A True Missionary
After many years of ministering as a missionary in Guatemala and Bolivia, Sister Rita Menart welcomes a new ministry as counselor and director of Hispanic ministry for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Installation of New Leadership Team
With great joy, the Presentation community celebrates the installation of a new leadership team during a prayer service on June 15, 2013.

New Hispanic Ministry: La Luz Hispana
On March 27, La Luz Hispana officially opened in Hampton, Iowa. The center creates a space where Hispanics can come together to celebrate their cultural strengths and personal gifts.

Exceptional Individuals Honored
Presentation Sisters initiated two scholarships and two awards to further Foundress Nano Nagle’s legacy of education and her desire to serve. Read about the well-deserved recipients.

Where in the World is...
After many years of teaching, Sister Donna Determan enjoys a ministry of community prayer and service at Mount Loretto, and a little ping pong, too.

Keeping Her Name Alive
We remember Sisters Maria Goretti Dullard, Jocile Moes and Ruth Ann Takes.

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

On May 11, Sister Raeleen Sweeney received the first-ever-awarded Patricia Blunt Koldyke Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of service to the Golden Apple Scholars Program. Sister Raeleen (right) accepts the award from Patricia Blunt Koldyke, co-founder of Golden Apple. Read more on page 8.

Contents photos: Top photo: Sister Rita Menart; Middle photo: Sister Carmen Hernandez; Bottom photo: Sister Donna Determan.
A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As this article is being written, headlines flash across computer screens and are spoken on the evening news: Death toll from the collapse of the garment factory in Bangladesh exceeds 1,127... An enormous category E-5 tornado hits Moore, Oklahoma, flattening the city’s Plaza Towers Elementary School ... Syrian refugees endure crowded, lawless camps ... Wild fires threaten 1,000 homes in California ... Missouri River flooding damages Iowa corn and soybean acres, impacting food prices.

Following the seven weeks of the Easter Season, we, as Church, now move into Ordinary Time. In the context of the liturgical year, the term “ordinary” does not mean “usual” or “average.” Rather, the spirit of Ordinary Time invites us to reflect upon the Paschal Mystery and our call to discipleship throughout the year.

Green, the liturgical color of Ordinary Time, summons us to hope! In light of circumstances throughout our planet, our world, our local neighborhoods and within our own hearts, how might we respond in hope? The Gospels suggest:

- Offer compassion to those whose hearts ache. Luke 7:11-17
- Welcome to your table the stranger and the outcast. Luke 7:36-50
- Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions. Luke 12:13-21
- Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Luke 12:32-48

Contemporary thought leaders and authors, Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone propose that our lives be grounded in Active Hope.

Active Hope is not wishful thinking. Active Hope is not waiting to be rescued by the Lone Ranger or by some savior.

Active Hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act. We belong to this world. The web of life is calling us forth at this time. We’ve come a long way and are here to play our part. With Active Hope we realize that there are adventures in store, strengths to discover and comrades with whom to link arms.

Active Hope is a readiness to discover the strengths in ourselves and in others; a readiness to discover the reasons for hope and the occasions for love.

Active Hope is a readiness to discover the size and strength of our hearts, our quickness of mind, our steadiness of purpose, our own authority, our love for life, the liveliness of our curiosity, the unsuspected deep well of patience and diligence, the keenness of our senses and our capacity to lead.

None of these can be discovered in an armchair or without risk. (Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, Active Hope)

As we respond to the call of discipleship during these weeks of Ordinary Time, may our lives witness active hope.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp
Sister Beth Driscoll
Sister Ann Jackson
Sister Leanne Welch
A True Missionary

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

It’s a long way from Duluth, Minnesota, to Entere Ríos at the southern tip of Bolivia, bordering Argentina, but Sister Rita Menart has made that trip as part of her long desire to live, work and learn from people in other cultures.

There have been some stops along the way but the journey has been made, nonetheless, and it continues even today. Upon graduation from high school, Rita, the middle of the five children of John and Ann Menart, went from Duluth to Winona, Minnesota, to attend St. Mary University. One day she spotted a flyer on the bulletin board that offered information about religious communities of women upon the return of a postcard. So Rita, largely out of curiosity, mailed the postcard. Several communities of sisters sent her written materials describing their lives. But Sister Kathleen Dolphin, then vocation director for the Sisters of the Presentation, called Rita. After they visited, she put Rita in touch with Sister Helen Marie Feeney, who was working in Winona at that time. And the rest is history, as they say. By the time she finished her last two years of college at Carleton College where she earned a degree in Chemistry, Rita had realized she needed to take further steps to discern religious life, and she entered the Presentation community in Dubuque, Iowa.

During her years of formation, Sister Rita became certified for teaching elementary through high school, and she began her teaching career with junior high students at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque. She then taught high school science in Storm Lake, Iowa, for seven years.

Visiting with Sister Juliane Brockamp, the congregational president at the time, Sister Rita revealed her life-time desire to immerse herself in another culture, to get to really know more about the “essence” of being human. How were we really alike, and how were we different, apart from the obvious and visible differences. Sisters Rita and Juliane worked out a plan whereby Sister Rita would study the Spanish language in Guatemala for three months in 1990, preparing for whatever the future might hold.

While in Guatemala, Sister Rita made “contacts.” And after language school she went to Chupol, a small “village” in Guatemala, where there was great need. Her teaching experience was to her advantage, because she began to teach the baptism and marriage catechists, as well as work with women’s groups, young people’s groups and a variety of other ministries required in the Center of Chupol. This little community had the opportunity for Mass only once a month, but they kept their strong Catholic faith which had been planted centuries before when the Spanish missionaries came to Guatemala. Additionally, Sister Rita worked with about 16 other communities in the Diocese of Quiché in which Chupol was located.

In the parish of over 100,000 people, these communities had been highly organized many years before by Catholic Action, a group which had originated in Spain. In every village there were two people elected to be directors for two years. They would meet each weekend on Saturday and Sunday to serve the people and prepare the Sunday readings with Sister Rita, after which they taught catechists who returned to their communities to teach the people there. This required that they travel and stay overnight, no small effort, especially for those who had children. But the indigenous peoples, Sister Rita discovered, are highly community-minded, and they are willing to make many sacrifices for their communities, so each took responsibility for a two-year commitment to being a director, with all that is involved.

When she was in Guatemala, Sister Rita had been exposed to the results of the terrible violence that had existed there over the years and the consequences of that violence for the victims who survived. The government was even killing priests and religious working there, which added to the difficulty of Catholics attempting to keep their faith alive under such difficult circumstances. Sister Rita was dedicated to work particularly with such survivors.

For 10 years Sister Rita continued this ministry among these communities. When she returned to the United States she attended the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago to earn a master’s degree in clinical psychology. She then gained practical experience by working for three years at the Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic in Ames, Iowa.

While Sister Rita was working at the clinic, Sister Maura McCarthy and Sister Therese Marie Hawes, both missionaries of Entere Ríos, came to the Ames area to do a mission appeal, and Sister Rita introduced the Sisters of the Presentation to come to Bolivia to help them in their work there, an invitation which Sister Rita accepted. In Bolivia she was again able to use her background as an educator. She continued to teach catechists, and to use her experience as a counselor working with those who suffered domestic violence in the territory. Additionally, she visited families and was a “presence,” an important aspect of ministry among the people.

When Sister Rita returned to the States again, and after a sabbatical, she was hired by the Archdiocese of Dubuque as their dual role of director of Hispanic ministry for the Archdiocese and a counselor for Catholic Charities (who provide counselors in various areas throughout the archdiocese). Sister Rita offers counseling at the Catholic Charities office in Waterloo, and she spends a day each week alternating between New Hampton and Marshalltown offering counseling for any Hispanics there who desire it. In addition, she visits throughout the area where there are concentrations of Hispanic populations, going particularly to Hampton once a month. She organizes with others an annual men’s and women’s retreat, and coordinates the regular meetings of those in the archdiocese who are ministers to the Hispanic communities.

