well as points in between, converged upon Dubuque, Iowa, on July 26-28 for their Community Days gathering. Taking place annually, this gathering gives an opportunity for the community to come together to share ideas and visions for the future.

Over 100 Presentation sisters gathered for Community Days at Mount Loretto in Dubuque on Friday evening, July 26, beginning with a social gathering in the courtyard. The positive energy level was extra high that evening surging from the profound experience of the Charism and Spirituality Retreat, in which the vast majority of sisters had been able to participate days prior. This retreat was a silent journey with great input around the spiritual legacy of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress (1775), during the oppressive days of the Penal Code when education and basic human rights were totally denied to the Irish Catholics.

The sisters who gathered for Community Days represented 14 states and Bolivia. There are no other days of the year quite like these. Most sisters mark their calendars for an entire year in advance in order to be present, meet their sister friends from different areas of the country and share their experiences in the apostolate hundreds of miles from the motherhouse.

Community Days are dedicated to current issues in the church, in society, in the congregation and in the world where the sisters live and work. With the theme “Charism’s Fire: Uniting Our Hearts,” the days were dedicated to enjoying and celebrating one another, entering into prayer and ritual, deepening dialogue and strengthening community, receiving and responding to reports and updates. Discussion and processing gave direction to the formulation of the content of the congregational Chapter of Affairs. The Chapter, an assembly which meets every five years to update the direction of the community and elect leadership will be held December 28-January 2.

Sister Jennifer Rausch, congregational president, shared some of the critical happenings of our Dubuque Presentation community this past year. One of these, pertaining also to the majority of other congregations, was the Vatican mandate to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). In April the LCWR, founded in 1956 and reorganized in 1971 according to the changes of the Second Vatican Council, was placed under the authority of three bishops designated by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The assembly of Dubuque Presentations was asked for input as part of the discernment process in preparation for the LCWR Assembly, which took place August 7-10 in St. Louis.

The Community Days preparation team introduced the three central themes of the days: “Listening Anew to the Cries of the Poor,” “Re-imagining Ways to Live Our Charism,” and “Choosing a Future That Calls Us to Radical Transformation.” These topics



Community Days is an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Left to right: Top row of photos: Sisters Julie Marsh, Mary Lou Specha and Jessi Beck; Sisters Maura McCarthy and Beth Driscoll; Facilitator Patricia Flynn, SSND; Sisters Lois Lehmann, Carla Popes, Richelle Friedman, Maria Goretti Dullard, Anthony Rottinghaus, Rosanne Rottinghaus and Pamela Quade; Sister Jennifer Rausch followed by Sisters Marge Healy, Beth Driscoll and Dolores Moes; Bottom row of photos: Sisters Cheryl Demmer, Mary Jo Leifker and Janet Goetz; Sister Sheila Kane, Sister Barbara Rastatter, Beth Simpson and Sister Sharon Kelchen; Sisters Emilie Bormann and Raeleen Sweeney; Sisters Beth Kress, Damian O'Brien and Ellen Mary Garrett.

arose out of the concerns previously expressed in the small group meetings of sisters known as Caritas groupings.

Knowing that in the coming months the chapter content will be further refined, each sister chose one of the topics for deeper interchange with others interested in the same topic.

The “Cries of the Poor” group prioritized advocating, educating and giving service – always networking with others, working without boundaries, sharing gifts, reaching for the wildest dreams. The “Re-imagining Charism” group stressed broadening awareness of Nano’s spirit, incorporating many others in the mission, risking new initiatives and relationships. The “Radical Transformation” group called for transformation in living, praying, leading and being together, as well as being zealous for systemic change and new initiatives. The second “Radical Transformation” group prioritized claiming our power as women, leveraging resources for the poor and for systemic change and expanding hospitality.

Another group formed inviting all to explore a variety of election processes that would take into consideration a growing cosmic consciousness that invites global partnerships. This would call for a new leadership dynamic and a growing sense of communal ownership.

In the afternoon Sister Jennifer led the group through a process demonstrating how the Bolivian missionary experience transformed Presentation missionaries and the congregation itself into a deep global consciousness. Sister Suzanne Takes then gave an affectionate tribute to each sister who served as a missionary in Bolivia, emphasizing their unique talents. All agreed that the future of the Bolivian mission will need Bolivian vocations to be enduring. Sister Mery Cari Paz spoke of her project among the university students of Tarija and her dream to foster vocations in a house of hospitality there.

Saturday evening was dubbed “Saturday Night Live” and featured Beth Simpson, Sister Paula Schwendinger’s sister, playing piano music for all ages. The list of requests continued nonstop into the evening.

