We fearlessly cross the threshold of today to ignite the spark of tomorrow.

Welcoming an Emerging Future
Dear Friends,

About 60 Presentation Sisters and Presentation friends spent several Spirit-filled days at McCrory Gardens in Brookings, S.D. GPS (Gathering of Presentation Sisters): Presentation Life in an Emerging Future brought sisters together from across North America and beyond as sisters from India, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Zambia were also counted among those gathered. The purpose of the gathering was to listen together for how the mission and charism of Nano Nagle, the foundress of the Presentation Sisters, continues to be inspired by the Gospel and is necessary in our world today.

Many questions were raised as those gathered focused first on what is core to the mission and charism or the “why.” Then the group explored “who” already shares this vision and “what” would that vision look like in an emerging future? “How” can we bring this mission to fruition? The sense of being of one heart and mind was palpable among those gathered. More contemplative listening is necessary to allow what was begun to continue to evolve and take shape. The collective desire to gather again and to take action was expressed unanimously.

We invite you to walk with us as we embark on this new journey through the threshold and into an emerging new future. Together, may we continue to live out the spirit of Nano and build up the people of God, welcoming with hospitality, compassion and joy, all from different walks of life.

In peace and mercy,

Sister Janice Klein, President
Presentation Sisters

Cover Photo
Photo taken at McCrory Gardens, Brookings, S.D., during the Gathering of Presentation Sisters.
See story on page 8.
Throughout the Year

Sisters & Partners offer Joy, Compassion and Hospitality

1. Finding joy in each day is one of our favorite things to do
2. Sisters (and campers) began celebrating the 300th birthday of our foundress Nano Nagle with tattoos in her likeness
3. The Irish spirit of Nano was very present as we celebrated her hospitality and compassion with partners over St. Patrick’s Day
4. The sisters welcomed students and enjoyed a game of bingo
5. We celebrated the many cultures in our communities during World Refugee Day
6. We are fortunate to have many helping hands share in the work of our annual events
7. Sisters and employees gathered as we honored our nation’s independence
Since 1886, we have committed ourselves to empowering young women and girls. For the past 22 years, we have focused that commitment by sponsoring leadership camps for junior high girls.

The camps and retreats offered provide leadership and spiritual growth opportunities for young women. Through speakers and interactions, we strive to teach these girls skills they can use to discover their own inner strength based on Christian values. Days are spent being physically active, learning ways to make healthy decisions and to be proactive at school. They also learn ways to increase their self-esteem and grow in their faith, deepening their connection with God.

We believe these camp experiences are influential in the daily development of these young women as well as helping them become better leaders into the future.

This past year, we expanded our leadership reach by becoming a sponsor of the Girls on the Run program (GOTR). This nationwide program is located in numerous cities throughout South Dakota and this was the first year in Aberdeen, where 20 young girls in grades three through five participated in the program held at Roncalli. The values and vision of GOTR parallel those of the Sisters’ Leadership Camps, with each program promoting the physical, emotional and spiritual health of each individual young girl. Presentation employee Jenny Dix volunteered with the program as a coach. Jenny expressed, “This program is super fun because each lesson is something different. The girls learn about friendships and living life with balance, they learn to connect with one another using good social skills and to encourage themselves and others to never give up. Plus you do all this while training to run a 5K at the end of the program lessons. It’s amazing!”
After camp, I hope to teach other girls that they can be leaders too. I will now wake up every morning knowing I’m beautiful. This camp has motivated me to do many things in life. I will get farther with my schooling and become someone great!

I’m so grateful to be given the opportunity to be at this camp. Each day is filled with love, knowledge and fun activities. I hope that this camp never ends so that more young women can come, learn about God and our faith, and leave as leaders like I did.

I had fun when I was doing the challenge course. It made me think, “never give up and you can do anything—just have faith in yourself!”

