



# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## SISTERS & ASSOCIATES



## FEBRUARY 2018

### Radical Hospitality!

*by Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty*

Through the years our Dubuque Presentation Community has stated clearly that hospitality is our charism. Since our last chapter, however, our Directional Statement now calls us to live **radical hospitality**. What does this mean for us....for me? What is different about this call? Further reflection on all of this brought to mind an idea that challenged me. For some years I have been going to the Rescue Mission once a month to serve a meal. Instead of just serving and greeting in the food service line, what would it be like to go early and interact with the people who would be lining up in a short time, talk with them, express interest in them, and offer an opportunity for conversation?

My first visit was with an older woman, sitting alone, lost in thought. I asked her how her day was going, introduced myself and she began to share her story. Her husband had died recently and she was taking care of the follow-up after his death. The woman was originally from England and volunteered that her mother was born in Cork, Ireland! What a small world! This gave me an opportunity to tell her about Nano Nagle and that my community were followers of Nano. The following month I saw her again and we continued our visit. What a graced moment!

Another time I visited with an older man who was sitting all alone. I asked him how his day was going and he said "my hearing aids aren't working and my feet hurt." I told him that I could identify with those areas on some days! He seemed happy to have a conversation with me.

Have I ever been rejected? Yes! Once when I tried to talk to a man, it became obvious that he wasn't in the mood to talk....so I went on to another man who was listening to music. We had a great discussion on his favorite kind of music and I left his presence feeling a common bond between us.

Fr. Anthony Gittins, January retreat director, defined discipleship as "reaching out to anyone different than you." He encouraged us to convince the poor, through our presence to them, that God loves them and to do all of this in memory of Jesus who sought out the marginalized of his day.

I feel blest by these encounters and find myself looking forward to more reaching out, not only to the homeless, but to others on the margins.



*Sister Sheila Ann  
Dougherty*

# ¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

## Celebration of Consecrated Life in Chaguaya, Tarija

On February 2, Presentation of the Lord, the church also celebrates World Day of Consecrated Life. For this reason, the Bolivian Conference of Religious (CBR) chose to visit the Shrine of the Virgin of Chaguaya, located about 35 miles from the city of Tarija.

The liturgy, presided by Bishop Francisco Javier del Rio, began with the procession of the religious and priests with lighted candles. This event was also a farewell for the former pastor of Chaguaya and a welcome to the new pastor.

It was a great celebration of the parishioners, diocesan seminarians, family and friends of both pastors. During the celebration, the religious renewed their consecration and the new pastor renewed his vow of obedience and service to the church.

The custom in Bolivia is to ask the protection of Mary by kneeling under the statue of the Virgin Mary. This gesture by both pastors indicated that Mary gave a grateful farewell to the former pastor and welcomed the new pastor.

In all of this celebration, the emphasis was the call for religious to live in fidelity to God, following the example of Anna and Simeon.

The celebration concluded with a very typical meal of rice soup, *picante de pollo* (spicy chicken), followed by a birthday cake enjoyed by all.

*Hermanas Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes,  
Mery Cari Paz and Marge Healy*



*Procession of the religious and priests*



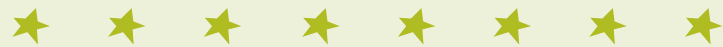
*Picante de gallina*



*Renewal of vows*



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## Staying Safe and Warm in the Lantern Light

*By Sara Millhouse, Business Coordinator*

Like many of us here in the Midwest, the Presentation Lantern Center found life a little interrupted by record cold, snow and ice storms this past month. For the safety of our students and volunteers, we close when the Dubuque schools close for bad weather. Some of our students have already risked their lives to come here. It's not worth them risking their lives again for a tutoring session!

For those new to Iowa winters, the cold can be especially dangerous. We emphasized the importance of protecting yourself and not leaving your skin exposed – even for a few minutes – during times of bitter wind chill. For those with limited English, it's especially important to communicate winter warnings. We even had a volunteer donate a space heater to a student to help stay warm.

On one closure day, a student and teacher both still wished to meet, as there was a staff person present at the center. Our tutor, a retired teacher, said afterwards that he doubted that very many students in his many years of teaching would have braved such a day, simply to learn. Our volunteers and our students are a constant inspiration!

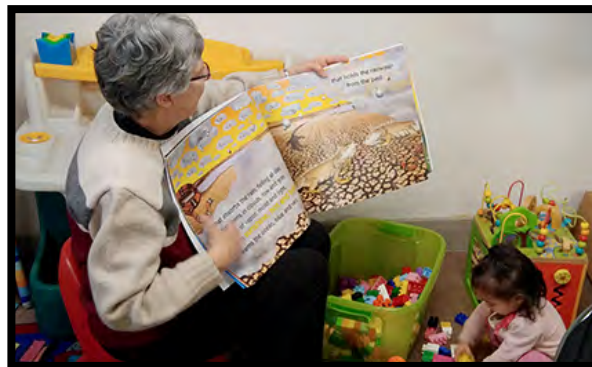
Blessings to you and yours!  
*The Presentation Lantern Center Staff*



