



PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

offering hospitality to the world



The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the
Sisters of the Presentation
2360 Carter Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-2997 USA
Phone: 563-588-2008 Fax: 563-588-4463
Email: info@dubuquepresentations.org
Website: www.dubuquepresentations.org

DOORWAYS COMMITTEE

Julianne Brockamp, PBVM; Jane Buse, Director of Communications; Associate Michelle Covey; Elena Hoye, PBVM; Sharon Kelchen, PBVM; Cindy Piffner, Associate Co-Director; Francine Quillin, PBVM; Marge Reidy; Karen Tuecke, Partners in Mission Coordinator; Leanne Welch, PBVM; and Karen Zeckser

The congregation is a member of Sisters United News of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, Communicators for Women Religious and the American Advertising Federation of Dubuque.

The PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our associates by sharing the news and views of the congregation with our benefactors, families and friends. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and to invite others to become involved in our mission.

Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email photos, stories and information about our sisters, associates, former members, family and friends, or any ideas which relate to the aim of this publication. Submit to:

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 and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.

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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

by LEANNE WELCH, PBVM

*“If I could be of service in serving souls
in any part of the world,
I would gladly do all in my power.”*

Nano Nagle

As we prepare to celebrate 300 years since the birth of our foundress, Nano Nagle, in 2018, we stop to realize how far the seeds of evangelization and hospitality have been scattered and how they have grown since she chose to give her life to serving those in need. Our Dubuque Presentation community has played a significant role in this over the last 143 years.

Nano Nagle, our foundress in Ireland, the four women who came from Ireland to begin our Dubuque foundation and the hundreds of women who have chosen to serve the mission of Jesus by becoming a Dubuque Presentation Sister, have been motivated by faith and mission. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

To ponder the courage, commitment and dedication it took each of the founding women of our Dubuque congregation to make the choice to leave all behind evokes total amazement. Sister Mary Martin McCormick, in an unfinished reflection on Mother Vincent Hennessy, our Dubuque foundress, wrote “What lies within a woman to brave leaving home, leaving first roots, being assigned a new name, being uprooted in Ireland, leaving Mooncoin – responsive to grace – an odyssey, call and response ... Mother Vincent, like Abraham and Sarah, following where the Spirit led – ”

Since our beginning in Dubuque, our ministries have focused on the Midwest but have also stretched to early mission work in Alabama, establishment of a community in Bolivia, as well as ministry in Guatemala, Tanzania and Ireland. We have served a variety of cultures within the United States borders and beyond. Today, by serving in 10 states, the District of Columbia and Bolivia, we touch a variety of ethnic groups and cultures. One ministry, the Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, has served people from over 60 different countries in its 15 years of existence.

Hopefully you will enjoy this issue of Doorways which celebrates some of these accomplishments as we feature a few of the many ways our sisters and associates live our motto of hospitality in a variety of styles within an array of ages and cultures.

May our Christmas celebration include reverencing our Presentation roots and their growth in serving God’s people.



Who is Nano Nagle?

Nano Nagle (1718-1784), foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, was born in Ireland where strict penal laws barred children from attending school or learning about God. At age 32, Nano secretly gathered the children of the poor, teaching them catechism, reading, writing and mathematics. Tireless in service, Nano spent her days teaching the children, and her nights caring for the sick and the elderly, bringing them food, medicine and comfort. Captivated by the spirit of the poor she served, she often visited with them late into the night with a lantern in hand. Before long, Nano became known as the “Lady of the Lantern.”



Our MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality. Our way of life is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in the vision of our foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle, who dared to dream of a better world for the poor, sick and uneducated of Ireland. We commit ourselves to the empowerment of women and children. We reverence and celebrate all creation as gift. We commit ourselves to confronting injustice and working for peace.

As we continue to keep Nano’s dream alive, we are pleased to share our vision with you.

Our DIRECTION

Ignited by the fire of God’s love and impelled by the legacy of Nano Nagle, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, participate in the evolving consciousness of the cosmos by

reverencing relationships
celebrating unity
engaging contemplation and
fostering partnerships

to transform ourselves
and our world.

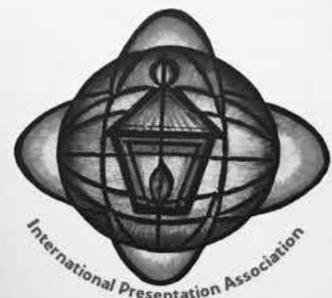
Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Julianne Brockamp

Sister Beth Driscoll

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Leanne Welch



**7th IPA Assembly
Sydney, Australia
24-30 September 2017**



Sisters Jessi Beck and Joy Peterson, Associate Billie Greenwood, Sisters Mery Cari Paz, Elena Hoye and Julianne Brockamp attend the 2017 IPA Assembly in Australia.

Understanding the International Presentation Association (IPA)

Who is the IPA?

The International Presentation Association (IPA) is a network of the various congregations of Sisters of the Presentation around the world, formed to foster unity, enable collaborations for the sake of mission and work for personal and systemic change for people and Earth.

Membership is made up of the three Presentation units: Conference (North America), Society (Australia and Papua New Guinea) and Union (Africa, Canada, England, India, Ireland, Latin America, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines and United States).

What is the IPA Assembly?

The IPA Assembly, a policy-making body for the International Presentation Association, meets every five years and the meetings are hosted by Presentation Sisters around the world.

Who attends the IPA Assembly?

Typically, a community leadership team member, justice contact and one additional community member represent each congregation, province or region. The IPA directors, IPA networker, IPA United Nations NGO representative and special guests also attend.

International Presentation Association A Gift of Global Connectedness

Reflection by JESSI BECK, PBVM

Gathering under the theme: Our feet know the way ... Our hearts carry the light ... over 80 Presentation Sisters, associates and friends of Nano Nagle from six continents met in Sydney, Australia, during the week of September 24-30, 2017, for the 7th Assembly of the International Presentation Association (IPA). The gathering was held at Mary MacKillop Place, the site where Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, lived and is buried.