Inspirational thoughts from our Leadership Camps

This camp has such a special place in my heart. It has had a lot to do with my faith formation and who I am today. It gave me a sense of purpose at a young age. I have had the privilege of being a camper, junior counselor and now an adult counselor. Every year, I am reaffirmed in the power of this camp.

I had fun when I was doing the challenge course. It made me think, “never give up and you can do anything—just have faith in yourself!”
Education is the underlying fabric that weaves itself into all of the Presentation ministries. We have a long history of teaching in the Dakotas and offering scholarship assistance for grades K-12. As we looked to the future, we wanted to explore new ways to share the value of education with college students. From this dream, an internship program was developed in the Sioux Falls Mission Development Office. The hope was to create relationships with young adults while offering a learning opportunity where we could share our mission and enhance the student’s career path.

Janie Voss embraced the spring 2017 internship with an intensity of heart. She shared her many talents and handled projects with enthusiasm and confidence. Her main focus was assisting with the preparations for our annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. Janie grew up in a small town in Nebraska, was raised in a pastor’s household and shares a mission and vision that is similar to that of the Presentation Sisters. She graduated from Augustana University in May with a business and marketing major and minor in art. Janie continues her partnership with the Sisters and currently helps with a variety of projects, including design, marketing and website assistance. She is a joy to be around!

We encourage you to connect with Janie if you have not had a chance to meet her. Sharing your Presentation connection and story is a wonderful way to infuse this program with a further understanding of faith, mission and charism of Nano. She may be reached at marketing@presentationsisters.org.

“The Presentation Sisters’ internship is one that allowed me to integrate my faith and mission-based values with skills and knowledge building. Working within the Mission Development Office has been a perfect opportunity to learn about the inner workings of another Christian faith organization whose core ambitions aim towards peace, justice, and promoting human dignity. Those are just a few, among many, of the organizational values that inspired me to extend this opportunity through the summer. My involvement with the Presentation Sisters has positively expanded my worldview and allowed me to meet so many remarkable individuals, an experience I will always be grateful for.”

—Janie Voss, Spring 2017 Intern
22nd Anniversary of the Women’s Golf Tournament

The annual gathering of women at Moccasin Creek Country Club in Aberdeen kicks off summer with a spirit of joy and excitement. This year, the beautiful June day was welcomed with abundant sunshine as teams enjoyed a day of golf and fellowship. “I enjoy traveling to Aberdeen for the Sisters’ tournament. I look forward to fun, sun, laughter and knowing we are contributing to a great cause!” expresses Joan Fust, who travels from Appleton, Minn., each year. We are very grateful to the 75 businesses that helped sponsor and donate prizes to make the event a success.

Funds from this tournament support our women’s events throughout the year as well as a current ministry. This year’s funds helped support the global gathering of Presentation Sisters. At the end of June, sisters from all over the world gathered in Brookings, S.D., to discuss our emerging future and how we can work together more effectively. The inspirational week was filled with Nano’s spirit! (To read more on the gathering, please turn to pages 8-9).

Discover how you can become more involved with our annual events, contact Barb: bgrosz@presentationsisters.org or 605.229.8391
“Crossing thresholds is in our DNA. We are sparks of the universe that keep creating and recreating themselves again and again,” Aberdeen Presentation Sister Joyce Meyer explained in her address during the Gathering of Presentation Sisters (GPS) held in late June in Brookings, South Dakota.

Fifty-five Presentation Sisters traveled from as near as Sioux Falls and as far as Africa to take part in this three-day gathering of sisters with energy and vision as we discussed the Presentation mission and charism for the next few decades. While each of the seven congregations that make up the Conference of Presentation Sisters was represented, the group also welcomed sisters from India, Ireland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which brought a more global perspective to the worldwide mission of the congregation.

The idea for this gathering came from a spark that began with the Trasna group in Aberdeen. Trasna, which means a crossing place, is the name of the group of younger sisters that meet to discuss the future expression of the charism of the Aberdeen congregation. Trasna members realized that the conversations they were having at a local level might have even more significance if they were in dialogue with the larger Presentation family.

