PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world
The Heart that Understands, The Hand that Soothes

For Sister Linda Reicks, the heart of Presentation mission includes hands of Presentation mission as she ministers as a massage therapist in Anamosa, Iowa.

Woman of Competence & Contrasts

Chris Jackson finds both fulfillment and challenge in her role as fiscal manager/human resources for the Sisters of the Presentation.

Celebrating 50 Years of Religious Life

Six Presentation sisters celebrate 50 years of religious life on June 30 with family, friends and Presentation sisters and associates.

Nuns on the Bus

Sister Richelle Friedman joins other Catholic sisters during a 15-day bus tour through nine states in opposition to the service cuts in the Ryan-House budget.

Where in the World is...

Sister Dorothy McCormick continues to remain faithful to her God while enjoying a ministry of community prayer and service at Mount Loretto motherhouse.

Community Days 2012

Sisters from as far north as Minnesota, as far south as Bolivia, as far west as South Dakota, as far east as Washington DC, as well as points in between, converged upon Dubuque, Iowa, for their Presentation Community Days 2012 gathering.

Mount Loretto & Beyond

We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation sisters, near and far.
How Does Your Garden Grow?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P R E S E N T A T I O N  D O O R W A Y S
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by MARGE HEALY, PBVM

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

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

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

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM
Sister Jennifer Rausch, president
Sister Marge Healy, vice-president
Sister Beth Driscoll, councilor
Sister Leanne Welch, councilor
For Sister Linda Reicks, the heart of Presentation mission includes hands of Presentation mission. Sister Linda ministers as a massage therapist. Certified by the State of Iowa and the National American Massage Therapy Association, she has a clinical practice known as "Touching Humanity-Therapeutic Massage" in Stone City, Iowa.

The Heart that Understands, The Hand that Soothes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sister Linda has served her professional colleagues by acting as treasurer of the Iowa American Massage Therapy Association for 11 years. This organization establishes and maintains professional standards for both individual practitioners and massage training programs. Sister remarks proudly, "Graduates from Carlson College are held in high esteem because of their excellent training in neuromuscular rehabilitation to treat chronic or acute muscular dysfunction." Carlson College of Massage Therapy is the only school of massage in Iowa that is recognized by the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation.

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

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

The walls of Carlson College of Massage Therapy are covered with many artistic and poetic gifts from graduating classes. One reads, “It’s the heart that understands...and the hand that soothes.” And thus, Sister Linda uses both her heart and her hands in her mission of healing.
That’s Chris with a “C” – for Chris, competence and compassion. Christine Mary Jackson dons two significant “hats” at the Sisters of the Presentation: fiscal manager and director of human resources. Some job! It’s matched only by Chris’ warm, welcoming, pleasant manner and her sense of humor.

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

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

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

Chris loves learning and is a “quick study.” Thorough, and with a wide acquaintanceship, she seeks wisdom from a range of people, and then makes well-informed decisions. As fiscal manager, it is not surprising that sleuthing to find the one penny that interferes with balancing the account constitutes her pet peeve. Likewise, it is no surprise that her favorite color is green, the color of life, vitality – and margaritas. As far as music is concerned, she likes it all, but has a slight preference for country. Her favorite movie? “Gone with the Wind.” Actually, she likes any movie with a good plot, but it’s even better if Nicholas Cage is starring in it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chris’ many gifts and talents reflect both style and substance. Comfortable in a pair of heels, enjoying Isaiah’s fine food and choice wines and driving a 2008 white Sebring Chrysler convertible speak style! Her substance? A keen mind and compassionate heart. In only her third year of employment, she’s treasured by the Sisters of the Presentation – and beyond. Chris offers her own lamp and light on the Presentation path.
Celebrating 50 Years as Daughters of Nano Nagle

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

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

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

Sister Marilyn Breen

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

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

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

Sister Ellen Mary Garrett

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

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

Reflecting on the celebration of jubilee, Sister Ellen Mary says, “As Nano Nagle Napes my life in God’s inspiration to improve the lives of Irish children through education and works of mercy, with the community’s support I have shared my gifts in teaching with fervor for the faith and connectedness to the earth. Celebrating jubilee to me means declaring the blessings that God has graced me with family, teachers and friends who encourage me in resolve to offer faith and hospitality to others and their relationship with the world.”

