



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



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Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email
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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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Cover PHOTO

The cover and back page photos were taken by Chelsea McCarragher during one of Dubuque's early November snowfalls. Chelsea is a senior at Loras College who has been interning in the Communications department.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



God's Mission

As we approach the celebration of the Incarnation, it is good to reflect on what this means in our lives. What does it mean to be like Mary as she participates in God's mission by journeying to Bethlehem at a difficult time in her life? In imitation of Mary, how do I/we bring forth Jesus in the world today which, at times, can also be difficult?

The mission statement of the Sisters of the Presentation calls us "to evangelize, offering hope and love to a broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God." Mary, the epitome of hospitality, shows us the way. She was available and she said yes to God's call, to an uncertain journey, to God's mission.

What does that look like for us today?

It is seen clearly as our sisters spend their retirement years bringing Jesus to those they meet as they join groups raising awareness about human trafficking, walk with college students who desire a Christian mentor, visit those in the hospital or nursing homes, read and inform the community regarding issues of justice, urge as many people to vote as possible, participate in charity events to support people in need and in so many other ways.

It is seen in our active sisters as they educate students and adults in the faith, work to change unjust systems, minister in direct service to those made poor, coordinate parish activities to foster learning and service, accompany those who are sick and dying, minister to the people in Bolivia, serve in community ministries and in so many other ways.

Presentation associates live God's mission by incarnating hospitality as they minister to those with whom they ride on the city bus each day, walk with directees in spiritual direction, show hospitality as they minister as secretary, advocate for immigrants, reflect God's love in their ministries as teachers, administrators or campus ministers, navigate the joy, pain and messiness of family life, and in so many other ways.

Our employees incarnate hospitality as they steward our grounds, building and other resources, prepare a welcoming environment for those who come to our Mount Loretto motherhouse, care for the physical, spiritual and social needs of our retired sisters, provide nutritious, simple meals, tell our story to friends, relatives and benefactors, assist us in technology, and in so many other ways.

The journey we make as we bring forth Jesus to the world of today as individuals and as Presentation people is, at times, uncertain and unsure. Yet it gives life to those with whom we walk, gives hope to those who see little light in their future and shares God's love with those who need it most.

As John Sivalon, MM, writes, "The mystery of God and of creation moves us to an embrace of awe and wonder as we journey. We sojourn as a community marked by the gift of uncertainty that fills us with a sense of hope and faith. As we bear this narrative forward, it is with deep faith and hope that we accept that its future is in God's hands and not ours."
God's Mission and Postmodern Culture

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 to 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



Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch participates in a protest against nuclear weapons. Sister is very passionate about peace and justice issues.

SISTER MARY DENNIS LENTSCH A Peaceful Presence

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

In the 1930 census the town of Clare, Iowa, listed 254 people. During that decade at least one more person of note was born, but she has since travelled far from that little spot in Western Iowa. Clare was settled in 1882 by people from Clare County in Eastern Ireland. Significantly, in 1775 Nano Nagle founded the Sisters of the Presentation across the country on the Western Coast of Ireland.

These pieces come together in the life of one Elizabeth Ann Lentsch, born during the 1930 decade to Raymond and JoAnn Lentsch in Clare, Iowa. In 1954, Elizabeth, the oldest of five children, entered the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque, Iowa, where, upon becoming a novice a year later, she chose the name Sister Mary Dennis in honor of her only brother.

During her years of formation for religious life, Sister Mary Dennis earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Science from Clarke College, after which she began a 25-year service of teaching, largely science,

in various high schools. In 1971 she earned a master's degree in Physical Science from the University of Pittsburg, Kansas. Subsequently she participated in pastoral programs in New Orleans, Louisiana, and at Loras College in Dubuque.

From 1984-1989 Sister Mary Dennis was a member of the Leadership Team for the Sisters of the Presentation. During this time Sister joined a protest at Honeywell in Minnesota against their making of cluster bombs. More than 1,000 people gathered to surround the Honeywell building.

Toward the end of her time on the Leadership Team, Sister Mary Dennis began to explore possibilities for ministry either with



Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch

Perhaps my thirst for justice arises from my mother who, as a girl, realized that only boys were allowed to exhibit cattle at the Fair, so she determined to break that barrier. She exhibited a calf, cleverly using only her initials, J.C., which was a sufficient but honest ruse to get her into the exhibit.

Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch

Native Americans or in Appalachia. "Spending a week with Fargo Presentation Sister Anne Hablas in Jellico, Tennessee, and learning that some Fargo Sisters would be leaving their mission there, I joined Sister Ann to continue the Presentation presence in Jellico," states Sister Mary Dennis.

In August of 1989, she began her new venture in Appalachia, which ultimately resulted in several kinds of ministries. One of her first services was to establish, at the request of some local mothers, a child care center, for which Sister served as the director.

"What was first required for the center was to provide a place, so I worked with the people to restore a Baptist church basement which had been severely damaged," says Sister Mary Dennis. The people with whom she was working, however, knew nothing about sheet rock. A resourceful thinker, Sister Mary Dennis approached the local lumber store, whose workers agreed to teach the people how to do sheet rock, how to mix cement, even how to hold a hammer. When this work was finished, she scrambled in salvage stores to find tables and chairs for the restored basement.

