



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Voices & Ventures

SPRING 2021

Cultivating Hope As One



***“There is no greater happiness in
the world than to be in union.”***

- Venerable Nano Nagle -

Dear Friends,

Our Presentation Congregation's Apostolic Mission calls us to go out among the people and spread the Good News of the Gospel. We work collaboratively with others 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 focus on our Chapter Call to do nothing alone, highlighting ways in which our Sisters have joined others in Mission. Our Presentation Family is growing and we are strengthened by this communal work. In uniting 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.

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

Our work for justice, both locally and globally, continues. We congratulate Sisters Kay O'Neil and Michelle Meyers as they received the first annual Artisan of Peace award, in recognition of all of their work with Pax Christi South Dakota. In support of the United Nation's initiative to end violence against women, we join others by wearing orange on the 25th of each month. **#OrangetheWorld**

Join us as we pray and listen to where the Spirit is leading each of us. Please visit our website at www.presentationisters.org to read about ways to partner with us, helping our sisters and brothers in Christ. Together, may we cultivate hope in our world and build up the people of God, welcoming with hospitality, compassion and joy, those from all different walks of life.

In peace and mercy,

Sisters Janice, Mary, Lucille, and Vicky

Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



The front cover photo includes Presentation Conference Vocation Directors from throughout North America. Turn to page 8 for the full story.

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

- Isaiah 54:2



Jubilee!



We honor these Presentation Sisters for their over 300 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.

To read more about these inspirational women, please visit the *Find a Sister* section on our website: www.presentationisters.org.

faith
mission
joy service
charism



75TH JUBILEE

Sister Jean Huntimer

Sister Jean (Mary Josephine) Huntimer was raised in Madison and Winfred, SD. She obtained an Associate Teaching Degree from Notre Dame Junior College, Mitchell, SD, a Bachelor's from Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, SD and a Master's in Education Administration from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

Knowing she wanted to teach children about God, Sister Jean followed her heart and became a teacher. For 45 years, she shared her love of learning by enriching the lives of students, both as a teacher and principal in Catholic schools throughout SD, MN, MT and NM.

Her ministry transitioned and Sister Jean worked in parish ministry for 15 years in Huron, SD. She continued sharing her compassionate spirit with the parishioners as she taught bible studies, visited those in the hospital and by taking communion to the homebound. Feeling called to do more for those less fortunate, Sister Jean started a thrift store called the St. Francis Shop.

She continued her service to others by volunteering at Avera St. Luke's Hospital's Auxiliary Guest House and also worked in the Convent Library. Now fully retired, Sister Jean enjoys reading, doing puzzles and playing pinochle.



60TH JUBILEE

Sister Ruth Geraets

Sister Ruth Ann Geraets was raised on a farm near Dell Rapids, SD. She attended Northern State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Mathematics. She went on to complete a Masters of Arts Degree in Pastoral Studies at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

For 21 years, Sister Ruth taught in Catholic Schools in Anoka and Mound, MN, and Madison, Mitchell, and Aberdeen, SD. Her ministry then led her to McDowell County, WV, where she worked with Catholic Community Services and those made poor as coal companies were leaving the area. Her compassionate heart led her back to South Dakota where she directed shelters for women and children on the Cheyenne River Reservation and later did parish ministry. She was Formation Coordinator and Director of Novices from 1999 – 2011 and in January 2008, was appointed Congregational Treasurer, a position she still holds today.

Sister Ruth began collaborating with Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment in 2008 serving on the Board for six years. Together, they engage corporations through dialogue and resolutions, promoting a more just and sustainable world. She also served nine years on the Presentation College Board of Trustees.

Sister Ruth enjoys painting, Sudoku and card games.



60TH JUBILEE

Sister Mary Jaeger

Sister Mary Jaeger was born in Wagner, SD and grew up on a farm near Geddes, SD. She earned a Registered Nursing Diploma from Presentation School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Nursing from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and a Masters of Nursing from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, with additional studies in Cardiac Care and Clinical Pastoral Education.

Sister Mary shares her spirit with individuals and families throughout her ministry by serving in staff nursing, nursing management, and teaching nursing at Presentation College in Aberdeen, SD and University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI. She was the Founder/Coordinator of Prairie Hospice at St. Joseph Hospital, Mitchell, SD, and ministered as the Director of Community Health with the SD Department of Health from 1982 – 1986.