Her passion for the immigrant population was unmistakeable in Sister Rita’s words: “We often forget our own immigrant roots, and unfortunately we expect that today’s immigrants will integrate into the community, learn the language and live as we live. But in fact, when new people come to any community, the whole community changes, and everyone must make efforts, not to draw newcomers into the established community, but to become, in fact, a ‘new’ community, drawing on the strengths of all groups to become something ‘more’ than any of them had before.”

Sister Rita adds, “Immigrants, by their nature, have an incredible strength and an adventurous spirit, and they eagerly seek to form this new type of community. But we need to revise our attitude from one of integrating to one of becoming new.” Sister Rita uses the symbol of a salad to describe this new entity: “When one makes a salad, as I like to do, various ingredients are mixed into one bowl, until it becomes a wonderful dish with each ingredient maintaining its flavor.”

The Presentation Sisters are “innovators with many interests.” Her office holds many symbols reminding her of the people with whom she worked abroad, as well as beautiful paintings by her own Presentation Sisters. Occupying one of the chairs is a large puppet! Sister Rita is a puppeteer, who often uses finger puppets as a way to reach out to children. She is experienced and skilled in liturgical dance, which she often shares at liturgies with her Presentation community. Her office holds many symbols reminding her of the people with whom she worked abroad, as well as beautiful paintings by her own Presentation Sisters. Occupying one of the chairs is a large puppet! Sister Rita is a puppeteer, who often uses finger puppets as a way to reach out to children. She is experienced and skilled in liturgical dance, which she often shares at liturgies with her Presentation community. Her smile breaks out before she can stop it and her sense of humor helps keep her perspective. But her life-long desire to know more about people has led her on a journey in which all of her talents and skills have been well applied. All the stops between Duluth and Entre Ríos have been an enrichment, both for her and for those who benefited from her presence in each locale.

Clockwise left to right: Sister Rita Menart enjoys spending time with her nephew Stephen, her sister Marie and her mother Ann.
On June 15, Presentation Sisters, associates and employees celebrated the installation of the new congregational leadership team. Led by Nano’s lantern symbol that was carried by Sister Jennifer Rausch, the new and past leadership teams entered the Sacred Heart Chapel as all sang “One Pace Beyond” and keyboard, violin, cello and cantors provided musical accompaniment.

Believing in the mission of their foundress, Nano Nagle, and desiring to foster the Presentation spirit and charism, all present heard the word of God as spoken in Jeremiah 18:1-6; the sung response “Send Forth Your Spirit” and a reflection on the Jeremiah passage by Sister Julianne Brockamp followed.

Retelling the story of Jeremiah going out of the city to the house of the potter, Sister Julianne narrates how “the Lord speaks to Jeremiah through the potter who reworks the clay. So is the house of Israel in the hands of the Lord. So are each of us.” As we are supplied in the hands of the Lord, so He is able to rework our hearts so that we can trust Him more and more,” she reflects.

“The margined potter’s house at the far edge of town is where my friend Jeremiah found the voice of the divine. On which margin does my potter live? Where is the edge of the potter’s house for me? Where do we sit individually and communally at the wheel searching for our exact center, so that all life we touch may live in a compassionate and interdependent balance. How is the Divine potter at work? How are we as co-potters constantly engaged in the evolving reign, the dream of God?” Sister Julianne reflects.

Challenging the gathered community to “widen the tent” of their visions throughout the global Presentation family and world while striving for the building up of God’s reign, she ended her story, “And more, we have Nano, and we have each other, while striving for the building up of God’s reign, she ended her story, “And more, we have Nano, and we have each other, who like Jeremiah have heard the inner voice say: ‘Arise, go down, discover, listen, find wisdom, be compassionate, be transformed, bring forth a new creation out of all the broken pieces in the winding lanes.’ Or, as Pope Francis says, ‘Open doors, do something where life is calling out to you.’ So we go to heal broken hearts, to accompany those in failing health, to restore shattered dreams, and in the midst of it all feed the hungry, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, welcome the stranger to our fireside table, befriend each other with life and wisdom, educate and bring good news, all to renew the face of the earth. And, finally, as we live life at our margins, and experience the transformative challenges of life’s daily clay, may what was said of Nano, also be said of each of us; ‘she went forth with laughter in her heart.’”

The new team accepted the ministry of congregational leadership for the next five years and all sang “How good it is, how wonderful when all live together in unity … in love!” Sisters and associates committed themselves to the 2013 Directional Statement and Commitments and all present blessed the new leadership team.

Sisters Mary William Allen and Jessi Beck, the oldest and youngest in community, read a reflection by Sister Raphael Consedine, PBVM, echoing the sentiment, “Let love alone be the measure, for we have further yet to journey.” A resounding chorus of “Renew us, God that you your people help renew the face of the earth” led everyone to the dining room for a celebration dinner. Members of the new Presentation leadership team are Sisters Julianne Brockamp, Beth Driscoll, Ann Jackson and Leanne Welch.

Installation of New Leadership Team

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Left to right: Newly-installed congregational leadership team: Sisters Beth Driscoll, Leanne Welch, Julianne Brockamp and Ann Jackson.

Left to right: Top photo: Sister Ann Jackson receives a warm congratulations from Sister William Allen, the oldest member of the Presentation community. Bottom photo: Sister Julianne Brockamp accepts the lantern from Sister Jennifer Rausch as a symbol of the transitioning of leadership.

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Ann has served as formation director for the Presentation community. She also served as coordinator of retreats and spiritual direction at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hawarath, Iowa, and as an English teacher in various Catholic high schools in Iowa.

Sister Leanne Welch

Sister Leanne previously served in congregational leadership from 2008 to 2013 and before that as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama. Her other past ministries include curriculum director for Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and elementary administrator and teacher in various parishes in Iowa. She also served as adjunct instructor at Clarke University and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Beth previously served in congregational leadership from 2008 to 2013 and before that as team member of the Presentation collaborative Lantern Light ministry in New Orleans, Louisiana, as formation director for the Presentation community and music teacher in various parishes and Catholic schools in Iowa, South Dakota and Illinois.

As we live life at our margins, and experience the transformative challenges of life’s daily clay, may what was said of Nano, also be said of each of us; ‘she went forth with laughter in her heart.’” Sister Julianne Brockamp
Imagine yourself in a large convention hall filled with round tables seating 800 people. Then picture that 400 of these guests are young teachers. The event was the 25th anniversary of the Golden Apple Scholars Program held in Chicago on May 11 at the conclusion of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

But this particular evening was a special event for the Presentation Sisters and the Ralph Sweeney family, because Sister Raeleen Sweeney, the oldest child of Ralph and Ileen (both deceased), was included as guests, hosted by Sister Virgie Luchsinger, friend and Jessi Beck. Five CORE colleagues were among the guests, hosted by Sister Virgie Luchsinger, friend and Jessi Beck. Former and current scholars made such comments as: “Know that the kindness you invested in me continues to be paid forward daily,” and “Thank you for always being so thoughtful, so welcoming, so compassionate. You are truly remarkable,” and “I just hope I have been able to give back to some child just a piece of what you have given me.”

Sister Raeleen spoke after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, sharing some memories from her experiences with Golden Apple. It was a touching moment, however, when she held up a hand-made cross which “Carl” had made for her when she spent three weeks making the cross by hand during the Golden Apple summer institutes.

Sister Raeleen assumed the responsibility for the CORE (Center for Ongoing Renewal and Enrichment) program in 1997. By then the first scholars had completed their five-year teaching commitments, but they wanted to stay connected, gain further professional development and retain the camaraderie they had already established among themselves. Sister Raeleen developed this program each summer with the collaboration of fellows and scholars.

That same year, 1988, the Academy of Educators, with Pat Koldyke as director, began the Golden Apple Scholars program which drew on the expertise of the 30 Golden Apple Award winners of the previous three years. This program is designed to provide mentoring and additional training to talented high school seniors who exhibit the promise and drive to be excellent teachers. In return, these scholars make a five-year commitment to teach in Illinois schools of economic and academic need.

