



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Voices & Ventures

SUMMER/FALL 2018



Igniting the Spark of Nano

Dear Friends,

As we transition from summer to fall, our congregation, and our Presentation Family around the world, continues to celebrate the birth of our Foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle. Throughout this issue, we hope you will see Nano's spirit carried forth in our world today.

As we look to the future, we remember the legacy of our roots. In April, we elected our new Leadership Council, who will lead the Aberdeen Congregation from 2018-2022. Through prayer, reflection and dialogue, this new team will engage the Congregation in implementing the directions set forth by the Congregational Chapter.

This past summer, members of our Presentation Congregation were joined by other Presentation People as they traveled to Ireland to visit the birthplace of Nano. Their pilgrimage led them to the fields and Blackwater River where she played as a child, to St. Finbarr Church where she prayed and listened as God led her into the lanes and coves where she served the poor. The present day pilgrims returned with Nano's spirit and energy animating in them.

We also sponsored our final Leadership Camp this past July. The week was filled with joy, celebration and some tears, as we reflected on how God has graced the past 23 years. We are proud of the many young women who, throughout the years, attended camp and will continue to share their spark of Nano for years to come. The future is full of possibilities and we are grateful for the partnership with others who enabled us to bring alive our Mission and Charism through this camp. Now we will continue to listen for where the Spirit is leading us anew.

Through all of these moments, it is humbling to see how the Spirit works in each of us. With all that surrounds us in our active lives, we hope you can create a quiet space to listen to where God is calling you. Together, let us strive to move courageously into the emerging future.

In peace and mercy,

Sisters Janice, Mary, Lucille and Vicky

Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



Inside this Issue

Read about the Road to Leadership and encounter newly and re-elected members of the leadership team, pages 4-5.



Sisters and friends enjoyed a recent pilgrimage to Ireland. Read more about this trip on pages 12-14.



Nano's family motto, "Not words, but deeds," was even found in Italy this year.

Nano's spirit was present at the convent as we celebrated the anniversary of her birth.



World Refugee Committee members came together in preparation for the World Refugee Day Celebration in Sioux Falls.



Sisters and employees prepared over 200 sack lunches, which were given to kids through the Salvation Army's Feed the Kids Program.

Throughout the Year

Sisters & Partners Ignite the Spark of Nano



Sisters and partners gathered in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls to join over 600 rallies in the country with the message: Families Belong Together.



Convent employees enjoyed a "casual Friday" and shared Nano's spirit with the Sisters.



The Road to Leadership

Submitted by Presentation Sisters Leadership Team

Communal discernment of Chapter Calls and the election of new council members is a sacred process that unfolds through prayer, reflection and mutual conversation. Nano Nagle, our foundress, spent her time in prayer and contemplation, entrusting herself to God's presence daily; this, too, has been our practice as Presentation Sisters. Individually and communally, we discern our goals for the coming four years and we choose who our leaders will be going forward.

As we move into our new roles as leaders, we feel Nano's spirit alive and relevant today. Nano's practice of contemplation ignited her commitment to justice. Her ability to move from prayer to action empowered

We do not hide from change, nor do we sit idly awaiting the arrival of an unknown future in some far distant day. Instead we live fearlessly right now, embrace our own transformation and celebrate that Nano's legacy lives in thousands of Presentation People and partners in Mission!



Sister Janice Klein, President

She has served as a teacher, pastoral minister, Leadership Team Council Member and Presentation Sisters Development Director. Sister Janice just finished her first term as President of the Presentation Sisters and was re-elected to serve a second term as President.



Sister Mary Thomas, Vice President

She is currently the Senior Vice President of Mission Services at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. Sister Mary has just finished her first term as a Council Member on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Team and was elected to serve in the upcoming term as Vice President.



“The Almighty is all sufficient”

Venerable Nano Nagle

Installation of the new Leadership Team

her to go one pace beyond as she engaged people, especially the poor and underserved. As a team, we practice contemplation and our decision making comes from this place of prayer and mindfulness of those in the margins of society. The ministry of Congregational Leadership enhances the unity of the community based on our Constitutions as we listen to the Holy Spirit and to each other and chart our future course. When we let the Spirit lead us, we are rather astonished by what we hear ourselves saying! We see the role of the Leadership Team as supporting the Congregation to trust the calls of the Spirit and facilitating the next steps to implement these calls for the community and our partners. The “grace of the office of leadership” and the support of our Sisters,

with the guidance of God, will enable us to do what is ours to do in these next four years.

