presentation

Doorways

offering hospitality to the world
Love One Another
Serving as pastoral associate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Sister Annette Kestel has multiple responsibilities that place her in the heart of service.

Golden Jubilarians
Presentation Sisters Janet Stelken, Joy Peterson and Julia Wingert celebrated 50 years of religious life on July 18 with their Presentation community.

Look, I Am Doing Something New
Sisters and associates 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 2013 gathering.

Giving Voice to the Future of Religious Life
Seventy sisters, ages 25–49, spent four days in prayer, reflection and conversation during the Giving Voice National Gathering held in Belmont, California.

Remembering Our Roots
We remember our years spent in Ryan, Iowa, and the many stories during that time.

Where in the World is...
After many years of teaching, Sister Anne McCormick takes on a ministry of companionship as she accompanies senior sisters on appointments, schedules drives and often drives as well. Sister is enjoying this time with her community.

Mount Loretto & Beyond
We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation Sisters, near and far.
“Deep in the rainforests of the Amazon, every morning, each member of the Achuar and Huororani tribes awakens before dawn. Once gathered together in that twilight hour, as the world explodes into light, they share their dreams. This is not simply an interesting pastime, an opportunity for storytelling – to the Achuar and the Huororani, the dream is owned not by the dreamer alone, but collectively by the group, and the individual dreamer is simply the vessel the dream decided to borrow to have a conversation with the whole tribe. The tribes view the dream as a map for their waking hours. It is a forecaster of what is to come for all of them. In dreams they connect with their ancestors and the rest of the universe.”*

Reading this takes us back to Rachel Naomi Remen’s book, “My Grandfather’s Blessing.” She writes, “I’ve spent many years learning how to fix life, only to discover at the end of the day that life is not broken … In befriending life, we do not make things happen according to our own design. We (discover and) uncover something that is already happening in us and around us and create conditions that enable it. Everything is moving toward its place of wholeness … Everything has a deep dream of itself and its fulfillment.”**

While an awakening like Remen’s can occur instantaneously, the process of transformation such an awakening initiates is quite often gradual. It may take a lifetime! Once we know who (and whose) we are, the question is, how can we live this understanding in every moment of our lives?

In faith we profess we are made in the image and likeness of God – *Imago Dei*. Therefore God resides at the heart of each of us. And we reside in God. The Spirit keeps us hoping and striving to be and become incarnational through Jesus. At our very cellular being, we are wired for deep interiority, consciousness and self-reflection – *this is the essential nature of the evolving consciousness of the cosmos*.

St. John writes in the beginning all things took shape through the Word. The Word became. We are God’s dream for the world. Thomas Berry expounds further, “We might say: In the beginning was the dream. Through the dream all things were made, and without the dream nothing was made … While all things share in this dream, as humans we share in this dream in a special manner …”

Our congregation’s directional statement begins, “Ignited by the fire of God’s love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, participate in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos …” Awakening to the possibility of deep participation propels us from comfort into cosmic chaos! As we pray and listen contemplatively to our call “to reverence relationships, celebrate unity, engage contemplation and foster partnerships, to transform ourselves and the world,” we are called to a fresh, radical honesty and integrity prompting us to pay attention, “own up” and let the Spirit live through us in this magnificent evolution.

Facing the challenges of our current global reality need not render us powerless. Rather we are called to vigorous engagement. Transformation and restoration of our global wholeness is seeded in the power of language, in our poetry and music, in scripture and literature, in a just political system, in life-sustaining economies for all. “Everything has a deep dream of itself and its fulfillment.” How are we engaged in God’s dream?

*From a study conducted by The Institute of Noetic Sciences, which appeared in M. Schlitz, “On consciousness, causation and evolution,” Alternative Therapies, July 1998; 82-90. **Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., is clinical professor of family and community medicine at UCSF School of Medicine and the Founder and Director of the Institute for the Study of Health and Illness at Commonweal.
Our foundress, Nano Nagle, saw the needs present around her and found ways to help those in need experience God’s presence in their lives. As pastoral associate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish I try to follow Nano’s example by trying to address parishioners’ needs and helping parishioners grow in their awareness of God’s presence and care.