To be selected, a student must present a written application and seven essays, letters of reference, test scores, transcripts and complete an interview at the final site visit. The summer after their high school graduation, the selected scholars spend six weeks of each summer for four summers participating in an institute planned by the Golden Apple staff and held at DePaul University and other venues. In these institutes the scholars receive advanced teacher preparation that provides in total more than three times the amount of classroom experience prior to student teaching than non-scholars receive. In addition, they build invaluable networks of support which continue into their teaching years. They also receive tuition assistance for college and for the summer institutes. Scholars must maintain a specified grade point. Scholars are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Recipients become lifetime members of the Golden Apple Scholars Program. In 1986, Martin J. (Mike) Koldyke began a process for selecting 10 Illinois teachers each year to receive a new award, the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching because he felt that excellent teachers did not receive adequate recognition for their contributions to building a stronger, better-educated society. Recipients become lifetime members of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which conceives, develops and supports programs for teachers to make them more effective in the classroom.

When Sister Raeleen taught third grade in Oak Lawn, Illinois, Paul Cichowski was one of her third grade students. Years later when Paul was in college, he heard about this Golden Apple Award, and he nominated Sister Raeleen. After interviews and observation of her teaching by the Golden Apple staff, she was nominated for the Golden Apple award in the third year of its existence. (Years later Paul’s mother, Mary Ann Cichowski Shaefer, now deceased, became a Presentation associate with the Chicago group of sisters and associates.)

Carl and others. Carl had spent three weeks making the cross by hand for Sister. Such graced sketching was familiar, and the conversation that ensued revealed “How true that sentence became for us.” He adds: “Sister Raeleen has made Golden Apple stronger and more meaningful. All in this organization who love, respect and revere this woman do so because she has the most adhesive of souls. Her goodness made us want to do and be good. Her sense of justice helped us order ourers and her gentile demeanor held more sway than any bellicosity could muster. We who know her are better because of that sticky soul of hers that insisted ours improv. She is proof that the spirit of God walks among us.”

Sister Raeleen received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, the first year that the award was given. She had been nominated by Sister Raeleen for the Golden Apple Award in 1988. Of that experience he wrote in 1988: “This gentle woman must have some mighty soul.” His comment in his introduction at the anniversary was: “How true that sentence became for us.”

After the 25th anniversary dinner, Sister Raeleen was introduced by Dominic Belmonte, current president and CEO of the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching. Dominic had observed Sister Raeleen’s teaching after she had been nominated for the Golden Apple Award. Of that experience he wrote in 1988: “This gentle woman must have some mighty soul.” His comment in his introduction at the anniversary was: “How true that sentence became for us.”

In her acceptance of the award, Sister also shared the story of Nano Nagle, Presentation foundress, “who taught children in Ireland under the unbelievable pressure of penal laws that forbid education to the Catholic poor. Through the Golden Apple, it has been my privilege to continue Nano Nagle’s mission of providing quality education students and providing excellent teachers with attention to those most in need.”

It was evident that Sister Raeleen’s years of service to the Golden Apple Foundation have been productive and appreciated when so many young teachers came to greet her and thank her at the anniversary event that she never was able to eat her dinner! Clearly these people love her.

Sharing the joyful event were her guests: siblings, aunt and uncle, cousins, nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and several Sisters of the Presentation, all gathering from the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and California. Paul Cichowski, who started this venture with his nomination of Sister Raeleen many years ago, was also in attendance. Five CORE colleagues were included as guests, hosted by Sister Virgie Luchsinger, friend of Sister Raeleen and Presentation associate.

Sister Raeleen has made Golden Apple stronger and more meaningful ... Her goodness made us want to do and be good. Her sense of justice helped us order ours and her gentle demeanor held more sway than any bellicosity could muster. We who know her are better because of that sticky soul of hers that insisted ours improve. She is proof that the spirit of God walks among us, Dominic Belmonte, Golden Apple Foundation.
New Hispanic Ministry in Hampton, Iowa

La Luz Hispana

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On Wednesday, March 27, Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy celebrated the beginning of their new ministry, La Luz Hispana, meaning “The Hispanic Light” in Hampton, Iowa, during a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. An open house, including a blessing, tours and delicious food and refreshments prepared by the Hispanic guests and friends was held on April 12.

“A massive show of Hispanic families, many children dressed in native Mexican costumes, began to pour into La Luz Hispana for the open house,” states Sister Carmen.

Presentation Sisters and associates, friends and family members, Chamber of Commerce representatives and other Hampton personnel also attended. Father Mike Tauke, pastor of the Ackley and Hampton parishes, led the blessing with interpreter Marilu Vondra. Father Tauke’s blessing was characteristically animated capitalizing on the Hispanic sense of family, solidarity, warmth and ended with a massive “Wow!”

La Luz Hispana was not built in a day. The center has been a work in process, as on the Hispanic sense of family, solidarity, warmth and ended with a massive “Wow!”

“In keeping with the tradition of Nane Nagle, Presentation foundress, the center’s objectives will be largely educational. Some of these educational possibilities will include conversational English, composition and grammar, handicrafts, defensive driving skills, computer proficiency, health and exercise, budgeting and managing finances and citizenship education.

“We also aid Hispanics in navigating social service systems, teaching them what services are available to meet their needs,” says Sister Maura.

Already this spring, the center has offered a variety of services and classes. Some of them have included learning English, exercising every morning, computer classes, self-care including facials and gardening workshops. It also brought an immigration lawyer from Iowa Falls for a session, which drew a packed house.

“The many of the ideas are coming from the Hispanics themselves,” says Sister Carmen. “All programs are free at La Luz Hispana. In order to give all a sense of dignity and a sense of mutuality, participants are encouraged to give back service hours to the center or to the community at large.”

“Our hope is to have our own immigration lawyer who would be willing to work pro bono or accept small payments,” comments Sister Maura. “With the hope of immigration reform, we would like to help get the paperwork done and done right.”

“We want to make the path to citizenship easier,” adds Sister Carmen. “It’s a long, expensive and complicated process.”

La Luz Hispana, sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, will create a spirit of hospitality where Hispanics can come together to celebrate their cultural strengths and personal gifts. The center, situated in downtown Hampton, Iowa, will be a space where Hispanic people can share and build up their strengths, where social isolation is not a barrier, and where hope and a sense of possibility is stimulated.

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Mercy Family Medicine Residency in Mason City, Iowa. She formed a ministry exploration partnership with Presentation Sisters and associates and the Hispanic people themselves.

From 2008 to 2010 Sister Carmen traveled to Hampton once a week to help with a pregnancy clinic for Hispanic women. Through the work, she was able to get to know some of the residents. After visiting similar centers, Sister Carmen then completed a survey on what Hispanic residents – which make up 21.5 percent of Hampton’s population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census – would like to see in a Hispanic center.

“They told me it would be nice to have their own place,” she recalls. “After that, I knew that’s what I wanted to do. We decided to open right here in Hampton. We already had the relationships built.”

After spending 33 years as a missionary among the Latin and Guarani people of Bolivia, Sister Maura McCarthy joined the initiative, bringing her experience as a teacher, pastoral minister, pastoral worker with Hispanics in Florida and advocate for migrants and indigenous people at the United Nations.

In August 2012, Sisters Carmen and Maura began steps toward a North Central Iowa Hispanic center. They relocated to Belmond and began meeting Hispanic families and agencies such as ministerial associations, Catholic Daughters of America, Iowa State University Extension, chambers of commerce, public health, schools and church personnel.

Since early March, Sisters Carmen and Maura and their Hispanic and non-Hispanic partners have been setting up the center in Hampton and now have space to create a community of learners and problem-solvers.

“La Luz Hispana will seek to empower the Hispanic people with gifts of self-confidence, leadership and solidarity, as well as to explore ways that will lead to greater integration and membership in the Central Iowa community,” states Sister Carmen.

