



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

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Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA
Phone: 563-588-2008 Fax: 563-588-4463
Email: doorways@dubuquepresentations.org
Web site: www.dubuquepresentations.org

PUBLISHER
Julianne Brockamp, PBVM

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Jane Buse

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE
Francine Quillin, PBVM; Colleen Venter,
Associate; Leanne Welch, PBVM; Carol Witry,
Associate.

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Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

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sisters, associates, former members, family
and friends, or any ideas which relate to the
aim of this publication. Submit to:

Editor, Presentation Doorways
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org

Cover PHOTOS

*The doorways represented on the cover are
snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation
history: (left to right) doorway of the current
motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road; doorway of
St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille)
in Dubuque in 1879; doorway of Sacred Heart
Chapel at the current motherhouse; doorway of
the former motherhouse at 1229 Mount Loretta
Avenue which was built in 1909; and doorway by
which Mother Vincent Hennessy left Mooncoin,
Ireland, to begin the Dubuque foundation in 1874.*

PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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Emily Nelson, recipient of the Presentation Mission Service Award, travelled with a group of Loras College students to serve with the APUFRAM St. Therese de Lisieux Volunteer Center at El Conejo in Flores, Honduras this past spring. Emily spent the week ministering to the children, painting the school, building a new laundry structure and growing in faith with the people of Honduras and her fellow Loras classmates. During her time in Honduras, Emily embraced a lifestyle of prayerful simplicity, learning to adopt a childlike faith and to live in the present moment as she brought the hope of Christ to the children of El Conejo.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Our work is loving the world...

Such work has been passed down the uncountable generations. Love has been received from many sources and voices. “A child, an elder, a friend – each contributes to our understanding of the world and adds to the love story we carry.” Imagine “humanity’s ancestors coming to the fire, exchanging dreams, insights, teaching, piecing together the love story of the world and our place in it.”
“Storycatcher” by Christina Baldwin (slightly adapted)

Our work is loving the world...

“Sometimes loving the people in ministry is holding them before the Lord in prayer,” shares Sister Paula Schwendinger. “Each Monday for five years a few women have joined me in a half hour of prayer, holding up our undocumented brothers and sisters and praying for enlightenment for those who have the power to change the laws of immigration. It is a small but concerted effort to stand in solidarity with those who have no voice.”

Our work is loving the world...

“The converging events of paying off my house, completing training as a spiritual director and switching to part-time employment have led me to discern a new winding lane to travel,” reflects Associate Bernadette Graves. “As part of my spiritual director training, I was blessed to ‘practice’ for eight months with an elderly gentleman in an assisted living center; he passed away the day before our final scheduled meeting. I watched and was present with him as he transitioned to eternal life. I was so moved by this experience and the great need for the elderly to have spiritual companionship that I now volunteer as a spiritual director at the St. Jeanne Jugan Center for the elderly poor in Kansas City. In my own transition from paid to volunteer work, I follow Nano in bringing my lantern to where there is need.”

Our work is loving the world...

Nano Nagle College Scholarship recipient, Casey McEvoy, initiated a “Pay It Forward” idea which created a chain reaction of kindness for more than 800 students in K-12 who attend St. Edmond Catholic School in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Casey’s desire to make a positive difference in someone’s life reflects Nano’s intention, “If I could be of service in any part of the world, I would gladly do all in my power to do so.”

Service endeavors have given Lauren Noel a strong sense of gratitude for her faith, family and friends, talents, opportunities and education at Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa. Lauren feels the Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship will empower her to further her Catholic education and deepen her commitment to service.

Emily Nelson, recipient of the Presentation Mission Service Award, spent Holy Week on a service trip to Flores, Honduras, with others from the Loras College community. “After seeing the smiles, beauty and innocence of the children we met throughout the week, one of my friends commented that God was teaching us to live more like children and to have childlike faith.”

Our work is loving the world, and our prayer is thanksgiving... thanksgiving...

Julianne Beth Ann Leanne

Our PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the Gospel 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 invite others to become involved in our mission.

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, 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 mission with you.

Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



Left to right: Sister Joy Peterson, PBVM, and Sister Anne Sur, OP, review the status of the work they share in serving on the Dominican Alternative Investment Committee.

SISTER JOY PETERSON A Joyful Presence

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

It is a pretty rare occasion when one's name so perfectly fits one's personality. Perhaps that bespeaks the foresight of parents, or perhaps one becomes what the name requires. In any case, it is incredibly true of Sister Joy Peterson that her name illustrates her personality. One would rarely see her without a light in her eyes and a smile on her face. Nor would one find her without kindness in her manner.

Yet, Sister Joy is no stranger to holding responsible positions. She just fulfills them with ease and an inner spirit of joy and generosity. The oldest of four children of Bob and Dorothy Peterson, Sister Joy was familiar with responsibility from an early age, as oldest children often are. She grew up in Fort Dodge, Iowa, until her family moved to Mason City, Iowa, when she was in ninth grade. It was at St. Joseph and Newman High Schools that she came to

know the Sisters of the Presentation, and developed an affinity for their ministry and, in imitation of their foundress, their concern for the poor. Sister Joy entered the Presentation community in 1963 after graduating from Newman High School.

