



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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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. Columbille) 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

A Look Inside CONTENTS

Sisters of the Presentation | Spring 2018 | Volume 62 • Number 1

- 4 Chapter of Affairs and Elections**
The Presentation congregation gathered for a six-day community meeting to determine the new congregational direction and election of new leadership.
- 6 A Classical Masterpiece**
Serving as pastoral minister and liturgist, Sister Carrie Link is also an accomplished artist trained in classical realism who believes that creativity is inborn in every human being.
- 8 Celebrating Nano Nagle and Her Profound Impact**
The 300th anniversary of the birth of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, is being celebrated around the world.

Annual Report of Appreciation

Included in this issue of Presentation Doorways is our Annual Report of Appreciation for all who have been part of our ministry efforts in 2017. New ways of being present to people in need are unfolding as a result of your partnerships. Your giving spirit continues to encourage us and for that we are grateful.



- 9 Remembering Our Roots**
We remember our years spent at St. Odilia Parish in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the many stories during that time.
- 10 A Call of the Heart**
Sister Irma Ries has entered a time for slowing down, reflecting, enjoying the memories of people, places and opportunities.
- 14 Keeping Her Name Alive**
We remember Sister Therese Marie Hawes.
- 15 Mount Loretto & Beyond**
We share with you special times in the lives of Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and associates, near and far.

Cover PHOTO

The Great Reunion in North Charleston, South Carolina: Sisters Irma Ries and Suzanne Gallagher share a sacred meal of thanksgiving, reunite with friendships formed in the past and express gratitude for the blessings and gifts they bring to one another.

Openings A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by JULIANNE BROCKAMP, PBVM

300 Years Evolving

This year we celebrate 300 years since the birth of our foundress, Nano Nagle. It is inspiring to read the history of her journey and feel the impact of the transformations that took place in her life. Her wealth and educational privilege prepared her for following her passion to be of service to those afflicted and excluded in her time. Her listening heart was so in tune with the heartbeat of those suffering from neglect and abandonment that she went forth to be of service and made a difference not only in the winding lanes of Cork, Ireland, but also in winding lanes throughout our beloved planetary community.

Since her youth, many walked with Nano, nurtured and guided her into adulthood and then assisted her and her sisters in their efforts to live in relationship with those forgotten by society. Over the long haul, Nano's zeal inspired others to be of service, both locally and globally, to those who were desperately in need.

How astounding it is that for 300 years, a variety of partners in mission have embraced their missionary call and have shared in efforts to make the world a better place. It is for this same courageous spirit that we give thanks to all of you, our partners, for your listening hearts and your generous response to local and world needs. We acknowledge how your vision and your very hearts beat in sync with the mission of Jesus and are inspired by the life of Nano.

Today, as we all strive to humanize our world, it is with profound gratitude that we are awakened anew to the power of love. As we experience the power of our many partners in mission working together in relationship, friendship, laughter and joy, hope is enlivened. Strategies for changing hate to love, war to peace, exclusion to radical hospitality, famine to food and safety in the face of human trafficking consistently challenge us. Over the years, since the time of Nano, there have been partners who have generously held the care of suffering people and Earth close to their hearts. With deep gratitude, we thank those partners in mission who have gone before us, those making a difference today and those whose hearts will be stirred to help bring about a new future.



Photo credit: Nano Nagle Birthplace, Ballygriffin, Co. Cork

Nano Nagle's journey

was marked by a spirit of trust in God and a deep sense of gratitude. In the face of challenge, Nano's trust in God's love and the deep call to serve the poor inspired her to take the next step when she couldn't see beyond it. Together, let us pause and reflect on the life and attributes of Nano. Let us honor and celebrate her profound impact and the rich legacy she entrusted to us. Let us follow in her footsteps of welcoming the other and confronting unjust structures, weaving the example of her life with our lives today.



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



Chapter of Affairs and Elections

by GINA FOLETTA, PBVM

On December 27, 2017, the Presentation congregation gathered to celebrate the Christmas spirit and to enter into a six-day community Chapter of Affairs and Elections, which occurs every five years. The chapter provided the time and place to begin en fleshing the radical hospitality of Nano, discern the community direction and elect new leaders for the next five years.

