



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the
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The congregation is a member of Sisters United News of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, Communicators for Women Religious and the American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.

The PURPOSE

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

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email photos, stories and information about our sisters, associates, former members, family and friends, or any ideas which relate to the aim of this publication. Submit to:

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Cover PHOTOS

The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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Cover PHOTO

Community Days culminated with a ritual gathering the sisters outside in front of the labyrinth where they were commissioned through song to "Go out to all the world, spread the news of God's love." Each was empowered to live radical hospitality and to "serve where need calls loudly in the winding lanes."

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Openings

by ANN JACKSON, PBVM

Radical Hospitality: a posture of grace...

He [Elijah] was told, “Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God. God will pass by.” A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before God, but God wasn’t to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but God wasn’t in the earthquake; and after the earthquake fire, but God wasn’t in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper. When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there. A quiet voice asked, “So Elijah, now tell me, what are you doing *here*?” Elijah said it again, “I’ve been working my heart out for God ...” (I Kings 19:11-14, Eugene Peterson, *The Message*)

Drawn to the desert as refuge, then to the mountain, and then (even more deeply inward) to the cave, Elijah had worked his heart out – offering his wisdom in service to the people of Baal in search of the one true God. Desperate to see and sense the presence and love of God, Elijah embraced silence and invited God’s emerging vision within: go back to work, invite three others to join you, stay the course, trust in and extend the love of God to illumine the path.

Today, we too, know struggle. One need only peruse the news headlines to find a world in search of hope. Elijah’s challenge is ours as we work our hearts out for God, to remain faith-FULL, to sustain our center and strength, especially when the way seems tenuous and uncertain.

In his 2017 keynote address to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Dr. Christopher Pramuk encourages, “It is important to be as clear-headed as possible about the vulnerability of living from this vision of a future that cannot yet be seen, of loving and leading others into these liminal spaces between life and death, between what is and what is yet possible.”

Radical hospitality resides at the heart of our faith. This form of love doesn’t wait for the future to emerge. Rather it nurtures a deep conviction in contemplation, vulnerability and grace that leads to transformation. Our universal endless vow is to live faithfully and lovingly at the very center of the contradictions of our times without being overcome or defined by them.

Gina Wolfe, associate professor of Catholic Theological Ethics at Catholic Theological Union, challenges, “If radical hospitality is about welcoming in and inviting others to share in God’s abundant love through mutual reverence and solidarity, about seeing Christ in the other, then we must respond to the call to put that love at the center – at the center of our personal lives, at the center of our communal lives and at the center of our ministries.”

Can we listen together at the tip of our communal consciousness in awe of a God who loves generously and infinitely? How are we NOW living the vitality of the future we dream is possible? In defiance of hopelessness and complacency, are we using our presence, influence and resources to create the world of which we dream?

Dr. Pramuk asserts, “Whether the hope of the Gospel rings true is a matter that each of us alone must decide at the beginning and end of every new day, a wager tested against a lifetime’s journey of love and loss, of belonging.” Can you hear?

This is your life calling to you
from a place you could never have dreamed,
but now that you have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine choosing any other way.
(Jan Richardson, 2017 LCWR Address)



Our MISSION

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

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

Our DIRECTION

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 by

reverencing *relationships*
celebrating *unity*
engaging *contemplation* and
fostering *partnerships*

to transform ourselves
and our world.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



Sisters Marge Healy, Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes and Mery Cari Paz minister to the people in Bolivia.

‘Digo sí, Dios’ – ‘Yes, my God’

Presentation Sisters continue to bring good news to Bolivia by offering a welcoming spirit, open hands and hospitality

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the down trodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.” (Luke 4:18-19)

In 1965, Pope Paul VI called religious congregations to send 10 percent of their members to serve in foreign missions. Dubuque Presentation Sisters responded whole-heartedly by missioning sisters to serve those made poor in southern Bolivia. Ten sisters have served in Bolivia since 1970.

Over 47 years, Sisters of the Presentation, other religious congregations and numerous lay volunteers have answered the invitation to engage in this mission. Collaborating with local, national and international groups, open hearts have met Bolivian open hearts and have companioned one another on the journey.

“Digo sí, Dios!” These words, when translated to English, mean “I say, ‘Yes, my God.’” A simple phrase, but when spoken or offered with respect, openness and compassion can carry the deepest commitment of mutuality and hospitality like that shared by Abraham and Sarah to the three strangers who visited their tent. As stated in Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by this some have entertained angels.”

Today four sisters walk the lanes and drive the roads to listen to the stories and carry Nano Nagle’s lantern of radical hospitality as they receive the welcome and love of the Bolivian people. Sisters Mery Cari Paz, Therese Corkery, Marge Healy and Suzanne Takes minister with Bolivians through social and pastoral works: promoting education, offering counseling, visiting the sick and imprisoned, as well as providing support to people who need documentation.

Sister Mery Cari Paz

As a young girl, Sister Mery had a great desire to study. She received a passion to learn from her father who loved to read, and by age six she could read and write. Sister Mery went to school in Tarupayo, Bolivia, and lived with her oldest sister, Nilda and family. It was when she was in second grade that she saw the Sisters of the Presentation for the first time, when Sister Julianne Brockamp came for the community feast of St. Anthony on July 13, 1978. At this time, the inspiration to be a Presentation Sister touched Sister Mery’s heart.

After finishing grade school, Sister Mery moved to the city of Tarija to go to high school. She worked during the day with her aunt in the pharmacy and attended night classes. Since her aunt offered her financial assistance to become a pharmacist, Sister Mery began the five-year university program in Sucre. Classes were Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., a rigorous schedule. When completed, she had earned a licensed degree as a pharmacist and biochemist. Following graduation, Sister Mery joined her aunt working in the pharmacy in the city of Tarija.

“While visiting friends in Entre Ríos in June 2002, I decided to visit the sisters and ask if I could join them,” explains Sister Mery. Consequently, Sister Suzanne Takes, who was working in the local hospital with a pharmacy project, invited Sister Mery to join her in the pharmacy. Two years later, in 2004, Sister Mery became the first Bolivian affiliate with the Sisters of the Presentation.

I experience being loved and supported in my community. I have also experienced acceptance and friendship with the people with whom I minister. When I visit homes, I am gifted in many ways ...

Sister Mery Cari Paz

“During this time, I had begun a youth group called Nuevo Amanecer, meaning ‘New Dawn,’ that continues to gather even though the youth are now young professional adults,” states Sister Mery. “We keep contact by visiting through the internet and with yearly gatherings in our home. There are five medical doctors in the group, one teacher, two business administrators, two civil engineers and a young mother with twins finishing her studies in psychology.”

