



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Voices & VENTURES



www.presentationisters.org

President's Pen



There are many exciting events happening in my life right now. As you may remember at the end of September, it was a privilege for me to go to the International Presentation Association Assembly (IPA) in St. John's Newfoundland.

The 2012 IPA assembly direction statement is: As Presentation People impelled by the radical gospel of Jesus and on fire with the spirit of Nano, we consciously choose to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of God, the mystery of Oneness and the reality of people and earth made poor. Energized by this evolving consciousness, we engage in expansive partnerships that move us to personal and systemic transformation.

This direction statement includes all Presentation People, associates, collegians, coworkers, partners, donors, friends of Nano and many, many others.

In early January 2013, I have the opportunity to go to Africa. I am so excited about this adventure. I will travel with Presentation Sisters Janice Klein and Mary Thomas as well as interested donors. My purpose in going is to experience our international Presentation People and to visit Sister Deb Nelson in Kalomo and Sister Virginia McCall in Kaoma.

Deep in my heart, I know that IPA will be the organization that brings all Presentation People around the world together. As Presentation Sisters in the Sioux Falls diocese and in rural South Dakota, we will always have our local roots, and yet at this time in our history, we listen with open hearts to Presentation Sister M. Raphael Consedine in her book One Pace Beyond:

Take down your lantern from it niche and go out!
You may not rest in firelight certainties,
Secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear.
You may not build yourself confining walls
And say: "Thus far, and thus, and thus far shall I walk,
And these things shall I do, and nothing more."
Go out! For need calls loudly in the winding lanes
And you must seek Christ there.
Your pilgrim heart
Shall urge you still one pace beyond,
And love shall be your lantern flame.

The privilege and opportunity to be the President of the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters has been an invitation to stretch and to grow. This stretching, this growing has taken me to a new understanding of what it means to be a Presentation Sister in the 21st century.

Peace and blessings,

Sister Pam Donelan

Sister Pam Donelan, President
Aberdeen Presentation Sisters



L-R: Sister Pam Donelan, Conference of Presentation Sisters, Sister Ragina Daley, Union of Presentation Sisters and Sister Bernadette Keating, Society of Presentation Sisters at the IPA Assembly in Newfoundland.

Front cover: Presentation People from around the world gathered in Newfoundland, Canada at the International Presentation Association assembly to discuss and reflect on the next five years and answer the question, "What do we see emerging among us as Presentation People on mission?"

To Teach and Heal



Sister Catherine Fiegen

When Sister Catherine, formerly Mary Perpetua, graduated from St. Mary's High School in Dell Rapids, SD, her goal was to become a teacher and continue the compassion and commitment modeled by many Presentation Sisters who were her teachers. She admired the work of religious women and was interested in missionary work.

Sister Catherine's journey led her to teaching sixth, seventh and eighth graders in parish schools in South Dakota and Minnesota for more than a decade. She then went on to serve as a school administrator in Anoka, MN. for seven years before serving in pastoral ministry in Anoka, Litchfield and Clare City, MN parishes. Sister Catherine continued parish ministry until 1997, when she began serving as director of chaplaincy and then director of mission services at Holy Family Hospital, Estherville, IA.

After spending four years in hospital ministry, Sister Catherine was elected to serve on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Council from 2002-2006. She currently lives in Aberdeen, SD and is working as a health minister for the Presentation Sisters. As health minister, Sister Catherine accompanies sisters to a variety of appointments. She often visits and prays with sisters living in area nursing homes as well as those in the hospital. She also represents the Presentation Sisters at yearly health and benefit fairs held at Avera health care facilities across South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa.

Hometown:
Dell Rapids, SD

Entered Convent:
January 4, 1957

Education:
• Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD
BS in Elementary Education (1969)
MS in Administration (1973)

Experiences:
• Elementary Teacher (11 years)
• Elementary Administrator (7 years)
• Pastoral Ministry (19 years)
• Hospital Ministry (4 years)
• Leadership Council (4 years)

Current Ministry:
• Health Minister
Presentation Convent



Sister Abbie Kennedy

While attending Sacred Heart High School staffed by the Ursuline Sisters in Miles City, MT, Sister Abbie Kennedy, formerly Mary Dolorosa, worked with several Presentation Sisters at Holy Rosary Hospital. She loved the life of prayer and dedication these sisters lived and wanted to live as they did.