She served as Vice President of Ambulatory Care with Presentation Health System, in Mission Services at (Avera) McKennan and as Director of Mission, Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, NE. She has also served as an Avera System Member and member of several Avera Health Boards.

Currently, she is an Avera Health Board member and involved in Volunteer Ministry at Avera Heart Hospital and Avera McKennan Hospital. She also enjoys camping, reading, and sewing.



60TH JUBILEE

Sister Janet Schumacher

Sister Janet Schumacher is grateful for her faith-filled parents and family legacy. Her hometown is Ipswich, SD. She earned a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from NSU, Aberdeen, SD and a Masters in Theological/Pastoral Studies at Jesuit School of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

Sister Janet expressed her love of learning with elementary students in Catholic Schools in SD and MN. For the last 40 years, she's been inspired while both receiving and sharing her boundless spiritual gifts through retreats, spiritual direction and pastoral care.

She has facilitated retreats for her community, individuals at retreat centers and on university campuses. She's been privileged to accompany cancer or hospice patients and their families with her pastoral gifts at the June E. Nylén Cancer Center, Sioux City, IA. A cancer patient's favorite prayer to share is, "Thank you, God, for this much".

Adapting due to Covid-19, Sister Janet continues her Spiritual Direction Ministries and Hospice Volunteer Service in the Siouxland areas. She serves on the Avera Holy Family Board, Estherville, IA and supports the work of Environmental Justice and Siouxland Against Human Trafficking.

Sister Janet enjoys gardening, contemplative music and learning about different cultures.



50TH JUBILEE

Sister Janet Horstman

Sister Janet Horstman was born and raised in Mitchell, SD, graduating from Notre Dame High School. She received an Associate's Degree from Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, a Bachelor's from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN, and a Master's in Pastoral Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

For twenty years, Sister Janet inspired her high school students through her teaching and campus ministry efforts in Aberdeen and Dell Rapids, SD, and Omaha, NE. During this time, she organized several mission trips to Mexico where her love of the Hispanic culture blossomed.

After additional studies, Sister Janet spent a year ministering in Guerrero, Mexico. Returning to Omaha she ministered with the Latino population at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for 10 years.

In 2002, she joined other Presentation Sisters in establishing a corporate Hispanic Ministry, Caminando Juntos, in Sioux Falls, SD. As a DOJ-Accredited Representative, she walks with newly arrived Latino immigrants providing immigration legal services and offering hope as they make a new home.

In her spare time, Sister Janet enjoys the beauty of walking in nature, catching walleye on the river, and cooking on the grill.

TOGETHER, LET'S

Orange THE World



trafficking of women and girls is one of the largest commercial enterprises in the world.

Trafficking and slavery are linked to other crimes – drug trafficking, human smuggling, rape, torture and money laundering. The FBI reports that, in the USA alone, trafficking and slavery generate \$9.5 billion a year.

As a step toward bringing awareness to this issue, and other issues of violence against women in our world, we are joining this international movement by wearing orange on the 25th of each month this year. Every year, November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The International Presentation Association (IPA) selected Elimination of Violence against Women and Children as one of their primary areas of focus for 2020–2022. We join with IPA to work toward the goal of eliminating violence against women and children and supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to remembering and praying for the victims of violence, we are also hoping to share stories of why we are choosing to wear orange. Join us in raising awareness for this important human rights issue, wear orange on the 25th of every month and/or include orange in your personal and prayer spaces. **We invite you to share the reason why and pictures of you wearing orange with us on Facebook (@Presentation.Sisters.Aberdeen).** **#OrangeTheWorld** ◆



Sisters Jan, Elaine, and Gabriella wear orange scarves in support of eliminating violence against women and children.



In partnership with Mother of God Monastery, we continue our education and awareness efforts on the issue of sex trafficking. This billboard message rotates throughout northeast South Dakota.

Violence has many faces; battering, emotional abuse, controlling behaviors, rape, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, harassment, stalking, coercion, cyberbullying, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, child marriage and more.



To learn more, scan the code or visit:
<https://www.unwomen.org/.../end-violence-against-women>

Planting & Growing Seeds of Peace

Sisters Kay O'Neil and Michelle Meyers had the distinction of receiving the first annual Artisan of Peace Recognition by the South Dakota Pax Christi Chapters, via Zoom, on Saturday, February 27, 2021. Present were members from Sioux Falls, Watertown, Brookings and Aberdeen.