Throughout all of this, Sister learned about the culture of her new environs, which increased her patience with and understanding of those less fortunate. The children in school had neither books nor crayons in their homes. People could not fill out required forms, so Sister was enlisted to do that for them. She remained as the director for four years, and by then a local woman was prepared to become the director.

"It is an essential part of any mission work to train local people to replace the missionary, so that they have a sense of ownership and responsibility, and the missionary can then move on to other areas of need," states Sister Mary Dennis who had enabled well.

Her next step took her to the Woodland Community Land Trust and Development Corporation (WCLT), where she served as the manager. This enterprise made land and housing available for low income persons to lease. When a house was acquired by a person, it could be handed on to descendants. However, the WCLT retains ownership of the land, which thus prevents undesirable land development.

After five years, Sister moved to Narrow Ridge, Tennessee, where she was the office manager and program director for the Earth Literacy Center. Part of the mission of this center is to encourage natural burial.

Sister then worked as an office manager for the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), organizing meetings and gatherings. To allay any illusion that these managerial positions were at all similar to how we might view that role, it is well to note that Sister's office at the OREPA was simply a closet in a building, from which she organized meetings and gatherings, supported interns and welcomed guests.

Sister Mary Dennis spent a year and a half working at Lantern Light in New Orleans, a Presentation-sponsored welcome center for those in need. She then returned to Narrow Ridge as a volunteer at the Earth Literacy Center.

Today Sister continues to volunteer in various capacities. She is on the board for the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, which covers portions of 13 states. She is on the board for the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, for which she also serves as a volunteer. She is very active in Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, a Store Front Church established in 2011 and served by The Glenmary Priests and Brothers. Until 2011, there was no Catholic Church in two counties.

Throughout the years, Sister has also been passionate about peace and justice issues, not just by verbally supporting them, but by participating in several protests, some of which yielded jail and prison time for her. Among them were protests against nuclear weapons (Y-12) in Oak Ridge; several protests at the Nevada Test Site, which is doubly egregious because land was taken (not purchased) from the Shoshone Indians to make the test site available; and the School of the Americas, known today as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).

"Perhaps my thirst for justice arises from my mother who, as a girl, realized that only boys were allowed to exhibit cattle at the Fair, so she determined to break that barrier. She exhibited a calf, cleverly using only her initials, J.C., which was a sufficient but honest ruse to get her into the exhibit," relates Sister Mary Dennis.

In spite of being involved in many ministries with persons who have less, in protests against injustices, in seeking peace instead of war, Sister Mary Dennis remains a peaceful and prayerful person who single-handedly has made a difference in our world. Tennessee is a long way from Clare, but the distance has been shortened by her perseverance and her passion for those less fortunate.

Foundation Day

Celebrating 140 Years in Dubuque, Iowa

Reflection by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

On November 13, the Church honors Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, Foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the first American citizen to be canonized. This same day the Sisters of the Presentation honor their Dubuque foundress, Mother Vincent Hennessy.

On Foundation Day we recall our Dubuque Founding Story. As I reflected on our 140-year history I observed several *coincidences* – or perhaps God’s fingerprints on our story’s design.

John Hennessy, Bishop of Dubuque Diocese in 1870, and a native son of Ireland, returned to Iowa from the First Vatican Council in Rome by way of Mooncoin, Ireland, intending to meet with some young seminarians whom he had invited to minister in his diocese. Since the seminarians *just happened* to be on holiday with the Mooncoin pastor, the bishop had time to spare, so he strolled about the little village. Noting a large brick building he inquired of a playful young girl about its purpose, learning that it was the convent of the Sisters of the Presentation, daughters of the beloved Nano Nagle.

He decided to pay them a call. The sisters welcomed him, delighted to share that, they, *coincidentally*, had a sister among their number whose last name also was Hennessy, Mother Vincent.

Enjoying his captive audience the bishop waxed eloquently about his travels, his family in a neighboring village, and the Vatican Council. Likely it was past time for the great silence, and the sisters may have been weary after a full week of ministry, but the bishop must now tell them about the Dubuque Diocese, this very large area with many immigrant children, desperately poor families and few priests and sisters to minister to their spiritual and educational needs.

Bishop Hennessy suggested the *coincidence* that he and Mother Vincent might be related, and perhaps she would like to travel to America, along with some other sisters, to assist him. Actually, in that moment of fervor, several of the sisters expressed interest, but when the time came, only Mother Vincent was willing for the voyage.

Because of the Rule, she couldn’t travel alone so she solicited companions, Kate Riede, her niece, Alice Howley, a former student and now a young teacher, and Alice’s cousin, Ellen Ahearn, all interested, generous, dedicated women with missionary hearts who were willing to pay the price of leaving their families and their homeland, never to return.

"... our Dubuque foundation was built by edge-walkers: young women willing to cross the ocean to a far-flung continent, take up residence in a new country, a pioneer land, to minister to those who talked differently, thought differently and educated differently, doing it all with limited funds, minimal food and in an abrasive, harsh climate. These women were unmistakably edge-walkers!"