Several members of the Dubuque Presentation community were represented in a variety of roles: Sisters Julianne Brockamp and Joy Peterson representing the Dubuque Presentation Sisters; Sister Elena Hoye as the IPA networker; Sister Mery Cari Paz represented the Association of Presentations in Latin America and Sister Jessi Beck and Associate Billie Greenwood were representatives from the Conference of Presentations in North America.

Sister Jessi Beck shares her experiences and insights from the assembly.

Sister Jessi Beck's Reflection

I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have participated in this spirit-filled gathering of Nano's daughters and friends. I attended as one of four representatives of the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America in addition each individual congregation sent a leadership team member and justice contact.

My heart is overflowing with joy to be a part of this network of Presentation people living the Gospel of Jesus and dream of Nano Nagle in so many parts of the world today. Right away I felt a strong connection to this group of strangers whom I now call friends. Sister Elena Hoye, IPA networker, offered the image of a fisherman's net to explain our connection, "A web of invisible threads connect each one of us with one charism and one mission. When one member is in need, the group feels it and shifts to respond."

The Work

The official work of the assembly is to set the direction and commitments for the membership of International Presentation Association for the next five years. Presentation Sisters Marlette Black and Anne Lane, both from Australia, used a contemplative dialogue process to facilitate the group through the work of analyzing the many proposals presented to the assembly and creating a direction statement.

Outcomes

Recognizing the shifts happening in our world, the assembly committed to creating a task group to explore a new organizational structure that will better allow IPA to achieve its mission and an advisory group to implement the chosen structure.

In our work at the United Nations and at the grassroots, we will respond to the cry of Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a human rights framework, addressing the issues of women and

My heart is overflowing with joy to be part of this network of Presentation people living the Gospel of Jesus and dream of Nano Nagle in so many parts of the world today. *Sister Jessi Beck*

children, care of Earth and indigenous peoples, as is relevant to our local regions.

Additionally, each participant experienced a personal impact that they will share with their home congregation and use to fuel ongoing collaborations for mission.

Keynote Speaker

Presentation Sister Shalini Mulackal, from India, professor of systematic theology at Vidyajyoti College of Theology in Delhi, India, offered three keynote presentations highlighting how our present social context and our common story from the prophets, Jesus and Nano inform where the future is leading us. Sister Shalini invited the group to consider how we are united in God's revelation through the stories and prophets of the Old Testament and our commission as disciples of Jesus to speak and act with God's compassion. This, she argues, opens us to be transformed like Nano, who saw the reality of those made poor in her time and was deeply disturbed. When hopelessness threatened to paralyze her, Nano drew on the courage and compassion of God to respond with one step, and then another, and then another. Love in action.



Sister Elena Hoye led the group in an activity using a fisherman's net to explain their connection with each other and their one charism and one mission.

International Presentation Assembly Widening the Tent

Reflection by BILLIE GREENWOOD, ASSOCIATE



Left to right: Presentation Sisters Silvia Francis (Union), Jessi Beck (North America), Shalini Mulackal (Union) and Mery Cari Paz (North America) get to know each other better over a break. Sister Julianne Brockamp (North America) visits with Sister Jeya Pushpam Chinnayan (Union). Presentation Sisters Iova Marie Diniz (Union) with Sister Joy Peterson (North America) enjoy one another's company.

Non-violence of Mind

As a way to move forward, Sister Shalini invited us to consider non-violence of mind, a practice used by Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian Independence Movement. In summary, Gandhi believed that in the face of injustice one needs to do right action. Only when the mind is not clouded by anger, frustration and hatred (even for the oppressor) can one see and act with clarity in any given situation. The assembly found this idea so compelling and needed in today's world that it was included in the direction statement:

We, Presentation people, embody the compassion of Jesus and Nano. We practice non-violence of mind and heart as we listen into the chaos and feel the pain of our time. We find strength in connectedness trusting that our feet know the way and our hearts carry the light.

Mission in Action

One day of the assembly was dedicated to hearing the stories of Presentation people who respond to the critical needs of forced movement of peoples, indigenous peoples, climate change and women and children. Dubuque Presentation Sisters Mery Cari Paz and Joy Peterson presented breakout sessions on indigenous

people and climate change respectively. Our hearts were expanded as we heard the struggle and resiliency of people living in such difficult situations in so many parts of the world. I am inspired by the response of compassionate action by our Presentation people and challenged to find new ways to respond to the critical needs where I live.

Insights Gained

It makes a difference that I now have a personal connection to girls in Pakistan seeking a good education, women in India self-organizing a loan program to start small businesses and indigenous people in Ecuador reclaiming and restoring land that is rightfully theirs. One of the most important insights I gained from this experience is that all of our work for the mission is strengthened by our connectedness.

I experienced that our diversity is a great gift. I had the privilege of doing the work of the assembly at a table with Presentation people from Australia, India, Philippines and an Irish sister living in Ecuador. We learned so much from listening deeply to the truth and experience that each offered. When faced with confusion or disagreement, we asked questions with curiosity. We prayed in union with one another and all the people in our home countries. I wonder what kinds of divisions could be healed and insights gained if more of us sat around such a diverse table more often.



Participants of the Seventh Assembly of the International Presentation Association.

International Presentation Association (IPA) assemblies have periodically gathered Presentation leaders from around the world. The 2017 Assembly in Sydney, Australia, however, reached out significantly to "widen the tent" and deliberately include other Presentation people not previously represented. Because the sisters want to collaborate with all people who are inspired by Nano Nagle's life, this year they invited lay participants. As a Dubuque Presentation associate, I attended the assembly as a representative from North America. Several younger Presentation Sisters were also invited because they will carry Nano's lantern flame into the future.

All assembly activities involved every person, and the group made decisions by consensus. This meant that all the assembly delegates, including me, shared an equal voice, an amazing experience of true collaboration. Having recently participated in the Dubuque congregation's annual Community Days prepared me for this important assembly work. From a contemplative stance, we listened deeply and spoke from the heart.

This assembly considered IPA's evolving structure. We addressed its need to adapt in order to more effectively network Presentation people and respond to the cry of those made poor and the cry of Earth. We received reports reviewing IPA since the last assembly in 2012 and shared perspectives on how best to grow into the future.

The opportunity to meet and interact deeply for a sustained period with Presentation people from around the globe was transformative. True, we know from written reports about Presentation ministries around the world but, when we hear those stories directly from the people on the ground, head knowledge becomes so real and inspires the heart.

