

# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



# The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the  
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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.*

# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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During the annual community gathering, sisters take an afternoon break to enjoy the beautiful weather and one another. Left to right: Sisters Richelle Friedman, Annette Kestel, Jessi Beck, Joan Brincks, Mary Therese Krueger, Mary Lou Specha and Mery Cari Paz.

# A MESSAGE FROM *Openings* LEADERSHIP

by MARILYN BREEN, PBVM

Imagining Leadership in a Global Community was the theme of the 2019 Leadership Conference of Women Religious assembly, bringing together nearly 700 women leaders of Catholic religious congregations in the U.S. We, as women religious, are challenged to consider the changing demographics of our communities and the reality of the world around us. Central to the message conveyed throughout the conference was the conviction that the call to religious life is just as relevant today as it was in the days of large institutions offering healthcare, social services, and education. Today we stand at a crossroads and must decide our next steps as we listen to the Gospel call and reflect on the needs of the world.

Sister Carol Zinn, LCWR executive director and a member of the Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, states, “All of [the assembly] is looking at the question of what is the leadership we need in this moment, in this place, in this country, in this world. We know that racism is deeply tied to the migration crisis, that both of those are tied to the climate crisis, and all of it is tied to the question of what is ours to do today, what does it mean to be a leader?”

Standing at this crossing place, where the next steps are unclear and the temptation is to return to what we know, calls for trust in the work of the Spirit who has led us to this day. The invitation to widen our tents and to welcome the other, to be inclusive, to be vulnerable, to make room for new ideas and weave webs of relationships speaks to the imagination and sparks a new enthusiasm as we consider the courage and daring of our founders and foundresses.

LCWR keynote speaker, Sister Pat Murray, IBVM, says, “The responses needed today are often not found in the big initiatives of the past but instead are like tiny mustard seeds – a word of hope, a listening heart, a compassionate presence, a healing glance. We have seen this mysticism in action in our communities at sick beds, on city streets with homeless people, on the borders with separated families, in refugee camps, in hospitals and parishes with people who are struggling– in fact wherever we are. While the needs of the world are complex and extensive, do we believe that it is the small, the hidden, the unknown acts of kindness and love that will transform our world? It is the quality of our presence individually and in our community living, that matters above all, so that people can see the presence of God in us.”

It is imperative that we take stands which require boldness and courage in the face of injustice and violence. The global connections made with communities, associates, and all that support our mission can make a difference. At the assembly, LCWR members voted unanimously to commit the organization, their congregations and themselves to fight racism, welcome immigrants and help stop climate change. The vote was the culmination of nearly a year of work drafting and shaping the statement and came at the end of a session which explored the ways racism, migration and climate change are interconnected.

The resolution declares, “We are heartbroken by the myriad ways our one human family and Earth, our common home, suffer from disconnection, indifference, violence, and fear in the face of racism, migration, and climate crisis. Responding to God who loves all of creation into being, we recommit ourselves to create communion and examine root causes of injustice. We particularly focus on the intersection of racism, migration, and climate crisis.”

As communities discern and respond to the needs of our day, will you join us and stand with us at this new crossing place?

*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*



Left to right: Sister Joellen Price (right) enjoys spending time with her former teachers, Sisters Francesca Presseller, Damian O'Brien and Marie Therese Coleman.

# SISTER JOELLEN PRICE

## Versatile and Creative

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

“What you have received as a gift, give as a gift.” This quote found in Matthew 10:8 resembles Sister Joellen Price’s gifts of music and liturgy. She received these gifts at birth, and throughout her life, she continued to give them back to all the communities where she served. Nowadays, Sister Joellen’s activities on any given day provide the basis for describing her in one word – versatile.

Growing up in Mason City, Iowa, the Price family knew Sister Joellen as “Georgene,” which is a combination of the names of her father, George, and her mother, Irene. Georgene is the oldest of five children: Charlotte, Bobbie, Don and Robert James, who is deceased. When she became a novice in the Presentation community, she compiled the name “Joellen” from a letter found in each family member’s name.

The Presentation Sisters have always been in her family’s life, starting with her mother who was their student. Georgene was then taught by the sisters, excellent music teachers, from whom she took piano, and eventually organ lessons, at St. Joseph School and Newman High School.

Among them was Sister Francesca Presseller, her fourth grade teacher, who Sister Joellen remembers as someone who valued all the students and always accepted them. Another teacher who helped the students to “think outside of the box” was Sister Marie Therese Coleman. And also Sister Damien O’Brien, who has always been more than a teacher but a friend, as she helped Sister Joellen develop her gifts of music and still helps her today with liturgy needs.

When she was in sixth grade, Georgene asked her teacher, Sister Mary Ann Kress, what one would do to become a religious sister. Sister Mary Ann told her to contact Sister Barbara Rastatter, who then wrote to Georgene and suggested that she say three Hail Marys every day for the wisdom to know whether she had a vocation to religious life. She faithfully fulfilled that suggestion.

Her decision to enter religious life was fortified by a visit to Mount Loretto when she was in high school. “I first learned Nano’s story by observing the sisters living out her vision in their daily lives,” says Sister Joellen, who from a young age, saw herself following Nano’s footsteps. When she decided to

enter, Sister Mary Rosalia Plamondon, who had taught music to Georgene’s mother, measured Georgene for her religious clothing.

