

Annual Donor Report

2023-2024

“ *We are stewards*, not masters of our Earth. Each of us has a responsibility to *care for the precious gift of God’s creation.* ”

– POPE FRANCIS –



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service



Dear Presentation Family,

And God said, “It is good.”

As women of faith, we begin from this point, where we sing praises for God’s creation and the mystery of each person on this planet. All are imbued with the divine imprint. In the beginning all were in right relationship, in harmony with one another. Unfortunately, this original bliss ruptured the world with greed and selfishness. God, however, continues to call us to conversion again and again, to have a change of mind, heart and action to care for all members of the Body of Christ and creation.

We are one body in Christ. Some of us are the hands of Christ, others the arms, and still others the legs and heart. **We are part, not apart from each other.** It is with partners like you that we can continue to explore ways to stay grounded in hope and compassion as we commit to transformative action.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will read how your prayerful and financial gifts to our Presentation ministries are making a difference to both individuals and families. It is because of you that we are able to extend mutual respect and support to those among us in need.

- Through our Caminando Juntos Ministry, we walk alongside newly arriving Latino immigrants, provide access to resources and opportunities for learning/improving their English and educate clients on their immigration legal options
- Our Catholic School Scholarships provide financial assistance for students to attend Catholic school in the Sioux Falls Diocese
- We assist those who have fallen on hard times through our Good Samaritan Ministry
- Our care of the Earth, and one another, continues through our Laudato Si’ Ministry

We know we cannot do this alone! We invite you to join our legacy of service and prayerfully consider a stewardship gift to our Annual Appeal. One hundred percent of your donation directly impacts our ministries. Your participation in our mutual work for justice is a tangible way our neighbors, locally and globally, may live with hope.

May God’s blessings be ever present and provide you with all you most need. May we join together in prayer for each other and our country, modeling acts of love and kindness, walking alongside and listening to one another and offering hope and peace with a spirit of joy.

In peace and mercy,


Sisters Mary, Vicky, Roxanne, and Pegge

Presentation Sisters Leadership Team



Cover photo is from the Prairie Restoration Project at Presentation Heights in Aberdeen, SD. We invite you to come, walk on the land and experience the sacred.





“Faith makes us
open to the **quiet
presence of God**
at every moment
of our lives.”

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER MISSION CHARISM

Prayer is an essential element in our daily
lives; an opportunity to express and share our Presentation Mission.

Over 300 years ago Nano Nagle laid the foundation for our congregation. Through all of her work, Nano would take time for prayer. It was God’s love and strength that filled her spirit and her being as she accompanied those in need. In her spirit, we strive to incarnate this same compassion and justice of Jesus, so our neighbors, local and globally, might live with hope.

Our Congregation’s prayerline ministry began over 30 years ago. This ministry allows us to pray for one another in a spirit of love and kindness. For when we pray with and for one another, we experience God’s presence.

We invite you to join us in prayer. We welcome you to send your prayer intentions so that we may include them in our daily prayers. [You may send your intentions to the address on the back of this donor report, include them on the provided envelope, call 605-229-8331 or email \[wepray4u@presentationsisters.org\]\(mailto:wepray4u@presentationsisters.org\).](#) ◆



“For we live
by **faith**, not
by sight”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

Thank You, Partners

We are grateful to the donors listed in this annual report, as well as the individuals who prefer to remain anonymous, for their partnership over the past year. The efforts of many coming together make it possible to do what none of us could do alone. It is through your prayerful and financial support that we are able to continue our work for justice and ease the burdens that others bear, inspiring hope for a brighter future.

It is our intention that this report accurately reflects the names of our donors from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. We also remember in our prayers those whose names are marked with a cross (†) as they are our partners who are deceased.

We have established style guidelines to ensure consistency. If there is an error with your name, please let us know using the contact information listed on the back of this report.

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**TOGETHER we
continue the legacy
of service to those
in need. The stories
reflected throughout
this report highlight
how your prayerful and
financial contributions
provide compassion
and hope to all.**

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TOGETHER WE ARE IMPACTING THE FUTURE

Through Catholic School Scholarship Assistance

I am very grateful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Because of your scholarship, my child will continue receiving a great education, while continuing to grow in faith for years to come. Your support has made a profound impact on our family, and we are deeply appreciative of your kindness and generosity.