I experienced a strong affirmation as a lay representative and as a Presentation associate through inclusion at the assembly. "Widening the tent" appears to be an ongoing and expanding principle to which the assembly is committed. I felt the Presentation network as a vital global reality, one which will potentially strengthen as we grow into the future.

Ultimately membership in any group rests on relationships. The assembly offered us all a chance to meet, to interact, to know, to grow and to love Presentation people from around the world. I now feel a deep personal connection to IPA and to Presentation people across North America and around the world. I look forward to supporting International Presentation Association enthusiastically.



Left to right: Top photo: Participants take part of a small group discussion. Back row: Sister Nifa Viegas (Union) and Sister Elena Hoye (Conference); Front row: Dubuque Presentation Associate Billie Greenwood, Sister Anne Jordan (Society), Sister Noreen McGrath (Union) and Sister Eileen Keating (Union). Middle photo: Billie Greenwood shares her reflections with the group. Bottom photo: Sister Eileen Keating and Billie Greenwood work together to create a table response.





A celebration with family and friends was held to celebrate Virginia Coffey's 103rd birthday. Virginia was one of the homebound Sister Lou Cota visits on a regular basis. Virginia passed away this past October. Sister Lou spends time with Gwen Currin (second on left), another special elder from the parish. (Photo credit: John Weeler)

SISTER LOU COTA

A Living Nano Nagle

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Nestled comfortably among the hills in Northeast Iowa is a small village named Harpers Ferry, where the “Cota” name is well-known and respected. Bill and Marie Cota raised their nine children on the farm, and when, after several years, they moved to town, Bill remained active in the village, serving in several civil positions and other roles while his newly-married son and wife took over the farm.

Mary Lou is their second youngest child. Often as she was growing up she thought about becoming a religious sister. That would not be unusual, since Mary Lou had several first cousins who were priests and sisters in various religious communities, and her own parents provided a faith-filled family environment. On Saturdays, the Sisters of the Presentation came to teach religion to the children of the parish, so Mary Lou had first-hand experience with the Presentation community.

In the fall after her high school graduation, she traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to begin nurses’ training at Mercy. After a week she came home for a visit, and it happened that her pastor, Father William Leonard, stopped in for breakfast, something he very rarely did. The Holy Spirit was at work! After their meal, Mary Lou told Father William she had been thinking about religious life. He encouraged her, and then he took her to Waukon, Iowa, to see the sisters there. After visiting with them, it became clear to Mary Lou that this was indeed what she wanted to do with her life.

So, without further ado, on the following Wednesday she went to Dubuque to enter the community of the Sisters of the Presentation. After completing all the necessary entrance “process” that day, she was taken out to the garden to meet her classmates, who had spent the day working in the “Ground Cherry Patch.” Throughout their lives together they have never let Sister Lou forget that she was one week late for that onerous task!

Switching from nurse’s training to college, Sister Lou earned a bachelor’s degree in interdepartmental science from Clarke College. Subsequently she earned a master’s degree in biology at St. Mary College in Winona, Minnesota.

Over the years she taught in schools in Ryan, Lawler, Farley and Dubuque (St. Columbkille), all in Iowa, and at St. Dorothy School and Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy, both in Chicago. In these schools she taught high school general science, physics and biology and grades fifth through eighth science.

But a new field had been emerging! Sister Lou took her first computer class while teaching at Farley, and continued taking computer classes and workshops during the summers. While at St. Dorothy, computer technology became prominent, and Sister Lou began teaching computer part-time to grades five through eight. It was not long before that position became full-time in pre-K through eighth grades!

Augustus Tolton was formed from the merger of St. Dorothy and St. Columbanus schools, both in South Chicago. The press release at the merger stated, “The Academy serves largely African-American students who are held to high academic standards, and the academic excellence of St. Columbanus and St. Dorothy schools will be a foundation for the Tolton Academy. Tolton is the first school in the Archdiocese of Chicago to implement a STREAM curriculum, which places a focus on science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math.”

Sister Lou became immersed in the richness of other cultures in various ways. At one early point she attended a workshop by C.T. Vivian on interracial justice, and that raised considerable awareness within her. She was also a Presentation representative on the Intercongregational Committee for Justice, where racism was often discussed.

Many years ago the Presentation Sisters established a “Kairos” program through which sisters and lay volunteers spent time in the summer ministering among other cultures. Sister Lou spent three summers in Tennessee with that program. One part of their efforts was to encourage the rural mountain people to bring their children to the city schools. They also took a census for all the parishes of varying faiths to figure out what the people needed. They gave the people directions to get from their home to a parish church where they could come for help. A Kairos team had also served at St. Dorothy, and this was Sister Lou’s first experience of working in an African-American community.

It was also through teaching at St. Dorothy and Tolton, and through her life in the Chicago parishes where Sister Lou experienced the richness of other cultures. St. Dorothy, where Sister Lou began in 1983, was a largely African-American parish, and St. Gerard Majella in Markham, where Sister Lou has lived since 1993, has become a largely Hispanic parish. Additionally, when sisters from other countries gave mission talks in the area, they would stay with her and their conversations always enriched Sister Lou’s life.



The two youngest Cota children, Kay and Mary Lou Cota, enjoy a special bond as members of the Sisters of the Presentation. Their parents, Bill and Marie, can rightly smile down from heaven on all their children who have “kept the faith” so well nurtured by them.

Chicago is a city that places great emphasis on unity among the people living in a particular block. At St. Dorothy, they had frequent social “block” parties and also block meetings for civic responsibilities. Members on a given block looked out for each other and became close. Through these associations, Sister Lou came to know and deeply appreciate how important “family” is in the Black culture, and extended family is especially valued. “It takes the whole neighborhood to raise a child” was a reality that was made visible.

Markham is multi-ethnic, and Sister Lou says, “Markham is very ‘homey,’ which creates a strong sense of belonging. This keeps me aware of how important it is to work for respect for all people and for the varying community cultures. I am grateful to have experienced such multi-ethnic cultures in my life.”