The rituals, liturgies and sacred contemplative moments were enhanced with the creative beauty of vocalists, a diversity of musical instruments, liturgical dances, reflective poetry, the stunning logo by Donna Korba, IHM, the blowing of bubbles and the lighting of sparklers. The charism fire was enkindled once again!



Remembering Whittemore

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

“Mother Mary Josephine Howley, sister in charge, accompanied by Sisters Mary Aloysius Waring, Mary Xavier Evens, Mary Dolorosa Lynch and Mary Petronella Clark, arrived in Whittemore on September 25, 1903, and were welcomed to this homey, Midwestern Iowa prairie town with that friendliness which still characterizes the generous people of Whittemore.”
(Mother Benedict Murphy, Annals)

Pastor Edmond Dullard welcomed the sisters to their new home, having worked hard to have everything ready when they arrived. “His every wish was for the sisters’ happiness and comfort.”
(Mother Benedict)

A strong supporter of Catholic education, Father Dullard insisted that spirituality and efficiency were the hallmarks of a good teacher. His generosity to the sisters included donating money to decorate the Mount Loretto chapel in 1922.

Thus began nearly 100 years of Presentation presence in St. Michael Parish in Whittemore, Iowa. The school, which began with grades 1-8, later included high school (1917-1959), and could count 535 high school graduates over the years of its existence. The first graduating class boasted two students: Veronica Farrell (later Sister Marie Celine, PBVM) and John Foley (later Reverend John Foley). Over 100 Presentation sisters



Early photos of St. Michael School in Whittemore, Iowa.

served in Whittemore, ending with Sister Bonita Determan, parish minister from 1993-1999.

Upon their arrival, the sisters’ first order of the day was getting settled and preparing for the first day of school. Day students and boarders in grades 1-8 would share the building with the sisters, who lived on the upper floors of the building, until it burned in 1920. After the fire, thanks to good public relations with the local school district, some classes were moved to the nearby public school building, and the rest to the church until a new brick structure was completed.

The new building was named Presentation Academy in honor of the sisters who served there. The name was changed again to St. Michael Grade School when the high school closed in 1959.

While academics were a high priority, other valuable lessons were learned early on according to Sister Dolores Zieser, former

pastoral minister at a senior apartment complex in Hopkins, Minnesota. A new resident told a story from her childhood days at Presentation Academy. Sister Mary Augustine Rooney had taught the children that if they were present when anyone died they should whisper the Act of Contrition in the person’s ear. One day, after presenting the girl with an award for winning the spelling bee, Sister Augustine fell dead at her feet. Another student quickly ran to sister and whispered the prayer in her ear.

All was not work in those early days. Sister Constance Quillin, who taught in Whittemore from 1924-1927, tells of after-school activities. “After a full day, the sisters relaxed at a croquet game, or in the evening at six-handed 500 card game, with parties on special occasions. Good selections were played on the Edison and Sister Antoinette Walsh entertained us with her accordion.” *(Oral History Tape #43)*

Several sisters who served at Whittemore speak fondly of the annual Presentation Day celebration at St. Michael’s. The day began with an all-school Mass, followed by refreshments. Entertainment prepared by the teachers and students was often hilarious, but always ended with a tribute to the sisters. The students then walked solemnly through a receiving line, shaking the hand of each sister and wishing her a “Happy Presentation Day.”

Sister René Laubenthal, principal at the time the school closed in 1993, attributed the closing to diminished enrollment due to larger farms and smaller families. Students transferred to Seton Grade School in Algona or to Sts. Peter and Paul in West Bend, both in Iowa.

Student Cory Mescher shared his memories at the closing ceremony: “All the bazaars and meals and work involved have combined to keep the school going for these 90 years. But most importantly, I have realized in the year’s time that I have been here that there is a tremendous job of parenting being done here. The kids are wholesome and well-balanced – a rarity in our society.”

At the same ceremony, Pastor Father Ed Murray remarked, “St. Michael School has ceased to function in this building, but it will continue to have a presence in its alumni as long as they live. We have truly become the Body of Christ given to the world.”

The school building had served as a center for parish activities such as receptions, celebrations, reunions and funeral dinners. After its demolition, and the sale of the convent, a new parish center was erected – a place where the vigorous parish life at St. Michael’s could continue to flourish into the future.



Left to right: Back row: Sisters Agatha Broderick, John McGeough, Ernestine Meyer, Ricarda Houlahan and Catherine Duane; Front row: Sisters Annette Beierschmitt and Pauline O’Connor in 1928.

International Day of Peace

Sept

21



Rajmohan Gandhi
Grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi

Non-Violent Conflict Resolution, a presentation exploring alternatives to violence in resolving conflicts, drawing on his extensive global experience as a peace researcher and diplomat.

Sept. 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Alumni Campus Center Ballroom, Loras College

The evening begins with a short intercollegiate choral concert and dance by the Friends of India children.