Sister Joellen had it in her heart that she would be a fourth grade teacher. After entering the convent in 1962, she attended Clarke College to earn a bachelor’s degree in music ... and the road to today began! Subsequently, Sister Joellen earned a master’s degree in theology with an emphasis on liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Serving since 1967 in parishes in Lawler, Sheldon, Key West, Algona and Storm Lake, all in Iowa, Sister Joellen taught classroom music and piano lessons while being the parish liturgist. “The liturgy is like a dance or a symphony,” says Sister Joellen whose ambition is to make the rhythm of a liturgical prayer a natural melody.

For a few years, she served as the house coordinator at Mount Loretto. Then, she worked in Kansas City with the Kansas City Organizing Project, whose goal was to help people close down drug houses. Later, she became the liturgist and musician at Christ the King Parish in Kansas City and then for Immaculate Conception Parish in Sioux City, Iowa.

**I am grateful for God’s presence in my life along with my family and the Presentation community who support what I do and who I am.**

*Sister Joellen Price*

After years of serving as a music teacher, and then as a liturgy and music director, Sister Joellen hungered to conclude her active ministry years by serving those made poor. So she moved to St. Pius X Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to coordinate efforts for social justice and pastoral care. Barely having time to have learned the names of the parishioners, she was faced with more need for outreach and pastoral care than she would ever have dreamed when she first came to the parish, because in 2008 the Great Flood hit Cedar Rapids.

“I wanted direct involvement with the poor, and it happened,” says Sister Joellen who never doubted the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guided her to Cedar Rapids just in time to be of unimaginable service, and Nano Nagle must have beamed with pride seeing one of her daughters serving with joy and humility.

Through that time she commuted to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, for a training program in spiritual direction in which she



Sister Joellen Price prepares the upcoming liturgies for her community. Displayed behind her is one of her quilted wall hangings she made for her office.

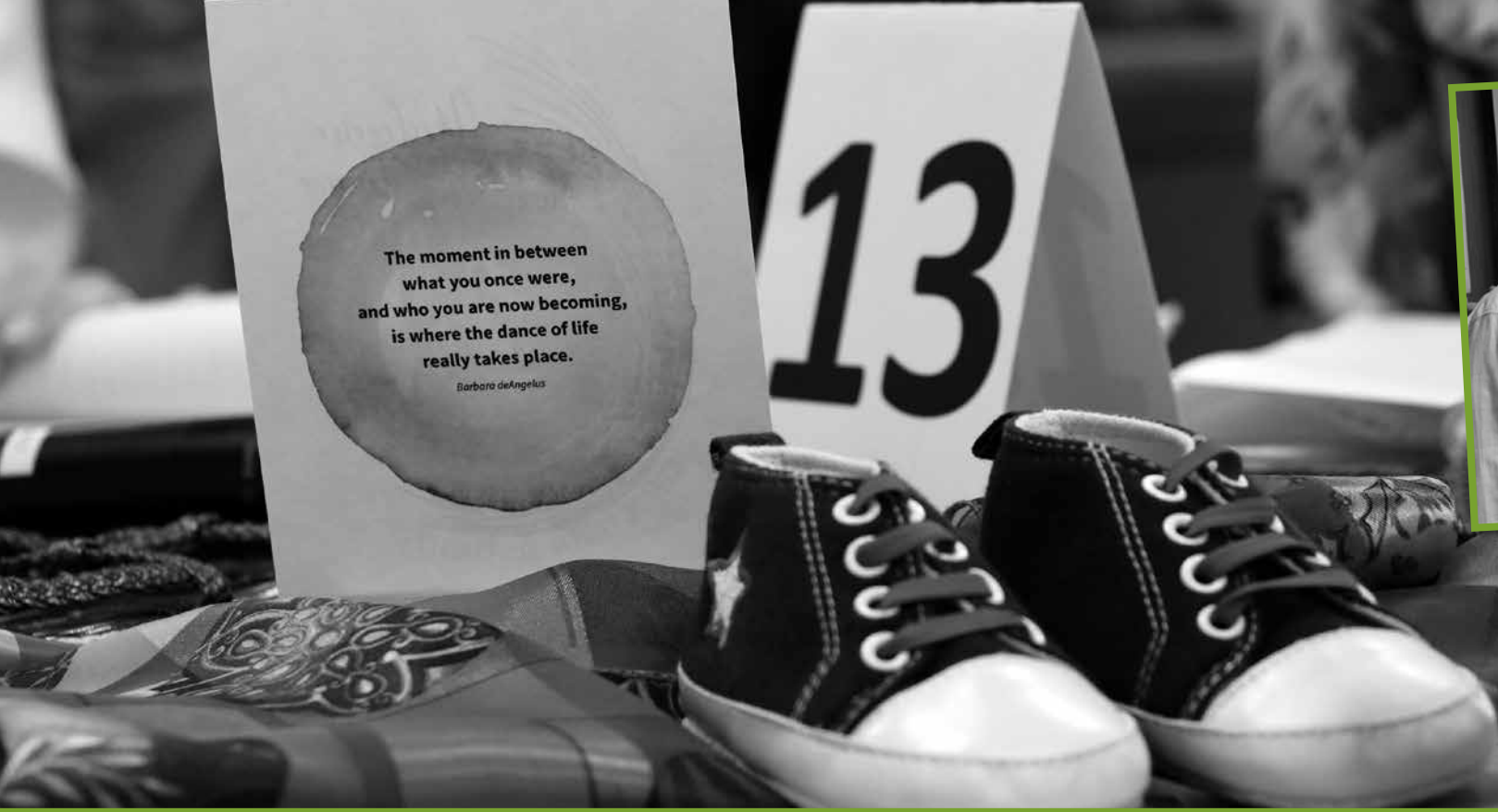
later functioned as a supervisor of other trainees from 2012 to August of 2019, in addition to her regular ministerial work. This certification has been invaluable as she listens to people on their journey to a deeper spiritual life.