The expression, 'artisan of peace', originates with Pope Francis in an address he gave on September 21, 2016, at the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi, when he said, "...believers, regardless of their faith are called to be 'artisans of peace.'" He went on to describe the word for peace a 'challenging art of communion.' In his most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, he continues to describe peace in terms of 'art'. He writes, "there is an 'art' of peace that involves us all...we cannot ignore the involvement of ordinary people." (231)

Father John Dear spoke to the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters around 1998. In conversation, Father Dear challenged Sisters Michelle and Kay to start Pax Christi in South Dakota. They organized the annual

Growing Peace Conference, which drew national speakers. Some well-known peace activists included Bishop Tom Gumbleton, Father John Dear, Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, Martha Hennessy (grand-daughter of Dorothy Day) and Kathy Kelly. The Presentation Sisters later collaborated on the sponsorship of these conferences with the Benedictine Sisters of Watertown, SD.

Johnny Zokovitch, the Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, has known Sisters Kay and Michelle for the past 30 years, so it was with much joy that he was able to share his admiration for all they have done. He said, "the art of peace requires skill, practice and perseverance. Peace building is not easy. Sisters Kay and

Michelle are living examples of what it takes to be peacebuilders. They are truly 'artisans of peace.'"

Through all they have done in the name of promoting peace and justice in our world, it is clear that not only did Sisters Kay and Michelle plant seeds of peace, but peace grew beyond anyone's imagination. ●



"May the peace, love, hope and joy of our non-violent Jesus be with each of you. No exceptions."

— Sister Kay O'Neil

PARTNERSHIP OF Presentation People in Mission



“There is no greater happiness in the world than to be in union.”

- Venerable Nano Nagle -



As we have heard these words over the years, they continue to take on a deeper meaning as we journey together into the emerging future. If Nano were here today, we often imagine what she would say about the world-wide union of Presentation People that has and is forming. Her tenacious being, servant heart and a vision of faith rested at the core of who she was, inspiring thousands to pick up the lantern and continue the journey.

The 1940s and 1950s brought huge and fast opportunities for sisters, with large numbers discerning their call toward religious life. This left fewer opportunities for working alongside our lay partners.

Today, Sisters, cojourners, employees, and partners come together in collaboration of mission and justice in new ways. Our “do nothing alone” Chapter

Call has been a change of mindset, ever evolving. These partnerships are providing light and an undeniable energy source, that will help sustain and give breath to Nano’s mission as we learn and grow into the future.

One way we have deepened our collaboration with Presentation People is within the Conference of Presentation Sisters (CPS). “The Conference of Presentation Sisters exists to provide opportunities for collaboration of the members on matters of mutual interest, to promote unity, to strengthen the spirit of Nano Nagle, and to encourage the works of the Sisters to fulfill the mission in the Church. In other words: greater collaboration, connection and communion.” (pbvmconference.org)

The CPS vocation directors have been crossing congregational lines in partnership for several years,


"What a joy to collaborate with four other Presentation Sisters from across North America to co-host an online Advent Discernment Retreat for 15 adult women from Newfoundland and New York, throughout the Midwest, to San Antonio and California! The retreat participants shared a desire to deepen their faith and learn more about how Mary's example of discernment relates to their lives today. I was inspired by several who are discerning their life vocation in the midst of the pandemic. The event was so successful that participants requested a follow up event during Lent. Imagine what future generations of Presentation Sisters and Presentation People will be like because their initial discernment experiences emerge from an awareness of the wide web of Nano Nagle's family!"