Sister Annette Kestel

The mission of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Hiawatha, Iowa, states in part that parishioners “will be known for service to individuals, family and society through hospitality, education and acts of charity.”

It is no wonder, then, that Sister Annette Kestel fits into this parish like hand-in-glove. Her very person exudes warmth, friendliness, helpfulness and kindness, all part of the virtue of hospitality. Serving as the pastoral associate at this relatively new parish, Sister Annette has multiple responsibilities that place her in the heart of service and of establishing links with individuals and families in order to live out, as directed by the mission statement “the loving service of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,” the American saint for whom the parish is named.

Sister Annette learned these essential virtues of hospitality from her parents as she and her two brothers grew up on their farm in Schaller, Iowa. These qualities were so well instilled in her that during her young years she often thought about becoming a religious sister. But first she attended the Iowa State University with the intention of preparing to be a teacher, a natural profession for someone of such qualities. But God’s plans are not to be thwarted. On campus Annette met Presentation Sister Kathleen Dolphin, campus minister, who encouraged her early desires about religious life and thus, after more discernment, Annette entered the formation program of the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque in 1981.

After her initial formation years were completed, Sister Annette began teaching, first in Key West, Iowa, and then in Farley, Iowa. These were short-term preparations for her following 16 years at Mason City, Iowa. These degrees and her experience amply qualified her to become the associate director of faith formation and pastoral minister at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Today Sister Annette is full-time in pastoral ministry in this parish which, as all pastoral ministers know, means a wide variety of involvements.

Sister Annette Kestel (right) helps with food preparation during a parish picnic with other volunteers, Janet Miller (left) and Mary Andres (middle).
Looking back over the past 50 years as a Presentation Sister, I hold many memories of places, possibilities and people. I have been blessed to share life with Presentation Sisters, associates and friends, staff, students, parents and residents where I have taught and ministered. I am filled with deep gratitude to God who first called and who continues to journey with me through each new day. Sister Janet Stelken

Chimes called all to prayer on the morning of July 18 as Dubuque Presentation Sisters Janet Stelken, Joy Peterson and Julia Wingert entered Sacred Heart Chapel. In the stillness of the space, all present surrendered to a contemplative quiet. The flame of the symbolic lantern of Nano Nagle shone brightly as Sister Julianne Brockamp proclaimed the jubilee. The gathered community sang out David Haas’ hymn, “You are the voice of the living God calling us now to live in your love, to be children of God once again.”

The spirit of the jubilee celebration flowed from the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Look, I am doing something new; now it emerges, can you not see it?” In the opening prayer, Sisters Janet, Joy and Julia echoed the words of Bruce Sanguin in his prayer, This Happy Communion, “Christ abides in us, and we in Her, and the joy of this is why we sing, and why we pray, and why we take our place in this happy communion. Thank you for this banquet of love,™ this feast of joy, this miracle of common purpose in Christ.”

Readings, followed by the sung response of the community, “Behold, behold, I am making something new” by Jan Novotka, declared the connectedness of all living things through the Cosmic Christ and acclaimed the divine breaking forth throughout time. Raphael Condolino’s poem, “One Pace Beyond,” captured the spirit of Nano Nagle following God’s call through …” The community moved forward to congratulate the jubilarians and then gathered in the dining room for a social. A festive evening meal concluded the celebration of the day.

Sister Janet Stelken

Sister Janet (formerly Juanita) Stelken currently is pastoral care coordinator for St. Therese Southwest, a faith-based assisted senior living community in Hopkins, Minnesota. Previously she served in congregational leadership for her Presentation community; she was a junior high and secondary teacher at Catholic schools in Iowa, including Sheldon, Bode, Dubuque and Algona. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Science and Education from Clarke College (University), Dubuque, Iowa, and a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago, Illinois.

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Sister Joy Peterson

Sister Joy Peterson currently ministers as promoter of peace and justice with the Sinisinalas Dominicans in Sinisinala, Wisconsin. Previously she served in congregational leadership and also in vocation and formation ministry for her Presentation community. Sister Joy was an elementary and secondary teacher at Catholic schools in Iowa, including Elkader, Whittemore and Dubuque. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Clarke College (University), Dubuque, Iowa; a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois; and a Certificate of Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California.