“Retirement” may be a misnomer for the life Sister Lou currently lives. She visits shut-ins at St. Dorothy and St. Gerard parishes, and participates in liturgies and activities at both parishes. In every Chicago parish there is one person responsible for keeping the records and sending in reports to the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. Sister Lou is that person at St. Dorothy. To better help herself with the culture of the people, she is learning Spanish, the language of many of the St. Gerard Majella Parish where she lives.

Sister Lou believes that “One cannot be Christian without accepting one another. We are more alike than different. There are so many wonderful things in other cultures, and it is exciting to see the beauty in these cultures. If we are open to it, we cannot help but be enriched. It is also very important to grow in the awareness of the ways in which we discriminate against others. Our speech and actions always need to show respect and to demonstrate that we are all equally God’s children.”

When Mary Lou Cota was a little girl in the village of Harpers Ferry, who would ever have dreamed who she would become or the richness her life would hold by her embrace of so many people who were “not from Harpers Ferry!”

Sister Mary Therese Krueger First Profession of Vows

by ANNETTE KESTEL, PBVM

“I, Sister Julianne Brockamp, in the name of the entire Presentation Community and all assembled here, joyfully receive you, Sister Mary Therese Krueger, into vowed membership in this community. May God, from whom you have received the grace to make this commitment, grant you also the strength to fulfill it.”

This prayer spoken by Sister Julianne affirms Sister Mary Therese’s first profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Sister Mary Therese’s family, Presentation Sisters, associates and friends gathered for this joy-filled celebration on Saturday, October 14, 2017, in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Presentation Motherhouse.

The theme for the celebration, “Seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God,” (Micah 6:8) was clearly reflected in the words of the scripture readings and witnessed by the sisters invited to speak on Sister Mary Therese’s behalf.

Sister Annette Kestel, formation coordinator, affirms Sister Mary Therese’s readiness for vows, “Sister Mary Therese has a deep passion for being of service to those in greatest need and for promoting justice through systemic change. In these areas she feels a great kinship with Nano Nagle (Irish Presentation foundress) and Mother Vincent Hennessy (Dubuque Presentation foundress). She is inspired by their faith in God and their compassion for those they served, and she desires to follow their example.”

In her reflection, Sister Elena Hoye states, “Sister Mary Therese’s public profession is also about all of us here! She is not called to this alone! We must and will stand with her. Together, we will follow the invitation of the Gospel. In a culture of blindness, we will offer insight. In a time of darkness all of us will light a path. Together with Sister Mary Therese, we will hold aloft a vision ... God’s vision.”

Sister Mary Therese entered the Sisters of the Presentation in December 2014 and has since completed the initial formation stages of candidacy and novitiate prior to the profession of vows. She continues in her discernment process now as a vowed member while engaging in full-time graduate theological studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois, and part-time ministry as physical therapist at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Sister Mary Therese is the third of six daughters of Ann and James Krueger of Villa Park, Illinois. She attended St. Alexander Catholic Grade School and Willowbrook High School and received her Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and doctorate in physical therapy from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

Religious life offers peace, love and a welcoming spirit to our broken world. We are called to be at the front lines next to our brothers and sisters standing up for justice and love. It is exciting to be part of this movement!

Sister Mary Therese Krueger

When asked what most inspired Sister Mary Therese to follow the call to religious life, she states, “I believe it was the continued journey of my faith through my parents, my Catholic education, youth group in high school, campus ministry in college and my young adult group after college. I discovered God was calling me to be the best version of myself in a place where I could live a life of service, living in community and supported through communal prayer with the Presentation Sisters.”

Sister Mary Therese continues, “Religious life offers peace, love and a welcoming spirit to our broken world. We are called to be at the front lines next to our brothers and sisters standing up for justice and love. It is exciting to be part of this movement!”



Left to right: Sister Mary Therese Krueger signs her vows as Sisters Julianne Brockamp and Annette Kestel witness.

Vietnamese Sisters Huyen Phan and Nuong Bui Home Away From Home

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

They came to us, Sister Huyen Phan and Sister Nuong Bui, from the far-away land of Vietnam, arriving on a cold Sunday afternoon in early January 2015. The only two members of their religious community, the Lovers of the Holy Cross, to study in the United States, they arrived at Mount Loretto, the home of the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque, Iowa, with whom they would spend the next three years of their young lives. One might wonder which weighed heavier, their mammoth suitcases or their lonesome hearts.

Shivering from the cold and equally from the uncertainty of the vast unknown before them, they smiled their openness and acceptance of Presentation welcome wishes. A wide adventure lay before them, filled almost exclusively with the new, the unfamiliar, the unknown.

In the days ahead they would revel in their first snowfall, absorb the beauty of autumn trees, wonder about the unfamiliar food, acclimate themselves to new temperatures and begin multiple classes – all in English. They had come to learn!

The host community came to expect their dependable presence in community activities, meals, liturgy and community prayer. Entering wholeheartedly into the culture – ala Dubuque-style, the two Vietnamese guests took advantage of new opportunities and novel experiences. Delving into their studies – classes, classes everywhere – they set up their laptops, read chapters, asked questions, studied long hours, delighted in English idioms and metaphors and puzzled over American slang.

At the same time the two sisters met the 60 Presentation Sisters at Mount Loretto. In spite of being English-challenged, they readily mastered the unfamiliar names. Evident was the notable contrast offered by the jet black hair, olive skin and hazelnut brown eyes of the Vietnamese with the preponderance of “white” in their retired Presentation companions and teachers. Admiring the courage, creativity, openness and desire for learning, as well as their positive attitude, cheerful approach and talents in the arts, the sisters took Sisters Nuong and Huyen into their hearts. Vietnamese hearts responded with deep gratitude for Presentation hospitality.

Contrasting the geography of Vietnam, a country approximately the size of New Mexico in total area, but totally unlike it in shape, this land of southeastern Asia is a long, narrow country, stretching approximately the distance from Seattle, Washington, to Los Angeles, California, its long coastal line bordering the Pacific Ocean just above the equator, a tropical climate. While the United States is 33 times larger than Vietnam, their population density is more than seven times that of the United States.



Vietnamese Sisters Nuong Bui (left) and Huyen Phan (right), pictured with Sister St. James Lickteig, hosted a Lunar New Year celebration this past spring for the sisters at Mount Loretto.

