

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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The congregation is a member of Sisters United News of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, Communicators for Women Religious and the American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.

The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

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Cover PHOTO

Sisters Julie Marsh (left) and Mary Lou Specha (right) offer hospitality, love and compassion to the homeless women and children in the New Orleans area through their ministry at Hotel Hope.

A MESSAGE FROM *Openings* LEADERSHIP

by RITA MENART, PBVM

Sisters used to say that three was a difficult number of people to have live together to form community. What seemed to naturally happen in the house community was two would gel together or have schedules fall together, and the third would unintentionally be left out and feel marginalized. Being inclusive with three did not happen automatically. It took thought and planning. Reaching out was necessary. It appears the challenges of three did not deter God. God chooses to be revealed as Trinity – three. The Creator, Son and Holy Spirit are God. This is the model God gives to us of how to live.

This model of relationship is important as we try to live our promises of radical hospitality. Radical hospitality calls us to be inclusive in thought, word and deed. It does not happen automatically. We must reach out. We can say we love everyone and that everyone is our brother and sister, but it will not be real if we are not intentional and develop the thoughts, actions and systems to make it happen.

Are our thoughts and actions inclusive and hospitable to others? When we organize our systems, do we do it with inclusion in mind or with the idea of building walls? Are we reaching out to others?

According to cognitive-behavioral theories in psychology, our actions or behaviors start with our beliefs and thoughts. Our belief in the relational Trinity is basic to reaching out to be inclusively hospitable. Our thoughts are key. If we hold others compassionately in our thoughts and heart, it will be reflected in the choices we make and our decisions.

The articles in this issue have examples of reaching out hospitably to include others. The scholarships we offer reach out to help people achieve their education goals and especially connect us to young people. The New Orleans ministry reaches out to those who have hit hard times and need a helping hand, especially connecting to those who need a safe home. The Union of International Superior Generals' (UISG) meeting reached out across borders to unite religious community leaders across the globe to face challenges. People from around the country have traveled to El Paso to reach out to immigrants and connected us to our brothers' and sisters' plight. Hospitality can be seen in the individual stories of sisters and associates who have reached out to connect with others.

May these articles be seeds of ways to reach out. May these articles be inspirations, increasing the desire to be more hospitable and inclusive. May these articles motivate us to choose thoughts, words and actions that reach out emulating the Holy Trinity.

Sister Carmen Hernandez Sister Rita Menart Sister Joy Peterson Sister Marilyn Breen



Our MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality. Our way of life is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in the vision of our foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle, who dared to dream of a better world for the poor, sick and uneducated of Ireland. We commit ourselves to the empowerment of women and children. We reverence and celebrate all creation as gift. We commit ourselves to confronting injustice and working for peace.

As we continue to keep Nano's dream alive, we are pleased to share our vision with you.

Our DIRECTION

Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle and united to Presentation Sisters and associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all people.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Carmen Hernandez

Sister Rita Menart

Sister Joy Peterson

Sister Marilyn Breen



Sister Mary Lou Specha enjoys a tender moment with one of the guests at Hotel Hope.

SISTERS JULIE MARSH & MARY LOU SPECHA

Nano's Dream Realized

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Two generous hearted and spirited Presentation women, Sisters Julie Marsh and Mary Lou Specha, are living and offering radical hospitality to homeless women and children in the Katrina devastated area of New Orleans, Louisiana – an unfulfilled dream of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle.

Hotel Hope, a temporary home for women with children in New Orleans, grew out of the inspiration of a small group of concerned people in New Orleans. Sister Mary Lou experienced firsthand the plight of the families, who had no way to support their children, and no place to go. Having worked to address generational poverty in New Orleans since 2008, she had witnessed post-Katrina New Orleans and quickly became involved in the newly-formed Hotel Hope board of directors in 2012.

Within two years, Sister Mary Lou realized her participation on the board was not enough to get the shelter up and running. She was named executive director of Hotel Hope, accountable to its board of directors. In this role, she

solicited help from sisters of various religious communities interested in this endeavor as well as local citizens interested in helping. The mission statement was defined: Hotel Hope is a nonprofit, interfaith organization that provides housing to women and their children, in a safe and loving atmosphere while guiding them to self-sufficiency and self-empowerment through intensive case management.

The original concept of the shelter was one of hospitality and dignity with a hotel model. Finding such a site was the next challenge. During an extensive search in many different locations, the board of directors found a building on Broad Street that once housed the Dominican Sisters who taught in the former St. Matthias School. When the school closed it was used as a shelter for women with children operated by Catholic Charities of New Orleans. Following the damages of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, it was no longer occupied.

Sister Mary Lou and the board discussed the prospect of using this building with the pastor of the newly-formed Blessed

Trinity Parish. The parish was excited about the collaboration with Hotel Hope.

On November 21, 2013, Hotel Hope received a tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service so that the capital campaign, Making Room for Hope, could be launched to initiate the renovation and begin operations.

Sister Julie joined the effort in the summer of 2014, to become the director of outreach. Due to the generosity of the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and benefactors, Sisters Mary Lou and Julie were initially able to work without the concern of bringing in a salary. This enabled them to write grants for forthcoming salaries for themselves as well as for the case workers.

The intended site of Hotel Hope was located in the heart of New Orleans, where 100 percent of the properties were flooded by Hurricane Katrina with up to 10 feet of floodwater. It was brought to the attention of the board that the building was eligible for FEMA funds so the process for FEMA funding began. With the help of many experts and in conversation with FEMA, the negotiations continue. Despite the obstacles in finding a suitable place to house women with children, the mission and passion to serve the most vulnerable has always been a priority.

Due to this long delay, Hotel Hope's board of directors voted in 2016 to purchase a blighted house, damaged also in Katrina, near the future site of Hotel Hope. Within seven months, the two-bedroom house, named Hotel Hope Chalet, was receiving guests. Each family's stay was approximately 30 to 45 days, until they were placed in permanent housing. Hotel Hope Chalet has permanently housed 22 mothers and over 50 children and continued case management with them up to a year to make sure that they did not fall back into homelessness.

In 2018, the ongoing communication between FEMA and Hotel Hope's legal counsel had still not achieved a final resolution. At the same time, the Hotel Hope board received news of a motel for sale in close proximity to the intended site of Hotel Hope. After abundant prayer and the generosity of a major donor, as well as the support of the Sisters of the Presentation, Hotel Hope purchased a 24-room motel on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard equipped with all the furnishings needed for a safe and comfortable stay for a family awaiting permanent housing. The purchase was made on August 15, 2018, and The Phyllis M. Taylor, Hotel Hope MLK opened appropriately on September 27, 2018, the Feast of Saint Vincent De Paul.