“Jubilee is a time of thanksgiving. I give thanks to God, the generous Giver of all gifts, for my life and for my calling,” comments Sister Julia. “This jubilee moment is an occasion to express gratitude to all who have in any way befriended, supported, inspired and helped to form me along the way. My jubilee prayer is a festive and heartfelt song of thanksgiving.”

Sister Julia Wingert

Sister Julia (formerly St. Clare) Wingert currently serves in spiritual direction and directed retreat ministries in Dubuque and as finance assistant for her Presentation community. Previously she was an elementary and secondary teacher in Catholic schools in Iowa, including in Key West, Storm Lake, Farley, Dubuque, Fort Dodge and Mason City; secretary and assistant treasurer for the Presentation community; and spiritual minister in Dubuque.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Clarke College (University), Dubuque, Iowa; a Master of Arts in Business Education from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota; and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

“I was drawn to religious life 50 years ago through the companionship of women who taught me about living and serving God,” reflects Sister Joy. “I am grateful beyond words to be still learning the ways of caring for God’s beloved ones through the sister-hood of all the companions I have known along the way.”

IMMERSSION & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

October 26, 2013: Dubuque

Please join Presentation sisters, associates and friends in assisting senior citizens, handicapped, veterans and others with a helping hand on Saturday, October 26, 2013. The Andrew Connolly Make a Difference Day will include light duty and heavy duty chores around the home, yard work, socializing and playing games with homebound seniors, doing simple repairs, and weatherization projects.

Visit www.dubuquepresentations.org for more information or contact: Sister Rita Cameron Presentation Quest Coordinator 2360 Carter Road Dubuque, IA 52001-2997 563-588-2008 service@dubuquepresentations.org
Look, I Am Doing Something New ...
Community Days

by LOUISE SCIESZINSKI, PBVM

Sisters and associates 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 18-20 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.

“Look, I am doing something new; now it emerges, can you see it?” (Isaiah 43:19) was the theme that set the context for the 2013 Presentation Community Days. With more than 100 Presentation sisters present at Mount Loretto, the gathering began with an opening prayer ritual celebrating the 30th jubilee of Sisters Joy Peterson, Janet Stelken and Julia Wingert.

The jubilee experience made fresh many experiences already lived in community and piqued the awareness of that which is now emerging. That tone further buoyed the sharing throughout the weekend. The first afternoon focused on “Evolutionary Consciousness – the Future Emerging Within Us.” The topic surfaced a sense of how creation continually evolves and of each person’s personal and communal call within that evolution. The next morning provided input and process surrounding the topic of “Listening and Speaking from a Contemplative Heart.” This enabled each person to be in touch with God’s presence and unconditional love and consciously create a greater openness wherein personal transformation can happen. The afternoon topic, “Dreams Realized and Emerging,” called forth the energy of some of the Dubuque Presentation sisters whose individual and collective dreams resulted in changes that profoundly established, improved or expanded ministries within the congregation, both for individual sisters and for the total congregation.

The impact of this awareness evoked amazement and appreciation, inspiration and gratitude, and new energy and spirit to move together into the future. This was the starting point for the final day’s process regarding “Emerging Futures.” The ensuing reflection and sharing coalesced around the pivotal points from the directional statement and aspects of the commitments made in January 2013, “widening the tent” regarding ministry and liturgy, dreams and reflection, respectful dialogue and open conversation.

For three days the Presentation sisters and associates shared prayer and liturgy, dreams and reflection, respectful dialogue and open conversation. The closing ritual of Co-Missioning on Saturday included words from Raphael Consedine, PBVM.

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Not yet … not yet … it is only seedtime yet.
Then let us seize the time and run with it, sow broadcast now what other hands will reap, become the seed that in its death gives life.

Community Days 2013 began with spirited energy and celebration and concluded with an ongoing sense of joy-filled confidence and hope in becoming new together in the vision of God, following the lead of Nano Nagle in Ireland. Mother Vincent Hennessey in Iowa and those who have gone before us in the Dubuque Presentation community.