AND

Non Violent Conflict Resolution:
Gandhi’s Wisdom for Current and Future Leaders

Sept. 22, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa

Creating a Culture of Peace

Dubuque’s Festival Celebrating the UN International Day of Peace

What is the U.N. of Dubuque International Day of Peace?
A group of Dubuque-area residents invites all to create a culture of peace by participating in a city-wide celebration of the U.N. International Day of Peace on Friday, September 21, 2012. Since its 1981 inception, the Peace Day has marked humanity’s personal and planetary progress toward peace. The celebration has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world through events ranging in scale from private gatherings to public events with wide attendance.

Presentation Quest New Orleans

The thing that touched my heart most was the dedication and effort put forth by the sisters living in the New Orleans area.

Jerry Doyle



In early June, Sister Jessi Beck led a group of five on a service trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. The group worked with the St. Bernard Project, a non-profit organization whose mission is to remove physical, mental and emotional barriers for vulnerable families, senior citizens and disabled residents who are still struggling to recover from the devastation and trauma caused by Hurricane Katrina. Each day the group from Iowa showed up at their assigned house willing and ready to insulate, paint, caulk or help with any other job to make the home livable again.

One of the highlights of the trip for everyone was hosting a barbecue at Exodus House, where Sister Mary Lou Specha currently ministers. Exodus House offers comprehensive, individualized support for people who are suffering from severe mental illness within a recovery oriented model. Members of the group also toured the St. Joseph Rebuild Center where the Presentation Sisters of North America have partnered with several local organizations to provide a place where those in need can access a noon meal, showers, laundry, advocacy, health and legal services.

“The thing that touched my heart most was the dedication and effort put forth by the sisters living in the New Orleans area,” expresses Jerry Doyle, Quest participant. “Sister Mary Lou and her work with Exodus House, but even more her ability to become politically involved with city leaders is making a difference that will have lasting effect for the poor of New Orleans. Another was the Sisters of Charity’s outstanding service of caring for volunteers as they trek to help with Katrina repair. Last but not least the sisters who work with Lantern Light and the great service they do for people who are homeless in the city.”

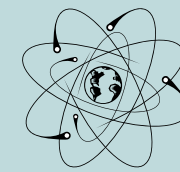
Amy Reeder, another volunteer, was also touched by the experience. “The hospitality of the people from the Sisters of Charity that we stayed with to the homeless woman at the shelter who offered a sample of her muffin that morning; the gratitude of the residents of Exodus House and how eager they were for the barbecue that night,” shares Amy. “I really enjoyed visiting with them and hearing their stories. One resident, Chris, was beaming as he talked about how he was once the head waiter at a five-star hotel in New Orleans and the famous people he once served and catered to. He was currently recovering from esophageal cancer while also dealing with mental illnesses.”

“Seeing first hand the devastation – especially the vastness of the area which was flooded as well as hearing horror stories of insurance and contractor fraud – answers the question of why full recovery is taking so long,” adds Jerry. “Having the opportunity to converse with some of the many people who are homeless gave me insight as to how fragile our economic well-being can be. I wish more people could see first hand what the people of New Orleans are fighting.”

Sign up today for a Presentation Quest opportunity!



Top photo: Quest participant, Karen Marrah with a resident of Exodus House. Bottom photo: Participants break for a photo after a day of working on houses in the Lower 9th Ward. Back row: Karen Marrah, Tom Marrah and Jerry Doyle. Front row: Amy Reeder, Sister Jessi Beck and Jody Doyle.



PRESENTATION QUEST

IMMERSION & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

October 6, 2012 - Dubuque, Iowa

Sisters, associates, community members and volunteers join together in cleaning two miles on Highway 20 between Epworth and Peosta by removing trash and debris. This program helps increase public awareness of environmental needs along Iowa highways. Rain date is set for October 13. Register by October 1, 2012.

October 27, 2012 - Dubuque, Iowa

Make a Difference Day: Caring volunteers will go out to the Dubuque community to do various services in the homes of the elderly, disabled and low income neighbors in need. The goal is to provide simple weatherization measures to help residents be more comfortable and save money on heating. Please join a team of sisters, associates and volunteers in this service opportunity. Register by October 12, 2012.

November 10, 2012 - Dubuque, Iowa

Day of Prayer and Reflection (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) All women interested in an opportunity for silence, meditation, reflections and prayer. Lunch will be provided. Register by October 26, 2012. Held at the Sisters of the Presentation, 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque.

If you are unable to join any of these service/immersion opportunities, please pass the information on to someone you think might be interested.

Visit 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



DUBUQUE'S got SISTERS

Discernment Weekend November 30- December 1, 2012

You are invited to quiet, to prayer and to learn how you might experience God's truth within you. Join us for a day, or two, of input and reflection.

