



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*In Joyful Service*

# Voices & VENTURES

*Joyfully*



*Serving Others*

# Voice of Leadership



Dear Family and Friends,

As this issue of Voices and Ventures is going to print, we are celebrating with the Diocese of Sioux Falls their 125th anniversary. We thank you, God's faithful people, for the ways you have celebrated and witnessed your Catholic faith through these many years. You have sacrificed, formed and modeled your faith for your children, passing it on from generation to generation.

The Presentation Sisters have been honored to be a part of this faith formation. Throughout the years, beginning in 1886 before the Diocese was founded, the Sisters taught in many parish Catholic schools, child, youth and adult religious formation programs. Over the years, around 250 Presentation Sisters have taught over 300,000 students. Today the sisters continue this tradition with adult and youth leadership programs, retreat programs and through Presentation College.

The Sisters continue to support Catholic education and parish schools through a Catholic scholarship program. We believe this assists families who desire a Catholic education for their children.

In all our ministries, the Presentation Sisters' mission is to serve with a joyful heart for justice. Our sisters and lay associates are keenly aware that Jesus witnessed a preferential option for those underserved in our society. Our mission "to alleviate oppression and promote human dignity" challenges us to witness the Catholic Social Teachings to each person we meet.

Through this final celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Legacy of Faith, we congratulate Bishop Swain and the Catholic faithful of the Sioux Falls Diocese! May the wonders that God has accomplished in passing on the Catholic faith these past 125 years be enriched and enlivened, and may we continue to collaborate as we look to the future. The Presentation Sisters are committed to share in this faith journey with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Janice Klein".

Sister Janice Klein, President  
Aberdeen Presentation Sisters



Presentation College is a Catholic college which welcomes people of all faiths, challenging learners toward academic excellence and developing their whole person, spiritually, socially as well as intellectually.



The Presentation Sisters co-sponsor with the Yankton Benedictine Sisters Avera Health, bringing the healing ministry of Jesus to many throughout SD, MN, IA and NE. Avera works with rural communities to bring access and exceptional health care to these rural areas.



Front Cover Photo - 2015 Leadership Camp counselors, staff and Sisters that served during the 20th year of camp in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

# Voices of Sisters

## Sister Madonna Pierret



Sister Madonna tutoring Presentation College student, Inonge Mooto, a Presentation Sister from Zambia, Africa.

Sister Madonna felt called to live her life in a deeper spiritual way since she was a young girl and was blessed with wonderful religious parents who worked hard and prayed a lot. For 62 years, she has lived in consecrated life as a Presentation Sister serving the needs of the Church and God's people.

Sister Madonna served the needs of children in Miles City, Montana and Dell Rapids, SD by teaching math and introductory computers. She also taught Catechism in Garretson, SD for many years during the summer. Sister touched the lives of many adults and children, and her most rewarding time was taking care of orphans at the Children's Home in Sioux Falls, SD. She treated the orphans with respect and included them on her shopping trips, which made them fall in love with her. She served the children by assisting them to learn, develop and grow spiritually. Sister said, "It was so rewarding to see orphans adopted into loving families, and some of the children, now adults, are still in contact with me."

**Sisters Madonna says, "I am pleased with my vocation, and I can't think of anything that would be better than being a Presentation Sister all these years."**

If you enjoy helping people, the life of a Consecrated Religious opens the door and gives you many opportunities to serve others. I am thankful to the Lord for each of my ministries and feel blessed to serve others. As I make my journey toward Heaven, I am so glad I am on the path of religious life."

## Sister Jean Huntimer



Sister Jean Huntimer at the grand opening of the St. Francis thrift store in Huron, SD, which she started and operated.

I feel that living the consecrated life these last 70 years has meant having constant support and faith from God and my Presentation community and with this support comes love and concern. I find this support to be a big help as I converse with God in my joys and sorrows. The Congregation, as well as special friends in the community, are there for me during these times.

My awareness of living in community evolved gradually as I grew older. Even when I lived alone, I knew I had their support. Since I grew up in a big family, and our Catholic faith was very much part of our lives, living in community was like living in an extended family.

As I look back on my many years of consecrated life, I am more grateful to God and the community for all the blessings I had and still have today. I was always proud to represent our Presentation community in my ministries of teaching and parish work. As I grow older, I appreciate having other Presentation Sisters near me. I realize many elderly people, including my own family members, do not have the blessings I have because I do live in community. Having daily Mass and prayers together is one of our greatest blessings.