“Every gathering together has been gift to me,” declares Sister Mery. “We try to gather especially for important events, like birthdays, graduations and weddings. I remember in particular when I was in the midst of a practice session for my university studies in a nearby neighborhood in Tarija, I needed to ask my colleagues to cover for me and to continue the session while a friend took me in his taxi so that I could be present for Alejandra and Gabriel’s wedding ceremony. Then we went back to the session.”



Sister Mery Cari Paz teaches Valentina and Blanquita the process of planting.

Sister Mery professed her final vows in September 2011. She began classes in Tarija at the Universidad Autonoma Juan Misael Saracho in 2012, studying psychology in a five-year program. Last April she graduated from the university with a degree in psychology and is now a licensed psychologist.

“Since graduation, I have begun to counsel couples and families in the village of Entre Ríos,” shares Sister Mery. “I am planning to do an outreach program for families in two of the rural communities, focusing where there are high schools. I want to work not just with the youth but with the whole family.”

Meeting the Christ in another and being open to authentic presence nurtures Sister Mery’s life as a woman religious. “I experience being loved and supported in my community. I have also experienced acceptance and friendship with the people with whom I minister. When I visit homes, I am gifted in many ways, not only with the relationship but also with produce, plants or flowers,” she explains. “When I am out on the street, people like to stop and visit. I never say I don’t have time for them because this mutual presence is so important. I am grateful to God and my community for this opportunity to serve God’s people in O’Connor Province.”

Sister Therese Corkery

Serving in Bolivia has been a great part of Sister Therese’s life as a missionary. Therese is one of 13 children in her family. She and her brother, the late Father Ray Corkery, O. CARM., and their other siblings, grew in their faith and learned a sense of mission. While Therese has served in Bolivia, Ray was a missionary in Peru and Chile.

“From 1973 to 1987, I was director of the Academia de la Presentación, a trade school that was begun because of the request of the people of Entre Ríos discovered through a parish census. I taught sewing, typing and shorthand in the trade school and religion and English in the public high school. In addition, I worked with youth groups. Sister Therese Marie Hawes and I went on Saturdays to the nearby rural areas to teach knitting, crocheting and religion to the women,” shares Sister Therese.

Sister Therese believes “good missionaries work themselves out of a job.” She feels a tremendous sense of accomplishment and gratitude as former students have assumed leadership roles in the parish and community. The classes in the trade school, that were formerly taught by the sisters, were soon taught by Bolivians, many who were former students, allowing the sisters to be involved in other ministries.

“In Entre Ríos, I currently work with adults on sacramental preparation classes. I coordinate the baptism and marriage preparation teams and research possible speakers from Tarija for on-going formation. When possible, I help out with the rural catechist courses in the parish of Entre Ríos,” states Sister Therese.

A dream unfolded in Bolivia when a house was purchased in the city of Tarija. The home, Casa Betania, translated as Bethany House, began as a place where young university women could come to live, study and share community life, learning about the Presentation spirit and culture. Sisters Therese and Mery focused on community life with the students while Sister Mery was attending the university.

With Sister Mery’s graduation from the university, there are no longer students residing at Casa Betania. Sister Therese coordinates the use of Casa Betania for retreats, gathering area for university students to work on group projects and meeting place for those who need a space to meet.



Sister Therese Corkery celebrates with First Communicant, Nides Cuellar.

poor,” shares Sister Marge. “Two individuals walk for an hour from rural homes, one from the west and one from the north, for the weekly meeting. They are elderly and poor and each one lives alone. Rain and cold will not stop their participation. They also walk into the village if there is going to be a meal to raise funds for a sick person. Their gifts of peeling potatoes and shucking peas are welcomed. Naturally shy, these two are being transformed through a sense of belonging and being valued. Yes, the two walk to the parties also!”

With the goal of establishing Base Christian Communities, in the early days Sisters Marge and Therese worked in developing neighborhood scripture reflection groups in the village. Since the beginning years, the formation of rural faith leaders called for an integrated development of understanding community and faith. Base Christian Communities have been the goal of the Latin American church since the late 1960s and continues to be a goal today. With over 100 rural communities up and down the mountain sides of the parish, there is a continuous need for formation and accompaniment of the local faith leaders and their communities.



Sister Marge Healy enjoys a visit with the first communion group in Rode Lajitas.

Sister Marge Healy

Sister Marge continues a long-time passion for mission in Bolivia as she returned for a third-time commitment in 2013. She previously ministered in Bolivia from 1980-1989 and again from 1994-1995. When first living in the village of Entre Ríos, she was a typing teacher in the Academia de la Presentación; coordinated the teaching of religion with teachers in the public grade school; and was a teacher of religion in the high school.

Currently Sister Marge serves as a pastoral presence in the town and rural communities. She coordinates scripture study in the parish prayer group. “The prayer group in the parish is comprised of 15 to 25 people of varying income brackets, but mostly the

“Organizing the formation of and accompanying the rural faith leaders in the parish is my main focus,” states Sister Marge. “This allows me to treasure the people who gather their communities to read and reflect on scripture and life in order to discern the direction for action to bring about God’s dream and to celebrate life in the here and now.”

Sister Marge finds passion for the mission in incidents such as the following, “One community realized during their prayer that no one had recently seen an elderly, extremely poor man who lived alone,” she recalls. “A family who lived near him said that they would stop by his place to check on him. Another said that if he was sick that they could take him to the doctor the following day. The next day he was taken to the doctor, who, upon examining him, said that the man would die in a couple of days. With the doctor’s recommendation, they took him home. The neighbors organized themselves, agreeing to take turns providing him with food and care as they waited with him for death to come. It came three years later! The community claims their miracle.”

Receiving wisdom from and learning with the people in Bolivia, this Presentation missionary, Sister Marge Healy, shares words of gratitude, “What a blessing it is to walk with my sisters and brothers in O’Connor Province. I learn daily from the faith of those who are weighed down by great suffering; those leaders who have a heart to understand the needs of the people and are ready to take the extra steps to walk with them; and those who know how to laugh and appreciate the gifts of each day. I am blessed.”

