



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*In Joyful Service*

# Voices & Ventures



SUMMER 2019

“Widen the space of your tent, stretch your tent  
curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your  
cords, strengthen your stakes.”

— Isaiah 54:2

## Dear Friends,

As Presentation Sisters, we work collaboratively to support justice issues worldwide, promote peacemaking, protect the earth's limited resources and respond to the cry of those made poor.

Throughout this issue of Voices & Ventures, we highlight ways in which our Sisters and partners have taken down their lantern and gone out to help those in need. We have raised awareness for homelessness in our area by sleeping in a car and connected with our congressional representatives in regards to increasing the peacemaking budget. We have highlighted the beautiful cultures among us by participating in multi-faith prayer vigils, world refugee day and a Cinco de Mayo celebration. We continue to support those at the border and educate others on the benefits of recycling. We welcome those who wish to partner with us as we seek to change systems and lifestyles which contribute to the extremes of wealth and poverty and degradation of creation.

We welcomed seven members to our Cojourner Program this past June. We are excited for these new lay associates to walk with us in furthering our Presentation Mission and Ministry.

You will also read stories about our Sisters who celebrated jubilees this past year. Together, these Sisters have a combined 885 years of service! These Sisters are a witness to living each day with the Gospel and our Presentation Mission at the heart of their ministry. We thank them for all they have done, and continue to do, for those on the margins of society.

Nano knew God's vision for her was more than she could accomplish alone. She needed partners—partners who would walk beside her, work with her and help her to carry out the Mission she envisioned to help those in need. We invite you to walk with us as, together, we go "One Pace Beyond."

**In peace and mercy,**

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

Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



**"Take down your lantern from its niche and go out! Go out for need calls loudly in the winding lanes and you must seek Christ there."**

*Excerpt from, "One Pace Beyond", a poetic reflection about our foundress Nano Nagle, by Sister Raphael Consedine.*

Cover Photo: We broke ground on our new residences. Story on page 6.



## Going One Pace Beyond

We strive to joyfully incarnate the compassion and justice of Jesus, as our foundress Nano did, so that our neighbors locally and globally might live with hope. We welcome the partnership of others in these efforts as we work together spreading the Gospel message through celebrations, public awareness building and hard work. Our Mission guides our ministry and underlines our spirituality. Our focus on promoting justice and alleviating oppression helps us to determine which of the many needs of God's people we might best be able to meet through our ministry efforts. This guidance is essential as we minister to those in need all over the world. 🌟



Celebrating Earth Day

We joined with other groups in the area to sponsor the Green Aberdeen Earth Day Fair in Central Park, Aberdeen, SD. The celebration included art, booths, music and speakers, which encouraged people to consume less and especially lower emissions of fossil fuels. Sister Mary Lou Geraets, a member of Green Aberdeen and tender of recycling at Presentation Convent, continues to educate others on the effective efforts of recycling and care of the earth. She shares and works to help spread the word on how we can all do a little bit to make our world a better place.



Sisters Spend a Night in a Car

Raising awareness for homelessness in the Aberdeen community, we were honored to be one of the sponsors for "A Night in a Car." Sister Myra Remily and Sister Kathleen Bierne joined over 100 people who spent the night in their vehicles. This event raised over \$17,000 and benefited Journey Home, which offers temporary emergency shelter for those in need and includes people experiencing homelessness and poverty, addiction, depression and mental illness.

## GOING ONE PACE BEYOND



Pies for Peace

We participated in a national movement, led by the Peace Alliance. Pies were baked and delivered by our sisters in honor of Mother's Day asking legislators to consider having a bigger piece of the pie (budget) go towards peace. We also asked for consideration in co-sponsoring HR 1111, calling for a cabinet-level Department of Peace whose mission will be to reduce domestic and international violence. The visits by Sister Pat Prunty (top photo) and Sister Patrick Leonard Murphy (above) were well received with conversation around working together to help create a more nonviolent world.



Salvation Army Programs for Kids

Each summer we partner with the Salvation Army as we take our turn, alongside other organizations, in providing a sack lunch for local kids. The **Feed the Kids Summer Meal Program** welcomes volunteers to prepare 250 sack lunches for low-income youth each week-day that are distributed at area parks. We were also fortunate to partner with others on a new Salvation Army program, **Send a Kid to Camp/Pack a Suitcase Drive**. The goal of the program is sending area kids to camp. A "Suitcase Drive" was held at the Convent, where members of the Aberdeen community were invited to bring a filled suitcase of camp supplies to be given to the campers.