In 2018, Sister Joellen returned to Mount Loretto to serve as the liturgist and musician for the community. “I am grateful for God’s presence in my life along with my family and the Presentation community who support what I do and who I am,” says Sister Joellen, who also offers spiritual direction for various persons in the Dubuque area.

Even though she is such a busy person, she still finds time to relax by doing things that she enjoys, such as reading, watching a few Hallmark TV movies, spending time outside, especially listening to the birds. It may sound like work to some, but Sister Joellen also enjoys quilting, crocheting, and knitting, which she learned from her mother. “My goal each year is to make one or two quilts and several crocheted winter scarves which I give to the shelters in honor of my family and friends.”

Through all these many activities and hard work throughout her life, Sister Joellen remains a cheerful person who is willing to be of help in many ways, and who makes other people’s lives richer by sharing her musical and liturgical talents with them, especially her Presentation community.

Thank you, Sister Joellen! The Sisters of the Presentation are truly blessed to have such a genuine problem-solver who is willing to take risks for the community. In return, we follow your advice of “how to take our gifts and use it in our prayers” on a daily basis.



This year's community gathering centered around the theme of welcoming the dance and how the beauty of dance is much like the movement of community living. "Dance isn't well rehearsed, polished, or perfect; it slips and slides, sometimes innovative and shocking and at other times just exhilarant, but it's always real." (John Fisher)

## Embracing Radical Hospitality 2019 Community Gathering

by DIANA BLONG, PBVM

### "Nano's Dream for Us"

As the 2019 Community Days convened with a morning ritual, sisters united with Presentation women and men who share the often told story of Nano's love for dance, and the conversion she experienced through her sister, Ann, that led her to dance in the Spirit by bringing hope and love to her beloved Ireland.

Sister Carmen Hernandez's welcome reviewed the community's direction statement and commitments of December 2018 that led to the 2019 choices for participation in one of the four promise groups, or as a wisdom figure. A convening group was then formed of the leadership team and two members of each of the promise groups, facilitated by Sister Carol Crepeau, CSJ. Sister Carmen compared the movement already begun to a dance that calls forth "our imagination, our energy and our curiosity as we delve deeper into our promises" with this invitation: "Are you ready to 'Welcome the Dance'?"

Sister Rita Menart outlined four elements of a beautiful dance: practice, energy, pain and openness. Each of these were related to the ways in which ongoing gatherings can be like a dance that expresses "grace, elegance, joy" as spirits are lifted and new possibilities created.

Sister Carol directed those in promise groups to focus on their goals and initiatives while the wisdom group met with her to consider their roles. Following short presentations by the groups, table conversations identified these common threads: need for education and research; relational opportunities; exploring various modes of communication; and initiatives for action that invite others into partnership.

### "Sacred Call to Be Leaven for the World"

An opening prayer ritual designed by the justice promoters incorporated readings, contemplative silence, a litany, reflection and sharing of our call, with the breaking of bread at each table.



Community Days provides an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Left to right: Sisters Carla Popes, Joy Peterson, Janet Stelken and Lynn Marie Fangman; Sister Richelle Friedman and Associate Bren Connors; Sisters and associates engage in a simulation on racial wealth and the income gap.

While associates met in Hennessy Center, community and staff leadership offered presentations on "Trends" in the community and religious life, statistical and financial realities, human resources and Partners in Mission.

Summaries of the morning discussions on the relationship of sisters and associates opened the afternoon gathering. Associates valued living the mission and charism, belonging to something larger than themselves, being empowered and nurtured, providing unity in a world of division, contributing to Nano's mission, living the Gospel more effectively together, and being challenged to be more. Sisters affirmed the passion and gifts that associates share, the call to mutual giving and receiving, being more together than each individually, and uniting in solidarity to further the legacy of Nano. Sister Carol challenged further exploration of how both together mutually share the charism in mission.

An engaging process, developed by NETWORK, deepened consciousness of "Racial Wealth and the Income Gap" through a simulation experience, prior to the closing prayer.

**Dancing is communal ... When we dance, we have to leap barriers with folks we may not be attracted to, agree with, or even know. Yet our commitment to be drawn into common movements can nurture and preserve peace.**

*Cynthia Winton-Henry, Dance – The Sacred Art*

## NETWORK Simulation on Racial Wealth and Income Gap

During community days an activity prepared by the Justice Promoter Committee engaged participants in a simulation entitled "Racial Wealth and Income Gap" which some observed as an "eye-opening experience." Developed by NETWORK, the Catholic Lobby for Social Justice, the game assigns roles to participants who then experience financial advancement or worsening based on U.S. laws and policies that have protected a climate of discrimination.

A recent CBS News Moneywatch reported that "The typical white family in America has 10 times the wealth of a typical Black family – a figure that has barely changed in two decades and has actually widened in the current economic expansion." (August 15, 2019) The Wealth Gap game relies on the historical development of laws and policies to highlight the fact that only some citizens' lives were improved based on laws which legalized discrimination. For instance, the National Housing Act of 1934 guaranteed loans to white people while legally refusing loans to Black people and anyone living near Black neighborhoods.

The Act of 1934 is just one of the 12 federal policies employed in the simulation. These policies continue today in laws including the "War on Drugs" which target Brown and Black communities. Despite the fact that drug sales and usage are similar across racial lines, a person of color is much more likely to be stopped, searched and prosecuted for drug law violations than a white person.