“Reverence for relationships with all religions and ethnic groups and celebrating the unity of all peoples is a main focus of the center,” adds Sister Maura. “La Luz Hispana will foster partnerships with educational, religious, commercial, governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations and provide a combination of educational services and programs that employ dialogue as a way of learning and solving problems – recognizing that all have something to bring to the conversation/ table regardless of age, race and level of education or gender.”

In order to give all a sense of dignity and a sense of mutuality, participants are encouraged to give back service hours to the center or to the community at large.

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Above all else, Sisters Carmen and Maura want La Luz Hispana to be a welcoming place for Hispanic residents to gather. “Our door is always open,” says Sister Carmen. “We want to be a light for the Hispanic people.”
After the moment of silence for those affected by the raids, the families were not given adequate access to legal counsel. The immigration raids were unprecedented, and ICE officials bused them to the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa. On May 12, 2008, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials raided Agriprocessors, handcuffed immigrants and said, “We gather at this Federal courthouse symbolic of extreme measures taken to enforce a broken and unjust and inhumane immigration policy. We gather in solidarity with those throughout the United States who work to create and implement legislation that is enlightened, just, compassionate and expressive of the highest ideals and hopes of our nation.”

The event marking the anniversary of the raid began with a moment of silence represented a person arrested in Postville, Iowa, during the immigration raid on Agriprocessors, Inc., in 2008. It had been five years since that tragic event and 500 people gathered in Cedar Rapids to remember those arrested, to reconcile with those who contributed to the injustices, and to call for just, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform.

The event marking the anniversary of the raid began with a moment of silence that was eloquently expressed by Sister Jeanine Kuhn, Superior 1984-1985, who said, “Only true change can break the cycle of injustice that my parents so long escaped,” he said, “This will not be accomplished by Band-Aid legislation ... Without hope of true change, our potential is wasted. Give ME a chance to break the cycle – to contribute to this great nation.” Pedro moved the crowd in a rush of events that shattered lives, crushed hopes and scattered a multitude of spiritual enrichment opportunities, varied retreat designs, summer houses together!” “Pass immigration reform now!” and “Protect workers!”

For Sister Marge, the event was an emotional one since she had spent time working with heartbroken families in Postville following the raid. “Being in Cedar Rapids was a gift,” said Sister Marge. “To see detainees and their families reunite with those who had accompanied them through days and months and even years, and to see persons of many faiths continue to stand with each other as all look for healing was moving.”

After the Walk for Justice, the crowd gathered inside Immaculate Conception Parish and Archbishop Jerome Hanus gave the opening prayer. “Though five long years have passed – our memories are still fresh. We wear like a shroud the shock, the fear, the shame, the crushing injustices of Postville,” he said. “We stand as witnesses, to a rush of events that shattered lives, crushed hopes and scattered families. We pray for all, men, women and children who were affected by the raid, wherever they may now be.”

One family affected by the raid was that of Pedro Lopez. Pedro was in 8th grade at the time of the raid. His mother was deported after she told officials she did not have any children for fear they, too, would be deported. Pedro, now 17 and just graduated from high school, did not want to speak about the past, but about the future.

Photos (left to right): Participants were invited to sign a petition asking for immigration reform; Sisters Maura McCarthy, Marge Healy, Ann Jackson and Rita Menart were present for the event; In a moment of silence, Pastor David Vanaupak asks all to raise their carnations representing the 389 arrested in Postville in 2008; Sister Joy Petretto takes part in the “Walk for Justice.”

There were 389 red carnations raised toward the gray sky on Friday, May 10, outside of the Federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Each flower held in the air during a moment of silence represented a person arrested in Postville, Iowa, during the immigration raid on Agriprocessors, Inc., in 2008. It had been five years since that tragic event and 500 people gathered in Cedar Rapids to remember those arrested, to reconcile with those who contributed to the injustices, and to call for just, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform.

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Photos (left to right): Participants were invited to sign a petition asking for immigration reform; Sisters Maura McCarthy, Marge Healy, Ann Jackson and Rita Menart were present for the event; In a moment of silence, Pastor David Vanaupak asks all to raise their carnations representing the 389 arrested in Postville in 2008; Sister Joy Petretto takes part in the “Walk for Justice.”

There were 389 red carnations raised toward the gray sky on Friday, May 10, outside of the Federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Each flower held in the air during a moment of silence represented a person arrested in Postville, Iowa, during the immigration raid on Agriprocessors, Inc., in 2008. It had been five years since that tragic event and 500 people gathered in Cedar Rapids to remember those arrested, to reconcile with those who contributed to the injustices, and to call for just, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform.

The event marking the anniversary of the raid began with a moment of silence that was eloquently expressed by Sister Jeanine Kuhn, Superior 1984-1985, who said, “Only true change can break the cycle of injustice that my parents so long escaped,” he said, “This will not be accomplished by Band-Aid legislation ... Without hope of true change, our potential is wasted. Give ME a chance to break the cycle – to contribute to this great nation.” Pedro moved the crowd in a rush of events that shattered lives, crushed hopes and scattered a multitude of spiritual enrichment opportunities, varied retreat designs, summer houses together!” “Pass immigration reform now!” and “Protect workers!”

For Sister Marge, the event was an emotional one since she had spent time working with heartbroken families in Postville following the raid. “Being in Cedar Rapids was a gift,” said Sister Marge. “To see detainees and their families reunite with those who had accompanied them through days and months and even years, and to see persons of many faiths continue to stand with each other as all look for healing was moving.”

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Exceptional Individuals Honored through

Scholarships & Awards

by JANE BUSE

In commemoration of the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle’s death and in the spirit of her desire to serve, the Sisters of the Presentation initiated two scholarships and two awards to further her legacy of education. The sisters are pleased to honor the following well-deserved recipients.

Nano Nagle Service Award

The $500 Nano Nagle Service Award is awarded to a person of exemplary service, nominated by a Presentation Sister or associate. The service award may be used to benefit a service project or in some way aid the nominee in continuing the gift of service. This year’s award was given to Leah Lucas from Grinnell, Iowa.

Leah Lucas, a junior studying an independent major in Poverty and Progress in the Americas at Grinnell College, was nominated by Sister Jessi Beck who met Leah on the 2011 Presentation Quest New Orleans service trip, where she witnessed firsthand Leah’s passion for justice. Through this experience, Sister Jessi felt compelled to nominate Leah for the service award as she is “already creating change in the world.”

Leah expresses, “While I am blessed with the amenities and limitless opportunities that my liberal arts education provides, I cannot forget the faces of hunger and poverty that I have seen around the world. Through my service work with the NGO Orxlam America and with a Guatemalan non-profit project that I founded last summer, I am able to follow my passion to work against hunger and poverty and put my studies into practice.”

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among the many high schools in which Presentation Sisters have ministered. The scholarship was awarded to a student at Wahlert High School, Dubuque, Iowa in 2010; Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa in 2011 and Newman High School in Mason City, Iowa in 2012. This year’s $500 Nano Nagle College Scholarship was awarded to Wendy Broich, a deserving senior from St. Mary High School in Storm Lake, Iowa, who models self-giving service to improve the lives of others; uses her God-given talents for the betterment of others; exemplifies exceptional service; and plans to further her education. In the fall, Wendy plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa majoring in social work, a career path close to her heart.

“Wendy has demonstrated her character in her life as a person dedicated to others in the community and is willing to demonstrate that in her time and commitment to serve others,” says Ervin Rowlands, principal at St. Mary School. “Wendy has proven that she is an outstanding individual and student who has the qualities that I look for in our students that become the future leaders in our communities.”

