PRESENTATION

DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world
Walking in Nano’s Footsteps
Sister Michaeline Healy brings presence, care and enjoyment to others through pastoral care.

Oh, for the Love of Green
The Presentation sisters and associates gather for their annual meeting to pray, discuss and reflect on the direction of the congregation.

Where in the World is...
After 50 years of ministering in Catholic schools in Iowa and Illinois, Sister Paulette Traut shares her many gifts at Mount Loretto where she now resides.

Celebrating Associate Partnership
Seven individuals make their initial commitment as associates of the Sisters of the Presentation.

Celebrating 50 Years of Religious Life
This summer nine Presentation sisters share their unique journeys of religious life as they observe their 50th jubilee.

Mount Loretto and Beyond
We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation sisters, near and far.

Cover photos: Clockwise: left to right: Sister Rosalyn Ulfers; Sisters Joellen Price, Paula Schwendinger and Rita Menart; Sister Marge Healy and Associate Sandy Kahle; Sister Lynn Marie Fangman (middle) with her family; (back) Brad McClinton holding Evan McClinton, Associate Darla Budden, Associate Deb McClinton holding Lauren McClinton, (front) Norb McClinton, Mary Ann Drees and Jen McClinton.
From past experience I know that when I come home from a meeting, a familiar question will be posed, “What new ideas did you hear?” In response, there are usually three or four points that I can report as important learnings from my experience. And, I must admit, if I return to my notes there are many additional replies that offer appropriate answers to the inquiry. But there is usually one new insight that takes priority.

My participation in the August assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in New Orleans offered numerous graced messages that percolated through the words of major speakers and table discussions that are an integral part of the assembly during which 800 women religious share wisdom and hope. The title of the gathering, “Women of Spirit: Creating in Chaos,” focused our collective attention on the continuing process of recovery being played out in Katrina-ravaged New Orleans. And analogously, each of us, whether individually or as a total religious congregation, continues to renew, re-create and revise our hopes and dreams and ways of being. Thus we share in the creative process referenced in Revelation 21:5, “The one who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’”

These are the thoughts, stated as questions, that have stayed with me and have provided much reflection: “Who am I? Who are we? With whom will I stand? With whom will we stand?” In the context of LCWR, these questions were asked of communities of women religious. But I would like to suggest that any individual in any lifestyle whether married, single, vowed or ordained, any family, any parish, any neighborhood, any city could well adapt these questions to self or to a collective group.

So, what does creative chaos look like in your life? What personal transformation needs to take place in your heart? What difference can you make? How can you attend to the human needs of another? Can your family stand beside others who have a desire for peace at every human level? How will your parish develop a sense of belonging with those on the fringes of society? What does it take for a city to welcome the stranger into its midst?

Let us live with courage as we dare to be creative in the chaos through the words by John O’Donohue from To Bless the Space Between Us.

At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions

Where did my eyes linger today? Where was I blind? What did I learn today? What new thoughts visited me? What differences did I notice in those closest to me? Whom did I neglect? Where did I neglect myself? What did I begin today that might endure? How were my conversations? How did I stand in solidarity with those made poor and those excluded? Where could I have exposed myself to the risk of something different? Where did I allow myself to receive love? With whom today did I feel most myself? What reached me today? How deep did it imprint? What visitations had I from the past and from the future? What did I avoid today? From the evidence…why was I given this day?
Presenting Doorways | fall 2009

**Walking in Nano’s Footsteps**

by Beth Kress, PBVM

Sister Michaeline Healy brings presence, care and enjoyment to others through pastoral care.

It seems natural for Sister Michaeline Healy to share the charism of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress. Sister Michaeline is a pastoral associate at St. Mary’s Parish in Caledonia, Minnesota, a position she has held for 12 years.

“One of Nano’s greatest gifts, I believe, was being present to the needs of people. That is what I try to do and to be – be present and support the families of our parish and the Caledonia community in good times and bad; sickness and health,” states Sister Michaeline. “My ministry is about ‘being with’ – nothing fancy – just being there and walking with others. It may be attending a ball game, a family celebration or just being present with the sick, injured or grieving – it is walking the journey of life and faith with another.”

