



Presentation *ews*

"NOT WORDS BUT DEEDS"

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Spring 2017

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National Catholic Sisters Week

Superstorm Stella did her best to tangle our plans for National Catholic Sisters Week, but our communities were not discouraged. In fact, we rolled with the punches, turning the events into huge successes!

“Proud to be Presentation” was our theme and we asked sisters and associates to hold events in their communities as part of the national week that encourages young women to take a closer look at religious life.

“The week is a great way to share who we are as Presentation Sisters,” said Sister Mary Naccarato, the northern regional coordinator for the Archdiocese of New York’s office of youth ministry. “It’s fun, in the middle of March when nothing else is happening.”

The sisters kicked off the week on March 8 by providing refreshments during an evening of Praise and Worship at Fordham University with more than four dozen attendees! Sister Mary Catherine Redmond gave the reflection on NCSW, and encouraged anyone who was thinking about being a religious or a priest to discern. Sister Mary Catherine said that “several of the women came

up afterwards and said, ‘We’ve never been directly invited from the altar to consider a vocation to religious life.’”

Then, over in Newburgh, New York, Superstorm Stella provided more than a few feet of snow, so our March 11 Habitat for Humanity day of service was unfortunately cancelled.

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Sr. Mary Catherine sharing smiles with Fordham University students.



A Letter from Leadership

Spring, 2017

Presentation News is a semi-annual publication of the **Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** published by the Office of Mission Advancement in the Spring and Fall.

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Dear Friends,

May the peace and joy of our Risen Lord be with you.

As I prepared to write this letter I decided to revisit the Holy Father's papal document, *Evangelii Gaudium (In the Joy of the Gospel.)* It is one of my favorite readings since it's a reminder to me of the many invitations we

receive from our God to follow Him and share our faith.

"We are called to go beyond our comfort zones in order to invite others to faith. The happiness we experience comes, like it did for the first disciples, from sharing our faith with others. We speak a word about faith when appropriate, and God does the rest. Because no one is excluded from God's love, we want to tell everyone about it. We need not fear that we will fail, for God is with us in this." —Pope Francis

During the past seven years as I have received your gifts, I realize through your generosity and the messages you include that each of you also accepts this invitation *to share your faith* with your family and friends. Your donations bring you into partnership with us in spreading the mission of our congregation...

"to pledge ourselves to act for and with the poor and oppressed of our world, and to care for the earth."

I know I speak in the name of all of our Sisters and Associates as I express our gratitude for your continued support and kindness in every way. Please accept the blessing below as a gift from us.

May the God of Spring be with you, delighting with you in the joy of newly budding life, thrilling your heart with a deepened awareness and experience of the spring-time moments of your life. And may your spring-time experiences strengthen your hope in the One who has come that we might have life to the fullest. May the blessings of Spring be upon you.

Gratefully in Christ,

Sr. Mary Byrnes, PBVM
Director of Mission Advancement

In the Spotlight

When asked what entails a typical day for her, **Sr. Anne Massell**, Principal of Resurrection School in Rye, New York, gave a hearty laugh. “As a principal, no two days are ever the same,” she explained.

Sr. Anne, now in her fifth year at Resurrection, uses her impressive education credentials of nearly 40 years to enhance the curriculum with a heavy emphasis on social justice.

The Pre-K3 to eighth-grade school has approximately 400 students and 45 people on staff

monthly food pantry drives, shoe drives for children in Africa so they can go to school, Make a Difference Day (a family volunteer day) and Midnight Run.

Midnight Run is comprised of a “caravan of cars” that heads into Manhattan and makes five or six stops along the way to distribute clothes, shoes and food to the homeless population in the city. The eighth graders do two midnight runs a year, and always ask when they can do it again.

One student was so touched by a

great way to get to know the children on a different level, as part of the drama club.”

The children have a thirst for learning – in the Kindergarten class, the kids put on a presentation for their parents. They dressed up as astronauts, built and painted a spaceship from a refrigerator box and each talked about a planet. They sang a song about the planets written by their teacher, and then each child went into the box and shook it vigorously from inside while a fog machine “blasted” them off to infinity and beyond.

“The children were so excited, like they just could not contain their excitement. And really, that’s what



Sr. Anne Massell, now in her fifth year as Principal of Resurrection School in Rye, uses her impressive education credentials of nearly 40 years to get children excited about learning, with emphasis on social justice.

and boasts dedicated and involved parents as well as a supportive pastor.

“All of our teachers and staff are united in the fact that it is first and foremost a Catholic school with a values-based curriculum,” said Sr. Anne. “I can’t even begin to tell you all the social justice issues we do.”

That impressive list of good works includes: Thanksgiving drives,

man who had no footwear that the teen wanted to leave his own shoes for him. Sr. Anne credits this type of sensitivity to their immersion in social justice.

“You could never teach this in a classroom,” she said.