Ensuring that our child receives the best possible education, including religious education, is a priority and a significant challenge. The scholarship you have provided will greatly alleviate the financial burden of tuition, allowing our child to benefit from their school environment that is supportive and nurturing. This opportunity will not only foster academic growth, but also social and personal development, and help to grow and strengthen their faith. Your commitment to supporting children's education exemplifies true compassion and dedication to making a difference in their lives. It is a beacon of hope and encouragement for our family.

We are inspired by your mission and the positive impact you make in the community. Please know that your contribution is not just financial support; it is a powerful affirmation of our child's potential and our family's aspirations. We are committed to making the most of this opportunity and will always hold your kindness in our hearts. *(Thank you letter from parent)*

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TOGETHER WE ARE PROVIDING HOPE

Through Our Good Samaritan Ministry

Matthew is a current resident of Journey Home in Aberdeen, SD. For many years, he had been living with and taking care of his mother, who suffers from mental illness. He even found jobs for her and would work beside her, doing some of her work and staying late when she could not. One day she physically assaulted him, took his money and all his savings. He was not able to pay his rent, started drinking, lost his job and his apartment; he was depressed and felt all alone. He reached out for help and was assisted by a local medical facility. After his release, Matthew came to Journey Home where he blossomed quickly. He started attending church and small groups, which greatly impacted his life. He now realizes and is sharing the fullness of God's love, joy and peace.

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Through Our Work for Justice

Pax Christi is a community of tens of thousands of both religious and lay women and men, from all different faith traditions, who strive to be the "peace of Christ, Pax Christi" in the world today. We are a network of individual members and over 250 local communities — local groups, high school chapters, college chapters, religious communities, parishes, Catholic Worker communities, and others — spread across the United States. (adapted from paxchristiusa.org)

We invite you to join us through prayer, gatherings and volunteer opportunities, as together we work toward a more peaceful and loving world.

TOGETHER WE CARE FOR CREATION

Through the Lens of Laudato Si'

Through education and shared experiences, we work in partnership with others to steward the land at Presentation Heights, returning it to God's natural beauty. Our Prairie Restoration Project is guided by Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Encyclical.

Collaboration has been essential in this ministry. We are grateful to learn from others and share our knowledge with youth and adults at events through schools and libraries.

Last year, we were able to walk the land with the Aberdeen, SD, K.O. Lee Library staff. Their visit inspired a request to the Laudato Si' team to collaborate on a multifocal project. The library wanted to create events engaging and educating the public in Aberdeen about the history of the Presentation Sisters and their discernment of this project. This seed has blossomed, and we seek additional opportunities as we continue to learn and share with one another.

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TOGETHER WE ARE WELCOMING

By Being a Welcoming Presence at Caminando Juntos

Recently, a young father, his wife and four children found themselves without a home. Their current housing contract had been terminated and they had no place to go. He came to Caminando Juntos seeking assistance. The staff at Caminando Juntos connected with a partner that managed apartments and made a call seeking a place to rent for a family of six. The landlord had a unit available, and the family was able to move into their new home that evening.

Caminando Juntos

WALKING TOGETHER, WE DO NOTHING ALONE



Caminando Juntos responds to the Gospel mandate to “welcome the stranger.” Through this work for justice, our team walks together

with newly arrived Latino immigrants as they seek to integrate into a new culture and make a home in area communities.

Of the various Latino migrants who come to Caminando Juntos for assistance, the women and children have some of the most difficult stories. We have found that listening is the simplest, yet most genuine, form of welcome.

A woman and her children will come in for one type of assistance and end up telling their whole migration story. Unfortunately, not all stories are happy; some stories include various kinds of abuse. At times, the abuse continues here in the US as well.

Listening is the simplest, yet most genuine, form of welcome.

Having someone listen to their story, in their own language, has potential to start the healing process. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another...” Our gift of service starts with being present and listening.