Multi-Faith Prayer Vigils

As an extension of the Prayer Bus Tours that celebrate the diversity of religions and cultures in Sioux Falls, Multi-Faith Prayer Vigils are designed to witness unity in our diversity of faith traditions, and respond in prayer to the divisions that exist in our society. We come together and learn from one another in our faith with a commonality of prayer for peace and nonviolence in our communities. The response has been wonderful. These events are organized in partnership with many nonprofit organizations, with the goal of coordinating several throughout the year.



**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**

This wonderful cultural experience is a way to welcome the newly arrived Latino immigrants and celebrate their rich heritage with the Sioux Falls community. The fiesta helps fund and support much of the work at Caminando Juntos each year and has grown to be a premier event in the region, drawing thousands of people to Falls Park. While there are many issues that divide our country today, the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta invites people of all backgrounds to come together to celebrate the culture and traditions of the Latino people, who have deeply enhanced our community and our nation.



**Providing Support at the Border**

At the invitation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Sister Myra Remily responded to the call to assist the refugees and immigrants arriving at the El Paso border. As she worked alongside Sisters from other religious congregations, as well as many other volunteers, she witnessed the unifying empathy, compassion and support for the newly arrived families. Days were spent receiving the refugees, providing housing and furnishing meals and helping them to find clothing. The volunteers continued to work with our newly arrived sisters and brothers, reuniting them with family and friends in the United States.



**World Refugee Celebration**

In honor of World Refugee Day on June 20th, we partnered with several nonprofit organizations to help educate the community about the journey of the refugee. The event provided opportunities to be in solidarity as we welcome our new neighbors. Participants were invited to walk through a simulation of a refugee's typical journey. Attendees were surprised by numerous challenges that are faced along this long and tiring journey. We are inspired and continue to celebrate this group as we lift up the diversity of their many cultures in our midst.

# Groundbreaking in Aberdeen

## New Residences



This past June, we took the next step in our building journey and celebrated as we broke ground together. Blessed with abundant sunshine on both days, we were overjoyed by the family, friends and partners who surrounded us with love. Changing health needs of the Sisters, a smaller carbon footprint and better stewardship of resources are all reasons for the new residences. Both sites will have group dining space, sacred space and leadership space for offices, meetings and retreats. We strive to do nothing alone and these projects are a testament to that value. “We always seek to connect with others who can work with us in furthering the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” shares Sister Janice Klein. “For that reason, we will work in partnership with Avera in developing these residences. Together, our Sisters are looking forward to meeting our new neighbors and what we need to be about in the future.”

To follow updates on our building process, please visit [presentationsisters.org](http://presentationsisters.org).



Render courtesy of Perspective, Inc.

### Presentation Place — Aberdeen

- 23,740 sq. ft
- 20 apartments
- 3 stories
- Adjacent to Avera Mother Joseph Manor

# Groundbreaking in Sioux Falls



Render courtesy of Perspective, Inc.

## Presentation Center — Sioux Falls

- 24,740 sq. ft
- 20 apartments
- 2 stories
- South of Walsh Family Village on the Avera McKennan Campus

## Loving and Compassionate God,

Look with favor upon us your servants at this new beginning. Please bless these projects with your guiding hand. Guide and protect the designers and workers as they use their God-given talents toward a worthy goal. We ask for your blessings upon the Sisters who will live and gather here. We pray for wisdom and direction as we continue the ministries entrusted to our Order. May these residences be sacred places of mission and joyful communion with you, one another, and all who enter. May our presence honor the legacy of Nano Nagle, as well as the legacy of the Presentation Sisters who have gone before us.

Thank you for the generous hearts of many who are supportive of our Mission and Ministry.

**In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.**

## Building Timeline

- January 2019 • Announced 2 new residences in Sioux Falls and Aberdeen
- June 2019 • Broke ground for new residences
- Summer 2019 • Discernment process for next steps with the Convent in Aberdeen
- Fall 2020 • Construction is expected to be completed





# The Cojourner Relationship



Our foundress, Nano Nagle, knew God's vision for her was more than she could accomplish alone. She needed partners—partners who would walk beside her and help her carry out the mission she envisioned to help those in need.