Sister Joy earned a bachelor's degree in English from Clarke College, after which she taught intermediate grades, and later, high school. These ministries occurred in Elkader, Whittemore, Dubuque and Algona, all in Iowa. In intervening summers she earned a master's degree in Teaching Elementary Social Studies from Clarke College in 1977, and a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, in 1988.

Subsequent to her years of teaching, Sister Joy offered other skills in various ministries. She served as a parish minister at St. Mary

I feel a great responsibility, whether it is in shareholder action which requires dialogue with corporations, or in helping develop corporate stances which make a public voice for the congregation on important issues.

Sister Joy Peterson

Parish in Spirit Lake, Iowa. She was a member of the formation team for the Presentation community, and subsequently served as vocation director. In 1998 she was elected to the position of congregational leader of the Sisters of the Presentation. Upon completion of that five-year term, she was re-elected, serving a second term which ended in 2008. These positions were again a recognition of her many talents.

After leaving leadership, she was an intern at the United Nations in the Non-Governmental Office as part of the International Presentation Association office. There she had significant experiences with religious men and women from diverse countries, ministries and backgrounds. "I learned volumes about the functioning of governments in various parts of the world, and in the multi-faceted global efforts for justice," states Sister Joy. "This was a welcome broadening experience, which enhanced my already-active passion for justice."

Thus, upon her return from the United Nations, it was not a surprise that she assumed the position of promoter of peace and justice for the Dominican congregation in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, a ministry which she greatly enjoys and at which she excels.

Based on the premise that everyone is encouraged to be concerned about justice issues, Sister Joy represents the Dominican congregation in many settings so that she can keep sisters and associates alert to current issues. "The Dominican Sisters have several groups within the community which focus on various justice needs," states Sister Joy who serves as an energizer for these groups, as well as an organizer of the details of their agenda, decisions and efforts. "I attend their meetings and promote their concerns. I keep the community at large informed of broad justice issues by sending a monthly newsletter and emails on important current issues, such as forwarding a message from Network calling for contacting legislators, etc."

Sister Joy speaks of her ministry: "I feel a great responsibility, whether it is in shareholder action which requires dialogue with corporations, or in helping develop corporate stances which make a public voice for the congregation on important issues."

Sister Joy credits her parents for her interest in the pressing justice issues of today. "I learned from them that the way one loves God is by caring for others, and service was always a part of my family experience." Her high school years also provided many opportunities for service, and she readily took advantage of those.



Sister Joy Peterson gives the community at Sinsinawa regular updates on current issues of justice such as on immigration reform.

Sister Joy believes that there are "two feet of justice" – performing works of concern/care for others and working for systemic change where there is injustice and/or inequality. She recalls that the Presentation community established a justice committee as early as the 1970s, of which she was a member. "Looking back I realize how the community has grown in its understanding of justice issues and in its grassroots efforts toward systemic change."

Sister Joy has enjoyed all her ministries. Those who know her know that she has always brought to them a passion and a desire for the very best outcomes. Perhaps some of her joy arises from communing with nature: she loves the outdoors. She also enjoys reading materials that are a bit lighter than the reading that constitutes part of every work day.

It is true to the heart of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, that several Presentation Sisters have various forms of justice work as their primary ministry, and that others in the community directly serve the poor and marginalized. Each of these sisters is supported by the prayer, encouragement and cooperation of the rest of the community and its associates.

And none of this is new. For many years Presentation teachers and principals very quietly provided breakfasts and lunches for children who came from homes where there was never enough food. This is the long tradition that precedes today's efforts and keeps all sisters and associates involved in the needs of those who are disadvantaged.



Left to right: Barbara Ressler, Presentation associate and Wahlert Catholic High School teacher, congratulates Lauren Noel on her acceptance of the Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship during the Wahlert senior awards ceremony. Laurie Noel, Presentation associate and Lauren's aunt, also attended the ceremony.

Exceptional Individuals Honored through Scholarships & Awards

by JANE BUSE and RACHEL FITZGIBBONS

The Sisters of the Presentation initiated several scholarships and awards to further Presentation Foundress Nano Nagle's legacy of education and in the spirit of her desire to serve. The sisters are pleased to honor the following commendable recipients.

Nano Nagle College Scholarship

The Nano Nagle College Scholarship rotates among the many Iowa high schools in which Presentation Sisters have ministered. The scholarship was awarded to a student at Wahlert Catholic High School, Dubuque in 2010; Garrigan High School, Algona in 2011; Newman High School, Mason City in 2012 and St. Mary High School, Storm Lake in 2013. This year's \$500 Nano Nagle College Scholarship was awarded to Casey McEvoy, a deserving senior from St. Edmond Catholic High School in Fort Dodge, who models self-giving service by his completion of over 200 hours of service in the past two years. Casey is committed to using his God-given talents to improve the lives of others, whether that be mentoring middle school students, founding a new student organization called "Pay It Forward," which encourages a "chain

reaction of kindness," or practicing stewardship of God's creation by working to improve local parks. This fall, Casey will continue serving as he pursues a college degree.