*Presentation Lantern Center director, Megan Ruiz, far left, spoke at Dubuque's Women's March in January, along with University of Dubuque ethics professor Christine Dare and State Representative (and Lantern Center supporter) Chuck Isenhart.*



*Presentation Lantern Center supporters and volunteers at the Women's March in Steeple Square include Ali Clifton, Ann Duchow, Shari Balog Flatt, Chuck Isenhart, Savannah Jones, Dianne Roche and Art Roche. Steeple Square is the former St. Mary's parish campus. The church was saved from the wrecking ball and is being turned into an event and community center.*



*Sister Carol Besch, OSF, reads to the child of a student learning English at the Presentation Lantern Center. We have a cozy area for kids to busy themselves while their parents and caretakers meet with tutors.*





La Luz Hispana has had a busy start to the year 2019! We have changed our hours and are now open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and with these long hours we are starting to see clients at different hours including when they are picking up their children from school.

Our English classes keep growing. We are now at 44 students who have registered and many come from Belmond, Iowa Falls and Dows. The cold weather has not stopped our students from the commute to come and learn. Nor has the cold stopped our clients from coming in to deal with everyday problems. But what is important is that we keep educating our clients on various subjects despite the weather at this time of year.

On January 31, we had a very important session on how to prepare taxes for this coming year. Jeannet Brown, an accountant for The Vroman Group CPA, in West Des Moines and chair for Iowa Office of Latino Affairs, donated her time to answer questions for the Spanish-speaking community on doing their taxes. Her goal is to help the community understand the responsibilities involved when doing taxes. She emphasized the importance of doing taxes and being able to report everything to get the most benefits of doing their taxes. People had many specific questions including the change in laws when it comes to doing their taxes and how to prepare for the future. Some of the people who came to the event with questions have only been in the United States for a year or less. People enjoyed the session because there was no language barrier. Jeannet did a wonderful job and was very knowledgeable.



### **Gran Festival North Iowa**

Yes, it is still cold in Iowa, but we keep thinking of summer. Our planning committee has come together to plan for Gran Festival North Iowa which will take place on Saturday, June 1st, 2019. We are very excited to plan new things for the festival. Gran Festival of North Iowa is a celebration of Latino Cultures in Franklin County. The day is full of family activities, cultural performances, live music, food vendors, local product vendors, and informational community booths. It is an annual fundraiser for La Luz Hispana, a nonprofit Latino organization and cultural center located in Hampton.

What makes this event great is the contribution of time and energy from our volunteers toward making our program a smashing success. It's only with committed volunteers that we can organize and run fun events such as these. Our families greatly benefit from these types of large-scale activities, as they serve to bring people together, allowing us to provide an atmosphere for creating a strong sense of community, spirit, and pride. We are always looking for volunteers for Gran Festival North Iowa, if you are interested please contact us. Thank you for your support.



## Goals on target: Many move forward and upward

February 13 marks the second anniversary of the opening of **Hotel Hope** emergency shelter services.

- At **Hotel Hope Chalet** we have served 22 mothers and over 55 children in sixteen months.
- **Hotel Hope MLK** began taking guests in September 2018 with six families at a time. We have currently served 21 mothers and over 35 children. Fourteen of the families have moved into permanent housing and are doing well.

In early spring we will expand and open more rooms to continue serving the most vulnerable people in our community. We continue to thank God for all the blessings we receive daily from so many people from near and far.

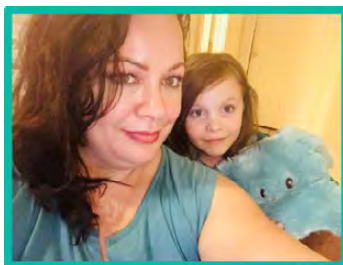
**Above right:** Crystal and her daughter are excited about the growth and positive movement in their lives.

**Center left:** Brittany and her son are pleased to have shelter at **Hotel Hope MLK**.

**Center right:** Sr. Julie assists Ellie and her daughter as they move into their new home.



## Where are **Hotel Hope** grads NOW?



These families are great success stories of our mission of moving from homelessness to self-sufficiency. **Left:** Lori and her daughter were guests at **Hotel Hope Chalet** in March 2018. Today, Lori loves her job as a licensed insurance agent. Her daughter is now learning violin! Lori shares, "We wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the help of **HOTEL HOPE!**"



**Left:** Kierra and her daughters were guests at **HOTEL HOPE CHALET** in April 2017. Today Kierra is the operational manager at Dollar Tree and is willing to hire women who have participated in **HOTEL HOPE'S** residential program.



**Left:** Donna and her 10-month-old son were one of the firsts guests at **HOTEL HOPE MLK** in September 2018. Donna gained employment at Robert's grocery while staying at **HOTEL HOPE**. Today Donna and her son live in a cozy apartment and are enjoying their new start in life.

## To become involved

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Call us: 504-821-7773 Visit us [www.hotelhope.org](http://www.hotelhope.org)  
 Like us [www.facebook.com/hotelhope.nola](https://www.facebook.com/hotelhope.nola)

**HOTEL HOPE UPDATE:** Sharing news and items of interest about HOTEL HOPE with Dubuque PBVM Sisters and Associates.

**Communications Team:** Sisters Mary Lou Specha, Julie Marsh and Beth Kress.