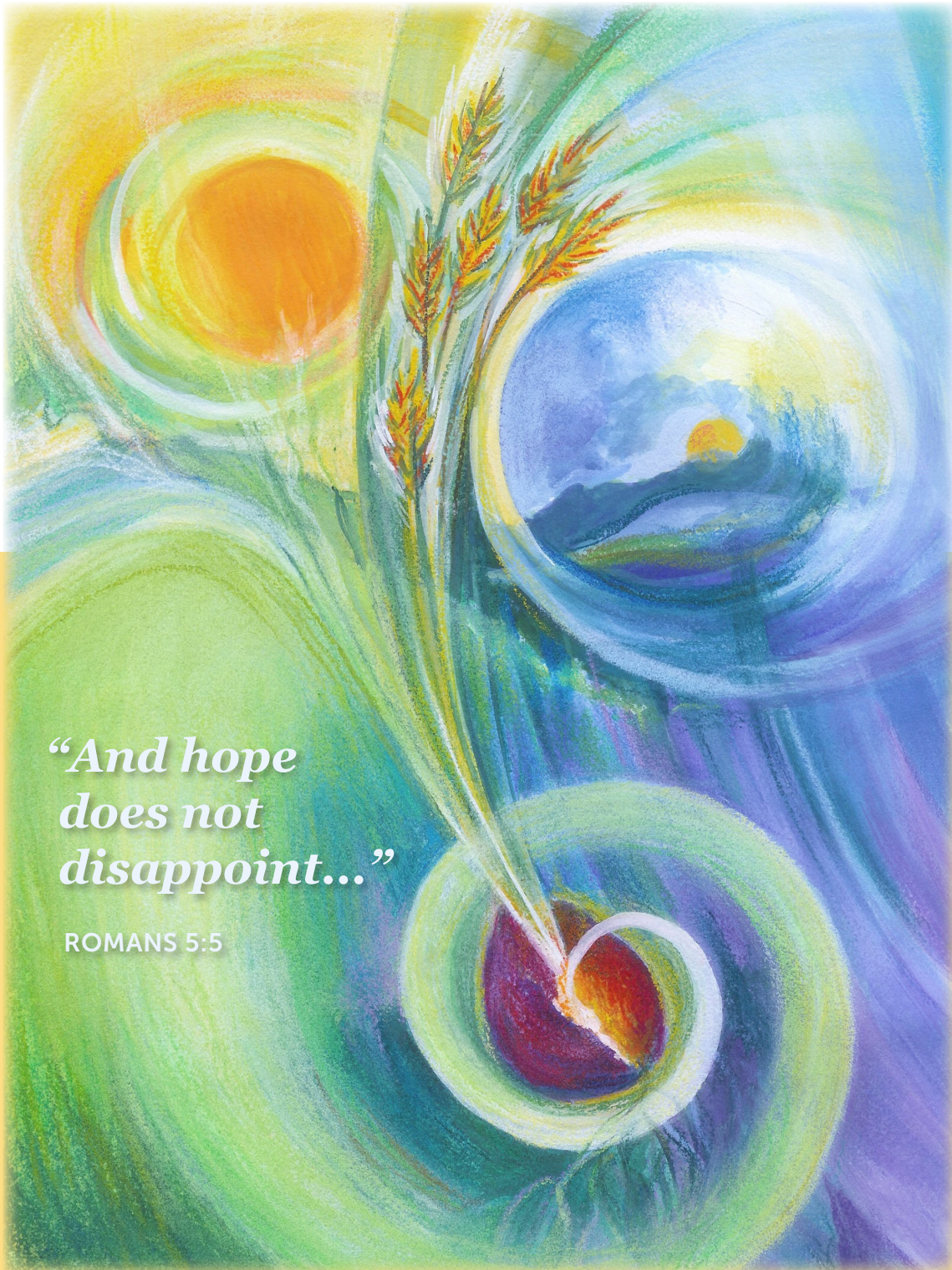




Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Voices & **Ventures**



*“And hope
does not
disappoint...”*

ROMANS 5:5

SUMMER 2025

Dear Presentation Family,

As we come to the midpoint of the calendar year, we continue to reflect upon the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope. This Jubilee has encouraged us to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope", having and bringing hope to one another and within ourselves.

This past year has also brought about change, and with change, hope for an unfolding future. The words from Isaiah 43:19 provide comfort, **"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"**

In June 2025, Caminando Juntos became an independent non-profit organization. We are excited to pass the lantern to our lay employees as they continue to serve the Latino communities in the Sioux Falls, SD area.