This summer, speaker Sister Gail Worcelo, challenged us to be “edge-walkers” in today’s society. I now realize that our Dubuque foundation was built by edge-walkers: young women willing to cross the ocean to a far-flung continent, take up residence in a country new to them, to minister to those who talked differently, thought differently and educated differently, doing it all with limited funds, minimal food and in an abrasive, harsh climate. These women were unmistakably edge-walkers!

As the story unfolds, four years after Bishop Hennessy’s visit, we find Mother Vincent Hennessy and her three companions at the port in Queenstown, Ireland, on October 29, 1874, boarding the same steamer that two months previously had carried another group of Nano Nagle’s daughters to New York on a similar mission.

After 11 days at sea, the group destined for Dubuque arrived in New York on November 9, 1874. From there they traveled by train to Dubuque. Upon arrival there was no one to meet them at the train station; they took a “hack” (as it was referred to in the annals), suggesting a “conveyance” of some sort, and arrived at the St. Raphael rectory, the home of the bishop, at about five o’clock in the evening. Kate Riede approached the door to inquire of the bishop the location of the Presentation convent. The less-than-amiable housekeeper curtly informed her that no Presentation convent existed and the bishop was on Confirmation tour and would not return for some weeks.

As Kate returned to the others to report her findings, the bishop’s brother *fortunately* appeared on the scene and conveyed the bishop’s message: because of the poverty of the people no convent could be built, but the bishop had made arrangements with Sister Julianna and the Visitation Sisters for the Presentations to live in the Visitation convent on West

Third Street, near the Cathedral. Having arrived quite recently from St. Louis themselves, the Visitation Sisters were not yet well established, had few means, and already lived in a crowded situation because of student boarders.

As described by Sister Francis Bannon, the earliest annals author, “Words fail to tell the kindness and sisterly affection of the good Visitation Nuns to the little band of Nano Nagle’s daughters whom they sheltered and treated as their own from November 1874 until January 1875.” For 55 days the Visitation Sisters shared their limited food, limited space, their unlimited hospitality and themselves with the Presentation-American-neophytes.

On January 7, 1875, Mother Vincent and her three companions, by way of a cold, rough bobsled ride, through snowdrifts, over Dubuque hills, arrived at the door of a white frame house in Key West, the first Presentation Convent in Iowa. Father Ward welcomed them to the new, but decidedly unfinished, construction, which he had just built for himself. (God bless Father Ward!)

In 1994 when the Visitations sold their motherhouse/school to Loras College, they sought a piece of property on which to build a convent. *Coincidentally*, after exploring sites in and around Dubuque without success, they found the answer on Presentation land, where they built their present home, just beyond the north driveway. We had come full circle, embracing the opportunity to return the original hospitality of the Visitations – now our closest neighbors and the friends, from whom we first experienced the hospitality of God.

Two years ago when the Presentation Sisters composed their directional statement it included a phrase on fostering partnerships. Clearly we have been fostering partnerships with the Visitation Sisters for 140 years.

Reviewing our founding story we proclaim, “God has blessed our Congregation; we lift our hearts in thanksgiving.” But what about each of us? What coincidences in your life brought you here today? Can you see signs of God’s fingerprints? To what liminal space is God calling you to walk?

*Together,
we make a difference*

Presentation Sisters strive to create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in the United States and Bolivia. Your support, generosity and prayers truly make a difference, ensuring Presentation mission and ministries continue.

You can now donate ON-LINE by visiting:
WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG
Under “Donate Now”

Partners in Mission Coordinator

In October 2014, Karen Ann Tuecke became the Partners in Mission Coordinator (previously titled Director of Development). She began her journey by creating and strengthening relationships with the sisters, their families, staff and friends of the community.



By reverencing relationships and fostering partnerships, Karen will expand the network of friends and supporters. This stewardship drives the mission and ministry served by the Sisters of the Presentation.

Karen has networked with various religious orders of sisters since 2001, when she began her career in fund development and grant writing. She firmly believes, “Relationship fundraising is an approach to the marketing of a cause which centers not around raising money, but on developing, to its full potential, the unique and special relationship that exists between a charity and its supporter.” (*Relationship Fundraising: A Donor-Based Approach to the Business of Raising Money, 1992*). She will identify the donors’ passion and match the time, talent or treasure with the needs of the community.

A native of New York, Karen came to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1998, where she met her husband Todd, and began a family. Todd and Karen have two daughters, Kristine (age 12) and Kennedy (age 5). Both girls are very active in their parish and school, St. Joseph’s in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin.

Karen is active in the community and currently sits on a number of not-for-profit boards of directors. These include the St. Joseph School Athletics Board and Parish Council, as well as Sustainable Dubuque: Wading Pool Gardens, Project Concern and the Loras College Dubuque Area Swimming Hurricanes’. She has also served as a past board member and co-chair of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and National Philanthropy Day.

“Some personal goals are to learn each sister’s story and convey how each story impacts others. The result will be a celebration of unity with the communities we serve and encourage engagement in our ministries.”



Sister Marie Therese Coleman uses technology to stay in touch with her family and friends.