A native of Schaller, Iowa, Sister came into the world with a twin sister and was christened Margaret. Her twin, Mary, lives in Osceola, Iowa. Frank and Rita Healy, now deceased, raised their 11 children on a farm in western Iowa, and that, according to Sister Michaeline, has made all the difference in how she views life.

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_Sister Michaeline Healy_

Church and service were core to my parents and family life. Living on a farm, prepared me well for my ministry today,” she says. “I learned to appreciate the interconnectedness of nature and that of family farm life. My mother and dad were very involved with parish life and helping and supporting friends and neighbors. They had deep faith and out of that faith came the action of service. Shortly after I entered the convent my family moved to California where my parents continued to be involved in church and to serve others. Today my family is made up of people of many different ethnic backgrounds which illustrates the gift from our parents to make all feel welcome.”

Sister Michaeline entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1962, participating in formation and professing first vows in 1965. She earned her B.A. at Clarke College in Dubuque and began a teaching career. While teaching in Catholic elementary schools in Farley-Bankston, Osage and Algona, Iowa, she earned her M.A. in reading education from Clarke College. Sister began her pastoral ministry career at St. Joseph Parish in Salix, Iowa. Since 1997, she has been ministering in Caledonia. In 1999, she also earned a M.P.S. (Master in Pastoral Studies) from Loyola University in Chicago.

Connecting her role as a pastoral associate to the mission and direction of her religious community is very important to Sister Michaeline. “I see living out of our Presentation charism and my ministry all as one. Nano’s life was one of service whether she was teaching children or caring for the sick and the lonely.”

It is obvious that Sister enjoys working in a parish. “I love it when I am with parishioners and see their growth and development. It is exciting to watch them grow in leadership positions and encouraging each other and their children to be involved. We have been gifted to have so many youth sharing their talents. We have experienced even more people of all ages being involved through our new Generations of Faith programs and youth groups.”

The ministry of presence is at the heart of Sister’s daily service. “My ministry of pastoral care has led me to walk with our parishioners and community on their journey of life in times of sickness and grief, as well as times of birth and celebration,” she states. “Journeying with people joining the church through RCIA has also helped me to deepen my faith and share it with others.”

All work and no play would make a dull Sister Michaeline, but she maintains her love of sports, most recently as coach of the “Sis-stars” team at the Presentation ball game played during the community gathering this July.

“I enjoy all sports and love being with the youth and their families as the kids share their skills. It has been especially fun this year as our Caledonia High School football and girls’ basketball teams were State Champions.”

Especially memorable for Sister Michaeline are her travels. “My trips to Ireland and Italy were very special. The countryside in both Ireland and Italy reminded me much of farmland around Caledonia and southeast Minnesota.”

Most meaningful to her was Ireland. “It was in Ireland that I felt very grounded and at home with the culture and faith of the people,” she says. “With my Irish ancestry in the Healy and Gallagher families, I experienced a new awakening of all that I had been given. It was in listening to the stories of hardship and their life journeys that I came to understand my own family better.”

One of the highlights of the trip for Sister Michaeline was going to Ballygriffin, Nano Nagle’s birthplace and home. “That experience was beyond words,” she continues. “Walking the streets and alleys of Cork City with our Presentation sisters deepened my faith. It was there that Nano Nagle served the poor, educated the children and walked with her lantern at night as she brought food to the sick and elderly.”

Reflecting on her Irish and Presentation roots, Sister sums it up in these words: “I love the hospitality of the people of Ireland and I try to be a person of hospitality in my daily life. I trust that God will lead me to those to whom I must be present. For me, being there for others is following the call of Nano.”

Sister Michaeline holds baby Lydia. Lydia’s mother, Lynette, had a busy year preparing to become Catholic while awaiting their third child.

It has been a joy for Sister to witness Lynette’s growth in faith and to anticipate Lydia’s birth.
“Oh, for the Love of Green” was the backdrop for the gathering of Presentation sisters and associates during community days on July 16–18, 2009. Focusing on one aspect of the community’s five-year commitment, we learned more about Earth sustainability in order to act responsibly and to reduce our carbon footprint by 25 percent over five years.