Claiming Radical Hospitality

The leadership team called those gathered to look into the future and consider where Dubuque Presentation Sisters are called to live radical hospitality. Reflecting on the video, “Room at the Table,” the sisters pondered ways to keep their eyes focused outward to “where the world begs for their radical hospitality.”

What is Radical Hospitality?

Radical means the root or fundamental nature of something. In the case of the Gospel, this root is love. Hospitality is at the core of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. A stance of radical hospitality calls us to move beyond prejudices; it is a gift that moves us beyond our fears of difference and vulnerability. In radical hospitality, we are called to meet one another in love (the homeless, forgotten, immigrant, imprisoned, voiceless) and to care for Earth.

Faces of Radical Hospitality

Through prayer and song, the community evoked radical hospitality in the faces of those who have gone before them. They recognized that the journeys of the following women continue to give them hope and inspiration.

Nano Nagle had a heart that embraced the needs of others and was captivated by the spirit of the poor.

Mother Vincent Hennessy left her beloved homeland forever to begin Nano’s work of serving the poor in a far off land. With faith and fortitude, she founded and sustained the Dubuque Presentation community.

Dorothy Day showed a special sensitivity to those living on the fringe of society with no hope for the future. During the Great Depression, she co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement, established farms and hospitality houses in order to provide work, food and a home for those in need.

Malala Yousafzai fought the Taliban’s restrictions on girls attending school. Through her determination and belief in the liberating value of education, she changed the lives of many girls and women.

Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan, Kathryn Peddrew, Sue Wilder, Eunice Smith and Barbara Halley, as outstanding mathematicians and computer scientists, were leaders in the research of our nations’ groundbreaking space program that helped us reach for the stars and explore the heavens. Through their courage and determination, they were pioneers in the struggle for justice and advanced key social and political movements including civil rights, gender equality and peace.

Unnamed women wove the threads of history and created a way out of no way.

Breathing Radical Hospitality

The facilitation of Sister Catherine Schneider, OSF, guided the chapter processes, including contemplative moments to reflect on topics, conversations regarding how radical hospitality can be applied to the sisters’ experiences, conclusions about how the community might want to move forward in light of their current reality and the communal commitment to radical hospitality.

Peace and Radical Hospitality

Making peace starts within ourselves and in our families. On January 1, the World Day of Peace, each member of the Presentation community committed, to the best of their ability, to become nonviolent and peaceable people by together taking the Pledge of Nonviolence for Presentation People. The community vowed not to be silent, recalling the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

The Chapter of Affairs concluded with the approval of the following directional statement:

Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle, and united to Presentation Sisters and Associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all people.

Ignited by Radical Hospitality

The election of new leadership was marked by the refrain from the song, A Place at the Table, “Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, joy, compassion and peace!” On June 2, 2018, the new members of the congregational leadership team, Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen, will be welcomed and blessed by the community.



Left to right: Congregational Leader Sister Carmen Hernandez; and Councilors Sisters Rita Menart, Joy Peterson and Marilyn Breen.

Left page photos: Left to right: Morning prayer called those gathered to open their hearts and mind to discernment, honest conversation and deep listening; Suffering and concerns in the world were identified by placing markers on a map; Table discussions helped clarify specific elements of the new directional statement.



UN Commission for Social Development

On January 29-February 7, 2018, Sister Mary Therese Krueger represented the Dubuque Sisters of the Presentation and the International Presentation Association (IPA) at the United Nations’ (UN) 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development. The theme was “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all.”

“Listening to conversations between international delegates, organizations and representatives, I was astounded by the respect, dialogue and concern each person had for one another, even when there were disagreements,” states Sister Mary Therese. “It brought me hope that a world is possible where dialogue, respect and the common good are more important than individual opinions, money and pride.”

Before attending the assembly, Sister Mary Therese acknowledged that she had very little knowledge about the UN, how it works and what it means to have an IPA non-governmental organization (NGO) representative at the UN. “I now have a greater understanding of why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the focus of the UN and a way to organize efforts to create systemic change, both locally and globally. I learned about global issues that are intertwined with poverty such as homelessness, aging, a lack of jobs, decline in farming, increase in youth, technology and issues faced by people with disabilities,” says Sister Mary Therese. “It was fascinating to learn about the different person-centered approaches organizations and countries are taking to work towards eradicating poverty.”

