



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Voices & Ventures

SUMMER 2024



be still

and know that I am God.

PSALM 46:10

Dear Presentation Family,

Our Congregational Chapter Call invites us into partnership and collaboration; ***we do nothing alone.*** We work alongside like-minded individuals and organizations promoting the Mission of the Gospel.

A year ago, the discerned decision was made to close Presentation College. Through this closure, new partnerships were formed and developed. We are grateful for the shared vision of the City of Aberdeen who now owns the Presentation College Strode Center, Dome, soccer field and a piece of property. Their shared vision of our values will promote access to sporting and exercise opportunities for all citizens of Aberdeen.

This closure also brought a partnership with St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA, in the establishment of the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing.

This online program provides an opportunity for students who may not be able to attend college in a traditional way, to continue to advance their careers while still working or caring for their families.

We celebrate four jubilarians this year who continue to actively serve those most in need, not only in our local communities, but also around the world. Their daily selfless acts of putting others before themselves are a testament to their dedication in making the world a better place for all.



Sisters Vicky, Roxanne, Pegge and Mary

Our ministries bring to life the words of our Foundress Nano Nagle, ***“Love one another.”*** Those who are migrating to our communities in search of a better, and safer, life for themselves and their families are welcomed by our team at Caminando Juntos. Our care for creation through our Laudato Si’ Ministry engages adults and children to learn more about our Earth, respecting its

beauty so our common home may thrive for the next generation. Through everything, we know our faithful and loving God is with each and every one of us.

Nano knew God’s vision was more than she could accomplish alone. She forged bonds with like-hearted people 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 share this vision in caring for one another and our Earth.

In peace and justice,

Sisters Mary, Vicky, Roxanne and Pegge
Presentation Sisters Leadership Team

Sister Mary honored at St. Ambrose University Graduation



The Presentation Sisters founded Presentation College in 1951 to fulfill

its mission of rural health care and service through nursing education, later expanding to include academic programs in Health and Natural Sciences, Social Science and Humanities to support its mission of development of the whole person, in the Catholic tradition.

In January 2023, the decision was made to close the doors of Presentation College, but the words of Matthew 7:7 brought us comfort: ***“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*** A new door opened and, with the guiding light of Nano’s lantern,

a partnership between Presentation College and St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA, formed the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing. As we finished the first full year of partnership with St. Ambrose University (SAU), God was present in more ways than we imagined when we began this conversation for collaboration. Almost 70% of students enrolled in the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing through SAU were the first in their families to attend college. This is life changing and provides the students a pathway to “earn while they learn,” helping make this dream a reality. The school continues to see growth in enrollment, with the top three states of students coming from

South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

As the ‘23 - ‘24 school year came to a close, Sister Mary Thomas had the privilege of giving the May 18th commencement address. SAU’s partnership with the Presentation Sisters and Sister Mary’s leadership were also celebrated that day as they bestowed upon her an honorary doctorate. Several sisters were able to join her in the celebration.

“I was totally surprised when I received the call about the doctorate. I questioned if I was worthy of such an honor. Finally, I heard it as a call and in accepting this call, I was actually honoring the many people who have engendered life in me from my birth to today. It is this crowd of witnesses that I want to lift up,” stated Sister Mary Thomas. ●

“We are grateful to carry on the legacy of the Presentation Sisters through the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing,” said Dr. Amy Novak, St. Ambrose University President. “We are excited by the way this program opens pathways for learners who may be place-bound across rural America or who are simply not able to attend college in the traditional way. The Sisters’ vision is leaving an indelible mark on healthcare across rural America, both in South Dakota and beyond.”



Jubilee!