In the coming years, we expect to see much transformation as a Congregation. Transformation includes both letting go and awareness of new life that is emerging among us. Our Sisters and our Presentation People have embraced this transformation with full-heartedness! They see the Mission of Jesus and Nano at the heart of all we are and do. They truly are Nano’s daughters and sons! This assurance of hope for our future is a realization that going forward we are not alone. As Nano trusted, “The Almighty is all sufficient.”



Sister Lucille Welbig, Council Member

Since 2004, she has been an Avera System Member and has served in administration at acute care and long-term care settings. Sister Lucille has served on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Team from 2006-2010, 2014 to present, and was re-elected to an additional term as a Council Member.



Sister Vicky Larson, Council Member

She worked as a nurse at Avera hospitals before teaching at Presentation College. Currently, Sister Vicky is an Associate Professor of Nursing at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN, and is serving her first term as a Council Member on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Team.



Jubilee!



We honor these Presentation Sisters for their combined 430 years of service to those in need. Daily, they continue

living out their vocational call, working for justice, alleviating oppression and speaking out for those without a voice. We thank them for their dedication to making our world a better place for all to live.

faith
mission
joy service
charism



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Annrita Johnson

Sister Annrita (Anne Rita) Johnson was born in McIntosh, SD, and graduated from McIntosh Public School. She attended Presentation School of Nursing and Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, receiving a bachelor's in nursing. She received a master's in nursing from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, and completed post-graduate work at the University of Utah.

For 25 years, Sister Annrita taught Nursing at Presentation School of Nursing and Presentation College. She served on the Congregational Leadership Team from 1974-1978 and then became the director of Home Health Agency in New Mexico. She, along with Sister Corita Dickinson, founded Barrett House, a shelter for homeless women and children, half-way home for older mentally ill women and thrift store in Albuquerque, NM.

She also ministered at a retreat center in Albuquerque and on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Sister volunteered at Avera McKennan's Information Desk prior to retiring at Presentation Convent in 2008. She is grateful she could follow the Congregation's Charism and respond to the needs of the poor.

An avid Minnesota Twins and Presentation College Saints fan, Sister Annrita enjoys watching sports and a great game of Bingo.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Armella Stratman

Sister Armella (Barbara) Stratman was born in St. Helena, NE and graduated from Wessington High School, Wessington, SD. She received her state teaching certificate from Notre Dame Junior College, Mitchell, SD, attended Presentation Junior College, Aberdeen, SD, and earned her bachelor's degree in education from Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

For 70 years, Sister Armella has joyfully devoted her life to those in need. She continued her love of learning and teaching by dedicating more than 50 years to education ministry, enriching the lives of thousands of elementary students in Humboldt, Madison, Harrisburg, Artesian, Sioux Falls, Milbank, Mitchell and Watertown, SD, and Anoka, MN.

After retiring from teaching, Sister Armella served another 10 years at Avera Brady Memorial Home in Mitchell. In 2005, she moved to Aberdeen where she shared her love of sewing and crafts. She currently serves in prayer ministry and assists in service projects at the Convent.

Sister Armella credits her parents with fostering her vocation. Through their faithfulness, they set an example of the importance of Mass, prayer and the love and respect they showed for the priests and sisters.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Mary Aileen Huettl

Sister Mary Aileen (Mary DePaul) Huettl was born in Britton, SD. She attended rural school and graduated from Central High School, Aberdeen, SD. She received her nursing diploma from Presentation School of Nursing, Aberdeen. She went on to earn her bachelor's in nursing from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and a master's in social work from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

Sister Mary Aileen served in the health care ministry as a nurse at Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City, MT; St. Joseph's Hospital (Avera Queen of Peace), Mitchell, SD; and (Avera) McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD. She worked as an instructor for practical nursing education at Southeast Area Vocational Technical Institute, Sioux Falls, SD, and went on to work for Catholic Social Services in Sioux Falls, SD, as a social worker. She provided pastoral care at (Avera) McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD; St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Madison, SD; and (Avera) Brady Memorial, Mitchell, SD.

In 2003, Sister Mary Aileen moved back to Presentation Convent where she enjoyed walking, reading and puzzles. She is currently fully retired at the Convent.