Sister Vicky Larson

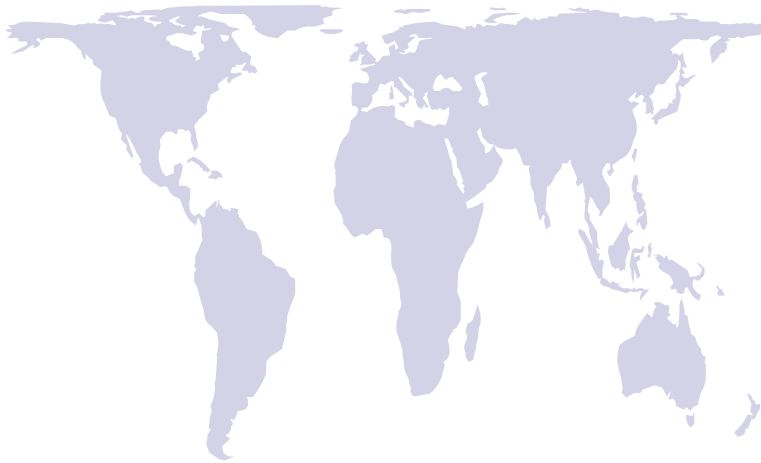
Councilor and Vocation Director

as they imagine what the future of religious life might look like. They look at ways they can support new life and those discerning this call as a group. They have co-sponsored a booth at a virtual conference geared toward college students, collaborated on multiple ads, and joined together in hosting two virtual retreats focusing on those discerning religious life. They were collaborating before the pandemic, but the partnership has been accelerated this last year with more clarity for online formation.

Another way we come together as a Conference of Presentation Sisters is shared resources, learning opportunities and a platform to connect with one another. Our CPS has organized several virtual gatherings over the last few years, coordinating many inter-vocational committee members to help vision and create these connections. Presentation People were invited to these virtual sessions, as we learn more about our foundress, Nano Nagle, share in mission, connect over best practices and check in with how we are doing. (*continued next page*)



The North American Conference of Presentation Sisters exists to provide greater **collaboration, connection and communion**. It represents hundreds of Presentation Sisters from seven congregations located in **Aberdeen, South Dakota; Dubuque, Iowa; St. John's, Newfoundland (Union: Newfoundland and Labrador Province); New Windsor, New York; Staten Island, New York; San Francisco, California; and the United States Province of the Union, western and southern states of the Union and Fargo.**



***“If I could be of service
in any part of the globe,
I would willingly do all
in my power.”***

– Venerable Nano Nagle

This fall, we are looking forward to the first in-person gathering, available for all Presentation People in the Conference. This was scheduled to be held last year.

We pivoted to a virtual setting due to the pandemic and connected over 200 people on Zoom calls. We are giddy with excitement as we look forward to connecting, sharing and learning together in person this fall.

The cojourner (lay associate) coordinators in North America have been collaborating in diverse ways as well. The cojourner (associate) relationship has

continued to evolve in many congregations so this collaborative need is developing as they share best practices and support one another.

We often get asked, what is the future of the Presentation Sisters? Are more women joining? The answer to this is yes! More women and men are joining together in mission to carry the lantern. Some are discerning becoming a sister, others are discerning the call to become a cojourner and still others are deepening their call as partners in mission. The future is filled with hope, love and faith, just as Nano demonstrated nearly 300 years ago. ●



“Following an (expected) one-time meeting over a year ago, the abundance of energy, connection and enthusiasm inspired the leaders to continue regular meetings. The anticipation of gathering in person has been amplified by the virtual connections now developed.”

Carrie Hansen
Cojourner Coordinator and
Justice Commission Contact

To discover more...

- ▶ On becoming a sister, contact Sister Vicky: vickypbvm@gmail.com
- ▶ On becoming a cojourner, contact Carrie: chansen@presentationsisters.org



A Shared Mission

We share in Presentation Mission, as we are inspired by Nano and follow in her footsteps. Together, we journey to where we are called, offering hope to our neighbors locally and globally.

We asked Presentation People:

What does Presentation Mission mean to you?



Sister Armella Stratman

Presentation Sister for 73 years

I always knew I wanted to be a Sister. I grew up in a very loving family where my parents inspired me and it made me want to share with others. The Presentation Mission means a lot to me as it is all about helping others and it is something I try to do every day. If you live a good life and share it with others, it will bring you joy. ●



Kathy Traphagen

Presentation Employee and Cojourner

The Presentation Mission is a huge inspiration to me. It has taught me a lot of what Nano has done for the poor people and compassion she had for all people. This is a big part of my life and will continue to be. ●



Carrie Hansen

Presentation Cojourner and Employee

When I felt a calling to enter the Mission in a different way from my work at St. Luke's, I began to develop a more meaningful understanding of what I thought I knew. At the core of the Mission, and my work with it, I feel a spiritual connection to Nano and all Presentation People across the globe. This connection 'fits' my spiritual beliefs and the actions that flow out of them. ●

Similar Name, Similar Charism and an Overwhelming Call to Help the Poor



It's been almost 20 years since Sister Joyce Meyer first visited the Presentation of the Virgin Mary Sisters in Malawi, Africa.