Additional ways we serve our Latino sisters and brothers:

- **We offer resources.** With hospitality and understanding, we accompany our clients in finding community resources, filling out applications and translation.
- **We offer educational opportunities to learn English.** Both daytime and evening classes as well as 1-1 tutoring provide options for Spanish-speaking adults to learn a new language.
- **We offer Immigration Legal Services.** Each case is unique, yet we offer the same dignified hospitality, by listening to their situation and either assisting with their immigration case or referring them to a trusted legal partner.

We know we could not do this alone. It is with the love and support of our partners that we continue our humble, yet profound, ministry as we walk together. ◆



Gifts to this ministry may assist with English language learner materials, scholarship assistance, immigration fee waivers or our crisis response fund.



Sister Janet Horstman

DOJ Accredited Representative



April Ross

Educational Coordinator



Wendy Fregoso

Resource and Office Manager



Allison Moran

Support Services Specialist



Matthew Tschetter

Executive Director

CATHOLIC SCHOOL Scholarship

IE

Education is a formational element in each of our ministries. Through the power of education we can shape the world. For over 100 years, our Sisters served as teachers and administrators in over 50 parish schools, modeling compassion and kindness to thousands of students.

Adapting to meet the needs of those we serve, our areas of ministry have shifted, and we are no longer teaching at the elementary and secondary level in Catholic schools. However, our commitment to Catholic education remains strong. We believe in providing a foundation in young people that will develop and foster their knowledge, skills and compassion, and instill a desire to serve others. Part of this foundation includes lifelong formation in our Catholic faith.

Since 2009, with the generous support of our donors, we have sponsored educational opportunities through scholarships for students who attend, or desire to attend, a Catholic primary or secondary school in the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese. Each year a dedicated committee of sisters, priests, cojourners

and associates read and discuss each application and essay regarding the value of Catholic education and how the scholarship would financially impact their family. This year forty \$750 scholarships were awarded to students enrolled in K-12 schools, and three \$1,500 scholarships for a high school student at each of the three Catholic high schools.

Throughout the past 15 years, we are proud to have provided scholarship assistance, varying from \$500 to \$1,500, to over 600 students. We believe investing in the Catholic education of area youth will nurture their Catholic values and provide a solid foundation for their futures. ●



"We know we are fortunate to be able to choose our daughter's school, where our faith comes first. We also understand this is a privilege that would be unattainable without your help. This scholarship is a blessed relief."

– PARENT

"I love my school because I learn about God and have friends."

– STUDENT

"This award has truly been a great answer to our family's prayer. We have watched firsthand what a Christ-centered education and love from teachers has given to the students and how it is forming them in their Catholic faith."

– PARENT

Gifts to this ministry will continue the legacy of Catholic education and continue the faith formation of our youth.

Scan the code to view a list of our 2024-2025 scholarship recipients.



Good Samaritan Ministry

FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN



Our Good Samaritan Ministry was established over 50 years ago, providing guidance and support to those who may need temporary assistance when they have come upon difficult times. It has helped to fill the gap in basic needs when our neighbors need help the most, providing hope for a new beginning.

We are grateful for our collaboration with non-profits throughout our state, as we work in partnership to get people back on their feet. In Sioux Falls, some partners include the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the Saint Francis House. In Aberdeen, some partnerships include the Salvation Army and the Journey Home. Together we are supporting and assisting those who may be struggling in our own communities.

The staff of these facilities serve both individuals and families, listening to their stories. They empower clients by helping them identify resources and developing success plans.

Clients may receive housing assistance, food boxes, clothing, shoes and household goods. But they also experience compassion, acceptance and love.

"I was nervous, apprehensive and struggling with severe PTSD from a world of pain, hurt and addiction. I did not know what to expect. When I first heard of the rules and regulations at the Journey Home, I wanted to run! After some time here utilizing the program and tools I needed, I was ready to get my own place ... this miracle is a reality. I have now experienced the love of Jesus that I share with others daily." Regina, former client at the Journey Home ◆

"The purpose of human life is to **serve**, and to **show compassion** and the will to help others."

POPE FRANCIS



This ministry provides temporary assistance, working alongside individuals and families, helping them become self-sustaining. Gifts of any amount may assist with rent, utilities and/or groceries.



