



Presentation News

A Newsletter from the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor, NY

Fall 2021

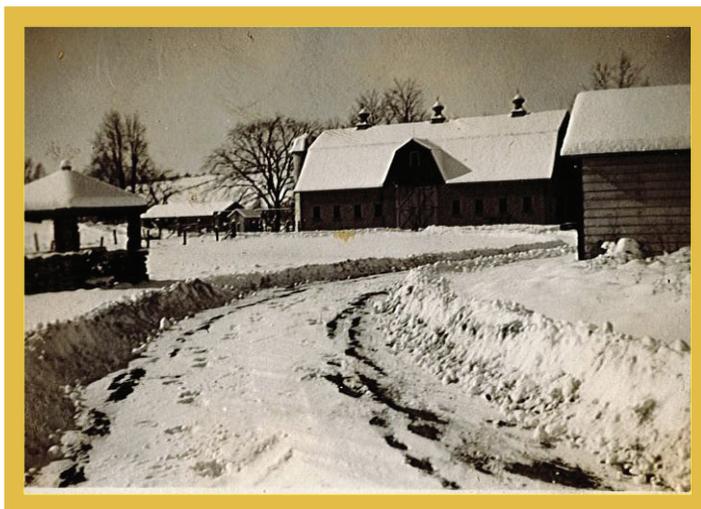
Table of Contents

A Century in Orange County, NY	1 & 3
Letter from Leadership	2
Presentation People	3
Jubilarians	4 & 5
In the Spotlight	6
Solar Panels	6
In Memoriam	7
We Remember	7
Mission Statement	8
Prayer Association	8



A Century in Orange County, NY

Before 1920 the Sisters spent their summers at their convent in Beacon, NY on property overlooking the Hudson River and the tracks of the New York Central Railroad. These months away from the city of Manhattan provided welcome change for the Sisters whose days were spent teaching in the school and living in the convent attached to the school.



The Farm 1921

It was Thursday of Easter week, April 1920, that word reached the sisters at St. Michael's that the convent in Beacon was burning. The fire started when a passing train on the tracks below sent out a spark that caught the dry grass and made its way up the cliff to the house. The house was burned to the ground and most of its treasures were destroyed.

With the loss of the house in Beacon, the sisters began looking for a place outside of the city where they could spend the summer months. Priest friends of the sisters reported that a place of about 90 acres, five miles from Newburgh, was for sale. It had rolling farmland, woodland, and a lake, with a large house, cottage and barn on a State Road. Early in October, Mothers Gabriel & Stanislaus and priest friends went to see the property. By November the contract of sale was signed for \$12,000.00 and the community took possession of the property. Notes in our chronicles report that the estate was known as the Miller Stock Farm, where young trotting horses were bred and trained for the Goshen race track. It is interesting to note that Mr. Miller's wife was one of the daughters of the Singer Sewing Machine family, a renowned business name of the day.

The first sisters to live on the property in the summer of 1921 had spent their lives as city dwellers. Consequently, the transition to the rural culture provided many new learning experiences. Soon there were cows, pigs, chickens and crops to be tended and used to provide meals for the sisters. The surrounding neighbors joined the sisters for Sunday Mass as the trip into Newburgh was not possible for many of them. (Continued on page 3)



A Letter from Leadership

Fall 2021

Dear Friends,



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.

Director of Mission Advancement:
Sr. Margaret Murphy, PBVM
mmurphy@sistersofthepresentation.org

Assistant Director of Mission Advancement / Communications:
Justin Perez
jperez@sistersofthepresentation.org

Mission Advancement Adjunts:
JoAnne Accolla - Associate Member
Frances Lego - Associate Member

PBVM Presentation Prayer Association:
Sr. Hannah Cox, PBVM
New Windsor, NY
845-567-0204 x 123

Sr. Anna Raimon, PBVM
Leominster, MA
(978) 537-7108

Sisters of the Presentation Administration Office:
Mount St. Joseph
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, NY 12553
Tel: 845-564-0513

Creating a Future Full of Hope was the theme of the 5th General Chapter of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary held on August 16-20, 2021, at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. The level of excitement was palpable

as Sisters and invited Associates were able to gather in person after 1 ½ years of meeting via Zoom due to the pandemic. As Nano Nagle said, “There is no greater joy than to be in Union” and our gathering held energy, joy and hope.

