



SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR STORIES

PRESENTATION
LANTERN
NEW WINDSOR

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the 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 pray daily for the intentions of our friends and partners. We invite you to order our prayer cards to let your loved ones know you are thinking of them and have included them in the sisters' prayer intentions. The usual donation is five dollars, to be sent after you have used the card.

Send your email requests to
sisterhcox@gmail.com
or write to
Mission Advancement Office
Mt. St. Joseph
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor NY 12553

On the cover, Sister Mary Eileen Troy greets a guest at our 2023 summer picnic in New York.

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New Home in Massachusetts

Read more about the congregation's history in Massachusetts and the recent move of our sisters now living in community at Notre Dame du Lac in Worcester, Massachusetts.



PAGE 6

Celebrating Jubilee

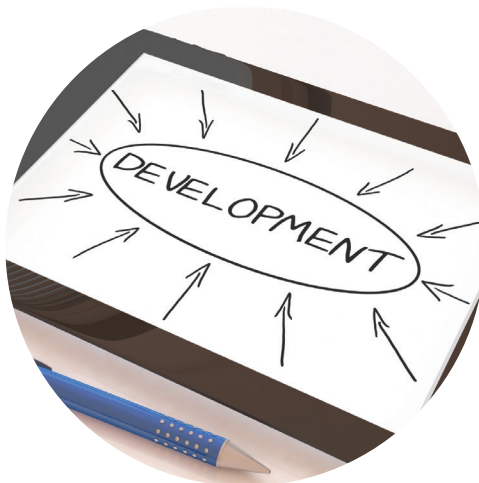
Nine sisters are celebrating their jubilee in 2023. Learn more about each of them in their own words in our jubilee feature.



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Caring for Our Sisters

Read about the health care and nursing home outreach to our own sisters and how this important ministry helps keep each sister connected to the whole.



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Donor Report

With abundant gratitude, we share our annual list of donors who have supported our mission and ministry efforts, as well as the care of our sisters.



From left, Sisters Catherine Cleary, Laura Urbano, Mary Catherine Redmond and Dorothy Scesny.

Dear Presentation People,

We now turn the page on our calendars and welcome a new season with its magnificent, magical splendor. The glory of God is fully alive here in the Northeast with its breathtaking clear blue skies and illustrious fall foliage, revealing the majesty of our creator God! It seems as though the pages of our lives are also turning and with each new page we are invited to live life to the full, in **A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE!**

Hope is a virtue by which I believe Nano Nagle lived. During her time in history, life was not fair to the impoverished, uneducated and marginalized, yet she was there in the midst of it all. She encouraged her sisters to follow her example. Her desire was that their shared life in community would be the source of deep commitment to those in need. When visiting Cork City in Ireland, I was struck by the various markers on streets, churches and particular places where a plaque was placed in honor of Nano Nagle. Her mission heart reached out to the world, "If I could be of service in any part of the world, I would gladly do my part." Today we Presentation sisters, associate ministers, partners in mission and all Presentation people continue her work with hearts for the mission. Together we are able to reach out to those who have no voice, those who have no hope, those who are objects of God's love and are relying on each of us to 'gladly do our part.'

Reflect if you will on Nano's last words to her sisters. She trusted that her sisters would continue their work among the poor. Her concern was for them; she did not tell them to work hard, to feed the poor and continue the ministry. No, she said, "Sisters, love one another ..."

Our lives are so enriched by the sisters who celebrate their jubilees, those sisters who give of themselves in service to the needs of our sisters and those who generously respond to the needs of community living. As you read and reflect on the gifts that each of these women have shared with us and the church, you can get a sense of the fidelity and love with which they have lived. You will also read more about what our Presentation people are doing today to continue this legacy in our world.

I pray that as we continue our good works that the love we give to one another will be the flame that brings warmth, compassion and hope to our world.

Mary Catherine Redmond Catherine Cleary Dorothy Scesny Laura Urbano

Sisters Mary Catherine, Catherine, Dorothy and Laura

Welcomed to a New Home in Massachusetts



Top, the chapel at Notre Dame du Lac offers a beautiful environment for daily Mass and contemplative prayer.

Left, Mother M. Magdalen Keating, foundress of the Fitchburg congregation.