Location:

Mount Carmel Motherhouse
1150 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA



To register or for information:
Lou Anglin, BVM
langlin@bvmcong.org
563.588.2351
Register by
Friday, November 23

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.

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



Mother Mary Estelle Pillard, Superior 1955-1967



Mother Mary Estelle Pillard graduated from St. Vincent Academy, with graduate work at Loras College and Catholic University in Washington, DC. She was schooled in music, Latin, and business administration, and was adept at multiple sports – her athletic prowess learned from competing with her several older brothers.

Going away to study for her master's degree, she proceeded down the front walk at Mount Loretto carrying a suitcase in one hand and a tennis racquet in the other – not the usual Presentation “equipment” for out-of-state study.

Having served one term on the general council, Mother Estelle was chosen Mother General in 1955, the first Dubuque Presentation leader without an Irish surname. She was reelected at the following Chapter for a second term of office.

Descriptors of Mother Estelle include many positive qualities: a woman of quiet splendor, integrity, discipline and propriety. She listened well, assessed wisely and responded quietly. She was gently forthright and conscientious. Concerning all things material, she reserved a light grasp. Prayer marked the early hours of her day, followed by a full day of office work. But at 4:00 p.m., the office closed down, and Mother Estelle went to the front yard during seasonable weather, to dig out dandelions and garner some fresh air and exercise. She walked lightly upon the earth and, likewise trod softly in all interactions. Evening recreation consisted in never-to-be-missed card playing, her favorite being six-handed Canasta. Faithful to each aspect of her day's commitment, hers was a balanced and well-ordered life.

The Chapter that ushered in the leadership of Mother Estelle reigns in the hearts of Presentation sisters because the long-awaited hope for home visits became a reality. For the first

time in the history of the community, sisters could now visit their families in their homes. Most community prayers would now be said in English rather than Latin.

From lawn care to garden beginnings, Mother Estelle deserves recognition as the first “green” superior. In 1955 she invited Sister Mary Wilfred Kress to become the community gardener, a position she filled for many years.

At an early juncture in her role as community leader, Mother Estelle offered Sister Helen Marie Feeney \$5.00 and instructed her to open a special account. The retirement fund was launched!

Another monumental change took place in the formation program which expanded to include the year-round juniorate, a two-year period of additional professional and religious studies for young sisters preparing for ministry. A hard saying for pastors, lay teachers would now need to be hired by parishes because of the two-year delay in preparation and the need for more sisters in additional ministries.

It was during her time of leadership that a formal community publication, *Mount Loretto Bulletin*, was begun under the direction of Sister Mary Vivia Cranny. In 2006 the title and format changed to the current *Presentation Doorways*. The first financial campaign was launched. The more-than-usual changes that occurred were all carried out with composure and tranquility by Mother Estelle.

Presentation Sisters of Oregon, Illinois, began the process of transitioning to join the Dubuque sisters, and in 1963 five Oregon Presentations transferred their vows to the Dubuque community. Larger than usual numbers of postulants entered during this period of time, and Mother Estelle found herself overseeing multiple building changes and improvements. This period of time represented the largest membership totals in the Dubuque Presentation (328 in 1965)

Following her service as community leader, Mother Estelle served 14 years as community treasurer. In her retired years she offered a holy, humble presence, sharing in community prayer and service. She died a month before her 90th birthday in 1990.

KEEPING her NAME ALIVE

GRATEFULNESS OF HEART Sister Mary Marita Kollasch

December 2, 1928 - June 9, 2012

by RENÉ LAUBENTHAL, PBVM

Sister Marita Kollasch, a quiet, gracious woman, the beloved daughter of John and Agatha Kollasch, was born on December 28, 1928, in Whittimore, Iowa. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in August of 1950 and professed her final vows on June 8, 1956.

Sister Marita earned her teaching certificate after studying at Clarke College (now Clarke University), Loras College and Briar Cliff College. Her Presentation career, spanning 59 years, took her to Farley, Waukon, Lawler, Bankston, Algona, Dubuque and Key West, all in Iowa. Her ministries included elementary teacher, librarian and community prayer and service.

When Sister Marita retired in 1989 she volunteered her seamstress skills at Mount Loretto motherhouse. Some of her happiest years were sewing alongside her friend and mentor, Sister Helen Cunningham. In her ministry of community prayer and service, Sister also enjoyed calligraphy, rosary-making, music, art projects, knitting, crocheting and spending time with her cousins: Sisters Anne Marie Kollasch, Pierre Kollasch and René Laubenthal, all members of the Presentation community.

