



COMMUNITY NOTES

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

DECEMBER 2018

Leadership Meeting Minutes: November 12-14, 2018

Vision for Planning: Sister Marilyn has been working on the program for unfolding the planning meeting. Jane Buse-Miller is creating an attractive visual of the whole plan as developed with Carol Crepeau, CSJ. Time was spent looking at the individual components of the community gathering December 8, 2018. The individual sections devoted to the “promises” will be further developed during the December 3-7 team meeting. Carol Crepeau, CSJ, from LaGrange, Illinois, has been engaged to work with the community during the summer 2019 Community Days on July 18-20, 2019.

Border Service: Sister Marilyn will prepare an invitation for sisters and associates. We will send \$7,500 from the donation of \$10,000 that was sent earlier for the needs of those at the border. The balance will be used for those who are able to travel to the border to offer service. If no one can travel, we will forward the balance of the donation to border needs.

Security Systems: We recommend that Jean Lange research security cameras for the entrances of the motherhouse. The sisters will be notified about the updating of security.

Formation: We will work on developing a process for the renewal of the formation program. We will begin this process by having a conversation with a gathering of sisters. A facilitator, Ann Letourneau, CSJ, has been recommended because of her credentials and experience.

Gift Shop: Sister Annette Skyles is resigning from managing the gift shop. She reminds us that the shop was initiated when Sister Basil Taylor thought selling cards at Mount Loretto would save sisters trips out to buy cards. We will evaluate the future of the shop.

Ceramic Kiln: A buyer is interested in the kiln. She will be given an option to purchase. Sister Rita will talk to Sister Dolores Zieser about whether the kiln works or has been used lately. Before it is sold, we want to be sure it works.

Riverboat Museum: Sister Rita will talk to Jean about a community membership.

Social media: Jane will organize an event that will be presented by an outside consultant on December 5 for administrative staff.

Presentation Conference: Committee on Formation is putting together resources on charism, etc. for North American congregational employees. A gathering might happen with Presentation people from Conference members in the future as a way to reinforce commitment to the charism of Nano.

Pilgrimage: We will gather information for the possibility of planning an event in the future – not before 2020. Sister Marilyn is willing to gather a committee.

Region X LCWR Report: Sister Marilyn attended the fall meeting in St. Louis. The Iowa members will be invited to join in a “Pray for a state legislator” campaign. Sister Corine Murray will be asked to organize this. Racism will continue to focus on both the regional and the national agenda. The Iowa members will gather in Dubuque on February 28, 2019, at Mount Carmel.

Resource Center for Religious Institutes Meeting: Sisters Carmen and Rita reported on workshops and keynote speakers from the fall meeting held October 29-31, 2018. They will be purchasing recordings of the most helpful workshops.

Southdown Institute Workshop: In October, Sister Carmen attended a meeting on critical personnel issues. She shared the PowerPoints from the meeting.

Sisters’ Policy Book: We will begin working through Section 1 at the December meeting. As we complete the revisions to the “book,” they will be added to the website.

Christmas Party for Staff: The three in Dubuque will investigate cupcakes from a local specialist. We will focus on celebrating the staff as STARS. Sister Joy will ask Sister Paula Schwendinger to create clever titles for candies that will be put into starry bags for each person. Sister Carmen will ask Sister St. James Lickteig to create a table decoration using the theme of stars.

Leadership will extend an invitation to Mery Cary Paz to travel to Dubuque in December to visit with sisters here and on mission.

The Corporate Board met with Sister Lynn Marie (Faye) Fangman, treasurer, on November 12, 2018.