The full-time team of Sister Mary Lou, executive director; Sister Julie, director of operations; two case managers and the director of development are working assiduously to provide hospitality and support for all their guests. The New Orleans community, with over 40 volunteers, is genuinely committed to serving the guests at Hotel Hope and engaged in learning



Nano's dream continues through the many families Sister Julie Marsh and Hotel Hope serve.

the complexity of family homelessness. Volunteers also bring in a home-cooked hot meal every evening so that the families can enjoy a nutritious meal.

The Phyllis M. Taylor, Hotel Hope MLK recently celebrated two years of service to women with children in a housing crisis, having sheltered 60 families with approximately 135 children, and assisted more than 150 families and nearly 300 children with housing applications, security deposits, food, clothing, furniture, hygiene products and other needs.

As Hotel Hope continues to wait for word from FEMA about the Broad Street site, the staff and volunteers work daily to bring alive the core values of love, compassion and empowerment at Hotel Hope MLK. With city-wide partners, Hotel Hope MLK continues to provide intensive case management, individual and group counseling, financial and budgeting classes, physical and behavioral health screening, play therapy, parenting classes, educational opportunities and job readiness/career training among many other services.

Sisters Julie and Mary Lou reflect on Nano Nagle's purpose in life: "She chose to be where many others didn't want to be ... to tend to those who were poor or made poor by unjust systems ... to be with those on the fringe of society regardless of how they got there. It was shared by a retreat director that Nano Nagle wanted to build a safe place for women to live – a 'refuge' from the challenge of being homeless. Unfortunately, she did not live long enough to fulfill that dream. Hotel Hope is an initiative to keep Nano's dream alive in New Orleans."



Left to right: Sisters Emilie Bormann and Rosalyn Ulfers enjoy the companionship of family in community. Sister Emilie is Sister Rosalyn's foster aunt.

SISTER ROSALYN ULFERS Abundantly Blessed

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Sister Rosalyn Ulfers is a superb example of the truth of this quotation in modern lives. Navigating many hard things in her early life, she has survived through the gift of faith bequeathed to her by her parents and lived each day of her life.

Sister Rosalyn, born Bonnie Ulfers, daughter of Magdalen and Charles Ulfers in Algona, Iowa, was part of a family of two brothers and two sisters. When she was 11 years old, her mother was killed in a car accident at the age of 39. Eventually her father remarried, and he and his wife, Anita, had three children. When Bonnie was 16, her father died at the age of 46 of throat cancer. After her father's death, Keith and Rosie Ballard became the foster parents and legal guardians of Bonnie, her two brothers and two sisters.

It is practically impossible for any child to understand these mysteries of life, but before very long, Bonnie found great meaning in this suffering. Her grandmother and her birth mother had prayed every day that there would be at least

one religious vocation within the family. Bonnie used to take comfort in the fact that she had three female cousins, so she thought one of them could become a religious sister.

But when Bonnie's mother died, she told herself: "Life really is short. What if God is calling me and I don't pay attention?" Her dad's subsequent death simply reinforced this awareness that life is short. So again she faced the question, "What if God is calling me?"

In high school, Bonnie talked to a priest about a vocation to religious life, and he said to her, "Try it!" Bonnie is a foster niece of Sister Emilie Bormann, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation. When Bonnie and her family came to visit Sister Emilie, Bonnie was in the process of preparing to enter. On this visit she met Sister Mary Estelle Pillard, the major superior of the community, and Bonnie told Sister Estelle that she was coming to "try it." Sister Estelle responded, "If you were getting married, would you be planning to just 'try it?'" So she thought, "Of course not! I'll give it all I have!" Fifty-nine years later, Sister Rosalyn comments, "I am still giving it all I have!"

I want to be there for people who are going through difficult times and tell them, "It's okay to cry. Tears can be very healing."

Sister Rosalyn Ulfers

Sister Rosalyn continues, "When I was in the novitiate, Father George Aschenbrenner, SJ, gave a talk at Mount Loretto. I remember him saying, 'The reason we are in religious life is because God spoke to us more deeply than anyone else could.' And then I knew for sure! It was the right decision!"

Sister Rosalyn began her ministry as a primary teacher, which she continued for 26 years, teaching in the Catholic schools in Osage, Sheldon, St. Columbkille and Resurrection schools in Dubuque, Humboldt and Epworth, all in Iowa, and Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Over time she felt the desire to pursue a different ministry. "When my mother died," states Sister Rosalyn, "my father said to us, 'I have to tell you something, but I don't want you to cry.' So I held my tears in for years. But I always wanted to have the skills to help people who were grieving. I want to be there for people who are going through difficult times and tell them, 'It's okay to cry. Tears can be very healing.'"

Sister Rosalyn had the opportunity to attend the Masters of Pastoral Studies program at Loyola University in Chicago, where she acquired a master's degree. She was also privileged to spend nine months at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center Elk Grove Village in Chicago for a certificate in clinical pastoral education.

"Subsequently, I was hired as a hospital chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, and Mercy shared my services with the Sisters of St. Francis in Dubuque. This shared service continued for five years, after which I remained working at Mercy for 12 years," recalls Sister Rosalyn. "Then when the Sisters of St. Francis were building Clare House for their retired sisters, they asked me to come there as a chaplain. I performed that ministry for six years until my retirement in December 2016. I learned so much about aging gracefully from the sisters."

"Now in retirement I serve my own sisters as a companion for their doctor's appointments. I also help distribute Communion to the sisters in the infirmary and rotate with others in leading community prayer. In addition, every day I do what I call 'scrap walking!' I walk the neighborhood, taking a 'grabber' to pick up items discarded by other people. I find everything from paper straws, cans, bottles, banana skins, paper wrappers ... I consider it a service to the environment and to the neighborhood to rid our streets of this trash."



Sister Rosalyn Ulfers picks up discarded trash around the neighborhood.

Sister Rosalyn also enjoys caring for the wild life on the community grounds, feeding birds and squirrels. "I love doing all that," she comments. "It helps me appreciate and absorb the beauty of nature."

"It is good to be in religious life!" Sister Rosalyn proclaims. She asserts that what the priest told her many years ago is very true: "God continues to speak more deeply than anyone!" Truly Sister Rosalyn's faith has been her mainstay!

Now Sister Rosalyn enjoys more time to read, and she is growing in evolutionary awareness. Weekly, she shares Scripture with a small group of sisters. She also participates in an associate group that meets monthly. In addition, Sister Rosalyn is a member of a sacred circle and a promise group which focus on faith, life and living the community's direction and commitments from the 2018 General Chapter.

Sister Rosalyn has lived a life filled with joy, sadness and wonderful service to many others. Summing up her life, she quotes a saying: "Life is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived." She adds that the statement quoted by Sister Barbara Fiand, "To God be the glory," has been her guide and the theme of her life.

She sums her life by commenting that her ministries have been fulfilling. "I loved teaching children, and really, they taught me so much!" She adds that during her pastoral ministry work, "People taught me resilience." And she observed, "Our older sisters may often appear weak physically, but their faith and trust is so strong! They are my teachers!"