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In the celebration of Mother Vincent and the Dubuque Presentation foundation, the Sisters of the Presentation offer a $500 Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship to a graduating senior from Wahlert Catholic High School (WCHS), Dubuque, which Presentation Sisters have actively supported since its inception. This year’s recipient is Samantha Randy. Samantha plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall and volunteer at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, as well as become involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Described as buoyant, smart, articulate, engaged learner, self-motivated and hardworking, Samantha is friendly, heartfelt and a person of deep service. As stated in a nomination letter by Carol Lavens, theology teacher at Wahlert, “Sam is an icon of a person. Her wholesome character and academic abilities make her a valuable gift to any family, institution or community. Her initiative and intrinsic motivation to witness her faith and be loyal to her commitments is nothing short of inspiring.”

Presentation Mission Service Award

The Presentation Mission Service Award is offered to a person(s), 18 years of age or older, committed to serving the Presentation mission and who may otherwise be unable to afford a mission immersion experience, locally, nationally or abroad. This year’s recipients are Rachel Fitzgibbons, Hannah Way, Sarah Dickhut, Hannah Kauffold and Charlene Becicka, all from Loras College, Dubuque.

Charlene Becicka, a senior studying a psychology major in the University of Northern Iowa majoring in social work, a career plan to attend the University of Iowa in the fall and volunteer at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, as well as become involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Sarah Dickhut will participate in the APURFAM project in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, for a week this summer. APURFAM educates and provides housing for children of all ages, as well as abandoned mothers with children allowing them to become self-sufficient, successful contributors to society.

Charlene Becicka will be serving as a Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) at an orphanage, Hogar Maria Auxiliadora, in Itocta, Bolivia – just outside the city of Cochabamba. Associate Barbara Ressler expresses, “Charlene is phenomenal. Her deep faith, interest in the others and passion about service made her an ideal recipient of the Presentation Mission Service Award.”

Rachel Fitzgibbons and Hannah Way, both felt a call to serve in Entre Ríos, Bolivia, with Presentation Sisters Mery Cari Paz, Suzanne Takes and Therese Corkery. This summer they will spend two months immersed among the people of Bolivia, learning, sharing, understanding, helping and living their life.

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Hannah Kauffold looks forward to serving as a missionary for the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) organization. She will be building relationships with students, teaching them about the Catholic faith and inviting non-practicing students to participate more fully in the Catholic faith.

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The enlivening spirit is among us,” declared Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, keynote presenter at the 10th Biennial Conference of Associates & Religious of the Midwest Area (CARMA) in Dubuque, Iowa, on April 20. Throughout the day, 250-plus associate members and vowed members of 17 congregations of religious women and men reflected on the expressions of the Spirit among them and within their religious congregations. Inspired by word and silence, thoughtful conversation and attentive listening, poetry and song, image and symbol, story and ritual, those present for the day heard and discussed Sister Mary Ann’s keynote presentation, “Caught by Common Charism, Creating Uncommon Community.”

Coming from many different states, participants shared insights and responded to the practicalities, questions, challenges and future of associate programs by dialoguing with a panel of three associates and three sisters from area congregations.

“How everyone and everyone is inspired by a single holy fire; to look at anyone or anything is to see the radiance of God,” stated Sister Mary Ann as she invited participants “to bring the break to catch up.

For the past nine years, the Sisters of the Presentation and their associates have been organizing and conducting an annual garage sale. It continues to get larger and larger each year. Each spring, a call goes out to the sisters, associates, employees and friends to donate gently-used items of all kinds to Mount Loretto for an April/May sale in conjunction with the Dubuque and Asbury city-wide sales.

Again this year, the sale offered a $5.00 charge for “early bird” shoppers which was well received (those coming before 8 a.m. on opening day). The coffee, donuts and bake sale items available for purchase continued to add a warm hospitality to the day. As one shopper stated, “This garage sale has really become ‘up town.’ It is the sale of the year that we look forward to. Everything is so neat and arranged so nicely with space to move among the tables.”

The Presentation Sisters and associates collected over $17,000 for the student endowment at St. Mary Catholic School in Humboldt, Iowa, and the La Luz Hispana ministry in Hampton, Iowa.

The core team working on this sale is very grateful to all who contributed, helped unpack, sort and organize, made signs, encouraged customers to buy, donated fresh-baked goods and shared hospitality with all. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

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A Warm Welcome to New Associate Co-Director

Carol Witry, a long-time friend and associate of the Presentation Sisters, has accepted the position of co-director of the Associate Partnership. In September, she will join Co-Director Sister Lynn Mary Wagner.

“I am very grateful to have the opportunity to share in the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation as an associate and, now, as co-director of the Associate Partnership. I look forward to connecting with associates and sisters as we seek to deepen relationships among each other and with all of creation.”

Carol’s first connection with the Presentations was through Sister Barbara Rastatter, with whom she served in parish ministry. Sister Barb extended the invitation to learn more about the Presentation community by becoming an associate. “Since then I’ve had the opportunity to share life and faith with many more sisters and associates whose example and wisdom have nurtured and supported my continuing growth in faith,” shares Carol.

This past spring Carol retired after serving 23 years in parish ministry as a director of faith formation. Prior to that she spent some years as an at-home mom and 10 years as an elementary teacher. Carol’s family includes her husband, Tom, a retired teacher and coach, her two sons, Mike and Matt and her daughter-in-law, Sarah. “As I begin this next part of my journey, I look forward to a little more time to just be and to the privilege of working more closely with sisters and associates.”
Presentation Pacers Relay for Life

by DOLORES ZIESER, PBVM

“Relay for Life,” the annual walk and fundraiser for the American Cancer Society on a national level was begun in the mid-20th century, it began in Dubuque, Iowa, in the late 1990s. Dubuque is rated #10 in the nation for participation.

Relay for Life for the Dubuque Presentation Sisters has grown since they joined this annual event in its beginnings in Dubuque participating as the “Presentation Pacers” relay team. In the early days of participation the Presentation team consisted of a group of sisters, in 2010 associates were invited to join the team. Sister Dolores Zieser has been team captain since 2010 with Associate Colleen Venter as co-captain. This year Presentation employees were rallied to join in the event by house coordinator, Jean Lange. This brought the team number to 33 members.

With great enthusiasm and spirit, team members held fundraisers at Mount Loretto from March through May with bake sales, prize raffles, ice cream social, movie and popcorn and treats in the dining room, all bringing in donations for a good cause. These fundraisers along with individual donations solicited by team members brought in a total of $4,300.96 for the American Cancer Society. This amount along with funds raised by other Dubuque teams netted a total of over $200,000. These funds help with cancer research, advocacy, education and service; only a small percentage is used for administration because of the many volunteers involved.

The Relay event in Dubuque on the last Friday of May each year invites team members to take turns walking the special track from early evening and overnight to early morning symbolizing the journey from darkness into light. The Dubuque Relay for Life has had several sites since its inception in the late 1990s to the present, beginning first at a riverfront park, to the gymnasium of Clarke College, to the athletic track of Dubuque Senior High School, to McGraw Hill parking lot. This year, because of inclement weather, all teams were invited, rent free, to meet in the Grand River Center Ballroom for the usual schedule of music, walking, food concessions and games. Cancer survivors are honored with a special dinner and a special walk around the track. As darkness descends participants view the lighting of colorful luminaria around the track in honor of cancer survivors and in memory of those who died of cancer.

This year Presentation Pacers remembered Sister Ruth Ann Takes and Associate Karla Berns who died of cancer this spring and also remembered relatives of team members. The theme of this year was “River of Hope” for a world without cancer, for a world with more birthdays. The Presentation Pacers with about 80 other Relay teams made for a night of fellowship, remembrance and hope for a cure for cancer.

Presentation Doorways | Summer 2013

Collaboration Essential to Vocations

by RITA CAMERON, PBVM

Collaboration is an essential component when vocation directors representing Presentation communities from Fargo, North Dakota; Aberdeen, South Dakota; Dubuque, Iowa; New Windsor, New York; and the United States Province of the Union, gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, for a week of service, immersion, prayer and discernment with women discerning the possibility of becoming a religious sister. The sisters in New Orleans representing the Lantern Light ministry hosted five women and two vocation directors for Presentation Vocations Week, March 10-16, 2013. During the week the sisters, volunteers and guests at the center visited, shared their stories and gained a greater understanding of what community really means.