Fortunately for the two visitors, Sister Theresa Marie Tran, a sister of Christian Charity and also a native Vietnamese, had been living at Mount Loretto while serving as a faculty member at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa. How comforting for Sisters Huyen and Nuong to share native language, Vietnamese food and beginning questions during this challenging transition time.

When the calendar turns to summer 2018, Sisters Nuong and Huyen expect to, once again, pack their boxes and suitcases to continue their educational journey, traveling this time to Manitowac, Wisconsin, where they will attend Silver Lake College to complete their four-year degree.

Our journey with the Vietnamese has opened our eyes and warmed our hearts, gifting us with a new dimension of global life and culture. Separated by a distance of 8,000 miles and a difference in nearly every conceivable aspect of life, the likenesses and differences, comparisons and contrasts evaporate as attachments tighten during the months of shared living. Their youth, energy, spontaneity, spirituality and wide-eyed sincerity offer gift and delight. Uprooted from their country and home they have been firmly planted in Presentation hearts.



Sister Michelle Gallagher finds the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Presentation Motherhouse to be a special place for personal prayer.

SISTER MICHELLE GALLAGHER A Listening, Caring Presence

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

A tilt of the head, a twinkle in the eye and a warm smile give Sister Michelle Gallagher a natural ease for listening and making people comfortable. These traits and a sense of humor helped her to teach groups of first and second graders for 47 years, to coordinate hospitality at a diocesan retreat center and to guide college students as they reflected on their peer ministry experiences and now to enjoy her sisters in the Mount Loretto community.

Remembering a reading group in her classroom some years ago, Sister Michelle enjoys telling about a particular little girl looking up at her and saying, “Sister, you have old hair, but your face is young and you aren’t prune!” Shocked into silence, Sister Michelle replied with a “thank you” and a laugh and then remarked, “Yes, I have white hair and it’s nice that it is still growing.”

Growing up in western Iowa with five brothers and three sisters, Sister Michelle (Theresa Darlene) gives tribute to her parents William and Theresa McNerty Gallagher with instilling faith, hard work and home-grown fun in their children. Perhaps Michelle developed her pleasantness and affability when working in a dress shop after high school; she must have mixed her charm with her fun-loving energy when enjoying dances and “big bands” at ballrooms in neighboring towns with her brothers and friends.

Meeting the Sisters of the Presentation when they came to Manilla, Iowa, to teach summer religious vacation school classes, Sister Michelle remembers being impressed at how pleasant and happy the sisters were doing their job. Perhaps this planted the ideas of being a teacher and of becoming a sister. All it took was for Sister Mary Ernestine Meyers to pop the question: “Did you ever think

Being welcoming and a Christ-presence to others is how I try to live Nano’s spirit. *Sister Michelle Gallagher*

about becoming a sister?” Sister Michelle, a past homecoming queen of Manilla High School, had some serious thinking to do.

Two years after graduation with some experience working and enjoying life with her young adult friends and even having considered another congregation of sisters, Theresa Gallagher entered the Presentation congregation in Dubuque and began teaching primary grades at St. Columbkille School in Dubuque.

“I enjoyed getting to know the children as they grew to value learning. Reading was a big deal to them!” she recalls with delight. “And, at St. Columbkille we were like a laboratory school, teaching young teachers to teach under the guidance of our principal, Sister Catherine Wingert.”

While living with Sister Jeanine Kuhn in Cedar Falls and Waterloo, Iowa, Sister Michelle was introduced to other ministries – welcoming and registering guests and managing the gift shop at American Martyrs Retreat Center and guiding students at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center on the University of Northern Iowa campus. In addition to sharing evening liturgy and meeting the students at the center, twice a year she met with and mentored two student peer ministers.

“Getting to know the students personally and sharing life stories with them was rewarding. I guess my personal qualities of being a pleasant and caring listener helped us both be comfortable in our sessions,” states Sister Michelle.

Near and dear to Sister Michelle’s heart is to respond to children and families who suffer in poverty. Having reached out to children in her school classes and in Head Start summer classes, she continues in the spirit of Nano Nagle to respond by giving to charities and practicing hospitality. “Being welcoming and a Christ-presence to others is how I try to live Nano’s spirit,” she says.

Solitaire, word finds and adult coloring books are some of Sister Michelle’s relaxing hobbies. She has enjoyed some travel with Sister Jeanine and the Gallagher and Kuhn families over the years.

Reflecting on retirement, Sister Michelle comments, “Getting to better know the sisters at this time in my life enriches me and calls me to grow in being present to and patient with others and interested in their lives.”

Praying and living the teachings of Jesus in the spirit of Nano Nagle, Sister Michelle shares one of her favorite scripture quotes to describe her ongoing journey of living by the Golden Rule: “Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.” Matthew 7:12



In Memory of Patricia K. Pacetti

August 23, 1936 - September 29, 2017

Patricia (Pat) Pacetti, with her husband, Gino, made her first commitment as a Presentation associate on June 4, 2000. The couple enjoyed a special connection with the Presentation Sisters for over 45 years since first meeting at St. Germaine Parish in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Always a pair, they served on the Associate Advisory Committee, enjoyed gathering with their Chicago associate group, participated in summer service in Mason City, Iowa, and looked forward to spending time with the sisters at Mount Loretto whenever possible.

Over the years Pat worked as a legal secretary, receptionist and florist, but her greatest devotion was to her family and beloved husband, Gino. Pat and Gino were married over 60 years, and Gino presented his wife with a rose on the 22nd of every month to celebrate their love. Together they raised four children and enjoyed their 11 grandchildren.

Pat’s quick wit and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew her, but she will be remembered as a woman of deep faith and compassion for others. May she rest in peace!

Associate Partnership

For more information, please visit:

WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG

Office of Associate Partnership

563-588-2008

associates@dubuquepresentations.org

REMEMBERING Our Global Roots

1970-Present

by HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

The Sisters of the Presentation founded by Nano Nagle in 1775 has become a world-wide organization spanning 24 countries and six continents. The Dubuque foundation, stemming from Mooncoin in Ireland, has followed the lead of Nano in expanding its mission to Central and South America, Africa and Ireland.