Children had always brought Sister Abbie joy, so she dedicated herself to teaching in diocesan schools throughout SD for 33 years. Some of her more notable students were former U.S. Senator Larry Pressler and Mother Joan Paul, who helped establish the School Sisters of Christ the King in Lincoln, NE. After leaving the classroom, Sister Abbie served in parish ministry in Milbank, SD for 14 years. She continued caring and offering support to others by serving as the innkeeper at Nano Nagle Inn in Sioux Falls, SD, a home for Avera McKennan transplant patients and their families, where she welcomed guests with warmth, love and hospitality.

Sister Abbie is a great story teller and loves sharing humorous tales about her students and her once precious cat, Purr Puss. One of the stories Sister Abbie enjoys sharing is from her first year teaching third grade in Humboldt, SD. One of the boys in her class asked, "Do you choose where you go to teach?" She replied, "No, the Superior tells us." He answered, "Weren't you lucky this year!" Sister Abbie adds, "I have always felt 'lucky' all the years of my religious life."

"I am somewhat retired at Presentation Heights. After living alone for so many years, I now enjoy living with all the sisters at the Convent in Aberdeen. We also have so many employees in this facility that are happy to serve and greet us, including our 24/7 healthcare. There is no end to the services we receive from our employees."

Hometown:
Ekalaka, MT

Entered Convent:
September 8, 1948

Education:
• Northern State University
Aberdeen, SD (1968)
BS in Elementary Education

Experiences:
• Elementary Teacher (33 years)
• Pastoral Ministry (14 years)

Current Ministry:
• Volunteer
Avera St. Luke's Hospital

Partners in Ministry



Dr. Margaret Huber, President of Presentation College, prefers to be called “Maggie.” She came from a large family in rural Western Pennsylvania with six younger siblings, wonderful parents, forty-eight first cousins, and twelve years of Catholic education with the Sisters of Divine Providence. She joined the order in 1967 and began her preparation for a life dedicated to Catholic higher education. Maggie returned to lay life, but remained devoted to her career in education.

Upon graduation with a degree in chemistry from Duquesne University, she was selected to serve at the order’s sponsored college, La Roche College in Pittsburgh. After earning her master’s degree in three summers at Notre Dame in Indiana, Maggie completed her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan in 1979.

Two years later she was elected President of La Roche College. In 1994 she became President of the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, CA, and in 2003, Maggie began an 8-year term as Vice President for Advancement at Georgian Court University in New Jersey. Maggie and Tom Schuchert married in 1993 in Santa Fe, NM.

To Maggie, Presentation means joyful service—that energy expressed by Mary as she “danced” up the temple stairs with enthusiasm to serve God. Sometimes she is asked, “Do you have joy in your life?” In fact, the deciding factors for accepting a position at PC were the joyful ones. Maggie and Tom were both attracted to the rural life of South Dakota, a small town community, natural beauty in the fields and in the sky, an opportunity to make a difference at a Catholic college, the commitment to the sciences and health related fields, the dedication of the sisters to PC, and the land to have a garden and to let puppies run around. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” Maggie believes that God is surely here in Presentation People.



Todd Forkel, a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School, Presentation College and Northern State University, was named regional president and CEO of Avera St. Luke’s Hospital Aberdeen, SD in December 2011.

Todd first came in contact with the Presentation Sisters as a Presentation College radiology student. He credits the sisters, especially Sister Elaine Garry, with having a great personal influence on his journey to a closer relationship with God. Todd also credits Sister Joan Reichelt, with her steadfast belief in his ability to take on and do this job well, with having a major impact in his life. “She is an amazing person who is always looking to manage up people.” Todd added.

Beginning his career as a radiology technologist at Avera St. Luke’s, Todd went on to serve as director of radiology and vice president of clinics before being elected to the Aberdeen City Council. As director of radiology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, he was instrumental in integration initiatives, implementation of Lean/Six Sigma practices and led educational efforts on health care reform. Prior to his new posting, Todd served as the senior vice president of operations for Essentia in Fargo, ND where he led the implementation of an organizational excellence initiative and the electronic medical record as well as the integration of clinical and support services. Todd, his wife, Amy, and their three children - Shelby, Noah and Kallie now live in Aberdeen, SD.