"Casey is an inspiration to everyone he meets," says Daniel Zach, religion teacher at St. Edmond Catholic. "You can see on his face that he possesses an extraordinary amount of care and compassion for others. He is a faithful young man who uses his gifts to the fullest. He is not afraid to share his faith with others and make the most of opportunities to affect even a stranger in the smallest, positive way."

The depths of his desire to serve are reflected in Casey's own words: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" The Nano Nagle College Scholarship will allow Casey to cultivate his talents even further.

Mother Vincent Hennessy Foundation Scholarship

In 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 Lauren Noel. Lauren has been actively involved in multiple service opportunities at Wahlert, at her home parish of Resurrection and in the greater Dubuque community. Lauren plans to continue her Catholic education at the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota this fall.

With a heart for service which is animated by a strong sense of gratitude for the blessings in her life, Lauren never misses an opportunity to give of herself for the good of another. Humble reflection on her many service experiences has compelled Lauren to "view service as a lifestyle" which she is determined to maintain throughout her college career and beyond. Dan Mulligan, student advisor in the guidance office of Wahlert Catholic, calls Lauren a "shining example of what I hope all of our Golden Eagles strive to be: dedicated scholar, humble servant, friend to all and a courageous worker. Lauren has truly used her God-given talents for the betterment of others."

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 recipient is Emily Nelson, a senior majoring in Spanish and Public Relations at Loras College, Dubuque.



Casey McEvoy (middle), recipient of the Nano Nagle College Scholarship, appreciates the support of his mentors and nominators, Daniel Zach, St. Edmond religion teacher, and Paula Florey, St. Edmond guidance counselor.

Emily travelled with a group of Loras students to serve with the APUFRAM St. Therese de Lisieux Volunteer Center at El Conejo in Flores, Honduras, this past Holy Week. Emily supported APUFRAM in its mission of educating and housing children in need, as well as providing opportunities for abandoned mothers to cultivate skills that help them become self-sufficient, successful contributors to their communities. Emily spent the week ministering to the children, painting the school, building a new laundry structure and growing in faith with the people of Honduras and her fellow Loras classmates.

During her time in Honduras, Emily embraced a lifestyle of prayerful simplicity, learning to adopt a childlike faith and to live in the present moment as she brought the hope of Christ to the children of El Conejo. Emily says this experience "allowed me to open my heart to God and his people during one of the holiest weeks of the year. The simple, silly and sweet moments that inspired us to live differently will be the ones I will never forget."

One of Emily's favorite scripture verses, Jeremiah 29:11, helps to explain the impact this mission trip had on her: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Not only was Emily able to offer hope of a better future through her reflection of God's love; she too, was reminded that trusting in God and following where He leads can result in amazing things. She calls this trip "one of those amazing things" for which she will be forever grateful. The Sisters of the Presentation are honored to have awarded Emily the Presentation Mission Service Award – a gift that enabled her to share her own gifts.

Left to right: Sister Beth Driscoll and Emily Nelson visit after Emily presented a reflection of her Honduras trip to the Presentation community.





The Presentation Pacers' cast of 38 sisters, associates, employees, family and friends gather for a team picture at the Relay for Life event on June 6, 2014.



Left to right: Top photo: Jean Lange, house coordinator for the Presentation Sisters, recruits her grandson, Oliver; husband, Jeff; and daughter, Stacy. Bottom photo: Presentation Pacers' cancer survivors Sister Marie Barth, Sister Dolores Zieser, Associate Mary Dankert, Tom Deeny, Sister Josita Zieser, Katie Chapman, Sister Benjamin Duschner and Linda Brown. Not pictured Sister Janice Hancock.

Presentation Pacers Attend Relay for Life

Lights, Camera, Relay

by COLLEEN VENTER, ASSOCIATE

Relay for Life, the annual walk and fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, was held on Friday, June 6, 2014, in Dubuque. This year's theme was "Lights, Camera, Relay." Sister Dolores Zieser directed the Presentation Pacers' cast of 38 sisters, associates, employees, family, friends and a large supporting cast who offered their prayers and encouragement. "What an amazing production it was! Sister Dolores' commitment to Relay for Life ignites a light and an awareness in all of us and in our Presentation community," states Jean Lange, house coordinator for the Presentation Sisters and team co-captain.

Behind the scenes, Maintenance Director Randy Engler designed and constructed the group's "Lights, Camera, Relay" campsite props. Costume credits go to Amanda and John Kirk who researched, presented and ordered team t-shirts and Jane Buse who designed them. On location, at the Port of Dubuque, cancer

survivors and guests were honored at a special dinner and a special walk around the track followed by the team walk.

