

Voices & Ventures

SPRING 2020



Be *joyful* in hope, *patient* in affliction, *faithful* in prayer.

Dear Friends,

As we transition from winter to spring, we see the slow evolution of the snow melting, the grass peeking out and even some of the birds returning. It reminds us that even though there may be times when our life seems bleak, each day provides us with signs of hope.

In February, we were pleased to attend the Ordination of Bishop Donald DeGrood as our 9th Bishop of the Sioux Falls Diocese. We look forward to working with him in serving the people of our Diocese.

This year we will celebrate seven Jubilarians who have joyfully served their sisters and brothers throughout the world. These Sisters have, and continue to, provide hope and love to all, working for justice, and dedicating themselves to making the world a better place for all to live.

We continue to celebrate our Presentation People both in the United States and around the world. Joining together, we help each other, sharing and advancing the Mission of Nano Nagle with those most in need.

Uniting in our work for justice, we look to others with similar missions, for partnerships in our ministries. Together, we can do so much more by helping to carry the burden of others while lifting each other up in a spirit of hope.

Through all of these times, let us be reminded of the love of our Creator. A love so strong, that He gave us his Son, so that all of us may have Hope in the Resurrection.

In peace and mercy,

Sisters Janice, Mary, Lucille, and Vicky Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul.

Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times.

The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires ... causes proper matters to catch fire.

To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy toward others, both – are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity.

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.

Clarissa Pinkola Estes
 From "Letter To a Young
 Activist During Troubled
 Times"

We say farewell and thank you to

Bishop Paul Swain





Left: Bishop Swain visits with Sisters at Presentation Heights.

Above: Sisters attend the All School Mass at Roncalli High School during the 2020 Catholic Schools Week.

and a warm welcome to

Bishop Donald DeGrood



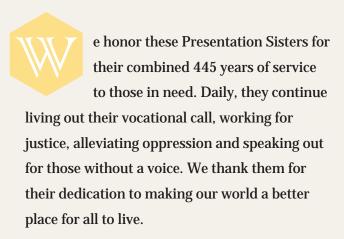
Bishop DeGrood's Coat of Arms. A detailed explanation of his Coat of Arms may be found on the Sioux Falls Diocese website.



Sisters attend the Ordination of Bishop DeGrood.



Jubilee!







Sister Elaine Goodell

Sister (Mary) Elaine Goodell was born in Reeder, ND, grew up in Alexandria, Bridgewater and graduated from Parker High School, Parker, SD.

She attended Notre Dame Junior College in Mitchell, SD, receiving an Associate Teaching Degree. She went on to earn a Bachelor's in Piano and Music Education from Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI, a Master's in Music and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

For 17 years, Sister Elaine shared her love of music through teaching in schools in Huron, Mitchell and Sioux Falls, SD. She also served as Chair of the Presentation College Music Department from 1972-1980.

Always wanting to help others, Sister Elaine's call led her to chaplaincy study and work. She began her pastoral care ministry in Austin, TX, and at (Avera) St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, SD. Then, at age 60, she began a 33 year career as a staff chaplain at the Healthcare Chaplaincy, Inc., and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, NY, receiving numerous awards throughout the years.

Now fully retired at Presentation Convent, Sister Elaine continues to share her bubbly spirit with all she meets.



Sister SaBina Joyce

Sister SaBina (Marian Jeanette) Joyce was born in Aberdeen, SD, and grew up in North Dakota, being taught by Fargo Presentation Sisters.

She attended Notre Dame Junior College and Presentation College, receiving her teaching certificate. She received a Bachelor's in English and Elementary Education from Northern State College (University), Aberdeen, SD, and a Master's in English from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

Sister SaBina shared her smile and love of learning with students for over 50 years in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. In addition, she spent several years at Presentation College teaching English, serving as the English Department Chair, and directing the Shalom Singers.

She served as Mission Effectiveness Coordinator at Presentation College and Mother Joseph Manor, and was also supervisor of pastoral care at Mother Joseph Manor. After retiring, she continued to volunteer at Nagle Inn, Sioux Falls, and as an ESL teacher at Caminando Juntos, the Presentation Sisters' Hispanic ministry in the Sioux Falls, SD, area.

After moving back to Presentation Convent, Sister SaBina shared her passion for music and cooking, sharing homemade caramels with family and friends. She is now active in prayer ministry.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Eileen Ford

Sister Eileen (Virginé) Ford was born and raised in Dorchester, MA, attending public school in the Boston, MA, area. She went on to receive an Associate's Degree from Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD. Her early ministries included sharing her gifts with others through domestic service, physical therapy assistance and as a social service designee, at many schools, hospitals and parishes throughout South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Montana.