In 1885 Reverend Philip Garrigan, pastor of St. Bernard's Parish, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, began to seek suitable teachers to place in charge of the parish's new school. He learned that the Presentation Sisters in Ireland taught both boys and girls, which met the needs of this new endeavor. He further found that the Presentation Sisters were teaching at St. Michael's in New York City and sent a request for their services.

One potential challenge was that the sisters at that time were cloistered and the location of the convent in Fitchburg would require them to cross a public street to the school building. They received permission from Rome for this and on August 20, 1886, the foundation of St. Bernard's in Fitchburg was established. On September 8 over 400 boys and girls entered the classrooms of St. Bernard's School. Thus began our long history of mission and ministry in New England.

In August 1895, the *Fitchburg Sentinel* published an article, stating, "Few, if any persons, visiting this school can fail to be impressed with the value of the work accomplished among the little ones and the dignity and earnestness of the teachers." In a commendation in the 1945 *St. Bernard's Parish Centennial Book*, it was said that students' accomplishments could be attributed to "the high principles inculcated in their hearts and souls by the Sisters of the Presentation."

It is interesting to note that because the sisters were cloistered, they could not go out to receive further education. The sisters, always enterprising, invited educators to come to them. Notable educators lectured at St. Bernard's and sisters from surrounding parishes were invited to share in the education and experience. When the rule of cloister was relaxed some years later, the sisters were free to travel and earn teaching certificates and additional advanced degrees.

God blessed the foundation in Fitchburg and the ministry of the Presentation Sisters spread throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1888, 10 sisters went to staff St. John's School in Clinton, Massachusetts. In a departure from previous years, the Presentation Sisters did not have to establish a new foundation. With a request from Bishops O'Reilly and Beaven, Pope Leo XIII declared that all Presentation convents in the Diocese of Springfield were to be governed under one body by the elected superior. Schools

staffed beyond this diocese were considered missionary endeavors.

The Massachusetts foundation went on to staff St. John's School, West Fitchburg, Mass., (1890); Holy Family Convent Elementary School (1943) and Holy Family High School, Fitchburg, Mass., (1962); St. Kiernan's, Berlin, N.H., (1904); Holy Trinity School, Central Falls, R.I., (1905); Our Lady of the Rosary, Clinton, Mass., (1911); Sacred Heart School, Woonsocket, R.I., (1964); St. Benedict's School, Warwick, R.I., (1958); St. Patrick's School, Whitinsville, Mass., (1931); St. Catherine's School, Riverside, Conn., (1948); St. Mary's School, Ayer, Mass., (late 1940s); and St. Mary's School, Stanford, Conn., (1951).

The first solely catechetical mission for the Massachusetts community was at St. Leo's Parish, Leominster. After several years of traveling to to instruct the children, the sisters moved to a house near the church in 1922. St. Leo's Elementary then opened in 1926. The parishioners recognized the need for a new convent, which opened in 1931.

For many years the sisters flourished at Presentation Convent in Leominster. They remained there when the congregation reunited with their sisters in New York, becoming the New Windsor congregation in 1997. However, it became apparent over the past few years that the needs of the sisters could not be met in the convent building. In addition, being good stewards of their resources, the congregation realized the old convent building was too large and needed more updating than costs would warrant to meet the needs.

In March of this year, the sisters who were living at the convent in



Sisters Pat Dowler and Irene Goguen in Irene's new room at Notre Dame du Lac.



Sister Pauline LeBlanc assists with setting up for afternoon BINGO.



Sister Anna Raimon with staff who used to work at the Leominster convent.



Sister Paula Cormier and a new-found friend and walking partner, a Notre Dame sister.

Leominster were welcomed into Notre Dame du Lac, Worcester, Massachusetts. In this new environment not only are the sisters able to live in community and attend daily Mass, they are also able to expand social networks through interaction with the Notre Dame sisters and with the lay men and women also living there. In addition, the larger du Lac staff offers outreach programs and activities.

Sister Brian Barnicle shares, "Everyone says hello and is so friendly. The Notre Dame sisters have been so welcoming." She adds, "It has been a transition but you have to adjust to it."