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Photos: Celebrating appreciation and gratitude for one another’s friendship. Left to right: Sisters Mary Beth Kress and Associate Rose Rauch; Sisters Elena Hoye, Richelle Friedmann, Doreen Blong, Marilyn Lawler and Associate Rose Rauch; Sisters Elena Hoye, Richelle Friedmann, Doreen Blong, Marilyn Lawler and Associate Rose Rauch; Sisters Elena Hoye, Richelle Friedmann, Doreen Blong, Marilyn Lawler and Associate Rose Rauch.
Giving Voice to the Future of Religious Life

Taken from GIVING VOICE PRESS RELEASE

Mission and Ministry in the 21st Century was the theme that attracted 70 young sisters, ages 25-49, to Belmont, California, for a Giving Voice National Gathering. The sisters spent four days in prayer, reflection and conversation using processes that allowed the group to self-organize and share leadership. Sister Yolanda Tarango, CCVI, congregational leader of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and a renowned Latina theologian, shared her insights on charism, mission and ministry in today’s world.

“Throughout our history, sisters have been called to work with people living on the margins of society,” said Sister Jessi Beck, Dubuque Presentation sister. “Sister Jessi teaches second grade at an inner-city Catholic school in Chicago, Illinois, and is a member of the conference planning team. “Today the needs are growing as the gap between the rich and the poor expands. Having the wisdom of my Presentation sisters in community and a support group of peer age sisters in Giving Voice helps me to respond to the needs of our day.”

The national gathering brought together sisters from more than 30 congregations of women religious from across North America. Participants also pondered the gifts and challenges of our increasingly intercultural reality. The sisters themselves represented this reality. Simultaneous translation allowed English- and Spanish-speaking participants to share in their own language making this a bilingual conference. The sounds of German, Vietnamese, Portuguese and Swahili could also be heard in some circles of conversation.

Throughout the four days sisters shared insights gained from a wide variety of ministry experiences. Sister Chero Chuma, a 31-year-old Sister of St. Joseph of Peace and nursing student at Seattle University, co-hosts a weekly radio program in her native language (Kalenjin) with other Kenyan women living in the United States. Their program is broadcast globally via the internet and on radio in Kenya on KASS FM. “We use the radio program to engage issues of justice, especially those impacting women and people who are living in poverty,” said Sister Chero. This innovative ministry is in addition to her ministry of health care. “As a caregiver, I am called to promote holistic care to individuals and families, relieving pain and suffering, and treating each person in a loving and caring way.”

Roman Catholic vowed religious life is in the midst of a paradigm shift, as the large novitiate classes of the 1950s and 1960s age and fewer women enter religious life today. “I sense that the paradigms of religious life are shifting right around us and we have a unique and sacred role to play in building the reign of God,” said 31-year-old Sister Julia Walsh, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration living in La Crosse, Wisconsin. “The world needs us to be prophetic mystics and spiritual social justice centered midwives and mentors to all of God’s children as they give birth to many new forms of Gospel living.”

The gathering was filled with energy as sisters renewed connections and continued to build a support network of age peers in religious life. “Religious life offers a support system for full engagement in the mission of Jesus, reaching out to those living on the margins of society, living in poverty, living in violent and dangerous circumstances across the globe,” said 47-year-old Sister Kristin Matthes, one of four sisters who founded Giving Voice and who herself has been perpetually professed for 22 years. “We leave the conference energized for our ministries that help to bring about the Reign of God, the reign of justice and peace, in our world today.”

Giving Voice is a peer-led grassroots national organization of Catholic sisters under the age of 50 that creates spaces for younger women religious to give voice to their hopes, dreams and challenges in religious life. The July conference is the seventh national gathering of younger women religious from across North America extended their stay in California to spend time with one another at Presentation Center in Los Gatos gathering around the theme: Presentation Women, Fostering Relationship with each other, within community life and ministry, as a global presence, … for mission.

Being at a ministry site sponsored by the San Francisco Presentation sisters added special significance to the reflection on the group’s common Presentation story. Time was spent in prayer, conversation and recreation. The experience concluded with a day of sightseeing in San Francisco and afternoon tea with the San Francisco Presentation community at their motherhouse.

The group expressed deep gratitude for this time together getting to know some of the sisters they will be journeying with as their Presentation story continues to unfold.