"Every one of our lives has been touched by cancer. In keeping with Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters' mission, participating in Relay for Life is an honor," states Sister Dolores Zieser, team co-captain. "A person diagnosed with cancer and journeying through treatment may experience a feeling of overwhelming darkness and fear. As a team, we strive to reach out and shed some light into that darkness by recruiting team members, holding fundraisers, including a bake sale, raffles, penny wars, contributing a silent auction birthday basket and asking for individual donations all to help support the Relay's ministry."



This year Presentation Pacers' team raised \$4646.26. These funds help the American Cancer Society with cancer research, advocacy, education, service and help provide cancer patients with a safety net of hope and relief.

The night of Relay, team members were asked to take turns walking the track from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Walking through the night, from darkness into light, symbolizes a person's cancer from diagnosis through treatment and into remission. Nine members of the Presentation Pacers are cancer survivors. In remembering those who did not survive cancer, it is the goal of the American Cancer Society to find a cure, a hope for light in the future and to create a world with more birthdays.

When the sun goes down at every Relay for Life event, hope shines the brightest. During the Luminaria Ceremony, hundreds of luminaria light the track to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, to remember those who have lost their battle and to fight back against a disease that has taken too much. The ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to fight.

A dinner for eight raffle winners on June 12 concluded this year's "Lights, Camera, Relay" event. It made for a night of fellowship, celebration and hope, for all guests and for the Presentation Pacers team. Sixty years ago, one out of three people diagnosed with cancer survived. Today, thanks in part to the work of the American Cancer Society and to all who helped to support the Presentation Pacers' Relay for Life team efforts, two out of three will survive. Let's work together to make it three out of three!

PRESENTATION QUEST

IMMERSION & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

July 28 - August 1, 2014: Waterloo, Iowa

The Sisters of the Presentation and the Sisters of St. Francis in Dubuque are co-sponsoring a service trip to Waterloo, Iowa. Volunteers will tutor Burmese students from kindergarten through sixth grade to improve their language skills. Under the direction of principal Julie Niemeyer, volunteers will have a specific program to follow. Consider joining sisters, associates and friends in an effort to help those in need and to strengthen volunteer service programs sponsored by women religious.

Visit www.dubuquepresentations.org for more information or contact:

Sister Rita Cameron
 Presentation Quest Coordinator
 2360 Carter Road
 Dubuque, IA 52001-2997
 563-588-2008
 service@dubuquepresentations.org

Annual Garage Sale A Resounding Success

The Sisters of the Presentation and associates hosted their 10th annual garage sale on April 24-26 and May 1-3. The sale continues to grow each year. Each spring, a call goes out to sisters, associates, employees and friends to donate gently-used items. Once again this year, the gym was filled with generous donations that would become someone's treasure.

Yearly, shoppers look forward to this garage sale. Coffee, donuts and bake-sale items add a warm touch of hospitality and shoppers enjoy the organized, attractive presentation of the items, not to mention the fact that the sale is all inside!

This year, the best yet, over \$22,000 was collected for the student endowment fund at Seton School and Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, Iowa, and Hotel Hope in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The garage sale core team is very grateful to all who contributed, helped unpack, sort and organize, donated fresh-baked goods, promoted the sale and shared hospitality with all. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Reflections on an Associate Orientation Journey

by JANET STELKEN, PBVM

March 23, 2014 marked the culmination of a very rich and rewarding orientation process for Sisters Carrie Link and Janet Stelken and Carol Kane and Colleen Vlasisvjevich, both former members, who met each month in Monticello, Minnesota. Their discussions were heartfelt, interesting and uplifting as they all journeyed once again through the story of Nano Nagle, Presentation history and charism and how to further the ministry and mission of Presentation people. The time was always much too short.



Carol Kane

First on the agenda of each meeting was check-in time which afforded them the opportunity to catch up with life and all that entailed. Because Carol and Colleen both came to this time with great knowledge, experience and a deep love and appreciation for Nano and the Presentation community, their gatherings gave them more time to ponder and share what Nano's dream can mean for them today.



Colleen Vlasisvjevich

Deep gratitude for Nano's courage and her willingness to go out "where need calls loudly in the winding lanes" were expressed so often by both Carol and Colleen during these past months. The many ways that they walk in Nano's footsteps in their neighborhoods and with people who are in need today are both inspiring and humbling. Colleen has initiated a "tea group" of several ladies that she gathers in her home once a month for prayer and sharing. Carol volunteers her time to sit with children of a family in her neighborhood so that the parents can have some time for themselves. This is only one example of many that each of these women have undertaken that demonstrates their willingness to go *one pace beyond*.

The commitment ceremony was a celebration of all that has gone before and all that is yet to come.

Carol shares her sentiments, "Our associate gatherings this year were so enriched by our shared background and obvious permeating spirit of Nano that inspires all of our group. I cherish being so connected in this special way with the love and action of our community."