**"God has been faithful to me in sickness and health, in all my ministries and in times I wasn't aware of God's presence. In my older age, I am trying to be more aware of God's unconditional love for me. This is my prayer."**

# Year of Consecrated Life



(l-r) Sisters Patrick Leonard Murphy (60 years), SaBina Joyce (70 years), Teresita Schaeffbauer (60 years), Alacoque Geppert (75 years), Lynn Marie Welbig (60 years), Elaine Goodell (70 years), JoAnn Sturzl (60 years), Roch Whittaker (60 years) and Donata Daml (60 years).

*In June, nine Presentation Sisters celebrated jubilees of 60, 70 and 75 years of consecrated life. Jubilees are times of remembering... reflecting on relationships, achievements and struggles, and most of all, what it has all meant.*

These Jubilarians, classes of 1940, 1945 and 1950, have experienced two very distinct expressions of Catholicism: the pre-Vatican II Catholic Church and the post-Vatican II Church. In 1962, Pope John XXIII called a Council to move the Church from its defensive stance to engage a world undergoing social, political and cultural transformations. In pre-Vatican II religious life, "we were semi-enclosed in convent, school and church," remembers Sister Lynn Marie Welbig. "The Church saw herself as sheltering us from the dangers of a world tainted by sin and temptation. Rules governed every part of our lives, and compliance and uniformity constituted the 'way of perfection' for us."

*Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, shifted the hierarchical pyramid which divided clergy from laity, to Church as People of God, all of whom have the same dignity by their baptism. *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, called the Church to live in the world in a pastoral relationship to all. The Decree on the Renewal of Religious life urged Sisters to reclaim the spirit of their founders and to update their mode of living in accord with the signs of the times. These directions of the Council freed the Sisters to minister more directly with the people of God and in ways that gave expressions to the Sisters' unique gifts.



Sister Teresita

**Sister Teresita Schaeftbauer** recalls, *“We immediately got close to the laity, and I was able to choose a ministry that was more in keeping with my gifts. I understood my place in the Church in a different way.”*

Sister Patrick Leonard Murphy remembers beginning the study of the Vatican II documents with parish groups. “Vatican II taught all of us how the early Church functioned, and now we were returning to that. This is when I was really proud to be a Sister and to be part of this renewing Church.”



Sister Alacoque

*“I was called by God to enter Presentation Convent, where I deepened my spiritual growth with prayer and loving the Lord.* I believe it is important to love God and all his people, and this is something I do every day. All the people I served in my ministries really meant something to me. I continue to wear my veil today as I am proud to be identified as a Presentation Sister.

~ Sister Alacoque Geppert

Sister JoAnn



This call to return to our Presentation roots changed the Sisters’ ministry, their community life and spirituality. *“It called us to follow the gospel in new ways, and the barriers between us and the laity came down,”* states **Sister JoAnn Sturzl**. “Vatican II really changed my spirituality,” she adds. “We began to make directed retreats, praying with scripture and looking more deeply into our own spiritual lives.” The emphasis was listening to how God was personally acting in our lives, which was in contrast to the community group retreats we had been accustomed to attending.



# A Journey of Faith . . .

*"I remember how Bishop Hoch came home from Council deliberations each Fall. He was so excited about the openness to the times that was the prevailing spirit at the Council. His excitement caught on throughout the diocese as well as in convents. It was wonderful,"* remembers **Sister Lynn Marie**.

Transitions in parishes and convents were not without struggle, however. Some pressed for collegiality and relaxation of rules, while others feared loss of the absoluteness and stability of the Church. Now that the Apostolate of the Laity was reinstated and Sisters' semi-enclosure was lifted, Sisters left traditional ministries in Catholic schools and hospitals and moved to the margins where many needs of the poor and disenfranchised had been left unattended. The religious habit, the traditional sign of the Sisters' withdrawal from the world, became optional dress. The shifts and fluidity in the Church left many experiencing upheaval and loss.



Sister Lynn Marie

For the Sisters, better communication and forming relationships became a more intentional focus living in community. The search for ministry was shared between the Sisters and the President, who sends each Sister out on mission. The Jubilarians note how their classmates helped them understand and navigate difficult times. *"I think our class has a special bond that I really appreciate,"* remarked **Sister Patrick Leonard**. "Family is how I think of my classmates...like blood family," added Sister Teresita.

Sister Patrick Leonard



Sister SaBina



*"I praise and thank God for the gifts given to me by my family, my Presentation Sisters as teachers and all those who touched my life to make me who I am. Following the steps of Nano Nagle has been a great blessing as I journey to heaven."*

~Sister SaBina Joyce

# ... In Joyful Service



Sister Donata

*“These different times in our ministry and the changes in our spirituality raised my awareness of how God works in our personal lives, as well as in those who govern the Church,”* muses **Sister Donata Daml**. “God is faithful not just to the Church, but the Holy Spirit speaks in my own life experience. That was new and wonderful.”