Sister Mary Michaeline Healy

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

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

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

Sister Margaret Anne Kramer

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

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

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

Sister Judy Ann Takes

Sister Judy Ann Takes is rooted in the rural life of Monti, Iowa, and from there brings a knowledge of and care for the land. She is energetic with a quick step to help another. Her generous, loyal and industrious spirit are part of her passion for service and caring. As a musician Sister Judy Ann Takes sings to dance, stepping lightly with a song in her heart.”

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

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

Sister Mary Joellen Price

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

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

“The Presentation sisters have always been in my family’s life, beginning at St. Joseph School in Mason City, Iowa, when my mom was a student. I learned by observing the sisters living out their vision in their daily lives.”

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

Sister Ruth Ann Kramer

The reader began as the candle was lit, “Sister Ruth Ann Kramer was principal in Waukon, Iowa. She served as director of religious education at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Dubuque.

“Reflecting on my life’s journey and Nano Nagle’s words, ‘Go out into the winding lanes and there you will find Christ,’” states Sister Ruth Ann. “As Nano Nagle Napes my life in God’s inspiration to improve the lives of Irish children through education and works of mercy, with the community’s support I have shared my gifts in teaching with fervor for the faith and connectedness to the earth. Celebrating jubilee to me means declaring the blessings that God has graced me with family, teachers and friends who encourage me in resolve to offer faith and hospitality to others and their relationship with the world.”

Seated from left: Sisters Ellen Mary Garrett, Joellen Price, Ruth Ann Takes, Margaret Anne Kramer, Marilyn Breen and Michaeline Healy.
“Then there is Joe,” Sister recounts, “a homebound diabetic in his 70s who is visited weekly by a healthcare worker from the Center – a worker who herself could well lose her job under the Ryan plan.” Sister quoted Colleen, who said, “By eliminating key services, we don’t serve our brothers and sisters who are already vulnerable a decent chance at survival, and if they falter we all do. We need to stand up for change, believe in hope, and trust the promise that our neighborhoods and neighbors are worth it.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Ryan’s budget is the antithesis of the vision held by the “Nuns on the Bus.” Instead of “reasonable revenues for responsible programs,” the House-passed budget slashes trillions in taxes even beyond the Bush-era tax cuts, overwhelmingly benefiting the rich. It makes massive cuts in virtually every domestic program, while increasing funds for the Pentagon.

Thousands of people throughout their 2,700-mile tour came out to show that they rejected the Ryan budget and were grateful to the sisters for demonstrating an alternative rooted in faith and also in patriotism and common sense.

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

Coalition of Human Needs

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

Left to right: Companion on the Journey: Sisters Diane Donahue, SSS; Richelle Friedman, FWWM; Marge Clark, BWMM; Mary Ellen Lucy, DC; and Simone Campbell, SSS.

15-Day Tour

by DEBORAH WEINSTEIN
ADAPTED FROM HUFFINGTON POST

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

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

“From the moment I stepped on the bus on day 12 of this incredible 15-day journey with my co-travelers, we heard and saw amazing and powerful testimony of the proud work done at service organizations by Catholic sisters and others we met along the way and of the many success stories of those on the receiving end of those services,” says Sister Richelle. “All understand how detrimental Representative Paul Ryan’s House-passed budget would be to their efforts to provide nutritious meals, a place to call home, a safe and nurturing atmosphere for children to learn and a place for seniors and persons with disabilities to come to experience companionship and respect and yes, even fun!”

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

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

top photo: take one bus, wrap it in a colorful message, add Catholic sisters and supporters across the country and you get a great road map for education motherhouse in Delahey on Day 1 of the 15-day tour. Bottom photo: Joseph (left) and Sister Richelle Friedman (right) at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.
Back row: Associate Judy Hughes, Denise Roberts, Pam Higgins and Associate Sara Kammer; Front row: Donna Baiocco and Associate Bren Connors; Not pictured: Associate Maureen Dobel.

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

Through a variety of connections, from shared parish life, shared work life and/or mutual friendships, the group was formed. Over half of the women are former members of religious orders. They bring a wealth of history from their past and have blended that together and learned much from each other. Each member of the group is involved in ministry, whether that is through their employment or their volunteering. One is a fourth-grade teacher in an inner-city Catholic grade school, another is a hospice chaplain. Another works at a Catholic parish filling the role of administration, and another is a hospice chaplain. Another is an attorney who spends nearly as much time volunteering at church and other places as at her work.