Comments after the simulation reflected the remark of one sister, "I taught social studies my whole life and I am embarrassed and distressed that I did not know or teach these facts."



Left to right: Sisters Raeleen Sweeney, Lou Cota and Francine Quillin enjoy catching up during a break; Sisters Gina Foletta “Ida Know” and Joetta Venneman “May Bee” perform a humorous skit for the group; Associate LaVeta Jarrett presents a summary to the community from the associate gathering; Over 25 associates gathered with enthusiasm to discuss the meaning of being an associate and how the sister/associate relationship strengthens one another to live out radical hospitality for others locally and in the world.



After dinner all gathered for community photos of the sisters, the associates and the total group. A lively party followed with an abundance of laughter, conversation, refreshments, decorations, costumes, karaoke fun, a much-frequented photo booth and lots of group dances to celebrate the theme, “Welcome the Dance.”

### “Hope. . .Faith. . .and Wonder”

Morning prayer included pondering the inspiring words of Rubem A. Alves: “Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance it,” and Barbara deAngelus: “The moment in between what you once were, and who you are now becoming, is where the dance of life really takes place.”

Sister Jessi Beck, vocation director, exuded much energy and creativity as she invited all to engage in the future of vocation ministry with the vocation team. Many shared concrete examples of promoting religious life where they live. A fun-filled game of Jeopardy provided good humor and a breadth of information on vocations today.

Fruits of the promise group meetings were shared, with goals and initiatives. Projected plans include engaging others in communication about our shared future; investigating personal experiences of racism and decision-making; forming relationships to broaden diversity; researching resources to respond to unaccompanied minors at the border; researching strategic planning in other religious communities, and

models of leadership and governance promoting dialogue; educating and practicing non-violence toward self, others and creation; and partnering with global grassroots movements.

Wisdom group circles shared their commitment to supportive daily prayer, keeping informed, reflecting on materials presented, contemplative living, practicing nonviolence and radical hospitality.

A cleverly-written humorous script between wildly clad “May Bee” and “Ida Know” about community gatherings kept the after-lunch crowd awake and eager to offer insights into times, frequency and length of future meetings in light of the common good. Updates on the International Presentation Association, the Conference of Presentation Sisters and the 2020 Ireland Pilgrimage expanded the dance beyond Dubuque borders.

After prayer, readings, song and a personal commitment to step out into the communal dance of radical hospitality, tambourines led all forth dancing, in the spirit of Exodus 15:20, “The prophetess Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, while all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing ...”

# 25th, 50th and 60th Jubilee Celebrations

## Celebrating 60 Years in Religious Life

On July 17, Sisters Benjamin Duschner, Deborah Paige, Irma Ries and Leanne Welch celebrated their 60th anniversary of entering religious life with the Sisters of the Presentation. They entered the Presentation community in 1959 and professed final vows in 1967.

Reflecting on this jubilee year, they express, “We are thankful to God for the privilege of being called to follow in the footsteps of Nano Nagle and to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. We are thankful for the gifts of life, community and mission. We are thankful for those who nurtured our vocations – family, Sisters of the Presentations and associates, friends, mentors and all the unnamed people who have influenced us. We are especially thankful for each of you for celebrating these past 60 years with us.”



Left to right: Sisters Deborah Paige, Leanne Welch, Irma Ries and Benjamin Duschner celebrate 60 years of religious life.

## Celebrating 50 Years in Religious Life

On August 31, Sisters Paula Schwendinger and Lynn Wagner celebrate their 50th jubilee. They entered the Presentation community in August 1969 and for 50 years they have faithfully companioned one another, their Presentation community and many others.

In gratitude, they reflect, “We are grateful to God for continuing to guide us each day on our journey as disciples. We thank God for each of you who have companioned us throughout these 50 years. Some have been with us each step of the journey, others have been with us for a short while and then moved on. We know that each of you have guided us and urged us to go one pace beyond where we dared to travel. You have enkindled our lantern flame and supported and encouraged us. As we celebrate God’s faithfulness to us these 50 years of religious life, we also celebrate you!”



Left to right: Sisters Paula Schwendinger and Lynn Wagner celebrate their 50th jubilee with their family, friends and Presentation community.

## Celebrating 25 Years in Religious Life



Sister Ann Jackson

This year, Sister Ann Jackson celebrates 25 years of religious life with the Sisters of the Presentation. She entered the Presentation community on August 5, 1994, and professed final vows in August 4, 2001.

Acutely aware of the world’s deep need for radical hospitality and in lieu of a public celebration, Sister Ann encourages all to embrace radical hospitality, “I invite persons within and beyond the community to engage in a particular act of radical hospitality and to share the fruits of the experience with others. May this expansive effort echo the parting words of Nano, our beloved foundress, “Love one another as you have hitherto done.”

In celebration of this jubilee, Sister Ann reflects, “This year as I celebrate 25 years as a Dubuque Presentation Sister, I am filled with gratitude for persons within and beyond the community who have nurtured my community life through their radical hospitality. I continue to appreciate the ways my family, friends and community have gifted me with opportunities for on-going and advanced study, ministry, mentoring and friendship. Thank you!”

Read more about each sister at [bit.ly/2019\\_jubileesPBVM](https://bit.ly/2019_jubileesPBVM).

# Presentation Sisters and Associates - July 2019

*I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.*

Mother Teresa





Sister Emily Bormann enjoys crocheting and making beautiful gifts for others and for various fundraisers.