Sister Jessi Beck (Dubuque) is temporary professed and a second grade teacher in Chicago; Jayne Pickett (New Windsor) is a candidate and high school theology teacher in New York; Sister Judah Leggett (Union) is a novice and community college professor in San Antonio; Sister Ann Jackson is on the Dubuque leadership team and ministers at a spirituality center in Iowa; Sister Jocelyn Quisino is on the Union leadership team and directs a Hispanic ministry center in San Antonio; and Sister Mary Catherine Redmond is the New Windsor vocation director and ministers as a physician’s assistant in the Bronx.
In 1909 Father John M. Molloy had a great deal of influence on the town of Ryan, Iowa, and also on the parish and school in which the Sisters of the Presentation were to serve for 55 years. Legend has it that Father Molloy was pastor at two parishes when he decided that the rectory would be moved from Belmont to Ryan. He faced fierce objections, with one man threatening to “shoot the first person that touched the house to move it.” As the first mover took a step toward the building, a shot rang out, the man collapsed, and within minutes a wagon carrying a “body” raced out of town. All of this later proved to be a hoax, and by the time everyone knew what had happened the building was moved and settled in its new location in Ryan. (Taken from The Witness, 11-27-88)

In 1910 a church was erected in Ryan, and in 1913 Father Molloy oversaw the building of a three-story structure to house a school and convent, which he named after his patron, St. John (later to be re-named St. Patrick to correspond with the name of the parish). Having secured the services of the Presentation sisters from Dubuque, and having made sure that the local families enrolled their children, Father Molloy was involved in the running of the educational program.

The first sisters on the scene were Sisters Mary Francis Bannon, Agnes Griffin, Cornelia Regan, Loretta Donahue and Antoinette Galligan, who entered the Presentation community, with a number who entered from Dubuque, and having made sure that the local families enrolled their children, Father Molloy was involved in the running of the educational program.

Catholic church, St. Patrick School and the town of Ryan; they were all closely interwoven. The sisters and priests were ever present caring for and about the parishioners. They were an extension of our family and integrated into the community.” She describes ball games, church gatherings and community activities in which all of the same people were involved. Sunday morning was a time for prayer and socializing. “The length of time in church and the length of time for gathering after church were about the same. Ryan is still a place where people know, care and are involved in the community and the lives of one another.”

Left photo: Sister Albia O’Brien and her students in 1938  
Right photo: St. Patrick Church circa 1974.
A woman of great energy and quick wit, Sister Anne McCormick is a daughter of Nana Nagle who believes and lives Nana’s sentiments: “If I could of service — I would gladly go anywhere in the world ...”

“I can only hope I am following in Nana’s footsteps,” declares Sister Anne. “She wanted to be of service and so do I.” And so, Sister Anne, who lives at Mount Loretto motherhouse currently tends to multiple ministries that include scheduling drives for the sisters, driving, going with some of the senior sisters to doctor appointments, helping in the finance office, taking her turn as receptionist and serving as Eucharistic minister and lector for liturgies.

Sister Anne McCormick (right) companions Sister William Allen to an appointment.

Whether serving as transportation coordinator, giving hospitality at the reception desk, Sister Anne keeps in mind a favorite quote from Hebrews 10: 7, “Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.” This speaks to her most of the spirit and charism of Nana Nagle — to be of service wherever she is called.

“I really don’t see any of my ministries as challenging. It was hard at first to leave teaching. I loved my students and still keep in touch with them. My favorite part of my teaching career was being present to people with a smile and an interest in them and their needs at that time.”

By continuing to serve and share joy, Sister Anne experiences Nana’s spirit in her life. “Sister Anne and I have frequent contact as she takes care of setting up all the drives for the sisters, getting cars to the shop for repairs and maintenance and serving as a companion for the senior sisters. That’s just the list of things she does that causes our paths to cross nearly daily,” comments Jean Lange, Mount Loretto House Coordinator.

Being on the receiving end of Sister Anne’s spirit is a treat for many. “Sister Anne is like a ray of sunshine when she comes into the office! Rarely do I see her in a bad mood, even when she has less than happy news to tell me when something doesn’t go quite right with drives, she still tells it with a smile!” continues Jean.