"The Associate Orientation Process was a journey like no other, each step anticipated, enriching, and inspirational," adds Colleen. "Meeting Nano Nagle again and anew, reflecting on the Spirit that moved her to daring gospel living was a wonderful experience. It is that same Spirit that is ever so apparent in the lives and ministry of Presentation sisters and associates. I cherish the invitation to enter the journey extended by Karla Berns, the angel always with us, Sister Ruth Ann Takes, and the wonderful companions along the way Carol Kane and Sisters Carrie Link and Janet Stelken. For the graced reconnection to the community and the genuine hospitality of welcome, I am humbly and joyfully grateful."

In Memory of Mary C. Danner

November 1, 1923 - May 13, 2014

Presentation Associate Mary Danner desired to share her life and spiritual journey with the Presentation Sisters as an associate and made her first commitment on June 16, 2000. Mary considered it an honor and a privilege to be "connected" to the Dubuque Presentation Sisters all of her life. In addition to having two aunts who were Presentation Sisters, Mary was educated by Presentations at St. Joseph School in Key West and St. Columbkille High School in Dubuque. Mary's sister, Charlotte Danner and her niece, Barb Sauser are Presentation associates. Two other sisters, Doloras Hendricks and Jean Foust, who preceded her in death, were also associates.



Mary was a member of St. Anthony Parish, where she served for 14 years as parish secretary and was active in the Rosary Society and St. Bernadette Circle. She also served as a patient advocate at Ennoble Manor Care Center in Dubuque. Her deep faith, love for her family and compassion for others were exemplified throughout her life. We remember Mary with love and gratitude.

"A Long, Loving Look at the Real" Weekend Retreat

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE

Nearly 100 Presentation Sisters and associates gathered in April, for a retreat weekend at Mount Loretto, the Presentation motherhouse in Dubuque. Rooted in the directional statement, the retreat entitled "A Long, Loving Look at the Real" offered an opportunity for participants to explore their participation in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos through conversation and forms of contemplative prayer.

The opening prayer for the retreat, based on Romans 8:19-21, set the stage as participants were invited to reflect on the beginnings of the universe and its continuing evolution toward greater wholeness.

Sister Joy Peterson expanded on this theme as she led retreatants in pondering the great "flaring forth" of the dynamic love that is God as it was first poured into elements, atoms, galaxies, plants, animals and human life over 14 billion years ago. This evolutionary story was illustrated as individuals represented the emergence of new life forms on an evolutionary timeline beginning with the big bang up to the present. Sister Joy invited all to consider the Jesuit theologian, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's understanding that the whole of cosmic unfolding is powered by the energy of love which draws everything toward greater wholeness. This led to reflection and conversation on the question, "So what? What does all this mean for living one's life in the day to day? How might this challenge one to recognize the presence of love in all that is? How might this call one to live life more conscious of Jesus' call to "love one another?"

Woven throughout the day, the refrain from the song "Consciousness Waking" by Jan Novotka, fostered a growing awareness of the Holy in their midst as it is manifested in all of creation.

Sister Joellen Price invited a deepening of a long, loving look at the real by nurturing the group's awareness of love in their midst through the contemplative practice of the mandala. Mandalas are sacred art pieces in the form of a circle and offer



Left to right: Top photo: Sister Dolores Zieser visits with Associates Virginia Lammer and Betty Allen. Middle photo: Sister Jessi Beck and Associate Radie Roberts reconnect during the weekend retreat. Bottom photo: Associates Dora Serna, Laurie Noel and Kate Kleeman smile for a group photo opportunity during a break.

an avenue for deep listening. Through the experience of the mandala meditation the group was invited to reach the still place within each of them where God resides.

As the afternoon drew to a close, the group affirmed and renewed through ritual and prayer their commitments as Presentation Sisters and associates to reverence relationships, celebrate unity, engage contemplation and foster partnerships.

Evening Taize Prayer offered a meditative time which included contemplative silence, the proclamation of scripture and prayers of petition and blessing. The evening concluded with further opportunities for sharing at a social. The "Long, Loving Look at the Real" retreat closed with Sunday morning liturgy and brunch.

Remembering Akron, CO

1919-1929

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM



Sisters at Akron in 1927. Left to right: Back row: Boniface Reiman, Leonarda Leonard, Sarita Sullivan and Clementina Mackey. Front row: Sisters Ignatius Sheehan, Aquin Walsh and Monica Worrell.

“The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Iowa, who had not previously been represented in the Diocese, were placed in charge of the school, St. Joseph’s Boarding and Day School.” The parish Historical Yearbook, 1887-1976, describes the introduction of the Sisters of the Presentation in this manner.

The school opened with 24 boarders (both boys and girls), 65 day students, and 30 music students. Between 1919-1929, eight sisters served in the school. Classes were offered for grades 1-8, with the addition of some high school grades the first year.

Sister Mary Xavier Evans led the little band of sisters in their first endeavor in the Diocese of Denver. Listed in the annals as her companions were Sisters Mary Antonio Murphy, Evarista Powers, Leonarda Leonard, Innocentia Sanner and Rose Jochum. Pastor Reverend Louis Groham, described by Sister Innocentia later as “a very kind man,” introduced the sisters to the parish and settled them into their new home.