The friendships made, the lessons learned and the appreciation of each other’s gifts have been unexpected rewards from this collaborative ministry. Vocation ministers, participants, sisters that minister at Lantern Light and visitors to the Lantern Light have expressed a deep gratitude for the experience to journey together during this service/immersion/discriment trip.

Another dimension of collaboration becomes evident through interaction with other religious communities beyond Presentation Sisters in such experiences as Dubuque’s Got Sisters. Vocation ministers from the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, Sisters of Charity BVM, Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and Presentation Sisters combine efforts to provide a 24-hour tour of their convents as they share life through praying, dining and storytelling. Women interested in learning more about religious life are invited to “come and see” what life is like as a religious sister. This event happens twice a year, usually in the spring and fall.

When asked what part of the Dubuque’s Got Sisters weekend was most helpful, one participant said: “I found it very helpful to go to all of the congregations to get an inside view of them. Speaking, eating and praying with so many different sisters helped me start to form an intuitive sense of the charisms of the various communities.”

Another responded by saying, “The conversations with the sisters through the weekend were probably one of the highlights of the weekend. I really enjoyed the discussion we had. It was nice to get other sisters’ points of view as well as visit with other discriminers.”

Sisters from the four congregations and participants expressed gratitude for the time spent sharing stories, time together in prayer, meals and other experiences.

Presenting Sisters at Lantern Light.
Sisters and participants enjoy great discussion while preparing snacks for the summer 2013 Presentation Doorways.
Sister Donna Determan
Loving Every Minute

by Colleen Venter, Associate

For over 50 years Sister Donna Determan ministered in Catholic elementary schools in Iowa and Illinois. She loved every minute of every year of teaching. In August of 2009 she was called to community prayer and service at the Mount Loretto motherhouse in Dubuque. Here Sister Donna has been reunited with many sisters with whom she taught and sisters who taught her. Sister Donna, the youngest of four girls, was born in Mason City, Iowa, to Bonita and Raymond Determan. “We had wonderful parents. They were loving and so good to us,” recalls Sister Donna.

Growing up, the Determan girls lived only two blocks from St. Joseph Church and School. From the time she was young, Sister knew that she wanted to be a sister and a teacher. After attending Clarke College, Sister joined the Sisters of the Presentation community in 1958. Her older sisters, Sister Bonita and Sister Rayanne, were very influential in her life as were the Presentation Sisters who taught her. When requesting her religious name, she asked for the name Donna in honor of her married sister, Donna Umbarger.

Sister later received a bachelor’s degree from Clarke College with a major in history and elementary education. Her first teaching assignment was at St. Columbkille School. “It was a perfect beginning for me.” When Resurrection School opened in Dubuque in 1961, Sister Donna was assigned to teach there. “Oh, did I love it! I really liked working with the younger children. They brought such enthusiasm to the classroom and to learning.”

Sister also had the opportunity to teach third grade at St. Dorothy School in Chicago, Illinois. “Teaching and living in an African-American community was a wonderful experience. The students, the staff and the families were delightful.”

During her teaching career, Sister Donna also taught at St. Mary School in Storm Lake, Iowa. She was there for over 24 years. “I really enjoyed helping the children prepare to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. It was a thrill for me to see former students grow up and then to have families of their own.” One of the students nominated Sister Donna for the Teacher of the Year award. “Receiving that award was an honor. I am proud of the legacy and quality of education the students received from everyone with whom I taught.”

Sister Donna was one of St. Mary’s most avid fans. “I tried to support the students whenever I could. I often rode with parents or on the bus to many out of town games and activities. I am still an avid sports fan, especially of Notre Dame teams – that loyalty comes from my dad, a big Notre Dame fan.” Thanks to friends in Storm Lake, Sister has the fun and joy of attending a football game each year in South Bend, Indiana.

In retirement one of Sister’s favorite past times is playing ping pong. Sister recalls having a ping pong table at home. Neighbors and friends took part in the fun of friendly competitions. Sister Donna also enjoys visiting with family and friends. She likes to help at the motherhouse however and whenever she can. Her day includes time for prayer, walking, reading and writing. During their busy season she helps at the Trappistina candy factory. Sister is an active member in support of Dubuque County Right to Life. She spends time in prayer for sisters in their various ministries and for vocations to religious life.

In 1978, Sister Donna, Sister Bonita and Sister Rayanne (known as “the Determan Sisters”) went on a Pilgrimage to Rome, Holy Land and Greece, thanks to the generosity of their dad. “This will always be a special memory of a wonderful trip,” recalls Sister Donna.

Sister Donna’s favorite Scripture quotes are: “I am with you always,” and “Whatever you do to others you do to me.”

In retirement, Sister Donna finds it heartwarming to see the joy, the peace and the happiness of the senior sisters at Mount Loretto.

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Catholic education began in the “River City” area in 1888 with the building of St. Francis Academy, a boarding school for girls and a day school for boys and girls. The Academy was staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis from Clinton, Iowa. When this first structure burned in 1918, the sisters returned to Clinton. By the time a new building was erected in 1910, they were not available to return to Mason City.

When a request came from Father Michael Carolan for Presentation Sisters to take over the educational duties in Mason City, the small number of sisters available prompted Mother Benedict’s reply, “We are sorry to disappoint you, Father, but to supply you with teachers is an impossibility at this time.” However, at the advice and urging of chaplain Father Patrick Leahy, two sisters from among the General Council, with two others taken from their duties at the motherhouse, were assigned to take on this task.

Mothers de Pazzi Curtin and Columbia O’Callaghan, along with Sisters Mary Baptista Hussey and Leo Roach, made the trek west to Mason City in 1910, thus establishing the Presentation presence in the school which was to last 102 years.

The opening of the school for grades 1-8 saw a larger-than-expected enrollment, which required the hiring of a lay teacher to take over the middle grades. Between 1912 and 1916, grades 9-12 were added, with the first class graduating in 1916. By 1920, increasing enrollment prompted the addition of additional classroom space and a renovation was in order. In the process of updating, the school was supplied with equipment in accordance with state requirements, and the work was completed that year. The school was accredited with state requirements, and the work was completed that year.

The year 1927 saw yet a further significant increase in enrollment and another expansion of facilities. A spacious assembly and a gymnasium graced the new structure, providing for indoor athletics. As enrollment continued to rise, the sisters’ quarters were converted to classrooms, and the parish purchased what was originally the Dufeld family home to be used as a convent. This structure was dubbed “The Mansion,” and housed the sisters from 1949-1965 when it was sold and given to the city. Now known as the Charles H. MacNider Museum, it stands as an important arts center today. A final move found the sisters in a new convent located behind the church. The spacious new living arrangement featured a chapel with windows designed by Presentation Sister Justia Zieser.

The educational system continued to evolve, with the addition of the construction of Newman Catholic High School in 1961, the consolidation with Holy Family Parish to become Central Catholic Grade School in 1973, a day care center in 1986, and the eventual move of the whole system to the Newman campus in 2003.

Along with its distinction as an NCEA School of Excellence, the Mason City school system also became a Catholic education family tradition for many. Sister Joellen Price and her mother, Irene, both graduated from St. Joseph School, and even had some of the same teachers. At the closing of the St. Joseph building, Sister Bonita Determan, who made her First Communion there, recalls that her father’s youngest sister boarded with the sisters in the earlier years.