SISTER MARIE THERESE COLEMAN

A Grateful Woman

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

A woman with a variety of interests, Sister Marie Therese Coleman has developed multiple hobbies since retiring to Mount Loretto in the early 1990s. She rekindled an interest in music – particularly violin – instilled in her teenage years by Sister Henrietta Teff. She began vigorous walking and bicycling around Dubuque to visit the sick and to gather parish bulletins for the sisters. She tended to several kittens and two canaries when the animals needed care.

“I love animals, all kinds,” says Sister Marie Therese pointing to a pillow adorned with a kitty in delicate needlepoint, a white fuzzy stuffed bear and other small creatures that share her room.

Add to these long-time interests, Sister Marie Therese is computer-literate and enjoys reading online and using email, Facebook and LinkedIn to keep up with family and friends.

Born Rose Mary Coleman, Sister Marie Therese began life in Cadet, Missouri, with her parents Gertrude and John Coleman and nine siblings. When Rose Mary was four years-old, her father passed away. In time her mother was remarried to Frank Stebritz and the family moved to Algona, Iowa, where the children attended St. Cecelia Grade and High School. After graduating in 1943, Rose Mary entered the Presentation Sisters with classmates

Mary Cecelia (Sister Mary Catherine) Wingert and Loretta (Sister Mary Dorothy) McCormick.

“Mother was a very religious woman,” states Sister Marie Therese. “As a family we were part of parish life. We attended novenas, Lenten Masses and devotions. By the seventh grade I was a member of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Sister Marie Therese credits the Presentation Sisters at St. Cecelia as good teachers who inspired her and nurtured her religious vocation. With reverence she remembers each of her grade and high school teachers. She adds, “I had several cousins who were sisters and one a priest.” As those before her, she became a teacher. Sister Marie Therese served at Catholic schools in Clare, Dubuque, Mason City, Storm Lake, Sheldon and Waukon, all in Iowa.

When retiring to Mount Loretto, Sister began her community prayer and service, locking and opening external doors, serving in the sacristy, preparing coffee and fruit for breakfast and distributing the newspapers throughout the house. Those jobs and her weekend treks around Dubuque provided good exercise to this woman on the move.

In recent years, however, Sister Marie Therese has shortened her miles but remains determined to keep going. “In good weather, I go out to the courtyard and walk around to the front entrance. Before my strokes, I used the pool,” she states. “I use my walker to get around the house and try to do one hour a day on the NuStep (recumbent bike).”

When not able to join the community in the chapel, Sister enjoys the closed circuit television channel for Mass and prayers. She also tunes into EWTN for spiritual reflection. At times, she gets a nap in her recliner.

“In a crowd, I can be swallowed up in the middle. Most of my life I have done the unnoticed things. This is how I bring Presentation hospitality to others,” she comments.

Nano Nagle’s story is meaningful to Sister Marie Therese. “I like Nano. She made her way through Cork; I walked around like she did as she made her way in the lanes; I visited the sick and lonely.”

A big smile accompanies Sister Marie Therese’s deep sense of gratitude. “I appreciate the care I get in community,” she remarks. “The sisters and staff are great about checking in on me to see if I need anything.” A visit with Sister Marie Therese means a lot to her and, at the same time, can offer a visitor interesting anecdotes about this most grateful woman religious.

Arts & Crafts Boutique

A Benefit to Support Charitable Ministries

The Sisters of the Presentation are happy to report that \$5,523.10 was raised from the Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 25. This amount was divided equally and donated to the St. John Lutheran Guest House in Dubuque and Our Lady of Tepeyac School in Chicago, Illinois where Sister Jessi Beck teaches.

The sale took place in Presentation Center at the motherhouse which was filled with tables for art, crafts and baked goods. The annual event could not have been the success it was without the wonderful community of sisters, associates, students and friends who worked together to make it so great.

Mark your calendars for next year’s sale on October 17, 2015, where you will find unique, hand-crafted gifts and delicious pies and baked goods by Presentation sisters, associates and friends. Gifts items of hand-woven baskets, trivets, watercolor paintings, jewelry, greeting cards and much more will be available.

The Gift of Giving

by KAREN ANN TUECKE
PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

give /giv/

verb

1. freely transfer the possession of (something) to (someone); hand over to

2. cause or allow (someone or something) to have (something, especially something abstract); provide or supply with.

Many of us grew up believing that it is nobler to give than to receive, but many of us do not know what the true art of giving is. **The true art in giving is to give from the heart without any expectation of a return.** True giving comes from the same place inside you as your deepest happiness.

Small gifts can be a wonderful way of communicating love, friendship and cross-cultural exchange. Biblical generosity is not any given dollar amount, but in how the gift is received. Giving to a charitable organization, such as the Sisters of the Presentation, can build a partnership in which the gifts of both parties are celebrated.

With the Sisters of the Presentation, there are many ways to give:

Time: volunteer at an activity, event or provide transportation

Talent: share your talents with us, and together we can align them with our ministry

Treasure: cash, check or credit card contributions; estate or will planning; life insurance policy; matching gifts; memorials or honorary gifts; stocks, bonds or tangible assets

For the gifts you have given us of time, talent and treasure, we are eternally grateful. To find out more about the ministries we serve, will planning or life insurance, please contact us today or click on the **Mission & Ministry** or **Donate Now** tabs on our web site.