Attendance at Mass and community prayer as well as personal prayer were a priority for Sister Marita. When stopping by to visit her, one often found Sister at prayer. Sister Marita's nieces and

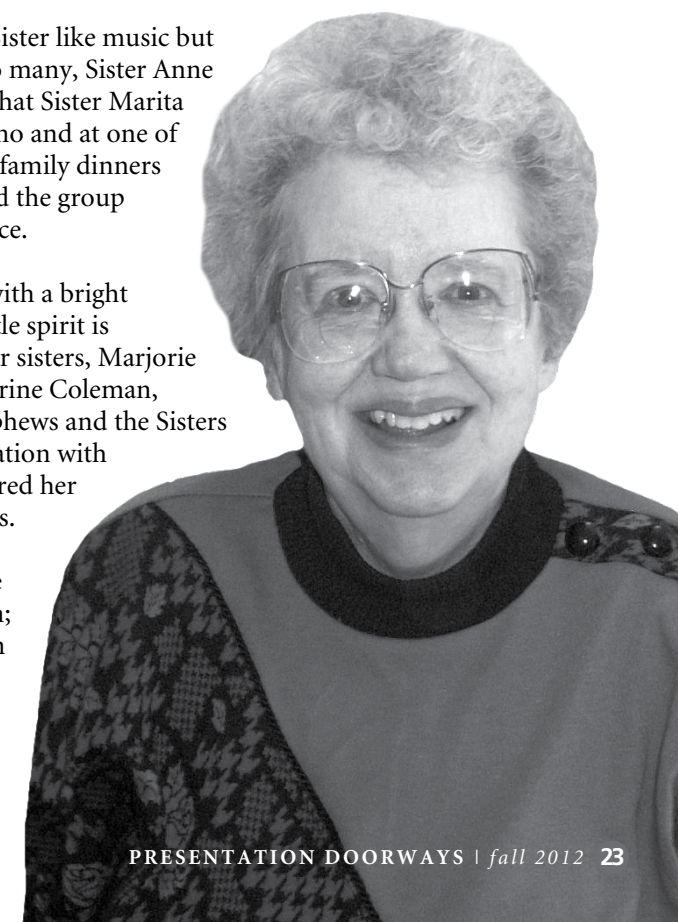
nephews recalled that while Sister was visiting them their mother would have quiet time for everyone while Sister had her prayer time. Her deep faith and reverence for her God made prayer a comfort and gift where she met her God with a grateful heart.

Sister Marita's grateful heart showed itself in daily life. Gratitude came from her lips whenever one did anything for her. She would often say, “Thank you. You're so good to me.” This spirit of gratitude was evident in the love she had for her family. She was so appreciative of their visits and the interest they had in her. Her weekly phone visits with her sister Marjorie were of special joy to Sister Marita. She was grateful for the love and care others gave to her and especially grateful for her vocation as a Presentation sister.

Over the years, Sister Marita enjoyed any number of arts and crafts. She made many beautiful cards using her painting and calligraphy skills. The past few years she was a member of Sister Marie Barth's art class where she painted many beautiful pictures which her family members now treasure as mementos.

Not only did Sister like music but unbeknown to many, Sister Anne Marie relates that Sister Marita played the piano and at one of the Kollasch's family dinners she entertained the group with a tap dance.

This woman with a bright smile and gentle spirit is survived by her sisters, Marjorie Rolfe and Norrine Coleman, nieces and nephews and the Sisters of the Presentation with whom she shared her life for 62 years. She trusted in God's promise of resurrection; may she rest in peace.



Keeping the Name of Your Loved One Alive

One way to honor loved ones is to remember important values and hopes that were dear to them. When you make a gift in memory of a loved one to the Sisters of the Presentation, you are keeping their values and hopes alive through the sisters' works of charity, education and service. Memorials can be sent to Sisters of the Presentation, 2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 563.588.2008 or email development@dubuquepresentations.org.

A PRESENTATION HISTORIAN

Sister Mary Angela Feeney

August 17, 1916 - July 3, 2012

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, daughter of Jerome and Johanna (Sullivan) Feeney, Imelda Gertrude joined the Sisters of the Presentation in 1937, receiving the name Sister Mary Angela Feeney. She professed her perpetual vows on July 31, 1943. Sister earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College, Dubuque, and a master's degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. Her teaching career spanned 49 years and took her to Waukon, Charles City, Clare, Dubuque, Mason City, Farley, Storm Lake and Algona, all in Iowa.

With her entire religious life centered on "making a difference," she was a teacher, a principal, a parish minister to the home-bound and elderly, an archivist and one of the first volunteer tutors for Presentation Lantern Center. In addition, she took loving care of her sibling, Presentation Sister Joanne Feeney, for many years.