But it wasn't until seventeen years later, that she reconnected with the Congregation.

In 2017, at the Global Gathering of Presentation Sisters in Brookings, SD, Sister Joyce gave a presentation focused on the future of religious life and the importance of connecting and collaborating with congregations having similar charisms. It was here she remembered the Malawi Presentation Sisters.

Still thinking of this congregation, Sister Joyce, on a trip to Zambia, Africa on behalf of the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters and Global Sisters Report asked her congregational leader if she could visit the Malawi Sisters. She wanted to find out if these Sisters really did have the similar spirituality and charism that she remembered from those many years ago.

Arriving in Malawi, the sisters took Sister Joyce on a tour of their ministries. She learned not only of their accomplishments, but also of their struggles.

Charism

is a special gift of God's Spirit for building up the people of God, loving and caring for our neighbors, doing what is right and just, and serving in the way of Jesus.



All along the way, these Sisters continue their Charism in providing compassionate love, care and service in the image of Jesus.

Of the 50 sisters, 25 are fully professed and 25 are in formation. Only five of these sisters earn stipends. They work in diocesan institutions, three as nurses and two as teachers. In Africa, "newer" congregations do not have financial resources sufficient to support income shortfall.

These women are resilient and work daily to find creative ways to support themselves because, contrary to what many think, bishops do not financially support women's religious communities anywhere in the world. Locally founded communities do not have sisters abroad who keep their future in mind. Thus, without outside help, the sisters have fewer opportunities for education and professional development.

Similar to our Aberdeen Congregation, the Malawi Presentation Sisters engage in education and healthcare. Like our foundress Nano Nagle, believing

in the importance of education, they began Early Childhood Development Programs, teaching young children wherever they could, in empty buildings, even a lean-to, anywhere they could find space. Seeing the ECD success, the government asked



Sisters prepare a small meal.

the Sisters to start a primary (elementary) school because the children coming from their programs were too advanced for government schools. The Congregation

then began building an elementary school on their property, brick by brick as they receive funding.


They also showed Sister Joyce a plot of land where two shell buildings stood. The buildings were very well built, but not completed for their intended purpose, a 12-bed clinic/hospital. Promises of funding had fallen through as did the project. This healthcare facility would fulfill a dream of the Congregation's first owned ministry.

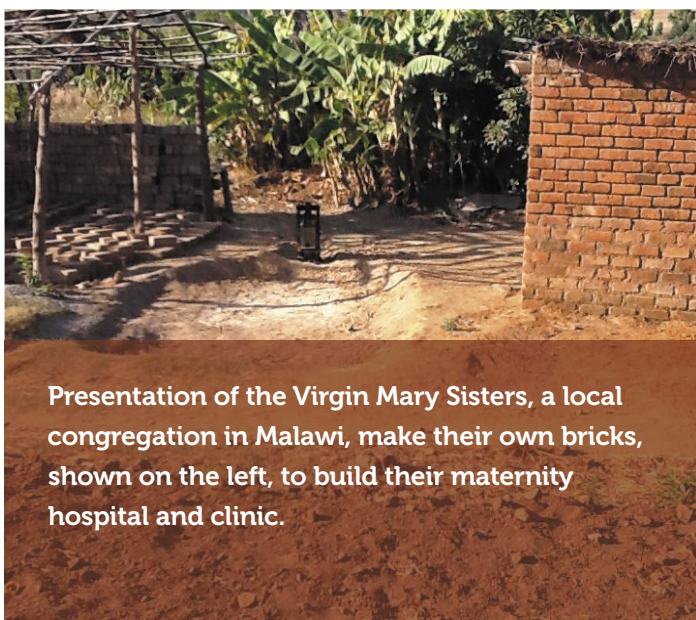
"I felt their compassionate Charism so strongly, and it mirrored that of our own Congregation. I wanted to

help, to provide assistance for these Sisters, to help get them on their feet," stated Sister Joyce. "Everyone wants to stand on their own two feet. They don't want to be dependent on anyone. They are eager to learn and just needed some support."