To make a gift to the Sisters of the Presentation, contact the Partners in Mission Coordinator at **563.588.2008 ext. 105** or visit our web site for online cash or credit card contributions
www.dubuquepresentations.org.

Remembering Timber Lake, SD

1919-1981

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM



Left to right: Sisters Mary Loretto Donahue, Immaculata Daly, Baptista Hussey, de Pazzi Curtin and Francis Bannon represented the first Timber Lake Presentation community.

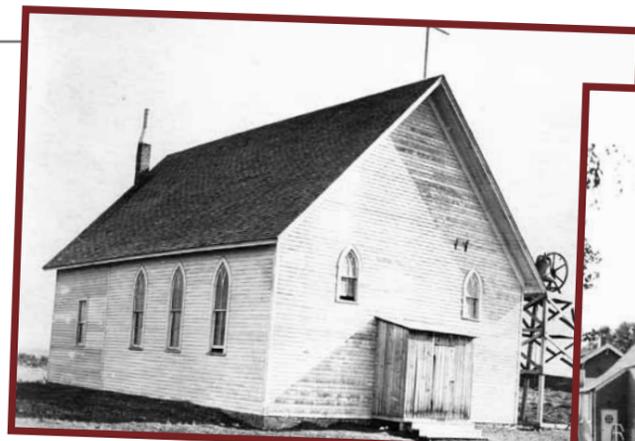
“Spiritually fortified with the peace and confidence that comes from participation in Mass and Holy Communion, five Presentation Sisters faced West, bound for the land of the Dakotas. The date was August 26, 1919.” *Mother Benedict Murphy’s Annals, quoted in the Timber Lake Historical Society Newsletter of June 2007*

Pioneers Sisters Mary Immaculata Daly, Francis Bannon, de Pazzi Curtin, Baptista Hussey and Loretto Donahue found on their arrival in Timber Lake, South Dakota, that the school building had just been started – the basement was barely visible above the ground. Classes were to be held in the church, and the sisters would occupy spare rooms in the rectory. The pastor, Reverend Henry Kipp, confessed that he was afraid that if he waited until the building was ready, the sisters might by then be assigned elsewhere.

With one teacher in the sacristy, another in the church proper and a third in the gallery, St. Joseph School began with around 100 students in grades 1-8. This situation continued until December when Bishop John Lawler arrived to dedicate the new school/convent.

In 1920, boarding students began to be accepted, and by 1921 a full high school program was in place. After the high school closed in 1936, Sister Mary Callista Ryan was hired by the public school district to continue teaching high school classes in the St. Joseph building for a few years.

The grade school closed in 1940 because of lack of funding, but resumed operation in 1946. A new convent, separate from the



The original St. Joseph Church (left), built in 1911, moved and added on to in 1927, was destroyed by a tornado on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946. The current church (right) renamed Holy Cross was dedicated September 25, 1949.

school, was dedicated September 15, 1963. The final closing of the school occurred in 1979 due to low enrollment, lack of funds and the need for the sisters to staff other community ministries.

For two years, 1979-1981, Sisters Mary Nora Welter and Concepta Joseph Milinski conducted the Holy Cross School of Religion for Timber Lake and its mission parishes of Holy Rosary, Trail City and St. Mary at Isabel, South Dakota.

A letter to Mr. Andrew Aberle from Sister Mary Martin McCormick, dated January 25, 1979, expressed the view of many of the sisters, saying, “Timber Lake holds a special place in the memory of any sister who has been fortunate enough to teach there; they have thoroughly indoctrinated the rest of us so that we feel the decision (to leave) as much as if we had been there.”

Memories of sisters who ministered in Timber Lake range from frightening to humorous. The first category includes the blizzard of 1966 when the wind took the convent door, shattering the glass and ripping off the top. For three days the wind increased until it ended in “a screaming crescendo Friday night.” Gusts up to 100 miles per hour packed snow in drifts which reached the eaves, making it impossible to open the door or see out the windows. *Letter from sisters dated March, 1966*

Sister Mary Georgia Schmeltzer recalled the Depression (1929) as the most difficult experience she ever had. Hundreds of animals died in the drought. There was little food, though the government gave some food and 13 cents per day for the boarders. Cereal was made by pounding wheat between stones for breakfast and supper.

The grasshopper plagues occupied the memory of Sister Mary Inez Doyle. The insects caused massive crop failures. Sister Mary Valeria Durnan described the terror of discovering that the building was on fire, and watching the boarders make their way down the metal fire escape in their bare feet and pajamas.

In spite of the tragedies, many happy memories prevailed in the minds of the sisters who for a short time called Timber Lake their place of ministry. Annals written by one of the early sisters tells of the visit of Bishop Lawler for the dedication of the first school. As the guest of Father Kipp, the Bishop was placed in the “best room” of the rectory, relegating Sisters Baptista and Immaculata to sleep in a small unused room on an unstable cot. They managed to

make it through the night until one sister got up in the morning, the cot collapsed, and the other occupant landed on the floor in a tangle of blankets. A good deal of laughter ensued, causing “a serious breach of traditional Presentation strict silence.” *Mother Benedict Murphy’s Annals*

During the aforementioned fire, a visiting sister lost her teeth in addition to everything else she possessed. Imagine her surprise later when a little girl appeared at the door, teeth in hand, asking who had lost them!