Our Sisters today continue to seek partners to walk beside us, to work with us and to help us carry out the mission. One of these partnerships is our Cojourner Program.

Following Vatican II, the laity were welcomed to have a more active role in the mission and ministry of the church and religious congregations. The Presentation Sisters then began to explore the idea of inviting lay women and men into a different relationship.

In 1980, the Chapter of Affairs affirmed the concept of 'extended membership' and then President Sister JoAnn Sturzl established a committee of Sisters to begin work on the concept. Many of today's cojourners can identify connections to these individuals as part of their decision to seek this relationship.

In 1985, the Extended Membership Committee became the Cojourner Team and the Presentation Cojourner Program invited lay people into a new relationship with our Presentation Sisters. Sister Mary Denis Collins, Congregational President at the time, introduced the concept to the diocesan priests and informed them that one of the main goals was to provide both the congregation and the lay members an opportunity to be in great contact and share the

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ministry in a special way. **She went on to say “we believe strongly that the Holy Spirit calls the laity just as we are called to a deeper living of the Christian life”.** Those principles remain the foundation of the cojourner relationship today.

Our cojourners minister in a variety of ways, as teachers, healthcare professionals, office workers, homemakers, business owners and many more. What is the same, is the desire to live out the Charism of Nano in each person’s unique way. The relationship has evolved from an intensely personal connection with one or just a few sisters, into a deep commitment to the Community and to working to maintain awareness and meaning in the sisters’



Cojourner Coordinator Carrie Hansen, far left, with new cojourners.

Cojourners are baptized persons of any faith who desire to share the spirituality, values and mission of the Presentation Sisters. They are lay associates who partner with the Presentation Sisters while they continue their own vocation and career.


broader Charism and Mission. It is vital for new cojourners to share the history of Nano and our sisters with others, and continue to further that Charism and Mission as the sisters have done in the past.

In June 2019, seven new cojourners were welcomed during Community Days. These individuals have committed to walking with the Sisters and furthering their Mission and Ministry. In addition, they are dedicated to developing a deeper relationship with God, living the mission of Jesus, being encouraged and supported in their own spiritual growth and extending the Presentation spirit, charism, hospitality and service to others.



Cojourner Brenda Fouts and Sister JoAnn Struzl

Our Cojourner Program has grown and flourished under the direction of many visionary leaders. Today, the Presentation Cojourner relationship includes 60 members joined in prayer, mission and ministry with the Presentation Sisters.

For more information about the Cojourner relationship or becoming a Cojourner, contact Carrie Hansen, Cojourner Coordinator, at [cojourner@presentationsisters.org](mailto:cojourner@presentationsisters.org). 



# Jubilee!



We honor these Presentation Sisters for their combined 885 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*



75<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE

## Sister Mary Pius Gutoski

Sister Mary Pius Gutoski was born and raised in Chicago, Ill. She received a bachelor's in education from Northern State Teacher's College (University), Aberdeen, S.D., and a master's in education from the University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, Ill.

For 20 years, Sister Mary Pius taught in Presentation Schools throughout the region. She shared her love of learning by serving as a primary school teacher in Milbank, Dell Rapids, Sioux Falls, Madison, Mitchell and Aberdeen, S.D., and Anoka, Minn. She continued to encourage and inspire students in inner city public schools in Flint, Mich., for an additional 22 years.

After 42 years in education ministry, she returned to school and received training and certification in therapeutic massage in Lapur, Mich. She served as a massage therapist in Flint, Mich., for 12 years, where she shared, "I asked the Lord to work through me. When I work, I pray," she said. "A massage helps people heal physically, mentally. If you feel better physically, you feel better mentally and spiritually."

Now retired, Sister Mary Pius is active in prayer ministry in Linden, Mich., and enjoys spending time and visiting with friends.



**70<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Suzanne Cotter

Sister Suzanne Cotter was born and raised in Dell Rapids, S.D. She went on to earn a bachelor's in English from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., and a master's in English from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

Sister Suzanne shared her enthusiasm, smile and zest for life with students in South Dakota Catholic schools for over 45 years. Mostly teaching in junior and senior high classrooms, she spent her last 40 years of teaching at O'Gorman High School, Sioux Falls, S.D.