Sister Rosalyn, it is "good for us" that you followed that call made to you years ago, instead of leaving religious life to "something your cousins should do!" And it is good for countless people that you have lived this life so well, and have spent it in constant care for and service to others. May you know many more years of health and energy and service!

Exceptional Individuals Honored Through Scholarships & Awards

by BROOKE BODDICKER, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Several years ago, the Sisters of the Presentation initiated several scholarships and awards to further Presentation Foundress Nano Nagle's legacy of education. In the spirit of her desire to serve, they are pleased to honor the following commendable recipients.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In celebration of Mother Vincent Hennessy and the Dubuque Presentation foundation, the Sisters of the Presentation offer a \$1,500 Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship to a graduating senior from Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, which Presentation Sisters have actively supported since its inception. This year's recipient is **Kaitlyn "Kat" Rokusek**.

Kat's service is expansive, from choreographer of Mazzuchelli Middle School musicals to Wahlert campus ministry, Bee Branch Watershed clean-up to Red Cross blood drives. No matter what action she takes, she does so with the hope of setting the world on fire and the intention of serving others.

"As an active participant in service of others, I seek to ignite the world around me," Kat explains. "My service has personally affected my life by showing me that by helping others I can create that spark. I can be the one person who shows compassion, respect and integrity. When I give of my time, I show the people around me that they can be of service to others as well and that spark can ignite."



Sister Rita Menart presents Kaitlyn Rokusek with the Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship.



Sister Diana Blong (left) and Associate Yvonne Kisch (right) present Jacob Schutt with the Nano Nagle College Scholarship in Mason City, Iowa.

Kat's flame extends beyond those she serves. Wahlert Catholic High School principal, Ron Meyers, says, "She is outgoing, personable and has a great sense of humor. Not only is she respected by her peers, but she is also highly revered by the faculty and staff of Wahlert Catholic High School. I am proud to be part of her life's journey and look forward to see where life takes her in the future."

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among the many Iowa high schools in which Presentation Sisters have ministered and intends to aid graduates in the continuation of their education. More than that, the scholarship is awarded to a student who models self-giving service, helping to improve the lives of others. This year's \$1,500 Nano Nagle College Scholarship was awarded to **Jacob Schutt**, a student at Newman Catholic High School in Mason City, Iowa. As an excellent student, athlete and humanitarian, Jacob is more than deserving of this scholarship.

"All of my service has truly turned me into a better person. I have also become more grateful for all the opportunities I have been blessed with," Jacob says. "Serving the less fortunate has made me want to make the world a better place for all."

Stacy Nichols, honors English, journalism and speech teacher at Newman Catholic, agrees Jacob is most deserving of this scholarship stating, "Based on my experience with Jacob, I

can say without a shadow of a doubt that he is self-giving and a strong advocate for others who are more disadvantaged than himself. Jacob displays an outstanding degree of courtesy, empathy and unselfish interest with people."

As the oldest of five, Jacob sets a positive example for his younger siblings. The Sisters of the Presentation and others commend him as he continues his education and service. Carol Anderson, theology teacher at Newman Catholic says, "I have every confidence that Jacob will succeed in whatever academic or professional goals he aspires to in his future."

Nano Nagle Service Award

In the spirit of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Dubuque Presentation Sisters initiated a \$1,500 Nano Nagle Service Award to further her legacy of service. The recipient must be nominated by a Presentation Sister or associate. This year's recipient, **Diana Guertin**, of Buffalo, Minnesota, was nominated by Sister Carrie Link.

Honored to have nominated Diana for this award, Sister Carrie raves about Diana's substantial service. "Committed to her charism of helping the poor, Diana has almost unlimited energy and grace in seeking out ways to support those in need."

Diana has a full resume of ongoing service, which includes: president of mission outreach at St. Henry Church in Monticello, Minnesota, where she gives parishioners volunteer opportunities and keeps them informed on social justice issues; Second Harvest worker distributing groceries to about 350 families; coordinator of St. Henry's annual fall Free Store, organizing donated items for those in need; and Monticello Community Sharing Tree coordinator, providing children and parents with gifts over the holiday season.

Diana nobly says, "I am very fortunate to be part of an active church that encourages us to be the hands and feet of Jesus."



Left to right: Sister Carrie Link presents the Nano Nagle Service Award to Diana Guertin who makes service to others a priority in her life.

Presentation Mission Service Award

The Presentation Mission Service Award is offered to individuals, 18 years of age or older, committed to serving the Presentation mission and who may otherwise be unable to afford a service experience, locally, nationally or abroad. This year's recipients are Greta Purcell and Brooke Boddicker.

Greta Purcell was called to serve in Carmen, Santa Cruz Navajo, Guatemala. This small village of 300 welcomed Greta with open arms. As a Spanish student, Greta was overjoyed to learn more about the Guatemalan culture. "Traveling outside the country has always been a dream of mine, and the fact that I would be able to communicate with the people of the village was another factor that strengthened my call," Greta explains.



That call originated from previous service on Native American Reservations. On her scholarship application, Greta wrote, "During my work on the reservation, I learned about how much history and culture affects poverty today. I know that Guatemala suffered a Civil War years ago, and I would like to see if that contributed to the poverty of the village. I want to learn about the history and culture so that I can try my hardest to help." Greta's willingness to help in any way mirrors Nano's love of service.

Out of love for service and sustainability, **Brooke Boddicker** traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, in hopes of restoring part of the land that is constantly being torn apart. "When I applied to participate in coastal restoration, I didn't really know what I was getting into. I was excited to learn about a new environment, but what I found is we are all closely connected on this same Earth," Brooke says. "The Louisiana coast is deteriorating at a rate of 100 yards per hour. The main reasons for this erosion include reduced sediment flow from the Mississippi River, the sinking of land and sea-level rise."



"What struck me most while learning about the erosion of the coast is that it is both natural and human caused, which means there are choices we can make as humans to prevent this erosion," recounts Brooke. "I think Blaze, who organized one of our service days, said it best. He told us people would be panicking if an army from another country invaded Louisiana, and took away a football field's worth of land every hour, but we don't see this reaction as the coast corrodes. This land is being taken away just the same and at the same rate, and even people in Dubuque can help by learning about this issue and promoting water quality protection."



Left to right: Presentation Sisters and associates participate in the 2019 Conference of Associates and Religious of the Midwest Area (CARMA) in Dubuque. Sister Dolores Zieser and Associate Linda Dolphin share reflections during a table discussion.

The Unfolding Associate Path CARMA Conference 2019

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

On Saturday, April 6, 102 Midwest-area sisters and associates gathered in Dubuque, Iowa, to explore possibilities for growth, leadership and renewed strength in association. Presenter Kathleen Wade, a Mercy of the Americas associate, is a consultant, facilitator, teacher and writer.

Kathleen's opening remarks focused on an image of multi-colored spirals. This image represents the light within each person and in all of creation that is given to us by God. Jesus knew this well, as in Matthew 5:14, he said, "You are the light of the world." Each person, then, carries this "God particle." Using this concept, Kathleen celebrated each individual in the room as the God particle of creative energy of the cosmos.