The facility is a beautiful, light-filled building with friendly faces around every corner. On a recent visit, a Notre Dame sister said to Sister Mary Catherine Redmond, "Having your sisters here has done so much for our community." Mary Catherine replied, "Being with the Notre Dame sisters has been a blessing for our sisters and community."

Overall, it has been a positive transition, says Sister Linda LeBlanc. "If we didn't do this we would have been scattered all over the place. We are also developing a relationship with other residents and the lay staff here."

In addition to the sisters, staff from the convent in Leominster found a "home" at Notre Dame du Lac. Several found work in food service and Marty Maillet remains employed by the congregation in outreach.

Sister Anna Raimon concludes, "This is the right place at the right time for us. There is so much going on that I have to pick and choose; it is a life-giving transition."

PRESENTATION Jubilee



Top, from left, Sisters Christina Dougherty, Clare Roche, Geraldine Corio, Anne Ryan, Catherine Cleary and Martha Otterstedt. In circle, Sisters Mary LeBlanc and Charlene O'Leary.

Jubilee is a time to honor milestones in vowed religious life. Much like a lay couple celebrates the anniversary of their wedding vows, vowed sisters celebrate the anniversary of their religious vows.

Because we are limited on space for publication, we encourage you to read more about each of our jubilarians, in their own words, on our website at www.sistersofthepresentation.org/jubilee.

Sister Clare Roche

Sister Eleanor Joyce

Sister Anne Ryan

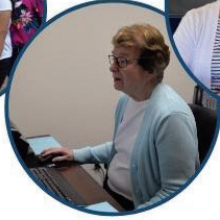
Sister Mary LeBlanc



Sister Charlene
O'Leary



Sister Martha
Otterstedt



Sister Catherine
Cleary



Sister Christina
Dougherty



Sister Geraldine
Corio

75 YEARS
Sister Clare
Roche

Throughout my years as I Presentation sister, I have encountered much support and encouragement.



Mother Jerome, my novice mistress, believed in my vocation and was able to nurture this call and guide me.

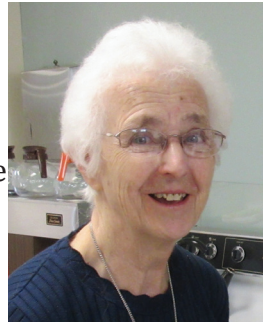
My years of ministry in Louisiana at St. David's in New Orleans and St. Lucy's in Houma opened my vision and heart to social justice: to the work with the poor, the marginalized and the underserved.

Many changes were happening in the church after the Second Vatican Council. I was serving in Louisiana during this time of renewal in the church. At the same time, society was changing after the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964. I returned to work in Houma in St. Lucy's Parish. It is here my zeal for parish ministry and collaboration with the laity for social justice and human promotion grew and deepened.

I then found myself working in St. Teresa's Parish on the lower East Side of New York City, where I stayed 29 years. Here the parish ministry skills I learned in Houma were further developed.

The greatest blessing of community life is the sense of belonging somewhere. My advice to a newly vowed sister is that she have courage to live her religious life with audacity, strength, faithfulness and openness to the Spirit of God.

I felt the call to become a sister at a fairly young age. Sister Mary Elise encouraged me to enter the convent, which I did at age 15.



When I told my father I was going to enter he cried because he knew that I would be protected and loved, and I have been.

With a kind and loving mistress of novices supporting me, I began my first ministry as an elementary school teacher. I taught in grades kindergarten through third grade, but was happiest when teaching the younger grades.

I took a course that changed my focus to pastoral ministry. I enjoy being a part of the RCIA process. It was a wonderful gift to share this Christian initiation with others as they came to know God more fully.

My favorite ministry experience, however, was working with our own sisters. During the summer months Sister Linda LeBlanc guided me to minister in care of our sisters at the motherhouse. That was a very rewarding and fulfilling experience for me; to be able to do something for the sisters meant a lot to me. It was one of the greatest blessings of community life.

There is nothing like the support of a religious community; you feel surrounded with love. Even when I have experienced challenging times, my sisters have been supportive, loving and embracing.

70 YEARS
Sister Charlene
O'Leary

When I finally told my father I wanted to be a sister, he was very happy as he used to run errands for the sisters when he was a young boy.