Each member of the group is involved in ministry, whether that is through their employment or their volunteering. One is a fourth-grade teacher in an inner-city Catholic grade school, another is a hospice chaplain. Another works at a Catholic parish filling the role of administration, and another is a hospice chaplain. Another is an attorney who spends nearly as much time volunteering at church and other places as at her work.

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

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

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

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SISTER DOROTHY MCCORMICK
Faithful to Her God

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

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

Sister Dorothy was born Loretta Rose McCormick, the eighth of 11 children born to Edward and Rose (Heim) McCormick in Waukon, Iowa. Although her older sister, Sister Mary Louis, had entered the Sisters of the Presentation earlier, Sister Dorothy says “I truly felt the call of God, a call I have lived faithfully for 69 years.”

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The summer before Sister Dorothy entered the convent, she became a Presentation, later known as Sister George Marie Fluke.

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

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

Sister Dorothy retired to Mount Loretto in 1997, enjoying the opportunity for a more intense ministry of prayer for her sisters still “in the field.” She and Sister Louis enjoyed several of their retirement years together, and when Sister Louis’ health began to fail, Sister Dorothy was an ever-faithful caregiver and companion to her sister and friend. Now in somewhat failing health, Sister Dorothy keeps her loving smile and her very gracious manner, not worried about what tomorrow may bring, because she has remained faithful to her God who first called her to the Presentation community. It is now her former student teachers, former teachers and colleagues who “rise up to call her blessed at the city gates.” (Proverbs 31:28)

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

Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty

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Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty
Community Days 2012

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

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

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

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

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

Sister Jennifer Rausch, congregational president, shared some of the critical happenings of our Dubuque Presentation community this past year. One of these, pertaining also to the majority of other congregations, was the Vatican mandate to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). In April the LCWR, founded in 1956 and reorganized in 1971 according to the changes of the Second Vatican Council, was placed under the authority of three bishops designated by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The assembly of Dubuque Presentations was asked for input as part of the discernment process in preparation for the LCWR Assembly, which took place August 7-10 in St. Louis. The Community Days preparation team introduced the three central themes of the days: “Listening Anew to the Cries of the Poor,” “Re-imagining Charism,” and “Choosing a Future That Calls Us to Radical Transformation.” These topics arose out of the concerns previously expressed in the small group meetings of sisters known as Caritas groupings.

Knowing that in the coming months the chapter content will be further refined, each sister chose one of the topics for deeper interchange with others interested in the same topic. The “Cries of the Poor” group prioritized advocating, educating and giving service – always networking with others, working without boundaries, sharing gifts, reaching for the wildest dreams. The “Re-imagining Charism” group stressed broadening awareness of Nano’s spirit, incorporating many others in the mission, risking new initiatives and relationships. The “Radical Transformation” group called for transformation in living, praying, leading and being together, as well as being zealous for systemic change and new initiatives. The second “Radical Transformation” group prioritized claiming our power as women, leveraging resources for the poor and for systemic change and expanding hospitality.

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

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

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

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

Whittemore

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM

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

(Mother Benedict Murphy, Annals)

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

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

Thus began nearly 100 years of Presentation presence in St. Michael’s. The day began with an all-school Mass, followed by refreshments. Entertainment prepared by the teachers and students was often hilarious, but always ended with a tribute to the sisters. The students then walked solemnly through a receiving line, shaking the hand of each sister and wishing her a “Happy Presentation Day.”

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

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

At the same ceremony, Pastor Father Ed Murray remarked, “St. Michael School has ceased to function as a school building, and the rest to the church until a new brick structure was completed.

The new building was named Presentation Academy in honor of the sisters who served there. The name was changed again to St. Michael’s. The day began with an all-school Mass, followed by refreshments. Entertainment prepared by the teachers and students was often hilarious, but always ended with a tribute to the sisters. The students then walked solemnly through a receiving line, shaking the hand of each sister and wishing her a “Happy Presentation Day.”

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

The school building had served as a center for parish activities such as receptions, celebrations, reunions and funeral dinners. After its demolition, a new building was named Presentation Academy in honor of the sisters who served there. The name was changed again to St. Michael’s. The day began with an all-school Mass, followed by refreshments. Entertainment prepared by the teachers and students was often hilarious, but always ended with a tribute to the sisters. The students then walked solemnly through a receiving line, shaking the hand of each sister and wishing her a “Happy Presentation Day.”