Bolivia: 1970 - Present

The first foreign mission venture of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters got underway in August of 1970 with the commissioning of Sisters Maura McCarthy and Ileen Marie Sweeney to Bolivia. At the commissioning, Sister Helen Marie Feeney and Archbishop James J. Byrne bestowed on each a missionary cross. After language school in Cochabamba and living with a local Spanish-speaking family for a time, the two missionaries began their work in Ivirgarzama, Bolivia, an experimental parish sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Transferring to Entre Ríos in 1972, the sisters began having Sunday Communion services with the people and training catechists to continue Sacramental preparation and worship services in outlying regions. They later expanded their work to include an academy, a pharmacy, outreach to those in rural areas and advocacy for those lacking the identification papers needed to access government assistance.



Sister Rita Menart reflects on the Gospel with catechists in Chupol, Guatemala.



Left to right: Sisters Therese Marie Hawes, Therese Corkery, Maura McCarthy and Julianne Brockamp welcome their first jeep, making mountain traveling less arduous.

Further expansion included work with the Guaraní tribes in Timboy. Having learned the language of the indigenous people, Sister Maura later wrote the history of the Guaraní people and their struggle to escape from the power of the rich land owners.

Casa Betania in Tarija recently became a house for university students to study and experience community life.

To date, in addition to the two founders, seven sisters have served in the Bolivian mission: Sisters Therese Corkery, Julianne Brockamp, Therese Marie Hawes, Marge Healy, Suzanne Takes, Mery Cari Paz and Janella Frankl.

Guatemala: 1990 - 2001

Sister Rita Menart fulfilled her dream of working with the oppressed when she went to Chupol, Guatemala, in 1990. She found that many people were poor and had suffered injustice from the wealthy landowners who had exploited the indigenous people, leaving them with nothing. With a companion, Sister Barbara Ford, BVM, Sister Rita began Sacramental preparation, and classes in Scripture reading. Development of church leaders was an especially important part of the ministry, since priests were available to say Mass almost every other week.

Sister Rita, later joined by Sister Marge Healy, worked with the uneducated, preparing catechists to continue the work of the church. A multitude of languages and dialects, along with wars and rebellions, made the ministry difficult. By 1995, the ruling military and the guerillas agreed to a truth commission which allowed people to tell their stories of death and loss of loved ones, giving the people a chance to mourn their dead with dignity.

Moshi, Tanzania, Africa: 1998 - 2001

The Theological Pastoral Center in Moshi, Tanzania, was the arena for Sister Diana Blong's ministry of teaching missiology classes. The work was a three-year academic and pastoral program designed to prepare women religious of East Africa for leadership roles in the church, leading to a Missia Canonica certificate.

Sister Diana also taught English to the women who were candidates for the Holy Spirit Sisters, her hosts during her stay in Moshi. Used to the concept of being "on time" in her culture, Sister Diana was faced with the idea that "Time is not ours. Time just is." She found a greater focus on person than on what is accomplished. Differences in food and the lack of consistent electricity, proved difficult in the beginning, and her ability to adapt was stretched.



Sister Diana Blong receives help getting dressed from the candidates for a festival in Moshi in 1999.

Ballygriffin, Ireland: 2013 - 2014

Sister Jennifer Rausch returned to the place where it all began when she journeyed to Ballygriffin, Ireland, in the Blackwater Valley, the birthplace of Nano Nagle. A visitors' center has been established there to "preserve the legacy, memory and message of Nano Nagle by promoting a place of peace, nourishment and healing in the modern world and promoting and practicing sustainable living and care of the earth." The center includes historic buildings, walled gardens and the tomb of Nano Nagle.

Activities at the center range from greeting visitors, giving retreats and days of reflection, and passing on the heritage of Nano and the Presentation Sisters, to helping with organic farming.

Upon her return to Dubuque, Sister Jennifer brought with her a precious artifact: the door knocker from the house in Mooncoin from which Mother Vincent Hennessy had departed to bring the Presentation Sisters to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1874.



Sister Jennifer Rausch stands by the door in Mooncoin from which Mother Vincent Hennessy had departed to bring the Presentation Sisters to Dubuque in 1874. The door knocker from this door is now in the archives at the Presentation Motherhouse in Dubuque.

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Discernment/Service Opportunities

The Sisters of the Presentation invite women interested in:

- Deepening their service involvement
- Discovering more about themselves
- Discerning where God is calling them

to join other women in service to those in need.

March 11-15, 2018

Chicago, Illinois
(Sunday to Thursday)

March 24-29, 2018

New Orleans, Louisiana
(Saturday to Thursday)

Travel and housing accommodations will be provided.

Please contact Sister Jessi Beck at
vocations@dubuquepresentations.org
or more information and/or to register for the trip.

Partners in Mission

by KAREN TUECKE, PARTNERS IN MISSION COORDINATOR

Julie Coppinger and her husband, John, share a unique and special relationship with the Sisters of the Presentation. Many memories include family interactions with the sisters, and the kindness and love shared by each. As partners in mission, Julie and John's unconditional support through time and treasure does not go unseen. The sisters are eternally grateful for their support.

Memories

"The sisters have been a part of my life since I was born," states Julie on the presence Presentation Sisters have had in her life. "My aunt June (Sister Sheila Kane) and my aunt Tiz (Mary Ann Kane) were in the Presentation congregation."

Julie shares some of her fondest memories: "We made visits to Dubuque every summer with my family. We would stay with our grandparents at the Kane family home on Apple Street, just up the street from St. Columbkille Church and School. The home was also conveniently located near the Presentation Motherhouse where more sisters lived! During the summers, the sisters were present in my life, either in my visits to Dubuque, my aunts visiting us or by going to Notre Dame when my aunts were studying there."

Remembering When

"Thinking of the Presentation Sisters from when I was a child, I remember being with my siblings and my aunt Tiz (Sister Maryann) at the former Mount Loretto. We watched some of the sisters play softball in full habits, then went into the kitchen to make caramel popcorn. What a great day. And my aunt still makes the best caramel corn ever! My aunts Tiz and Liz (Lynch) were the first sisters I remember thinking 'They are cool!'"