Sister Eileen went on to complete continuing education in preparation for the ministry of pastoral care and outreach ministry. For almost 25 years she walked with others through this ministry at (Avera) St. Luke's Hospital and Mother Joseph Manor, both in Aberdeen, providing compassion and a listening heart to those in need.

Sister Eileen continued her service to others through the Foster Grandparent Program, where, for more than 10 years, she would share her smile and give her full attention to elementary students at C.C. Lee Elementary in Aberdeen. She commented, "I found the work uplifting and rewarding, and it filled me with a sense of joy."

Now fully retired, Sister Eileen is engaged in prayer ministry.



Sister Josita Schwab

Sister Josita (Elizabeth Mary) Schwab was born and raised in rural Andover, SD. After attending Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, she received additional training in Clinical Pastoral Education, Dietary Administration, and Theology.

Sister Josita shared her gifts with others as she worked in dietary services in Huron and Mitchell, SD before returning to Aberdeen to supervise the Presentation College cafeteria where she became acquainted with students from all over the world, some of whom she still keeps in touch with today.

In 1978, Sister Josita was called to minister as a parish visitor in Huron, Jefferson and Elk Point, SD, where she would visit and pray with people in need at hospitals, nursing homes, and the regional jail.

She joined St. Joseph's Catholic Housing in Sioux Falls, SD, in 1996 and for 11 years, ministered as a friend and advocate to poor families, immigrants, and elderly residents at Northridge Apartments and West Creek Woods.

After moving back to Aberdeen, she volunteered at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. Now partly retired, Sister Josita serves on the Convent Pastoral Care Committee and enjoys making cards and writing to friends and family.



Sister Myra Remily

Sister Myra (Ann Frances) Remily was born in Aberdeen, SD. She was raised in Brentford, SD, where she graduated from high school. She received a Dietary Management Degree from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, and then obtained her Bachelor's of Theology from the University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH.

After serving in parish ministry in Chamberlain, SD, and Linton, ND, Sister Myra answered the call and began catechetical missionary work. For 17 years, she lived in rural areas of Mexico and Bolivia where she trained young women and men to carry out the faith in their villages. As she walked and ministered with them, her love of the Hispanic culture deepened as she witnessed the joy in them when they realized the words to the Lord's Prayer in their own language.

Responding the need for accompaniment with the newly arriving Hispanic population in the Aberdeen, SD area, Sister Myra continues her work for justice. Like foundress Nano Nagle, she welcomes and advocates for our new sisters and brothers, helping them to become self-sustaining in their new home.

In her spare time, Sister Myra enjoys listening to music, taking long walks, and reading a great book.



Sister Sheila Schnell

Sister Sheila (Margaret Mary) Schnell was born and raised in Pierre, SD. After receiving an Associate's Degree at Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, she earned a Bachelor's in Theology, Philosophy and Education, and a Master's in Theology from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. She also received training in spiritual direction and retreat ministry, cross-cultural theology, diversity training, and Spanish language and Latino cultural studies from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

For nine years Sister Sheila shared her love of learning in schools in Sioux Falls, SD, and Mound and Willmar, MN. She served as the coordinator of retreats and spiritual development for the Congregation and then pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, IL, before becoming the Congregational Formation Director.

Sister Sheila lived in Mexico for a year before ministering at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Omaha, NE. Five years later, in Sioux Falls, SD, she joined other Presentation Sisters in establishing a corporate Hispanic Ministry, Caminando Juntos, serving as a diversity trainer, office administrator, and ESL coordinator and teacher.

Now retired, Sister Sheila continues to enjoy reading, reflection, and contemplative prayer, always keeping God's poor and suffering in her heart.



35TH JUBILEE

Sister Pegge Boehm

Sister Pegge (Margaret Mary) Boehm was born in Milwaukee, WI, and graduated from St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee. She attained a Computer Data Processing Associate Degree, attended Creighton University, Omaha, NE, obtaining a Bachelor's in Theology and a Masters of Divinity from St. John's School of Theology, Collegeville, MN.

Having a heart for justice and those made poor, Sister Pegge spent three years serving with the Latino people in Mexcio. She interned with NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby group and was director of Catholic Rural Life for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. She ministered with National Catholic Rural Life and then served in parish and rural outreach ministry in Milbank and Timber Lake, SD.