Sr. Anne is also involved with the drama club; she is one of the co-directors. This year they are putting on Mary Poppins. “It’s a

education is all about, right? Getting children excited about learning?” enthused Sr. Anne. “It’s something they will never ever forget.”

Sister Anne has a special place for her Presentation foundress and it inspires her work. “Education was such a big part of Nano Nagle’s ministry and life,” she said. “In our own way, we each continue to hold that lantern of light, and share it.”

Celebrating Our 2017 Jubilarians

70 Years **Sister Eileen Dennehy** (*formerly Sister Mary Christine*)



Sister Eileen Dennehy entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1947. She was a “pioneer” teacher at St. Paul’s in Yonkers, NY, when the school opened in 1951. She continued her teaching career at various schools in NY, including St. Frances of Rome, Bronx; St. Mary’s, Kingston; Our Lady of Solace, Bronx; and St. John’s, Goshen. Returning to Kingston in 1965, Sister Eileen became the principal of St. Mary’s. Four years later she resumed her teaching career at St. Jude’s School, Manhattan, before returning to St. Frances of Rome. Sister then taught at St. Rose of Lima School, Rockaway Beach, before concluding her teaching ministry back at St. Jude’s.

Well-known for her delightful sense of humor, Sister Eileen has fond memories of her years in the classroom and the many happy experiences she enjoyed with students and their parents.

In 1981, Sister embarked on a new career as Pastoral Minister at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, where she was able to use her own deep faith and pastoral skills to assist dying patients and their families. Sister continued in this difficult but rewarding ministry for 24 years until she “retired” in 2005. She then volunteered in Holy Rosary Parish, her place of residence, as a Eucharistic Minister, visiting the sick and bringing comfort to them and their families. Now retired, Sister resides at Mount St. Joseph.

75 Years **Sister Hannah Marie Cox** (*formerly Sister Mary Alacoque*)



Sister Hannah Marie Cox grew up in a large Irish-American family in Holy Rosary parish in the Bronx. She came to know and love the Presentation Sisters first at Holy Rosary School and later at St. Michael’s Academy in Manhattan where she attended high school ... a long subway ride away from her home in the Bronx! She entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1942.

Sister Hannah Marie began a long career in education at St. Frances of Rome, Bronx, and then went to St. John’s School in Goshen, NY, before returning to the Bronx to teach at Our Lady of Solace School. In 1952, she was assigned to the Mount where she taught in the boys’ school. When St. Mary’s School, Fishkill, NY, opened in 1955, as one of the first Sisters assigned there, Sister Hannah Marie became a “pioneer.” Two years later Sister moved to St. Jude’s School, Manhattan where she taught in the junior high. “I loved teaching, especially teenagers,” says Sister Hannah Marie. “At St. Jude’s, future basketball great Kareem Abdul Jabbar was one of my students. Even then, he towered over his classmates. We had the top team in the city!” In 1965, Sister returned to SFR as school principal and in 1971, she became principal of St. Helen’s School, Howard Beach, NY. Sister Hannah Marie didn’t know it at the time but she was beginning the first of two lengthy assignments to the parish. “There were many long, hard hours as principal,” she says, “but I

enjoyed school activities and working with the teachers.” In 1980, she left St. Helen’s to become principal of St. Joseph’s School, New Windsor, NY, but returned to Howard Beach five years later as a Pastoral Associate in St. Helen’s Parish. What I really loved was our parish outreach through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Teenagers and adults worked together to assist poor people in nearby neighborhoods.” After twenty-four years in parish ministry, Sister Hannah Marie ‘retired’ to Mount St. Joseph in 2009. But ‘retirement’ is not really in her vocabulary! Sister Hannah Marie soon found another ministry as chaplain at St. Teresa’s Nursing Home, Middletown, NY. “My greatest delight there was putting on a Christmas pageant with the residents,” she recalls. “All the senior ladies wanted to be angels, wings and all!” Sister left St. Teresa’s in 2012 but she remains active, volunteering in the PBVM Prayer Association.

75 Years **Sister Eileen Crawley** (formerly *Sister Mary Martha*)



Given the religious name Sister Mary Martha, Sister Eileen Crawley has always, like her biblical namesake, been “busy about many things.”

She entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 24, 1942. She began teaching at St. Bernard’s School, Fitchburg, MA, in 1945. She was then assigned to St. John’s School, Clinton, MA, and went on to St. Mary’s School, Stamford, CT, in 1951. Sister moved to St. Leo’s School, Leominster, MA, the following year before going on to teach at St. Bernard’s High School in Fitchburg in 1954. She enjoyed teaching in secondary school and was happy getting to know her teenage students... so much so that she stayed at St. Bernard’s High for 14 years!

During that time, Sister Eileen also worked as Adjunct Professor of English at Regina Coeli College. In 1968 Sister became part of the administration of Holy Family High School in Fitchburg before moving on to teach at Bishop Keough High School, Pawtucket, RI, in 1974. After 8 years there, Sister Eileen returned to elementary school, Holy Trinity, Central Falls, RI, in 1982. She was appointed principal in 1984.