Laudato Si'



ur Ladauto Si' ministry has grown and evolved over the past four years. We continue the Prairie Restoration Project, working to steward the land, bringing out more of its natural beauty. Our work has led us to deepen our focus on educating both youth and adults about land stewardship.

The Prairie Restoration Project continues to blossom. During our initial seeding in 2021, we planted an array of native vegetation, including both warm and cool season grasses and forbs. As we transition from season to season, the saying, "sleep, creep and leap" has new meaning. Some of the seeds from our initial planting have germinated and are now finally growing. We are elated with the emergence of new life.

The Prairie Restoration Project could not have been done alone. We have been blessed to have received not only guidance, but true partnerships with so many different individuals and organizations throughout these few years. These partners, doing both ecological and socially focused work, have helped shape this ministry.

Gifts to this ministry may assist with educational opportunities with youth and adults as well as for the purchase of equipment or seeds as we continue to steward the land.



The educational focus of our ministry is also evolving, and we are excited to share our learnings with others. This past summer, we partnered with the Aberdeen K.O. Lee Library, hosting two events and bringing the story of land stewardship to the community. We shared an evening with adults at the library talking about the history and intent of our project. The second event was prepared for youth, ages 3-10. Both events were successful with over 100 combined participants.

Events and interactions spread the Laudato Si' spirit. We invite you to take part in the opportunities the land creates. We've heard interest in setting up opportunities for book clubs, prairie painting opportunities or simple places to find solitude or comfort. The land has brought us moments of simple awe and divine inspiration. We invite you to experience the prairie and find your own sense of oneness. 



Jamie Risse
Laudato Si'
Co-Director



Jared Hohn
Laudato Si'
Co-Director

Justice is Our Work



When we say “justice is our work,” we mean “our” in an expansive and far-reaching sense. Not only do we partner with local organizations, but we also partner with other Presentation Sisters and Presentation People worldwide. We welcome the stranger among us so that we might hear and address the needs of all God’s people.

We continue our collaboration through the International Presentation Association (IPA). This community of Presentation Sisters is comprised of the Presentation Sisters Union, the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America and the Presentation Society of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Together, with a presence in over twenty countries, we work in furthering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with direct focus on three areas:

- Elimination of violence against women and children
- Advancing the rights and care of the Earth
- Honoring and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples

Enhancing the IPA’s commitment to peace, we strive to implement these global IPA goals in our local area.

**“We are not
living in an era
of change. *But a
change of era.*”**

POPE FRANCIS



Carrie Hansen
Justice Contact



**Sister Pegge
Boehm**
SRI Contact



Elimination of violence against women and children:

We collaborate with local partners to prepare summertime lunches for children. We raise awareness of human trafficking through educational sessions and partner with the Watertown Benedictine Sisters in the sponsorship of a billboard. We learn about fair trade practices, in support of providing a fair wage and safe working conditions for all.

Advancing the rights and care of the Earth:

In conjunction with the Laudato Si’ Ministry, we highlight and bring attention to the needs of our Earth. Through Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) we explore investments with companies that have incorporated sustainable and fair practices and advocate for changes in companies that will protect the environment. Sharing resources, we consider how our consumer choices impact the Earth.

Honoring and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples:

We strive to establish and maintain relationships that honor and respect the rights of all, especially indigenous people around the globe. Webinars and prayer services are methods used to enhance our understandings and learn of their needs. We help guide Pax Christi USA’s Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, educating others about the continued impact of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Gifts to this ministry may assist with educational opportunities, awareness and advocacy.





Auxiliary Baby Shower:

Avera St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary in Aberdeen, SD, established Nano's Nursery Closet, in honor of our foundress Nano Nagle. Nano's Nursery provides supplies for mothers and their babies, making sure those in need will have an assortment of items to help start their successful journey into motherhood.

Caring for Creation:

Presentation People of all ages joined together in "cleaning up" the Mary Garden at Presentation Heights.



Salvation Army Feed the Kids:

With a great love for children and our community, we partnered with the Salvation Army in packing summertime lunches for children in the city of Aberdeen.