## SISTER EMILIE BORMANN

# A Flower of God

by SAMANTHA GARCIA BRACHO, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

“O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it.” *Song of Solomon 8:13*. This quote can be used today to describe the work of Sister Emilie Bormann. Currently ministering in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto, she helps to beautify the Presentation grounds keeping them weed-free and “making the flowers and plants reflect the glory of God.”

Originally from Whittemore, Iowa, Sister Emilie is the youngest of eight children: Rich, Vern, Maurine, Jerry, Charlie, Maurice and Rosie. “I was blessed with a loving family,” says Sister Emilie. Despite being the youngest, she received a lot of love as her mother used to say “you are not only the baby of the family, but you are my baby.”

After Emilie was born, Maurine was not at the age to play with dolls anymore, yet, she acted like a mother to her. They would

have tea parties and instead of having a doll in a carriage, she had Emilie in a carriage and pushed her around.

Growing up, Emilie enjoyed crocheting with her mother and helping her father in the fields by cleaning out beans and corn. She also worked as a lifeguard loving the relaxation that the water brings. She considered swimming a good exercise for the muscles. Her mother liked taking the kids to the pool because when they got home, they would lie on the floor, fall asleep and be “out of her hair.”

Sister Emilie’s late parents, Charles and Anna (Hartmann) Bormann, always kept faith and prayer important in their family. This faith and her love of God have always been Sister Emilie’s primary encouragement in her life and what led her to her ministry in later years. By looking at Jesus on the cross, she would reassure herself by saying, “If He could do it, I can do it.”

**No matter what ministry,  
I appreciated the people for  
who they were and  
I was always appreciated.**

*Sister Emilie Bormann*

Emilie was still in high school when her brother, now Father Charlie Bormann, became a seminarian. His desire and eagerness to give himself to the Lord was an inspiration for Emilie. And so, she decided to leave life as she knew it and join religious life by saying, “For the grace of God, there I go.” Her mother felt like she was losing a daughter but later came to realize that she was gaining many daughters.

Formerly Sister Emilie worked as an elementary teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Monona, Iowa; Algona, Iowa; and in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Later she served in parish ministry in Monticello, Minnesota. At the time, Father Charlie, who was working in prison ministry, told Sister Emilie that there was a need for chaplains, especially women. Thus she eventually started serving as a chaplain in a federal correctional facility in Marianna, Florida. Lastly, she worked in the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota, before moving to Mount Loretto in Dubuque, Iowa, where she enjoys community life and beautifies the grounds of the Presentation Motherhouse.

“No matter what ministry, I appreciated the people for who they were and I was always appreciated. I always treated them with love and respect,” says Sister Emilie who enjoyed going to school and seeing kids learning. She loved all the people she worked with in parish ministry.

With her siblings, Sister Emilie has had special companionships on her journey and people who took interest in her and others. Some of them include her high school principal, Sister Laurayne Mahoney, who Sister Emilie remembers as very approachable and always with a smile on her face. Another good person to talk to was Sister Sacred Heart Rooney, and, of course, Sister Rosalyn Ulfers, who is the foster daughter of Rosie, Emilie’s late sister, and her husband Keith Ballard. However, her most important relationship has always been with Jesus, stating that she “couldn’t have chosen a better spouse. He listens and is always there.”

Sister Emilie holds gratitude in her heart for the Presentation community for sharing Nano Nagle’s charism with her. “Nano was always ready to do whatever it was God called her to do, and over the years, I feel I’ve followed her example,” says Sister Emilie remembering the lived experiences in her ministry.

Remembering the joy of crocheting at home, Sister Emilie is now enjoying this hobby in her retirement, making items for gifts, fundraisers, donations and the gift shop. It is a fun challenge for her to put together colors to make something beautiful.

She compares knitting to pulling weeds as both activities allow her to be creative and productive. “I love nature and beauty,” states Sister Emilie who finds the beauty of God even in the dirt around a plant. “Nothing like working with your hands and seeing it come to life.” Making something big out of something small is relaxing for her.

When the weather is warm, Sister Emilie is happy to go outside to beautify the flowers and plants. As a rose lover, she says “the more they give glory to God, the more I do to see them grow and spread out.”

One can think of God as the gardener and the heart of His children as the gardens. In her retirement, Sister Emilie keeps growing and spreading out to make a difference in the gardens of others at Mount Loretto. “I am grateful for my call to our Presentation community. My heart is filled with joy for the opportunities I have to serve God, His people and all of creation.” The Sisters of the Presentation will always be grateful to you, Sister Emilie. May you know many more years of showing us how to be energized by reverencing and celebrating all creation as a gift.



Sister Emilie Bormann helps beautify the Presentation grounds, keeping it weed-free while enjoying community prayer and service at Mount Loretto.





Left to right: Sisters and associates participated in Seeing with New Eyes: A Service/Awareness Opportunity focused on immigration and human trafficking; Participants set up a Garden Party for residents at Ecumenical Towers, an affordable housing complex for seniors and people with disabilities.

## Service & Awareness Opportunity Seeing with New Eyes

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

During last year's Community Days, associates asked for an opportunity to come together with sisters and associates to serve others. In response to that request, Seeing with New Eyes: A Service/Awareness Opportunity was planned for June 20-22, 2019. Eight sisters and eight associates from Iowa and Illinois gathered to learn more about the issues of immigration and human trafficking and to serve together in the Dubuque community.