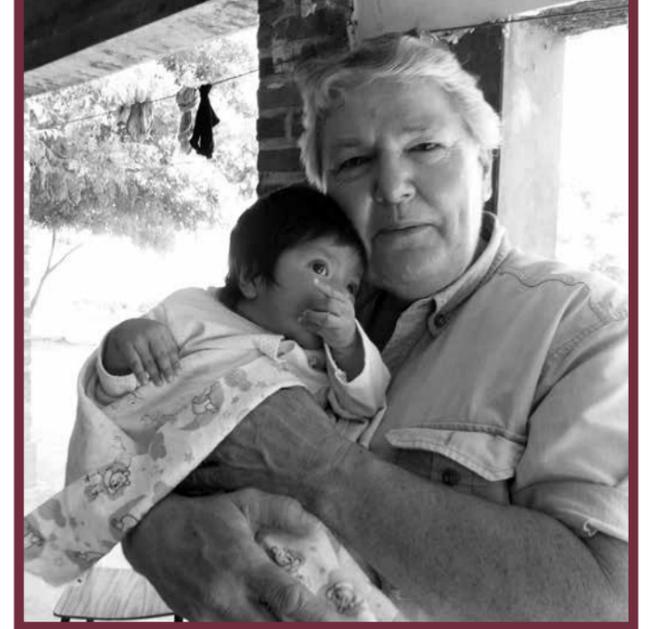
Without a document, one is not permitted to attend school, have access to health benefits, voting privileges or collect social benefits. It is so difficult for the majority of us to imagine what it would be like not to be able to read or write.

Sister Suzanne Takes

Sister Suzanne Takes

Sister Suzanne has ministered in Bolivia since 1985, serving in many capacities as the needs arose, including youth minister, teacher of religion classes for junior high and high school students, director of the Academia trade school, manager of the pharmacy project with the local hospital, and companion for the Guaraní people who need help obtaining necessary documents and paperwork for birth certificates and identification cards.

Sister Suzanne’s current focus of ministry for the past 12 years has been to assist people who are in need of legal documents.



Sister Suzanne Takes holds Ramoncito in Mokomokal.

“I visit people who request help with their documents to gather the necessary information and then accompany them to the Civil Registry and other legal offices to do the paperwork,” she explains. “I spend a good deal of time traveling between the rural communities, the village of Entre Ríos and the city of Tarija to accomplish this task.”

What is at the heart of the mission, what is Sister Suzanne’s passion for the mission? As she accompanies individuals on their journey of receiving documentation, Sister Suzanne listens to and walks with the people.

“What a struggle it is working within the bureaucracy and the legal system. Without a document, one is not permitted to attend school, have access to health benefits, voting privileges or collect social security benefits,” laments Sister Suzanne when she considers the injustices placed upon some Bolivians. “It is so difficult for the majority of us to imagine what it would be like not to be able to read or write.”

“For example,” continues Sister Suzanne, “I remember well an elderly woman, Edelmira, who said to me ‘Tell me how old I am.’ After doing the math, and telling her, she jumped up, twirled around and exclaimed, ‘I am 86!’”

Sister Suzanne expends energy and offers empathy to each person with whom she journeys. “I spend hours driving, waiting in line, going from one office to another, insisting that the people receive what is their legal right to obtain their birth certificates and identity cards,” she explains.

“Recently, I visited the Guaraní community of Ñaurenda and was approached by Juan who inquired about the paperwork for his next-door neighbor Solomon. I happily told him that the paperwork was finished and that his neighbor finally had his documents. Juan went on to tell me how he told his neighbor that I would help. Since there is a division at present among the Guaraní people, Juan’s neighbor was hesitant to ask for my help.

Juan said, 'I told him not to worry and that you would help him because the hermanitas (sisters) are for everybody, they don't take sides.' I was so touched to hear this beautiful affirmation," reflects Sister Suzanne.

In 2014, in celebration of jubilees, Presentation Sisters, with the help of generous partners, were able to purchase water filters for the Guaraní people of Bolivia. The water filtration systems help provide safer drinking water, using no chemicals or electricity. These systems last 10 years and filter water at a higher standard than United States tap or bottled water. Sister Suzanne has coordinated this in the Guaraní community.

Experiences of "radical hospitality" are evident for Sister Suzanne as she lives her missionary spirit in Bolivia. "We never visit the people without being offered something, no matter how little they have. It is humbling to receive a boiled egg and mote (corn soaked and boiled) knowing that they are gifting us with all they have, not from any surplus. I am reminded of the widow who gave all she had to the prophet Elijah," she reflects. "I consider myself blessed to have the opportunity to live and minister in Bolivia. I have received so much from the Bolivian people."

"Many things have changed in Bolivia since the Sisters of the Presentation arrived," shares Sister Suzanne. "Changes in the infrastructures have enhanced the mobility of people who live in the campo or rural areas. Road conditions have improved considerably. Buses and mini-vans make it possible to get from the country to the city, allowing the people to get their products to market. Thus, a greater accessibility and cash flow has come into their lives. There are more grade schools and high schools. In the beginning, there was only one high school in the entire province, and today there are 10."

Observing the prayer group in Entre Ríos, Sister Marge can tell that relationships in the community are sacred to the widows, men, elderly, young mothers and the children who accompany them. "They appreciate being together to share their sorrows, hopes and needs," she explains. "At times rural community members reflecting on life, state, 'We have to have a catechist.' They recognize their need to live more deeply into the values of community, solidarity and faith."

"I celebrate the faith that our people have in their thirst for God. To be in unity, to long for unity, is in their hearts," exclaims Sister Mery, who hopes with her background in psychology to help families better understand one another.

Sister Therese sees her return to Bolivia in a new light. "When I discerned in 2012 to return to Bolivia to retire, realizing there was a need for more sisters there, I said my focus would be a presence to the Bolivian people. Since arriving in 2013, I see myself as being flexible and available to the needs here," she explains.

The grace to receive with open hands, mutual presence, a welcoming spirit and learning from and with the people are characteristics of what Sisters Mery, Therese, Marge and Suzanne and their predecessors have lived and spoken in the "Digo sí," of God's radical hospitality.

Update on Support to Bolivia and Beyond!

by KAREN TUECKE,
PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

"Wonderful things happen when we are open to God," exclaims Sister Suzanne Takes. A year ago in April, Janella Frankl Reicks and her husband, Ron, both having lived and ministered in Bolivia, made a long-awaited return visit, eager to renew friendships. While most of their time was spent in the Guaraní communities of Naurenda and Mokomokal, they were able to renew relationships in Cochabamba, Tarija and Entre Ríos.

With the Presentation Sisters, they dreamed and planned about immediate needs, one of which was to replace the roof on the house in Timboy. Originally constructed using tile, the supporting rafters had become warped causing the tiles to lift and break. It was obvious that repairs needed to be done prior to summer rains.

Sister Suzanne adds, "Thanks to Janella and Ron's efforts and the generosity of many, the roof project began in November and was finished in mid-December, changing the roof to a sun resistant tin roof. We are ever so grateful."

