



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*In Joyful Service*

# Voices & **Ventures**

SPRING 2019



We stand grounded in the Gospel as  
we envision the emerging future  
**Going One Pace Beyond**

## Dear Friends,

As we begin 2019, we are excited about where the Spirit is leading us. This is a time of openness to hear the inspiration of the Spirit, to follow Nano's example and carry on her legacy. Nano, nor our early Sisters, shied away from change, nor did they look the other way when they saw the injustices of their day. Instead, with the help of others around them, they worked to change the unjust systems.

Throughout this issue of Voices & Ventures, we highlight ways that we are collaborating with others to continue the Presentation Mission into an emerging future.

In Zambia, Africa, we continue our partnership with other Presentation Congregations as we work side by side with the local people providing educational opportunities and developing sustainability projects that will provide an income, so they may feed their families and send their children to school.

Our International Presentation Association recently hired Sister Ann Marie Quinn as the new executive director. We look forward to working with her in fostering unity among our various congregations of Presentation Sisters around the world for the sake of Mission. We have included a message from her.

On a local level this past year, we welcomed April Ross as our new director at Caminando Juntos. We believe her leadership and guidance will continue to grow this ministry as we welcome the Latino immigrants to our community.

Our Sisters are also emerging into a new future. As you will read on pages 6-8, we have made the decision to build two new residences for our congregation. We are hopeful that these new residences will strengthen our community and that our connections with Presentation People will grow our capacity for Mission.

The Mission of Nano lives on today. By joining together, we are strengthened by our communal work as we strive for justice and speak out for those without a voice. Join us as we continue to pray and listen to where the Spirit is leading us. We invite you to continue on this journey with us to further strengthen this Mission into the future.

**In peace and mercy,**

**Sisters Janice, Vicky, Mary, and Lucille**

Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



Our Presentation Mission joyfully incarnates the compassion and justice of Jesus, as Nano did, so that our neighbors locally and globally might live with hope.

Cover photo and photo on page 6, courtesy of: **Whispering Peaks Photography**, [www.whisperingpeaks.com](http://www.whisperingpeaks.com)



# Throughout the Year

*we nurture our flame so we may serve one another*

Sisters and employees shared their gift of music by singing carols throughout the convent.



The annual Warm a Neighbor project invited the Sioux Falls community to join our Mission by donating winter items for the newly arrived immigrants to the area.



Sisters and partners continue to lobby in the SD legislature in support of more just policies for the common good.



The first Sioux Falls area Prayer Bus Tour of 2019 shared the culture of India with participants.



Sisters shared their vocation story by visiting with students at area schools during National Catholic Schools Week.

# Kaoma Partnership



Aberdeen Presentation Sisters, Sister Janice Klein, third from left, and Sister Virginia McCall, second from right, met with the newly elected members of the Presentation Sisters African Unit this past December. The two groups of Sisters enhanced and deepened their partnership as they continue to work together on sustainability projects in Zambia.

It was 2008 when Sister Virginia McCall began her mission work in Kaoma, Zambia. There were many ministries to assist with and Sister Virginia began by working with Home Based Care, an organization providing physical, spiritual and medical assistance to people with chronic and terminal illnesses. Most of the clients were HIV positive or suffering from AIDS. This work involved visiting people in their homes.

As Sister Virginia listened to people, one overwhelming need became clear: sustainability. She felt called to assist people living in poverty to become self-sustaining, have enough food for their families and send their children to school. She also knew that education would be a foundational element in providing long-term sustainability amongst the people living in Kaoma. So, with the help of many partners, and working with a board of local people, projects were developed with the goal of sustainability in mind.



This three classroom block out in a bush village was constructed with funds from Patricia Naylor, sister of Father Thomas J. Ryan. Sister Virginia McCall, far left, and Sister Inez Fernandez, far right, are amongst teachers and PTA members.

One of the first sustainability projects was to sponsor six women at the local trade school to learn tailoring skills. With these newly learned skills, some women were able to open their own business. When the Sisters opened a tailoring business, some of these women were employed.

A second project provided skills for better farming methods, which necessitated the purchase of land. With the assistance of partners, land was acquired and the Sisters began Nano Farm. This farm is a



model farm for raising vegetables, chickens, cows and fish. People come to learn about the use of compost, biogas and the fish hatchery.

Some partners have contributed specifically for the care of the elderly and for education. With this assistance, food and supplies have been provided for those most in need. Working to eradicate poverty through education, classrooms have been built in bush villages and school fees have been paid for hundreds of children to attend primary school, high school and college.

Another sustainability project has been the Redmond Loan Fund. Started in 2008, this donor-based fund has provided funding for over 2,000 women to establish or enhance small businesses. Women are required to attend classes on compost making and business marketing/management. Support and assistance are offered during follow-up visits with the women. This past year Dr. Redmond and some of his family traveled to Kaoma. It was there they were able to see first-hand the impact their partnership has made in providing sustainability to the people living in these impoverished areas.