Future Leadership Meeting Dates:

January 16-18, 2019	Team meeting
February 20-22, 2019	Team meeting
March 12-15, 2019	Region X LCWR Meeting in Dubuque followed by team meeting
April 2-3, 2019	Team meeting
April 4-7, 2019	New Leader Workshop in Mundelein, Illinois
May 15-17, 2019	Team meeting
June 12-14, 2019	Team meeting
June 25-28, 2019	North American Conference Meeting in Aberdeen, South Dakota



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

Our Journey in Formation



Recently I read an issue of *InFormation*, the quarterly bulletin of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC). The particular focus was lifelong formation, and in her article, “Ongoing Formation for the Whole,” Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC (executive director of RFC) offers helpful definitions of formation and ongoing/lifelong formation along with challenging insights.

She writes:

Formation is a continuous conversion of heart that involves the whole person in a lifelong process of change and growth. Conversely, formation is not the mere communication of some particular content within a specific timeframe ...

Ongoing/lifelong formation focuses on the continual growth of the whole person to promote a deeper, fuller commitment ... Initial formation is a part of (not apart from) ongoing formation. (RFC InFormation, Summer 2018)

I believe we quite naturally hear the word “formation” and think initial formation, the process of discernment and incorporation beginning prior to entrance up to the final profession of vows.

Sister Ellen challenges us to consider ongoing formation from this wider perspective and cites the tasks of both initial and this broader formation as “reflection, discernment, and integration.” We are called to embody these tasks throughout our lives. What is required in response is “openness, freedom and flexibility?” Individual growth in these tasks and one’s response contributes to the revitalization of the whole congregation. In conclusion, Sister Ellen offers a valuable list of ongoing formation resources.

The remainder of this issue of *InFormation* includes brief articles about how three different congregations put into practice these tasks of ongoing formation in creative and inclusive ways.

If you would like to access this *InFormation Bulletin* (Summer 2018) or other issues on topics related to formation, go to <https://www.relforcon.org>. Click on “Resources” and then “InFormation Bulletin.” Use the following username and password to log in as a member.

Username: dubuquepresentations

Password: 12presentationsdbq

Sister Annette Kestel

Mount Loretto Winter Retreat

You are invited to take part in any or all of the retreat as your schedule allows:

Dates: Sunday, January 6, 7 p.m. through
Friday, January 11, evening meal

Theme: Bring Forth the Realm of God

Facilitator: Father Anthony Gittins, CSSp



Father Gittins is a religious Spiritan (Congregation of the Holy Spirit) who has authored many articles and books on culture, theology, mission, spirituality and discipleship. He offers workshops, seminars and retreats nationally and internationally. This retreat will include a number of sub-themes such as:

- The nature of **Conversion**
- The need for **Prophets**
- The meaning of **Spirituality**
- Belief in the **Holy Spirit**
- The importance of **Hope**
- Religious Life as **Adventure**
- The grace of **Age**
- The power of **Imagination**

Conferences: Sunday, January 6, 7 p.m.
Monday, January 7, through Thursday, January 10, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Friday, January 11, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Celebration of Eucharist: Monday, January 6, through Thursday, January 10, 4:50 p.m.
Friday, January 11, 11:20 a.m.

Sisters not living at Mount Loretto and associates, if you wish to attend the entire retreat and reserve a guest room at Mount Loretto, please contact Sister Annette Kestel (formation@dubuquepresentations.org or 563-588-2008) to register for the retreat and Jean Lange (jean@dubuquepresentations.org) for housing. If you wish to attend some of the conferences but not the entire retreat, there is no need to register.

ASSOCIATES PLEASE NOTE

You are invited to participate in the Winter Retreat at Mount Loretto on January 6-11, 2019, with presenter, Father Anthony Gittins, CSSp. You may attend all or part of the retreat. Contact Sister Annette Kestel to register or for further information at formation@dubuquepresentations.org.

From the Office of... VOCATIONS

Shout out!

Thank you to Sister Carla Popes and DRE Lori Keppler for inviting me to speak with the junior high and high school religious education students at St. Mary Parish in Strawberry Point, Iowa.