On behalf of the Sisters of the Presentation and the Bolivian mission, we give thanks to all those who have contributed. Other needs considered and still pending are to replace the present vehicles and to fund the indigenous identification paper process.

In the Winter 2016 Presentation Doorways, an article was published on Bolivia and the support they are receiving in response to Janella Frankl Reicks and her husband, Ron's, efforts to raise money for a roof in Timboy.



Capitan Ramon Ibanez admiring the finished roof.

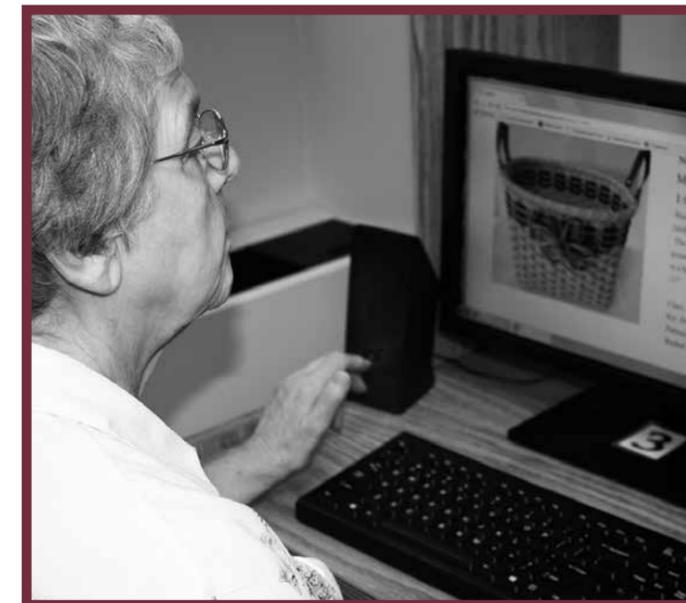
Evolving with Technology

by NICOLE CONNELLY, INTERN

The Sisters of the Presentation are committed to learning and evolving, and technology is no exception. Each week several sisters sign up for technology lessons to practice anything from checking their inbox to downloading puzzles onto their iPads or even Skyping their siblings from across the country.

Sister Marie Barth recently switched to the Presentation email address so she has been working diligently to ensure her contacts have the correct contact information. Sister Dolores Zieser is learning shortcuts to help her print pictures of basket weaving designs she might like to try. Sister Dolores Moes is always interested in learning new tricks of how to copy, print, paste, scroll and adjust the margins as she types the daily activity signs for the elevators and other notices for the sisters in the house. Sister Kay Cota is working on organizing her candid camera pictures into their respective folders on her laptop. Sister St. James Lickteig has been downloading plenty of new games onto her iPad and knows exactly how to delete the ones she does not like. The sisters continue to learn and grow as they live into the 21st century, and these are just a few examples.

In addition, many sisters use various forms of technology as they continue to work for peace and justice, reverence relationships and offer God's presence to the world. As sisters work for peace and justice, many stay connected through emails, Basecamp and Zoom. These tools help the sisters share information and communicate with the whole community and associates.



Sister Dolores Zieser searches the internet for new basketweaving designs and techniques.

Many sisters use various forms of technology as they continue to work for peace and justice, reverence relationships and offer God's presence to the world.

Basecamp is a program that manages projects and allows the sharing of timely information and resources, and Zoom is a video conference feature used for various meetings when participants are separated by distance.

Just recently one of the sisters donated her old iPad to be used around the motherhouse so the senior sisters will have the opportunity to sign it out if they would like to give it a try. Sister Marie is currently in the process of learning how to video call her sister who lives in Colorado.

Another way technology has positively impacted the lives of the sisters and allowed them to stay connected with family and friends is when Sister Pierre Kollasch's sister passed away. During this sad time, technology provided a special opportunity for Sister Pierre and some of the sisters at the motherhouse to attend the funeral service virtually through Zoom. Both Sister Pierre and her brother connected on Zoom and were able to visit together for a few moments afterwards.

"Sister Pierre talked about this experience for weeks and was so grateful to be able to be present at the funeral thanks to technology. She was able to watch the whole service live and see all her relatives present at the church that day. It was very special to help make this connection happen," states Carol Heim, technology specialist.

Lastly, sisters continue to be a presence and light in the world, even online, as several have been highlighted on Sister Spotlights, short videos debuting sisters as they offer insight on a wide range of topics. These videos are featured on the Presentation website, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

Technology has been an important tool for the sisters to use as they continue to expand their understanding of what it means to offer radical hospitality to the world.

Nicole Connelly has been the wellness intern at the Sisters of the Presentation since January 2017. This fall, she will be a senior at Loras College in Dubuque studying theology and politics with minors in Catholic studies and peace and justice.



Called to Radical Hospitality Community Gathering

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

Presentation Sisters and associates gathered for their annual Community Days on July 12-15, 2017, attentive to the theme “Called to Radical Hospitality.” Careful preparation by committees, leadership team, speakers, musicians and Presentation employees came to fullness so that participants could gather, listen, ponder, laugh and go out.

Gather

Sister Julianne Brockamp proclaimed in the opening prayer, “Welcome! See the radical hospitality of God here in our midst!” The Exodus reading of Moses and the burning bush was mirrored as those present took off their shoes to enter the sacred ground of their meeting space. Imitating the action of Jesus with his disciples, the sisters washed the hands or feet of one another to recall their role in the Body of Christ: to love, to serve, to welcome.

This formal gathering rite was followed by many other “gatherings” as sisters and associates claimed precious time to connect and share the stories of their lives, families and ministries.

Listen

Facilitator, Sister Catherine Schneider, OSF, guided the sisters in their conversations by inviting all to listen intently as the Spirit stirs wisdom and vision within the hearts of the participants, giving radical meaning to the charism of hospitality and igniting new purpose and zeal for living the mission of Jesus in this time.

The leadership team reviewed highlights of the efforts of sisters and associates to live out the 2013 Presentation Directional Statement. Additional community reports and updates were shared that reminded the assembly of God’s presence in their past and their call to be open to the future.

Gina Wentzel Wolfe witnessed her understanding of being “Called to Radical Hospitality” and asked the sisters, associates and department managers, to listen with their hearts to its scriptural and theological roots. She highlighted the day-to-day reality of hospitality as the fulfillment of one’s baptismal promises, a call to discipleship and Eucharistic awareness and following the Great Commandment in Luke’s Gospel to love God, neighbor and self. Gina used the phrase “othering” to affirm Theologian Letty Russell’s stance that there is a tendency in society to see ourselves as different from others rather than connected to others. Thus “othering” forgets that we are all created by God and that differences are a gift from God.