Records kept between 1936 and 1990 list 144 Presentation Sisters who ministered in Mason City, with Sister Joan Brincks being the last sister to teach in the school system. Presentation presence in the school ended in 2012. The parish history counts 30 former students, nine priests, and two religious brothers among its former members. Who can say how many lives have been impacted by those who could trace their roots to this Catholic foundation in “River City”?
All the details were in place and it was time for the Conference of Presentation Sisters (CPS) to gather for its annual meeting. The works of the sisters to fulfill the Presentation mission. "The Conference of Presentation Sisters exists to provide unity, to strengthen the spirit of Nano Nagle and to encourage opportunities for collaboration of the members, to promote appreciation for the time together to reflect on the question, "For the gathering was adjourned. Participants expressed great in leadership and moments of prayerful visioning and planning, Having covered all agenda topics, the principles of spiral dynamics offers a point of view that looks at the evolutionary dynamic of underlying values systems – the foundation for transformational change. Thus spiral dynamics offers a point of view that looks at the evolutionary dynamic of underlying values systems – the foundation for transformational change. Therefore, the spirit of Nano Nagle was the experience of CHANGE. Words from the 2012 IPA Directional Statement: “Energized by this evolving consciousness ... that move(s) us to personal and systemic transformation” helped to provide focus for the Conference meeting as Sister Pat illustrated the principles of spiral dynamics. Using this construct, a system of core values or collective intelligences applicable to both individuals and entire cultures is defined. Spiral dynamics suggests that the understanding of units of culture known as “value memes” or “vMemes” can be used to craft transformational change. This construct addresses the foundational questions: • HOW people think about things (as opposed to “what” they think) • WHY people make decisions in different ways • WHY people respond to different motivators • WHY and HOW values arise and spread • The nature of CHANGE

Sister Maria Goretti and I entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1952. I soon learned that Sister Maria’s parents had not only nourished her faith but had encouraged her to enter into life with all she had. In spite of her challenges, she did nearly everything we as a class did, and in addition, she could sew, which was something we couldn’t do. I remember summers when Sister Maria and I were going to Clarke College. Sometimes we could study together in preparation for a test; she was pretty quiet during the discussions. The next day she would ace the test. One of Sister Maria Goretti’s missions was Timber Lake, South Dakota. When visiting with Sister after her first year there, it seemed she thought there was no place quite like it. Since I had been there for six years previously and found it a great mission, I could understand her enthusiasm for Timber Lake. I thought no other mission would replace it as her favorite. Later Sister

Despite her sufferings, Sister Maria Goretti journeyed with faith, prayerfulness and joy until she danced into the arms of God.

A Memorial in Honor of a Loved One

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

For more information, contact the Development Office at 563.588.2008 or email us at development@dubuquerepresentations.org.

KEEPING her NAME ALIVE

Sister Maria Goretti Dullard

July 30, 1934 - April 22, 2013

by RENÉ LAUBENTHAL, PBVM

A woman of determination

Sister Maria Goretti Dullard

Sister Rene LaBenthal, a long-time friend and classmate of Sister Maria Goretti Dullard, shares a few of her reflections about Maria, “a woman of faith, determination, persistence and a dose of stubbornness.”

Sister Maria Goretti was missioned to Waukon, Iowa, and that became the great love of her life with Father Ed Lchtenberg and Sister Margaret Anne Kramer at the top of the list! Upon retiring at Mount Loretto, Sister Maria Goretti was pleased with her various assignments, which we called “charges.” She was a receptionist and served as a relay captain, providing motherhouse information for sisters on the missions. She also sewed for the missions. Since she had sewed for Sister Presentation Dahlhauser for many summers, she again took up the task of helping Sister James Marie Gross with mission sewing. These weren’t just jobs for Sister; she prized them.

Sister Maria delighted in others teasing her in fun. Sister Barbara Rastatter would see Sister approaching and would sing out, “How do you solve a problem like Maria?” which brought gales of laughter from Sister Maria. When Randy Engler, maintenance director, would meet her along the way, he’d ask, “Now, what did you break, Maria?” and this, too, brought forth a hearty laugh from her.

Sister Maria enjoyed Scrabble games on Friday and Saturday nights with Sister Cecelia Marie Auterman and she looked forward to Wednesday evenings with her faithful Tri-omino friends. Birthday celebrations with Associate Linda Dolphin and Sister Cecelia Marie were always special, too.

Learning more about Presentations world-wide

www.internationalpresentationassociation.org
www.sistersofthepresentation.com

A W O M A N  O F  D E T E R M I N A T I O N

Sister Maria Goretti Dullard

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

Conference of Presentation Sisters

Convening, Adjourning, Missioning

by JENNIFER RAUSCH, PBVM

2013 Conference of Presentation Sisters participants

All the details were in place and it was time for the Conference of Presentation Sisters (CPS) to gather for its annual meeting. To help set the context for this meeting, a reminder that the Conference is one of the three units that comprises the International Presentation Association (IPA) along with the Union (Ireland and its world-wide foundations) and the Society (Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea). These three units provide a functional infrastructure for the 2000 Presentation Sisters throughout the world.

The Conference convened in Dubuque on May 28–June 2 as the leadership teams from congregations in Aberdeen, South Dakota; Dubuque, Iowa; Newfoundland/Labrador, Canada; New Windsor, New York; San Francisco, California; Staten Island, New York; and the U.S. Province of the Union gathered. The mission of CPS states: “The Conference of Presentation Sisters exists to provide opportunities for collaboration of the members, to promote unity, to strengthen the spirit of Nano Nagle and to encourage the works of the sisters to fulfill the Presentation mission.”

The 27 Presentations in attendance from across the North American continent gave evidence of the spirit and mutual support within the Conference as they shared prayer, reviewed business items and responded to input from facilitator, Sister Patricia Kozak, CSJ.
Sister Jocile Moes
March 19, 1913 - April 7, 2013
by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

The congregation spoke for Sister Mary Jocile Moes when they sang the entrance song for her funeral liturgy: “I know that my redeemer lives, the One who calls me home. I long to see God face-to-face, to see with my own eyes.”

Sister Mary Jocile Moes waited 100 years until April 7, 2013, to realize her dream. Born on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1913, in Dubuque, Iowa, Lucille Josephine Moes entered the Sisters of the Presentation in October 1932. She graduated from Loras College with a degree in English and took graduate classes in art at Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wisconsin. For nearly 50 years she taught students in grades 4-8 in 10 different Iowa parish schools.

Sister Jocile retired at Mount Loretto in 1985 where she pursued hobbies of singing, art, reading, crafts, walking and community service. The response to the reading for Sister Jocile’s funeral was “In the land of the living I will walk with God all my days.” She did just that, as a Presentation Sister for 80 years. The reality of these words bore evidence in her warm and loving interaction with others, particularly during her retirement years. Her smile reflects something very special, a touch of the divine.”

In the homily at her funeral Mass, Father Doug Wathier connected the reflections on Sister Jocile’s life and her ever-deepening experience of God to the Easter story of the Emmaus journey where the disciples walked with Jesus and experienced his presence in the breaking of the bread. Now with “hearts burning within,” may the memory of Sister Jocile live on in the hearts of her community, family and friends.

Karen Kathryn Takes, oldest daughter of Leo and Rozena Smith Takes, known in religion as Sister Mary Ruth Ann, grew up on a farm near Monticello, Iowa, with two elder brothers, Carroll and Jim, strong, loyal, loving and – always the “big brothers,” and two precious younger sisters, Patty and Diane, Karen occupied the “center” of the sibling line-up – and has remained “central” in the hearts of her immediate and extended family.

Rested in all things rural, Sister Ruth Ann maintained a lifelong love of nature. She chose the time of her home visit based on haying season, so she could help. Her preference was always outdoor work and a favorite exercise was walking/communing with God’s creation.

Sister Ruth Ann, salutatory of her high school graduating class, became a music teacher, having earned a bachelor’s degree in music/theology at Clarke College, Dubuque, a master’s degree in music at the University of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as a master’s from Loyola University in Chicago with an emphasis in liturgy. She taught music in six different Presentation schools in Iowa and South Dakota; her first mission in the shadow of Mother Vincent at Key West. Additional ministries included serving as a pastoral minister in two parishes, Fonda and Vartena, Iowa, and as a pastoral administrator at St. Clara Parish in Clara City, Minnesota. At Mount Loretto house coordinator she directed activities at the motherhouse for seven years. Her most recent ministry was that of care associate at St. Therese Care Center in New Hope, Minnesota, where she walked the journey with many hospice residents to their eternal home. May she now rest from her labors for her good works accompany her into the arms of God.