Sister Angela, always the conversationalist, was ever ready to share her learning from reading, media or other conversations. She shared her tutoring skills with many students both at the Lantern Center and, in later years, at Mount Loretto as they came to her. One particular tutee was Sister Eppie Shirma of Ruaya, Tanzania, who stayed at Mount Loretto for a year to study theology at Clarke. For all those Sister Angela tutored, it was not just a matter of offering English language skills; she became a mentor and guide to her students. The daily concerns and joys of her students became integral to the conversations.

Brother Leo Ryan, CSV, one of Sister Angela's students from St. Patrick School in Waukon, Iowa, cherishes his memories of her. "Sister Angela became a lifetime friend with significant educational and vocational influence for me. I was a freshman at St. Pat's in 1940 when Sister Angela arrived on her first 'mission.' She was assigned as our freshman homeroom teacher," he shares.

"Sister Angela was an exceptional teacher; specific in her assignments, demanding about spelling and punctuations but encouraging and helpful in guiding story development. She was a major influence in developing my writing skills, interests and talents," adds Brother Ryan whose writing skills have paralleled his lifetime career as a high school teacher, university professor and published writer.

As archivist, Sister left her mark on the congregational archives. She transcribed many of Sister Anastasia Burns' oral history tapes,

thus preserving personal recollections by and about the sisters which might otherwise be lost in the deterioration of the tapes themselves. One of her projects was the acquiring of information for the mission files. She worked tirelessly to fill in the gaps in the history of each mission, requesting stories, pictures and newspaper articles from those serving in the various places. Much of the information on file for past and present missions comes from her persistence in making requests.

Sister Angela was very involved with her associate group as long as she was able. Sister Sheila Kane, a member of the group, stated "As members of the Presentation Partners Associate Group, we looked to Sister Angela as a prayerful presence, a wisdom figure and a Presentation historian. Make no mistake, however, she was always willing to pitch in on our service projects and she also enjoyed our social gatherings."

Sister enjoyed reading, writing and traveling. Her visits to her Presentation roots in Ireland were trips she cherished. Sister Angela enjoyed sharing her talents wherever they were needed, and she continued with prayer and community service until her death.



ELEGANT, ARTISTIC, FAITH-FILLED

Sister Mary Clarice Kane

April 8, 1917 - July 23, 2012

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

A consummate lady and most professional educator, a great cook and a wonderful story-teller, Sister Mary Clarice Kane quietly moved through life always striving for the best in what she did and how she related to others.

The daughter of John and Francis (Fettkether) Kane, Sister Clarice was born Dorothy Elizabeth Kane on April 8, 1917, in Fairbank, Iowa. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in August of 1933 and professed her perpetual vows on July 31, 1939. Her Presentation career spanned 76 years as teacher and principal.

Sister Clarice received inspiration to religious life and teaching from her older sister, Sister Mary Eunice Kane. "My becoming a Presentation sister grew out of my respect for Eunice and all the sisters who taught me. Their simple lifestyle and their devotion to their work with students had a great impact on my decision."

Teaching was a treasured ministry for Sister Clarice. From her earliest years in the classroom to instructing young sisters in the summer at Mount Loretto, she is remembered as bringing her sense of "the best" to education.

"When teaching with Sister Clarice at Holy Family Catholic School in Mason City, I experienced her as a very seasoned teacher who had much respect from the entire faculty," states Sister Beth Driscoll. Several young men on the staff, recalls Sister Beth, would go to Sister Clarice for advice on teaching methods and for wisdom in disciplining students. "She also added a great deal to our school's faith community."

Sister Clarice retired to Mount Loretto in 1995 and then found time for personal prayer and community service. She enjoyed crocheting and could add a special decorative touch to any setting. She was a wonderful storyteller and loved to recall pleasant memories about students, parents and colleagues.

"A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others." Such a truth comes to light from the lives touched by Sister Clarice the teacher. Described as an excellent principal with high professional standards, Sister Clarice was at the same time one who established effective and caring relationships with her students and teachers.