Speaker Sister Cathleen Real, CHM, personally prepared by Al Gore in the Climate Project Faith Community Training, reviewed the scientific reality of Earth’s condition and provided the background, vocabulary and the how-to of advocacy for climate change legislation.

Sister Joy Peterson, recently completing a year on staff with the International Presentation Association (IPA) representative at the United Nations, explained the UN’s efforts to effect change. The December UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen is an opportunity for gaining agreement and understanding between nations. Sister Joy, the promoter of peace and justice for the Sinsinawa Dominicans, will attend the conference.

Our desire to explore more deeply the ethics and spirituality of sustainability was whetted by the presentation of Father Bud Grant, a professor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

Green infomercials delighted and taught us how to green our lives. Breakout sessions gave practical advice, fostered dialog and suggested how to reduce our carbon footprint. The sessions touched on issues of food, agriculture and nutrition presented by Associate Billie Greenwood; packaging and recycling presented by Sisters Lynn Mary Wagner and Donna Demmer; toxins and consumerism presented by Associate Barb Ressler, Sister Jessi Beck and Beth Simpson; and transportation presented by Associates Bernie Graves and Judi Moritz.

Celebrating Nano Nagle and Her Companions

With an attitude of gratitude, sisters and associates celebrated the legacy of Nano Nagle and Mother Vincent Hennessey on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle’s death and the 135th anniversary of Presentation founding in Dubuque. “On loan from heaven” Nano and Mother Vincent, impersonated by Sister Rosalyn Ullers and Associate Karla Berns, facilitated the evening of sharing.

In a spirit of prayer we remembered our beloved: who died away from their homeland – Ireland; who died after a long illness; who died unexpectedly; who longed for years to die; who died too young. We prayed, “For whenever we gather in the light of God’s grace and for all whom we remember, there will ever be a place.” (There is a Place by Liam Lawton)

Viewing a panorama of pictures of deceased Presentation sisters and associates, the group listened to the song Standing on the Shoulders by Joyce Johnson Rouse. Stories were shared and testimonies given of their faith, sacrifice and commitment.

Honored by their vision and their passion we stand a little taller, work a little longer – our shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow us.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of life; for the everyday miracle of sun, air, water and soil becoming green, living things. For seed and soil, green stem and air, fruit on vine, fallen fruit rotting on moist ground, new seed again, we give you thanks.

by BETH DRISCOLL, PBVM; MARGE HEALY, PBVM; and SHARON KELCHEN, PBVM

Loving God, thank you for the gift of life; for the everyday miracle of sun, air, water and soil becoming green, living things. For seed and soil, green stem and air, fruit on vine, fallen fruit rotting on moist ground, new seed again, we give you thanks.
The Lady of the Lantern

written by SHEILA ANN DOUGHERTY, PBVM

With a disturbing awareness of the plight of the poor, Nano Nagle wrapped her mantle of compassion around her as she walked the streets and lanes of Cork – always searching for those in need. To get in touch with the spirit of this woman, to catch a spark from the fire that burned in her heart – these were the goals of the TOIR program which I was privileged to attend that summer.

The word toir is an Irish word meaning “search” or “quest.” In July, 41 men and women from 11 different countries came together in Ireland for a search into the lives of the foundresses and founders, Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice. Edmund Rice, inspired by Nano, gathered men around him and set up schools for boys. This group of men became known as the Presentation Brothers. Later in their history another branch became known as Irish Christian Brothers. Both claim of men became known as the Presentation Brothers. Both claim of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice as their founder.

As Nano and Edmund looked at the world of 18th century Ireland, what did they see? What did they feel stirring within them? How do their lives speak to us today as we look upon our world? These were the questions that challenged us during our days together.

The poor, the uneducated in faith and life skills, the disabled in body and mind, the prisoners, the prostitutes – all of whom society casts aside – these were the ones who cried out to them. Do we not find these same voices crying out to us today from the margins of society? To be always on the side of the poor requires a steadfast commitment to justice and a lifelong attentiveness to their plight. Works of mercy have been Nano and Edmund’s legacy down through the centuries.