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The school building had served as a center for parish activities such as receptions, celebrations, reunions and funeral dinners. After its demolition, the sale of the convent, a new parish center was erected – a place where the vigorous parish life at St. Michael’s could continue to flourish into the future.
The thing that touched my heart most was the dedication and effort put forth by the sisters living in the New Orleans area.

Jerry Doyle
Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern, and the women who follow in her footsteps.

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PRVM

The Lady of the Lantern

Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern, and the women who follow in her footsteps.

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PRVM

Mother Mary Estelle Pillard, Superior 1955-1967

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

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

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

Descriptors of Mother Estelle include many positive qualities: a woman of quiet splendor, integrity, discipline and propriety. She listened well, assessed wisely and responded quietly. She was gently forthright and conscientious. Concerning all things material, she reserved a light grasp.

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

For more information, contact the Development Office at 563.588.2008 or email development@dubuquepresentations.org.
Born in Dubuque, Iowa, daughter of Jerome and Johanna (Sullivan) Feeney, Imelda Gertrude joined the Sisters of the Presentation in 1937, receiving the name Sister Mary Angela Feeney. She professed her perpetual vows on July 31, 1943. Sister earned a bachelor’s degree from Loras College, Dubuque, and a master’s degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

Her teaching career spanned 49 years and took her to Waukon, Charles City, Clare, Dubuque, Mason City, Farley, Storm Lake and Algona, all in Iowa.

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

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

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

“She was assigned as our freshman homeroom teacher,” he shares.

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

As archivist, Sister left her mark on the congregational archives. She transcribed many of Sister Anastasia Burns’ oral history tapes, thus preserving personal recollections by and about the sisters which might otherwise be lost. One of her projects was the acquiring of information for the mission files. She worked tirelessly to fill in the gaps in the history of each mission, requesting stories, pictures and newspaper articles from those serving in the various places. Much of the information on file for past and present missions comes from her persistence in making requests.

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

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

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

The daughter of John and Francis (Fettkeker) Kane, Sister Clarice was born Dorothy Elizabeth Kane on August 12, 1917, in Fairbank, Iowa. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation in August of 1933 and professed her perpetual vows on July 31, 1939. Her Presentation career spanned 76 years as teacher and principal.

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

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

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

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

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

Sister Clarice has left the world a better place, a world richer in the mystery in all she did. She was the kind of person who knew the Lord. “In addition to being a great educator, Sister Clarice was a very good cook and artistic in her presentation,” remarks Sister Rosalyn Ulfers. “I remember how she once made a beautiful corn-of-copia for the table.”

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

Recalling Sister Clarice as a friend and companion in community, Sister Suzanne adds. “She traveled with a parish group to Spain with great enthusiasm and energy, she carried a sense of elegant simplicity and hidden mystery in all she did and was. She believed that you should leave a place, a situation, a relationship better than how you found it.” As she has gone home to her God, Sister Clarice has left her footprint in a special, restful touch on many lives.
Sister Roberta Burke, adopted daughter of Elizabeth and Thomas Burke (Waukon), entered the Presentation community at age 15. Sister ministered in 10 different locations during her 52 year-career as teacher, principal and home care assistant. During her retirement years Sister Roberta collected cancelled stamps to raise funds for Presentation projects benefitting the poor, was an active participant in her prayer group of many years, and played cards. Did you read “played cards?” For Sister Roberta, playing cards was about more than the game; it was her way of connecting people. Thus, each table at her funeral dinner was graced with a deck of cards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 10, 2012
Day of Prayer and Reflection
Dubuque, Iowa

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

Please pray with us.

October 7, 2012
80th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Jocile Moes

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

November 21, 2012
Presentation Day

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors
Sister Kathleen Dolphin, along with Rosemary Carbine, has published a book called “Women, Wisdom, and Witness: Engaging Contexts in Conversation.” This collection of essays addresses significant contexts of contemporary women’s experience: suffering and resistance, education, and the crossroads of religion and public life. Readers will discover the rich socio-political, interdisciplinary, and dialogical implications of Catholic women’s intellectual and social praxis in contemporary theology and ethics. Sister Kathleen is the director of the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she also teaches in the religious studies department.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Women Religious

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

Dubuque Food Co-op

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