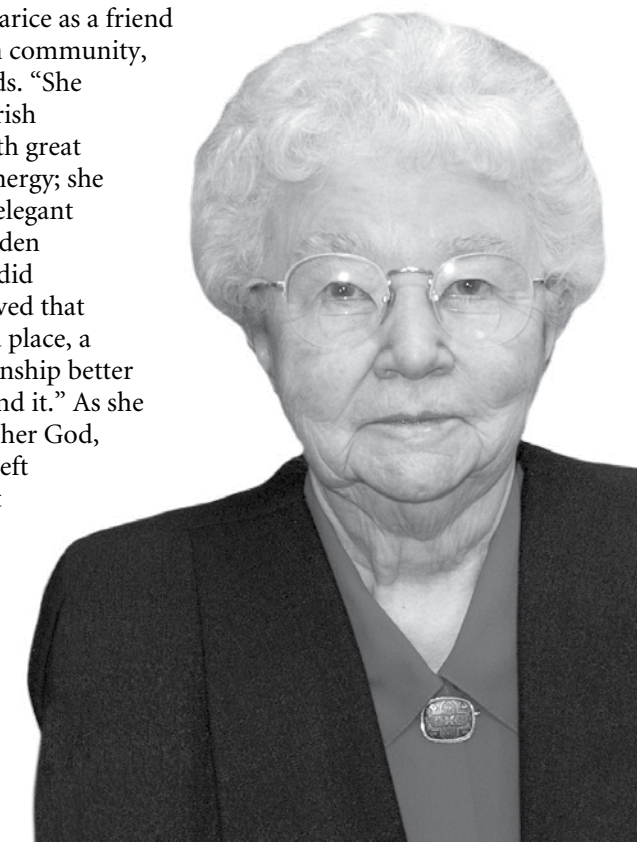
"Sister treated us all alike, whether we were sisters or lay teachers," remembers Sister Hermann Platt who taught seventh and eighth grade at St. Germaine School in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where Sister Clarice was principal. She related well to my junior high students letting them know that she truly cared for them."

From establishing a central library in a school to taking her teachers-in-training on field trips to discover the wonders of Midwestern geography and terrain, Sister Clarice was also a great story-teller who could draw out humor and enjoy a good laugh.

"In addition to being a great educator, Sister Clarice was a very good cook and artistic in her presentation," remarks Sister Rosalyn Ulfers. "I remember how she once made a beautiful corn-of-copia for the table."

One of Sister Clarice's cherished sayings, "Life outlined with prayer is less likely to unravel," was her strong witness to Sister Suzanne Gallagher. "She nurtured me through my months of chemotherapy with much faith that I would get well. She helped God care me back to health."

Recalling Sister Clarice as a friend and companion in community, Sister Suzanne adds. "She traveled with a parish group to Spain with great enthusiasm and energy; she carried a sense of elegant simplicity and hidden mystery in all she did and was; she believed that you should leave a place, a situation, a relationship better than how you found it." As she has gone home to her God, Sister Clarice has left her caring, elegant touch on many lives.



QUEEN OF HEARTS

Sister Mary Roberta Burke

November 26, 1916 - July 31, 2012

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Roberta Burke, adopted daughter of Elizabeth and Thomas Burke (Waukon), entered the Presentation community at age 15. Sister ministered in 10 different locations during her 52 year-career as teacher, principal and home care assistant. During her retirement years Sister Roberta collected cancelled stamps to raise funds for Presentation projects benefitting the poor, was an active participant in her prayer group of many years, and played cards. Did you read “played cards?” For Sister Roberta, playing cards was about more than the game; it was her way of connecting people. Thus, each table at her funeral dinner was graced with a deck of cards.

Reflecting on her 75th Jubilee in 2008 she stated, “I am truly grateful for the countless blessings of these 75 years of religious life.” In an aside to her beloved cousin, Brother Leo Ryan, CSV, with her typical humor, she quipped, “I’ve decided to stay.”

Sister Roberta leaves a record and a heritage. Entering the Sisters of the Presentation in 1932, she had been a member for 80 years; that’s a record! She was a free spirit who loved life, celebrated life and lived it to the full. Wherever she went, whatever she did, she enjoyed it – and she made a positive difference. That’s the heritage.

An off-the-chart-extrovert, Sister Roberta loved people. As shared by Deacon Jim Thill in the funeral homily, “She could talk to anyone, anytime, anywhere – and she did!” He added, “Everyone should have a Sister Roberta in their life.”

Similar sentiments were expressed during the “Sharing of Memories” at her wake service. Karla Gindling from Waterloo, Iowa, grand-niece of deceased Sister Mary Matilda Kollasch, poignantly shared her childhood experiences of Sister Roberta.

My family became acquainted with Sister Roberta through my great aunt. I stand here now, because Sister Roberta inspired my earliest and most powerful conception of God.

Forty years ago, when I was three years old, Sister Roberta’s travels brought her to Cedar Falls, and she came to visit my parents. I had never had any personal contact with religious at the time. I saw priests and nuns at church, but they were somewhat intimidating in their black garb, kind of scary, really, and I hadn’t had any interaction with them on a personal level.

And then Sister Roberta came to our house. She laughed. And her eyes sparkled. She played with me. She chased me down the hall and caught me and tickled me! She talked with me and read me stories, and hugged me and held me close, and kissed me on the forehead. Because her name was difficult, she said I could call her Sister Bobbie.

And during the time she visited, I figured it out! I knew who God was! God had been there – in my very own house – and he came there with that lady who worked for him – that lady dressed in black. They were alike, Sister Bobbie and God, right? Because she was his ambassador, and God was her Boss – she worked for God!