Worth a Watch

I encourage you to watch the keynote address given by Sister Xiomara Méndez Hernández, O.P., at the NRVC Convocation in November. Her address is titled "The Invitation: Mutual Encounter - Mutual Accompaniment." Click the blue underlined words to [view the video](#) or [listen via podcast](#). Consider these reflection questions from Xiomara:



1. How do we address the challenging conversations that need to happen in order to move our communities forward?
2. How do we talk about making sure diversity, equality, and inclusion are practiced in our communities?
3. If we want to welcome diverse members what does it mean in our communities? How does it look?

Good Reads

You may be interested to read more about the Nuns and Nones movement in this article from U.S. Catholic: "The surprising alliance between nuns and religious 'Nones': [How Millennials and women religious are revitalizing the church.](#)"



Invite

December 15: [Catholics on Call: Imagining Passion and Purpose](#) (Chicago)

January 26: [Beauty in Christ Women's Conference](#) (Cedar Rapids, IA)

March 16-23: [Spring Break Service and Discernment Trip](#) (New Orleans)

March 30: Women's Young Adult Retreat (Archdiocese of Dubuque)

Start Imagining and Making Plans

Is there anything you can volunteer to do to help celebrate the following events in your parish, school, women's group or catholic organization?

February 2: World Day for Consecrated Life

March 8-10: National Catholic Sister's Week

Let me know what ideas you have! Thanks for all you do!

Sister Jessi Beck



From the...Associate Partnership Office

Cindy Pfiffner, Co-Director
Joan Brincks, PBVM, Co-Director

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SAVE THE DATE CARMA CONFERENCE 2019



KATHLEEN WADE

LEGACY, LOVE, LEADERSHIP: THE UNFOLDING ASSOCIATE PATH

Associate of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Kathleen Wade invites sisters and associates to explore the legacy of individual charisms, the need to deepen relationships across those charisms, and the emerging role of leadership in association, locally and globally. Participants will enjoy interactive exploration, couched in a contemplative spirit.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

7:45 A.M. —8:45 A.M. REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. —3:00 P.M. CONFERENCE & LUNCH

BEST WESTERN PLUS HOTEL, DUBUQUE, IA



***WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN JANUARY 2019**



HISTORY HAS SHAPED US. TODAY WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEGACY.



Advent/Christmas Reflections Sister Mary Kevin Cummings



1st Joyful Mystery, The Annunciation
Mary's first listed joy.
An indirect conversation
With God, and motherhood is
Forever changed. Though holding
To the nine months waiting
It brings us Advent and Christmas
May 21, 2010

All the spheres in heaven
Spin, as they await His coming.
If we rush, we do not hear
Their songs – or the knocking on
Our heart's door. But in quiet, we
Do and open to Love.
December 21, 2006

Advent.
Longing. Coming.
Prepare. Make straight His way,
An age-old promise is fulfilled.
Savior.

The whole world waits His
Coming – He who was, and is,
And will be. Savior.
Haiku

The Nano icon, symbolic,
Makes her seem otherworldly,
So it's good to recall
How she started her new
Community on Christmas Eve
And her parties for the poor.
December 22, 2008

"They wrapped him in swaddling clothes
And laid him in a manger."
They – Mary and Joseph –
Each year, each day, once more
Wrap him in swaddling clothes and lay
Him in the manger of our hearts.
October 3, 2008

Christmas comes with a
Silent explosion of stars
And inward glory.
The world spins on its axis,
Dancing to Christmas music
January 16, 2007

The Magi never saw
The stable nor the angel choir.
The shepherds, poor and simple, did.
Yet they all arrived to praise
God come to earth, as a child.
Singing, we praise Him, too.
January 6, 2008

NEWS & INFORMATION



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember, **DO NOT** hit REPLY to a list serve message.
Messages sent back to the list serve are not delivered.

Send your response to the appropriate person(s) on whose behalf the list serve message is sent.
For your convenience, we are trying to include email addresses for those individuals.

Thank you.