Sister Mary Therese adds, “This experience, as a whole, expanded my knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the IPA and the UN. It increased my love for Presentations and I am even more proud to be part of the work of the IPA. I am grateful for this opportunity and hope we all continue to work together towards the goal of the SDGs, to leave no one behind.”

On March 12-23, 2018, Presentation Associate Billie Greenwood will attend the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.



Sister Carrie Link begins a colored pencil painting.

SISTER CAROLYN “CARRIE” LINK A Classical Masterpiece

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

“We have a classical masterpiece among us! Many of you know Sister Carrie Link as a pastoral minister and liturgist, but did you know she is also an accomplished artist trained in classical realism?”

The above quotation is part of a statement in the church bulletin at Our Lady of the Lake in Mound, Minnesota, where Sister Carrie ministers. Sister Carrie lives in Monticello, Minnesota, where she is the director of the Catechumenate Process, commonly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), at St. Henry Parish and serves as liturgist at a neighboring parish, Our Lady of the Lake. “The catechumenate is the heart of the church,” reflects Sister Carrie. “It is my privilege to live our Presentation community charism of hospitality in a multitude of ways and within that process. I enjoy being a welcoming presence for all.”

Born Carolyn Link, she is the daughter of Elmer and Eleanor Link of rural Waukon, Iowa. She grew up on a farm with her brothers Tony, Chuck and Bill, and her sisters Jan and Marcia. She has 18 nieces and nephews, 41 great nieces and nephews, and eight grand nieces and nephews.

Carrie and her siblings graduated from St. Patrick High School in Waukon, after which Carrie decided to become a Sister of the Presentation. With four other young women from her graduating class, she journeyed to Dubuque to begin her religious life. During her time in religious formation, she earned her bachelor’s degree from Clarke College in Dubuque, after which she taught in Lawler, Farley, Dubuque (Resurrection School), all in Iowa, and Oregon, Illinois. Subsequently she received a master’s degree in elementary education administration from Clarke, and then served as the principal of the Farley and Sheldon Catholic schools in Iowa.



One of Sister Carrie Link’s still life paintings.

After attending summer schools to study theology and Scripture at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she ultimately earned a master’s degree in religious studies with an emphasis in liturgy from Saint Mary’s University in Winona, Minnesota.

Shifting her ministerial emphasis, Sister Carrie went to Knoxville, Iowa, to work in the RCIA, and then to Nevada, Iowa, to be the RCIA director and liturgist.

So how did her interest in art begin? Although she has an innate artistic talent, Sister Carrie credits Presentation Sister Basil Taylor’s elementary art class while she was in college to be the spark that set her on a path which drew forth this talent. She would often create artistic Christmas gifts for her family, collect sample art prints, decorate teacher bulletins and generally keep an art project “on the go.” Sister Carrie comments, “Creative deeds are longings in the soul for our Creator.”

Through an acquaintance in Knoxville, she was introduced to Dimitar Krustev, a native Bulgarian artist living in Des Moines. “Saturday morning instruction from him deepened my interest, and through him I learned of Atelier LeSueur, a studio art program in Minneapolis,” states Sister Carrie.

While serving in Monticello at St. Henry Parish as coordinator of RCIA, Sister Carrie took instruction at Atelier LeSueur beginning in 1990. Each of her four years of art study focused on a different aspect of art: working in black and white mediums for two years followed by oil painting of still life and portraits in color. At another time, Sister Carrie attended an art workshop in the Tuscany Hills of Italy.

To further assist her parish ministry, Sister Carrie also earned a certificate as a spiritual director, and walks with seekers longing for a deeper relationship with God within the faith community.

Because there is a large Hispanic population in St. Henry Parish, Sister Carrie spent a month in Mexico attending language school. But she also brings a personal experience to her work with other cultures. “I am honored to have a very multicultural family of origin enriched with great diversity: Chinese, Korean, Japanese,

Mexican, Bi-racial, Indian, Filipino and Sicilian,” says Sister Carrie. Certainly this familial experience has had a profound influence on Sister Carrie’s ministries and life.