60TH JUBILEE

Sister Kathleen Bierre

Sister Kathleen (Mary Lambert) Bierre was born in Watertown, SD. She attended school in Grover, SD, Watertown, SD, and graduated from Henry High School, Henry, SD.

Sister Kathleen received her bachelor's in home economics education from South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, her master's in family and child development from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, and her Canon Law Degree from Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada.

Sister Kathleen is a lifelong learner and dedicated to service of others. She taught in Catholic schools in SD and MN for eleven years and then ministered in pre-school/parent education and tribunal ministry in several dioceses throughout the region. She continued in leadership as she served three separate terms as vice president of the Congregation and as an interim director of development. For the past three years, she has spent time as a lobbyist in the South Dakota Legislature and currently serves as a System Member for Avera Health.

Sister Kathleen loves to spend time outdoors walking, sharing a leisurely evening meal with friends and reading historical novels and poetry.



60TH JUBILEE

Sister Marilyn Dunn

Sister Marilyn (Florence) Dunn was born in Farmer, SD, attended Catholic grade school in Emery, SD, and graduated from high school in Alexandria, SD.

After attending one year of college at Mount Marty, Yankton, SD, Sister Marilyn entered Presentation Convent in 1957. She attended both Presentation College and Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, receiving her bachelor's and master's in elementary education at Northern. She did some additional study at Xavier University in New Orleans, LA.

Sister Marilyn dedicated more than 25 years to educating and caring for children in parish schools in Wilmar, MN, and Huron, Mitchell, Madison, Aberdeen, and Milbank, SD. Sister went on to work in an educational program in New Orleans, and later moved to Presentation College Lakota Campus in Eagle Butte, SD, for fifteen years.

Sister Marilyn enjoys reading and visiting with family and friends. She currently volunteers as an Assistant in Mission & Student Services at Presentation College and writes an uplifting weekly message to students and staff at the College and Convent entitled, "Lighting the Way." Sister Marilyn has also been active in the Presentation Cojourner program.



50TH JUBILEE

Sister Lucille Welbig

Sister Lucille Welbig was born in Chester, SD, and graduated from Colman High School, Colman, SD. She received an associate's degree in medical technology from Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, bachelor's in medical technology from Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD, master's in pastoral counseling from Loyola University, Chicago, IL, and a master's of science in health service administration from the College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL.

Sister Lucille has a great love for health care ministry. Her compassion for others, organizational and strong leadership skills allowed her to work for 19 years in hospital settings as a medical technologist and director of pastoral care, and 18 years as an administrator in long-term care settings in Sioux Falls, and Aberdeen, SD; Glendive, MT; Pender, NE; Sioux City, and George, IA. Sister also served as Dean of Students and Director of Admissions at Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD.

Since 2004, she has been an Avera System Member, serving in the governance of Avera. She has served on the Congregational Leadership Team from 2006-2010, and 2014 to present.

In her spare time, Sister Lucille enjoys the outdoors, reading a great mystery novel and watching Notre Dame and Vikings football.



50TH JUBILEE

Sister Pam Donelan

Sister Pam Donelan was born in Montrose, SD, and graduated from Montrose Public High School. She earned an associate's in art from Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, a bachelor's in communication and theatre from the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, and a master's in creative drama and children's theatre from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

Sister Pam served as the President of the Presentation Sisters for eight years. Prior to being the President, she served on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Council. For many years, she shared her love for education as a high school teacher of speech and drama, and taught communication and theatre at Presentation College. She co-founded the Presentation College Ice Cream Theatre.

Sister Pam was the Dean of Students at Presentation College and the Director of Mission at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. Sister Pam has a legacy of deep commitment to God and the Presentation Sisters. Her smile and fun-loving spirit provides a hospitable and welcoming presence to all she meets.

Sister Pam currently serves as the Executive Director of Mission at Presentation College in Aberdeen, SD, where her friendly, Irish enthusiasm enlightens the day of both students and staff.



Latino Cultures Celebrated at Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

“Celebrating the Latino cultures that are part of our communities is a joy and privilege. Given today’s climate in our country, it’s more important than ever that we show a welcoming spirit and a deep appreciation for all that immigrants contribute to our country.” — **Sister Janet Hortsman**



Sister Janet is one of our sisters ministering at Caminando Juntos (Walking Together), our sponsored Latino Ministry in Sioux Falls, SD, and a leading member of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Committee. The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is a main funding source for the ministry, but more importantly, it celebrates the rich Latino cultures among us and brings awareness to the needs of the growing community. Caminando Juntos works to create a welcoming presence and to respond to the needs of newly arrived Latino immigrants as they seek to make a home and become a part of Sioux Falls and surrounding communities.