Many of the sisters recalled warm friendships formed with the people of Timber Lake. In some cases these friendships led to the sisters being asked to be Baptismal sponsors; in some cases the babies were named after them, all evidence of high regard on the part of the parents.

Though the Dubuque Presentation Sisters ended their involvement in Timber Lake in 1981, the work of Sisters Peggy Boehm and Darlene Gutenkauf from Aberdeen continued a Presentation presence in the area from 2003-2008.



St. Joseph School in Timber Lake, South Dakota, erected in 1919 was destroyed by a fire on January 19, 1950. The newly-constructed Holy Cross School opened in 1952 and closed in 1979.



Sister Elena Hoye packed two suitcases of water filters for the Bolivian mission.

Water with Blessings

The 2014 Golden Jubilee class, profoundly grateful for the living water that has quenched their thirst for God for 50 years, chose to participate in a project called Water with Blessings and to invite others to join them.

Water with Blessings builds upon the capacity of local people as the solution for their own local need for safe water. The first step is to empower mothers as Water Women in ministry to their communities and then equip them with the highest quality filtration system. Water Women are the secret to the remarkable success in bringing clean water to families in the developing world with this innovative, highest-quality equipment. The system is very simple. Each kit has a filter system and hardware. This process uses no chemicals and no electrical power. Water is filtered to higher standards than United States tap water and bottled water. The filter will last for 10 years.

The class chose to partner with the Presentation Sisters in Bolivia by providing the kits and the sisters in Bolivia will provide the training. The class collected \$5,560 and sent over 100 filters to Bolivia. The collection concluded on November 21.

God of life,
God of all those who walk miles for water,
God of those whose only supply is contaminated,
bringing death, not life.
May water, clean and life giving,
be available to every living creature.
May that vision move forward.
May your will be done.



Associate Janet Leonard enjoys a book with a child at a Tennessee children's home during a parish mission trip this past summer.

Presentation Associates Partners in Mission

by CAROL WITRY, PRESENTATION ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

The phenomenon of association by lay persons with religious orders goes back centuries, and has been growing rapidly since the 1980s, especially among congregations of women. The Sisters of the Presentation approved the establishment of an associate partnership in the late 1980s, offering an opportunity for lay persons to share in Presentation charism, spirituality and mission.

Presentation associates are companions on the journey with vowed members, other associates and those they encounter in daily life. They are people who believe in the mission of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle and wish to foster the Presentation spirit and charism, while living within their own lifestyle.

Many who become associates do so because they know a vowed member or an associate and/or because they resonate with Presentation spirituality and feel called to embrace the Presentation mission and charism. "People are looking for a spiritual foundation and have the desire to gather, pray together, learn more about their faith and how they can witness to the Gospel in their daily lives. Associates do this within the context of the Presentation charism," says Sister Lynn Mary Wagner, co-director of the Presentation Associate Partnership.

Most associates experience that their Presentation commitment has evolved with time and life experience.

"I initially wanted to be connected with the Presentations because of their focus on the marginalized in society. I wanted to be a resource for the community, and draw strength, ideas, faith and support from them as well," says Kansas City Associate, Judi Moritz. Commenting on her 14 years as a Presentation associate, Judi says, "The journey with the Presentations continues to energize and challenge me daily. I rely on the community to help keep me informed of social justice issues and emerging concerns in the world around us. While I desperately wish I could visit Mount Loretto more often, the times I do refuel my soul and recharge my spirit."



Reflecting on her Presentation journey, Associate Janet Leonard comments, "I initially became an associate because, having been a former member, I knew many of the sisters and was looking for a way to follow in Nano's footsteps. I'm an associate today because I have found a peace, a feeling of rightness, working with the Presentation Sisters and associates through the Associate Partnership. I want to show God's love to others; and this seems the best way for me to do it."

Most associates would agree that their associate experience has empowered them to witness to Gospel values in all aspects of their lives. They carry the Presentation charism and spirituality with them into their homes, parishes, workplaces and civic communities.

Associate Betty Allen reflects on her work with the Mental Health Association: "This work has opened my eyes to the pain and stigma experienced by the mentally ill. Actively helping this group of people is one of the ways I am following in Nano's footsteps."



One of the ways Mason City associates, Mary and Harry Stanton are living the Presentation mission is through their work in human trafficking. "Our participation with other associates and sisters in advocating for the victims of human trafficking has increased our awareness of this terrible evil and resulted in our participation in local events to promote education and advocacy for this issue," comments the couple.



Presentation values are reflected in Colorado associate, Bren Connor's work in affordable housing. "Providing a high quality of housing which is constructed and operates with a low carbon footprint to those most economically in need contributes to the sustainability of our local community. I think Nano would approve," says Bren.

As these examples illustrate, Presentation associates are women and men who recognize the Divine within themselves and within all creation; they are seriously pursuing spiritual growth and deepening; and they are seeking companions on the journey. As they join Nano in the winding lanes, they seek to respond with welcoming, compassionate hearts to the needs of those in their lives and to the cry of those made poor.