As the daughter of a public school teacher, I have always valued education. I love learning and studying! For over 20 years I taught in elementary schools, then served as a principal before beginning parish ministry. After earning a degree in liturgy and theology, I was one of the first women to be allowed to be a director of religious education in a parish.

When I was called to St. Anne's Parish it offered me an opportunity to minister in a new way as the people were not from an affluent background. I became a woman of the streets, ministering to homeless people, for 20 years.

After retiring, I stayed engaged in parish ministry, presenting the children's Mass and helping with the Eucharist. I volunteer at St. Christopher House and offer a general communion service and an added devotion service in the dementia unit.

My prayer life is at the center of all that I do. I feel very strongly that when I tell someone I will pray for them that I should do that. I try to say all four mysteries of the rosary every day. At this time in my life, it is a blessings to have this deep and grounding faith life.

70 YEARS
*Sister Anne
Ryan*

I was six years old when I met my first Presentation sister and each school year I was greeted by a new and amazing



Presentation sister! No wonder Presentation Sisters found a unique place in my heart!

As I drew to the end of high school years, I found myself recalling the influence the sisters had been in my life, and I came to realize perhaps that gift was what God was asking me to bring to others! Almost two years later, after business and college experience, I found myself knocking at the door of Mt. St. Joseph.

My early ministry years were spent teaching in grade school, serving as a principal and spending time in community leadership. Eventually, I pursued a degree in special education, with the desire to teach children with special needs about Jesus.

I served in both the New York Archdiocese and the Diocese of Albany as director of special religious education. One of the most grace-filled moments of this ministry occurred when I could finally assure these parents that their child would receive religious instruction and would receive first Communion!

I am so grateful for God's gift of these 70 years! Please join with me in celebrating God's boundless goodness!

60 YEARS
*Sister Catherine
Cleary*

I entered religious life as Pope John XXXIII called the institutional Church to open its windows and allow Vatican



II to move the Church into the modern world. These were times of sweeping liturgical reforms, ecumenical efforts towards dialogue with other religions, and the gift of the universal call to holiness for all. And within our Presentation congregation the total renewal of religious life was called forth.

In the midst of all of the changes, I found excitement in the gift of my teaching ministry. I traveled from urban settings to suburbia, teaching elementary, junior high, and high school. After 20 years in education, I moved onto congregational leadership. During those 18 years, I experienced a new set of learnings and found the wonder of God's call in Presentation sisters around the globe. I went on to serve the religious in the New York Archdiocese as vicar for religious.

Returning to leadership in my congregation, I am more aware of our polarized world, where cultures experience difficulty in living alongside one another, where the powerless encounter oppression and inequality abounds.

My call today is to listen with the ear of my heart and to touch our world by acknowledging the dignity of each person and sharing our respective gifts so that all may live as brothers and sisters.

60 YEARS
*Sister Geraldine
Corio*

Growing up in St. Frances of Rome Parish in the Bronx, I met the Sisters of the Presentation as a young child at the parish school. While



in high school, I was invited to join a group of women who were interested in a religious vocation. Sister Mary Theophane moderated this group and guided me to know what God wanted for my life.

Spending my first several years of ministry in elementary education, I learned that I was more suited to the older elementary grades. When I was assigned as a second-grade teacher, I found myself playing with the children more than teaching them! After this, I was asked to teach sixth grade. My cousin, Deirdre, was in my homeroom class, making that a very special year for me!

My advice to others would be to trust God always. God led me to this religious vocation, and I am grateful for the blessing of the many sisters with whom I have lived and worked. They both challenged and supported me. In addition, my deepened prayer life has allowed the Holy Spirit to shape my life and to conform my life to his.

While I enjoy reading, entertaining and trying new recipes, I am also kept busy with parish ministry in St. Joseph Parish, West Milford, New Jersey, where I have served as director of religious education for over 35 years.

60 YEARS
*Sister Eleanor
Joyce*

I attended St. Michael's Academy and witnessed the goodness and kindness of the Presentation Sisters. During this time many of my friends were entering the convent, which was an influence in my decision. I decided to wait a year before entering the congregation.