She believes that “Synchronicity is everything. God has a plan for us and works in surprising ways.”

Another quote from Our Lady of the Lake bulletin states: “Her work is rich in tradition and reflects the idea that beauty and harmony are the underpinnings of great art. Sister Carrie believes that creativity is inborn in every human being. Her eye is always searching for beauty in all its forms, and she loves to share that with others.”

With all this talent and experience, Sister Carrie has an accompanying outstanding gift: she is totally unassuming. Perhaps that is because she sees her talent as total gift, which she willingly shares with others. And she is quick to both recognize the gifts of others and to appreciate them.

Sister Carrie was able to travel to Rome in 1969 for the ordination of her first cousin, Father Tom Jennings. He planned for the group a tour of Rome and the surrounding towns, and of Switzerland, Paris and London. “The Louvre was near closing time when Father Tom and I rushed by subway in order for me to see the Mona Lisa,” she remembered with some amusement.

Although she has had the opportunity to travel in various countries, she has never lost her roots, which were planted on a small Iowa farm by a very loving and faith-centered family. Her art reflects the beauty and profundity of a human being well connected to God, and it enhances the gift she herself is among us. She has enriched these roots by her efforts to develop the talents with which God has gifted her. Not the least of these gifts is one about which she says, “I inherited a sense of humor, with a touch of drama.”

Sister Carrie concludes, “I live in gratitude for the many blessings provided for me through our Presentation community. I could not have wished for more. Now I prayerfully choose wisdom, living every day in God’s kingdom.”



Sister Carrie Link attends a RCIA Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Left to right: Godparent Monica Martin, Catechumen Isaias Palestino, Sister Carrie Link, Candidate Tana Jean Hansen and Sponsor Deb Caouette.



After 30 years, Sister Irma Ries (right) reunites with a young woman (middle), who at the age of three (top photo, left) welcomed Sister Irma by jumping on her lap and wrapping her arms around her. Sister Irma was visiting the village of San Pedro Yosocúa, Oaxaca Mexico at the time. Ultimate joy from the past united with the blessings of the present completes the love circle.

SISTER IRMA RIES A Call of the Heart

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Most people claim heroines or heroes or role models – persons to admire because of their qualities; persons to imitate. Reflecting on the seasons of her life, Sister Irma Ries names two role models, “I marvel how my life has been shaped especially by two women, my mom Julia, mother of 13 children, and Nano Nagle, the foundress of my religious community, the Sisters of the Presentation.”

Parents Julia and Matthew Ries nurtured love, joy, compassion, prayer and hard work in their children, recalls Sister Irma. “Mom and Dad fashioned a farm home in rural Ryan, Iowa, that we truly loved, enjoyed and took pride in. Farming was fun and provided a lot of homegrown entertainment.”

“When people complimented Mom on our good behavior, she usually gave a lot of the credit to our good neighbors,” shares Sister Irma. “Mom and Dad always kept the priests and sisters in mind as they planted the garden or were needing help. We fell to our knees to pray the rosary during certain seasons of the year, during a storm or at a time of accident or tragedy.”

It was mystery to 17-year-old Irma why, during the peak of her high school social life, she was drawn to a community of Catholic sisters. “I didn’t understand it, nor did I doubt it. It was not the life my parents were imagining for me nor the life I was imagining for myself,” she states. Life as a Presentation Sister proved to be countercultural to what Irma knew through “family, farming and frolicking.”

I found my heart in working for justice to alleviate suffering for those made poor. *Sister Irma Ries*

After nearly 25 years in teaching and administration in Catholic schools and religious education, Sister Irma became an active player in determining her ministry and accepted a pastoral ministry position. She said “yes” when invited to spend the summer with Presentation Sisters working in Bolivia.

“What a turning point!” she exclaims. “I had never known of land that was not fertile enough to produce. I had never known people who worked so hard for so many hours and still didn’t have enough to eat. I came home from the summer in Bolivia to continue parish work in Monticello, Minnesota, determined to learn Spanish.”