REMINDER: Upcoming Program - Partners in Mission Coffee and Cookies

The Partners in Mission Office will continue to offer you quarterly updates on what is happening with our partners.

Please mark your calendars and try to attend the
Final Coffee and Cookies gathering for 2018.

When: Wednesday, December 19, from 1 – 2 p.m.

Where: Presentation Center



We will discuss all the winter activities including Doorways (Winter 2018 copy should be out), Prayer Card mailing and the 2018 Annual Appeal.

We look forward to your presence and participation!
Karen Tuecke, Partners in Mission Coordinator

P.S. We will also discuss 2019 dates and topics to cover.

Ministry Donation Grants - December 2018:

The Ministry Fund committee decided to assist the following:

- \$5,000: Keno Border Initiative: Migrant Outreach Center as requested by Associate Billie Greenwood
- \$2,500: WEBS: A Circus Confronting Sexualized Violence with Humor, Tragedy and Empathy as requested by Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch
- \$1,000: Dental Care for a woman requested by Sister Janet Stelken

Funds remaining for the year distributed to groups offering shelter and transportation to migrants being released by the Border Patrol:

- \$3,500: Annunciation House, El Paso, Texas
- \$2,000: Catholic Charities Transportation Fund, San Diego, California
- \$3,000: San Diego, California, Rapid Response Network
- \$1,000: Migrant Outreach, Catholic Worker Community, Knoxville, Tennessee

Please have any requests for the Ministry Donation Committee submitted no later than March 1, 2018.

Thank You

Thank you to all who have been with me on this journey of healing. I appreciate your prayers, your lovely cards, and your kind words of affirmation. In this season of Advent waiting, it is difficult at times to not be more independent. Everyone around here has been most kind in being aware of my limitations, and I am very grateful.

Blessings to each of you and thanks for your kindness. It is almost a month since my surgery, and I know that each day of therapy there is progress. I hope that soon I can again be out with the Hispanics, but for now I am limited to phone calls. Gracias!

Sister Paula Schwendinger

MONTHLY CALENDAR



JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

(B) = birthday
(F) = feast day
(R) = reception
(b) = baptismal

- 1 Colleen Vlaisavljevich
- 2 Sister Carrie Link (B)
- 3 Darla Budden / Bridget Lahart
- 6 Madonna Moeller
- 7 Paulette Besch
Deborah Pic-Deutmeyer
- 10 Ruth Ludwig
- 12 Sister Joan Lickteig (F) / Jane Nagy
Nancy Schroeder
- 16 Sister Marjorie Loughren (B)
- 17 Sue Baldwin / Zelma Sholly
- 19 Donna Ewy
- 20 Sister Marilou Irons (B)
- 21 Sister Rayanne Determan (b)
Sister Agnes Marie Lynch (F)
Sister Linda Reicks (B)
- 23 Sister Margaret Anne Kramer (B)
Sister Irma Ries (B)
Sharon Loeffelholz/ Sarah Gieseke

- 24 Sister Kay Cota (B)
Sister Joetta Venneman (B)
Rose Rauch
- 25 Sister Barbara Rastatter (B)
- 27 Hazel Wagner
- 30 Sister Lynn Mary Wagner (B)
- 31 Carol Wyatt

Special Events

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany / Mother Vincent
moves to Key West (1875)
- 21 Martin Luther King Day

PRAYERS & UPDATES



Contact Information Updates

Please make these updates in your directory.

Dianne McDermott

563-543-3721

Prayers: November 15 - December 13, 2018

11/16 This is a long time coming, but I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and sympathy at the time of my brother, Dick's, passing from life through death and into greater life. Likewise, I appreciate all the prayers and concern with my recent health issues. I am happy to report that with the pacemaker in place, and the right wrist "almost like new," all is going well.

I share this prayer with you as we are about to celebrate Presentation Day and Thanksgiving Day.