This summer we celebrate three Jubilarians. Together they share a combined 215 years of service with others. Through a life of prayer, they continue living out their vocational call, remaining steadfast in the mission of justice and dedication to making our world a better place for all to live.

The Presentation Mission continues through our partnerships with individuals and businesses. We invite you to join us in courageously living the out the Gospel values through prayer and advocacy.

You are upheld in our daily prayers, and we ask you to hold us in your prayer as well. In this Jubilee Year, may we continue to be Pilgrims of Hope to one another, uplifting each other and our Earth with our prayers, our support and our love.

In peace and justice,

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



Sisters Vicky, Roxanne, Pegge and Mary



Jubilee Seed by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ,
www.ministryofthearts.org. *Used with permission.*



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 Elizabeth Remily

Presentation Sister for 78 years

Nano said, "If I could be of service in any part of the world..."

The founders of our own Congregational community in Aberdeen, SD, left their homes in Ireland to come to the vast northern plains of the Dakota Territory. Anywhere beyond your own backyard is ripe for mission: the homeless, jobless, children, the elderly and the many immigrants that flock here as refugees. Get involved! ◆



Mike and Jane Sandsmark

Presentation Cojourners for 39 years

Presentation Mission means following Nano in her approach to every single person - recognizing their worth. Reflecting the teaching of Jesus who said, "when I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was thirsty you gave me drink; when I was a stranger, you welcomed me." ◆



Jenny Dix

Presentation Employee for 29 years

Presentation Mission means living out our core values of compassion and hospitality with a spirit of joy. It is accepting others where they are and serving one another with love. ◆

"If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power."

— Nano Nagle



Jubilee!



We honor these three Presentation Sisters. Together they share a combined 215 years of service with others. Through a life of prayer, they continue living out their vocational call, remaining steadfast in the mission of justice and 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 Josita Schwab

Sister Josita (Elizabeth Mary) Schwab was born and raised in rural Andover, SD. She began her education at Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD, and went on to pursue further studies in clinical pastoral education, dietary administration and theology.

Sister Josita generously shared her talents in dietary services in Huron and Mitchell, SD, before returning to Aberdeen to oversee the Presentation College cafeteria. There, she formed meaningful connections with students from around the world, many of whom she remains in contact with.

In 1978, she embraced a new calling as a parish visitor, serving the communities of Huron, Jefferson, and Elk Point, SD. With a heart full of compassion, she offered prayer, presence, and comfort to those in hospitals, nursing homes, and the regional jail.

In 1996, Sister Josita joined St. Joseph's Catholic Housing in Sioux Falls, where for 11 years, she walked alongside low-income families, immigrants, and the elderly at Northridge Apartments and West Creek Woods, serving both as an advocate and friend.

Upon returning to Aberdeen, she continued her ministry through volunteer work at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. Now retired, she enjoys creating handmade cards and staying connected with family and friends.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Lynn Marie Welbig

Sister Lynn Marie Welbig, a native of Dell Rapids, SD, was inspired by her Presentation Sister teachers to “make the world a better place.” Motivated by their example, she brought her love of learning and vibrant spirit to her roles as teacher and principal, guiding students to grow as compassionate, committed individuals.

She holds multiple degrees, including associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in education, a doctorate in educational leadership, and a master’s degree and licentiate in canon law. These academic achievements equipped her for an array of leadership roles, including the Congregational Leadership Council and president of Presentation College, where she helped establish the Satellite Nursing Education Program on the Cheyenne River Reservation, Eagle Butte, SD.

She served as director of the Sioux Falls Diocesan Tribunal and taught in the region’s marriage preparation program. As a lobbyist to the SD legislature for eight years, she represented the Presentation Sisters in advocating for human dignity and justice. In 2022, she was named SD Woman of the Year by USA TODAY.

Her service continues through board memberships, teaching mission meaning and volunteering with Avera and the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. She also enjoys nature, gardening, and puzzles.



70TH JUBILEE

Sister Patrick Leonard Murphy

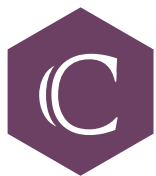
Sister Patrick Leonard Murphy (Sister PL) was raised in Henry, SD, and graduated from Watertown High School. Inspired by the teachers in her life, she pursued education, earning associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in education and administration. This launched a 32-year ministry in Catholic schools across MN and SD, where her sunny disposition, gentle nature, and love of life left a lasting impact on thousands of students.

Her deep compassion for others led her to parish ministry, chaplaincy, mission services and prison ministry. From Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City, MT, to Avera Holy Family Hospital, Estherville, IA, and later Avera Dougherty Hospice House, Prince of Peace and the Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD, she has walked alongside countless individuals, offering a listening ear and a comforting presence.