Sister Pegge currently works at Caminando Juntos, our ministry with Latinos in the Sioux Falls, SD area. Welcoming all, she teaches English, assists with immigration cases, and advocates for immigrant issues. She is a resource to parents and potential sponsors of unaccompanied minor children, helping families to reunite with their children on the border.

Sister Pegge enjoys the simple things in life, from working outside to sharing a cup of coffee with a friend.

Presentation People Inspire HOPE

his past fall, employees were invited to join the Sisters at their Congregational meetings. Together, we listened and learned as Sister Lynn Levo talked about becoming a transforming presence as we learn to thrive in this time of ongoing change. Our hearts were touched as we learned from Sister Lynn about the different stages of loss we may be experiencing, but also to explore the gifts that can come from this time of change. She showed us how hope stands up, gives us courage, and comforts us during feelings of loss. We are reminded that hope is a choice for us and this virtue calls us to be fully human as we live in relationship with God and each other.

The virtue of hope is seen in prayer and scripture. The Prayer of St. Francis prompts us to seek joy and hope in times of sadness and despair. Romans 5:5 tells us that, "... hope does not disappoint." We place our hope in a loving and faithful God who promises us eternal life, and we rely on the strength of our Lord to carry us though. People strive to be happy, but we must accompany this with hope for those times when we feel discouraged or alone.

Hope has sustained us throughout time. As we know, our foundress Nano lived during dark times in Cork, Ireland. Despite the odds, she "I am proud to be a
Presentation Person and part
of a movement as we work
together to continue and
sustain Nano's Mission each
and every day. I have been
part of the Presentation Family
for many years and have
learned and seen up close
the importance of Nano's
foundation from teaching,
healing, caring, and helping
others in need."

Kathy Traphagen,
 Presentation Employee and
 Cojourner Candidate



never lost sight of the hope for a brighter future for her people in Ireland. Through determination and prayer, it was her faith in the Lord that sustained her as she wrote, "I am confident the great God will direct you to what is most to God's glory. We must think the Almighty permits everything for the best."

The message of hope has been stirring in the hearts of our Presentation Family. As we unite around the Presentation Mission, we look to how we can join together, helping to carry the burden of others while lifting each other up in a spirit of hope. We are energized for the future as we work to carry on Nano's mission and charism. The light is shining brightly as we look for new ways to carry this forward together.

We invite you all to join us, as we intentionally inspire hope in ourselves and to all those we encounter. For more information on connecting more fully with other Presentation People, please contact Carrie Hansen, Cojourner Coordinator, at cojourner@presentationsisters.org.

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

"Nano was such a brave woman. Despite the penal codes of her time, and sometimes her own fears, she never said 'no' to a calling to help the marginalized. I think of her whenever I feel I am being called to do something outside of my comfort zone. I call upon her and the Lord to help me discern the call. Walking with other Presentation People, where we are called, gives me strength knowing we can do more together."

- Jan Lenz,
Presentation Cojourner

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION ASSOCIATION

Faces for Change

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)

You can learn more about the International Presentation Association on their website: internationalpresentationassociation.org

resentation People embody the compassion of Jesus and their foundress Nano Nagle.

They practice non-violence of mind and heart as they listen to the chaos and feel the pain of our time. They believe that revitalizing their organization with new goals and new structures will launch their mission further into a future in order to help create a welcoming place for all life, a place of justice, non-violence and compassion.

The International Presentation Association (IPA) was formally launched in 1988 by Presentation
Sisters to collaborate more fully on both a national and international level. On six continents and in 24 countries, its members, comprised of sisters, associate, and friends, are referred to as Presentation People. They work with each other and people of good will to foster personal and systemic change for people and Earth.

As sharers of the charism of Nano Nagle, and guided by faith, they aspire to live Gospel hospitality, compassion, and simplicity for all of creation. The cry of Earth and people made poor calls them to continue the mission of Jesus and help bring to birth a sustainable society founded on respect for Earth, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Informed by a contemplative stance, and a spirit of oneness, they speak and act in partnership with others for global justice and the eradication of poverty.

A movement of God's Spirit is afoot in our time; a new consciousness is rising within the whole of the human community as well as the Presentation Family. This worldview that Presentation People embrace is one that promises movement toward a global community, a community which provides a welcoming place for all children of the world, as well as a nurturing place for all plants and animals. Justice, non-violence, and compassion are characteristics of such a world. providing policy advice to senior government officials on the rights of women and children and has also worked as an external consultant to a law firm in Uganda that provides advice on gender equality and human rights.