Kathleen used three themes of legacy, love and leadership. Legacy refers to who we are or where we came from. Love includes all that has been provided by God, by family and by friends. Leadership embraces the inner call for each person to listen, to learn, to be open-minded and to reach out to support and guide others.

Focusing on legacy and love, Kathleen asked participants to write freely of memories that detailed images of their unique lives. She asked them to take turns, sharing candidly and practicing contemplative dialogue skills of deep listening, reserving judgment and digging deeper with insightful questions. Through this process sisters and associates became aware of one another, and developed an understanding of the charisms of other communities and how to listen deeply and step into the sacred space of the other.

Continuing to recall past experiences, participants searched the decades of their lives for situations and moments of leadership. As those present looked back over their experiences of leadership, they were encouraged to tap into their "inner leader" and reflect on the qualities they possess that make them a leader and to consider the following questions: What do you see as both gift and obstacle to a viable future for association? What can you do? The sisters and associates set out to respond to these questions and to be open to new ways of seeing and understanding.

On its 25th anniversary, this bi-annual presentation was sponsored by the Conference of Associates and Religious of the Mid West Area (CARMA). Sister Janet Stelken reflects, "One notable feature that made the day special for me was the contemplative spirit which filtered through the entire day. We began together with twenty minutes of contemplative silence. I also appreciated the great variety of activities and the opportunity to share personally with one person at a time who we did not know or at least know very well. All these techniques gave this particular CARMA meeting a new flavor."

Compiled and adapted from articles written by Nancy McCarville, The Associate publication; and Sisters Janet Stelken, Raeleen Sweeney and Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC.

21st Century Retelling of Nano Nagle's Life Becoming Light

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Presentation associate, **Barbara Ressler**, author of *Becoming Light, a 21st Century Retelling of the Life of Nano Nagle in Prose and Poetry*, kept the contemporary reader in mind when she wrote the 125-page, fast-paced retelling of the Presentation foundress. Barb finds that Nano, a diminutive, yet courageous missionary, looms large in her mind and heart. According to Barb, "The 300th anniversary year of Nano's birth, 2018, offered the perfect opportunity to honor her."



There ... Sister Raeleen Sweeney (Chicago): "Your book is awesome. I feel as though I'm in the very soul of Nano." Sister Jean Ann Meyer (Okolona, Mississippi): "I am inspired!" Associate Rita Plathe (Algona, Iowa): "I knew of Nano and her lantern, but I did not know her story. It is beautiful." Sister Janet Stelken (Chicago): "I read the whole book. I just couldn't put it down. The writing is beautiful and the poetry is a special added piece that so perfectly concludes each chapter." Veronica Miscio (Ft. Collins, Colorado): "What a wonderful read. I feel that I know Nano so much better now."

And There ... Sister Richelle Friedman (Washington, DC): "I'm disciplining myself to read in small bites and to reflect on Nano's life and legacy." Sister Lou Cota (Markham, Illinois) offered a poetic comment: "Reading your book, Barb, was like a dance!" Lou enjoyed the waltzing rhythm as the text moved from narrative to poetry to narrative to poetry. Associate Carol Kane (Bloomington, Minnesota): "I so appreciate Nano's spirit as conveyed in your book." Sister Dennis Lentsch (Knoxville, Tennessee): "What a gift to the Presentations around the world." Sister Mary T. O'Brien (Ireland): "I appreciate the approach ... You have charted a way! I hope you will have more to say about Nano."

"Here and There" Nano continues to live in the lives of those who follow in her footsteps.

Eighteenth-century Irish penal laws discriminated against Catholics, denying them an education and obliging the Nagles to send their eldest daughter to Paris, where she was welcomed by extended family and educated in a convent school. Life in Paris suited Nano's outgoing personality and charm; she found the Parisian social life quite to her taste.

In her 65 years, however, Nano's lifestyle changed dramatically. Her transformation from socialite to socially conscious woman of God came at a significant personal cost. Through her schools and service to the poor, she impacted the faith history of an entire nation.

Teaching English full-time at Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque and intermittently crafting Nano's story, Barb felt "invisible support." As a haiku poet, her practice of succinct writing elicited the frequent comment from her readers, "The story moved so quickly." Twelve of the chapter poems entitled "Here and There," proved to be another reader favorite. Following are reader messages from Here (Dubuque) and There (elsewhere):

Here ... Sister Damian O'Brien: "I'm so enjoying the story, especially the poetry." Sister Marie Barth: "I planned to read a little but I couldn't put it down; I read the whole book in one sitting." Sister Louise Scieszinski: "It is a compelling read, inspiring and challenging, capturing Nano's spirit and conveying it to the reader." Former student and now teacher, Molly Pfohl: "What a well-written piece!" Associate Mary Lou Mauss: "What a book!...and the poems!!"



Sister Dolores Moes (right) gathers a group of sisters, some visually impaired, for weekly reading and discussion of excerpts of "Becoming Light" and other books of interest.

Union of International Superiors General Sowers of Prophetic Hope

by CARMEN HERNANDEZ, PBVM

Sister Carmen Hernandez attended the Union of International Superiors General (UISG) gathering of 820 women religious in Rome, Italy, for the triennial plenary meeting on May 6-9. The theme, Sowers of Prophetic Hope, was chosen for consideration by the leaders of the religious congregations representing 80 countries and speaking 13 languages.

Centered on a vision for the future of religious life, care for creation and the planet, intercultural life and the call to inter-religious dialogue, the speakers delivered timely messages not easily ignored. Music, scripture and daily liturgy in a variety of languages and contemplative moments gave additional motivation to the days reminding all present that God is alive among them.

Grounded in this foundation, the framework of the days was ignited by reflections from Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI; Sister Judette Gallares, RC; Sister Sheila Kinsey, FCJM; Sister Adriana Milmanda, SSPS; and Professor Donna Orsuto. Each speaker played a significant role in unraveling the plenary theme.

Sister Teresa Maya indicates, "We need to be women of character and virtue now more than ever. To find hope we need to be prophetic, and to be prophetic, our lives need to witness what we believe and who we are."

Sister Judette Gallares challenges all to stand with those on the periphery and give countercultural witness; to speak on behalf of the suffering and to develop a capacity for contemplation. "Laudato Si' offers us a spiritual relationship and solutions to a seriously critical situation that are so desperately needed in our world today," states Sister Sheila Kinsey. She went on to inquire, "Will we raise a united voice and develop a collective strength to impact what is happening in our world?"

Sister Adrianna Carla Milmanda questions, "Can intercultural life become one of the seeds of prophetic hope?" Convinced that the answer is "yes," Sister Adrianna described interculturality as a vocation and a countercultural option. "Humanly, we all tend to seek and interact with those with whom we feel identified and, therefore, understood, included, accepted. Conversely, what is 'different' tends to scare us, challenge us and make us distrustful."