Celebrating 70 years as a Presentation Sister, she joyfully reflects on her enduring community connection. “We have lived together, been challenged together, laughed together and cried together—we live the Church together.”

Sister PL continues to serve by volunteering at the St. Francis Shelter and as a chaplain at Prince of Peace. She enjoys journaling, crossword puzzles, and visiting with family and friends.

Caminando Juntos



Change is all around us these days. The human story has one thing in common across the generations ... change, and within that is newness, growth, loss, and rebirth. Like the four seasons, Caminando Juntos has been in a season of exciting change. As of June 1, 2025, it has become its own independent non-profit organization.

Over twenty years ago, the Presentation Congregation responded to the unmet needs of newly arriving Latino migrants in the Sioux Falls, SD area. Caminando Juntos was founded to “welcome the stranger” and has impacted Latino migrant’s lives in eastern South Dakota that goes beyond one generation’s lifespan. The ministry’s welcoming hospitality continues and the Sisters could not be more proud.

The new Board of Directors has been established and is deeply committed to the work ahead as they look to maintain the sustainable vitality of the ministry, as the mission remains at the heart of their decisions.

The staff at Caminando Juntos is working to uphold the ministry’s core values, and current programming will remain central to its mission: supporting clients in becoming fully acclimated in their new culture. They continue to walk alongside newly arrived as

well as established Latino community members, maintaining their distinctiveness, and carrying forward the ministry of accompaniment, always seeking appropriate ways to respond to the current needs of the Latino community.

“The goal of apostolic ministry done well is to empower the ministry to become self-sufficient. We are now seeing the fruition of this hope in Caminando Juntos. Our prayers and support will continue to be with this ministry and the people they serve.”

— Sister Mary Thomas, Congregational President

We welcome your continued partnership and support of Caminando Juntos as they continue the legacy of welcoming the stranger. Your prayers and financial investment will be significant in their work of both hospitality and justice. With you, the ministry will thrive and provide the opportunity for positive change in many people’s lives, a change for a new life and a new beginning. ◆

2025 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta



SERVICES OFFERED AT CAMINANDO JUNTOS:

Educational Programming

As the only fully bilingual and bicultural adult education program in the state, we offer several daytime and evening English classes, focusing on a combination of basic literacy skills, speaking, listening, and writing skills; 1:1 tutoring sessions are available and we are the only Spanish GED program in the state, assisting adult learners to finish their high school degree.



Community Services / Advocacy & Outreach

We offer basic needs and provide a list of locations where one may receive additional items/assistance. We continue to assist with referrals and in filling out applications that are only offered in English. Our focus remains on supporting our clients to achieve long-term independence.



Immigration Legal Services

As we congratulate Sister Janet Horstman on her retirement, we welcome Shelley Johnson, Immigration Legal Services Program Director, and Maria Fernanda Puente, Immigration Legal Services' Legal Assistant, to our Immigration Legal Services team where we represent immigrant clients in a variety of humanitarian-based immigration cases. Over the past 20 years, the ministry has assisted thousands of individuals and families with primarily family-based immigration cases, reuniting families and changing their lives through these services. We will continue to assist individuals and families in the future.





"I have been blessed that the Presentation Sisters have always been part of my life. Since my childhood, they have had a profound impact on me and my view of the world. I am honored the Sisters would think of me as a board member. What a privilege it is to be able to be part of a ministry focused on families and living the Gospel."

— Richard Molseed

Board Chair, pictured right



Board Members:

- Andre Adams
- Jeanie Conzemius
- Father Kristopher Cowles
- Sister Vicky Larson
- Richard Molseed
- Brandy Nielsen
- Kristen Townsend

We invite you to scan the QR code to learn more about this ministry and to support their work with our Latino sisters and brothers. Gifts may be made online or by mail.



caminandojuntosd.org
walkingtogethersd.org

605-274-3735

311 E 14th St
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Caminando Juntos Mission:

We create a welcoming presence and respond to the needs of Latino migrants so that they may thrive and flourish in a new place.

Presentation *Movement*

"A bend in the road
is not an end in the
road, unless you fail
to make the turn."

– HELEN KELLER

S

ince our 2022 Gathering of Presentation People, sisters and lay people from the four Presentation Sister Congregations in the United States, (Aberdeen, SD; Dubuque, IA; San Francisco, CA; New Windsor, NY) have been discerning next steps. As religious life is evolving and changing, dialogue has been on the forefront with discussions regarding ways to keep the Presentation Mission and Charism alive through lay leadership. Energy has been strong since the Gathering, but no structure set up to help allow more events and gatherings to take place.