Both Nano and Edmund had a vision for their time, a deep faith and sense of church, and a burning desire to live the gospel daily through deeds, not just words. They challenge us today as we continue in their footsteps. We pray that “our hearts may bear the same flame and cast it on our earth.”

(Fire on the Earth by Sister Raphael Consedine)

SISTER PAULETTE TRAUT

“For 50 years Sister Paulette Traut ministered in Catholic schools in Iowa and Illinois. Upon her retirement she brought her many gifts to Mount Loretto where she now resides. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, daughter of Adam and Maude Traut, Mary Kathleen (Kay) attended St. Patrick Grade School and then enrolled in St. Joseph Academy. During high school, Father Supplee acquainted Kay with the Presentation sisters and she liked what she saw. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation and finished high school at St. Columbkille. At reception, Kay received the name Sister Mary Paulette, a name taken after her only brother, Paul.

Sister received her B.A. degree in English from Loras College and her Master’s degree in reading from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Throughout her years of teaching, Sister shared in the Presentation mission by teaching at all grade levels as a classroom teacher and religious education teacher. Always a very creative teacher, Sister was one of the first to receive the Master Teacher Award from the Diocese of Sioux City in 1986.

In addition, Sister Paulette taught religious education in an ecumenical religious summer school in Memphis, Tennessee. What began as a vacation with her family ended with her helping her sister-in-law teach fifth and sixth graders. “I had never taught in an ecumenical Bible school setting like this before. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I think the youngsters liked me,” she states in summary of the experience.

As a lover of music and dance, Sister Paulette was always involved with dramatic arts in the schools as she helped with school musicals and programs. One summer she tried to teach some of the novices how to tap dance. “One-two-three-kick. It sounded easy, but the feet of some of the novices didn’t always cooperate!”

One of Sister’s hobbies includes traveling. She especially enjoyed her European trip with her family a highlight of traveling to Italy and visiting the Pope. Other hobbies Sister Paulette enjoys are reading, working crossword puzzles, art, music and dance.

Always treasuring her family, Sister Paulette looked forward to her visits with her daughters, Deochoy, Ginni, and Pater, and her brother, Paul. Now she looks forward to visits with her nieces and nephews.

“Trautie,” as she is affectionately called by some, continues to share in the Presentation mission as she prays for the needs of the community from her wheel chair.

Sisters Beth Dworsch and Paulette Traut.
**ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP**

On July 14, 2009, Presentation Associate Group “Living Lanterns” spent several hours working in the large community garden that is providing daily bread for families in Postville, Iowa, and the surrounding area through the Food Pantry. Judy Egeland and her husband Bill are in charge of the garden and worked with the group clearing the weeds so the vegetables could grow strong. Food memories returned of working in the gardens with parents, preparing and canning and sharing the produce with others. As Associate Janet Leonard said, “It feels so good to do something for others, and just get my hands dirty.”

The group also gave a monetary donation to Camp Noah, a camp that provides fun and hope to children in Postville after the storm of the immigration raid. The camp strengthens children’s coping skills and works to reduce the trauma-related symptoms that children exhibit. This camp is offered at no cost to families.

**Betty Allen**

“I want to admire Nano Nagle – her determination, love of the poor and faith in God. I have found those same traits in the Presentation community today. I was actively involved in Compassionate Friends after the death of a son and am currently on my parish Bereavement Committee. I have volunteered with the Red Cross Disaster Team and have just completed the Archdiocesan Lay Formation Program. As I continue my faith journey, being an associate will provide me the opportunity to further my lay ministry actions.”

**Michelle Cowen**

“I have developed a great respect for Nano Nagle and her dedication to the poor and to education. I can only hope to some day accomplish a small portion of what she achieved in her life. I humbly offer my prayers and my time to the Presentation sisters and to continue to live out the vision of Nano in my volunteerism – always striving to go ‘One Pace Beyond.’”

**Kathleen Fahey**

“What do I have to offer as a Presentation associate? I am willing and have the time to give service and prayer. I already am an Eucharistic minister at my parish and at Luther Manor. I am on my parish Bereavement Committee and visit parishioners in the hospital. Please guide me as to how, where and when I can be of service to the Presentation needs.”