Sister Cheryl Demmer reflects, “As I begin each day after listening to Gina, I ask the Lord to help me to be aware of the vulnerability of the stranger ... the stranger within me and the stranger in others.”

Gina expanded on her point by stating that “othering” can happen even as one struggles with a religious response to climate change. She affirmed that we are deeply connected to all of creation, its beauty and its struggle.

With the words of Charles Dickens, Sister Marian Sweeney confirmed her deepened awareness of the sacredness and connectedness of all living beings, “God bless us everyone!”

Using a Trinitarian motif, Gina referred to the web of relationship of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit supporting an understanding of God’s redemptive love calling us to mutual reverence and solidarity.

Community Days provides an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Left to right: Sisters Sharon Kelchen, Carla Popes and Sheila Ann Dougherty enjoy catching up with one another; During the opening prayer, the sisters washed the hands or feet of one another; Sisters Irma Ries, Damian O’Brien and Rosalyn Ulfers smile for the camera during a break.

Jane Buse, director of communications, made an application as a Presentation employee: “As department managers, we were grateful to learn more about the meaning of radical hospitality and how we can incorporate its qualities into our work environment ... calling us to reverence one another, challenging us to see each other as equal and appreciating our differences as a gift from God.”

Ponder

Attentive listening during the meeting often melded into reflective pondering, sung mantras and the use of contemplative silence. Participants had the opportunity to gather the wisdom, the questions and the resistance of their heart ... some to be shared ... some to be held in profound silence.

Associate Maureen Utter gave voice to her ponderings, “I learned a lot! My own definition of hospitality was challenged and expanded. As I continue to sit with all this swirling in my head, I hope I can make some changes in my life and truly live out my own call to radical hospitality in light of what I heard.”

Sister Joetta Venneman concluded, “I found myself being challenged to live radical hospitality by being aware of disturbances within self and life and reframing them as an invitation to change so as to radiate radical hospitality as it flows through my person.”

The pondering will continue and support future new conversations leading to the Chapter of Affairs and Elections on December 28, 2017, through January 2, 2018. In the words of Sister Mary Therese Krueger, “Radical hospitality feels like the spirit of going ‘one pace beyond’ and stepping out of our comfort zones is the lens for our chapter conversations.”

Laugh

These Community Days were punctuated with laughter and lightheartedness. A one act play directed by Sister Mary Therese and Associate Bridget Lahart entitled “Phoney,” engaged the dramatic arts talent of a cast of sisters and associates. The very receptive and mirthful audience observed the antics of numerous characters clad in creative costumes and fortified with convoluted scripts to solve the “who dunnit.” The courtyard was filled with 60s dance music as an evening beach party celebrated with roasted marshmallows, hula hoops and the Macarena.

Go Out

The activities of Community Days culminated with rituals in which sisters and associates were commissioned through song, “Go out to all the world, spread the news of God’s love.” Each was empowered to live radical hospitality and to “serve where need calls loudly in the winding lanes.”

What is a General Chapter

by MARILYN BREEN, PBVM

A General Chapter is called every five years and is an important time in the life of a religious community. The Presentation Constitutions state that “the chapter is a sign of the unity of the congregation in charity. Its responsibility is to preserve the heritage of the community, the mind and plans of the foundress concerning the nature, end, spirit and character of the congregation as well as its tradition.” (Witness to Love)

A chapter has two distinct parts: the chapter of affairs which considers the direction that the community will take for the next five years, and the chapter of elections at which time new leaders are elected to carry out the vision discerned by the community. Newly-elected leaders will be installed in June 2018.

Pope Francis, in his letter to initiate the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life, encourages all religious communities to: 1) celebrate the good of the past, looking to the past with gratitude, 2) honor the power of the present, living the present with passion, 3) grasp fresh possibilities for the future, embracing the future with hope. It is with this challenge that the Presentation Sisters look forward to chapter which will be held December 27, 2017, through January 2, 2018.

As the Presentation Sisters plan for this chapter, they want to take a realistic look at their present reality, to consider the needs of the world around them, to reflect on the life of Nano Nagle as she lived the good news of Jesus and to listen to the Spirit who resides in their midst. They carry the gifts of a heritage lived by Mother Vincent Hennessy who came from Ireland with three young women to bring the gospel to Iowa. They also stand on the shoulders of Presentation people throughout the world.

The community reflects, “What will we call ourselves to? How will we renew ourselves in order to be faithful to the life and mission of this day? What will we call ourselves to in this world? And who will we elect to carry out this vision?”

Please remember the Sisters of the Presentation in your prayers as they prepare for their General Chapter in the months to come.



Sister Anne Marie Kollasch proudly displays her autobiography.

SISTER ANNE MARIE KOLLASCH A Woman of Gratitude

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Rarely does a writer for *Presentation Doorways* have her work done for her! But I was just that lucky, because, in fact, Sister Anne Marie Kollasch has written her autobiography, which also includes much family history. Some time ago the Dubuque Presentation Sisters invited Fran Kennedy, a writing teacher and an author herself, to share some writing guidelines and offer suggestions for sisters interested in composition. Sisters were, in turn, invited to write an autobiography. Sister Anne Marie did just that! In addition to personal visits with Sister Anne Marie, her “Kollasch Collage” serves as a resource for this present article.

The daughter of Charles and Anna Kollasch of Whittemore, Iowa, Sister Anne Marie is the oldest of nine children. A testament to the faith life of this family, two daughters and one granddaughter became religious sisters, and one son became a priest.

Taught by the Presentation Sisters in Whittemore, as were her father and mother before her, Sister Anne Marie became a Presentation Sister. Her sister, Joanne, is a member of a Benedictine community, and her niece, Maxine Kollasch, is a sister of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). Her brother, Father Gene, was a Jesuit who ministered in Korea for 33 years. In addition, numerous cousins chose religious life: Fathers Victor Kollasch, Louis Kollasch, Merle Kollasch and Armand Elbert. In the Presentation community alone, Sister Anne Marie names six relatives: Sisters Matilda, Denise, Pierre and Marita Kollasch, Presentation Dahlhauser and René Laubenthal.

After 10 years of “grueling” summer schools (as Sister Anne Marie puts it, because a semester’s course was taught in six weeks), she received her bachelor’s degree from Loras College with a major in

history and a minor in English. But she had been teaching long before that was accomplished. She began her ministry at St. Joseph School in Mason City, Iowa, where she taught for 10 years in grades five, six and seven (separately) over that period.