So, we asked, how can a structure be created that allows room to grow for who we are not yet, but have possibilities to become?

This past year, it was decided the time to act is now and we look ahead to what is emerging.

As action took form, much has happened this last year...

- The Congregational leadership teams blessed the recommendation to create a structure for this work and pledged initial seed money. This blessing has led to the creation of a new non-profit organization called the Presentation Movement.
- A new board has been established, consisting of lay partners and sisters from all over the United States.
- The board is engaged in strategic planning.

Stay tuned, as communication rolls out and the strategic plan unfolds in the year ahead.

We hope you will feel inspired to engage in the Presentation Moment. We believe it has possibilities to offer a space of belonging and boldness ... a means to carry forward the Presentation charism in new ways for a new time. ●



The Presentation Movement will create and foster a network of individuals who, through their unique gifts and passions, will build a more just world through compassion, education, spiritual reflection and service to those most in need.



Presentation Movement consultants and board members.

"We have always had lay partners in ministry, but it is very exciting to see the Presentation Movement Board is primarily lay leadership. This is intentional and essential for the Movement to grow and flourish, bringing new voices with different experiences and unique stories of their own connection to Nano and Presentation. There is something universal about her story that gets people excited. I feel that excitement and know that something new is being born."

– Sister Pam Chiesa,
Presentation Movement Board Treasurer and founding member

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. Our hearts are lifted knowing they received faith's reward, the fullness of life with God.

Sister Annrita Johnson

Born to Life March 19, 1929

Born to Eternal Life February 1, 2025

Sister Annrita was a servant leader who dedicated her life to helping others. She combined her nursing and teaching talents as a nursing instructor at Presentation Nursing Schools for over 25 years and helped develop the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Presentation College. After serving on the Congregational Leadership Council, she co-founded Barrett House, a shelter for homeless women and children in Albuquerque, and served in parish ministry on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Returning to Sioux Falls, she volunteered at Avera McKennan Hospital. She was a devoted sports fan, cheering for the Timberwolves, Twins, and Vikings, and supporting student-athletes at Presentation College. She cherished friendships, often remaining prayer partners with former students. She said, **"I love living life to the fullest and I pray that others can live that way, also."**



Sister Michelle Meyers

Born to Life February 8, 1928

Born to Eternal Life February 14, 2025

Sister Michelle loved being an educator, a ministry in which she served for over 60 years as a teacher, speaker, retreat and spiritual director. She shared her kind and loving smile with people of all ages, encouraging and believing in them to accomplish their goals. She was a role model, mentor and friend, inspiring others to become the best version of themselves. She was passionate in advocating for women in social justice and peacemaking ministries, as well as conducting self-esteem workshops for women. Sister Michelle loved spending time with her nieces and nephews. She enjoyed reading, gardening and traveling. Sister Michelle reflected on her life, **"I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the many opportunities and blessings I have been given from our gracious and generous God."**





Sister Donna Brown

Born to Life June 28, 1928

Born to Eternal Life March 18, 2025

Sister Donna started each morning asking God, **"Lord, what are you going to do today that I get to be part of?"** From a young age, Sister Donna celebrated life through singing, dancing and storytelling. She loved bringing joy to others and her lively spirit was seen through her bright, beautiful smile. In all she did, Sister Donna served with compassion and grace. From working as a dormitory supervisor at the Children's Home and ministering as a recreational therapist, to bringing healing through holistic massage therapy, Sister Donna would pray with and encourage people to listen and receive God's marvelous gifts. Sister Donna always had a plan. She was efficient, organized and ready for adventure. She loved nature, camping and even learned to water ski on her 50th Birthday.



Sister Kay O'Neil

Born to Life November 15, 1937

Born to Eternal Life April 2, 2025

Sister Kay loved life. Believing everyone is made in God's image, she strived for equality. Her outgoing personality and leadership shone through as she served as an educator, speaker, counselor, campus minister and retreat director. She was passionate in her work for justice, a founding member of the SD Pax Christi Chapter and worked diligently for peace. Her amazing spirit, energy and encouraging words touched people across the globe as she stated, **"I am called to live life to the fullest following the Gospel mandate to love God, neighbor and self!"** Always on the go, she used every minute to enhance the lives of others. She was a great friend and always had time to listen over a cup of coffee. Proudly Irish, she wore green year-round, even green shoelaces.



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

1500 North Second Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401-1238

“Peace be with you all!”

This is the peace of the risen Christ, an unarmed peace, a disarming, humble and persevering peace, which comes from God, from God who loves us all unconditionally.”

– Pope Leo XIV