**Karen Freiburger**

“Completing the Associate Orientation Process has made me much more knowledgeable of Nano and the philosophy and works of the Presentation sisters. I am at a time in my life where I am able to give back – to help with projects through prayer, time and service. I enjoy the time I spend with the sisters when working the switchboard at Mount Loretto and look forward to forming even closer relationships through service with them.”

**Father Ed Lechtenberg**

“As a priest for 58 years, I am already called to evangelization and will continue to use my gifts to bring the love of Christ, his unselfish love, to others so they can embrace him and be embraced in his saving grace. Being a Presentation associate provides me another opportunity to respond to the Lord and say ‘Here I am. I come to do your will.’”

**Darlene Richard**

“I feel God brought me to the Presentation sisters for a reason, maybe prayers for the community or service to the poor. The verse in ‘Companions on the Journey’ sums it up well. ‘We have been gifted with each other and we are called by the Word of the Lord, to act with justice, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.’ God has been good to me and I feel He is calling me to help others.”

**Helen Marie Theilen**

“As a resident advocate at Ennoble Manor, a volunteer at the cancer research upscale retail shop and connect with the bereaved in my parish. I am 81 years old but try not to let that deter me from my rounds.”

On June 18, 2009, the following seven individuals made their initial commitment as associates of the Sisters of the Presentation. Sisters Benjamin Duscher and Louann Doering walked with the six women as they began their orientation in Fall 2008. Sister Benjamin shared that she was so impressed with their faithful and how they fell in love with Nano. “They did go ‘One Pace Beyond’ and were such a blessing and inspiration to me,” she states.

Sister Louann shared that all of these women are so involved already in service to others. “This commitment to carry on in the spirit of Nano Nagle and Mother Vincent Hennessey seems to renew their Christian care for others,” she added.

Sister Margaret Anne Kramer mentored Father Ed Lechtenberg as he read and studied the orientation manual and accompanying readings. Sister expresses, “It was a privilege to journey with Father Ed as he reflected, shared and identified with Nano throughout this process.”

**In Memory of Catherine Jane Hansen**

December 4, 1916 – June 28, 2009

Catherine Jane Hansen’s life journey took her from Minneapolis and the Basilica of St. Mary to St. Margaret’s Academy in Minneapolis and St. Catherine’s College in St. Paul and then to parishes in Edina, St. Louis Park and Deephaven, Minnesota. She and her husband, George, passed on their faith and love of learning to their six children, 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was admired by her children for her spirit of independence and gracious style. Jane was very involved in life work throughout her life and during her 12 years living at St. Therese Southwest in Hopkins, Minnesota. She spent many hours helping Sister Dolores Zieser with chapel environment and as a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Jane made her initial commitment as a Presentation associate in July, 2003. She was impressed by the hospitality, graciousness and caring of the Sisters of the Presentation and wanted to share in their ministries through prayer and monetary support. Before her death, she informed her family that she wanted to be buried wearing her Presentation associate pin. We remember her with love and gratitude.
Celebrating 50 Years of Religious Life

Nine Presentation sisters reflect on their lives as women religious

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On June 27, 2009, Sisters Mary Kathleen Dolphin, Benjamin Duschner, Deborah Paige, Irma Ries and Leanne Welch celebrated 50 years of religious life with family, friends, Presentation sisters and associates with a liturgy in Sacred Heart Chapel followed by a dinner and reception at Mount Loretto. The theme of their day was “Rooted and Grounded in Love.” They entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1959 and professed final vows in 1967.

SISTER MARY BENJAMIN DUSCHNER
Sister Benjamin, currently of Dubuque, Iowa, is a reading specialist at Dubuque Catholic High School in Dubuque.

“Children have always been a very important part of my life as the nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews came along and all the children to whom I have given a loving touch of God in their lives,” remarks Sister Benjamin. “It is a gift to work with children because their lives are so simple and not so complicated like adults make life to be at times. I enjoy and love all of them. I see the call to live out the life of Nano by incorporating the hospitality of God. God has gifted me with freedom, joy, laughter and an inner happiness that are fuel for my life. Joy is the laughter of my soul. I try to listen and care for others by offering hope and love to those who bear heavy burdens and are in need of a listening ear.”