We honor these four Presentation Sisters for their combined 245 years of service to those in need. Daily, they continue living out their vocational call in joyful service for justice and alleviating oppression. 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: presentationsisters.org.

faith
mission
joy service
charism



75TH JUBILEE

Sister Vianney Mannie

Sister Vianney (Aileen Loretta) Mannie was born in Edgeley, ND, and grew up in Turton and Watertown, SD. She received her Associate's in Teaching from Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, and Bachelor's in Education from Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

For over 40 years, Sister Vianney shared her joyful and compassionate spirit as a teacher and administrator in Catholic schools across eastern South Dakota, Anoka, MN, and Miles City, MT. Her joy and dedication to serve others continued as the Director of Religious Education at St. Mary Parish, Sioux Falls, SD, and then as the 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 her 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.



75TH JUBILEE

Sister Michelle Meyers

Sister Michelle (Clara) Meyers was born in Chamberlain, SD, and raised in Montrose, SD. She earned a Bachelor's in Education from Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD; a Master's in Chemistry, from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN; and a Master's in Theological Studies from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Chestnut Hill, MA.

Sister Michelle's educational ministry spanned over 60 years. A beloved teacher, she shared her smile and love of life with both high school and college students. She also served as the Director of Religious Education at numerous parishes and inspired and encouraged others as a speaker and a retreat and spiritual director.

Always in service to others, Sister Michelle served on the Congregational Leadership Council. She worked tirelessly in advocating for women in social justice and peacemaking ministries and published numerous articles on justice issues. Along with receiving many awards throughout the years, she also cofounded the New Ulm Diocesan Task Force on Women in Ministry with Sister Kay O'Neil.

Family is very important to Sister Michelle. Since moving to Sioux Falls in 2020, she enjoys visiting with her nieces and nephews who bring home-cooked meals when they visit.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Virginia McCall

Sister Virginia McCall grew up in Mitchell, SD. She earned her Teaching Certificate at Presentation College and went on to receive her Bachelor's in Sociology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and Master's in Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

An educator and principal in Catholic schools throughout South Dakota and Minnesota for 15 years, Sister Virginia's compassionate heart led her to work in pastoral ministry in Sioux Falls, SD, and Mound, MN, so she could "be with those who were hurting." Her gentle and loving presence moved her to serve as Director of Ministry to the Divorced, Widowed and Separated in the Diocese of Davenport, IA, the Archdioceses of Dubuque, IA, and Miami, FL.

Returning to Aberdeen, she served two terms on the Congregational Leadership Council, 1982 and 1994, and then as Congregational President from 1998–2006.

A sabbatical led Sister Virginia to Kaoma, Zambia, Africa, where she experienced an inner invitation to work with the poor. For over 13 years she opened her heart, listening to the needs of the people, working, collaborating and assisting through sustainability projects.

Retired, Sister Virginia and her certified therapy goldendoodle Briney, visit nursing homes, bringing comfort and joy to residents.



25TH JUBILEE

Sister Vicky Larson

Sister Vicky Larson grew up near Madison, MN. Her love of caring for others led her to achieve Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing at SDSU, Brookings, SD, and a PhD at Barry University. Sister Vicky began her life of service as a nurse in Tyndall, Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, SD. For the past 19 years she served as a nursing professor at Presentation College, St. Catherine University and Augustana University. She finds joy sharing the art and science of nursing with new nurses. Sister Vicky currently serves on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Team.

In her 25 years of religious life, Sister Vicky has been enriched by new and growing inter-congregational organizations such as Giving Voice, the Conference of Presentation Sisters and the Leadership Collaborative. She says, "We can support one another to live our call, experience the vibrancy of religious life, and share Christ's mission with the next generation of sisters and lay associates. I look forward to what God will do through inter-congregational collaboration in the next 25 years!"

In her spare time, she enjoys playing the harp, walking outdoors, spending time with her community and visiting her ten nieces and nephews.

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 Virginia Hallauer **Presentation Sister for 77 years**

Presentation Mission is bringing Christ to people and people to Christ by acts of love, kindness, compassion, generosity and joyfulness.



Carol Welbig **Presentation Cojourner for 38 years**

The Presentation Mission has been a beacon for me in my life and service to the aging in my community. I found enrichment caring for those who could no longer care for themselves. The Presentation Cojourner program has been a cherished source of support and spiritual inspiration and guidance.