Over the years, the administration of these sustainability projects led Sister Virginia to leave her position at Home Based Care. In 2010, Sister Inez Fernandez, a Presentation Sister from India, joined her in Kaoma. Together, with the partnership of so

many throughout the world, these Sisters continue to provide hope and assist the local people in their daily lives.

One of the core values of the Presentation Congregation in Aberdeen is to “do nothing alone.” This means that whatever the Presentation Sisters develop, it will be done in partnership with others. Therefore, in December 2018, Sister Virginia and Congregational President Sister Janice Klein, met with the newly elected

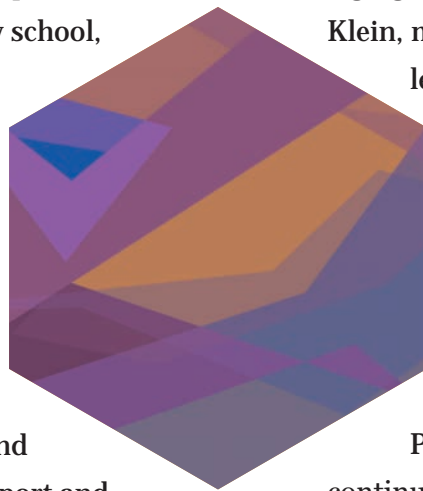
leadership of the Presentation

Sisters African Unit, which includes Sisters in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As a result of this meeting, a commitment was made to the Sisters in the African Unit to work together as partners. The

Presentation Sisters in Aberdeen will continue to provide financial support for projects in Kaoma and the African leadership will carry on the daily responsibility to assist people in becoming self-sustaining. Sister Virginia and a committee in Aberdeen will provide financial oversight and guidance with the work being done. With technology available, this can easily be done between the two continents.

“It is most important to us to do nothing alone. Whatever we do, will be done in partnership with others,” shares Sister Virginia. ●





# The Emerging Future

**We call ourselves to bold actions to en flesh *The Emerging Vision for the Future of the Mission and Charism.* (Chapter Call 2018)**

## We call ourselves to bold actions!

It seems that we are still discerning God's call for this emerging vision. This is a time of openness to hear the inspiration of the Spirit, to follow in Nano's footsteps and carry on her legacy of bringing hope to all.

The Holy Spirit called us at Chapter to write an *Emerging Vision* for the future of our Mission and Charism. As the Chapter document asserts, this Charism and Mission is a manifestation across 300 years of the Spirit's love expressed in the life of Nano Nagle and the multitudes who carry on her legacy of serving the poor. The faithfulness of God to continue to inspire generation after generation of people to incarnate the compassion and justice of Jesus, like Nano, ignites hope in us that this charism will continue in abundance.

"My journey as a Sister has been one of inter-congregational and inter-vocational collaboration and I believe this reality will continue for future generations of Presentation Sisters. As I entered the community, I connected with Sisters in other congregations to have novitiate classes. I continue to be inspired by the zeal of Nano living in our expanded family circle of Presentation People today. This is an amazing time for new people to join the ever-widening Presentation Family circle. It is a creative time in the history of religious communities around the world as we are being transformed to be God's instruments in a new way to meet the needs of this time."

– Sister Vicky Larson,  
Councilor for the Congregation

Our awareness of the Holy Spirit's call to collaborate and "do nothing alone" means that our Mission response will continue to grow and expand into the future. We continue to broaden the circle of our Presentation Family so that Sisters, Cojourners, Employees, and other Partners in Mission will respond together to the needs of the time. One Presentation Person alone can do very little, but when we all bring our small gifts together, God weaves the communal effort into a mighty work.

## Presentation Sisters to build new residences

Throughout the years, the Sisters have engaged in planning for the future. Nano's first efforts were to establish schools and attend to the needs of the poor. She then turned her attention toward the needs of her newly established community. She wrote to Teresa Mulally in a letter dated August 21, 1777,

"I am building a house, and when it will be fit to inhabit, I believe [new members] will join. We have been under many disagreeable circumstances since we began, too tedious to mention. Yet with the divine assistance I think I have reason to imagine, in a few years when we are fixed, it will succeed very well." (*page 32 of The Collected Letters of Nano Nagle*). We too, are hopeful that our new residences will strengthen our community for our Mission and that our connections with Presentation People will grow our capacity for Mission.

In the early 1950s, our Sisters were planning as they worked with architects to build our current Motherhouse in Aberdeen. As with any project, they were excited, anxious and a bit nervous that all would go as planned. In a letter to the Congregation from Mother Viator, she writes, "You will all be happy to know that the plans for the new Motherhouse and the college (*story continues*)

### Excerpts from The Emerging Vision for the Future of the Mission and Charism document:

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We are captivated by Nano Nagle's charism, spirit and zeal for mission. We share these mystical gifts with the Presentation Family, locally and globally.