Following Mason City, she taught in various Catholic elementary schools in Iowa – St. Columbkille, Dubuque; St. Joseph, Key West; St. Patrick, Waukon; Immaculate Conception, Charles City, and finally at St. Cecelia in Algona, Iowa, where she was again close to family. During several of the summers Sister Anne Marie did graduate work at Clarke College in Dubuque, and, thus became a federally-certified remedial reading specialist during the last 15 of her 25 years in Algona. Sister regularly visited the care centers during her teaching years and did additional pastoral ministry during her last three years.

During her time in Algona, both of her parents passed away, only eight months apart, and she considered herself blessed to be so close to Whittemore during those times. Sister also treasures the fact that in those years when she was geographically close to her family she could join them for many happy occasions and reunions.

Needless to say, it was with mixed emotions that Sister Anne Marie retired in 1993 and returned to Mount Loretto “where I had been nurtured and prepared for the apostolate from the time I first arrived there in the fall of 1940.” Although she greatly missed her family and their gatherings, she states that “the memories of those years have sustained me in my retirement.” During her early years of retirement, she regularly visited patients at the Dubuque Nursing and Rehab Center.

“But,” she adds, “I take great delight in the beauty and accessibility of our Mount Loretto home. The environment in our dining area and adjacent sunroom is inviting any time of day for refreshments and a chat with friends. And my decorative, homey, comfortable room is a kind of ‘inner sanctum,’ free from intrusion where I find solitude with God and self. And having a television enables me to keep abreast of current events, especially social justice issues. Having majored in history, I’ve always had a liking for it and political science. I am intrigued as I observe the political arena of affairs unfold in the present, as it is history in the making. I have, likewise, had an innate love for theology and literature. I keep relished historical and literary documentaries featured on TV.”

“Aside from my interest in history and politics, what really ‘makes my day’ is participation in our liturgical celebration of life at Mount Loretto. As I continue my sojourn into the sunset of life, I am ever aware of the ‘hundredfold’ that is mine as God’s beloved. I find myself repeatedly telling God how grateful I am for His sustaining love at this time in my life. Unable to hurry as in the past, I’m slowing down and taking time to ‘smell the roses,’ as they say.”

At 98 years of age and the oldest member of the Dubuque Presentation community, Sister Anne Marie is an example for each of us as she reminds us of the importance of thanking God for the “hundredfold.” May we all become ever more sensitive to the goodness of God and the ability to be grateful even in difficult times.

All Souls’ Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2017



Those we hold
closest to our hearts
never truly leave us.

They live on in
the kindnesses they shared
and the love they brought
into our lives.

Anonymous

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

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

You can also submit your intentions to Karen Tuecke at partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org with the following information for each loved one:

Name of Loved One _____

Relationship _____

Date of Death _____



Sister Donna Demmer (bottom right) celebrates her Golden jubilee with her siblings. Clockwise: John, Loras, Gerry, Charlie, Sister Donna and Sister Cheryl Demmer.

Celebrating 50 Years of Religious Life A Pearl of Great Price

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Sister Donna Demmer responded to the Lord as she began her journey of religious life 50 years ago, “I will serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen ... Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart ...” (1 Kings 3:8)

And Jesus said to Sister Donna, “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure ... a pearl of great price ...” (Matthew 13:44, 46)

And Sister Donna responded, “Your word, O Lord,” “is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.” (Psalm 119:72)

Then, on July 30, 2017, Presentation Sister Donna Demmer shouted in joy, “My treasures lie in the glory of God,” as she celebrated her Golden jubilee. She “gathered the people, entered the feast” with Mass and dinner joined by her family, her Presentation community and other invited guests at the Sisters of the Presentation motherhouse.

Treasuring faith and family while growing up on a farm in Farley, Iowa, Sister Donna, the third child of six, learned from her parents, the late Charles and Martha Jane Kramer Demmer, and her siblings the lessons of partnering and relationships. This nurtured her in deepening her relationships with God and the wider community.

“I am so happy to celebrate Donna’s jubilee,” exclaims Sister Cheryl Demmer. “At some point in her life, God must have asked Donna the same question that he asked Solomon, ‘Ask for anything and I will give it to you!’ It was so very clear to me at Donna’s jubilee as I sat across from my family embracing each and every moment, that Donna must have asked for a ‘genuine-simple’ heart. The entire jubilee day was a celebration of that genuine-simplicity filled with so many grace-filled moments with our community and with our family. Our mom and dad were so much a part of this day. My heart beamed with pride. It was one perfect day!”

I am most passionate about the need to help others to be good leaders and role models in the future so they will take an active part in making the world a place of peace, respect and justice.

Sister Donna Demmer

As all her siblings, Sister Donna is a graduate of St. Joseph High School in Farley. In 1967, she entered the Sisters of the Presentation. She received her bachelor’s degree in math and elementary education at Clarke University in Dubuque in the spring of 1972 and began teaching that fall. Four years later, Sister Donna professed final vows.

“The readings for this jubilee liturgy speak to me that the kingdom can be found anywhere because it is God. It is the love among us,” reflects Sister Donna. “I am most passionate about the need to help others to be good leaders and role models in the future so they will take an active part in making the world a place of peace, respect and justice.”

Celebrant and homilist, Father William Joensen reflects how all are called to “invite God to be God” and to be open to the wonder and joy “that there is no one like you.” That God partners with humans is reflected in Sister Donna’s life, he states. A self-described tomboy, she was drawn to tractors more than dolls and learned responsibility and how to work with others by doing chores. She saw the witness of God’s love in her Presentation Sisters-teachers and in Father Jack Dalton who brought communion to their home when her Dad was sick. She learned the witness of social justice in her grade school teacher Father Ray Hermann who gave his life ministering to the poor in Bolivia.

“A child-like joy to be happy with little as described by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’*,” states Father Joensen, “makes us grateful that God is the treasure, God is the pearl of great price.” This is Sister Donna’s expression of gratitude as she celebrates her jubilee. God became incarnate for the poor and God’s promise is the way of hospitality, room for all at the table. With simple trust, spirit led faith in God’s word, we can live in right relationship to all, concludes Father Joensen.

Currently, Sister Donna teaches and serves on several committees at Resurrection Elementary School in Dubuque where she has been serving since 1989. Previously Sister Donna taught in Catholic elementary schools in Iowa at St. Columbkille, Dubuque; St. Mary, Humboldt; St. Mary, Storm Lake; and at St. Germaine, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

“This jubilee celebration is a time to reflect on the treasures that I have in my life – the treasures of faith, family, friends, community and associates,” says Sister Donna. “Through relationships and friendships with those I have and do work with now I am gifted

with the passion to live the mission of Jesus. They encourage me to share my gifts and talents. Working with children and seeing their compassion and support for others gives me the energy to love what I do each day.”