Impact on my Life

"The most impact the Sisters of the Presentation have on my life is – at one time, I wandered away from the church. I left for many years and then, after some rough years, I stumbled back. Aunt June was there to answer questions. She provided me with spiritual guidance and helped me weave my spiritual life together without judgement. We had some great discussions. Also, in current years, my visits to Mount Loretto have always given me a safe place to think, heal, pray and just be."

Family

Julie and John look at their family from a special point of view. Julie shares, "Visually, we see our family like a big comfy old bed, with our family elders as warm cozy quilts covering us, keeping us warm, protecting and loving. With aunt June's recent death, I had lost one of my warmest, loving quilts ... and then I walked through the doors of Mount Loretto. I saw and felt that I am so blessed to have so many beautiful quilts in the Sisters of the Presentation community. I lost my beloved aunt, yet I still have so many!"

Partner in Mission

Julie shares, "Another area of work that I am supporting is the work done for the immigrant people caught on the edges of society. The sisters' work with the immigrants will make an impact on society."

Making a Difference

"The reason we support the Sisters of the Presentation is because the work they do helps so many, so many who need kindness and understanding. We need more of that in our world."

John and Julie Coppinger

CURRENT RESIDENCE

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

HOMETOWN

John: Born and raised in Toronto, Canada

Julie: Dearborn, Michigan

HOW THEY MET

John and Julie were blessed to meet at a tavern outside of Tiger Stadium in Detroit, Michigan. They married in 1989, and that is when Julie moved to Canada with John.

MEMORIES

Julie's aunts Tiz (Mary Ann Kane) and Liz (Lynch) were the first sisters she remembers thinking as a child, "They are so cool!"

The reason we support the Sisters of the Presentation is because the work they do helps so many, so many who need kindness and understanding. We need more of that in our world!

John and Julie Coppinger

*thankful
grateful
blessed*

SCHOLAR AND WOMAN OF FAITH Sister Kathleen Dolphin

August 23, 1941 - November 16, 2017

by CORINE MURRAY, PBVM

"That is an interesting question. Tell me how you understand it." Perhaps this is such a conversation that Sister Kathleen Dolphin is now engaged in with noted theologians in the comfort of heaven, especially, Edward Schillebeeckx whose sermons were the subject of her doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago. This seems so appropriate considering that she was a theologian, scientist, scholar and life-long learner.

Sister Kathleen pursued a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Clarke College, a master's degree in science from the University of Montana, Missoula, and a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. As a serious scholar she completed both a master's degree from the School of Divinity and a doctorate of philosophy at the University of Chicago.

She was born in Chicago and spent the first decade of her life there before her parents, Earl and Inez, moved their family to Dubuque where she met the Sisters of the Presentation for the first time at St. Columbkille High School.

Sister Kathleen was ever mindful of the immigrant experience in this country. Her mother came to the United States from Sweden as a young teenager. At her mother's elbow she learned the fine points of making pepparkakor, Swedish ginger cookies. At Christmas time, she often gifted her family with this special treat. Because of her mother's experience as a newcomer, she was especially attentive to the needs of international students at Loyola University in Chicago.

Equally proud of her Irish heritage, she thought she had the best of both worlds and was able to visit that island country several times.

Sister Kathleen could juggle. She taught science and religion to high school students in Waukon, Ryan and Mason City, all in Iowa. While at Mason City, she also assumed the position of vocation director for the Presentation community and continued in this ministry while working as a campus minister at St. Thomas Aquinas Student Center at Iowa State in Ames. In addition to teaching at Loyola, Sister Kathleen earned a certificate of advanced study in philanthropy.

She had, as the Irish would say, "itchy feet," she loved to travel. This "land Dolphin" visited more than 35 countries. She chaperoned high school students to Scotland and Russia.

While on the Presentation leadership team or as a national and international speaker, she visited Greece, China, the Netherlands, England, Sri Lanka, Presentation mission in Bolivia, Australia and many other countries.

She was the director of the Center for Spirituality at St. Mary, Notre Dame for 13 years. She championed the rights of women in both the culture and the church. In that position, she convened the New Voices seminars connecting intergenerational and diverse groups of women scholars. She gave direction to the Madeleva Lecture Series in Spirituality, and co-edited two books, *Monica K. Hellwig, The People's Theologian* and *Women, Wisdom and Witness*. In her teaching at Loyola and St. Mary College, she mentored and significantly influenced a whole generation of post-Vatican II students.

Whether involved in ministry at the Anamosa State Penitentiary, aiding the homeless or participating in other voluntary programs, she had a heart that reached out to people on the margins.

As a great storyteller and with a quick wit, she delighted others with tales of her adventures. She had a profound influence on high school and college students. They not only loved her and appreciated her as an excellent teacher, but also saw her as a model for how to live one's life. One former student after hearing of Sister Kathleen's death commented that he thought heaven just became a better place with her arrival there. A multitude of treasured friends agree.

She often shared how her dad sang the song, "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" to her. With her parents, her brother Dennis, departed Presentation Sisters, associates, friends, and all the saints, may she truly be home.



A HEART OF HOSPITALITY

Sister Sheila Kane

June 29, 1923 - October 27, 2017

by DIANA BLONG, PBVM

The month of November began not only with the celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints, but also with the funeral liturgy of Sister Sheila Kane. Father Doug Wathier's homily united her love for music and people: "It is a beautiful interlude in the song of grace that we gather in memory of Sister Sheila on today's Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who weave together the glorious promise of our inheritance ... with the challenging words of Jesus about where God's blessing lies, not on the rich and powerful; but on the poor, the hungry and the tearful ... In her company people felt welcomed and at ease. She put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; and helped people find hope in God's love for them."

That love took root in the home of Bartholomew and Pearl (Byrne) Kane, 94 years ago, on June 29, 1923, as she joined her two older brothers, and paved the way for her two younger sisters and two younger brothers on West Hill in Dubuque. Almost on their doorsteps, St. Columbkille Parish and School, and the Presentation Sisters, nourished that faith-filled love. Even before graduating from the parish school, as a senior, she began secretarial work at the chancery, which she served until her entrance into the Sisters of the Presentation in 1945. Her name at the time of reception, Sister Mary Sheila, was inspired by St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians. Sister Sheila's final profession was on May 3, 1951.