Her passionate zeal and love of Christ expressed itself in her words and actions: "If I could be of service in any part of the world, I would willingly do all in my

power." Jesus' own passion was evident in sending out his disciples: "Go out to the whole world and share the Good News" that God lives among us.

Nano's zeal expressed itself in tender compassion and undeterred courage, standing against the injustices of her time to those she saw as oppressed, marginalized or excluded from fullness of life. Her daughters followed in her footsteps and beyond. Our own history reveals a pioneering spirit of courage, vision and creativity flowing from this same Spirit.

*(continued)* and high school are in the first stages of being drawn. If labor and financial conditions permit, it is hoped that work will start on the buildings in the spring of 1951. All this will require much prayer and sacrifice on our part, but we are all so anxious to see this dream fulfilled, that I know you will give your whole-hearted support, spiritually and temporally to it.”

Today, these same feelings grace our Sisters as we prepare to build new residences. These new residences will offer us an opportunity to draw together as a community of apostolic women religious who are called to prayer and service.

“In partnership, we always seek to connect with others who can work with us in furthering the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” Sister Janice Klein said.



“For that reason, we will join with Avera in developing these residences.” The Presentation Sisters are co-sponsors of Avera Health along with the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton.

In Aberdeen, Presentation Place will be constructed adjacent to Avera Mother Joseph Retirement Community in a separate building that is linked. In Sioux Falls, Presentation Center will be constructed south of the Walsh Family Village near the Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center campus. Both residences will include a group dining space, sacred space, and leadership space for offices, meetings and retreats. Construction is planned to begin in the summer of 2019 and will take approximately 10 to 12 months. ◆



The service and justice work of one person may seem like a tiny drop of water in the ocean, but when we see the efforts of thousands of Presentation People around the world who are also living in Nano’s legacy, we have a powerful impact!

For updates on the new residences and ways to stay connected with the Presentation Family, please visit our website: [www.presentationisters.org](http://www.presentationisters.org).



# Meet Sister Ann Marie Quinn

IPA Executive Director



**Editor's note:** The International Presentation Association is a network of the various congregations of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary around the world, formed to foster unity and to enable collaboration for the sake of Mission. Our Mission is to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation. (2017 IPA Assembly)



uring the 2017 International Presentation Association (IPA) Assembly, a revitalized organizational structure emerged. As part of this reorganization, Presentation Sister Ann Marie Quinn was hired as executive director for IPA. In this role, Sister Ann Marie will give IPA dedicated operational leadership with a focus on strategy. She began her initial two-year appointment to this role in September 2018.

Sister Ann Marie, a member of the Union of Presentation Sisters North East Province in Ireland, brings a wealth of experience to this position. She has been a teacher, school principal, community development worker, program leader for learning innovation and a member of her province leadership team. Prior to her appointment she was serving as director of the North East Province Way of Life Office.

Sister Ann Marie shares, “It seems to me that the time is now for expanding influence and reach of IPA’s Mission, recognizing that people still suffer and cry out for justice. Nano gave us the passion and calls us all to continue to respond to and address the root causes of worldwide poverty and injustice through our presence in 24 countries as we work across cultures in an inclusive, diplomatic and effective manner.

**“Nano gave us the passion and calls us all to continue to respond to and address the root causes of worldwide poverty and injustice through our presence in 24 countries as we work across cultures.” — Sister Ann Marie**

The challenge is too big to accept alone, thus we are called to network amongst ourselves and with others.”

Sister Ann Marie has set up an IPA office at Mission House in Dublin, Ireland. She has also added a part-time office administrator, Imelda O’Hara, and has begun to open conversations with Presentation People around the world to further develop this new structure for IPA. She collaborates with a board of directors that includes representatives from each of the three units of IPA: the Conference of Presentation Sisters (Sister Joy Peterson from Dubuque, Iowa), the Society of Presentation Sisters (Sister Gabrielle Morgan from Australia), the Union of Presentation Sisters (Sister Sharon Fagan from Newfoundland). ◆

To learn more about IPA, please visit [internationalpresentationassociation.org](http://internationalpresentationassociation.org)



# Meet April Ross

## Caminando Juntos Director



It was a ***GODcidence***. That is how the Sisters at Caminando Juntos described April when they first met with her. This past summer, many sisters and partners went on a pilgrimage to Ireland, and while at Nano's grave, prayed about the emerging future for Caminando Juntos. During this trip, a letter and resume was received at the office from April. She was unaware of the current needs of the ministry, but was feeling called to non-profit work and wanting to utilize her Spanish skills.