About her first mission experience in Akron, Sister Innocentia recalled that the sisters had a real community spirit, which helped alleviate the feeling of isolation for those who were so far from their Iowa roots. She also remembered harboring some people overnight when a storm arose after a school program directed by Sister Mary Antonio. Weather evidently could be a problem, though the climate was generally mild.

Sister Mary Leonarda Leonard had this to say about the weather: “It was never very cold and there were few storms; sunshine almost every day. We had to make our own sunshine when we came back to Iowa.” She enjoyed the people, the students and the boarders during her 10 years in Akron.

A transplant from Iowa, Sister Mary Josephine Kennedy spent 1919-1921 as a boarding student at St. Joseph. Her family had purchased some land 18 miles from school, and the law required that they live on the land for two years in order to claim it. The Kennedys later returned to Iowa.

Depression conditions, according to the Parish Yearbook, caused the closing of the school. Other factors mentioned

in the annals included the increasing need for more sisters to staff the schools closer to home, and the fact that, for the last two years that the sisters were there, the parish had no resident pastor; hence there was no opportunity for daily Mass.

In testimony of the enduring appreciation for the work of the sisters, a mural and name plaque were placed in the Church in 1955 to honor Sister Mary Antonio Murphy. The plaque reads: “With prayerful gratitude, affection and esteem, this mural is dedicated to the memory of Sister Mary Antonio, Sisters of the Presentation, presented to St. Joseph Church, Akron, Colorado, June 13, 1955, by her former pupils and associates.” Presiding at the Mass and ceremony was Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Koch who had been pastor at St. Joseph Church during 1922-1928, the years that Sister Antonio was principal.

Presentation Annals of 1932 sum up the history of the sisters’ work in Akron, Colorado, and attest to the fact that their influence extended beyond the school walls. “A fertile field for Catholic action claimed the unstinted efforts of the Presentation apostolate of religious instruction. Return of lapsed Catholics and more than a few conversions attest the impress of Presentation sisters teaching there.”



First Communion class of 1919. Pictured are Sisters Antonio Murphy, Evarista Powers, Rose Jochum, Leonarda Leonard and Xavier Evens.

Every issue will tell you a little bit about the life of Nano Nagle, the woman behind the lantern, and the women who follow in her footsteps.

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

The Lady of the Lantern

NANO
Lives



Sister Mary Joy Peterson, Congregational Leader 1998-2008



With much enthusiasm, Sister Mary Joy Peterson accepted the role of the 18th congregational leader. Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, daughter of Dorothy (Kennedy) and Robert Peterson, Joy attended elementary school at Corpus Christi. When the family moved to Mason City, Iowa, she attended Newman High School. Following graduation, Joy entered the community of the Sisters of the Presentation, where she attended Clarke College, earning a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in social studies, with an additional master’s degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois.

Attention to world issues and justice concerns, including the needs of women and children, served as a focus for Presentation justice efforts. A variety of meetings, ministries, and messages furthered the education and involvement of community members. Several sisters chose to serve in communities of other cultures, as well as those who continued ministry in Bolivia.

On July 16, 1999, the Dubuque Presentations declared a year of jubilee as they celebrated the community’s quasiquintennial (125 years). Since arriving in Dubuque from Mooncoin, Ireland, in 1874, Presentation Sisters had served in 140 locations. The year-long celebration took multiple forms including a Heritage Walk to review early Dubuque travels and travails, a community picture and the opportunity for a pilgrimage to Presentation roots in Ireland. Sixty sisters and four associates took advantage of the invitation to experience walking Nano’s winding lanes.

A world need for systemic change brought forth Presentation efforts on many fronts. Worldwide Presentations petitioned for NGO (non-governmental organization) status at the United Nations to further justice and peace on all continents. Sisters in Latin American countries created a Latin American network for justice issues. The North American Conference of Presentation Sisters met to explore avenues of collaborations for justice in the 21st century. Presentation Sisters, along with five other Dubuque women religious orders initiated and financially supported a project to provide emergency transitional housing for women and children in Dubuque.

The newly-renovated Sacred Heart Chapel was dedicated June 21, 2001. Bright, spacious, attractive and inviting, the new chapel provided an ongoing gift to sisters and guests. A special feature was a sky-light lantern, reminiscent of Nano’s lantern, positioned directly above the altar, allowing sunlight to flow into the chapel during the day and lighted at night to be seen from nearby streets. An enlarged gathering space, with blessing font and new art glass windows and doors created a serene atmosphere for prayer and solitude.

As membership decreased the community opted for four instead of five council members in 2002. Hospitality toward Earth, women and children and one another focused the congregational direction for Sister Joy’s second term. The community endorsed the Earth Charter, an international declaration of fundamental principles for fostering a global society seeking to provide justice and peace for all in light of the ecological needs of the planet.