Sister Ann Marie Quinn (standing, far left) and Sister Janice Klein (standing, far right) joined other Sisters and partners at the International Presentation Association gathering in Sydney, Australia in September 2017.

As this vision has deepened and developed, the IPA directors were commissioned to restructure the organization to better embrace this expanding vision. Presentation Sisters, Gabrielle Morgan from Australia, Joy Peterson from United States, and Sharon Fagan from Ireland, serve as IPA directors and strive to advance a more intentional association with new governing structures, practices, and procedures.

Other leadership positions we are working with include Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki who recently assumed the position of IPA NGO (non-governmental organization) representative ensuring that the work of the IPA continues at the United Nations. Despoina has substantive knowledge of the UN system,

Sister Mary Therese Krueger, a Presentation Sister of Dubuque, Iowa, has been hired as the program action leader. This new position forms part of a two-way communication channel between the IPA communities from grassroots level (local) via the IPA justice contacts and the IPA NGO representative at the United Nations (global). She will facilitate advocacy on the issues and resolutions of the IPA foci of women and children: care of Earth; and indigenous peoples. These issues will guide the ongoing implementation of the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

A new spirituality and charism team has three co-leaders who are Presentation Sisters Dorothy Scesny from New Windsor, New York; Maria Lazzaro from Victoria, Australia; and Terry Abraham living in rural Zambia, Africa. The focus of work for this team links Presentation spirituality and the charism of Nano with the actions of IPA's members. This team will offer materials from a faith perspective to inspire energy and meaning for all Presentation People.

With an eye to the future, Presentation Sisters, associates, and friends choose life, life for this beloved Earth, and for all of their sisters and brothers. The stakes are high; there is much to do. Through IPA, Presentation Sisters have firmly established their direction for this day and for days to come.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Naomi Project

he Naomi Project's humble beginnings were inspired by the example in the Biblical Book of Ruth where Naomi helped her immigrant daughter-in-law, Ruth, understand what her rights were as an immigrant and a worker, how she could exercise those rights, and establish herself in her new land.

Jordan Bruxvoort, Director of the Naomi Project in Sioux Falls, began working over a decade ago in Western Michigan as a community organizer focused on workers' and immigrants' rights. While in Grand Rapids, Jordan worked for the Micah Center, a coalition of churches that spearheaded a campaign that successfully moved the city of Grand Rapids to adopt a responsible contracting policy.

After moving with his family to Sioux Falls in the fall of 2016, Jordan discerned an opportunity to apply some of what he learned in Grand Rapids to launch a non-profit in Sioux Falls focused on workers' and immigrants' rights. The Naomi Project began in the summer of 2017.

Many of the first workers to reach out to the Naomi Project were referrals from Caminando Juntos, the Presentation Sister's ministry with Latinos in Sioux Falls. The partnership between Caminando Juntos and the Naomi Project continues with a mutual goal of working for justice for our newly arrived immigrant neighbors.

The Naomi Project educates workers about their rights in the workplace. Often times, a worker doesn't realize they have options or how to navigate a difficult situation. Jordan and his team hold trainings for individuals on addressing work place rights, wage, health, and safety concerns. Additionally, they help raise awareness in the community on the signs of labor trafficking. He works closely with the team at Caminando Juntos, offering support and sharing resources as they can.

"Before the Naomi Project existed, Caminando Juntos could offer little to no hope for victims of labor trafficking. Now with these efforts, the possibility of restoring the dignity of the human person exists, empowering them to be agents of change in the workplace and the community! The Naomi Project is JUSTICE IN ACTION!" exclaims Sister Pegge Boehm, Support Services and Advocate at Caminando Juntos.

A story Jordan shared with us:

Oscar and Elias worked in Virginia, to which smugglers had coaxed both of them. They worked 14-hour days, seven days a week, making less than minimum wage with no overtime pay. Taking a day off was not an option.

One day, Elias received a call from someone who said he knew his dad. The caller asked about Elias's job, listened to his concerns and proposed a solution. He suggested a construction company in South Dakota, with promises of high wages, housing included and travel costs reimbursed.

After arriving in South Dakota, wages dwindled to \$4 an hour, exorbitant fees disappeared from Oscar's and Elias's checks for dilapidated housing, with threats of calling immigration when they raised questions. Disregard for their safety almost cost Elias and another co-worker their lives.

A few years after that traumatic experience, Oscar and Elias connected with the Naomi Project through a reference from Caminando Juntos. In addition to working with the Naomi Project to recover unpaid wages, Oscar and Elias began attending Naomi Project meetings and connecting with others who had experienced injustice.