Deciding on a change of pace after 42 years in education, Sister Eileen’s next assignment was Pastoral Ministry in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul parish, Providence, RI, in 1987. Sister Eileen became Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Victory/St. Vincent de Paul parish, also in RI, in 1994. She retired to Presentation Convent, Leominster, in 2000. Looking back on her 75 years as a Presentation Sister, Sister Eileen remembers many happy experiences in both ministry and community life. “It was definitely worth staying!” she says with a smile.

75 Years **Sister Mary Emery Duval**



Sister Mary Emery Duval entered the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 24, 1942. “It doesn’t seem possible that it’s been 75 years!” she says. “The time has gone by so fast.” She began a long and happy career in education when she was assigned to teach at Holy Family School, Fitchburg, MA, in 1944. She went then to St. Bernard’s School, Fitchburg; St. Catherine’s School, Riverside, CT; Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, RI; St. Benedict’s School, Warwick, RI; and Sacred Heart School, W. Fitchburg, MA. In 1964 Sister Mary Emery returned to Connecticut to teach at St. Mary’s School, Stamford, before returning to Sacred Heart School in W. Fitchburg. She was then assigned to St. Mary’s School, Ayer,

MA; St. Bernard's School, Fitchburg; and St. Leo's School, Leominster, MA. "I always enjoyed working with children," Sister says. Taking a break from the classroom after teaching for 42 years, she took part in a renewal program at St. Stephen's Priory, Dover, MA, in 1986. The following year Sister took a position at the Nancy Patch Retirement Home in Leominster. She then returned to her first love, teaching at the Julie Country Day School, Leominster, where she remained from 1987 until her retirement. Reflecting on her 75 years of religious life, Sister Mary Emery is grateful for the many happy times she has enjoyed. "I met a lot of people and made many new friends," she says.

75 Years **Sister Mary Luke Mulraney**



"Most of my memories are happy and fill me with gratitude for all that I've experienced," says Sister Mary Luke. Sister Mary Luke Mulraney entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 24, 1942, in Fitchburg, MA. Her first ministry assignment was the religious education program at St. Patrick's parish, Whitinsville, MA. She then taught at Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, RI; St. Mary School, Stamford, CT, where she was among the "foundresses" who opened the school; St. Catherine School, Riverside, CT; and St. Mary School, Ayer, MA.

Looking back at her teaching career, Sister Mary Luke laughs as she recalls one outstanding memory. "Opening day at St. Mary's School in Stamford. There we were, 10 nuns ready to get started and 200 children milling around in the schoolyard, wondering what to do! Needless to say, they soon learned 'our way' of doing things!" Sister Mary Luke's next assignment was a return to Holy Trinity, Central Falls, where she was principal from 1971-75. Later Sister assumed the role of librarian, first at St. Bernard's High School, Fitchburg, then at Holy Family School, Fitchburg, and finally, at St. Louis School, Webster, MA.

Following the Unity process which led to the founding of a "new" Presentation congregation in 1997 (the former Fitchburg and Newburgh congregations combined), Sister Mary Luke became archivist in 1998. "I was involved in Unity because of my archivist training and I learned so much from the experience. Unity brought us together. So many blessings." Sister Mary Luke retired in 2008. "I think of retirement as being called to another ministry," she says. "Here at Presentation Convent I feel I am called to minister to any Sister in need. I can sew it, mend it, patch it, darn it, staple it, or glue it. Somehow or other, I can always find a way to help! And that's a real ministry."

75 Years **Sister Mary Gregory West**



Sister Mary Gregory entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1942. She had a long and happy career as an educator, beginning at St. John's Elementary School, Goshen, NY. She went on to St. Mary's, Kingston, NY, before volunteering to go south to St. Lucy's School, Houma, LA, where she taught in both the elementary and high school.

At the time, the 1950's, schools in the South were still segregated and St. Lucy's students were all African American. In addition to her teaching, Sister Mary Gregory worked to find college placement for St. Lucy's graduates in other areas of the country where they might find better opportunities than were available at that time in Louisiana.

In 1963 Sister returned to NY where she became principal of St. John's elementary school. Later she taught

at St. Frances of Rome, Bronx, and then became principal of St. Raphael School, Long Island City.

In 1971, Sister Mary Gregory was elected to the new position of Apostolic Coordinator for the congregation, a post she held until 1975. During that time, Sister also served as District Superintendent of School (Westchester), Archdiocese of NY and was again principal of St. John's from 1972-77. Sister Mary Gregory then returned to teaching at St. Frances of Rome where she later assumed the role of Parish Religion Resource Person, working in both the school and the religious education program. She was also active in forming and participating in the parish prayer group.