This spark ignited into a flame with the support of the Conference of Presentation Sisters, who co-sponsored the event. The flame was fanned by each of the congregations as sisters from across the globe engaged in conversations about the future.

Participants registered for the gathering early in 2017 and were placed into threshold groups. These groups, each named for a flower in honor of McCrory Gardens, the venue for GPS, met via web-conferencing...
technology for three months. With a goal of preparing participants for deep and meaningful conversations and reflections when gathered face-to-face, a core planning team provided the stimulus for each of the discussions.

When the sisters arrived in Brookings, Sister of St. Joseph Kathy McCluskey, facilitator, used these small-group conversations as a foundation for deeper discussion and guided reflection pertaining to:

- Why is the Presentation charism important?
- How will the charism be carried into the future?
- What will those living the charism be doing in the future?

Each of these topics was rooted in the charism of Nano as a radical response to the Gospel. The group concluded that the charism of Nano and the Presentation spirit value relationships and communal discernment to meet the pressing needs of our time. There was a strong sense of expanding the idea of Presentation People, with sisters serving as models and fostering the discernment of non-vowed religious to carry forth the Presentation mission in partnership with vowed women religious. The group expressed many ideas for fostering these partnerships and seeking to be globally connected as we listen and discern a response to the needs of the world.

It was clear from the summary and evaluations that the gathering was a success and the sisters long to continue with web-conferencing conversations, to expand their membership to include Presentation People beyond vowed religious and to look to a future gathering that would allow them to continue to explore and visualize an emerging future as Presentation People in the world. While no definitive plans were put to paper, an illustration of a sprouting seed being nurtured and blossoming into a tree encompassed the week and many are looking forward to what may come from the gathering with the support of the Conference of Presentation Sisters.

As Sister Joyce reminded participants, Thomas Merton’s words should reassure those looking to the emerging future. Merton states, “You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”

Our Presentation connection is worldwide and encompasses nearly 2,000 sisters and a growing family of Presentation People.

Written by Lisa Olson
Coordinator of the Conference of Presentation Sisters
Sister Janice was born in Dell Rapids, S.D., and began her faith journey at St. Mary’s High School. She received her associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in education and shared her love of learning by enriching the lives of hundreds of elementary students in schools in Aberdeen and Mitchell, S.D. She went on to earn a master’s and doctorate in pastoral ministry. For 14 years, she served as a pastoral minister in the Chicago area where she accompanied parishioners on their faith journey, privileged to walk with them in times of both joy and sorrow.

In 1992, she started the Sisters’ Development Ministry, sharing the Presentation mission and charism with all she met and inviting partners to share in this mission. This joyful spirit continues as she is currently the President of her Congregation. In her spare time, she enjoys being in nature, gardening and reading.

We honor these Presentation Sisters for their combined 440 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.
Sister Francene (Ruth Ann) was born in Aberdeen, S.D. She received her bachelor’s and master’s in psychology, and doctorate in higher education. Sister Francene shared her love of learning by teaching in South Dakota and Montana high schools before teaching at Presentation College. She later conducted drug education workshops in a ten-state area for the University of Minnesota and taught at Sioux Falls College (University of Sioux Falls).

After serving as vice president of the congregation (1978-1982), Sister Francene opened her heart, walking alongside and assisting Vietnamese refugees beginning life in the United States. She was later a hospital chaplain before returning to education ministry at Minnesota West Community College. In 1992 she spent one semester teaching psychology in Japan, also studying Japanese history and culture. It was there she experienced, “in a minor way the challenges that newcomers to my culture undergo.” Currently Sister Francene lives at Presentation Convent where she serves on the Sisters’ Leadership Council and relaxes doing needlepoint and puzzles.

Sister Catherine (Mary Perpetua) was born in Dell Rapids, S.D., and graduated from St. Mary’s High School. She received a bachelor’s in education and a master’s in education and administration. For many years she dedicated herself to teaching and administration in schools in Minnesota and South Dakota, priding herself in knowing all of the students by name.