"I think we were asking ourselves, "Do we have value?", Oscar reflected, "and after a while, we decided that yes, we do have value!"

Today, Oscar and Elias own their own construction company. With the help of a partner and the Naomi Project, they were able to complete the paperwork, open a bank account and find an accountant. Now with their company up and running, Oscar and Elias are eager to get to work, not only for themselves but also for those that they hope to hire. "We don't want other people to have to go through what we went through," explained Oscar.

"In our time with the Naomi Project we became free of the fear that had controlled us and began to think more about the future. Our business is a fruit of the work of the Naomi Project, and we see it as a ministry," affirmed Elias.



Slave-Free South Dakota

Slave-Free South Dakota is the Naomi Project's new campaign to bring awareness on the indicators of labor trafficking. The Naomi Project is inviting businesses to become part of Slave-Free South Dakota by committing to contract only with construction companies that have already received this training to report and identify labor trafficking.

May we work together to end labor trafficking within our state. To discover more on the Naomi Project or Slave-Free South Dakota, please contact Jordan Bruxvoort at: director@projectofnaomi.org or visit www.projectofnaomi.org.

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

Sister Helen Ripplinger

Born to Life 09/27/1926 - Born to Eternal Life 07/17/2019

Sister Helen received training in Medical Records Transcription at the Lighthouse School for the Blind in Chicago, IL. She ministered at (Avera) St. Luke's Hospital from 1952 to 1996 in many positions including Receptionist, Medical Transcriptionist, and TelMed Clerk.

She is remembered for singing in the choir, cantoring, and lectoring at Sacred Heart Parish in Aberdeen. In 2008, she transcribed Spanish song lyrics into Braille to be able to celebrate Mass with the Latino community. She shared her love of music by playing piano during special times and sing-a-longs at Mother Joseph Manor and Roncalli High School. Sister Helen said her music was her way of giving back and it was rewarding to be of service to others. She received great joy from the people with whom she worked.

Sister Mary Jane Gaspar

Born to Life 07/24/1928 - Born to Eternal Life 09/23/2019

Sister Mary Jane earned a Bachelor's in Education from Northern State
University, a Master's in Education from St. Louis University, St. Louis,
MO, and a Master's in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University,
Omaha, NE. Her ministry in education spanned almost 40 years as she
taught and served as principal in elementary schools throughout South Dakota,
Minnesota and Nebraska. She ministered as the Congregational Formation Director
and was also elected to serve on the Leadership Council. She accompanied others through
pastoral ministry, was the Director of Religious Education at Holy Spirit and Christ the King
parishes, and served as hostess at Presentation Sisters' Marian House, all in Sioux Falls.
Sister Mary Jane expressed that she was compelled to live a mission of helping where she was
needed, being there for the children she taught and their parents.

Sister Margaret Anne Talbott

Born to Life 01/24/1925 - Born to Eternal Life 10/10/2019

Sister Margaret Anne earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Northern State University in 1965 and a Master's Degree in Natural Science from the University of South Dakota in 1974. Her love of children and education showed as she taught for over 25 years in schools in Jefferson, Milbank, Sioux Falls and Humboldt, SD; and Mound, MN, and in secondary schools in Aberdeen and Dell Rapids, SD. She served as a nurse's aide prior to beginning ministry in pastoral care, which she served for 24 years. Sister Margaret Anne retired in 1995 and worked several years as a volunteer, assisting many with her gracious spirit. She was Sacristan at both Avera Mother Joseph Manor and Presentation Convent and also coordinated the Sister's Prayer Line Ministry.



Sister Roch Whittaker

Born to Life 07/03/1936 - Born to Eternal Life 11/18/2019

Sister Roch began her ministry as a licensed practical nurse in 1959 at St. Joseph's Hospital (Avera Queen of Peace), Mitchell, SD, and in 1969 earned a Bachelor's in Education from Northern State University. Her ministry in education spanned for over 20 years in Huron, Mitchell, and Dell Rapids, SD, also in Miles City, MT, and Anoka, MN. In 1980, Sister Roch returned to healthcare ministry as Mission Coordinator at Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City. In 1982 she served as Director of Mission Effectiveness at (Avera) McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls. She dedicated herself to the care of the elderly in 1996 serving in Dubuque, IA, Northfield, MN, and St. Mary's Parish, Dell Rapids. She will be remembered for her faithfulness, hard work, and joyful sharing of her love of God.



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