“Getting the opportunity to work for the Presentation Sisters through their sponsored ministry at Avera St. Luke’s is one of the greatest privileges that I’ve had in my life. I love working for a faith-based organization. The ability to bring your faith into the workplace changes the landscape dramatically for the better. I believe that the acknowledged presence of God makes us, and the care we provide, different and changes this from a job to a calling. I thank the Presentation Sisters for their legacy and for the supreme honor of serving them in this role.”

International Voices

Australian and Zambian Presentation Sisters gather in South Dakota



L-R: Sisters Inonge Mooto and Lynette Rodrigues (Zambia), Paulette Garry, Ireen Mate (Zambia), Josita Schwab, Ann Foley, Marilyn Dunn, Lois Ann Sargent, Lynne Crilley and Margaret Barclay (Australia), Darlene Gutenkauf, Susan Miller (Australia), SaBina Joyce, Joan Marie Brandner, Mary Walsh (Australia), Mary Denis Collins and Virgina McCall.

In mid-September, the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters hosted six international guests, four Presentation Sisters from Wagga Wagga, Australia as well as two Presentation Sisters from Zambia, Africa. The guests were on their way to the International Presentation Association Assembly of Presentation Sisters in Newfoundland, Canada.

During the visit, the sisters toured the Aberdeen Presentation Convent, the Aberdeen and Eagle Butte campuses of Presentation College, Avera St. Luke’s Hospital in Aberdeen and Avera McKennan Hospital and the Avera Health System in Sioux Falls.

The Australian Sisters were invited to visit ministries with some of the sisters in the United States. They decided to visit their counterparts in the Dakotas because of rural and multiple ethnical similarities between the two congregations. The sisters’ tour of the Avera Health System and Avera McKennan’s eICU Care, an intensive care monitoring service where medical personal can monitor rural clinic patients in six Midwest states from one station in Sioux Falls, S.D., was a good opportunity for the sisters to see a working program idea they can use to expand their own ministry back home. “This is a very good service, and certainly we could do something like this in Australia,” said Sister Walsh. Sister Miller added, “In the Dakota’s, the sisters have taken on a health ministry, which is not a traditional Presentation ministry; traditionally, we are teachers, educators, so for me it’s about being Presentation in a different way.”

Although thousands of miles separate the women, Sister Lynette Rodrigues and Sister Ireen Mate from Zambia, Africa, felt connected with the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters. Sister Rodrigues and Aberdeen Presentation Sister Deb Nelson currently minister together in Kaloma, Zambia, Africa. They are training African youth and young adults in practical life skills as well as computer skills.

The Zambian Sisters had another reason to visit Aberdeen. Sister Inonge Mooto, a Presentation College sophomore, is a fellow Zambian Sister living in Aberdeen and studying psychology. “It was just like at home when I was hugging them,” Sister Inonge said of the visitors. “It was great to see Sister Inonge and how she has adjusted,” Sister Ireen added. “It was great to see all the support (she has been given).”



Presentation Sisters at the International Presentation Association Assembly of Presentation Sisters in Newfoundland

Catholic Scholarships

Since 2009, the Presentation Sisters have awarded 105 scholarships to students in Catholic Schools in the Sioux Falls Diocese. The Sisters are dedicated to Catholic education and are pleased to continue this commitment as a legacy into the future.

In the spring of 2012, the Sisters received applications from 155 students. These students and/or their parents wrote short essays on the significance and values of Catholic education and how a scholarship would assist their family. The essays were very compelling and the committee wanted to award all 155! Through the partnership between the Sisters and donors, the Sisters awarded thirty \$500 scholarships in July 2012.

As the Scholarship Fund grows, the Sisters will be able to award additional scholarships. To contribute to the Presentation Sisters Catholic Scholarship Fund, contact the Presentation Sisters Development Office at devoff@presentationsisters.org or 605-229-8337. Following is a list of 2012 scholarship recipients.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Maria Anderson | Paige Heitkamp | Imalay Rivera |
| Danielle Brule | April Hof | Sydney Roberts |
| Joel Dahlhoff | Emerald Jensen | Erica Schumacher |
| Kaiya Davis | Joaquin Kolker | Alexander Shields |
| Johannes Farnham | Aiden Laskowske | Brandon Shuey |
| Bailey Frerichs | Aspen Mack | Ryan Smith |
| Logan Greenslate | Mariah Madsen | Maasa Spader |
| Karen Gonzalez | Josephine Marino | Tyler Traphagen |
| Hunter Griffin | Alexandra Mattern | Ezri Unser |
| Taylor Hagen | Ethan Miller | Sam Weisensee |