Sister Donna serves as a Eucharistic minister and as a member of the arts and environment committee for the Church of the Resurrection. In addition, she is a member of the Catholic Sisters for a Healthy Earth task group made up of representatives from congregations of women religious from the upper Mississippi River Valley in eastern Iowa and southwestern Wisconsin. The group’s intention is to take a new look at how all that humans are and do is interconnected and tied to the well-being of all living things.

“As a woman religious and as a teacher, I find the kingdom of heaven by offering a warm welcome, encouraging others to be their best and seeing the good in others,” shares Sister Donna. “Through my ministry of teaching, I hope each day that those with whom I come in contact will come to see that having God, they have everything. As Solomon asked not for riches but for an understanding heart, I pray and hope others will come to know what is right and just.”

Ministry Updates

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | 1 Sister Jessi Beck, Vocation Director, Sisters of the Presentation, Chicago, Illinois/Dubuque, Iowa |  |
|  | 2 Sister Rita Cameron, Counselor, Catholic Charities, Mason City, Iowa |  |
|  | 3 Sister Mery Cari Paz, Family Counselor, Entre Ríos, Tarija, Bolivia |  |
|  | 4 Sister Martha Donnelly, Chaplain, Mercy Hospital, Cedar Rapids, Iowa |  |
|  | 5 Sister Marilou Irons, Resident Manager, Applewood I and II, Dubuque, Iowa |  |
| | 6 Sister Mary Therese Krueger, Graduate Student at Catholic Theological Union and Registry at Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, Illinois | |
| | 7 Sister Corine Murray, Community Prayer and Service, Dubuque, Iowa | |
| | 8 Sister Joy Peterson, Promoter of Justice, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa | |
| | 9 Sister Rosalyn Ulfers, Community Prayer and Service, Dubuque, Iowa | |
| | 10 Sister Lynn Mary Wagner, Partners in Mission Assistant / Food Service, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa | |



COMMUNITY DAYS 2017

Living Hospitality

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Presentation associates are called to share in and live out the charism and mission of the Presentation Sisters within the associates' individual vocation in life. As associates gathered to participate in the 2017 Community Days gathering, the commitment and love the associates and sisters have for one another was evident and expressed in numerous ways. Associates and sisters prayed together, learned and shared together, listened to each other and laughed and celebrated together. Associate Dianne McDermott expresses her experience of Community Days in a haiku:

A time to slow down.
Reflection and dialogue;
prayer with the sisters.

Dr. Gina Wolfe's presentation spoke to the charism of radical hospitality that binds associates and sisters together with a common mission. Gina stated that radical hospitality should both disturb people and stretch them. True hospitality breaks through limits and recognizes the other as equal.

Associate Bridget Lahart explains, "Being a part of Community Days and hearing the call to radical hospitality made me think of the people who have embraced and welcomed me into their lives and communities. It made me think of the times I have tried to be hospitable but have gotten caught up in the busyness of life. Living in mutual reverence with others takes practice, time and care, but will hopefully be worth all three!"

The social events were times to reconnect and have fun. Thursday evening's beach party provided time for laughter and building deeper friendships as the sisters and associates shared smores, danced and visited with one another. Associate Billie Greenwood recounts, "Our gathering of people from many regions creates a treasure-trove of human excellence. The socials offer outstanding opportunities to enjoy one another. I wasn't on the social committee, but I felt like I got to know all of them better, too, just from participating in their great activities."

Friday was a memorable day. The day started with the associates and sisters coming together to pray with icons of hospitality and love, remembering that radical hospitality is rooted in mutual reverence and solidarity. Following the prayer, associates met together to consider the next steps and challenges that they face in committing to live out the mission of radical hospitality in their lives. "I'm happy that, as associates, we are talking about how to own the mission and how to claim our part in that. I look forward to continuing to develop our distinct role as associates and, further, how we continue to carry forth the mission of Nano," explains Associate Bren Connors.

Associate Yvonne Kisch shares, "The best part for me was on Friday when the associates had a group session on their own and the sisters did the same. When we all got together again that afternoon and shared all that we talked about, it was amazing to see that many of the ideas were so connected."

Left to right: Associate Co-Directors Cindy Pffner and Sister Joan Brincks catch up with past co-director Carol Witry during a break; Associates Ann Cooper, Colleen Venter and Rose Rauch brainstorm ideas to share with the sisters; Sister Irma Ries and Associates Sue Murphy and Barb Ressler pose at the photo booth during the beach party; Associates Laurie Noel, Dora Serna and Colleen Venter enjoy catching up with one another; Associates Becky Searcy, Barb Ressler, Sherry Giesemann, Sister Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, Ann Cooper and Marilyn Jacobs receive a blessing from the sisters during the commissioning ceremony.

Associate Maureen Utter adds, "Friday afternoon the sisters gave us a platform to talk about what we need from the broader community and how we can better support each other. We had some genuine concerns, and I was struck by how willing the sisters are to hear our views and cooperate with us in a mutually supportive way."

Following the joint session, the associates were commissioned in a powerful ritual that reminded all present that sisters and associates are truly interconnected and rooted in the legacy of Nano Nagle to offer radical hospitality to the world. Associate Yvonne Kisch declares, "This Community Days was one of the best I have attended."

Associate Partnership

For more information, please visit:

WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG

Office of Associate Partnership
563-588-2008

associates@dubuquepresentations.org

A Benefit to
Support Charitable
Ministries

Arts & Crafts Boutique

and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 21, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa
Lakeside Door Entrance

All proceeds will help support:
**Francis Apartments
of Opening Doors, Dubuque**

**Envision Mental Health
Endowment Fund, Dubuque**

Find unique, hand-crafted gifts by Presentation Sisters and associates. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings 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.

REMEMBERING Resurrection Parish and School

1961-Present

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

After having conducted religious education classes at St. Philomena Parish in Asbury for 25 years, the Sisters of the Presentation took over the operation of the new school which was built in 1961. At that time the name of the parish, and subsequently that of the school, was changed to Church of the Resurrection. The school consisted of eight classrooms and encompassed grades one through six.

The first sisters to minister at Resurrection School were Sisters Joan Lickteig (who served as principal), Dianne Michels, Donna Determan and Louann Doering. One lay teacher completed the faculty roster. The sisters traveled from the Presentation motherhouse to Resurrection each day. Sister Donna Demmer continues the Presentation tradition, the last of 66 members of the congregation who have served at Resurrection.

By 1964 a second set of eight classrooms had been added, and in 1967 the two sections of the building were connected by a temporary church space, a multipurpose room, restrooms and janitorial space. 1967 also saw the construction of a convent on the parish grounds, and the sisters no longer needed to commute to their place of ministry. This allowed the sisters, in the words of one of the original faculty members, to become “more fully a part of the parish, our parish.”