So in this way, my three-year-old-mind came to understand who God was: God was Safety; God was Love. And God was Joy. Just like Sister Bobbie.

I have no doubt that when Sister Roberta meets God face-to-face the God of Safety, the God of Love, the God of Joy, He will embrace her, and hug her, and hold her close with sparkling eyes, just as she did with me those 40 years ago, and God will say to her. “Good Job. Well Done, my Good and Faithful Servant.”

It’s true, Sister Roberta was not your typical, run-of-the-mill, stereotypical sister. But she was an amazing witness, Good News in any setting, exuding joy, peace and a good time. As Deacon Thill stated: “She took the Lord to the ‘market place,’ and that’s where he wants to be.”

Paraphrasing the gospel Deacon Jim concluded his homily, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. I’ll make the arrangements for you and when the time comes, I’ll come back to get you.” And he did, just as Sister Roberta knew he would. Now that’s a winning hand!



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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

Thursday Thoughts...

Beginning in October "Thursday Thoughts" by Sister Joan Lickteig will offer brief reflections on random Scripture passages.

Visit www.dubuquepresentations.org
PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY

Ministry Updates



1 Sister Jessi Beck: Teacher, Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois



2 Sister Julianne Brockamp: Hispanic Ministry, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hill City, South Dakota



3 Sister Gina Foletta: Professor, Department of Math and Statistics, Northern Kentucky University and Interim Director, Kentucky Center for Mathematics, Highland Heights, Kentucky



4 Sister Michelle Gallagher: Spiritual Companion, Waterloo, Iowa



5 Sister Carmen Hernandez: Hispanic Ministry, Belmond/Hampton, Iowa



6 Sister Elena Hoye: International Presentation Association (IPA) Networker, Location TBA



7 Sister Marilou Irons: Principal and Faith Formation Leader, Sacred Heart School, Oelwein, Iowa

8 Sister Jeanine Kuhn: Spiritual Direction, Waterloo, Iowa

9 Sister St. James Lickteig: Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, Iowa

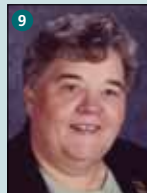
10 Sister Maura McCarthy: Hispanic Ministry, Belmond/Hampton, Iowa

11 Sister Rita Menart: Director of Hispanic Ministry and Catholic Charities Counselor, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Cedar Falls, Iowa

12 Sister Irma Ries: IPA Justice Contact for Dubuque Presentations, Guttenberg, Iowa

13 Sister Mary Lou Specha: Director of Organizational Development at Exodus House and Director of Community Outreach at 1st NBC Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana

14 Sister Raeleen Sweeney: Golden Apple Consultant, Chicago, Illinois



You are invited to join us.

October 6, 2012
QUEST Service Opportunity
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up
(Rain date October 13, 2012)
Dubuque, Iowa

October 20, 2012
Arts & Crafts Boutique & Bake Sale
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

October 27, 2012
QUEST Service Opportunity
Make a Difference Day
Dubuque, Iowa

November 8, 2012
10th Anniversary Celebration
of the Presentation Lantern Center
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

November 10, 2012
Day of Prayer and Reflection
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 or call 563.588.2008.

Please pray with us.

October 7, 2012
80th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Jocile Moes

November 13, 2012
Foundation Day, 1874
Presentation Lantern Center
Established in 2002, Dubuque

November 21, 2012
Presentation Day

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors

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us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at
info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

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____ Wrong Address
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____ Receive Duplicate Copies
(please indicate which is correct)

Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



Sister Kathleen Dolphin, along with Rosemary Carbine, has published a book called "Women, Wisdom, and Witness: Engaging Contexts in Conversation."



This collection of essays addresses significant contexts of contemporary women's experience: suffering and resistance, education, and the crossroads of religion and public life. Readers will discover the rich

socio-political, interdisciplinary, and dialogical implications of Catholic women's intellectual and social praxis in contemporary theology and ethics. Sister Kathleen is the director of the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she also teaches in the religious studies department.



Prayer of Thanksgiving for Women Religious

On July 17, supporters, associates and friends of women religious congregations in the Dubuque area gathered at St. Raphael Cathedral to honor and thank sisters for their service and commitment to ministering among those in need. For generations, sisters have ministered among students, women and children, the elderly, those needing healing in mind and body, impoverished people, immigrants and the homeless. They have been leaders to millions of Americans.

Dubuque Food Co-op

The construction site of the Dubuque Food Co-op is a hard hat area as evidenced by Sister Jennifer Rausch (left) and board member Mary Moody (right). The co-op presently has 733 members including Presentation sisters who are very supportive of the project goals to educate and encourage participants to eat healthily, shop locally and live sustainably. The anticipated opening is during the first quarter of 2013. Visit www.dubuquefoodcoop.com to learn more and sign up as a member-owner.