In 2003, 27 different Presentation congregations, including Dubuque, sent representatives to the fourth International Presentation Association meeting in Australia. In January 2004, the North American Conference of Presentation Sisters celebrated their 50th Jubilee and marked the occasion by conceiving a collaborative ministry project. After discerning possibilities, the group decided on an inner-city neighborhood in New Orleans, Louisiana. Sister Beth Driscoll represented the Dubuque Presentations for the first three years of ministry at Lantern Light, Inc.

In 2006 over 400 North American Presentation Sisters and associates gathered at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a Presentation Convergence, a time to share the past heritage, celebrate the present and create the future.

The following year Sister Joy traveled to Rome for the assembly of the Union of International Superiors General, meeting with 850 other women religious from around the world. The task of the assembly was to hear the cries of those made poor, and to find common ways to address those cries.

Following her time in leadership, Sister Joy was chosen to serve as an assistant in the International Presentation Association’s NGO office at the United Nations. Upon her return, Sister Joy was hired as promoter of peace and justice for the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, where she continues her service to the present.

A WOMAN OF GREAT DESIGN

Sister Anthony Rottinghaus

August 29, 1925 - May 22, 2014

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

Dancing, singing, teaching and decorating her way into heaven, Sister Anthony Rottinghaus had many years to develop her creative and playful spirit and to share good times with family, friends, students and parishioners. Whether preparing children to be altar servers, readers and cantors or making the environment of church or dining room fit the season or feast, Sister Anthony was most happy when her ministry reflected her personal gifts.

One of 10 children born to Joseph and Catherine (Gudenkauf) Rottinghaus, Frances Helen was born in Seneca, Kansas, on August 29, 1925. From an early age, she learned to do her part in farm chores, home making, family fun and family prayer.

“Every night after supper our family prayed the rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and three Hail Marys for at least one religious vocation from the family,” comments Sister Mary Rosanne Rottinghaus, Sister Anthony’s sister.

Her brother Ray recalled that Sister Anthony would pitch in with any type of work on the farm. “One time when we were putting the car in the barn, Frances lifted the board from the barn door and accidentally hit herself on the corner of her face.” To Ray, the lifelong scar was a reminder that she wasn’t afraid of hard work.

After graduating from St. Patrick High School in Dougherty, Iowa, Frances entered the Sisters of the Presentation in June 1944 and professed perpetual vows on May 16, 1950. She received her bachelor’s degree from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. Her Presentation journey, spanning 53 years, took her to Lawler, Ryan, Farley, Elkader, Clare, Algona, Key West, Waukon, and Charles City, all in Iowa; Monticello and St. Paul, Minnesota; and Winner, South Dakota. She ministered as a music teacher, parish liturgist, pastoral minister and liturgy coordinator.

“Sister was a hard worker, but liked to have a good time, too,” recounts Sister Mary Sheila Kane. “Sister loved music and could she ever dance! I was most impressed by her Rottinghaus hallmark of hospitality.”

Bringing her talents for design and organization, Sister Anthony put her special touch into everything. “Sister loved preparing the large Advent wreath for Holy Trinity Church in South St. Paul,” recalls Sister Damian O’Brien. “I was so honored and most grateful for the beautiful parish banquet that sister planned at the parish for my 60th Jubilee.”

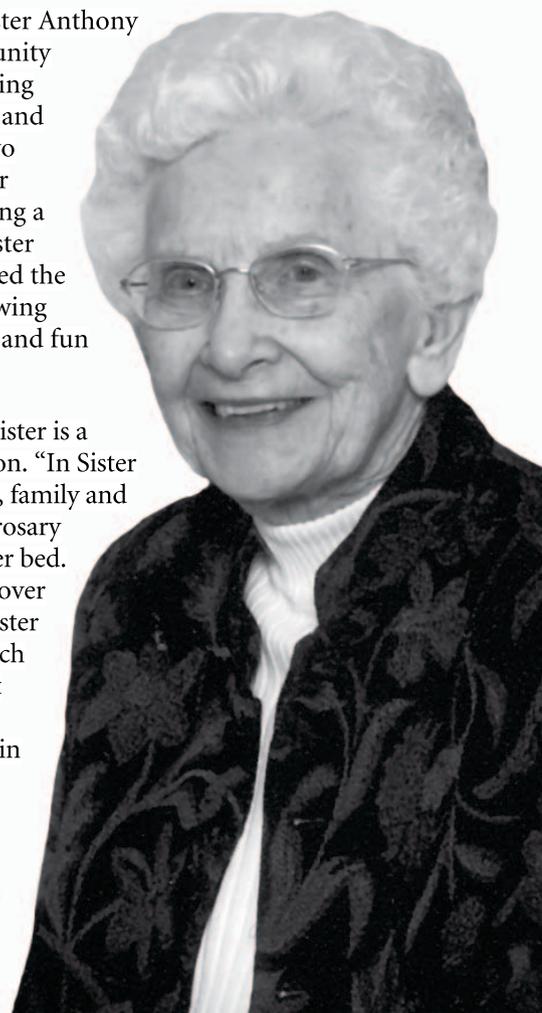
Nieces and nephews reminisced how Sisters Anthony, Rosanne and Michael would invite everyone to sing in the car on longer trips, at picnics and family gatherings.