Women on the Prairie



L-R: Conference attendees Kathy Roggenbuck, Norma Misterek, Loreen Hartman, Audrey Mogard and Laurinda Pribyl

The Presentation Sisters had the honor of hosting Julie Clark as presenter of the 2012 Women on the Prairie Conference held September 29. Julie’s natural ability to bring a wonderful message, which was heartfelt and easy to relate to, was enjoyed by nearly 120 women. Many attendees commented that they enjoyed Julie as an individual as well as the message she shared. She spoke what was in her heart, while helping others learn how to live their lives to the fullest.

Women’s Retreat in March

The Presentation Sisters will welcome Amy Novak to our 2013 Women’s Retreats. Amy is currently the Provost and Executive Vice President at Dakota Wesleyan University and deeply committed to helping others discover God’s presence in their lives. Through her presentation entitled “**Clothe Yourself with Love,**” she will invite participants to renew themselves in the light and hope of Christ. Using Scripture and the lives of the saints, Amy will guide women through a self-reflection designed to help women of all ages explore their own sense of belovedness and their vocational calling.

The retreats will be held in:
Sioux Falls on Saturday, March 2
Aberdeen on Sunday, March 3

For more information visit
www.presentationsisters.org

Journeys of Faith

A Novitiate Journey Begins

Rosa Eguiluz Castelo entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM) on Wednesday, August 15, 2012, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aberdeen, South Dakota. This ceremony took place during a special celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. Rosa expressed her desire to be received into the novitiate of this community. Sister Pam Donelan, the President, accepted and welcomed Rosa and prayed, “May our loving God fulfill your desire and bless you as you journey with us.” As a sign of her entrance into the Aberdeen Community, she will now be called Sister Rosa. She was presented a pin with the Aberdeen logo on it to be worn as a reminder of Nano’s Charism and to inspire her to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Sister Joan Marie Brandner, the formation director, will accompany Sister Rosa throughout these next two years of novitiate. The purpose of the novitiate is for the novice to gain understanding of her vocation and experience the manner of life of this congregation.



Sister Pam Donelan, PBVM President, Sister Rosa Eguiluz Castelo and Sister Joan Marie Brandner

Living Nano’s Mission

Just over a year ago, eight individuals embarked on a journey of self-discovery, deepening faith and bonding with the Presentation Sisters by agreeing to become Cojourners. Presentation Cojourners are lay associates who wish to share the spirituality and values of the Presentation Sisters while living the Presentation mission in the framework of his or her own life and responsibilities.

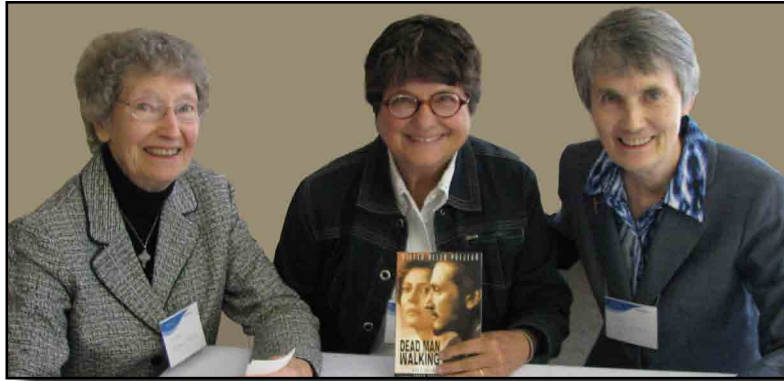
During their spiritual travels, the Cojourner candidates gathered with the sisters each month to share their personal stories and life experiences creating heartfelt relationships with each other and God. At the end of this journey, the Presentation Sisters welcomed Patti Bosch, Lori and Jon Eckrich, Jeff Hanson, Judy and Rod Hartman, Dawn Maas and Beth Smith as Cojourners in special ceremonies on October 14 and 21, 2012.