The focus of The Chapter of Affairs was to decide our direction statement for the next six years. We prayerfully discerned and decided on the one commitment below:

In the spirit of our foundress Nano Nagle, Presentation Sisters and Associates commit ourselves to address the needs of women and children, especially as they are impacted by economic, environmental and racial inequity.

Each Sister and Associate present then brainstormed on ways to implement the commitment, both personally and communally, into the next six years. There were unique suggestions which created areas of focus and action to help put our direction statement into **Deeds, Not Words.**

The Chapter of Elections called forth new Leadership in our congregation for the next six years. The newly elected team of Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, Sr. Catherine Cleary, Sr. Dorothy Scesny, and Sr. Laura Urbano will work collaboratively with our Sisters, Associates and each of you, our Partners in Mission, as we live today to create the future of religious life.

We firmly believe that the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will continue into the future as we collaborate and work together with Associates, employees, Partners in Mission and other religious congregations. This present time calls us to be creative in our response and use of resources. It is this belief that lends to the excitement of this time and calls each of us to creatively live Nano’s legacy with promise, hope and fidelity.

We ask your prayers as we begin our term and promise you remembrance in our prayers. We will continue to be in conversation with you regarding the ways in which all of us can/will implement our Chapter Commitment, and look forward to partnering with you as, together, we further the mission of our congregation.

Faithfully,

Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond

Sr. Dorothy Scesny

Sr. Catherine Cleary

Sr. Laura Urbano



The Chapel 1930



The College Building 1958



The Chapel & Convent 1966



Mt. St. Joseph 2009 to Present Day

Upon meeting the families, especially the children, the sisters were soon giving religious instruction to their young neighbors, a foreshadowing of the years when the Sisters would teach catechism classes across the road at Stewart Air Force base. Thus Presentation life took root at 880 Jackson Ave.

After only a year, it became evident that more room was needed for the growing community and thus construction was begun on a chapel and a dormitory for use when all the sisters would gather at Mount St. Joseph. By 1924 a boarding school was opened, staffed by the sisters. Our chronicles continue with stories, growth and modifications made at the Mount through the decades. In 1957 a modern novitiate and college building changed our landscape and in 1966 a new chapel, infirmary and convent brought further changes to the flourishing community.

The property encompassed acreage known as “the seven fields” where crops of corn, tomatoes, rhubarb, and more were grown for several years, supplying the sisters and others with delicious summer vegetables. For many of us it was an adventure to walk on the narrow dirt road through the seven fields enjoying distant vistas as we continued up hill on our journey. It was never part of our musings that we would one day be living on land in the seven fields. Yet, in 2009 the momentous move took place up the hill from 880 Jackson Ave to our new address on Presentation Way, with a new world of individual houses, a new chapel, Administration Building, dining room and accommodations for our retired sisters. It is from this vantage point today that we recall our community’s hundred year history in New Windsor.

By car or ferry, train or Shortline bus people have found their way to Mt. St. Joseph during the past one hundred years. We’ve ministered and adapted through the years, from the “roaring twenties”, through World War II and the wars that followed, spanning the decades through the reign of eight Popes and nineteen Presidents, from rotary phones to iPhones and from typewriters to computers. We do not know what miracles have been wrought in this place nor all the good that has emanated from the Sisters’ presence here, but with grateful hearts we thank God for the blessings that we know have been ours. We look forward to remaining faithful to our stewardship and sharing the gift God has given to this Congregation. **-Sr. Margaret Murphy, PBVM**

Gathering of Presentation People



The first in-person “Gathering of Presentation People” across North America has been eagerly awaited. The gathering planned for Sioux Falls, South Dakota from September 23-25, 2021 was cancelled due to the recent surge in Covid 19. It is hoped that the gathering will take place at a future date.