Rich Mohr **Presentation Employee for 36 years**

For me, Mission means taking care of the Sisters. Whether I am working inside or outside, I always keep the safety and comfort of the Sisters and visitors a top priority.

Throughout the Year

Presentation People

Expressing Mission & Charism



Presentation People Judy Blauwet (left) and Deb Fischer-Clemens (right) represented the Sisters as registered lobbyists in the SD Legislature. They followed over 80 bills closely, especially those relating to the equality of all people and nationalities, healthcare and taxes.



Presentation People gathered to bless the Avera St. Isidore Gardens.



Members of our Leadership Team met with city officials officially deeding over the Strode Center, the Dome, the soccer field and a strip of property to the City of Aberdeen. Pictured from L-R: Amber Schwab, Mayor Travis Schaunaman, Sister Mary Thomas, Robin Bobzien, Sister Pegge Boehm and Sister Vicky Larson.



Sister Joyce Meyer (second from left), international liaison for Global Sisters, meets with Sisters from Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda during a 2023 Conference in Rwanda.



Global Sisters Report is celebrating their 10th anniversary! Created by Tom Fox and Sister Joyce Meyer, this online platform shares inspiring stories of women religious continuing to make a difference around the world.

Visit globalsistersreport.org to learn more.



Celebrating Latino Cultures

Caminando Juntos continues to welcome newly arrived Latino immigrants into our community. Many are coming from Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico, with a significant increase in those from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia. Reasons vary, but some are fleeing repressive governments which deny human rights, others because of cartels and drug violence. Many come because of poverty and dire economic situations which make it nearly impossible to provide for their children and families. They are grateful for our services and what Sioux Falls has to offer. This increase has led us to evaluate our ministry to see if we are still meeting the needs of our clients. One

area in need of assistance is our immigration legal services. We partner where we can, but the reality we are witnessing is that many organizations are seeing this same increased need. Our hope is to find an immigration attorney with a heart for the mission to join our team.

In addition, we also respond in celebration of the beautiful and diverse Latino cultures that make up our community. This past May, we enjoyed the 15th Annual Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. Around 6,000 people joined together at Falls Park to dance, play, eat and come together to appreciate a day with one another. ◆

"People are migrating all over the world in unprecedented numbers and the United States is just one of many countries to which people are fleeing in hopes of finding safety and the opportunity for a better life. It is extremely frustrating that the lives of many who come are truly in extreme danger and our Congress refuses to do anything to fix our antiquated and broken immigration system that was created more than thirty years ago. The system is overwhelmed. It was developed for a different reality and cannot address today's reality."

—Sister Janet Horstman



Matthew Tschetter, Caminando Juntos Executive Director and Andre Adams, Wells Fargo Representative and Emcee

We are hiring in our Immigration Department! If you have experience in Immigration Law or are a DOJ accredited representative and interested in helping the newly arrived Latino immigrants navigate the legal system, scan the code to learn more.



"The 2024 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta was an awesome event with perfect weather and a feeling that everybody present was celebrating the vibrant life and cultures of the Latino community in the Sioux Falls area."

—Matthew Tschetter

Laudato Si'

Restoration Project

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." – LAUDATO SI', #14



As we begin year four of our Prairie Restoration Project on the land at Presentation Heights, we continue to discern and reflect on the words of Pope Francis' Laudato Si'. We remain steadfast in our desire to enhance the property, bringing out more of its natural beauty to be shared with the Aberdeen community and region.

Our partnerships with other like-minded individuals and businesses provide us with hope. These partnerships have led us to work not only locally, but nationally, with others who share our vision.

On a local level, we are grateful for our relationship with Jeff Zimprich at Pasque Hill on Beaver Creek, Brandon, SD. His work is a testament to his knowledge and passion for land restoration. He has opened up his farm, inviting area schools to bring their students so they may see and partake in hands-on learning in areas such as soil biology, infiltration, grasslands, rangelands, pollinators and grassland birds. Our hope is to take what he has modeled and share with others on the land in Aberdeen as well.