**A service retreat  
associates and sisters  
build community.**

After spending some time getting acquainted, participants went to the Presentation Lantern Center where they shared tea and conversation with some of the students and teachers. Following tea time, Megan Ruiz, executive director of the center, spoke with the group about the challenges and issues facing immigrants in the community. Back at Mount Loretto a documentary, Beyond Borders, was shown which featured undocumented immigrants and the difficult choices they are forced to make as they try to better their lives. Sisters' Paula Schwendinger, Carmen Hernandez, Kay Cota and Maura McCarthy shared a presentation about ministering to immigrants in the local area and at the border.

**Leaving home with dreams,  
migrants needing hope and help.  
Employ my hands, Lord.**

The next day the group divided in half to serve at various sites in Dubuque. In the morning, part of the group went to Ecumenical Towers, an affordable housing complex for seniors and people with disabilities, where they prepared food and hosted a Garden Party for residents. Sister Raeleen Sweeney shares, "I appreciated preparing the Garden Party together in a united manner and making a difference in others' lives."

The rest of the group canvassed the Dubuque area to inform residents about the services offered by Resources Unite, a local organization that strengthens the Dubuque community by creating connections and providing resources that lead to a happier and more engaged way of life for others. In the afternoon more canvassing was done and Lantern Center carpets were cleaned, the storage room organized and records entered onto a computer.

**Right here in Dubuque  
hidden poverty abounds.  
Open my eyes, Lord.**

That evening Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty offered a presentation about the crisis of human trafficking and efforts being made by the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The video, Any Kid Anywhere, gave voice to trafficking victims in Iowa, and participants were particularly struck with the reality as one of the young women who shared her story on the video was from Dubuque. The focus on trafficking continued on Saturday morning as Jo Meyers-Walker invited the group to paint card holders in which she

would place the hand-painted cards she created. Those cards are then sold and the proceeds go to Lila Mae's House in Sioux City, Iowa, to support victims of human trafficking. Those present also wrote notes of support and filled bags sewn by Sister James Marie Gross with puzzles, towels, gift cards and other items for the residents of Lila Mae's House.

**Human trafficking  
Lila Mae's House offers hope.  
Open my heart, Lord.**

Associate Dora Serna shares, "During these three days we followed Nano's steps by educating ourselves on human trafficking and immigration and trying to bring light to people. The light of Nano's lantern may look small from a distance, but when we work together, the light is powerful and life changing."

**A new world  
with no pain.  
Keep me patient, Lord.**

Poem written by Dianne McDermott

### In Memory of Zelma Mae Sholly

January 17, 1930 - June 24, 2019

Associate Zelma Sholly died on Monday, June 24, 2019 in Hartley, Iowa. Zelma was married to Clarence Sholly in 1951, and together they had seven children. After Clarence's death in 1961, Zelma moved with her children to Sutherland, Iowa, where she was employed as housekeeper for several priests in the area.



Zelma retired in 2005 and spent her time gardening, baking and decorating cakes, reading and crocheting. She was a member of Sacred Heart parish, participated in the American Legion Auxiliary and served on the National Council of Catholic Women. Zelma became a Presentation associate on September 11, 2000, and enjoyed meeting with her Lantern Keepers associate group in Algona.

Family was always important to Zelma, and she looked forward to visits and phone calls from her children, 13 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Zelma will be missed by family, friends and all who knew her.



Left to right: New associates – Jody Tomkins, Jenny Schultz and Kim Schmidt

## All in the Family Associate Commitment

On June 23, 2019, Kim Schmidt, Jenny Schultz and Jody Tomkins were welcomed as the newest Presentation associates during a commitment ceremony at Mount Loretto. Kim and Jody, sisters, and Jenny, sister-in-law, gathered for several months with Sisters Maura McCarthy and Brigid Stanley and Associate Mary Lou Mauss to study and reflect on Nano Nagle, radical hospitality and the Presentation mission.

Kim works for the Archdiocese of Dubuque and has been married to her husband, Jeff, for 23 years. They have two children, Cody and Kylie, and are members of Holy Spirit Parish. Kim teaches second grade religious education, serves on the Faith Formation Commission and is a Eucharistic minister. Spending time with family and friends is important to her, as well as serving others. Kim shares, "Being 'called' by God to be an associate excites me. I yearn to serve, to love and to bring joy to those who God places in my path. Being radical as Nano was, will be a challenge for me, but a challenge I am willing to take."

Jenny works at Change Healthcare as a direct care coordinator. Members of Resurrection Parish, she and her husband of 22 years, Mike, have two children, Zach and Zoe. She can frequently be found watching her kids bowl or spending time with friends and family. Jenny says, "When I was approached to be an associate, I knew very little about what being an associate might mean, but deep down I knew I should say 'yes.' I knew I was being pushed out of my comfort zone to get more involved. I am excited to go out and be a light and a spark of hope to others."

Jody and her husband, Rob, have been married for 24 years and have two children, Jason and Jenna, and a puppy, Cooper. Jody works as a service performance analyst at Change Healthcare. She loves to decorate, go to concerts and shop with her daughter. Jody has helped with Make-a-Wish, Resources Unite, Days of Caring and serving meals to those in need. Jody reflects, "Sister Maura and Sister Brigid opened my eyes to the needs of others. I look forward to networking with the Sisters of the Presentation to find opportunities to serve in my community and treat others with empathy, kindness and respect."

# Bishop Garrigan Celebrates 60 Years A Richness in Connections

by JANET GOETZ, PBVM

Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa, is celebrating 60 years as a Catholic school in the diocese of Sioux City. The school opened its doors in 1959 to consolidate secondary education for students from the Iowa parishes of St. Benedict (St. Benedict); St. Cecelia (Algona); St. Michael (Whittemore); St. Joseph (St. Joseph); and St. Joseph (Wesley) in southern Kossuth County. The five-parish Garrigan corporation governed operations at the secondary school. Its name came by popular choice and memorialized the first bishop of Sioux City, Bishop Philip Joseph Garrigan.