Traveling together was one of many special shared experiences for Sisters Anthony, Rosanne and Michael. “When we visited our nephew Larry who worked at the Pentagon, we toured D.C. from morning to night with his car,” remembers Sister Rosanne. “Sister Anthony did the driving; I did the navigating and Sister Michael did the praying!”

Sisters Rosanne and Anthony had a special journey before retiring. “Our trip to the Holy Land was most outstanding,” says Sister Rosanne, “especially making the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem and going in a boat on the Sea of Galilee with the tour group to pray and meditate about fishing with St. Peter.”

In her retirement years, Sister Anthony continued to enjoy community life, making pies, entertaining sisters and other company and enjoying living with her two siblings. “She treasured our praying together and making a holy hour daily,” shares Sister Rosanne. “She really enjoyed the time we could spend reviewing memories on the missions and fun times in community.”

Keeping vigil with a dying sister is a special Presentation tradition. “In Sister Anthony’s last days, friends, family and nurses would discover her rosary in her pocket, chair or in her bed. Sometimes they would uncover two rosaries,” comments Sister Elena Hoye. “The mere touch of the sacred beads brought her closer to God. Whether she was wrapped in music, in good health and humor, or when she was typing, the presence of God was just a touch away.”



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Relay for Life Penny Wars

In an effort to raise money for the Presentation Pacers' Relay for Life team, Presentation employees participated in their second annual Penny Wars competition, raising \$846. For two weeks, employees plan special events to raise money and awareness for Relay for Life. Some events were a pie sale, movie night, smores roast, ice cream social and dessert bar. Left to right: Presentation employees, Randy Engler, Amanda Kirk, Linda Brown and Judy Hefel serve soft serve ice cream cones and root beer floats for dessert during lunch.

An Unsung Champion

The Women's Leadership Network honored 12 local women with its annual Women of Achievement Awards on April 17, 2014, at the Grand River Center in Dubuque. Winners were chosen for significant contributions in their professional, personal and volunteer roles in the community. Sister Corine Murray was recognized in the category of Unsung Champion: A behind-the-scenes woman that without her efforts, her organization could not have succeeded.

At Presentation Lantern Center, a beacon of hospitality and diversity, Sister Corine helps immigrants learn English, find their way in a new country and prepare for the citizenship test. As a cofounder of the International Speakers Bureau, she assisted in the creation of the Diverse Dubuque DVD. Sister Corine has touched the lives of countless individuals and families in the Dubuque community.



La Luz Hispana Celebration

The first anniversary celebration at La Luz Hispana was a true testament to the great work Sisters Carmen Hernandez and Maura McCarthy are doing in the town of Hampton, Iowa. On May 4, 2014, Presentation Sisters, associates, family and friends joined in the festivities with Mexican musicians, great Latin food and refreshments and many activities including face painting, bean bag toss, relay races, bingo and pinatas.



You are invited to join us.

July 28-August 1, 2014

QUEST Service Opportunity

Waterloo, Iowa

The Sisters of the Presentation and the Sisters of St. Francis in Dubuque are co-sponsoring a service trip to Waterloo, Iowa, where volunteers are needed to assist Burmese students from kindergarten through sixth grade in improving their language skills. Register on-line at www.dubuquepresentations.org

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 17-19, 2014

Community Gathering

Dubuque, Iowa

July 17, 2014

50th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Diana Blong

Sister Cheryl Demmer

Sister Richelle Friedlander

Sister Suzanne Gallagher

Sister Elena Hoye

Sister Sharon Kelchen

Sister Beth Kress

Sister Corine Murray

Sister Pamela Quade

Dubuque, Iowa

July 18, 2014

60th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Louann Doering

Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch

Sister Mary Louise Scieszinski

10th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Mery Cari Paz

Dubuque, Iowa

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



Left photo: The **Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America** held their annual meeting at Mount Loretto, Presentation motherhouse on June 1-4. The conference is comprised of the leadership teams of the seven Presentation congregations in North America: St. John's, Newfoundland-Labrador; San Francisco, California; Aberdeen, South Dakota; New Windsor, New York; Staten Island, New York; Union of Presentation Sisters, United States Province; and



Dubuque, Iowa. Right photo: Justice contacts from each of the Presentation congregations meet prior to the meeting.



Doris Link-Schreiber, former community member from Withee, Wisconsin, recently announced the publication of her first book of poetry entitled "Nestled in the Thin Space." Doris chose this title drawing upon ancient Celtic tradition. One entered a "thin space" when the veil separating the unseen world from the visible world was drawn back. Doris endeavors to tread

lightly the thin spaces of her everyday life. Her book can be purchased for \$7.99 by emailing her at linksch@tds.net.



Congratulations to **Sister Joan Brincks** on her acceptance into the Collaborative Leadership Development Program, a program that seeks to build capacity for effective leadership in community, ministry, the church and society by promoting both individual development and a collective vision of shared leadership.