Sister Anne’s energies abound. “I am constantly amazed by her energy, enthusiasm and willingness to help out in whatever way she can around the house,” adds Jean. “If there is a list of volunteers for a given job in the house, Sister Anne’s name is usually on it — distributing newspapers around the house on weekends, filling in at the receptionist desk, collecting money for haircuts, baking delicious chocolate chip cookies and peanut clusters for a wide variety of events — often I am a lucky recipient of a cookie or two as well. She is quick to share her happy news with me, as well as the sad things. What a truly wonderful, upbeat person she is!”

Great pleasure and fun in her life as a sister are important to Sister Anne. “Pleasure and peace comes from knowing that I am trying to do God’s will. Fun comes from being with my sisters in community and my family and friends socially,” she declares. “I have family in Wisconsin and on both the East and West Coasts so travel for me usually includes special family visits. Reading, walking, visiting friends and watching good movies on television are things I enjoy.”

Sister Anne’s teaching years were in Charles City, Iowa, Timber Lake, South Dakota; Cedar Falls, Bankston and Sheldon, Iowa; and in Globe, Arizona, with the Presentation Sisters of the Union. When requested she has also tutored children from Resurrection and St. Anthony schools in Dubuque.

In the footsteps of Nana, Sister Anne has walked many lanes near and far, even beyond the Midwest. “My special remembrances of all my years as a woman religious include the students I have taught, my life in the classroom. My favorite part of my teaching career was helping parents prepare their children for the reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. But I am happy to be of service at Mount Loretto,” she comments. “I try to approach being present to people with a smile and an interest in them and their needs at that time.”

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Sister Dolores Moes Hands & Hearts Award

On August 21, Sister Dolores Moes was recognized with the Hands and Hearts Award for her work with Right to Life, Inc. and her overall commitment to life. Since retirement Sister has had more time to volunteer and get involved.

Sisters currently attend monthly meetings to become educated themselves and plan ways to educate the community, participate in special events such as Life Chain as part of Respect Life Sunday in October, attend when possible the March for Life in Washington and support those representing the community. They participate weekly by praying in front of Planned Parenthood.

Sister Dolores is part of the prayer planning committee for the 40 Days of Life event September 25 - November 3, focusing on prayer, fasting and presence.

“Life is God’s beautiful gift to us to be offered in praise and to be shared,” states Sister Dolores. “I have a real desire to help women and children through education, prayer and being present to them.”
Discover Math in Art
by GINA FOLETTA, PBVM

The Dayton Art Institute (DAI) in Ohio created a series of workshops that began in 2001 titled “Art Connections.” This is a multidisciplinary program, designed to integrate the visual arts with social studies for fourth through sixth grade students and language arts for seventh through ninth grade students. Based on the success of this model and the recognized need for additional resources for mathematics curricula, the museum expanded the program to integrate the visual arts with mathematics for fifth and sixth grade students. Art Connections Discover Math in Art was developed to meet these needs. The DAI received a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. Sister Gina Foletta worked with the DAI to develop both hands- and electronic material that emphasized the concepts of mathematical symmetry within particular works of art.

Sister used the Sketchpad Explorer app for iPad® as a means of bringing the power of dynamic geometry to a handheld device. “In the past dynamic geometry apps required access to a computer; now the user needs only the iPad,” states Sister Gina. Prior to seeking symmetry in works of art, we used files that created with the Sketchpad Explorer to help the teachers and their children develop an understanding of symmetry. For example, consider exploring the reflection symmetry for a parallelogram.

Using dynamic geometry to drag vertices, change the parallelogram into a rhombus, rectangle or square and examine whether or not the shaded green triangle (reflection of the purple parallelogram into a rhombus, rectangle or square) will fit within the figure. If it fits then the figure has reflection symmetry; otherwise, it does not.”

Sister Gina explains through guided explorations the teachers and students discovered for themselves the shapes that have only diagonal reflection symmetry are the rhombus and square. “Once the teachers and students understood the notion of symmetry then we had them examine artwork for types of symmetry, in much the same way using Sketchpad Explorer,” states Sister. Extending the model of using the art museum as a resource for supporting the curriculum, students visited the museum to participate in activities that demonstrated the connections between art and mathematics. For the Ancient Greeks, mathematics played an important part in the development of aesthetically pleasing artworks. Concepts of ratio and proportion were essential to the design of Greek architecture. During the early Renaissance, Brunelleschi, artist and architect, used mathematical concepts to understand the pictorial representation of depth and developed linear perspective in order to depict a three dimensional world on a two dimensional canvas. Geometric concepts fundamental to mathematics are commonly found in art. Line, form, and shape are used to compose works of art and are fundamental to the very nature of drawing.