Above photos: Left to right: Associate Bren Connors works at a construction site of what will be 130 apartments for low and moderate income seniors; Kansas City Associate Judi Moritz makes Povitica, an eastern sweet bread, as a special treat for families who visited their parish food pantry; Associate Betty Allen receives an award for her work with the Mental Health Association; Associates Harry and Mary Stanton learn about advocating for victims of human trafficking.

Welcome New Associates

by CAROL WITRY, ASSOCIATE CO-DIRECTOR

During the months of September and November nine newly-committed associates joined 130 other women and men Presentation associates in identifying with the Presentation mission of being “called to evangelize, offering hope and love to a broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God, confronting injustice and working for peace.”

Gathering at Mount Loretto with sisters, associates, family and friends, on September 6, Donna Ewy and Joann Gullickson made their initial commitment to the Presentation Associate Partnership and on November 11, Clara Ernst, Jean and Jeff Lange and Mary Lou Mauss declared their commitment to live as Presentation associates. On November 16 in Chicago Alicia January, Bridget Lahart and Anne Marie Spehar celebrated their commitment to the Presentation mission.



Donna Ewy

These new associates have been meeting over the past year with sister and associate mentors to study and reflect upon Presentation life and history, prayer and community, charism and mission. Reflecting on their commitment each new associate expressed their desire to share in the Presentation mission.



Joann Gullickson

“The spirit of Nano resonates with me. It just makes sense to have a connection with others who share that,” noted **Donna Ewy**. Echoing this sentiment, **Joann Gullickson** said, “Last summer I visited La Luz Hispana with the Nano’s Nine associate group and immediately felt a sense of sisterhood, joy and peace with them. I knew this was something I wanted to be part of. I am ready to share in the Presentation mission and all that it encompasses.”



Jean Lange

“What I have found in my work with the sisters is a peace and tranquility of faith,” notes **Jean Lange**, who serves as House Coordinator at Mount Loretto. “Because of this strong connection I feel through my work, I wish to extend that connection on a more personal level by becoming an associate.”



Jeff Lange

Jean’s husband, **Jeff Lange**, echoes this sentiment as he shares his experience of the orientation process and visits at Mt. Loretto: “I have enjoyed this same acceptance and appreciation from the sisters as well, almost since the day Jean started working there. As an associate, I hope to offer my building and physical labor skills at Mount Loretto and beyond.”

New associate, **Clara Ernst** experienced Presentation hospitality and teaching in her early years when Presentation Sisters taught her Religious Education classes for two weeks every summer. “There’s still so much more I’d like to learn and experience about my faith, so becoming a Presentation associate seems like a good fit for me,” says Clara.



Clara Ernst

Mary Lou Mauss has been well-connected with the Presentations for many years, especially through her sister-in-law, Sister Bernard Mauss. “Over the years, sharing in Presentation hospitality, admiring Presentation social justice commitments and seeing the Presentation work ethic have impressed me very much.” Acknowledging her associate commitment Mary Lou stated, “Following in Nano Nagle’s footsteps is a huge challenge. I will do my best!”



Mary Lou Mauss



Ali January

“I am drawn to the associate partnership because I am continually inspired by the devotion and passion of the Presentation Sisters.” says new Chicago associate, **Ali January**. “I’ve been struck by their spirituality focus of meeting the needs of the world. It’s a spirituality that encourages, inspires and energizes – one that I would like to strive to embody with my own life.”



Bridget Lahart

New associate, **Bridget Lahart** reflects on her orientation journey: “I have been enlightened not only about Nano and her many efforts to educate and empower the young children of Ireland, but also about the numerous works of the sisters here in the States and in Bolivia.” Expressing her commitment she says, “The Sisters of the Presentation are truly carriers of the ‘light’ and I would love the opportunity to spread the mission alongside them.”



Anne Marie Spehar

Community and spirituality are key reasons for new associate **Anne Marie Spehar’s** commitment to the Presentation mission. “In the time I have spent with the Sisters and associates of the Presentation, I have experienced a deep sense of community. They have positively influenced my spirituality and I hope to continue this relationship and grow in my spirituality as an associate.”

Welcome, Ali, Anne Marie, Bridget, Clara, Donna, Jean, Jeff, Jo and Mary Lou! May your lives and ministries be enriched and supported through your participation in the Presentation Associate Partnership!

Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Halloween Fun!

Sisters and employees dress up to participate in the annual Halloween parade at the Mount Loretto motherhouse. Top photo: Sisters Dolores Zieser and Jeanette McCarthy pair up to be Cracker Jacks. Bottom left photo: Housekeeping and maintenance staff get creative and win the Best Team Costume with their Gilligan's Island theme. Pictured clockwise: June Hancock, Linda Brown, Amanda Kirk, Linda Theill, Leigh Ann Lynn, John Richman and Randy Engler. Bottom right photo: Receptionist and Associate Sue Murphy buzzes in to win the Cutest Costume prize.



“One Pace Beyond to Wellness” Tending Our Inner Light

by RACHEL FITZGIBBON

As the season of light approaches, sisters, associates and employees gathered to collectively challenge one another to “tend their inner light” this Advent. The prayer, laughter, song, and sharing on November 19 marked the launch of the Sisters of the Presentation’s brand-new wellness program, “One Pace Beyond to Wellness: Tending Our Inner Light.” This year, the Presentation family embarks on an Advent Wellness Calendar Challenge to tend body, mind, and spirit with healthy practices.