Karen was a woman of prayer and ministry. Though life isn’t perfect for anyone, Sister Ruth Ann maintained a song in her heart, and a spring in her step. She lived simply and gracefully and unerringly. With a spirit of gratitude for all, she made a difference wherever she went. Her joy was contagious and her happiness a legacy to her family and friends.

Sister Matthew Cunningham offered her assessment from the vantage point of another music teacher. Holding high her index finger and speaking near with corresponding authority, Sister Matthew declared that Sister Ruth Ann never said an unkind word about any one. Isn’t that the highest of compliments?

Family gatherings for both the Smith and Takes families usually meant a pot-luck dinner, followed by clearing the table and an afternoon and evening of card playing. For big and not-very-big occasions, they played cards, or when Sister came home, or they came to visit, they played cards. Or for no reason at all, they picked up where they left off, and then have another round or play one more hand.

As a youngster Karen convinced her sister, Patty, that they should both put their pillows on the floor at night so they would have good posture. It worked. Additional discipline included practicing the piano wearing gloves because the piano was in the parlor which wasn’t heated in the wintertime.

Karen was a woman of prayer and ministry. Though life isn’t perfect for anyone, Sister Ruth Ann maintained a song in her heart, and a spring in her step. She lived simply and gracefully and unerringly. With a spirit of gratitude for all, she made a difference wherever she went. Her joy was contagious and her happiness a legacy to her family and friends.
grandmother. Seeing Patty in the finery of her bridal attire, Mark in his tuxedo, and Sister Ruth Ann in full habit offered, as you can imagine, a number of head-turning opportunities at the hospital.

When Sister Ruth Ann was on mission she sang and danced and played a variety of musical instruments. She sang with the local chorales and played in a hand bell choir. When the Dubuque Presentations made a pilgrimage to Nano’s homeland, Sister danced the Irish jig in its native setting. She joined the select dance group for the Presentation Convergence in St. Paul, 2006. She also enjoyed horseback riding, swimming, aerobics and line dancing.

Sister Ruth Ann visited her sister, Patty, and brother-in-law, Mark, when they were teaching in Egypt, and took weekend mini-retreats at the home of her sister, Diane. She played cards with her family when they gathered. When the card game ended and nearly everyone went home, the host family and Sister Ruth Ann watched a movie and ate popcorn. She always enjoyed the simple and the ordinary with her family and community.

When the grandchildren came to visit, “Ruthie” hid so they could find her. She was known once to have jumped the creek; well, that was the plan. With family gathered, she could have done it, but she stumbled in the launching and fell in. It turned into a first-class Takes “laughing event,” with Sister Ruth Ann laughing as hard as anyone, while all waited for her brother-in-law, Dave’s rescue.

For any and every occasion, Sister Ruth Ann greeted all her family with a hug and a kiss. Her nieces and nephews said that she was “just fun.” And as they grew to adulthood, she continued to support them. One of her nieces chose to become a Catholic School teacher and principal, a cause dear to the heart of Sister Ruth Ann. No Catholic Schools Week passed without a call of interest and support from Sister.

Sister Ruth Ann absolutely loved life! Exuberant in ministry, seeking always to serve, she sang and danced her way into the hearts of those with whom she worked and to whom she ministered. Full of life and joy, involved in family, community, and full-time ministry, and not yet 69, her family and community were reluctant about her leave-taking when she was diagnosed in mid-January with ovarian cancer.

When rest and nutrition failed to give her strength, and treatment was not recommended, Sister Ruth Ann came to Mount Loretto, where just two and a half years earlier she had served a seven-year term as house coordinator. Sisters, young and old, and employees from all departments lined first and third floor halls, an extensive honor guard, characterized by tear-filled eyes and words of blessing.

So in touch with God, Sister Ruth Ann demonstrated her Kingdom-kinship by a truly awesome acceptance of her illness. In spite of her weakness, she was so in-touch with family and community, so present to each person, and when anyone stopped to see her she called each one by name, in her usual loving-inflected manner.

In her last days Sister Ruth Ann spoke of her love for life and for all those with whom and to whom she ministered. She said, “I did my best; I did my very best.” She did!
You are invited to join us.
July 19, 2013
7:30 a.m.
Memorial Mass for Karla Berns,
Presentation Associate and Employee
Sacred Heart Chapel
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

July 28-August 3, 2013
QUEST Service Opportunity
Appalachia community in
Talcott, West Virginia

August 12-16, 2013
QUEST Service Opportunity
East Coast Area

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.
July 18-20, 2013
Community Gathering
Dubuque, Iowa

July 18, 2013
50th Jubilee Celebration
Sister Janet Stelken
Sister Joy Peterson
Sister Julia Wingert
Dubuque, Iowa

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

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

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors

Postville: 5-Years Later
On Friday, May 10, the Presentation
community gathered in the Sacred Heart
Chapel for a prayer service in support of those
gathered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for an event
marking the five-year anniversary of the
Postville Raid in 2008. Sister Jeanette McCarthy
led the congregation with accompaniment from
Sisters James Marie Gross, Louise Scieszinski,
Dolores Moes and Lois Lehmann.

Welcoming Archbishop Jackels
The Sisters of the Presentation were among
18 congregations of women religious who
welcomed the Archdiocese of Dubuque’s new
Archbishop Michael O. Jackels at a prayer
service at Clarke University on Friday, May
31. Several area sisters were present for the
celebration. President Jennifer Rausch had
the opportunity to address Archbishop Jackels
briefly to share with him the life and mission of
the Presentations Sisters. Pictured (left to right)
are Sisters Leanne Welch and Marge Healy with
Sister Mary Ellen Gevelinger, OP.

A Question of Habit
“A Question of Habit: Changing the Stereotype of Catholic Sisters Today,”
brought nearly 90 communicators and other professionals serving 13 religious
congregations to join filmmaker Bren Ortega Murphy for a screening of her
“Question of Habit” documentary, narrated by Susan Sarandon.

Following the screening, participants had the opportunity to discuss the use
of sister-images by the media and the challenges these, and other images, pose
to one’s specific role in serving a congregation of women religious. Discussion
focused on helping participants in creating awareness, in exploring alternative
ways to promote sisters and in expanding understanding of women religious
today. Networking with professional peers was core to the day’s program.

The workshop was sponsored by Sisters United News* of the Upper Mississippi
River Valley and communicators for regional congregations of women religious.

*Sisters United News (SUN) includes the following congregations: Carmelites, Eldridge, Iowa;
Congregations of the Humility of Mary, Davenport, Iowa; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La
Crosse, Wisconsin; Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin; Sisters of Mercy, West-Midwest Region,
Omaha, Nebraska; Benedictine Sisters, Rock Island, Illinois; Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa; and Sisters
of Charity BVM, Sisters of the Presentation, Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of the Visitation, and Trappistine
Nuns, all of Dubuque, Iowa.
Relationally Speaking

Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief

Award Recipients Making a Difference

Presentation Mission Service Award recipients, Hannah Way and Rachel Fitzgibbon are making themselves right at home in Bolivia with Presentation Sisters Suzanne Takes, Mery Cari Paz and Therese Corkery. They were recently called to Pajonal to help Antonia Cuellar, nearly 90 years old, who had fallen taking down her freshly-washed clothes drying on nearby bushes and branches. As she was stretching to reach the clothes, a huge rock from a stone fence fell on her leg, injuring her muscle. Aside from the doctor’s prescription of pain medicine, he suggested she wear a boot to protect her leg and keep the foot immobile while healing. Hannah and Rachel were quick to take up the challenge and fashioned together a therapeutic, cardboard boot in no time. Antonia fell in love with her new friends, and enjoyed all the loving attention they showered upon her. The Presentation Sisters are grateful to have both these young women serve with them. Hannah and Rachel are truly an inspiration in their desire to serve the people of Bolivia.