Time for Celebrating



Sr. Ruth Abrams
60 Years

1985 Sr. Ruth taught in Catholic elementary schools at St. Jude's, Sacred Heart, and La Salle Academy in Manhattan, and also at St. Rose of Lima, Rockaway, NY. From 1985 through 2019 she continued her own education working as an English teacher in the Title I funded program in non-public schools and then for the NYC Department of Education.

Retiring in 2019, Sr. Ruth continued to take advantage of the vibrant city life offered by living in Manhattan but is currently preparing to relocate to Mt. St. Joseph in New Windsor.

Sr. Ruth was born in Hackensack, NJ and graduated from Villa Walsh High School in Morristown, NJ.

In preparation for her teaching career she earned a BS in Education from Seton Hall University in NJ, an MA in reading from Manhattan College and a PhD in Language from Fordham University. From 1975 to



Sr. Maureen Ahlemeyer
(Sr. Mary Muriel)
60 Years

certification in Administration from Manhattan College.

Her early years of teaching were in the primary grades at Our Lady of Solace in the Bronx and Kingston Catholic Primary School in Kingston, NY. From 1977 to 2012 Sr. Maureen was principal of St. Raphael School in Long Island City, NY.

Study at Avila Institute of Gerontology in 2013 prepared her to work with the elderly. A shift in focus in 2014 brought Sr. Maureen to the ministry of religious education where she continues today as Director of the program for St. Camillus-St. Virgilius Parish in Rockaway, NY

Sr. Maureen was familiar with Presentation Sisters from an early age visiting her aunt, Sr. Mary de Lourdes. After completion of St. Michael's High School in Manhattan, she entered the convent at Mt. St. Joseph in 1961. Her college education began at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, NY where she earned a BS in education followed by a MS in education from the University of Bridgeport as well as



Sr. Norma Carney
(Sr. Mary Giles)
60 Years

and then St. Mary's in Marlboro, NY during the years between 1979 and 1998. Study at Adelphi University prepared her for Congregational Service in formation with our novices. From 2002 to 2020 Sr. Norma was assistant director of Newburgh Ministries in the city of Newburgh, NY.

Now retired and living in New Windsor, Sr. Norma is involved with social justice and environmental issues. She is active with the Associate Ministers in the congregation.

Sr. Norma graduated in 1961 from St. Michael's High School in Manhattan and entered the Presentation Sisters that September. Her teaching years were spent in Clifton, NJ, Kingston, NY, and Goshen, NY from 1965 to 1979.

Sr. Norma turned to parish ministry and religious education, serving at St. Mary's in Newburgh, NY



Sr. Kathryn Geisel
(Sr. Mary Walter)
60 Years

Sr. Kathryn's years as a classroom teacher were spent with third and fourth graders in Fishkill, NY, Yonkers, NY, Wayne, NJ and the Bronx. In 1975 Sr. Kathryn began nine years of ministry at St. David School in New Orleans, first as a teacher and then as principal.

From 1984 to 1997 she served as assistant principal of Holy Rosary School in the Bronx.

Since 1997 Sr. Kathryn's ministry has been within the Congregation: from 1997 to 2009 as a member of our leadership team and from 2009 to the present time as the coordinator of our retirement house at Mt. St. Joseph, New Windsor, NY.

Sr. Kathryn grew up in Kingston, NY in St. Mary's Parish where the Presentation Sisters ministered. She graduated from Kingston High School and entered Mt. St. Joseph Novitiate in 1961. During her academic preparation for teaching she earned a BA in Education from the University of Bridgeport, CT and a MS in counseling from Iona College, NY.