She helped establish Marian House in Sioux Falls, which was a vocation, formation and hospitality house that hosted many different retreats, book clubs and small mission groups. She also ministered in mission effectiveness for (Avera) Presentation Health System and as a pastoral and education associate in Sioux Falls for 10 years, as well as serving on a number of boards and committees.

Sister Suzanne currently resides in Sioux Falls and is active in prayer ministry. She remains a faithful supporter of all O'Gorman activities, and as an avid sports fan, she continues to proudly support the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish!



**70<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Mary Jane Gaspar

Sister Mary Jane (Cecilia) Gaspar was born in Orient, S.D., and graduated from Fairview High School, Polo, S.D. She received an associate teaching degree from Presentation Junior College, Aberdeen, S.D., before earning a bachelor's in education from Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, S.D.; a master's in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.; and a master's in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb.

Sister Mary Jane's dedication to education spanned almost 40 years as she taught and served as a principal in elementary schools throughout South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska. She ministered as the Presentation Sisters formation director and was elected to serve on the leadership council for the congregation. She walked with others through her work in pastoral ministry and then as the director of religious education at Holy Spirit and Christ the King parishes, both in Sioux Falls. She continued sharing her gifts with others as the hostess at the Presentation Sisters' Marian House in Sioux Falls, as well as serving on several boards and committees.

Prior to full retirement in prayer ministry at Presentation Convent, Sister Mary Jane enjoyed walking, reading and puzzles.



**70<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## **Sister Vianney Mannie**

Sister Vianney (Aileen Loretta) Mannie was born in Edgeley, N.D., and grew up in Turton and Watertown, S.D. She received her associate's in teaching from Presentation Junior College, Aberdeen, S.D., and earned a bachelor's in education from Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, S.D.

For over 40 years, she taught in elementary schools and served in administrative positions across eastern South Dakota, in Anoka, Minn., and Miles City, Mont. Her joy of serving continued as the director of religious education at St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, S.D., and then director of the learning resource center and assessment coordinator at National American University in Sioux Falls for 20 years.

For Sister Vianney, the focus of religious life has been to develop a deep spirituality and to be of service to the Community and others. She shares, "God has truly blessed me with love and affirmation from my family, relatives, Sisters, priests, friends and former students. After all these years of ministry and prayer, I thank God for the call, the joy, the fulfillment and the grace of perseverance."

Currently, Sister Vianney lives in Sioux Falls and serves in prayer and part-time ministry.



**70<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## **Sister Michelle Meyers**

Sister Michelle (Clara) Meyers was born in Chamberlain, S.D., and raised in Montrose, S.D. She earned a bachelor's in education from Northern State University, Aberdeen, S.D.; a master's in chemistry, from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.; and a master's in theological studies from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Sister Michelle served over 60 years in education ministry in cities throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. She was the director of religious education in several Minnesota parishes and inspired and encouraged others as a retreat director and speaker. With Sister Kay O'Neil, she co-founded the New Ulm Diocesan Task Force on Women in Ministry.

She served on the congregational leadership council and published numerous articles on women's and other justice issues. Sister Michelle also received the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award from the Diocese of New Ulm, Minn. and the Outstanding Faculty Award at St. Mary's University, Minneapolis, Minn.

She continues to enhance the lives of others through spiritual direction. As a member of the Presentation Sisters Social Justice Team, she is an advocate for women through prayers and actions in social justice and peacemaking ministries.



**70<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Helen Jean Washtoak

Sister Helen Jean (Mary Carmen) Washtoak was born and raised in Henry, S.D. After high school, she studied and received an associate teaching degree from Notre Dame Junior College, Mitchell, S.D. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, S.D., and, later, a master's of theology at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn.

For over 35 years Sister Helen Jean inspired thousands of students as an elementary educator, principal and coordinator of religious education in Catholic schools and parishes throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. She recalls one year walking into her first grade classroom, "There were 50 nodding heads all looking at me. Soon another joined, making it 51!"