Education was my primary ministry; I enjoyed my students and feel blessed to have an ongoing relationship with many. A special ministry for me was serving at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy. I was the first teacher when we opened the school. I taught religion to all the girls. That was a gift! I retired from teaching in 2020, but I stay connected with the school and often volunteer there.

About 30 years ago I began to develop a passion for God's creation and preserving our Earth. Along with several other sisters, I began to learn about the universe and the new cosmology. Sister Norma Carney and I developed a Laudato Si congregational action plan to guide us to choosing a sustainable lifestyle that promotes limited use of resources and energy.

Community life is such a blessing; I live away from Mt. St. Joseph and make it a priority to visit with the sisters there weekly. Sharing life with people who are supportive, loving and challenging has been a gift. I believe I have been and am still living with "saints."

60 YEARS
*Sister Martha
Otterstedt*

My early years as a sister were filled with newness and enthusiasm for my ministry as a teacher. The second half of the 1960s coincided with the renewal taking place within the Catholic Church. As I was experiencing the newness of vowed life, many changes were occurring within consecrated religious life. The newfound "freedom" following Vatican II was both exciting and challenging.



I served as teacher and principal for 17 years before directing the initial formation program for the congregation. In the early 1990's, during the height of the AIDS epidemic, I found a new challenge working for a nonprofit agency that provided housing, medical care and early childhood education for disabled infants and toddlers born to drug-addicted mothers.

After ministering as director of religious education for 15 years in the Bronx, I was elected to congregational leadership, where I served for 12 years.

Now retired from active ministry, I find inspiration in my new ministry as congregational archivist. I am physically surrounded by the many stories and annals written by and about the courageous, prayerful, wise and dedicated women, both living and deceased, who followed God's call to vowed religious life as Presentation sisters.

50 YEARS
*Sister Christina
Dougherty*

Growing up with my six siblings was foundational in preparing me for community life. I brought the formative lessons of sharing limited space, celebrating the success of others and how to voice ideas without damaging relationships to vowed life.



In third grade I read "Bernie Becomes a Nun" and eagerly told my religion teacher I was interested in vowed life. I was impressed with the Presentation Sisters' joy and their care for each other and the children in their care.

Another key piece of formation for me was the struggle for peace and justice emerging from the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. I was drawn to the core value of human dignity that the Presentation community holds.

I served in elementary education before traveling to the Middle East to teach English as a second language. Here I lived in the midst of the great violence and hatred between Israelis and Palestinians.

My most challenging mission work brought me through the isolation and anxiety of COVID-19 to my present place of enhancing the mission of Cabrini, planning and participating in prayer experiences, and tutoring immigrants at a nearby immigration center.



Marty Mailot, seated, and Sister Linda LeBlanc work on scheduling for their ministry.

Shining a Light: Caring for Our Sisters

"It is a privilege to be able to journey with the older sisters at this time," shares Sister Linda LeBlanc. Sister Eileen Carmody echoes this, saying, "It's a real privilege to be with them on their life journey."

Seeing themselves as both advocates and companions, Sister Eileen Carmody, health care coordinator for the sisters in New York and New Jersey; Sister Linda LeBlanc, health care coordinator for the sisters in Massachusetts; Sister Barbara King, nursing home outreach for New York; and Marty Maillet, outreach for Massachusetts, serve the health care needs of our sisters throughout the region.

Eileen accompanies sisters to doctor appointments to ensure that they understand the information given and that they have an advocate in their care. She helps sisters to process their health information so they can make the best choice for their well-being. She also accompanies anyone admitted to the hospital and tries to visit the nursing homes once a week.

Middle, Sister Barbara King visits Sister Ruth Abrams at Cabrini Nursing Home regularly, serving as both advocate and companion.

Bottom, Sister Eileen Carmody prepares to take Sister Margaret Murphy to a doctor's appointment.

A trained nurse, Eileen tells the sisters, “if you want to talk or want more information about what the doctors have talked about, give me a call and I’ll come over.” She adds, “I am here to help them understand what is going on with their own bodies and psyches. I see my role as someone who accompanies the sisters and advocates as best I can for them and with them.”

Eileen credits her previous ministry of spiritual direction for developing more fully in her this gift of compassion for the other. “I need to be able to listen rather than tell a sister what I think she should do. I don’t have the answers; the sister herself has the answers.”