Lastly, Professor Donna Orsuto maintains, "One point is clear – interreligious dialogue is not an optional activity in the church. I would go so far as to say that dialogue is meant to be a way of life for us all. When people have the courage



Sister Carmen Hernandez (left) enjoys the company of her new found friends from the following countries: Netherlands, Brazil, United States, England, Malawi, Great Britain, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa and India.

to move beyond their fears and risk reaching out to the other, the results have been transformative." Donna reminds us of the words of Pope Francis, "We must create a 'culture of encounter,' a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently, as well as those who hold other beliefs, who do not have the same faith. They all have something in common with us: they are images of God, they are children of God." She challenges those gathered to ask themselves, "Who is my neighbor? Who are the people from other religions in my neighborhood, in my city?"

After each presentation, participants gathered at tables grouped by their native spoken languages. Nine different countries were represented at Sister Carmen's table! Guided by reflection questions, sisters envisioned new ways to bring about the message relayed by each speaker while seeking a greater understanding of what it meant to be "Sowers of Prophetic Hope."

"The creativity of shared responses at the tables was limitless, regardless of, or perhaps because of, the variety of race, color, religion, nationality and language," states Sister Carmen. "Drawing on our deepest energies we connected and interrelated as individuals and as women religious from across the world, forming new friendships through our visioning, sharing, and transformation and the knowledge that 'we are all in this together.'"

New Orleans Service & Discernment Trip Spring Break with the Sisters

by JESSI BECK, PBVM

Have you ever gone on spring break with Catholic sisters? This year six collegiate women from Iowa and New York did just that. On March 16-23, they joined Presentation Sisters Jessi Beck from Dubuque and Sister Mary Catherine Redmond from New York on a service and discernment trip to New Orleans. Prayer, service and community were key components of the experience.

One highlight was volunteering at Hotel Hope, which provides housing and support to women and their children. The group babysat the children, moved and organized a new storage room for donations and set up a playroom following a tragic loss of toys and games from a sudden sewage pipe breakage.

Sisters Julie Marsh and Mary Lou Specha, who minister at Hotel Hope, inspired the group with their commitment to welcoming each person with the love of God just as Nano Nagle did in her day. The inspiration was mutual.

"There is something very different about the way this group approached the work," comments Sister Julie. "It was more than something to get checked off their list. There was a loving presence among them as they simply spent time with the children. I was most touched when the children stepped back into the once devastated playroom only to find new toys and a new space in which they could play safely. All this was due to the persistence and determination of these women. The kids were screaming and I was in tears. I never could have gotten it done so quickly without them."

Visiting with guests at Lantern Light Ministry was another meaningful experience. Lantern Light was started as a collaborative ministry of the North American Conference of Presentation Sisters and continues to provide meals and resources to people experiencing homelessness.

Morning prayer and evening faith sharing were the foundation of each day. Time was spent reflecting on discernment and listening for God's call throughout life. There were also opportunities for New Orleans-style fun including catching cabbages at the St. Patrick's Day parade! The sounds of light-hearted laughter and deep conversation were evidence of the strong community being built throughout the experience. "I was so grateful to be able to join my sisters in serving, praying and connecting with this group of wonderful women," comments Sister Jessi.



Sisters Julie Marsh and Mary Lou Specha welcomed the group to their home for a delightful evening of prayer, food and fun!

Participants share these reflections on their experience:

"This trip has helped me deepen my faith and desire to serve through the experiences and relationships I have formed and the wonderful ways I was able to feel God's presence through it all," states Emmalee.

"It was truly a gift to be able to take part in the New Orleans trip this year. The Lord blessed us with the opportunity to live, love, and serve, in order to bear His light into the world. The trip reminded me that I have the ability to love people as Christ loved people, and if I can do this, I need to do this!" recalls Anna.

"I really enjoyed getting to know all of the other young women on the trip and, of course, spending time with the Presentation Sisters. It was so great to be able to give back during my spring break and especially to meet and serve the people of New Orleans. Some of the men and women I met throughout the week had such great deep faith and a joy for life and the Lord. I know I will continue to be inspired by them and reflect on my relationships with them for years to come," reflects Katrina.

"The experiences I had in New Orleans with the sisters were life changing. It was exciting and empowering to get to know the sisters and the other college-aged women; together we worked, served, prayed and grew through our experiences of service together!" comments Holly.

Leaving a Legacy: Father James McAlpin

Partners in Mission

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

Father James (Jim) McAlpin, born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, encountered the Sisters of the Presentation on various occasions. Growing up in a Catholic family of four, faith was near and dear to the McAlpin family's heart.

As children, Father Jim and his older sister, Sister Sara McAlpin, BVM, attended Mass regularly accompanied by their parents at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, a parish of the Diocese of Sioux City.

Father Jim's sister, Sister Sara expresses, "Parish activities were our family's social center. Our parents were committed to parish service and our family. Much like most Catholic families of the era, we attended Mass, went to school at Corpus Christi and participated in many school and parish activities. We were so lucky to have such a good home. We grew up as loved children, and that made all the difference."

Father Jim and Sister Sara were taught by Sisters of Charity, BVM, so their understanding of the church and the importance of education were instilled at a young age. Later, Father Jim graduated from Saint Edmond High School, becoming a member of the inaugural graduating class of 1956.

In 1960, Father Jim graduated from Loras College in Dubuque. It was there he decided to attend seminary at Mount St. Bernard in Dubuque and was ordained on May 30, 1964 at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City.

Father Jim served his tenure at various locations where the Sisters of the Presentation ministered as teachers, principals or pastoral associates. These parishes included St. Cecelia in Algona; St. Mary in Storm Lake; Sacred Heart in Fort Dodge; and St. Patrick in Sheldon, all in Iowa.

Early on in his ministry, Father Jim was perceived as "warm and hospitable." Sister Lois Lehmann describes him as "gentle, prayerful and friendly." She also talked about his humor. "I was a principal at St. Mary's in Storm Lake. He would come into the school and say, 'Hail to the chief.' Both of us would bow and laugh. This really describes how he used his dry sense of humor to get a giggle out of people." She also went on to say, "He was so welcomed by all parishioners."

Sister Brigid Stanley notes, "Father Jim was a holy man. He defined what a community of priesthood was and his compassion modeled Christ's compassion. He was comfortable around any person." In Sister Brigid's tenure

at St. Patrick Parish in Sheldon, she would look to Father Jim for guidance on situations she experienced, "It was Father Jim's forgiveness that inspired me to move forward. He had a way about him that was open to forgiveness. Forgiveness is a unique quality. He did not forget, but he was a man who forgave."