Switching her focus, she received her certification in pastoral care. For the next 15 years, she shared her joy and compassion with others at Avera McKennan, Avera St. Luke's and Aberdeen Living Center.

Prior to retiring in 2011, Sister Helen Jean could be found volunteering at the information desk at Avera St. Luke's Hospital and assisting various departments at Presentation Convent. Now retired, she is active in prayer ministry, enjoys reading, playing cards and dominoes.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Donna Brown

Sister Donna (Mary Blaine) Brown was born and grew up in Sioux Falls, S.D., spending her early years in show business, dancing on stage at the age of three. Prior to entering Presentation Convent, she worked in the Sioux Falls area, gaining life experiences.

Sister Donna received an associate's in general studies from Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D.; a bachelor's in recreation and leisure from Central Missouri University, Warrensburg, Mo.; and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.. She also received training in therapeutic massage at Sister Rosalind's Professional School of Massage, St. Paul, Minn.

Always willing to help and celebrate each person's individual gifts, she ministered at the Presentation Sisters' Children's Home, served as a workshop and retreat presenter, was the administrator and mission coordinator at (Avera) Mother Joseph Manor and went on to serve as development director at Presentation College. Her path then led her to therapeutic massage and pastoral counseling.

Currently retired in Sioux Falls, Sister Donna's love of life is evident and she continues to share her compassionate heart, joyful smile and loving spirit through music, singing and dancing.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Elaine Garry

Sister Elaine (Kathleen) Garry was born and raised in Salem, S.D. She received an associate's in education from Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D., and a bachelor's in elementary education from Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, S.D. She went on to receive a master's in theology from St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn.; a master's in elementary administration from Northern State College and a master's in religious education from Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.. She also completed preparation for becoming a spiritual director and certification in human development.

From beginning her educational opportunities at Presentation College to teaching in elementary schools throughout the region and then completing/ending her teaching ministry at Presentation College, Sister Elaine's love of education spanned almost five decades. Throughout this time, she inspired and motivated thousands of students, and is still in touch with some today.

With compassion and grace, her ministry led her to listen and walk with others through her gift of spiritual direction and she is currently the pastoral associate at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish in Brookings, S.D.

In her spare time, Sister Elaine takes piano lessons, and enjoys writing letters and sending birthday cards.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Mary Lou Geraets

Sister Mary Lou (Cajetan) Geraets grew up in rural Dell Rapids, S.D. She attended Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, S.D, receiving a bachelor's in education. She shared her love of learning with elementary students in schools throughout South Dakota and Minnesota for almost 25 years.

After serving in the Student Services Center at Presentation College, Sister Mary Lou journeyed with others as she began her spiritual care ministry in long-term care facilities in South Dakota and North Dakota, sharing life with each unique person. After returning to Aberdeen, she also worked with the Foster Grandparent Program at CC Lee Elementary School.

Sister Mary Lou, a member of Green Aberdeen, continues to educate others on effective efforts of recycling and care of the earth. Growing in our relationship with Creator and Earth, our common home, she shares and works to help spread the word on how we can all do a little bit to make our world a better place for all.

Along with reading and playing piano, Sister Mary Lou is a cantor and song leader for liturgies, a companion with senior sisters and tender of recycling at Presentation Convent.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Darlene Gutenkauf

Sister Darlene (Camille) Gutenkauf was born in Faulkton, S.D. Raised in this rural area, she attended summer catechism taught by Sisters and witnessed the love and grace they had for all.

After graduating from Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D., Sister Darlene received a bachelor's in education from South Dakota State University, Brookings and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University, Chicago, Ill. She completed post-graduate courses in theology and trained to become a spiritual director.

For 18 years she shared her love of learning in schools throughout South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. She was the vocation director and later spent many years in pastoral ministry. She worked collaboratively with pastoral teams in rural parishes in South Dakota and Minnesota. She helped develop, implement and facilitate intergenerational faith formation programs to foster parish leadership, preparing people for ministry in their parish. She later became the director of the Cojourner program for lay associates.

Retired in Aberdeen, she is a member of a local Parkinson's support group, Convent Liturgy Committee, cantor at Mass and she strives to be a joyful witness, faithful in prayer and service.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Joyce Meyer

Sister Joyce (Marie Celine) Meyer was born in Morris, Minn. Raised in Willmar, Minn., she went on to receive a bachelor's in English, philosophy and education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc., and a master's in spiritual theology from Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.. She also earned an advanced clinical pastoral education certificate.