Sister concludes, “Integrating mathematics and art is historically relevant and becomes an important teaching tool that provides teachers with additional methods for presenting difficult concepts in a manner that addresses multiple learning styles.”

A Benefit to Support Charitable Ministries

Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale
Saturday, October 26
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa
Lakeside Door Entrance

All proceeds will help support the Dubuque Rescue Mission and Cedar Rapids Metro-Catholic Outreach.

Find unique, hand-crafted gifts by Presentation sisters and associates. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings to photography to jewelry to greeting cards and much more. Avoid the consumer rush and start your Christmas shopping now. There will also be delicious bakery items for sale.

Call Sister Dolores Zieser at 563-588-2008 for more information.

Enriching Experience

“Reverencing relationships … fostering partnerships,” phrases from our community directional statement came to life for me recently as I volunteered for six months at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois,” states Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty. “My dad, a World War I disabled veteran who received many benefits from the VA over the years, inspired me to share my time and talents with some of today’s veterans who are also struggling with life and illness.”

Sister Sheila Ann gained so much from getting to know some of the men and women at the Chicago facility, whether pushing a wheelchair, helping someone with a meal, playing piano for sing-alongs/gatherings or helping another win a game of Bingo.

“These are treasured memories, treasured relationships,” expresses Sister Sheila Ann. “Having returned to Dubuque, I plan to keep in touch with these veterans by visiting them throughout the year. They are never far from my thoughts and prayers.”

Previous to her months of volunteering at James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, Sister’s associate group, Servant Seekers, fostered a partnership with the Veterans’ Freedom Center in Dubuque, a nonprofit organization and drop-in facility. This center was initiated in 2011 by Jim Wagner to provide a place for area war veterans to gather and share time, relaxation and stories. After learning about the center and some of their needs, associates provide cleaning supplies, coffee, paper products and frequently homemade cookies!

“Both providers and recipients are enriched by this outreach effort,” comments Sister Sheila Ann. “These opportunities continue to give me greater awareness of a segment of our society living with visible and invisible scars of war. Truly they are worthy of our attention and appreciation.”

900 Jackson Street, Suite LE5-1, Dubuque, IA 52001
563-557-7134
Ministry Updates

1. Emilie Bormann, Community Prayer and Service, Mount Loretto, Dubuque, Iowa
2. Joan Brincks, Eldercare, Waucoma, Iowa
3. Julianne Brockamp, Congregational Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa
4. Jane Conrad, Chaplain, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, South Dakota
5. Therese Corkery, Missionary, Entre Ríos, Bolivia
6. Benjamin Duschner, Pastoral Minister, St. Elizabeth Pastorate, Epworth, Iowa
7. Gina Marie Foletta, Assistant Professor of Education, Penn State University, Monroeville, Pennsylvania
8. Marjorie Healy, Missionary, Entre Ríos, Bolivia
9. Ann Jackson, Congregational Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa
10. Pamela Quade, Receptionist, Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa
11. Francine Quillin, Volunteer Ministry, Dubuque, Iowa
12. Jennifer Rausch, Nano Nagle Centre Team, Ballygriffin, Ireland

Archbishop Jackels Visits Mount Loretto

On August 1, Presentation sisters and co-workers welcomed new Archbishop of Dubuque Michael Jackels to Mount Loretto, Presentation motherhouse. Gathered in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Sisters Francine Quillin, Joy Peterson and Julia Wingert shared a bit of Presentation history followed by words of encouragement from the Archbishop. Sister Joan Lickteig presented the Archbishop with a gift of Presentation history book, “Tending the Light.” All enjoyed dinner and conversation.