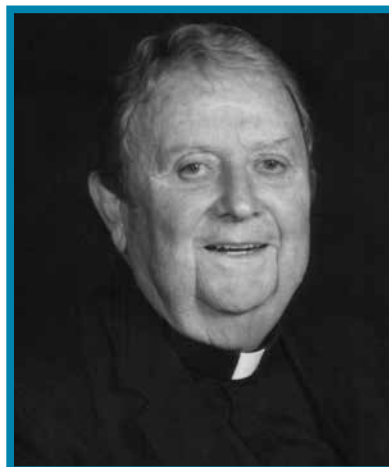
At each of the schools and parishes, Father Jim was supportive of the faculty, staff, students and families. "He was easy to be around," recalls Sister Anne McCormick from her time in Sheldon. "He was humble and reserved and had a dry sense of humor. His homilies were direct, to the point and in Scripture format." Father Jim also believed in mission and the need for people to carry on mission. Sister Anne states, "He was instrumental in getting the first deacon for St. Patrick Parish. Deacon Ray really valued the friendship he had with Father Jim."

In addition, Sister Anne recently visited Bonnie Roder, a parishioner in Sheldon. Bonnie sensed a true pastoral spirit in Father Jim. She relates, "When my parents were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary my father was not able to attend Mass in church. Father Jim gladly celebrated the liturgy in our farm home, which meant so much to our family."

Bonnie also shared another experience of his compassion, "My daughter, Leann, was a senior in high school when her father passed away. Father Jim was a wonderful support for Leann at that time and continued for several years to be a presence to Leann when she most needed it."

In 2008, Father Jim retired and once again made Fort Dodge his home. It was at this time he was able to enjoy his favorite pastime playing golf and mingling with friends, old and new.

The Sisters of the Presentation are grateful for the time they spent with Father Jim while he was living. His legacy will live on through the gifts he has given them. So signing off, as Father James McAlpin would say, "Hail to the chief."



Father James McAlpin
June 26, 1938 – November 9, 2017

Assistance to Immigrants in El Paso

Offering Love, Compassion

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

"Poverty is to be without options. The migrants are here because they have no other option. They are here because they have no other choice." Reuben Garcia, founder of Annunciation House, speaks directly about the plight of the migrants arriving in massive numbers at the southern border. "You must understand that this is not just a problem 'down there.' This is a massive human problem that is befalling our family – my family. We need to do something about what is happening to our brothers and sisters!"

The Presentation Sisters responded when the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) received an urgent request for economic help and for volunteers to give hands-on ministry to the immigrants in the hospitality centers. The Aberdeen and Dubuque Presentation Sisters along with the Yankton Benedictines responded first by sending Sisters Myra Remily, Maura McCarthy and Clarice Korger in December 2018, to El Paso, Texas. Sister Juliane Brockamp also joined them while participating in a border experience workshop.

The sisters discovered that their neighbors from the South are arriving from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to the city of El Paso, Texas, "the passage" to the North, as well as to many other points along the border. The migrants freely turn themselves over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) seeking asylum, a legal process by national and international law.

Continuing to Provide Assistance in El Paso

The second border experience included Dubuque Presentation Sisters Kay Cota, Julianne and Maura, and Sister Myra from Aberdeen, all of whom served from March 19 to April 1, 2019, once again at the El Paso/Juarez border.

Sister Kay expresses, "The people are exceptionally beautiful in every way! Every day I was more impressed with the willingness to quietly wait in line, a few shoeless! All without shoelaces because ICE was fearful that someone would use them as weapons. One man arrived at the shelter and had to leave without shoes because we had none that fit him. Imagine the humiliation of getting on a bus or plane with no shoes!"

Sister Julianne explains, "Our Presentation team worked at the Nazareth Immigration Welcoming Center in food preparation and other services for anywhere from 80-138 people, interpreting medical needs for the physician assistant, making telephone calls to family members in the U.S., arranging transportation for bus and air lines, preparing travel lunches for individuals and families still facing long



Volunteers from different congregations gather to enjoy dinner and conversation with one another.

journeys, dispensing clothing, hygiene necessities and bedding as well as organizing cleaning procedures.

Sister Maura comments, "The warm hugs and expressions of gratitude from these striking Central Americans, when leaving, left us in tears. I was also so captivated by the welcoming spirit of the El Paso natives, their willingness to volunteer, their fluency in English and Spanish and their stunning Latin-American visages."

Sister Carmen Hernandez provided assistance from April 12 to 20, and expresses her intense experience: "An immediate feeling of helplessness engulfed me as we gathered daily in a small, makeshift room to welcome refugees that were released. Faces of both children and adults, some dirty and showing no affect, will forever be etched on my heart. Silent cries of 'Can we trust you? Can you help me?' were exemplified in their piercing brown eyes that showed fatigue and fear."

Sister Jessi Beck served in El Paso from April 12 to 28. She explains, "I was at one of the motels that served as an overflow location. We tried to meet their immediate needs with our limited resources. Most arrived tired, hungry, thirsty, sick and in clothes they had been wearing for many days. One of the hardest things was to leave a mom and her toddler with only a ticket and small bag of food knowing they still had a long journey ahead. I prayed they would make all their connections and experience the kindness of strangers along the way."

REMEMBERING Cedar Falls, Iowa 1986-2012

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

American Martyrs Retreat House: 1997-2012

Built in 1960 under the direction of Archbishop Leo Binz, the American Martyrs Retreat House (AMRH) provided “a place for prayer; for renewal of mind, spirit and body; and a place where visitors felt welcome and at home with each other and with God.” In 1997, Sister Jeanine Kuhn became the first woman to head AMRH, which had always been under the direction of Archdiocesan priests. In 2000, Sister Jeanine was joined by Sister Michelle Gallagher, who volunteered her time as general helper in the house.

The retreat house served as a gathering place for up to 6,000 people each year including groups such as students preparing for reception of Confirmation, planning groups for nonprofit organizations and gatherings of religious women and Archdiocesan priests for retreats. Individuals who desired a personal day of solitude, a spiritual direction session or a directed retreat were also welcome to the facility.

During Sister Jeanine’s time at AMRH, improvements on the grounds provided outdoor meditation areas and a walking path to supplement the outdoor Stations of the Cross. Sister Jeanine described her work, saying, “I have always loved retreat work and feel it is a special way of helping others draw closer to God.”

After leaving the retreat house in 2012, Sisters Jeanine and Michelle moved to Waterloo, Iowa, to provide spiritual direction for individuals there and to mentor University of Northern Iowa students on a part-time basis. Sister Jeanine also volunteered at the Hospice Home each week. She continues to provide spiritual direction while living at Mount Loretto in Dubuque, Iowa.

University of Northern Iowa Campus Ministry: 1986-1992, 1998-2008

Beginning in 1986, the first of four Presentation Sisters began ministering at the campus of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. From the beginning, the campus ministry



Left to right: Top photo: Sisters Michelle Gallagher and Jeanine Kuhn both ministered at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Bottom photo: As campus minister at the University of Northern Iowa, Sister Julie Marsh (left) helped students feel welcome and grow spiritually.

office offered classes on prayer and the study of the Bible, along with opportunities for student outreach programs. With a population of 3,000 Catholics in a total student population of 11,500 in the early 1990s, ministers had their work cut out for them. The goal of the campus ministry team was to provide young adults with spiritual growth and a sense of belonging in a new environment as they began their college experience.