A bachelor's degree from Loras College in Dubuque, and a master's degree in music from the University of Notre Dame served her well as she brought music into the hearts of students and parishes across Iowa in Danbury, Storm Lake, Sheldon, Farley, Whittemore, Osage, Charles City and Iowa City, and in Winner, South Dakota.

In the 1980s as pastoral minister at St. Thomas More in Iowa City, Sister Sheila's gifts of tender-hearted hospitality found a home. On the first RCIA team in the Diocese of Davenport, she warmly welcomed those exploring their faith within the Catholic

Church. She was instrumental in establishing an ecumenical "free lunch" program that continues to serve over 100 meals daily, six days a week. Her prison ministry at the Oakdale Correctional facility would later inspire her to correspond with other inmates.

Sister Sheila's heart for hospitality blossomed as hospitality coordinator at Mount Loretto, where she never quite fully retired. She graciously welcomed guests at the front door, the chapel, dining room and wherever they might roam! Her deep regard and interest in her own family was extended to others in her concern for them and their families.

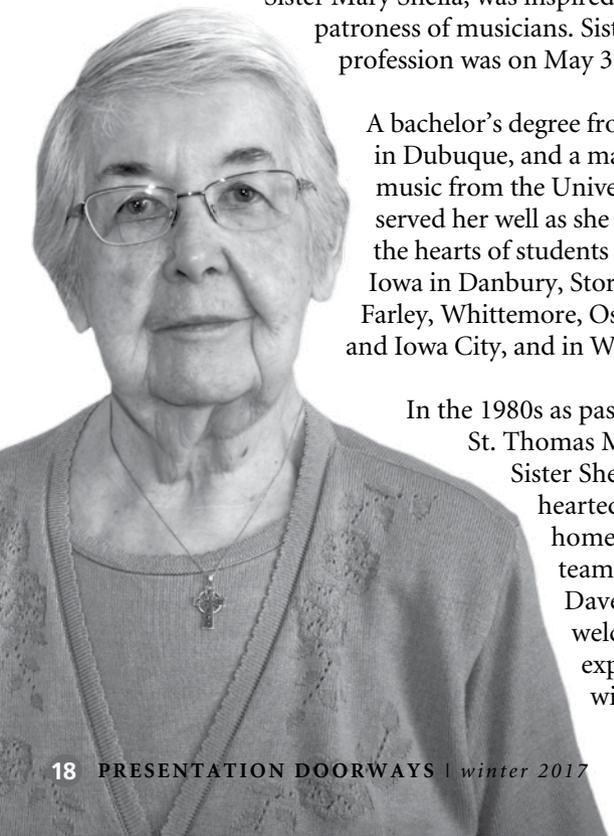
Besides her spirit that welcomed people in, she reached out into the Dubuque community. Her engagement with the interfaith group, Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU), involved respectful cooperation among people of diverse backgrounds to foster awareness and understanding of human needs. DACU's sponsorship of the annual Crop Walk counted on her expertise for many years.

Sister Sheila's unwavering sense of loyalty embraced her Irish roots, her love for family, her classmates, community members, co-workers, the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame and many with whom she served. Her generosity of heart would include thoughtful remembrances, including Hallmark greetings, often unsigned so the card became the gift, and practical gifts of notecards and stamps. Feasts were meant to be celebrated, and often included the richness of walnuts in her creamy fudge, divinity and penuche (Mexican fudge).

Besides her interest in the news and political discourse, she also kept abreast of the sports world, theatre, film and the fine arts. She actively participated in Presentation discussions and the annual community gathering. Centering prayer, especially in a group, was a great grace in her spiritual journey.

As Father Doug reflected, "Sister Sheila practiced a faith that manifested her belief that God blessed the poor, the hurting, the peace making and the meek ... In her honor may we be the ones to bless people and places and things, and in doing so bring God's life to our corner of the world."

Sister Sheila's chosen Scripture reflects her heart for hospitality, "There are, in the end, three things that last: Faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love." (I Corinthians 13:13)



Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

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



Special Recognition

Sister Donna Demmer received the Living History Teacher of the Year Award on October 6, 2017, at Living History Farms in Urbandale, Iowa. For many years, as a part of the study of Iowa history, Sister Donna has taken students on an annual field trip to Living History Farms. This award will cover the entrance fee for the students when they visit the farm in May 2018.

Live your passion



through community

Explore what a life of prayer, community
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Contact Sister Jessi Beck at
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DUBUQUE, IOWA

You are invited to join us.

December 25, 2017
Christmas Mass
9:00 a.m.
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

January 22, 2018
February 26, 2018
Centering Prayer
5:30 p.m. Evening Meal
6:15-7:00 p.m. Prayer
Sisters of the Presentation
Sacred Heart Chapel
Dubuque, Iowa

March 11-15, 2018
Discernment/Service Opportunity
Chicago, Illinois

March 24-29, 2018
Discernment/Service Opportunity
New Orleans, Louisiana

June 20-23, 2018
Service Opportunity at La Luz Hispana
Hampton, Iowa

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the activities and events of the
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Please pray with us.

December 16, 2017
Christmas Dinner with guests from
Dubuque Rescue Mission and Hope House
Sisters of the Presentation
Dubuque, Iowa

February 2, 2018
World Day for Consecrated Life

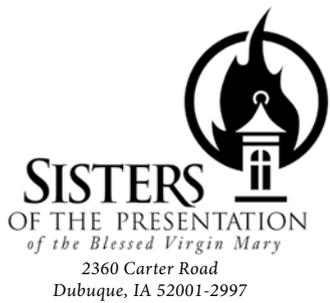
February 4-9, 2018
Mount Loretto Retreat

March 8-14, 2018
National Catholic Sisters Week

April 14, 2018
Sister and Associate Retreat
Sisters of the Presentation

21st of each month
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month
Mass for Benefactors



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Nano...
Her spirit moved across the miles
to bring the gift of new-born life
to those awaiting sacred news
of promise and of light.

Yet there at home she tended
to the voices of despair;
those calling out with eager hope
to see the lantern light
of Nano's daily care.

MAURA FITZSIMONS, PBVM

**Christmas blessings
to you and your family.**

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
DUBUQUE, IOWA