She began her ministry as an educator in schools throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. She then served as the congregational formation director and novice director. She went on to work as a spiritual director in California before serving as lecturer, dean of students and spiritual director in Zambia, Africa.

Sister Joyce was elected to congregational leadership, serving four years as a councilor, followed by eight years as the congregational president.

Currently she serves on the International Ministry Board of the Religious of the Good Shepherd, the Conrad N Hilton Foundation board and is the international liaison/writer for Global Sisters Report. She feels very blessed in her ministry work, connecting with and enhancing the lives of women religious in 57 countries around our world.

A voracious reader of any subject, Sister Joyce also enjoys cooking, baking and yoga.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## **Sister Kay O'Neil**

Sister Kay (Mary Teresa) O'Neil was born and raised in Clark, S.D. She received an associate's in secretarial science, Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D., and bachelor's in business administration, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc. She received a master's in library science, Dominican University, River Forest, Ill.; a master's in counseling psychology, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; and a master's of theological studies, Boston College of Theology and Ministry, Boston, Mass.

Throughout her vowed religious life, Sister Kay served as an educator, speaker, counselor, campus minister, retreat director and witness of the Gospel. She published numerous articles on women's and other justice issues, including communication, self-esteem, peacemaking, women studies and spirituality.

She received the Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (Diocese of New Ulm, Minn.), Outstanding Faculty Award (St. Mary's University, Minneapolis, Minn.), was a Bush Leadership Finalist and a founding member, and current chair, of the Presentation Sisters Social Justice Team.

Sister Kay continues to enlighten and enhance the lives of others through her work as a counselor and spiritual director.



**60<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## **Sister Pat Prunty**

Sister Pat Prunty grew up in Andover, S.D. She attended and graduated from Northern State University with bachelor's in elementary and secondary education, and taught for 15 years in Sioux Falls, Humboldt and Dell Rapids, S.D., as well as Miles City, Mont., before earning a master's in religious studies from Seattle University, Seattle, Wash.

Serving in the ministries of chaplaincy, education and parish ministry, Sister Pat has experienced the rich and diverse cultures in our world. For twelve years, she ministered with the Lakota people on our reservations. She went on to complete a hospital chaplaincy internship at the Mayo Clinic and then spent 23 years in chaplaincy at Avera St. Luke's, Aberdeen, S.D. She has been an observer at the United Nations, shared her compassion with others by ministering in El Salvador and worked with the Red Cross in Texas after Hurricane Rita.

Retired at Presentation Convent, Sister Pat continues to serve on various committees and boards, works with the Presentation Sister's Justice Commission and advocates for justice. She also enjoys cooking, reading a good book and listening to National Public Radio.





**40<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**

## Sister Mary Thomas

Sister Mary Thomas was born and raised in Bowdle, S.D. She received her associate's in social work from Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D., as well as a bachelor's in theology and sociology and master's in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb. She did additional studies at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minn., receiving a master's in organizational leadership.

During her 40 years of service to those in need, Sister Mary ministered at St. Joseph Church, Mobridge, S.D.; Presentation College, Aberdeen, S.D.; as a campus minister at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., and served as the Presentation Sisters vocation director.

Sister Mary has also been an active member of various committees and directed many successful retreats and outreach projects. She was instrumental in beginning the Presentation Sisters Leadership Camp for Junior High Girls.

Since 2006, Sister Mary has been the senior vice president of mission services at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, S.D. She served as a council member on the congregational leadership team and was recently elected to serve as vice president.

In her spare time, Sister Mary enjoys being outdoors, doing puzzles, reading and spending time with family and friends.

## Nano's Daughter's

They were women of listening hearts.  
To them the Spirit spoke: "Come."  
So they rose up to follow.  
She led them out of their quiet valley,  
over the rim of the world,  
where summer came in wintertime  
and the very stars hung strange.

Listening, they could not cease from journeying.  
Always a little further, always one pace beyond,  
they set their course with life for their lode-star,  
faith and love and laughter brimming over  
and hope in their firm hands, like seed,  
till the seed they planted became a great tree,  
and many there were grew strong in its shade.