"We are excited for the opportunity to work with Jeff. His passion and drive to educate youth about stewarding our land and resources is easy to connect with and inspires us every time that we get to work together!" Jared Hohn and Jamie Risse, co-directors of Laudato Si'

On a national level, we are grateful for our partnership with others through the Conference of Presentation Sisters. This past spring, Sisters, employees, associates and friends from across



North America met weekly via Zoom, sharing not only in prayer, but in our shared care of the Earth. Topics ranged from the global climate crisis to the weakness and ineffectiveness of international politics working to make a change. It was a great way to build community and engage one another around this important work.

As we continue on this journey, we invite you to visit the land restoration project at Presentation Heights, to walk on the land and listen to its sacredness. We welcome the opportunity to work alongside other groups in furthering the Gospel Mission. ♦

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 Eileen Ford

Born to Life September 16, 1931

Born to Eternal Life October 21, 2023

Sister Eileen lived her life with a servant heart. Her easy demeanor and gentle presence brought a smile to those she accompanied through her work in domestic service, as a physical therapy assistant and as a social service designee at many schools, hospitals and parishes throughout SD, MN, WI and MT. She went on to minister as a pastoral care associate, providing compassion and a listening heart for those in need. After retirement, she shared her joy through the Foster Grandparent Program, giving her full attention to local elementary students. She enjoyed playing Canasta, puzzles, walking, traveling, reading and visiting with friends.



Sister Janice Klein

Born to Life January 25, 1947

Born to Eternal Life February 12, 2024

Sister Janice lived her life as a contemplative in action. Her peaceful presence and strong spirit were life-giving. Her ministry began as an elementary teacher in Aberdeen and Mitchell, SD. She then served as a pastoral associate in IL, before returning to Aberdeen to start the Presentation Sisters' Development Office. She was instrumental in founding the Presentation Sisters' Leadership Camp and HAPI. She served on the Congregational Leadership Council and then as President. A grace-filled leader, she dreamed and envisioned a better world, and strived to make it come about. She was a woman of the prairie, enjoying her walks in nature and tending her garden and flowers.





Sister Janice Mengenhauser

Born to Life August 18, 1936

Born to Eternal Life March 18, 2024

Sister Janice was a woman of justice with a heart for the poor. A nurse by trade, she worked in hospitals in SD and MT before serving as a missionary nurse in Mexico. During this time, Sister Janice developed a deep compassion for the needs of the region and embraced the Latino culture. Returning to the US, she served as the Congregational Formation Director and then as a bilingual marriage and family specialist in NE. She established the Mujeres y Valores group, re-wrote English materials into Spanish and was integral in establishing the LIVE Camp for Latina girls. Sister Janice shared a deep love for her family, enjoyed spending time outdoors and was an avid Nebraska Cornhusker football fan.



Sister Consuelo Covarrubias

Born to Life February 12, 1935

Born to Eternal Life March 28, 2024

Sister Consuelo saw beauty in everyone and everything. An elementary teacher in SD and MN, and bilingual high school counselor in WI, she shared her smile and creativity with students of all ages. She went on to serve in Pastoral Hispanic Ministry, training leaders for Faith Based Communities in IL, IA and MN. Upon returning to Sioux Falls, SD, she ministered with those in prisons, hospitals and outreach services at Caminando Juntos. Her ministry work with the Hispanic population continued in Aberdeen, SD, where she assisted with translation, transportation and many other needs. Sister Consuelo cherished her life-long friendships, walking in nature and shared her artistic gifts through her paintings, sketches and cards.



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In Joyful Service

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Thank you to all our sponsors, committee members, volunteers, attendees and those with us in prayer and spirit, making the 15th Annual Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta a success. Sunshine was abundant as we joined together to dance, play, eat and celebrate with one another.

**Save the date for next year's Fiesta:
May 10, 2025, at Falls Park, Sioux Falls, SD**

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