Sister retired and moved to Mt. St. Joseph in 2011. "My 34 years at SFR gave me many happy memories," says Sister Mary Gregory. "One I remember especially was taking a group of Bronx teenagers to an Advent retreat at Mt. St. Joseph. We arrived in the evening and as they stepped off the bus, every one of them stood and stared up in awe at the star-filled sky. Wow!"

80 Years **Sister Anna Farragher** (formerly Sister Mary Bernard)



Of her 80 years as a Sister of the Presentation, Sister Anna Farragher spent 47 of them in the field of education. "I enjoyed working with children. Hopefully, I helped them become better people. I've had the opportunity to meet so many students, parents, other teachers over the years," Sister Anna says.

Sister Anna Farragher entered the congregation in Fitchburg, MA, on February 2, 1937. At her reception she was given the name Sister Mary Bernard. She began teaching at her namesake St. Bernard's School, Fitchburg, in 1938. In 1940, she was assigned to Sacred Heart School, W. Fitchburg and then went to another Sacred Heart parish, this time in Woonsocket, RI, where she taught in the religious education program. She was transferred to Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, RI, in 1947; Holy Rosary School, Clinton, MA, in 1950; St. Catherine's School, Riverside, CT, in 1952; and back to St. Bernard's School, Fitchburg, in 1956. Sister went next to St. Leo's School, Leominster, MA, before returning to Sacred Heart, W. Fitchburg, in 1959. She became principal of Sacred Heart in 1963. Sister Anna then moved to secondary education as a teacher at Presentation High School in Stamford, CT, in 1966. After two years she returned to Fitchburg, first at Holy Family School, then back to Sacred Heart, and then back to St. Bernard's. In 1974 Sister Anna was, once again, missioned to Sacred Heart, Fitchburg but this time as Religious Education Coordinator. After 4 years there, she assumed the role of principal at St. Benedict's School, Warwick, RI. In 1980, she was reassigned to teach at Holy Family School, Fitchburg. In 1985, Sister Anna retired from the classroom but soon began a new ministry in social services at International Homecare Services in Fitchburg. She moved to Catholic Charities in 1990.

Sister Ann Farragher "retired" in 1995 but she remained active in volunteer service as long as her health permitted. Like Sister Eileen Crawley, Sister Anna says, "It was all worth it. Throughout my life, I've made many new friends. And I enjoyed living community life with the sisters."

2017 Jubilarians *continued on page 8*

Important Dates

JUNE 23 – 25, 2017 Annual Assembly –
Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT

JULY 10TH, 2017 20th Anniversary of our Unity –
New Windsor & Massachusetts

80 Years **Sister Margaret Garvey** (*formerly Sister Mary Denise*)



Sister Margaret entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 24, 1937.

She remembers that day well. “Eight of us entered that day and so we became a ‘band’,” she recalls. “Most of us had just left home for the first time so this was a moment when we really needed friends. We all did become friends and remained so for life.” Sr. Margaret began her teaching days at St. Bernard’s School, Fitchburg, MA, in 1938. She then went to St. John’s School, Clinton, MA; Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, RI; Holy Rosary School, Clinton, MA; and then back to St. Bernard’s. In 1957, Sister Margaret became principal of St. Mary’s School, Ayer, MA. She returned to teaching at St. Catherine’s School, Riverside, CT, in 1961, and then went to Holy Family School, Fitchburg, where she was appointed principal in 1967. She taught at Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, before taking the role of assistant principal at St. Bernard’s High School, Fitchburg, in 1972. Two years later she returned to Holy Trinity as principal. Sister then embarked on the next phase of her ministry when she became religious education coordinator in St. John’s Parish, Clinton. In 1983, the third phase began when Sister Margaret became the elementary consultant for religious education in the Providence, RI, diocese. Sister ‘retired’ in 1995. Among her many happy memories, Sister Margaret recalls the special kindness shown to the Presentation Sisters by women in the parishes, especially in the pre-Vatican days when the Sisters were semi-cloistered. At Holy Trinity in Central Falls, the Mother’s Club provided us with whatever we needed. And I remember one woman at St. John’s in Clinton who never shook our hands without leaving us with a dollar or two... and she probably needed the money herself.” ❖

Ways of Giving

Your donation has an immediate impact. It will not only help support our sisters who work without compensation but it will help support:

- retired and infirm Sisters
- the ongoing education of members
- maintenance of facilities in New Windsor, New York and Leominster, Massachusetts

With your support we can continue to reach out to those in need, following in the words of our foundress, Nano Nagle, “If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the world I would gladly do all in my power. Where there is a need I will go.”

Online Donations

Please make note that donations can now be made securely and safely online at: www.sistersofthepresentation.org.



**You are always
in our prayers.**

Beacon of Light

Edward Otterstedt lives by the motto, “You get more results with honey than with vinegar.”

The proof in his words is indisputable. In fact, the village of Chester, New York, inspired by his sweetness and dedication to the community, proclaimed his 100th birthday on April 5 as “Edward Otterstedt Day.”