With the opening of Wahlert High School in 1959, students leaving eighth grade at Resurrection had the opportunity to extend their Catholic education for four more years. Further expansion provided a separate church in 1985, allowing the former temporary quarters to be converted to a gymnasium. Pre-school and day care opened in 1986, expanding the age range of students accepted in the facility.

Delivery of the curriculum varied through the years. In 1972, Individually Guided Education (IGE) was introduced, consisting of multi-age groups of students each learning at his/her own pace. In 1981 the school board voted to enter a shared time agreement with Dubuque Community Schools whereby seventh and eighth grade students spent half of the school day at Jones Middle School where they received instruction in science, math, music and home

arts. This arrangement allowed room for a learning center at Resurrection where students received additional assistance through small-group activities.

The now Holy Family Catholic Schools system has its origins in 1981 as the Dubuque Metropolitan System of Catholic Education. This merge placed all the Catholic elementary schools in Dubuque under the direction of one administrator. Eventually, by 2006, all students in sixth through eighth grades moved to Mazzuchelli Middle School on the Wahlert Catholic High School campus.

In addition to serving in the school, Presentation Sisters have been a part of the parish in such capacities as parish minister, Eucharistic minister, youth coordinator, and teacher of religious education for public school students. Volunteers have provided music for the liturgies and joined in parish fundraising activities.

Sister Donna Demmer, presently teaching in the school, remarks, “As a teacher at Resurrection Elementary School I have seen many changes starting with a kindergarten through eighth grade building to a preschool through fifth grade building. When seventh and eighth grades were here I enjoyed just stopping to watch volleyball, basketball and football games. It is always great to see and hear about the accomplishments of students from Resurrection.”

Sister Donna Demmer states, “The goal of Resurrection School today is to be a place that is respectful, reverent, responsible and resourceful. The parish is one which is very concerned about social justice issues and care for the environment. I’m proud to be a part of such a great community.”



Sister Donna Demmer helps her student with math.



Sister Donna Determan



Sister Louann Doering



Sister Joan Lickteig



Sister Dianne Michels

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



The Joy of Friendships

Over the last 47 years, Gerald Hoeger and Sister Marie Barth have maintained a lasting friendship. They met when Sister Marie was working with the G-E-M program in Garnavillo, Elkader and Monona, Iowa, from 1970-1977. Gerald, Presentation partner in mission, and his friend, Joe Hildebrand, live in Garnavillo, Iowa, and visit the motherhouse whenever they are in the area. Left to right: Joe Hildebrand, Sister Marie Barth, Gerald Hoeger and Sister Dolores Moes.

Living Abundantly

by NICOLE CONNELLY, INTERN

This summer, the sisters at the motherhouse have kept busy with the “Abundant Living Series,” a collaborative program offered by the offices of pastoral care, house coordination and wellness. This series included outings, speakers, gatherings and other experiences to help the sisters live more abundantly and continue to learn and evolve. The name for this series comes from John 10:10 in which Jesus says, “I have come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Some outings included trips to the mosque for an Islamic prayer ritual; nature center and botanical garden tour to appreciate the beauty of creation; Sinsinawa Mound, the Dominican Motherhouse in Wisconsin, to view their heritage exhibits; Mount Olivet cemetery in Key West where Dubuque Presentation Sisters are buried and an enjoyable trolley ride visiting various places around Dubuque.

To name a few, some speakers and presentations included a local Cedar Rapids author, Dale Keuter, who shared his passion for recording faith and family stories; Sister Irma Ries who spoke about racial and social injustices; a video featuring Presentation Sisters from various congregations sharing experiences of the lived charism; Sister Christin Tomy, OP, who reflected on experiencing abundance through living simply; a TED Talk by Brene Brown on vulnerability, and Ali Jaeger who shared her experience of working with the sisters in Bolivia.

These opportunities allow the sisters to come together and experience a little more truth, goodness and beauty which is part of the abundance Jesus highlights.



A trip to the nature center. Left to right: Back row: Sisters Deborah Paige, Josita Zieser, Kay Hosch, Sister Louann Doering; Front row: Sisters Mary Jo Leifker, Jeanette McCarthy, Dolores Zieser and Donna Determan.

You are invited to join us.

September 25, 2017

October 23, 2017

Centering Prayer

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

October 21, 2017

Arts & Crafts Boutique & Bake Sale

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

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.

September 24-30, 2017

International Presentation Association

(IPA) Assembly

Sydney, Australia

October 14, 2017

First Profession of Vows

Sister Mary Therese Krueger

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

November 2, 2017

Feast of All Souls

November 13, 2017

Foundation Day, 1874

Presentation Lantern Center

Established in 2002, Dubuque

November 21, 2017

Presentation Day

November 28, 2017

Giving Tuesday

Help others through the gift of your time, treasure or talents.

21st of each month

Pray for Vocations

25th of each month

Mass for Benefactors

Please help us keep our database up-to-date.
Please change this label and send it back to
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at
info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

- New Address
 Misspelled Name
 Wrong Address
 Remove my Name
 Receive Duplicate Copies
 (please indicate which is correct)

Relationally SPEAKING

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief



Congratulations to **Sister Carla Popes** who was chosen by Archbishop Michael Jackels to serve on the Dubuque Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of women and men religious in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. She will have a three-year term.

The Sisters of the Presentation were awarded a grant from Sustainable Dubuque to implement a wheelchair accessible Green Circle Garden! Children, teens and seniors can engage together in creative gardening activities. Wheelchair accessibility allows both seated and standing gardeners to work together and interact socially. The sisters will be partnering with local residents, Wahlert High School, Trees Forever and some area residential facilities to offer programming for eco-friendly planting.



On July 27, 2017, Presentation Sisters and associates attended the opening and dedication of the Steeple Square Francis Apartments in Dubuque. The apartments will provide permanent supportive housing for graduates of Maria House, a program that provides transitional housing and support for women learning to be independent, and also market-rate apartments for the general public. The apartments were named in honor of the women religious in the tri-state area, who are the founders of Opening Doors, a nonprofit organization that operates Maria House and Teresa Shelter for homeless women and children. Left to right: Back row: Sisters Julianne Brockamp, Mary Therese Krueger, Elena Hoye, Annette Kestel, Ann Jackson, Jeanine Kuhn and Associate Barb Ressler; Front row: Sisters Joan Lickteig, Lynn Marie Fangman, Beth Driscoll, Rosalyn Ulfers, Leanne Welch and Dolores Zieser.