“I feel it is a sign of hope that we have so many Cojourners involved in assisting us to spread the mission of Nano Nagle,” said Sister Darlene Gutenkauf, Co-Director for the Cojourner Program. All 61 Cojourners walk with the Presentation Sisters through advocacy, dedication to justice, education and prayer. If you would like more information on starting your own journey as a Cojourner, please contact Sister Darlene at 605-229-8315.



L-R: Jon and Lori Eckrich and Judy and Rod Hartman from Sioux Falls, SD, Beth Smith, Dawn Maas, Co-Director Sister Darlene, Patti Bosch and Jeff Hanson from the Aberdeen, SD area.

Voices of Justice



Life, Death and Social Justice

Sister Helen PreJean, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph in New Orleans, Louisiana, was the keynote speaker at the eighth annual South Dakota Pax Christi Peace Conference in Watertown, SD. With her presentation, "Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues," Sister Helen engaged, inspired and energized the 150 participants who came from all walks of life. Prayer, music and an invitation to join Pax Christi were also part of the day.

Sister Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions. She speaks to thousands of people across the U.S. and around the world, and considers herself a southern storyteller. Her presence brought the nonviolent Jesus and Pax Christi's commitment to peace and justice to those in attendance.

Travis Schulze, Coordinator, South Dakota for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (SDADP), a first year law student, spoke on "The Road to Abolition." Travis provided background and an invitation to become involved in ending the death penalty in South Dakota. Panel members Father Gary Ternes, Penitentiary Chaplain, Sister Gabriella Crowley, who visits a death row prisoner, Ann Thompson, whose family member was murdered and Reverend Karl Kroger, who worked to end the death penalty for those under 18 in South Dakota, gave "Perspectives on the Death Penalty."

Notary Publics were present to witness the signing of Declaration of Life, which requests the court that if someone is guilty of homicide for killing them, that prisoner is not to be given the death penalty. Sister Helen autographed her two books, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* and *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*. Sister Helen is presently at work on another book, *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*. The Aberdeen Presentation Sisters, the Watertown Benedictine Sisters and local Pax Christi chapters, sponsored the conference.

Abolishing the Death Penalty

Twelve years ago, the Presentation Sisters endorsed the following statement opposing the death penalty: "We, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, SD, believe that the death penalty is immoral and should be abolished. As women committed to nonviolence, we seek a penal system that supports conversion and reconciliation, rather than one that perpetuates the cycle of violence and vengeance. We believe the death penalty flows from the assumption that problems in our society will be resolved through violent means, which is the same assumption that led to the attacks of September 11, 2001."

Both Roman Catholic Bishops of South Dakota made a statement on October 9, 2012 regarding impending executions and the death penalty. In this statement, the Bishops "urge repeal of the death penalty" and call us "to prayerfully reflect on the role of the state as an agent of death." The Presentation Sisters also say, "We support a consistent ethic of life, believing that all life is sacred from the moment it begins until its natural death. The death penalty promotes the idea that the life of the condemned is no longer sacred in the eyes of God. We believe that all persons are redeemable and loved by God."

Jesus was a victim of the death penalty. We pray and work to abolish the death penalty in the name of our nonviolent Jesus. If you are interested in abolishing the death penalty in South Dakota, contact Sister Gabriella Crowley at gabriellapaz@hotmail.com or 605.332.7824.



Pax Christi Social Team and Committee: Donna Williams, music; Sister Kay O'Neil; Sister Teresa Ann Wolf, OSB; Sister Michelle Meyers; Sister Johanna Schumacher, OSB; Sister Gabriella Crowley and Cojourners Jane and Mike Sandsmark. Not pictured is Sister Pat Prunty.