An outdoor enthusiast, the sociable Mr. Otterstedt is a historian when it comes to the village, with memories of people and events stretching far back into time. His daughter, Sister Martha Otterstedt, vice president of the Presentation sisters, says that years ago, as many

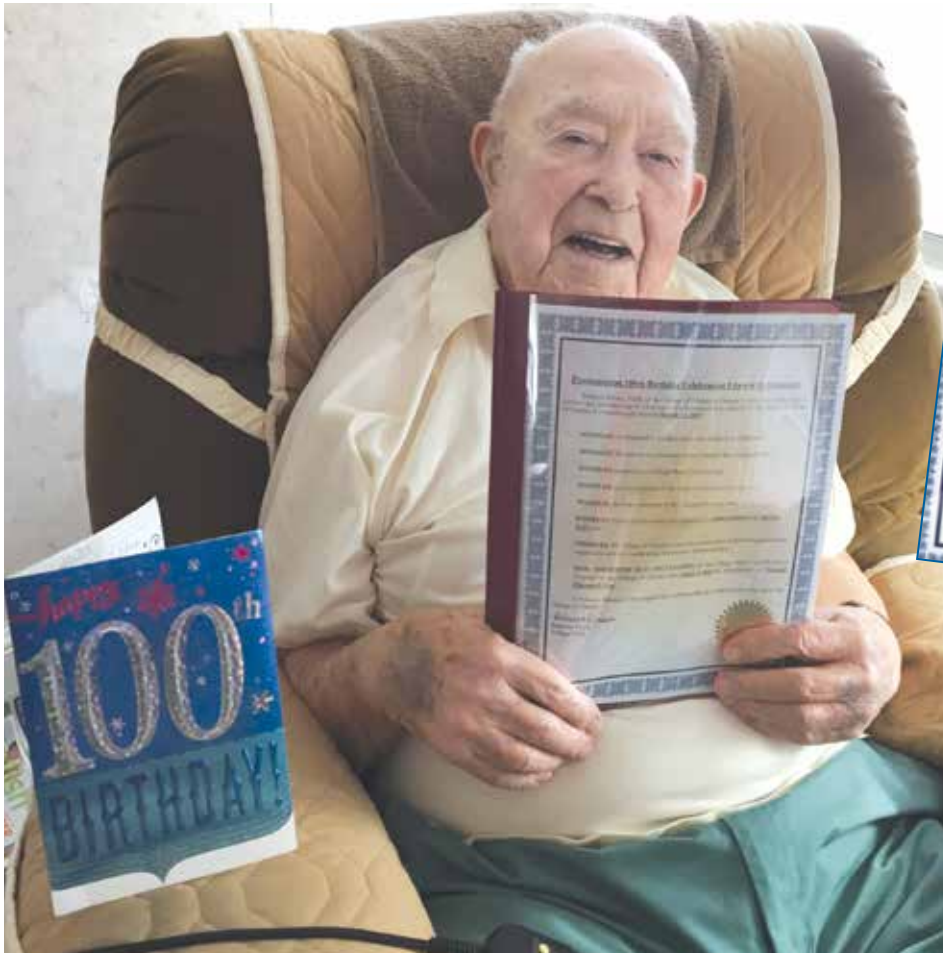
people do after payday, her dad would head to a small local market. But Mr. Otterstedt wasn't there just for himself. He'd hand a sum of money to the grocer to use in case a family in need was short on their bill.

Born a Methodist, Mr. Otterstedt nevertheless attended Mass with his Catholic wife, Evelyn. Evelyn passed away in February 2014 after nearly 74 years of marriage. It was after that when Mr. Otterstedt became a Catholic in a private ceremony, the oldest convert the pastor had ever received into the Church.

Mr. Otterstedt was first introduced to the sisters when his daughter attended a St. John's High School in

Goshen, NY. When Sister Martha herself joined the order, he built beautiful friendships with the sisters, taking delight in hosting them in Florida, where he and his wife owned a second home. He is very proud of Sr. Martha and, according to her, “tells all the doctors he knows that his daughter is a nun!” When Sister Martha's mother died, Mr. Otterstedt was comforted by the sisters' phone calls and visits and he loves keeping abreast of their work.

Grateful for all the quality time spent with his wife, whether golfing, eating out or traveling across the country, Mr. Otterstedt says he has done everything a man could wish. And when people ask him how he is, his humorous response? “Well, I *am* breathing!” 🌟



Edward Otterstedt enjoying his 100th Birthday greetings and the proclamation of “Edward Otterstedt Day” from the Village of Chester.