In the silence of our hearts, let each of us give thanks for all the many gifts that are ours. Let us also be mindful of those today who are without food, family or home. Let us remember all whom we love who are not present with us here: those who have gone before us, those in the present time, and those to be born whom we will love.

May we give our thanks by lives of service, by deeds of hospitality, by kindness to strangers and by concern for one another.

(Paraphrased from a prayer written by Sallie Latkovich, CSJ)

Sister Therese Corkery

11/19 Sister Agnes Marie Lynch is having a much harder time identifying faces, so she would like to remind everyone to tell her their name. Thank you for helping her "see" you!

11/22 Thankful for all your prayers and messages! Today I learned that the CT scan reveals no damage to my major organs and bones. Surgery will be on December 10 with diagnosis of lymph then, too. Follow-up cancer treatment to come after. Big hurdle so far. Grateful and asking for continued prayers.

Carol Kane, Associate

11/26 May I ask for your powerful prayers once again? Please pray for my sister-in-law, Jolene Stelken, my brother Rick's wife. Jolene is scheduled for triple bypass surgery on Tuesday, November 27. Because Jolene has other health issues this is a challenging surgery. Thank you for your concern and your special prayers. *Sister Janet Stelken*

11/27 Please pray for my cousin, my mom's nephew, Bill Staebell and his family. Bill is in Mayo with chemo treatments for cancer in his lungs and livers. *Sister Therese Corkery*

11/29 Sister James Marie Gross will have cardiac catheterization on Monday, December 3. She appreciates your prayers. Thank you!

11/30 Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers for my sister-in-law, Jolene Stelken. The surgery went well. However, it was longer than that particular surgery takes because of other health complications with which Jolene deals. But now she is doing very well for what she went through. She had some problems last evening with the breathing, but she is working on that with the encouragement from the hospital staff and her family and friends. So thanks again for your prayerful support. Please keep the prayers coming. *Sister Janet Stelken*

12/4 Associate Carol Kane will have surgery on Monday morning, December 10, and is thankful for your prayers.

Sister Pamela Quade requests prayers for her brother-in-law, Clarence Gehring, husband of her sister Pam. He will have open heart surgery (triple bypass) on Friday, December 7, at Mercy in Des Moines. Afterward he will go to ICU for a few days, then to the cardiac unit for a few more days. Thank you in advance for remembering him in prayer.

12/6 Please pray for Donna Lou (Determan) Umbargar, who is in Mercy Hospital in Mason City. She had brain surgery December 5 and has not regained consciousness. Sister Donna Determan is going to Mason City as soon as possible to be with her sister, Donna Lou, and family.

12/7 Ninfa Ann Moritz, age 86 of Overland Park, KS, mother of associate, Judy Moritz, passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2018, peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Her Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 6 p.m. at Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 9401 Mission Road, Leawood, Kansas, with the visitation preceding from 5-6 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made at www.catholiccharitiesks.org directed to the Adoption services or community hospice or to our favorite "soul sisters" (as she called the PBVMs) at www.dubuquepresentations.org or to www.harvesters.org so in a way she can continue to feed a bunch. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Joseph Moritz, and her children - Steve (Jody) and Judi, grandchildren - Stephen (Melissa), Kristin, and Michael (Kayla) and great grandchildren - Gabby and Mark. Please see a complete obituary online at www.kccremation.com. My family and I truly appreciate all your prayers and support during this time.

Judi Moritz, Associate

Donna Lou Umbargar, sister of Sisters Bonita, Rayanne and Donna Determan, is being moved to hospice. May we continue to pray with the family.

12/7 Carol Kane, associate, had her surgery yesterday and had to stay until today. She had a complete robotic hysterectomy, and exploratory surgery extracting surround tissue and lymph nodes. December 19 will signal the next venture. She is asking for continued prayers for this next big step in the process. In sincere gratitude for your love and prayers.

Donna Lou Determan Umbarger died around 6 p.m. on December 10. May she rest in peace. Sister Donna Determan was with her.