In a following summer, she used her new Spanish-speaking skills while doing pastoral ministry with migrant families who worked in the sugar beet fields of North Dakota. “My call to be a daughter of Nano Nagle was gaining new and exciting meaning,” states Sister Irma.

At St. James Parish in Washington, Iowa, in 1985, Sister Irma began ministering with only white middle-class families. Within a year, the opening of a beef processing plant nearby attracted workers from south of the U.S. border. “People from war-torn Guatemala and El Salvador whose families suffered major loss of life and many people from deep within the interior of Mexico began to pour into the Washington community,” she recalls. “My life as a daughter of Nano Nagle was moving beyond the imaginable. Families came traumatized with only the clothes they were wearing and had no access to money and food until their first pay check.”

In 1993, with the pastoral team of St. Mary and St. Mathias in multicultural Muscatine, Iowa, Sister Irma gave energy to spiritual renewal and small church communities. This ministry gave her a combined ministry and civic community focus. She was invited to the board of the Muscatine Center for Social Action, an organization that provided housing, job training and health services for the homeless and near-homeless of Muscatine County. After a few years she was asked to direct the center. “I found my heart in working for justice to alleviate suffering for those made poor,” states Sister Irma.

“I always emphasized to the board that I wanted to make sure they weren’t grooming me to be the director but the board held out until I agreed,” she explains. “It was a job I really didn’t want but after I said ‘yes,’ I couldn’t wait to get to work every morning. I judge it the best job I ever had. It was the paschal mystery in action. I often witnessed people – believing it was not possible for anything to get better – going from emotional death to new life.”



Sister Irma Ries enjoys the company of Maggie, her Havanese dog.

At this season of her life, Sister Irma has entered a time for slowing down, reflecting, enjoying the memories of people, places and opportunities. “My home is a perfect environment for prayer,” declares Sister Irma.

She has welcomed a little Havanese dog into her home in Manchester, Iowa. “Maggie keeps me warm at night and spends the early morning hours sitting on my lap watching the cars taking people to work,” proclaims Sister Irma.

She enjoys many parish and community volunteer opportunities in Manchester. “I feel at home at the Second Helping meal site. I appreciate returning the gift of Eucharist brought to my parents for so many years by participating in bringing Communion to people in retirement homes and the homebound. I am grateful for the invitation to join ministries in the parish including serving on the Faith Formation Commission and helping to prepare new members interested in joining the church,” she says.

With a particular concern for planet Earth and its sustainable legacy, Sister Irma has participated in the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training and work with former Vice President Al Gore and renowned climate scientists and communicators. She hopes to inspire others to take action. “I welcome invitations to talk to groups, children or adults, youth groups or schools on earth sustainability,” she states.

Reflecting on her life-seasons, Sister Irma is most aware of the blessing of being a daughter of Nano Nagle: “On September 7, 1959, when I walked through the Mount Loretto doors, took off my chiffon dress and high heels to don a dorky outfit of long black stockings and a very unstylish dress, never would I have comprehended the opportunity before me as I prepared to walk in the footsteps of someone like Nano Nagle. She, too, enjoyed parties and dancing. She, too, had plenty of material comforts. She, too, was born into a God-connected family of faith. From some place deep within her, she, too, took off the pretty dancing dress and walked through the doors of a very different life.”

Associates Living Gratitude

by JOAN BRINCKS, PBVM, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Alive! Awake! Open! Blessed! Grateful! Connected! Generous! Present! Intentional! All these characterize a person of gratitude. One who has courage to trust life, to bring calmness and to be open toward others, even stranger helping stranger.

Brother David Steindl-Rast states, "One can be grateful in every moment for the opportunity it offers. Opportunity is the key word. The gift within every gift is opportunity – to enjoy the gift or to make something of it. Many things for which we cannot be grateful as such do give us an opportunity to learn, to re-consider and to grow. Only years later do we sometimes realize that an event that seemed an unmitigated disaster turned out to be an opportunity for life-changing growth and so was a great gift, after all."