Father Francis Conway, the first chief administrator, had written to the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family asking for teachers to help staff the high school. Sister Mary Estelle Pillard, then major superior of the Presentation Sisters, responded with affirmation and assigned nine sisters to join the faculty of the new co-educational high school. The first sisters were Sisters Mary Ricarda Houlihan, Jeanne Marie Schute, Ita Sullivan, Valeria Durnan, Roberta Burke, Redempta Collins, Joanne Feeney, Alberta Lynch and Imelda Dougherty.

Having taught in the Algona area since 1927, the Sisters of the Presentation have continued to serve Bishop Garrigan throughout its 60-year history. Their numbers declined from nine in 1959 to one in 2019. Sister Janet Goetz, a member of the class of 1960, currently volunteers at the school.

The first faculty consisted of two priests, 12 sisters and four lay teachers, one being Mr. Jim Geelan who continues to live in Algona. Enrollment for the first school year numbered 318 students in grades 9-12. Peak enrollment ranged from 503-511 students between 1966 and 1969; this was reflected in the peak teaching staff of 10 Presentation Sisters, three Franciscan Sisters, two Milwaukee Franciscan Sisters, six full or part-time priests, seven lay men and three lay women.

Over 4,400 have graduated from Garrigan and made their impact in their chosen professions. Some have returned to teach, coach and work at their alma mater. Currently there are more than 15 alumni on staff at Bishop Garrigan Schools.

Religious and priestly vocations number five from the class of 1960: Father Paul Eisele, Brother Bill Hudspeth, Presentation Sisters St. James Lickteig and Janet Goetz and Franciscan Sister Dorothy Kramer. Several more men and women chose to serve the church during the 60-year span – four priests, six



Sister Janet Goetz stands next to a display of all Bishop Garrigan graduates who pursued a vocation of religious life.

deacons, seven sisters and one seminarian – and their service is as varied as the individuals. Among Garrigan alumni today are Presentation Sister Julia Wingert and Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Sister Maxine Kollasch.

Garrigan graduates are not forgotten in death. A necrology is continuously updated and displayed in the chapel. Garrigan pride is reflected in the numerous trophies, pictures, statistics and banners achieved by the various programs, sports, clubs and activities. These awards line the entrances and hallways, representing national, state and local recognition.

At the recent all-school 60th anniversary Mass, Garrigan alum Father Tim Johnson ('75) was the main celebrant, assisted by Father Paul Eisele ('60) and Deacons Bill Black ('76) and John Winkel ('69). A four-generation Garrigan family carried the offertory gifts. Honored guests were Presentation Sisters St. James Lickteig ('60), Janet Goetz ('60), Dolores Zieser, former art teacher, and Mary Hermann Platt, former Seton principal and Algona native.

Today Bishop Garrigan is at two locations – the Garrigan campus spans third through 12th grade and the Seton campus has daycare through second grade. Deacons help teach theology and direct the spiritual life in the school system. Area priests celebrate a weekly K-12 student Mass at St. Cecelia Parish.

Bishop Garrigan High School looks forward to the 2019-2020 school year in thanksgiving for its rich history, with pride in the present and with great hope in its future. Dedicated leadership and teachers promise to keep the Garrigan family spirit and pride alive for decades to come. The building of a new chapel evidences the resolve to continue the tradition.

## Ministry Updates



**Sister Julianne Brockamp**  
Volunteer  
Rapid City, South Dakota



**Sister Beth Driscoll**  
Liturgy/Music Coordinator  
Omaha, Nebraska



**Sister Elena Hoye**  
Interim Formation Director  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Annette Kestel**  
Pastoral Associate  
Mason City, Iowa



**Sister Mary Therese Krueger**  
International Presentation Association  
Program Action Leader, Chicago, Illinois



**Sister Carla Popes**  
Volunteer  
Decorah, Iowa



**Sister Brigid Stanley**  
Certified Nursing Assistant  
Yankton, South Dakota



**Sister Leanne Welch**  
Volunteer  
Dubuque, Iowa

## All Souls' Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2019

*What we once  
enjoyed and deeply loved  
we can never lose,  
for all that we love deeply  
becomes a part of us.*

Helen Keller



From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead. Scripture declares it is good and pious to pray for the dead. Tradition tells us we have a role to play interceding for each other, including those who have died.

Throughout the month of November, the Sisters of the Presentation commemorate the faithful departed. Remembrance cards are mailed in late September. The sisters encourage you to return the card with dates of those you mourn, and the sisters will remember them in daily prayer.

You may submit your intentions to Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org) with the following information for each loved one:

Name of Loved One \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Loved One \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

## Giving Tuesday

December 3, 2019

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in countries around the world. Millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.

In an increasingly divided world, #GivingTuesday represents a new global ritual based in joy and hope.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to share #MyGivingStory on #GivingTuesday with #dbqpbvms

To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org)

# A WOMAN IN LOVE WITH GOD

## Sister Anne Marie Kollasch

*March 4, 1919 - August 17, 2019*

*by* JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

Oldest member of the Dubuque Presentation community, Sister Anne Marie Kollasch, woman in love with God, entered eternal life on August 17, 2019. First-born child of Charles and Anne (Laubenthal) Kollasch of Whittemore, Iowa, Margaret entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1940. Blessed with length of days, she completed 100 years of life and nearly 80 years as a woman religious.