Later additions to the program included liturgy planning and retreats; expanded outreach activities to include assistance to the elderly in their homes and nursing homes; collection of food for food drives; and seasonal activities such as Project Christmas Toy. A RENEW program was conducted at the campus ministry center in solidarity with the same efforts in the parishes in the city. A new facility, constructed in 1990, provided space for 420 people in the chapel where liturgies were conducted daily and three times on weekends.

Sisters Kay Marie Long, Janella Frankl, Julie Marie Marsh and Mary Lou Specha were part of the program at various times. In retirement, Sisters Michelle and Jeanine were invited by Father Ken Glazer to assist the students who were in peer ministry. For six years they met with the students every two weeks for spiritual guidance, and joined the student body for liturgy on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. The last Presentation Sister to live and minister on the campus left in 2008.

A SMILE OF JOY, LIGHT & HOPE Sister Pierre Kollasch

April 29, 1924 - March 31, 2019

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

For those who attended the sharing of memories at the wake service for Sister Pierre Kollasch, little doubt remains about her hallmark, the gift of a warm and friendly smile. Her relatives and friends confirmed the fact that joy, manifested in her smile, brought light and hope to those who knew her. She might be called: “The sister who smiled;” so spoke the testimony of those who shared their appreciation for her presence in their lives.”

Born in Whittemore, Iowa, on April 29, 1924, Sister Pierre was baptized Loretta Anne by her parents, Gertrude (Koehn) and Peter Kollasch. On March 31, 2019, she joined deceased members of her family just one month before her 95th birthday. Her youngest brother, Arthur, alone survives the family of five siblings.

Instructed by the Sisters of the Presentation at St. Michael School in Whittemore, Sister Pierre joined the Presentation community following high school graduation. She continued her education at Loras College in Dubuque, receiving a bachelor’s degree in education. A teacher of primary grades, Sister Pierre ministered from 1948-1984 in nine Iowa schools. Additionally she served for 15 years as coordinator at Dubuque’s Villa Raphael, a retirement home for priests.

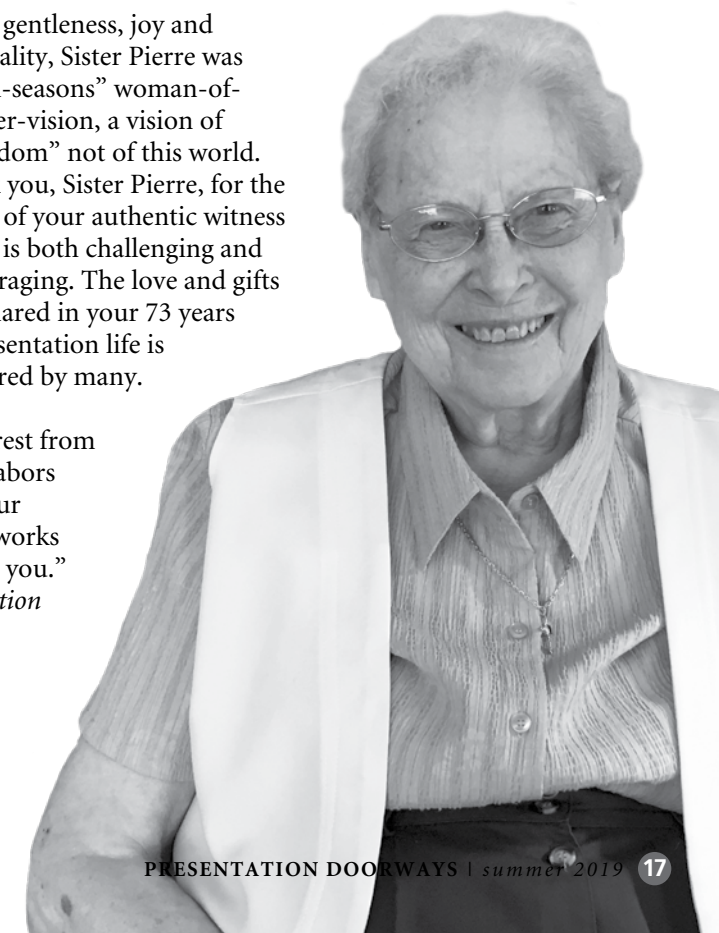
Sister Pierre retired to Mount Loretto in 2000. As with most sisters who “retire,” Sister Pierre took up another ministry: baker/dessert-maker for the Mount Loretto community, much to the delight and enjoyment of the 50-60 sisters in residence. Sister Pierre was no ordinary baker. Decidedly she had a “special touch” with pies, cakes, cookies and other desserts. Each morning she came to the bakery, notebook in hand, for she had carefully developed a “lesson design/recipe plan” for the day. Needless to say, Sister Pierre received significant applause and appreciation for her daily contributions to the menu. “Hospitality served with smiles” provided sweet treats, even on ordinary days. Returning to Mount Loretto brought Sister Pierre full circle to an earlier dream of helping sisters who served in domestic roles to become more involved in community living. She set the example.

Retirement also brought extended prayer time, something Sister Pierre appreciated as much as she enjoyed baking. Her retirement recreation included playing cards, visiting, reading, watching good movies and participating in community.

Sister Pierre gifted the community in a number of additional ways. She offered a much needed counter-cultural presence to sisters and laity. At a time of political shouting and harsh words, her gentle eyes and soft voice offered an antidote. In an age of consumerism and self-centered excess, her wardrobe was oh, so simple. Lavish banquets or high-stake contests offered no attraction to her – unable to compare with her delight at winning a second-floor Wednesday night card game. While many persisted in avoiding risk or change by continuing a single ministry, Sister Pierre willingly participated in new ministries as the need arose. Where others sought early retirement, an easier schedule or more rewarding pursuits, Sister Pierre resisted even the suggestion that she might need to cut back a bit on the community baking, just because she was past 90 years of age and might need to rest a bit more for the sake of her health. At a time when personal and lasting commitments are challenging for so many in today’s society, she was faithful to her religious obligations and practices.

In her gentleness, joy and hospitality, Sister Pierre was an “all-seasons” woman-of-another-vision, a vision of a “kindom” not of this world. Thank you, Sister Pierre, for the legacy of your authentic witness which is both challenging and encouraging. The love and gifts you shared in your 73 years of Presentation life is treasured by many.

“Now rest from your labors for your good works follow you.”
Revelation 14:13



AN ENERGIZER & EVANGELIZER

Sister Bonita Determan

November 1, 1931 - April 12, 2019

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Sister Mary Bonita, oldest daughter of Benita (Shire) and Raymond Determan, entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1949. A family of four girls, two of Sister Bonita's sisters followed in her footsteps and became Presentation Sisters. Sister Rayanne and Sister Donna survive Sister Bonita. A third sister, Donna Umbarger preceded Sister Bonita in death on December 10, only four months earlier.