In the late 1970s, she moved into parish ministry until 1997. Sister Catherine’s caring and ambitious spirit then led her to hospital ministry where she served as director of mission services, director of chaplaincy and as a member of the administration team. She was then elected to the Sisters’ Leadership Council, where she served from 2002-2006. Sister Catherine currently lives in Aberdeen where she continues her love of reading and now devotes herself to full-time prayer ministry at the convent.
Sister Margaret Anne (Mary Carel) was born in Artesian, S.D. She graduated from Colman High School and went on to earn an associate’s in elementary education and a bachelor’s in secondary education. She continued her education and later received a master’s in natural science. Sister Margaret Anne shared her love for children by teaching for 25 years in elementary and secondary schools throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. She served as a nurse’s aide prior to beginning ministry in pastoral care, in which she served for 24 years. Retiring from active ministry in 1995, she worked for several years as a volunteer, assisting many with her gracious spirit at both Avera Mother Joseph Manor and at Presentation Convent. She also assisted, and then coordinated, the Sister’s prayer line ministry. Sister Margaret Anne is active in full-time prayer ministry at Avera Mother Joseph Manor and enjoys visiting with family and friends.

Sister Gayle (Mary Laura Ann) was born in Sioux Falls, S.D. She attended Notre Dame Academy in Mitchell. Sister Gayle graduated from Presentation College and received her bachelor’s in education and special education. She went on to receive a master’s in pastoral education. She loves to give of herself and help others. She served in education ministry for 26 years, teaching in Mound and Anoka, Minn.; Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Milbank, S.D.; and Miles City, Mont.

Over the next 30 years she served in religious education, home health ministry and pastoral care in cities throughout South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Ministering with both elderly and special needs individuals, Sister Gayle opened her heart and shared her compassionate spirit, showing hospitality and dignity to individuals in all of her ministries. Since retiring, Sister Gayle spends her time in full-time prayer ministry at Presentation Convent in Aberdeen and enjoys a spirited game of bingo.
Sister Elizabeth Remily

Sister Elizabeth (Mary Lawrence) grew up in Turton, S.D. After receiving nurse’s training, she became a surgical supervisor at St. Joseph’s Hospital and (Avera) St. Luke’s Hospital. In the mid-1960s, she answered Vatican Council II’s call to minister to those in need in foreign countries. She traveled to Altamirano, Chiapas, Mexico, and founded Hospital San Carlos. She then established another hospital, Hospital San Antonio, in San Antonio, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Sister Elizabeth returned to the United States in 1992 and was instrumental in founding Berakhah House, a ministry to those with HIV/AIDS. At age 70, she established two additional medical missions in Guatemala, first in Santa Clara La Laguna and then in the Municipal of Conception Tutuapa.

All of these medical missions, now overseen by local, indigenous religious communities, are still operating. In January 2015, Sister Elizabeth returned to the United States and currently resides in Sioux Falls, S.D. where she enjoys cooking and reading.

Sister Virginia Hallauer

Sister Virginia (Mary Lucille) was born in Wallace, S.D., and graduated from Watertown High School. She received an associate’s and bachelor’s degree in education. Sister Virginia loved teaching, especially reading, and dedicated over 50 years to educating children in Jefferson, Bridgewater, Dell Rapids, Mitchell, Madison, Aberdeen and Watertown, S.D.; and Willmar, Minn. She touched the lives of thousands of students in both the classroom and CCD and enjoyed reconnecting with them when they would stop in to say hello, even many years later. In 1991, she began a ministry to the homebound at Immaculate Conception Parish in Watertown. By sharing stories, smiles, laughter and tears, Sister Virginia brought the love of Christ into the homes of those she would visit.