Oldest of nine children, five girls (Margaret, Caroline, Delores, Irene and Joanne) and four boys (Eugene, Arnold, Louis and Clem), Margaret left home to follow God's call at a time when her parents would, no doubt, have appreciated some assistance with their busy family life on the farm. But God had always been first with her parents; discussion was unnecessary. Subsequently, two additional family vocations followed: her brother, Gene, became a Jesuit priest and Korean missionary, her sister Joanne, a Benedictine nun in Madison, Wisconsin.

Receiving her education at Loras College, Sister Anne Marie took her teaching responsibilities seriously, completing 50 years of teaching in Iowa schools: Mason City, St. Columbkille and Key West in Dubuque, Charles City and Algona. While assigned to St. Cecelia Academy in Algona, Sister Anne Marie received training to offer a government-sponsored Title I reading assistance program for students, only to learn that programs sponsored by government funds could not be delivered in Catholic schools. Like the persistent woman in the Gospel, Sister Anne Marie was unwilling to accept "no" for an answer. Ever the visionary, she sought a creative solution. Final answer: classes would be held at the public library across the street from St. Cecelia Academy. A woman to be reckoned with, she spoke her mind, persistent in possibility until her students would be served.

Faithful to prayer, retirement offered Sister Anne Marie the opportunity to spend a notable amount of time in the chapel, communing with, as she would say, "Our Blessed Lord" and inspiring those who observed her daily rendezvous with God, manifest in her relaxed, smiling contemplative countenance.

A bright mind and refined manner, she possessed a keen aesthetic sensitivity; beauty fed her soul. She enjoyed beautiful clothes and wore her colors well. Her hair coiffed, she carried herself with dignity, a mixture of joy and sophistication.

Her wide, warm, welcoming smile consistently graced her appearance.

Enriched by the arts, she loved music and art, literature and liturgy. Her early interest in history perdured throughout her life as she followed current events. Tending the latest news she remained politically astute, a lifelong "dyed-in-the-wool" Democrat.

With abundant natural talent she continued to learn new skills during retirement, one of which was writing her autobiography, which she aptly named *A Kollasch Collage*, a delightful read for family and friends.

No matter the time of day or night, though no one else came from her floor, Sister Anne Marie attended and actively participated in community discussions of all kinds, sharing her wisdom and reflective, thoughtful responses. While her body aged on schedule, her mind and spirit remained forever young.

Sister Anne Marie loved and was loved by her family. She appreciated their visits and welcomed company on a regular basis. Shortly before she died, two nieces and her sister-in-law spent a couple of days with her, during which time she "rose to the occasion" for the visit she had anticipated. From her sick bed she came to the dining room for meals and, sitting in her wheel chair, she "held court" with her family under the ash shade tree on the front lawn, creating precious final memories.

Now ... to God's loving embrace!



# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



## Changing Lives for Good!

Each month Sister Raeleen Sweeney (right) visits the Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center on the Southwest side of Chicago. Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty (left) joined her in June. A highlight during the June visit was meeting “Playground Ninja Warrior,” Marcelino Riley, a remarkable young man who provides fitness strategies for clients at Above and Beyond, and also with children on playgrounds and in schools. Marcelino is on a mission to “spread infinite love and help people unlock their infinite being.” He shares that he is “an infinite being, expressing himself through his art and music that cause transformational shifts of the mind.” He is a 2x time American Ninja Warrior, and founder of Go Infinite, a movement that is helping people all over the world unlock their optimal being. Learn his story: <https://youtu.be/n8Ppb7rQlyM>

## Is God Calling You to Be a Sister?

JOIN US IN OFFERING  
*hope, love, hospitality*  
TO OUR WORLD



To learn more visit

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

Follow us at #DBQPBMMS



## PLEASE JOIN WITH US.

September 23, 2019

October 28, 2019

November 25, 2019

Centering Prayer

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

November 8-9, 2019

Chicago's Got Sisters Retreat

Chicago, Illinois

To learn more, contact Sister Jessi Beck at [vocations@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:vocations@dubuquepresentations.org)

December 3, 2019

Giving Tuesday

Help others through the gift of

your time, treasure or talents.

[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)

To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org)

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

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US.

November 2, 2019

Feast of All Souls

November 3-9, 2019

National Vocation Awareness Week

November 13, 2019

Foundation Day, 1874

Presentation Lantern Center

Established in 2002, Dubuque, Iowa

November 21, 2019

Presentation Day

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*

## Conference of Presentation Sisters



Leadership representatives from the seven Presentation congregations in North America gathered in Aberdeen, South Dakota, in late June for their annual meeting. The focus of this time together was walking together into the future. Those gathered experienced a cosmic walk, featuring the history of the Presentation congregation and each foundation in North America, to begin the meeting. The days also included working with the vision and mission statements and an update on the restructuring of the International Presentation Association.

A group of Presentation People is working with each mission statement to further the vision of the Conference. While the groups working with contemplative dialogue and spirituality of communion continue to explore ways to share resources and education, other groups are working on sharing resources for formation, using technology to collaborate, collaboration between leaders and other groups, and planning a gathering of Presentation People. The hope is that widening the tent, collaboration and enhancing partnerships will provide experiences that strengthen the mission for all Presentation People as we walk into the future together as Nano's daughters and sons.

## Prayer for Immigrant Children

On July 18, National Day of Action, Dubuque area Catholic sisters hosted a prayer service for immigrant children. Those gathered joined in prayer as a call to end the mistreatment of immigrant children and families. The event was held in solidarity with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, other Catholic organizations and religious congregations who sponsored a national day of action in Washington, DC.