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta celebrated 11 years this past May and has grown to a premier event in the Sioux Falls area. The community rallies together each year to make this vision come to life with over 300 volunteers, 30 plus sponsors, 15 committee members and averages 9,000 attendees each year. This event could not be possible without these fantastic partners.

Despite the cooler temperatures this year, the community still came together for another successful year in celebrating the rich diversity of our growing Latino community. ◆



Sister Janet is interviewed by KSFY about the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.



The sights, smells and sounds of traditional Latino cultures fill Falls Park every year.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday
May 11, 2019



Servant Leadership

through the Virtues of Faith, Hope & Love



Facilitating faith formation and leadership in youth has always been an important element in the lives of our Sisters. For many years this was done in classroom settings, and now, the last twenty plus years, with inspirational partners, was expanded to include summer Camps.

This summer, we celebrated the 12th year of our LIVE (Latinas Inspiring Virtuous Excellence) Camp in Omaha, NE, and the 23rd, and final, year of our Leadership Camp in the Black Hills of SD. Both weeklong camps provide leadership and spiritual growth opportunities for young women in their junior high years. As these young women grow in Christian leadership, they will use these skills to bring faith, hope and love into their schools, churches, communities and the world.

The camps provide a safe, supportive and fun-filled environment to talk about challenges, hopes and dreams, and how their Christian faith can help them respond to the challenges they face today. Through speakers and interactions, we strive to address troubling trends such as bullying, poor body image and self-esteem. Adult and junior counselors model inspiring faith and positive behaviors, emphasizing the importance of education.

Throughout the week, we hear how grateful the campers are for this positive, faith-filled environment that allows them to develop their own spiritual and emotional maturity. One LIVE camper shares, ***“This camp has not only taught me about our whole week’s focus of faith, but it has also taught me to be courageous, independent and responsible. Faith is not just believing. It is the connection you have to a belief that you practice every day.”*** ◆



“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

Pilgrimage *to* Ireland

June 24 – July 3, 2018

Nano's spirit was contagious as a group of 27 travelers, including Sisters, cojourners and friends, journeyed to Ireland. This shared experience built a sense of community during the pilgrimage and one that will live in their hearts for years to come.

Cliffs of Moher by the Atlantic Ocean



Trinity College & Our Lady of Lourdes Church

The journey began in Dublin where visits included Trinity College (Trinity College Library pictured left), and the famous Book of Kells (lower left). Believed to have been created in 800 AD, the Book of Kells contains illuminated text of the four Gospels written in

Latin. They then moved on to Our Lady of Lourdes Church to see the Shrine of the Venerable Matt Talbot, who, through his intercession, is recognized to assist those with addictions. ●



Pilgrimage to Ireland photography
courtesy of Allyn Hill.



Sites Along the Way

The group continued on to Glendalough and walked the grounds of St. Kevin's Monastery (far left). They then visited one of St. Brigid's Wells (left) at Kildare, where a number of miracles of healing are said to have occurred. ●

Walking Nano's Footsteps

Cork, Ireland was the next stop, which included visiting several Cathedrals, including St. Finbarr's Cathedral, where Nano attended regular Mass. The journey continued on to the South Presentation Convent, which is the birthplace of the Presentation Congregation in 1775 by Nano. A prayer service was held at Nano's grave and then the group was able to see the neighborhoods and walk the streets where Nano served those in the margins of society. ◆

George's Hill

Travels then led the group to visit the Presentation Sisters Convent at George's Hill, where our Aberdeen Sisters trace their roots. It was from here where Mother John Hughes and two other Sisters left for Dakota Territory, answering the call of Bishop Martin Marty to teach the children of the Native Americans and French settlers.

Today, the Sisters residing in the Convent at George's Hill live amongst the poor, just as Nano did. The Sisters have "given" a part of their large convent building to a group they called Focus Dublin. The Sisters still live on the lower level of the Convent, but the other parts of the building are now used as low-income rentals to house the poor.