Sister Roch

*“I felt called as a junior in high school and have never doubted it since. God has been with me all the way!”*

“After Nano taught the children all day, where did she go at the end of the day? To the shelters of Cork to comfort the sick, lonely, poor and deprived. At times I feel I’ve been walking ‘in’ her footsteps. I pray my reaching out with my lantern and gifts have been pleasing to God and Nano.”

~ Sister Roch Whittaker



Sister Elaine

“Pre-Vatican living gave me a satisfactory and pleasant way of serving God, but post-Vatican life enlivened my very being, allowing me to be myself and to make decisions regarding my gifts,” says **Sister Elaine Goodell**, celebrating 70 years as a Presentation sister. *“I could consider what was best for others as I ministered, what I considered the Spirit’s direction in my life, like Nano Nagle who urged us to go anywhere in the world for others.”* In her ministry of hospital chaplaincy, she prepares people for surgery. “I meet Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, Jewish people, Muslims. I feel if we want to bring peace to the world, the best word in any language is respect, respect and love.” She adds, “There is a Holy Spirit!”

# Leadership Camp

*Experiencing Growth and Transformation in Faith*



The Presentation Sisters held their first Leadership Camp in the Black Hills of South Dakota 20 years ago. Each shirt worn in the photo above signifies a different year of this camp. Although many of the Sisters, Counselors and staff remain the same today, there have been 1,508 different young women who attended camp and experienced growth and transformation in their faith.

Leadership Camp is a weeklong camp that inspires young women in seventh, eighth and ninth grade with the confidence, character and enthusiasm to become servant leaders while forming friendships and learning about their faith. Junior high school is a formidable time in a young woman's life. Magazines, television, social media and peers send messages to these pre-teens and teens suggesting how to act and how to look. Since adversity happens in everyone's life, the Sisters provide these young women with the skills and resources to assist them in discovering their own inner strength based on Catholic values, which allows them to face life and its challenges with confidence and strength.

In addition to camp preparation, many Sisters have served during camp with the many roles needed to make camp complete. The Sisters teach team building and model their faith by joyfully living in community as they prepare for camp with other sisters, leaders and staff.

*This Camp has shown me that God is in everyone and everything and will always be with us. I have found this fire in my heart yearning for Christ. Now my faith is not just something I do often, it's something I do often that has a deep purpose. ~2015 Leadership Camper*



# Integrating Cultures



Sisters from Caminando Juntos working with Latinos at Cinco de Mayo are Janet Horstman, Sheila Schnell and Gabriella Crowley.

The Presentation Sisters have joyfully served the Latino community of the Sioux Falls area since 2002 through their outreach ministry, Caminando Juntos. When the ministry opened their doors 13 years ago, there was no talk of an annual fiesta. However, in the Sister's spirit of keeping an open mind, the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta appeared as an opportunity to celebrate the people and heritage of the community they serve each day. Over the past eight years, this event has bloomed into a main fundraiser for Caminando Juntos and is a wonderful way to bring awareness to the community while working to integrate the cultures.

Chihuahua's and many Sisters every year! Each year, there is friendly competition between a few Sisters for selling the most raffle tickets for the 50/50 cash drawing. Other Sisters enjoy assisting the committee to organize details, help with setup, volunteer for a shift during the day and/or pray for a beautiful and fruitful day.

This event helps bring together over 8,000 attendees, 300 volunteers, 30 community partners, 25 vendors, 21

On behalf of the Presentation Sisters, we thank our amazing community partners, including Wells Fargo (Presenting Sponsor) and Avera Health (Entertainment Sponsor), which allows the Sisters to serve in such a fun, family-filled fashion each year! "This year's Cinco de Mayo Fiesta was a wonderful celebration of some of the rich diversity that is present in the Sioux Falls community. The Latino people are so proud of their cultures and take great pride in this celebration; they love sharing their cultures with us and the Chihuaha fashion show was a real hit," said Sister Janet Horstman.



Sister Lynn Marie Welbig assisting with the festival setup.

## 20 Years of Faithful Support

Over 60 women shared a day of sunshine, laughter and fun as they golfed in the Presentation Sisters' 20th annual golf tournament. Many of these women were recognized and honored for participating in the tournament for 15 or more years. This tournament wouldn't be possible without the faithful support of all the women who participate each year.

With the help of our generous major sponsors Avera Health, EideBailly, KyburzCarlson Construction and Northern Valley Communications, a portion of the tournament's net proceeds were used to help support the Good Samaritan fund for children and adults. Contributions to this fund will help the sisters serve families statewide in times of need during unforeseen circumstances. Please join us next year for our 21st annual golf tournament.



The Presentation Sisters' Development staff (l-r) Jenny Dix, Brooke Nicholson-Grote, Jen Rothenbuehler and Barb Grosz host the tournament; Jenny and Barb have served and organized the last 19.