We stand where they once stood,  
listening ... hearing in our own world,  
newborn this day  
life's insistent cry, the Spirit's voice.  
Let us rise up and follow,  
for though the Cross hang in our stars,  
resurrection shouts in the sunrise,  
and the tree of a hundred rings, deep-thrusting  
out of warm darkness lifts to the light  
branches vibrant with song.

*From Sacred Space*

**By Raphael Consedine, PBVM**

# LIVE Camp

*LIVE Camp celebrated its 13th year just outside of Omaha, NE, helping young Latina girls (junior high age) embrace their heritage, build confidence, gain leadership skills and grow in their faith. This past year a new board was developed for the camp and we are thrilled that Jackie Chavez has said yes to leading this group.*

Reflection by Jackie Chavez

The journey I've taken from camper, counselor, co-founder, co-director and now president of the LIVE Camp Board is an amazing one to say the least. I have camp in my blood. Since the first day I attended the camp 18 years ago in the Black Hills of South Dakota, I knew this was something way bigger than myself. I could not have seen it progressing to where we are now, but Sister Jan Mengershauser had a vision and it wasn't until now that I see it and can help complete this vision. I was too young to understand the intricacy of His plan but all the pieces were there and I've come to realize all of those people who were put in my path were a gift from God. It is humbling to know how many people have been touched by this camp because of the Presentation



DeAna Perea-Lara and Itzeni Nayeli Lopez, LIVE Camp co-directors, Sister Jan Mengershauser, founding Sister of LIVE Camp, and Jackie Chavez, LIVE Camp Board President

Sisters and because I said 'yes' to opening my heart and mind to an opportunity and a need within our community.

I said 'yes' because I have felt His presence there in the middle of vespers, on the long walks to and from the cabins, in the praises and songs we sing and more specifically in the hearts of these girls who have tears in their eyes when they leave this camp. We have changed hearts and minds, we have created a family of Latinas who have the opportunity to create a real relationship with God and be with other strong women who have chosen to be leaders and LIVE in HOPE, LOVE and FAITH. ◆



LIVE Camp Board

"My vision from the beginning was to help junior high girls get acquainted, build friendships, become leaders and grow in their faith. The LIVE Leadership Camp has provided an opportunity for Latina youth to discover they have a voice, to continue friendships with those they meet from camp and appreciate that they have leadership qualities they can share at home, school and beyond!"

— Sister Jan Mengershauser, founding sister for LIVE Camp



# Conference of Presentation Sisters



Sisters at the convent in Aberdeen had the opportunity to experience partnership and offer hospitality when we hosted the leadership meeting for the Conference of Presentation Sisters.

Leadership representatives from the seven Presentation Congregations in North America gathered in Aberdeen in late June for their annual meeting. The focus of this time together was walking together into the future.

To begin the meeting, those gathered experienced a cosmic walk, featuring the history of the Presentation Congregation and each foundation in North America. The days also included working with the vision and mission statements and an update on the restructuring of the International Presentation Association.

A group of Presentation People is working with each mission statement to further the vision of the Conference. While the groups working with contemplative dialogue and spirituality of communion continue to explore ways to share resources and education, other groups are working on sharing resources for formation, using technology to collaborate, collaboration between leaders and other groups, and planning a gathering of

Presentation People. The hope is that

widening the tent and enhancing partnerships and collaboration will provide experiences that strengthen the Mission for all Presentation People as we walk into the future together as Nano's daughters. ◆





Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*In Joyful Service*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 18**

Peace Day Celebration  
Presentation Convent, Aberdeen, SD

**September 22**

Multi-Faith Prayer Vigil  
Sertoma Park, Sioux Falls, SD

**October 5**

Women on the Prairie Conference  
Presentation Convent, Aberdeen, SD

DATES TO RECOGNIZE

**September 21**

International Day of Peace

**October 4**

Foundation Day 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

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Golf Tournament**

We were blessed with sunshine, a light breeze, and lots of fun and laughter for our women's golf tournament this past June. Proceeds from this event benefit our Women's Programs and Good Samaritan Ministry for Adults and Children. Annually, our Good Samaritan Ministry helps approximately 400 individuals and families in South Dakota, providing temporary assistance during unforeseen circumstances.



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**"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."**