Vocation Outreach Ministry

Image by Rawpixel.com



Vocational calls can lead one to marriage, single life, priesthood or religious life. But how does one know if this is the right path to which God is calling them? Spending time in prayerful discernment is one way an individual may seek answers. They may also seek the advice of family or friends, talk to a member of the clergy or oftentimes they turn to social media in search of that deeper connection in life.

The Conference of Presentation Sisters (CPS) welcomes single women ages 18-45 to join them for online gatherings, focusing on prayer, reflection and sharing. Topics vary depending upon the liturgical season with the discerning women sharing and supporting one another through engaging conversations and insights that encourage others across the miles.

Women are still entering religious life. The National Religious Vocation Conference states that in the United States alone, there are approximately 1,000 women in formation to become Sisters and many more around the world. With an average

entrance age of 32, these women are well educated and 70% have already earned a bachelor's degree. But these women felt the call to be more: to deepen their relationship with God, to make a difference in people's lives, and to live a life of service and prayer with a supportive community.

They answered YES!

“God calls all of us at our Baptism to follow Christ’s example of love, and we deepen our response of love through our vocation commitment. Through the CPS online vocation events, discerning women are supported by others who are also listening for God’s call.”

SISTER VICKY LARSON, VOCATION DIRECTOR

If you know of someone who may be considering religious life, we invite you to have them reach out and learn more. We offer online reflection opportunities for single women ages 18-45 and welcome you to contact us for more information. ●

One resource where a young woman may begin her vocational search is Vision Vocation Match found at VocationNetwork.com. It's the starting point for someone looking for a deeper connection in religious life and provides an overview of many different religious congregations.

To learn more about our vocation ministry events contact Jen Rothenbuehler or Sister Vicky Larson at 605-271-0468 or email vocations@presentationsisters.org.



**Sister Vicky
Larson**
Vocation
Director



**Jen
Rothenbuehler**
Vocation
Collaborator

Dear Friends,

Who then shall we be? This question was posed at a recent gathering for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). It is one that is being asked and discerned all over the world as we navigate mystery in the unfolding future. We know women are still being called to religious life, but not in the numbers they once were. With this shift, our lay partners are being called to leadership in new ways, working alongside the Sisters in addressing the growing needs of our world today.

Within our Congregation, we are seeing this shift in several of our ministries. Many of you have partnered with Caminando Juntos and are aware of the impact this ministry has with the Hispanic population in our Sioux Falls community. Through immigration, education and our annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, we celebrate the richness of the Latino cultures. However, something new is emerging and Caminando Juntos has started the process to be its own 501c3, which will be completed in 2025. We are excited for these new opportunities for growth and sustainability as we look to the emerging future.

We are grateful for your collaboration and partnership as we continue to join together in faith, a spirit of hospitality, compassion and simplicity with all of creation. We thank you for imagining and dreaming with us and are inspired by your trust and companionship on this journey.

Together in Hope,

Brooke & Jen (Sioux Falls)

Barb, Carrie & Jenny (Aberdeen)

Mission Development Team

P.S. We LOVE connecting with you! Please reach out with any questions, comments or to discover more. Thank you for your compassion and commitment, as we carry the lantern together, to share the Presentation mission and charism with those we meet.

LET'S CONNECT!



Sioux Falls, SD
605-271-0468



marketing@presentationsisters.org
presentationsisters.org/contact-us



Aberdeen, SD
605-229-8337



JOIN
together
in faith

One Pace Beyond

Take down your lantern from its
niche and go out!
You may not rest in firelight
certainties,
Secure from drifting fog of
doubt and fear.
You may not build yourself
confining walls and say,
"Thus far, and thus, and thus far
shall I walk,
And these things shall I do, and
nothing more."
Go out! For needs calls loudly in
the winding lanes
And you must seek Christ there.
Your pilgrim heart
Shall urge you still one pace
beyond,
And love shall be your
lantern flame.

M. RAPHAEL CONSEDINE, PBVM





Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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It is a return to
that simplicity
which allows
us to stop and
appreciate the
small things...

LAUDATO SI' 222