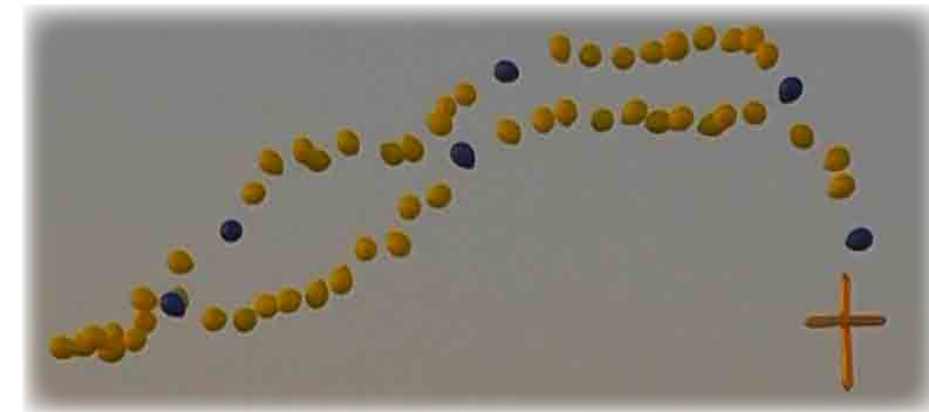
Community Recognition



During its annual fall convention, the South Dakota Health Care Association honored **Sister Gayle Volz** as Adult Volunteer of the year for her service and commitment to the long-term care profession. The South Dakota Health Care Association represents long-term care facilities across South Dakota. Sister Gayle has volunteered at the Firesteel Healthcare Center and Avera Brady Health and Rehabilitation Center in Mitchell, S.D. for the past seven years.

Each year the Bob Burns Dakota Bowl Committee honors an individual or individuals whose support had an impact on O'Gorman and the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools community with the Woody Drey Everyday Heroes Award. This year, the committee recognized long-time educators, **Sister Suzanne Cotter** and **Sister Mary Jane Gaspar**, during the September 8, 2012 Dakota Bowl in Sioux Falls, S. D.

Sister Mary Jane taught and served as the principal of St. Mary School for over 20 years. Sister Suzanne served as a teacher at O'Gorman Junior and Senior High Schools for 35 years. Both Sisters can be found at nearly every O'Gorman football game, basketball game, play, musical and concert cheering on the students and praying for the event's success. They epitomize what it means to be an O'Gorman fan and an everyday hero.



Prior to Sister Suzanne and Mary Jane receiving the Woody Drey award at the 33rd annual Bob Burns Dakota Bowl in Sioux Falls, S.D., cheerleaders released a string of balloons that represent a rosary. The Dakota Bowl is a huge fundraiser for Sioux Falls Catholic Schools, and has raised almost three million dollars for their programs over the years.

25 Years of Dedication and Education

Sisters Michelle Meyers and Kay O'Neil were recognized by Dr. Linka Holey, Academic Dean, Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis, at the Faculty Conference on October 26. As recipients of the Outstanding Faculty award for their class, "Women's Self-Esteem and Spirituality: Making the Connections," they celebrated their 25th anniversary of teaching a St. Mary's. Dr. Priscilla Herbison, former Program Director, for the M.A. Human Development, said, "You have such a powerful impact on the lives of your students. You've restored their faith and honored the Spirit of God within them. You've taught them that academic rigor and life in the Spirit are not mutually exclusive!"

Health and Wellness

Our Journey

Our Health & Wellness journey began when a discussion was initiated in regards to rapidly changing Convent culture as more sisters were moving back to live at Presentation Heights. The needs of the Sisters at the Convent were changing. In response to discussion of these changing needs, a Health & Wellness Steering Committee was appointed by our President Sister Pam Donelan for the purpose of identifying and appropriately responding to the changing needs of the sisters and the services being provided by our Convent staff.

To assist the committee in this undertaking, management consultant Joan Bachman, RN, NHA, RHIT, BSBA, FCN visited the Convent to do a physical evaluation of the building and to interview the sisters regarding their transition from active ministry to a continued quality of living in their retirement years. In addition, after attending a webinar entitled Person-centered Care Programming for Retired Religious, the Steering Committee was able to bring the presenters/consultants of this very applicable and helpful program to the convent in July to provide interactive educational sessions for both sisters and staff.

To assist with the efforts of preparing, creating and maintaining an enriching and enhancing environment for our sisters retiring to Presentation Heights, the Health & Wellness Steering Committee formed a team, Nano's Wellness Team, of sisters and convent staff to spearhead the efforts of accomplishing these goals. Nano's Wellness Team, in partnership with sisters and employees, has been determinedly working on creating such an environment. Some of the activities and changes happening here at the Convent include: addition of Wellness Program coordinated by an RN, June Community Days, Sister Health Fair, weekly "Brain Games", weekly Health & Wellness e-mail update, nutritional education, offering of more meal choices, educational sessions and other related hands on activities.

Nano's Wellness Team left to right: Cindy Fisher, Karla Newman, Deb Bossly, Marcy Wolf, Pam Mahlke, Sister Paulette Garry, Carmen Morrison, Sister Mary Fix, Jan Johnson and Jaqueline Gonzalez. Not pictured are Sister Lois Ann Sargent and Sister Pam Donelan.