In the world we live in today with violence and separateness, Presentation associates feel the call to cultivate and choose gratitude. They express gratitude as they live the mission of the Gospel in the spirit of Nano Nagle. Gratitude has a ripple effect in their lives and in the lives of others. Living intentionally from a heart of gratitude, they are present to those in their families, in the workplace, in the local community and in the world. They are pushed forward in awareness to the needs around them. Living in gratitude, they live counterculturally to entitlement, greed, indifference and fear.



Associate Joann Gullickson
Coralville, Iowa

"For me, gratitude means taking time to acknowledge and appreciate whatever enriches my life. It is also connecting and responding with joy, and sharing that joy with those around me. Gratitude feeds my soul! I have been trying to focus my gratitude on those small but wonderful moments that can be so easily taken for granted. Recognizing a special moment, and then giving thanks, improves my outlook immediately."



Associate Marlene Von Fumetti
Dubuque, Iowa

"Gratitude gives me a positive grounding in my life. I try to live gratitude from morning till night. I have a wonderful husband so I thank him often for treating me with respect, love and dignity. I want him to know his gifts to me are not taken for granted. In living the Presentation mission as an associate, I show gratitude by helping with the annual garage sale and the fall craft and bake sale. God has taken care of me in the past, is taking care of me today and is already handling my tomorrow. For this I am grateful as I give back and pay it forward."

GIVE *thanks*
WITH A
grateful HEART



Associate Ann Cooper
Dubuque, Iowa

"When I was teaching second grade at St. Dominic School in Quincy, Illinois, Sister Antoninus, the principal who had also been my first and second grade teacher, talked about the importance of being grateful for everything that happens in your life, good and bad. That has stuck with me. Trying to be grateful for things that may not seem like a blessing when they happen helps me keep a positive attitude."



Associate Darla Budden
Dyersville, Iowa

"Through the years in the Nano's Nine associate group, I am very grateful for how my spiritual life has grown. When we pray together at our group gatherings, share our thoughts and stories in our book discussions, attend special Masses and celebrations together with the sisters and associates, my spiritual life strengthens and grows. I am so truly grateful for the wonderful opportunities I have been given through the years. Working at our annual garage sale and experiencing the beautiful charism and hospitality everyone shares with one another is truly amazing. For these precious moments, I am and always will be forever grateful!"

Every day is blessed with many opportunities to be grateful. Enjoy these opportunities and bring to mind those who do not have the most basic things in life. Accept the challenge to do something of service to others. Throughout your day affirm the good and recognize its source by praying, "Giver of Life, we praise You! Bestower of all gifts, we give You thanks. Your steadfast love endures forever." *Psalm 106 from Psalms for Praying*

Welcoming Associate Partnerships

by CINDY PFIFFNER,
ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

On January 24, two new associates, Sue Brimmer and Sarah Gieseke, were welcomed during their commitment ceremony as they proclaimed their commitment to the Presentation mission of being "called to evangelize, offering hope and love to a broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God, confronting injustice and working for peace."



Sue Brimmer

Over the past year, Sue and Sarah gathered with mentors, Sisters Rita Cameron and Marilou Irons and Associates Dianne McDermott and Mary Lou Mauss, to pray, study, share and reflect upon Presentation heritage, charism and mission. Through this orientation process, they immersed themselves in the spirit and life of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, and discerned how they might live out the Presentation mission in their lives.



Sarah Gieseke

Sue has lived in Dubuque her entire life and has been a nurse for the past 34 years. She is an instructor in the nursing program at Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) and has a passion for wellness education and serving those who are most vulnerable. Sue works part-time at the Sisters of the Presentation in the Nagle Center and is continually inspired by the sisters. Sue shares, "Learning about the life and devotion of Nano Nagle has been so inspiring, and I am so grateful for this opportunity to work with the sisters and associates on their mission during this time in my life's journey."

Sarah grew up in Wisconsin and moved to Dubuque in May 2016 when she became the executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center. She has worked with immigrants and refugees for most of her professional career, working with the Asylum Program and the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, as well as Goodwill and AmeriCorps. Sarah lived abroad for four years in Israel, Cambodia, France and Kenya. She is a member of the Universalist Unitarian Church and believes that God is not limited to one faith tradition, but that all can learn and gain much by engaging with people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Sarah states, "I want to be a Presentation associate because I believe in the Presentation mission that God calls us to work for social justice and show others compassion."