Why I Am Proud to Be a Presentation Associate

By Karen Leger

My relationship with the Sisters of the Presentation has been ongoing for over 64 years, in many different ways. It started at the old St. Bernard Elementary School on Water St. where, as a first grader, I sat before first year teacher, Sr. Mary Brian. My love for the sisters and the art of teaching began with my first grade teacher and was fostered by many sisters as I moved through grammar school and then on to St. Bernard High School. I was a student teacher in grade one with Sr. Charlene O’Leary at the new St. Bernard Elementary School during my senior year in college in 1968. I taught CCD for Sr. Anne Harrington, who had been my seventh grade teacher. Later, at my parish of Holy Family, I worked with Sr. Pat Roddy. And of course, my relationship with the Presentations continued as I taught at St. Leo School under the guidance of my first grade teacher, who had become the principal.

My daughters went to St. Leo and now my grandchildren attend the wonderful school founded and guided for so long by the sisters. I serve as secretary of the St. Leo School Board; I have had the honor of working with Sr. Catherine Hannigan who was our first Presentation representative; Sr. Pat Dowler honors us as the current Sister on our Board. One of my fondest memories was the last time I took my grade five class to

visit the sisters at the Convent just before I retired in 2012. The sisters raised their hands to offer me the special Presentation Blessing. I was very moved by their kindness.

It was Sr. Christine, then a kindergarten teacher at St. Leo, who first approached me with the idea of becoming an associate. Spending more time in prayer, especially with the sisters, was the main attraction of becoming a Presentation Associate. In addition to the sisters, I’ve met so many women of faith and compassion who value a closer relationship with our Lord and a service for those around them.

I look forward to attending our monthly meetings and the faith-filled retreat days provided by the sisters.

As an associate, I serve my parish as Eucharistic minister and lector. I’m also handy with the vacuum as I help clean our church each Monday.

My siblings sometimes refer to

me as “Sr. Mary Karen;” I have been called upon many times to serve as lector, Eucharistic minister, or offer grace at family wedding receptions, if no priest is present.

Although I am officially retired from teaching after 31 years at St. Leo School, I spend a day or two each week helping there. Every November, using materials provided by Sr. Maggie, Sr. Mary Anne, and Sr. Charlene, I make sure the children learn about the life and dedication of Blessed Nano Nagle.

I’d like to thank the sisters I visit with, as well as the many that have gone on to their eternal reward, for the guidance given to me for so many years. My parents were the primary role models in my life, but the Sisters of the Presentation have also had a profound influence upon me. My relationship with them, especially as an associate, is something I will always treasure. ✚



Karen Leger at Saint Leo's School.

How We are Living Our Call to be People of **Justice and Mercy?**

By Sr. Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM

The Interfaith Vigil for National Healing and Unity sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor began with a reading of “The Duel” by Eugene Fields. “The gingham dog and the calico cat, side by side at the table sat...” We probably remember the words from our elementary school days. Alas, “side by side” didn’t indicate companionship. Instead, the two “wallowed this way and tumbled that employing every tooth and claw in the awfullest way you ever saw!”

None of us wants to live in an America filled with “gingham dogs and calico cats,” yet the bickering, name calling, partisanship in which we find ourselves immersed is for sure the “awfullest” thing I have ever seen.

At our vigil we examined the attitudes which we felt were most in need of healing in our country today: cynicism, arrogance, disrespect, distrust, scapegoating among them, and then reflected on which attitude resided in our own heart. We prayed a litany of healing for ourselves and for our country.

We remembered Pope Francis’ call to create a “Culture of Encounter” and then looked at St. Francis of Assisi’s encounters

with the wolf of Gubbio, the leper, and the Sultan of Egypt. We looked at our own attempts at encounter with “the other.”

Lastly, we prayed prayers for peace found in different religious traditions, trying to focus on one from a tradition not our own in an attempt to pray it as and with our Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or Jewish brothers and sisters.

Forming a large circle and looking at one another we recited the words of Mahatma Gandhi:

I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship. I see your beauty, I hear your need.

I feel your feelings. My wisdom flows from the Highest Source. I salute that Source in you. Let us work together for unity and love.

It was one hour on a Sunday afternoon, but I know I was changed. We were there in solidarity around our common humanity and the goals we all have for our loved ones and communities. I will still go to rallies to protest the delay in refugee resettlement. I will sign petitions and make calls about environmental injustice, but I am not as angry – and that’s a good thing. May this inner peace focus my passion and actions for justice. ➡

Interfaith Vigil for National Healing and Unity



In Memoriam

Sr. Mary McCarthy (Sr. Mary Justin)

March 15, 1928 – April 18, 2017



Sr. Mary McCarthy (Sr. Mary Justin), entered the Sisters of the Presentation in Newburgh, NY on September 8, 1945. She made her first vows on April 26, 1948 and final vows on April 26, 1951. Sister earned a BA from Manhattan College, a MA in French from Rivier College, NH and a MA in Religious Studies from St. Joseph Seminary.