SISTER MARY DEBORAH PAIGE
Sister Deborah, currently of Dubuque, Iowa, ministers in community prayer and service at the Mount Loretto Motherhouse.

Reflecting on her life as a Presentation sister, she says: “My Presentation community is my family – not without contrast but unexpectedly beautiful and strong with bonds of love and loyalty...they encourage me to live simply, care deeply, love generously, speak kindly and leave the rest to God.”

SISTER MARY IRMA RIES
Sister Irma, currently of Muscatine, Iowa, is executive director of Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA), a center that provides shelter, basic health care, educational and vocational support services for the homeless and near homeless of Muscatine County.

“In 1959, God nudged me and I was drawn into a life as a sister of the Presentation,” reflects Sister Irma. “I have gradually come to realize, using the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring the gospel to the poor.’ When I came to the convent, I knew little about our Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, the woman from Ireland who during the day gathered the most needy people to teach, and at night walked the streets with her lantern to help the poor, elderly and sick. With the unfolding of my life over the past 50 years, I have come to know and believe that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.”

SISTER MARY LEANNE WELCH
Sister Leanne, currently of Dubuque, is counselor on the leadership team of the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque.

“Nano expended a great deal of her personal and family resources to educate the poor in their faith and to aid them in acquiring skills and learning that would help them for life,” reflects Sister Leanne. “I believe my ministry in education has extended this effort especially through my work in helping to establish Holy Family High School in Enosley, Alabama, as part of the Cristo Rey Network of schools that provides a Catholic, college prep education to economically challenged young people in urban communities.”

Sister adds: “My dream for religious life and our congregation is that we use our Presentation charism of hospitality to welcome all and to witness to the world that we can be warm and caring people who live simply, pray steadily, love living and are open and willing to do God’s will.”

My Presentation community is my family – not without contrast but unexpectedly beautiful and strong with bonds of love and loyalty, tradition and faith...they encourage me to live simply, care deeply, love generously, speak kindly and leave the rest to God.”

Sister Deborah Paige
On July 5, 2009, Sisters Cecelia Marie Auterman, Therese Cerkory, Carolyn “Carrie” Link and Julie Siggelkow celebrated with family, friends and Presentation sisters and associates at Mount Loretto with a liturgy in Sacred Heart Chapel followed by a dinner and reception. Rev. Raymond Corkery, O.Carm., brother of Sister Therese, also observing his golden jubilee as a Carmelite priest, was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass. The theme of their day was “Celebrating 50 Years of Grace.” These sisters entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1958 and professed final vows in 1966 and 1967.

SISTER CECELIA MARIE AUTERMAN
Sister Cecelia Marie, currently of Dubuque, is receptionist at Mount Loretto and a teacher at Sylvan Learning Center.

Reflecting on her vocation to religious life, Sister says: “I was inspired by the Presentation sisters who taught me. I had made the decision to enter the Sisters of the Presentation when I was in seventh grade. I never wavered from that decision. I see the call to carry the lantern of Nano Nagle lived out in my life as a Presentation sister in my work as teacher of students who struggle with reading or math and in being receptionist at Mount Loretto, greeting guests and answering the phone. I also offer hospitality to the tenants in the senior housing where I live.”

SISTER MARY THERESE CORKERY
Sister Therese, currently of Alamo, Texas, is a caregiver to the terminally ill at Aurora House Foundation in Weslaco, Texas.

“My brother, Father Ray, Presentation Sisters Margaret Donnelly, Ellen Murphy and Virginia Gereau all had an influence on me and encouraged me in my vocation to be a sister,” recalls Sister Therese. “Ray entered the Carmelite Seminary when I was in fourth grade and we would write back and forth, he was always very special to me – and continues to be.” Sister continues, “Religious need to be leaders in whatever field presents a current need – education, health, immigration – all areas of peace and justice. As sisters, we need to be one with the people, not be looking for privileges, and not be concerned about titles.”
Sister Mary Elizabeth Guiliani was received into the novitiate June 26, 2009, in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto. She entered the chapel with her local community while carrying a lantern and singing, “O Lord, you are the center of my life: I will always praise you, I will always serve you, I will always keep you in my sight.”