The Advent Wellness Challenge is just the start of the wellness program. With a mission to enhance the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being of Sisters, associates, employees, and beyond, the “One Pace Beyond to Wellness” program will continue to offer resources, events, and challenges to tend our inner light this year and beyond.

You are invited to join us.

December 22, 2014
January 26, 2015
February 23, 2015
Centering Prayer
5:30 p.m. Evening Meal
6:15-7:00 p.m. Prayer
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

December 25, 2014
Christmas Mass
9:00 a.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

For updated information about the activities and events of the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, please visit our web site at www.dubuquepresentations.org or call 563.588.2008.

Please pray with us.

December 13, 2014
Christmas Dinner with guests from Dubuque Rescue Mission and Hope House
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

February 2, 2015
World Day for Consecrated Life

March 8-14, 2015
National Catholic Sisters Week

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

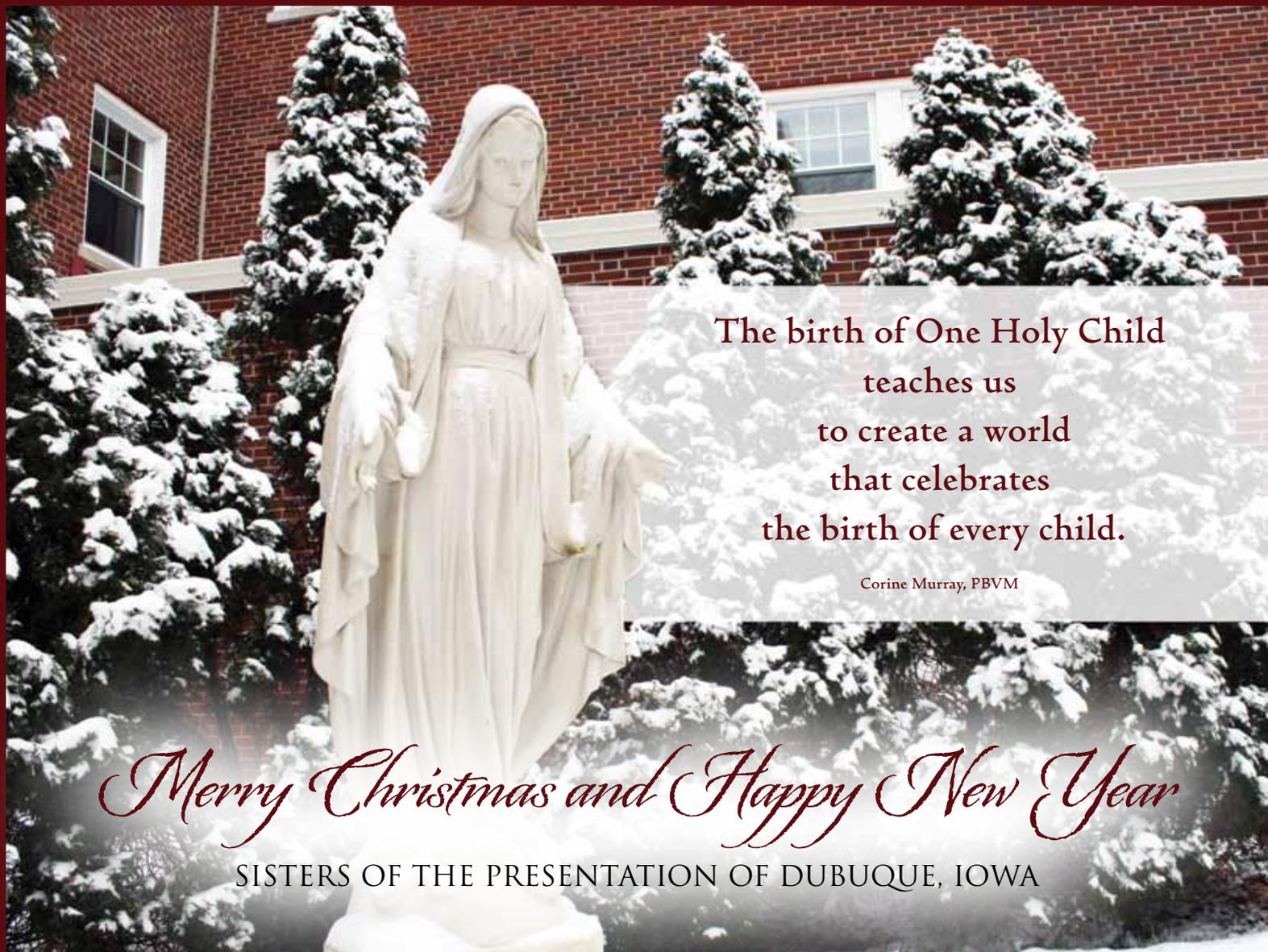
25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors


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info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.*

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____ *Wrong Address*
____ *Remove my Name*
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The birth of One Holy Child
teaches us
to create a world
that celebrates
the birth of every child.

Corine Murray, PBVM

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION OF DUBUQUE, IOWA