With a bachelor's degree in biology from Loras College and a master's degree in science from Clarke University, both of Dubuque, Sister Bonita served as principal and as elementary teacher for grades 5-8, CCD instructor, pastoral minister, hospice volunteer and elder care minister in Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota until she retired in 2016.

The following is an excerpt from a reflection given during the sharing of memories at the wake service by Sister Joan Lickteig, classmate of Sister Bonita's.

Her name was Myra! I had never met anyone with that name. It suggested to me a kind of celebrity. Names of the other young women I met that Entrance Day were familiar: Arlene and Evelyn, Barb and Therese, Marian and Madonna, but "Myra" intrigued me. I was eager for her to arrive from Mason City.

When she entered the room late in the day, a circle of expectant young faces awaited her: 10 postulants dressed in black capes and crisp, white collars smiled our welcome.

So that's Myra: nicely dressed, white gloves in hand, seemingly more poised and socially adept than high school girls from my hometown. And 70 years later, she was still the same gracious, kind and caring person, so appreciative of any assistance or visits or services, always a "thank you" and "God bless you."

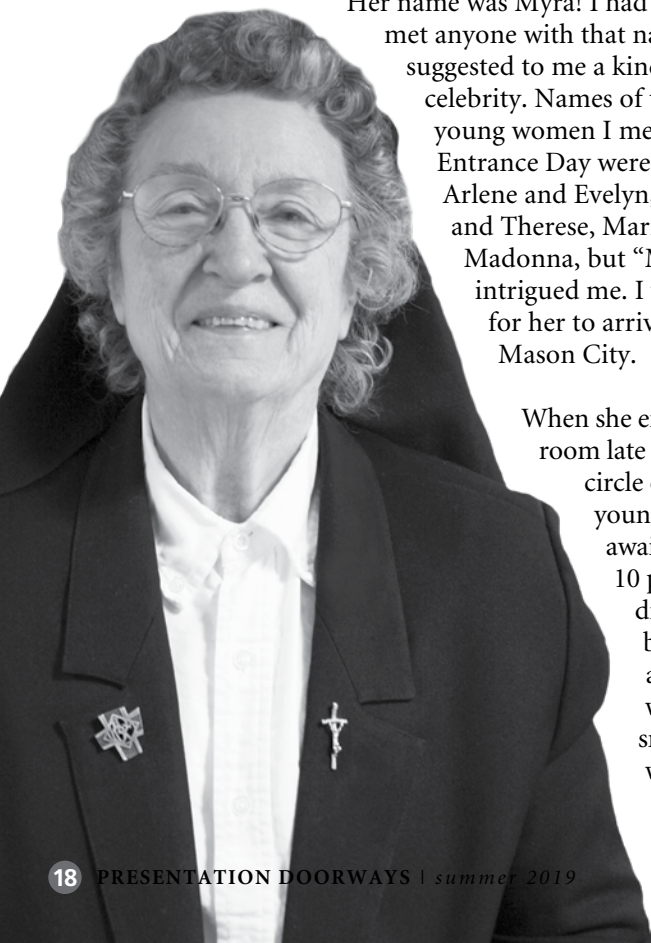
Receiving her mother's name at the time of reception and her parents' faith example, she was a devout and prayerful novice, another quality she never lost. How she prayed for and concerned herself with the welfare of her three sisters, for she was the oldest in the family and faithfully carried out that role.

As a middle grade teacher, Sister Bonita was an energizer and an evangelizer. Her enthusiasm easily motivated her students to do good works. One such enterprise centered around the needs of the missions, for she herself had a missionary heart. Additionally, with energy and initiative, she involved her students in creating a permanent grotto to Our Lady on the school grounds in Key West, Iowa, her very first assignment. While a project of such magnitude assured a parish devotion to Mary, I presume Sister Bonita left a similarly permanent memory in the hearts of those she served in subsequent missions, as well – heart memories as lasting as mortar.

Whatever Sister Bonita's ministry, zeal was a hallmark. She readily engaged anyone in conversation about whatever charitable service occupied her at the time. While teaching may not have been her first love, instructing children in religion class was and science came in second. If she were to identify her first preference, it might have been care for the sick and the marginalized, corresponding to her tender heart.

Sister Bonita had many friends. Her deep and enduring Mason City roots lasted her lifetime as she maintained contact with her high school classmates. In her retirement, Sister Bonita continued to make new friends. One of them came to visit her on Friday, April 12, the day she died, bringing her an Easter lily, only to learn that she had been taken to the hospital an hour before. Another good friend!

Sister Bonita, I, too, call you friend and know that you will continue your faithful family ties and friendships in heaven. Go now in peace. We love you.



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Congratulations, Dora Serna!

On May 18, Presentation associate, Dora Serna graduated from Clarke University in Dubuque with a master's degree in business administration. When Dora came to this country from Colombia, nearly 20 years ago, English was a new language for her. For several years she studied with Sister Francesca Presseller at the Presentation Lantern Center. Currently, a staff member at Clarke University, Dora received the Rose O'Toole Award for her positive attitude, her willingness to always go the extra mile and for living the values that Clarke represents. As a Presentation associate, she walks in the footsteps of Nano Nagle offering hospitality to all she meets.

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OFFERING
hope, love, hospitality
TO OUR WORLD



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PLEASE JOIN WITH US.

June 24, 2019

July 22, 2019

August 26, 2019

Centering Prayer

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, please visit our website at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

July 17, 2019

60th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Benjamin Duschner

Sister Deborah Paige

Sister Irma Ries

Sister Leanne Welch

July 18-20, 2019

Community Gathering

Dubuque, Iowa

August 31, 2019

50th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Paula Schwendinger

Sister Lynn Mary Wagner

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

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

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

Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief

Celebrating 75 Years in Religious Life

On May 16, Sister Lois Lehmann celebrated her 75th jubilee, remembering God's love and faithfulness with gratitude for a life of service as a Sister of the Presentation. In her 61 years in full-time ministry, Sister Lois spent 43 years as an elementary teacher and 18 years as a pastoral minister. Today, she is happily engaged in community prayer and service. Reflecting on 75 years of religious life, Sister Lois says, "I am grateful for my faith, family and Presentation community. I have a deep gratitude for the many people with whom I journeyed over the years. I pray that I helped spread the Gospel message by sowing seeds of love, joy, hospitality, generosity and peace."

Read more here: http://bit.ly/2019_75thjubileePBVM



Congratulations, Sister Mary Therese Krueger



Sister Mary Therese Krueger recently graduated with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies from Catholic Theological Union. Left to right: Sisters Janet Stelken, Marilyn Breen, Lou Cota, Mary Therese and Jessi Beck.

Do you have news to share?

**We would love to publish it.
Please send your news items to:
info@dubuquepresentations.org.**