Our Sixtieth Year Jubilarians



Sr. Katherine McKenna
(Sr. Mary Joan)
60 Years

Sr. Katherine graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Pawtucket, RI in 1961 and entered the Sisters of the Presentation that September. Sr. Katherine's education included a BA in Philosophy from Regina Coeli in Fitchburg, MA, a Masters Degree in counseling from Assumption College in Worcester, MA and a Masters in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkley,

CA. Her ministry in education spanned elementary school to college from 1964 to 1984. From 1989 to 2003 she served as pastoral associate of Christ the King Parish, Old Lyme, CT where she was an integral part of the building committee for the new parish complex. In 2003 she was elected to congregational service as a counselor for six years followed by the position of Director of Development for the Nora Cronin Academy in Newburgh, NY. Sister served as pastoral care minister in Catholic Memorial Nursing Home in Fall River, MA and Director of Mission Integratio at Notre Dame Health Care Center in Worcester, MA until her retirement in 2018. Currently she lives at Presentation Convent in Leominster, MA.



Sr. Sheila Moroney
(Sr. Mary Jeremiah)
60 Years

In 1961 Sr. Sheila graduated from St. Michael's High School in Manhattan and entered the Sisters of the Presentation that same year. She studied at St Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill earning a BS Degree in Education and went on to earn a MA in Religious Studies from St. John's University in Queens, NY.

From 1965 to 1990 first grade children took center stage in her teaching career at St. Jude

in Manhattan, St. Rose of Lima in Rockaway, NY or St. Raphael's in Long Island City, NY. After two years of additional study she made a change in ministry focus and accepted the position of Director of Pastoral Care at Shervier Nursing Care Center in Yonkers, NY. In 2010 Sister took the position as part time chaplain at Cabrini Nursing Home in Westchester, NY.

Sr. Sheila is now retired and living in Yonkers where she enjoys spending time on handicrafts and gardening.



Sr. Eleanor O'Malley
(Sr. Mary Honora)
60 Years

Sr. Eleanor entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1961 after graduating from St. Michael's Academy in Hudson, MA. She earned a BA in Education from Regina Coeli College in Fitchburg, MA. Sister completed graduate studies in religious education at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT and did post graduate work in library science at Fairfield State College, MA and in math at

Rivier College in Nashua, NH. Her teaching career from 1964 to 1972 brought her to Holy Family school in Fitchburg, MA, St. Leo's in Leominster, MA and St. Mary's in Ayer, MA. Her years of ministry in the field of faith formation began in 1972. Sr. Eleanor worked in the Diocese of Worcester in MA, Potomac, Maryland, and Durham, New Hampshire. She was Associate Director for Faith Formation in Norwich, CT and went on to serve as Director of that office from 1998 to 2005.

Sr. Eleanor volunteered and worked part-time offering her skills and experience in such places as the census bureau, and the literacy volunteers in Norwich, CT. She retired to Presentation Convent in 2015. Her adventurous and generous spirit has enabled her to bring the good news of the gospel where-ever she ministered.



Sr. Mary Eileen Troy
(Sr. Mary Declan)
60 Years

Having been taught by Presentation Sisters at St. Paul Elementary School in Yonkers, NY Sr. May Eileen went on to St. Michael's High School in Manhattan, NY graduating in 1961 and then entering the Sisters of the Presentation. She began her studies for her future as a teacher and earned a BA in Education from Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY and a MA in Math from Manhattan College in Bronx, NY.

Sr. Mary Eileen established a reputation as a competent math teacher. From 1965 to 2013 she taught at St. Raphael's in Long Island City, NY, St. Jude's in Manhattan, St. Paul's in Yonkers, NY, St. Helen's in Howard Beach, NY, St. Michael High School and Nora Cronin Academy in Newburgh, NY. She served as principal from 1980 to 1984 at St. Mary's school in Fishkill, NY and from 1984 to 1988 as principal of St. Helen's School in Howard Beach, NY.

Now living at Mt. St. Joseph, Sr. Mary Eileen volunteers in our finance office where her math skills continue to be essential to her daily tasks.



In the Spotlight

Meet our new Leadership Team!