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa and, along with HIV/AIDS, has the highest infant and maternal deaths. This leaves many children and elderly without support. Healthcare clinics, especially maternity clinics, are vital to the area in keeping families together.

Working through email and What's App, Sister Joyce has been journeying with these women. She is teaching the Congregation how to apply for grants to fund their projects, working with local contractors and making connections with others who have developed rural healthcare in East Africa and elsewhere. By introducing them to various partners, the two healthcare buildings are now completed, but much funding is still needed. Furnishings, equipment, electricity hook-up, inspection fees and licenses are only a few needed items before they can even open the pharmacy. Then, there is a future dream for solar panels to keep electricity operating and costs down.

All along the way, these Sisters continue their Charism in providing compassionate love, care and service in the image of Jesus. 



Presentation of the Virgin Mary Sisters, a local congregation in Malawi, make their own bricks, shown on the left, to build their maternity hospital and clinic.



Healthcare clinic build in progress.

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, they 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.

Sister Catherine Fiegen

Born to Life September 9, 1938

Born to Eternal Life June 9, 2020

Sister Catherine earned a Bachelor's in Education in 1969, and a Masters in Administration in 1973 from Northern State College, Aberdeen, SD. She dedicated 18 years to education as a junior high teacher and principal in Anoka and Mound, MN and Mitchell, Milbank, and Woonsocket, SD, priding herself in knowing all students by name. She ministered as a pastoral associate in Anoka and Litchfield, MN from 1978 – 1991 and pastoral administrator at St. Clara Parish, Clara City, MN from 1991 – 1997. She served as Director of Chaplaincy and Mission Services at Avera Holy Family Hospital, Estherville, IA from 1998 – 2002 followed by four years on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Council. Sister Catherine was a witness to joyful hospitality with an unconditional love for all human beings. She enjoyed visiting with people, attending sporting events and was a big Presentation College Saint's fan.





Sister SaBina Joyce

Born to Life May 18, 1925

Born to Eternal Life June 26, 2020



Through her 41-year educational journey, Sister SaBina received an Associate Teaching Degree from Notre Dame Junior College, Mitchell, SD, Bachelor's in Education from Northern State College, Aberdeen, SD, Masters in English from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from Washington Theological University, Washington DC. She dedicated over 50 years to educating students in Aberdeen, Jefferson, Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids and Mitchell, SD; Anoka and Wilmar, MN; and Miles City, MT. She taught English and directed the Shalom Singers at Presentation College from 1969 – 1980, was Mission Effectiveness Coordinator at Presentation College and (Avera) Mother Joseph Manor from 1989 – 1999, and taught ESL at Caminando Juntos, Sioux Falls until 2010. Sister SaBina had a passion for the liturgy and the arts including co-writing songs, acting, directing productions and painting. She enjoyed cooking and making delicious homemade caramels for family and friends.



Sister Helen Jean Washtoak

Born to Life May 30, 1930

Born to Eternal Life November 22, 2020

Sister Helen Jean received a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Northern State College in 1967 and a Masters in Religious Studies from St. Mary's, Winona, MN in 1974. Her ministry in education spanned 35 years, from 1951 to 1986. She inspired thousands of students as an elementary educator, principal and coordinator of religious education in Catholic schools and parishes including Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Aberdeen, Mobridge, Chamberlain, SD; Anoka, Mound, Adrian, MN. Switching her focus, from 1986 to 2001, she shared her joy and compassion in pastoral care at McKennan and St. Luke's Hospital and as Director of Pastoral Care for Aberdeen Living Center. She later volunteered at the information desk at Avera St. Luke's and assisted various departments at Presentation Convent. Sister Helen Jean enjoyed history and writing poetry and she will be remembered for her leadership and organizational skills.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8

Presentation College Graduation
Aberdeen, SD

May 8

Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Virtual Celebration

June 14

Women's Golf Tournament
Moccasin Creek Country Club
Aberdeen, SD

June 28 - July 2

LIVE Leadership Camp
Creighton Retreat Center
Omaha, NE



dóchas *mong*
ter esperança
hope umut
Надати се *spe*
esperanza
hoppas

***“But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.”***

– Lamentations 3:21-23