The day included a visit to St. Mary's Pro Cathedral and a tour of the Guinness Brewery. ●



"I was moved most by the passion the Sisters have to their calling and carrying out Nano's legacy. To see the Sisters be moved to tears at Nano's burial place and their excitement to walk the paths she walked so many years ago, inspires me to make sure our students at Presentation College understand and appreciate this legacy."

- Aimee Sippel, Presentation College

"I was moved by the *sense of identity* with the group. To see others on the tour experience our Presentation heritage, believing they will carry it on."

- Sister Pat Prunty

Ballygriffin, the Birthplace of Nano

From Cork we traveled to Blarney to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone. Ballygriffin, the birthplace of Nano, was our next stop. Located along the Blackwater River, Ballygriffin is also home to where Nano Nagle grew up. ♦

“I often wondered what formed and shaped Nano to become so passionate and determined to help her people rise up from poverty and oppression, and to embrace their dignity. There was a **sense of openness and well-being** at Ballygriffin; an experience of a bigger world, **an invitation to embrace all of creation.**”

- Sister JoAnn Sturzl

“The **generosity and hospitality** of the Irish Sisters who welcomed us was so very special. Nano Nagle Place was beyond words, knowing that 300 years ago she walked the ministry in Cork.”

- Cojourner Mary Ihli



The group stopped for a photo in front of Nano's gates. These are the original gates on Nano's homestead that were between their home and the stables. The stable has been refurbished and now houses a portion of the Nano Nagle Center.



Altar at Nano Nagle Place



Blarney Castle through Keyhole



Blackwater River
Near Ballygriffin

“As I reflect on my recent pilgrimage in the footsteps of Nano Nagle, I hold in the palm of my hand round black stones that I gathered from the bedrock of the Blackwater River, which flows through the homestead of Nano near Ballygriffin. I image Nano as a little girl romping through the prairie grasses along this bubbling brook. It reminds me of the youth of many of our Aberdeen Presentation Sisters who had similar experiences growing up in these rural areas. I felt connected!”

- Sister Joan Marie Brandner

In Loving Memory

As we say farewell to our dear Sister, we remember her with joy. While her time with us seems all too brief, she followed the path God laid for her, and God has taken her hand to lead her home. We lift up our hearts for she received faith's reward, the fullness of life with God.

Sister Madonna Pierret

Born to Life 12/22/1932 - Born to Eternal Life 07/08/2018

Sister Madonna entered Presentation Convent in 1951 and professed her vows August 10, 1954. She received her BS in Math Education, Northern State College in 1969, and her MA in Math Education, University of California in 1973. Sister Madonna taught grades 3-5 and later High School Math and Computer Science in Humboldt and Dell Rapids, SD; Miles City, MT; and Anoka, MN, from 1954 to 1997. She also ministered in various positions at Presentation Convent, St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen and Presentation Children's Home, Sioux Falls, SD. Sister Madonna moved to Presentation Convent in 1997 and devoted much of her time to her passion for social justice issues and sometimes shared her concerns with the public via the Aberdeen American News editorial section. She had a special interest in assuring the maintenance team kept the convent wind turbine maintained and operating. She loved working on computers and keeping up with ever changing software. Sister Madonna was known for her story telling ability and practicality. She loved to sew and was a great cook. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



***“You have shown me the paths of Life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.”***

Acts 2:28



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

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23rd Annual Women's Golf Tournament



Nano's spirit was present at the annual gathering of women at Moccasin Creek Country Club in Aberdeen. Joy and laughter filled the air as we shared a beautiful day for golf. We are grateful to the 80 businesses that help sponsor and donate prizes to help make the event a success.

Funds from this tournament support our women's events throughout the year and a portion is allocated for a current ministry. This year's funds support our educational ministries, including Catholic School Scholarships, English classes and international school scholarships in Zambia, Africa.

To discover how you can become more involved with our annual events, please contact Barb: bgrosz@presentationsisters.org or 605.229.8391

Upcoming Events

September 16

Prayer Tour: A Taste of India
Multi-Cultural Center • Sioux Falls, SD

September 21

International Day of Peace
Presentation Convent • Aberdeen, SD

September 22

Women on the Prairie Conference
Presentation Convent • Aberdeen, SD

Dates to Recognize

October 4

Foundation of Presentation Sisters in
Aberdeen, SD

October 17

International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty

November 21

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, the namesake of our
Presentation Congregation