Pictured from L to R are the Sisters elected to leadership at our chapter on August 16, 2021. Sr. Catherine Cleary, Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, Sr. Laura Urbano, and Sr. Dorothy Scesny

Sr. Mary Catherine, President, has ministered at North Bronx Central Hospital as a physician's assistant for the last 22 years. She previously worked as an audiologist.

Sr. Catherine Cleary, Vice President, has served as Vicar for Religious in the NY archdiocese since 2009 and prior to that served in Congregational leadership.

Sr. Dorothy Scesny, Councilor, currently serves as the Justice Promoter for the congregation and works for the International Presentation Association. Sister previously ministered in Pastoral Care in New England.

Sr. Laura Urbano, Councilor, currently serves as Pastoral Assistant at Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta Parish in Newburgh, NY and previously ministered in Bolivia for 23 years.

Solar Panels

Solar panels have been installed on our property at Mt. St. Joseph as a tangible sign of our desire to care for our earth by reducing our carbon footprint. The members of our Earth Committee led the dedication ceremony on September 9, 2021. During the service reference was made to "Laudato Si," the encyclical of Pope Francis, in which these words are found: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning...Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life".



New Solar Panels at Mt. St. Joseph

In Memoriam

Sr. Eileen Treanor (Sr. Mary Nicholas)

Sr. Eileen entered eternal life at St. John's Riverside Hospital on August 4, 2021, at age 91.

Sr. Eileen was born in New York City on October 13, 1929 and professed final vows as a Sister of the Presentation on August 16, 1954. She attended St. Michael's HS in Manhattan, and later earned a BS in education from Fordham University and a Masters degree in reading from the University of Scranton.

Over the course of 25 years, Sr. Eileen taught at St. Paul the Apostle, Yonkers; St. Mary, Fishkill; and, Sts. John and Mary, Chappaqua. She served as principal of St. Joseph School, New Windsor, and St. Mary School, Kingston. At the time of her death, Sr. Eileen was serving as director of religious education at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Yonkers where she had served for the last 45 years.

For over four decades, Sr. Eileen enriched the spiritual, liturgical and social life of the children & adults of St. Paul's parish. May the memory of her dedication & zeal for the Kingdom of God continue to inspire and energize all those who knew and loved her.



We Remember

Please join our Sisters & Associates in prayer for the following loyal friends who have recently passed away. 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.

Mr. John Cerullo
Ms. Dolores Corio
Ms. Arlene Del Pelletier
Mr. James Dennehy
Ms. Patricia Estigoy
Ms. Jeannette Forgues
Sr. Lorelei Fuchs, SA
Ms. Mary Gagliardi

Ms. Guadalupe Gomez
Mr. Scott Gordon
Sr. Veronica Liegey, SC
Mrs. Margaret Mathern
Ms. Irene McHugh
Mr. Frank McNerney
Sr. Catherine McIntyre, RJM
Ms. Arline Mummy

Ms. Maureen Murtha
Fr. Dennis O'Brien
Mr. David Perez
Ms. Tatianna Powzaniuk
Dr. Ann Reynolds
Fr. Paul Rouse
Ms. Rebecca Scesny
Mr. Joseph Senneville
Mr. Richard Schmidt

A Prayer for Those Who Have Died

God of Consolation, We remember those who died. For those who have passed away quietly, we ask for joyous passage into your spacious heart.

For those who have suffered great pain, we ask for respite and the comfort of your compassionate embrace.

For those who have died too soon, in sudden and unexpected ways, we ask for peace and surrender into your loving care. Grant all of those who have died the grace of your eternal life and light.

Amen

Author: Unknown



“Not Words But Deeds”

**Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Mission Advancement Office
Mount St. Joseph
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, NY 12553

99 Church Street
Leominster, MA 01453

www.Sistersofthepresentation.org



Find us on
Facebook



Find us on
Instagram

Presentation Sisters Northeast

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2101
WHITE PLAINS, NY

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.

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.

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 sisterhcox@gmail.com or you may write to Mission Advancement Office, Mt. St. Joseph, 84 Presentation Way, New Windsor, NY 12553.