In 2006, she retired from her ministry work and returned to Presentation Convent in Aberdeen where she is active in the congregation’s prayer ministry. She enjoys puzzles and a great game of cards.
In 1980, after hearing of a deepened desire for prayer experiences, retreats, workshops and other support groups, we began the cojourner program. This partnership program provides an opportunity for women and men to participate in prayer and service with the Presentation Sisters while continuing to live out their individual life plans. Cojourners and Presentation Sisters experience mutual enrichment as they share their gifts and talents with one another. The program has grown over the years and we currently have cojourners in 20 cities across the country. The depth of engagement varies from city to city and partner to partner, but the goals are the same. We want to join together to bring God’s love to the world.

Partnerships are vital to the growth and life of all we do. We are very blessed with amazing community connections, near and far, to help us spread the mission and charism of Nano Nagle, our foundress. As our future and its emerging needs evolve, we look for opportunities to strengthen our partnerships with Presentation People as we walk this path together.

If you are interested in learning more about the cojourner program, volunteer opportunities or ways to deepen your engagement as a Presentation Person, please contact Jen to discover upcoming opportunities. She may be reached at 605.271.0468 or jrothenbuehler@presentationsisters.org.

Cojourners in Sioux Falls, S.D., joined together as they purchased this picnic table for our friends at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

As we work to identify the needs of the future for religious life and expanding the reach of Presentation People we are encouraged by our consultant, Sister Carol Zinn. She is leading us through the planning and discernment process on what the future can look like. As we learn and grow into this process we will continue to share updates.
As we say farewell to our dear Sisters, we remember them with joy. While their time with us seems all too brief, each followed the path God laid for her, and God has taken her hand to lead her home. We lift up our hearts for they received faith’s reward, the fullness of life with God.

In Loving Memory

**Sister Brigid Carey**
Born to Life 5/22/1931 - Born to Eternal Life 7/6/2017

Sister Brigid (Sarah Lee) lovingly served for over 30 years in education ministry and continued sharing her joy and compassion another 25 years as a hospital chaplain in Oregon. She always felt called to religious life and said, “God made me a good offer when I chose to become a sister. He said, ‘I’ll do the judging Brigid; all you have to do is love people.’” She lived her life to the fullest and enjoyed many things including her friendships, cooking and entertaining, dancing, hiking, fishing, swimming, “beach bumming” and caring for others as Nano did.

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**Sister Ann Foley**
Born to Life 3/11/1929 - Born to Eternal Life 4/7/2017

Sister Ann (Mary Agnes) joyfully served in healthcare ministry for over 50 years in South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana. Towards the end of her career she especially enjoyed working with Alzheimer patients. When asked what her favorite part of her vocation was, she responded with a wonderful smile, “I loved it all, all the way through!” When she moved back to Presentation Convent for retirement, she served in prayer ministry and shared her gentle smile with everyone who crossed her path. In her additional time, she enjoyed doing crafts, baking, puzzles, reading and traveling.
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Upcoming Events:

**September 23**
Women on the Prairie Conference  
Presentation Convent • Aberdeen, S.D.

**September 24-30**
IPA Assembly  
Sydney, Australia

**Month of October**
Lakota Emergence Exhibit  
Presentation Convent • Aberdeen, S.D.

**October 21**
Pax Christi Conference  
County Fair Banquet Hall • Watertown, S.D.

**November 9**
Host of Business After Hours  
Presentation Convent • Aberdeen, S.D.

**November 21**
Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Worldwide Celebration of the 1775 Congregation's Foundation

“Our feet know the way ... our hearts carry the light.”

This September, Presentation Sisters from all over the globe will be gathering in Sydney, Australia, for the 7th International Presentation Assembly of the International Presentation Association. Please join us in prayer as our hearts carry the light of Nano’s charism, which guides us as we approach a new journey together that brings us into an emerging future.

Connect with us on Facebook /Presentation.Sisters.Aberdeen or visit us at www.presentationsisters.org

“We willingly go forth to any part of the world to work for justice, alleviate oppression and promote human dignity.”