Annual Benefit Garage/Gym Sale

The 2018 Presentation Garage/Gym Sale is right around the corner and work is already underway! The 2017 sale raised \$22,700. For the past 13 years, many of you have helped support the sale through donations of sale items, baked goods, purchases and precious time. Can we count on you again this year?

WHEN:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
April 26, 27, 28, 2018

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
May 3, 4, 5, 2018

(Thursdays, Fridays 8 a.m.-dusk; Saturdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.)

WHERE:
Garage and gym behind the
Sisters of the Presentation Motherhouse
2360 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa

WHY:
The proceeds from the 2018 sale will assist the following ministries/charities:

- Catholic Charities for immigration legal services, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa
- Carol's Closet to provide for families, veterans and seniors, Strawberry Point, Iowa
- Hope House for housing needs, Dubuque, Iowa

Spring Cleaning? Donate to Cause!

Please bring gently-used items: clean adult, children and baby clothing; household items; books; CDs; furniture; games, toys, etc. Plants such as hostas, ferns, schefflera, crotons, etc., sell very well too. (Please no shoes, computers/accessories, TVs, baby cribs or car seats, Nordic tracks or treadmills.)

The gym behind the Sisters of the Presentation will be open for drop-offs of usable items from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily EXCEPT Sundays beginning Monday, April 2 until Saturday, April 21. **No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 21.** Larger items such as furniture, desks, large lamps, etc. should be dropped off at the garages across from the gym.

Homemade baked goods will be sold. Wrapped baked goods may be brought to the gym on April 26-28 and/or May 3-5.

EARLY BIRD
Thursday, April 26
7-8 a.m.
\$10 donation

PRESENTATION LITTLE FLOWER

Sister Therese Marie Hawes

September 5, 1932 - December 8, 2017

by MAURA MCCARTHY, PBVM

Sister Therese Marie Hawes, the first born daughter of Jack and Ellen Hawes of Wexford, Iowa, had just celebrated her 17th birthday when she joined the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque on September 8, 1949. Sister Therese Marie was winsomely petite, but as Sister Joan Lickteig described her, “the most energetic dynamo of our entire novitiate.”

Sister Joan goes on to entitle her: “This ‘Presentation Little Flower’ served the community in nearly every available ministry of the time: teacher, principal, formation director for the temporary professed sisters, Bolivian missionary for 32 years, as well as community prayer and service.”

Sisters Julianne Brockamp and Therese Marie Hawes joined the Presentation mission in Entre Ríos, Bolivia, in 1974. They studied Spanish at the Maryknoll Language School in Cochabamba and lived community life with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters. The Dubuque priests at San Raphael Parish were friends and missionary mentors.

Sister Therese Marie is well remembered for the courses she imparted in the Academia de la Presentación. She taught macramé and calligraphy, adding to the classes of typing, sewing and machine embroidery.

Sister Julianne describes Sister Therese Marie as a “faithful friend with whom I lived and worked for 17 years ... I was continually inspired by her love for the campesinos (farmers) in the 140 rural communities in our San Luis Parish. Pope Francis would have loved Sister Therese Marie as he urged missionary disciples to go out to the peripheries and be friends with those suffering injustice and all kinds of misery. She loved a challenge whether it be in the kitchen, crossing rivers, learning to drive the Jeep on the mountain roads, developing film in a make-shift darkroom or doing scientific experiments to preserve marmalade made from the local peach crop.”

Sister Jo Anne Leo, OP, a Sinsinawa Dominican friend, notes, “Each time that I went to Entre Ríos, I noticed that Sister Therese Marie went to bed in the middle of the night and arose early to get in line at the market to buy meat. She visited with the people at the door and knew relationships for at least three generations.”

Sister Rita Menart recalls the arrival of a diminutive, elderly feminine stranger at the door of her mission church in Chupol,

Guatemala. When Sister Rita came closer she recognized Sister Therese Marie, who soon began to cook, experiment with the solar oven and to make donuts for an Easter gathering.