During her years of ministry, Sr. Mary taught at St. Frances of Rome and Our Lady of Solace Schools in the Bronx and St. Michael High School in Manhattan. Sister taught at St. John's High School in Goshen, NY (1959 – 1967) and served as Principal of John S. Burke Catholic High School in Goshen from 1967 – 1970 and from 1975 – 1983. In the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, Sr. Mary served as Coordinator and then Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools. Sr. Mary served in congregational leadership from 1983 – 1991 and then as Pastoral Associate at Sacred Heart Parish in Newburgh from 1992 – 2015.

Sr. Mary was loved and revered by her students through the years, staying in touch with many of them into their adulthood. Some were proud to introduce their own children to their favorite teacher.

In her retirement at Mount St. Joseph Sr. Mary continued to minister by offering Scripture sessions to those who came to be nourished by the Word of God. Sister was generous in sharing her own insights and prayer with those who gathered.

Strength of character and fidelity characterized Sr. Mary throughout her life. No doubt her heavenly welcome included the words, “well done, good and faithful servant.”

Sister Mary Anne Diehl (Sr. Mary Constance)

January 30, 1939 – November 5, 2016



Sister Mary Anne Diehl entered the Sisters of the Presentation at Mount Saint Joseph, Newburgh, NY, on September 8, 1956. At her reception she was given the name Sister Mary Constance. She professed final vows on April 29, 1962. Sister's teaching ministry led her to St. Frances of Rome and Our Lady of Solace schools in the Bronx, NY and St. Mary's School in Kingston, NY. She also taught in Louisiana and at St. John's School in Goshen, NY, where she also served as principal. Sister Mary Anne went onto serve in parish ministry, first as a member of NY's Parish Mission Team, later in ministry to seniors at St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Brooklyn. Sister Mary Anne then

engaged in social service ministry, first in an independent living program in the Bronx, later at St. Dominic's Home in Blauvelt, NY. She was director of youth ministry for the Bergen County, NJ, CYO program before returning to parish ministry at Immaculate Conception Church in Queens. Sister Mary Anne retired in 2006. She died on November 5, 2016. In her 60 years as a Presentation Sister, Sister Mary Anne touched the lives of many people in many different ways.



Sr. Mary Byrnes along with the sisters in her local community made supper and served the young women from Fitchburg University who taught Sister Mary to take a “selfie.”

But we made the best of the challenging situation, and took the seven young women from Fitchburg State University who’d taken their spring break to help us, around to a different convent each night for dinner, prayer and sharing vocation stories.

Sister Mary said, “We’re able to expose young people to what we do as Presentation Sisters in the way of feeding the poor, clothing the poor, housing the poor, educating the poor, advocating for the poor.”

The girls later braved the 26 inches of snow to trek to our assisted living center, participating in activities and sharing some treats. “That’s always a highlight for our sisters in the retirement home,” said Sr. Mary. “Any excuse to have root beer floats!”

We also held two open houses



Sr. Hannah Marie Cox leads us in our evening prayer and reflection after a lovely dinner with the Sisters.

on March 12 – one at Presentation Convent in Leominster, Massachusetts, and the other in Newburgh. At Leominster, 40 sisters, associates and guests joined us for an afternoon of prayer, reflection and sharing of stories. “It was wonderful because our sisters and associates were able to share with our guests who we are,” said Sister Mary.

The newly established St. Francis of Assisi Convent in Newburgh hosted an overwhelming 76 guests! “Folks were able to come and see how we live. It’s always a big mystery to people of what it’s like to come into a convent,” said Sr. Mary with a chuckle. “Then they see that we live simply, but lovely.”



Saint Leo’s Appreciation Breakfast.

Other Presentation events included:

- New Orleans Presentation Sisters Collaborative Service Week
- St. Leo’s Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- An evening of adoration, praise and worship led by the Young Adult Music Ministry at Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries (youth and young adult retreat house that a few of our sisters minister at various times throughout the year) ✚

The events were funded by a grant from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation through the National Catholic Sisters Week, and the Catholic Volunteer Network.



Fordham University students traveled with Sister Mary Catherine Redmond down to New Orleans to volunteer with the Lantern Light Ministry as part of National Catholic Sisters Week. One night, the women prayerfully bathed each other’s hands in preparation to wash the feet of guests at Rebuild Center the next day. “The interactions that happened when they were washing the feet of the guests were just absolutely profound,” said Sister Mary Catherine.



If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.

(JOHN 13:14-15)

Sisters of the Presentation Prayer Association

Our sisters are mindful in their daily prayers of the intentions and prayer requests of our friends and benefactors. Masses are offered on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of each month for all who have asked for prayerful support in the various aspects of their lives. Giving one of our attractively designed cards lets people know that you are remembering them in a unique way during a special time in their lives. The usual donation is \$5.00 to be sent after you have used the card.