Remodel Project

As we all know from time to time all homes need repairs, maintenance and just general updating. Many of us have lived through the process, the dust, the delays and the unexpected additional repairs of our own remodeling projects.

At the end of June, the sisters living in the northwest wing of the convent were asked to move from their rooms so that a remodeling project could begin. Many moved to other rooms within the convent while others graciously relocated to Prairie House or apartments at Nano Nagle Village or even temporarily moved in with relatives.

For the past five months, the sisters have listened to the hammering and drilling as workmen and contractors demolished the ceiling on second floor in order to redo the third floor plumbing and totally gutted the third and fourth floors before rebuilding the new living spaces in the northwest wing. Along the way work crews discovered (or uncovered) a number of plumbing issues that delayed the planned project.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Sister Phyllis Gill and the building committee; Sister Pam Donelan, Steve Sommers, Patty Pietz, Carmen Morrison and Deb Bossly. The decorating committee consisted of Sister Lois Ann Sargent, Sister Ruth Geraets and Deb Bossly. The dedication of this committee and its members and the continual communication between contractors and sisters have not only kept the project on line, but also made sure the sisters were updated regularly on the progress.

Work and cleanup is completed on second floor, and the rooms are ready to welcome the sisters back. There are ten bedrooms, each with individual bathrooms that are now ADA certified, and third and fourth floors each have nine rooms. Each floor has welcoming French doors, which allow natural light to filter into the wide hallways, leading into a lounge/kitchen area that serves as gathering space for the sisters and visitors.

"In planning this remodel, we looked at not only the current needs of our sisters, but also what needs for the future might be," commented Sister Phyllis. "We appreciate the sisters' patience and understanding, while they have been anxiously awaiting a return to their rooms."

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

Going Green Efforts

How can one congregation make a difference?

The Presentation Sisters and the housekeeping staff are empowering each other to make purchasing and investing choices in green cleaning products that promote social justice and environmental sustainability. Cleaning products are everywhere in our homes and offices: on dishes, countertops, furniture, clothes, floors, windows and floating through the air. In the fight on dirt and germs, the housekeeping staff is truly making a difference by using recycled and green products.

In the next three months, the housekeeping staff will be experimenting with Borax, Baking Soda, Castile Soap and Vinegar in order to find the best cleaning products that adequately and efficiently replace the existing products that contain toxic chemicals. On occasions, where a stronger disinfectant is required, a product called Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting cleaner is used. It is activated by hydrogen peroxide technology, which contains biodegradable plant-based cleaning agents and no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This change helps maintain good indoor air quality.

Debbie Bossly, Director of Housekeeping, reported that all the paper products in the housekeeping department are Green-Seal 100% recycled and made entirely from recovered fibers. In addition, they are using some Inteplast InteGreen Oxo-Biodegradable can liners and replaced the entrance mats with Eco Plus, new green generation recycled wiper/scrapper mats.

The work of loving, protecting, healing, celebrating and taking care of God's creation is foundational to the sisters' mission and central to the church's mission. The sisters are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models within their community. Debbie adds, "The housekeeping staff, and I, strongly believe in this mission, and we are excited to take on the challenge to help the sisters meet their goals."

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Calendar of Events:

Women's Spirituality Program
January 19 - Sioux Falls, SD

Women's Retreat
March 2, 2013 Sioux Falls, SD
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

March 3, 2013 Aberdeen, SD
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Clothe Yourself with Love
Presented by Amy Novak,
Speaker and Provost at
Dakota Wesleyan University

The season of Advent is upon us, and we are preparing for the coming of Christmas by baking, shopping and decorating. But in the harried moments between frosting the cookies, wrapping the presents and trimming the tree, have we stopped to make ourselves spiritually worthy for the celebration of God among us? Where Lent is characterized by mourning, fasting and penitence, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers of submission, prayers for deliverance, prayers from those walking in darkness awaiting and anticipating a great light. To celebrate the anticipation, gladness and great promise of the Advent season, the Presentation Sisters invite you to take a few quiet moments to visit our website, www.presentationsisters.org, and review the daily devotional reflections on the readings for each of the 23 days of the Advent season.

For more information,
please contact:

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