# Living Nano's Mission



With joyful hearts, Sisters and Cojourners witnessed and pledged their support during Mass to five individuals as they became Presentation Cojourners. Trisha Waldman, Mary Gjernes, Jason Pettigrew, Pamela Smid and Toni Gisi completed a yearlong Cojourner orientation journey where they reflected the Presentation life, history, spirituality, mission and ministry with Sisters. During their journey of spiritual renewal, the Cojourner candidates gathered with Sisters monthly to share personal stories and life experiences of serving others, creating heart felt relationships with each other and God.

In baptism, these individuals committed to live according to the Gospel and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Now they feel called to joyfully do all of this in the spirit and mission of the Presentation Sisters as Cojourners. They are participating in the Congregational direction of **Justice is Our Work**.

A Presentation Cojourner is a baptized person of any faith who wishes to share the spirituality, values and mission of the Presentation Sisters. Cojourners and Sisters develop a partnership through visits, shared prayer and participation in congregational activities and gatherings. For more information on becoming a Cojourner, contact Sister Darlene Gutenkauf at 605-229-8315.

## Mission Statement

*Called by God to share in the mission of Jesus, the Cojourner walks with the Presentation Sisters in proclaiming God's love, and witnessing to this love by a dedication to justice and reverence for all. The Cojourner strives to address the interrelatedness of poverty and care for creation through education, prayer, advocacy and action.*

## Joyfully Serving Others

Many Sisters celebrated with Brooke Nicholson Grote, at the EmBe Tribute to Women Event held in Sioux Falls, SD. Brooke, Director of Development for the Presentation Sisters, was the award recipient in the category of non-profit and community services. Her positive impact on coworkers and the community is just one of her many qualities. She is able to engage others' interest, communicate the needs of the non-profit and invites people to see themselves as being a part of the Sisters' ministries that serve others locally and globally. Her passion and enthusiasm for her work is infectious and leaves donors eager to learn how they can help fulfill the needs of so many. *"The Presentation Sisters exemplify true leadership every day, and we are so fortunate to work for an organization that fosters these skills and supports their employees the way the Sisters do!"* exclaimed Brooke.



# *One Pace Beyond*

## *Journey with Presentation Sisters Globally*

The Aberdeen Presentation Sisters and Cojourners journeyed together on a virtual pilgrimage, visiting ministry sites and geographic locations of our Presentation Sisters around the world through the exploration of information available on the International Presentation Association website. This virtually guided tour allowed them to grow more deeply in solidarity with their global community of sisters, Presentation people and the persons they serve throughout the world without ever leaving the comfort of their home.



During this journey, each Sister and Cojourner was provided with a journaling “passport” to help guide their travels while keeping three main categories in mind: the Mystery of God, the Mystery of Oneness and the Reality of People and Earth Made Poor. While exploring these areas, Sisters and Cojourners had the opportunity to visit all 23 countries where Presentation Sisters currently serve in ministry.

Nano walked the narrow lanes of Cork but she had a global vision for her mission, “My views are not for one object alone. If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the world I would willingly do all in my power.” Nano’s love of the poor and her zeal ignited a fire in the hearts of her daughters. Even today, her daughters and friends are devoted to the same mission of love. This powerful mystery of oneness is rooted in the love of giving all to the call of God.

### *Union of Presentation Sisters*

*England Unit  
India Unit  
Ireland, NE Unit  
Ireland, SW Unit  
Latin America Unit  
Newfoundland/Labrador Unit  
New Zealand Unit  
Pakistan Unit  
Philippine Unit  
United States Unit  
Africa Unit*

### *Conference of Presentation Sisters*

*Aberdeen Congregation  
Dubuque Congregation  
New Windsor Congregation  
San Francisco Congregation  
Staten Island Congregation  
United States Unit of Union*

### *Australian Society*

*Lismore Congregation  
Papua New Guinea Region  
Queensland Congregation  
Tasmania Congregation  
Victoria Congregation  
Wagga Wagga Congregation  
Western Australia Congregation*

### **Justice is Our Work**

Flowing from our identity as Presentation women, the mission of International Presentation Association is to channel our resources so that we can speak and act in partnership with others for global justice.

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*Voices and Ventures* is published by the Presentation Sisters' Public Awareness Office to communicate the ministries and mission of the Presentation Sisters. We invite your comments as well as your prayers. [www.presentationisters.org](http://www.presentationisters.org)

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# Year of Consecrated Life

## *In Joyful Service*



**WAKE UP THE WORLD!**  
— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*In Joyful Service*

**October 3, 2015**

Women on the Prairie Conference  
Aberdeen, SD • 605.229-8391

**October 24, 2015**

SD Pax Christi Conference  
Watertown, SD • 605.882-6600

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