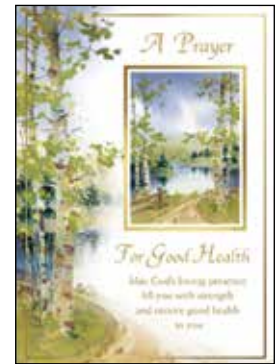
GW1
Get Well Blessings



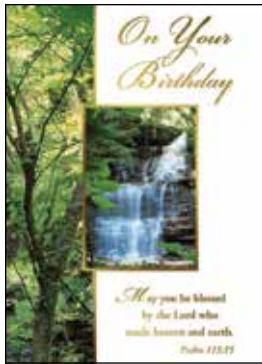
BD1
For Your Birthday



BD4
On Your Birthday



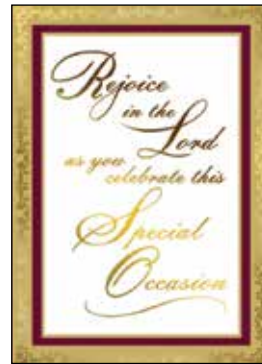
GW2
A Prayer for Good Health



BD2
On Your Birthday



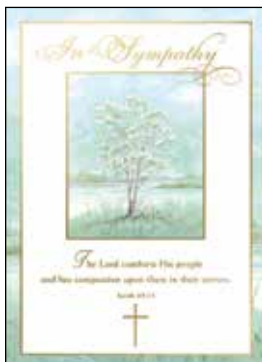
BD3
Birthday Blessings



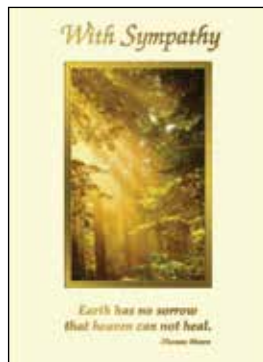
SO1
Special Occasion



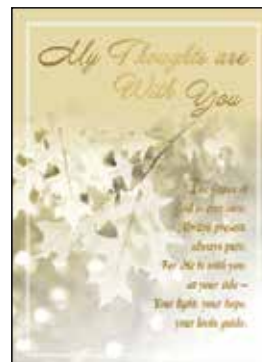
SY2
Eternal Rest



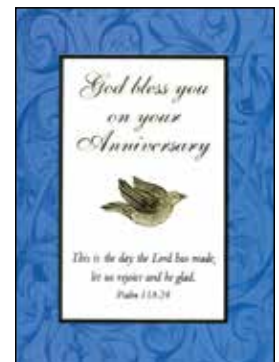
SY3
In Sympathy



SY4
With Sympathy

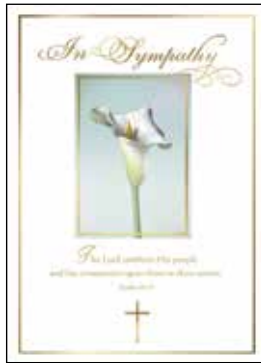


TH1
My Thoughts are With You



AN1
God Bless You on Your Anniversary

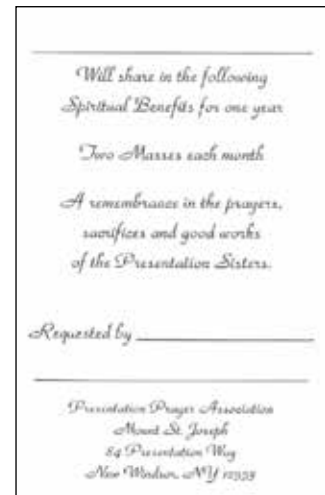
If you would like any of our beautiful prayer cards for Birthdays, Healing, Special Occasion, Thinking of You or Sympathy you may send your email requests to missionadvancement@sistersofthepresentation.org or you may write to **MISSION ADVANCEMENT OFFICE, Mt. St. Joseph, 84 Presentation Way, New Windsor, NY 12553**



SY5
In Sympathy



GW3
A Healing Prayer



**Inside Text of All
Prayer Cards**



SY1
Eternal Rest



TH2
Thinking of You

We Remember

Please join the sisters in prayer for the following loyal friends who have recently passed away.

Dr. Joseph Addante
Mr. & Mrs. J. Arnold
Mrs. Agnes Ballantine
Ms. Florine M. Belliveau
Mr. Paul Callanan

Ms. Lucy Ann Caruso
Msgr. James Cox
Mr. Norman Cudeck
Mrs. Lena Fiori
Mr. Edward Gagne

Mrs. Patricia Geisel
Mrs. Mary Lacombe
Mrs. Barbara Mastrodomenico
Mrs. Amelia McCann
Mr. Richard O' Brien



We are blessed that the memory of loved ones, who kindled our spirits in some way by their love, their deeds or their commitment, remain with us after they are gone.



"NOT WORDS BUT DEEDS"

**Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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[**missionadvancement@sistersofthepresentation.org**](mailto:missionadvancement@sistersofthepresentation.org)

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, inspired by our foundress, Nano Nagle, commit ourselves to the Gospel values of hope, justice, freedom, and human dignity. In union with one another, we pledge ourselves to act for and with the poor and oppressed of our world, and to care for the earth.