Helping Rebuild Community

Volunteers from across the country met in Brooklyn, New York, to participate in a weeklong volunteer restoration project at St. Camillus and St. Virgilius Parishes in Rockaway Park, New York. The Interfaith Community Building Group from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, headed up the planning committee to join with sisters and lay people from South Carolina and Iowa to help rebuild the church and the school, and build relationships with a diverse group of people. From August 12-16, volunteers proved that a common tragedy like a hurricane can allow all groups to overcome their differences and pool resources to accomplish a common goal. The collaborative service/immersion experience sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis and the Sisters of the Presentation hosted the following team: Tim Collins, Greenville, South Carolina; Yvonne Kisch, Charles City, Iowa; Bernice Toepfer, Charles City, Iowa; Nick Bjelica, Charles City, Iowa; Dianne McDermott, Epworth, Iowa; Lloyd McDermott, Epworth, Iowa; Mary Ann Koch, Boone, Iowa; Lisa Schmidt, Dubuque, Iowa; and Sister Rita Cameron, Dubuque, Iowa.
Special Dedication

On July 28 Sister Diana Blong (left) and her mother Marcella attended the Vocation Wall Dedication at Newman Catholic High School.

The Gifts of Sharing

Leah Lucas, 2013 recipient of the Nano Nagle Service Award, shared her service experiences with the Presentation community on August 22. The sisters were delighted to hear her stories. Leah was accompanied by her parents, Ron and Val, and her grandmother, Marion Greenwood. Left to right: Top row: Ron Lucas and Leah Lucas; Bottom row: Sister Benjamin Duschner, Marion Greenwood, Val Lucas, and Sister Anne McCormick.

“Slán go fóill” (Goodbye for Now)

The Presentation community blesses Sister Jennifer Rausch (left) as she departs for Ballygriffin, Ireland, for a two-year ministry to the community at Nano Nagle Centre. Sister Jennifer will bring her gifts of leadership, hospitality and her love for Presentation charism to this community. Sisters and staff extend their support and best wishes as she spends time ministering in Nano Nagle’s place of birth.

Returning to Bolivia

On August 28, the Presentation community gathers to send-off Sister Marge Healy as she returns to Entre Ríos, Bolivia, after serving on the congregational leadership team for the past 10 years. Sister Marge (second from the left) was accompanied to the airport by her sister, Sister Anne Healy, RSM; and cousins, Jane Boge and Karen Adams.

You are invited to join us.

October 26, 2013
Arts & Crafts Boutique & Bake Sale
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

QUEST Service Opportunity
Andrew Connolly Make a Difference Day
Dubuque, Iowa

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

Please pray with us.

October 13, 2013
60th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Karen Jasper
Sister Barbara Rastatter
Sister Josita Zieser
Dubuque, Iowa

75th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Matthew Cunningham
Sister Damian O’Brien
Dubuque, Iowa

October 18-20, 2013
Conference for Sisters and Associates
Presentation People Celebrating Our Global Oneness
Dubuque, Iowa

November 13, 2013
Foundation Day, 1874
Presentation Lantern Center
Established in 2002, Dubuque

November 21, 2013
Presentation Day

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors
The Fusion Ritual of July 22, 2013, celebrated the movement of the 43-member Fargo Presentation community into the Union of Sisters of the Presentation of Ireland. An international gathering of sisters and associates celebrated with prayer and song ending with music entitled, “We Walk One.” Sisters Marge Healy and Jennifer Rausch attended the ceremony.

Members of Dubuque area religious communities of men and women joined with the Dubuque Serra Club to staff a booth at the Dubuque County Fair on July 23-28. The Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA) provided information regarding priesthood, religious communities, single life and marriage for those who visited the booth. Several Presentation sisters volunteered for the event.

Sister Jessi Beck, second grade teacher at Our Lady of Tepeyac School in Chicago, Illinois, got her second-graders involved in a card-making project for the homebound parishioners Sister Barbara Rastatter visits through St. James Parish in Chicago. At least 10 times during the year the students made beautiful cards for holidays, feast days and just ordinary days. The parishioners love the cards and show them off to all who visit. The card collection hangs on their walls. When Sister Barbara delivered the spring cards she took a picture of each of the homebound with their precious cards to show them to the second graders. The students were delighted to see the faces of their friends!

Photos: Our Lady of Tepeyac second-graders ready to send their homemade cards; St. James parishioners Lorraine Turner and Sam Belk proudly show off their cards!