At the time, founding member Sister Sheila Schnell, was planning for retirement. The ministry was in need of someone who could fill her role as Director and also help manage and teach ESL classes.

April had previously taught high school Spanish for 15 years and has her master's degree in Latin American Studies. She was introduced to Caminando Juntos through her teaching role. She often coordinated a group from Spanish class to volunteer at the annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.

With only six months into the position as Director and the start of the new year, April and the team have been busy developing short and long-term goals that will help better address the needs they are seeing. They hope to continue to find ways to respond to the newly arrived Latino immigrants that will improve the quality of life and sense of well-

**"One thing that has really surprised me in my work at Caminando Juntos is the influx of families with children who have been detained at the border. In the past few months, we have worked with 9-10 different families who came seeking our assistance in being reunited with their children. We often don't think that the issues at the border directly impact families in South Dakota, but they do. These 'unaccompanied minor' cases are becoming more prevalent in South Dakota; families affected need help in processing the paperwork, finding a lawyer or social worker to advocate on their child's behalf, and arranging for the safe return of their children."**  
— April

being in the community. "One of our goals is to create 2-3 computer stations to be used by clients for job applications, email, and citizenship test preparation," stated April.

April is married with two children. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and reading in her spare time. She looks forward to the year ahead and meeting more of the Presentation Family and Friends.

"Being part of a faith-based ministry has taught me a great deal about service, humility, and compassion," shared April. ◆

# ***In Loving Memory***



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 them, and God has taken their hand to lead them home. We lift up our hearts for they received faith's reward, the fullness of life with God.

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## ***Sister Mary Aileen Huettl***

Born to Life 04/06/1927 - Born to Eternal Life 12/24/2018

Sister Mary Aileen entered Presentation Convent in 1948 while attending St. Luke's School of Nursing in Aberdeen, graduating in 1950. She received a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and a master's degree in Social Work from Catholic University, Washington, DC. She ministered as a geriatrics nurse, medical-surgical nurse and head medical-surgical nurse in Miles City, MT, Mitchell, SD and Sioux Falls, SD. She served as a social worker with Catholic Social Services in Sioux Falls, and a Parish Visitor at St. Joseph Cathedral. She then ministered in pastoral care in Sioux Falls, Madison and Mitchell, SD. She retired into prayer ministry at Presentation Convent in 2007. Sister Mary Aileen is fondly remembered for her warmth and sense of humor. She expressed the heart of her ministry was sharing God's presence and love with a listening heart to people in all walks of life.

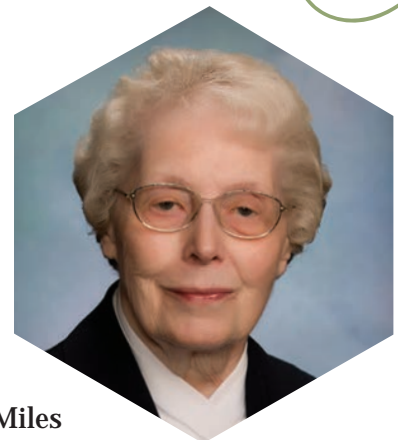


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## ***Sister Mary Denis Collins***

Born to Life 03/23/1934 - Born to Eternal Life 02/25/2019

Sister Mary Denis entered Presentation Convent in 1952. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Colorado State University. She later studied Health Care Administration at the University of Minnesota. During her ministry, she served as Business Manager, St. Luke's, Aberdeen, SD; Assistant Administrator, Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City, MT; Director of Personnel and Support Services, Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD. She also ministered at Barrett House, a shelter for homeless women and children in Albuquerque, NM. Sister Mary Denis served two separate times on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Council and also as President of the Congregation from 1982-1986. She was Vice President of Presentation Health System for ten years and served four years as a System Member for Avera Health before retiring to prayer ministry at Presentation Convent in 2010. Sister Mary Denis loved music, dancing, walks, playing dominoes and bingo.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 22**

Earth Day Fair and Celebration  
Central Park – Aberdeen, SD

**May 11**

Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta  
Falls Park – Sioux Falls, SD  
[www.cincofiesta.com](http://www.cincofiesta.com)

**June 10**

Women’s Golf Tournament  
Moccasin Creek – Aberdeen, SD

**June 24-28**

LIVE Leadership Camp  
Creighton Retreat Center – Omaha, NE

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



As we work to live our lives with Nano’s family motto, **“Not Words, but Deeds”**, we are reminded of her selfless work and want to inspire others to share their light with those they meet. With the purchase of a t-shirt, you will be helping fill the gap of basic needs to our neighbors this year. 100% of proceeds go towards our Good Samaritan Ministry for adults and children.

**T-shirts can be purchased at [www.presentationsisters.org/buy-t-shirt/](http://www.presentationsisters.org/buy-t-shirt/)**