Presentation Sister Myra Remily, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, shared life and mission with Sister Therese Marie her last eight years in Bolivia. Sister Myra remembers: “She was a great friend and a wonderful companion. We laughed a lot, cried and argued at times ... We walked up the mountains, crossed streams and rocky paths.”

Sister Peggy Ryan, OP, upon arriving as a new missionary, spoke of Sister Therese Marie as “one of the sisters whom I could watch and learn from, one who loved the Bolivian people as guest and friend, who loved God and the people of God from within their culture. I so appreciated her humor, her prayer and all the goodies she made!”

Noé César Quisberth, of Entre Ríos, Bolivia, wrote to Sister Therese Marie through Facebook after her death: “We send profound sentiments as companion and friend, dear Therese Marie, rest in peace. You fulfilled your mission bringing the Word and helping the neediest. Rest in peace, dear Therese Marie of the Presentations. With much affection, Noé and family.”

And finally Sister Julianne adds, “I am consoled, knowing that a very faithful friend, who walked with us here, will continue to walk with us from the place of her new found freedom and joy.”



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



The Lucky Winner

Sister Kay Cota (right) was the recipient of a basket of books and goodies from the Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, as a result of a drawing she entered at a local event. Sister Kay donated all items to the Motherhouse library. Sister Ellen Mary Garrett (left), librarian, accepted the lovely gift.

wholehearted Living

WOMEN'S RETREAT

A discernment retreat for women seeking whole-hearted living with God at the center.

WHEN

Saturday, April 28, 2018

TIME

Noon - 8 p.m.

WHERE

Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey, Dubuque, Iowa

For more information, contact one of the following:

Sister Gail (gail@olmabbey.org)
Sister Aprilia (auntarto@gmail.com)
Michelle (ma.horton6@gmail.com)

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SISTERS

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Trappistine Nuns

You are invited to join us.

March 26, 2018

April 23, 2018

May 28, 2018

Centering Prayer

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 1, 2018

Easter Mass

9:00 a.m.

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 26-28, 2018

May 3-5, 2018

Garage/Gym Sale

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 28, 2018

Wholehearted Living Women's Retreat

Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey

Dubuque, Iowa

May 11, 2018

10-year Commemoration

of Postville Immigration Raid

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Postville, Iowa

For updated information about

the activities and events of the

Sisters of the Presentation,

please visit our web site at

www.dubuquepresentations.org

or call 563.588.2008.

Please pray with us.

April 14, 2018

Sister and Associate Retreat

Sisters of the Presentation

Dubuque, Iowa

April 22, 2018

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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



On February 17, the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce hosted an Appreciation Night honoring members and volunteers for their work with the chamber and within the community. **Sister Carmen Hernandez** was recognized with the Leadership Award for her work with and dedication to the Hispanic community, her active participation in projects, events and committees such as the chamber appreciation dinner and the annual Gran Festival in Hampton, Iowa.

Chamber director Newton Grotzinger refers to Sister Carmen as “the bridge of diversity in our community.” Since 2013, Sister Carmen has served as the director of La Luz Hispana, a center offering hospitality, services and support to the Hispanic community in Hampton. In June, Sister Carmen will leave La Luz Hispana to serve as the congregational leader of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa. *Photo credit: Travis Fischer, Hampton Chronicle*



Congratulations to **Tom Murray** who recently published the novel, *Fathers, Sons, and the Holy Ghosts of Baseball*. Tom was educated by the Sisters of the Presentation in Storm Lake, Iowa, and credits them for his spiritual and academic development. Tom’s father, John Murray, was one of the few lay teachers who taught alongside the sisters at St. Mary School.

Scholarship Opportunities Deadline April 1, 2018

In the spirit of Presentation Foundress, Nano Nagle, and her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation offer the following scholarship and award opportunities:

- Nano Nagle College Scholarship
- Mother Vincent Hennessy Scholarship
- Nano Nagle Service Award
- Presentation Mission Service Award

To apply visit:
www.dubuquepresentations.org
OPPORTUNITIES