Sister Lizzie, as she prefers to be called, is originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, but more recently had lived in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where she was employed by a physicians group as an executive with the health care system. She would be the first to tell you that she really wanted for nothing…she had a great job, a beautiful home, and more than enough money, yet her life seemed incomplete. It was the story of Nano Nagle and her example of letting go of her wealth and possessions in order to minister to those who have nothing that drew Sister Lizzie to look more deeply within herself.

Within the months prior to the reception ceremony, Sister Lizzie’s preparation and contemplative prayer seemed to guide her more deeply, as it did Nano, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On reflection, her years of working in the health profession brought a renewed spirit to this traditional devotion for her. “The human heart, which provides for our very (physical) existence, also provides images of love for our emotional and spiritual needs through poetry, theology, and psychology. The heart is where we go for deeper contemplation,” states Sister Lizzie.

“I believe that with her courage to continue the quest for God as a Sister of the Presentation at this time in her life and the community’s charism of Nano Nagle to guide us, Sister Mary Elizabeth will help lead us to new places,” says Sister Julie Marsh, Director of Formation.

As a canonical novice this year, Sister Lizzie will participate in a weekly Inter-Community Novitiate program at Tecnyn, Illinois, and take classes in prayer, religious life and scripture. She will volunteer at the Dubuque Domestic Violence Shelter and participate in various service and immersion experiences throughout the year to broaden her awareness of the needs of God’s people and the care of Earth.

“Religious life is in process of great change. We do not know the future of religious life, yet I believe there will always be people who will gather within a vowed commitment, in ordained ministry, free and Spirit-led in witnessing to the Gospel. For us who are living in this time of transition it is a challenge to let former patterns drift away to make room for the new as yet to be born.”

Sister Carrie, currently of Monticello, Minnesota, is a Christian initiation director at the Church of St. Henry in Monticello, and pastoral minister at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Mound, Minnesota.

“Jubilee time is an opportunity for me to reflect on my life and be grateful for the fulfillment of my dreams: doing art work, being a companion for others in their process of becoming members of the Catholic faith, being shaped by community and the gift of the endless list of people with whom I’ve been in contact, my various ministries, opportunities for spiritual growth, all within the blessing of living as a Presentation sister for 50 years,” reflects Sister Carrie.

“Good and holy people inspire me to keep following my call to religious life,” reflects Sister Julie. “My mother was the first in my life. I will always remember her strong faith. Presentation Sister Mary Clifford Cody, who taught me in high school, is another who comes to mind. She made me feel very important, always remembering my birthday. Years later I found out that her birthday was on the same date.”

“While reading and reflecting about the vows and our Presentation charism recently, I couldn’t help but think how poverty impacts our relationships with the gifts of creation. Chastity refers to our commitment to love. Obedience calls to mind the whole aspect of listening to God, individually and communally. I am called to spend my energies in a creative way to build God’s kingdom. How exciting!”

Sister Mary Julie Siggelkov
Sister Julie, currently of Dubuque, is librarian at Mount Loretto.

“While reading and reflecting about the vows and our Presentation charism recently, I couldn’t help but think how poverty impacts our relationships with the gifts of creation. Chastity refers to our commitment to love. Obedience calls to mind the whole aspect of listening to God, individually and communally. I am called to spend my energies in a creative way to build God’s kingdom. How exciting!”
The Joys of Summer Service
Sister Jessi Beck chaperoned a mission trip with high school students from St. Paul’s School of Religion in Manchester, Iowa. The group participated in Catholic Heart Work Camp in Oklahoma City during the week of July 5-11, 2009. Over 250 youth from around the United States spent the week painting, scrubbing and pulling weeds for residents in low-income neighborhoods and nurturing their own spiritual growth through faith sharing and prayer experiences.
Sisters Marie Barth and Dolores Zieser exhibited art pieces at a Fine Arts Show for Seniors on September 12 at a local retirement community in Dubuque. Sister Marie’s entry was a floral watercolor painting; Sister Dolores entered a hand woven basket.

Sister Leanne Welch is teaching an undergraduate course entitled “Reading in the Secondary Schools” during the first semester through the Education Department at Loras College in Dubuque.