Though she is responsible mainly for the health care needs of those living outside of house 64, the house where sisters who need extra care at Mt. St. Joseph in New York reside, she does work closely with both the nurse manager and Sister Kathryn Geisel, who serves as the local community coordinator of house 64. When there are needs at house 64 that can’t be met, Eileen and/or Barbara help to fill this gap.

According to Barbara, a very important piece of Eileen’s work is “walking the journey with those who are very sick and preparing to die.” She shares that Eileen is very present to that person and that is an importance piece of caring for the needs of the sisters at all stages.

“We are followers of Nano Nagle and I like to think of Nano as a person for whom community was very important,” explains Eileen. “She was a person of compassion, dignity and respect for the other and I would hope that I can emulate that.” She adds, “I know Barbara also practices that compassion and respect for the other and dignity for each sister.”

Working collaboratively, Eileen and Barbara ensure that sisters have someone to accompany them to appointments, someone who is there to advocate for them and assure them they are being cared for as members of the Presentation community.

A critical part of Barbara’s focus is keeping sisters who aren’t living with the community connected. “We want them to feel connected and know that they are still a part of the community,” shares Barbara. “That is the most important piece of our ministry. I want each sister to realize that she is still a vital part of Presentation.”

After 12 years in leadership, during which Barbara had been visiting sisters in nursing homes regularly, she was asked by the current leadership team to continue this important role for the congregation in a more full-time capacity. Barbara visits sisters in a facility in Dobbs Ferry, New York, four times a week and those in a facility in the Newburgh area weekly. She has learned the varying needs of each sister, knowing who needs more support and encouragement, who needs advocacy and who just needs a quick hello and chat. She also adapts as these needs change over the course of time.

She knows it can be difficult for people to respond to those whose memory is failing or who have dementia. “I tell them that whenever a person says something over and over or asks something 20 times, it is always the first time for her. It is an education for all of us to respond compassionately.”

Barbara stresses that it is very important to “put eyes on the sisters with whom she is ministering.” “Once I can put eyes on them,” she says, “I can better assess their needs and their health.” She also knows that it is important that the staff at the nursing homes put eyes on her so they know who to contact when needed and that the sister has an active advocate in her corner.

“Even as sisters age and in some cases their health declines, I see a resilience and a sense of joy that comes through when they know they are loved and supported,” shares Eileen. “That gives me hope.”

Barbara agrees that the love and support of community are critical. “We try to provide as much independence as we can through partnership and community as people age. We are a family.”

That is the most important piece of our ministry. I want each sister to realize that she is still a vital part of Presentation.

In Massachusetts, where the sisters have recently undergone the transition of moving from the convent in Leominster to Notre Dame du Lac in Worcester, the needs are different and have changed over the past few months.

Caring for Our Sisters (continued)

As sisters adapt to the changes of a new environment and a larger community beyond Presentation, they need someone to accompany them. For many years the sisters called the convent in Leominster, Massachusetts, home. They lived together and associates and partners visited their home often. As the congregation realized the needs of the sisters no longer suited the building in which they were living, there were fortunate to find a living situation with the Notre Dame Sisters at Notre Dame du Lac that would not only meet their needs but also allow them to live in community.

Linda explains, “I just try to be present to the sisters right now. I want to be with them on this journey. It is an extension of our mission of being there for those in need.”

Marty, a lay woman who has worked with the sisters for nearly 36 years, made the transition from Leominster to Worcester with the sisters, providing a sense of continuity and stability. She explains, “I’ve never thought of this as a job. We are a family.”

Marty assists Linda in providing for the needs of the sisters. In her role she helps the sisters by bringing them supplies, taking them to appointments and even shopping. She also visits the sisters who live in nursing homes in Massachusetts.

“Moving to Worcester, the community is still key, but it is much bigger,” she shares. The sisters are living among Sisters of Notre Dame and lay men and women in a larger facility. There is other staff taking care of the needs of those living in the facility, but Marty and Linda are dedicated to the needs of the Presentation sisters there and in surrounding nursing homes.

“I’m not a babysitter,” Marty explains. “I’m here to help them be as independent as they can be.”

Linda echoes this, “Marty and I are a team and we are advocates for the sisters, for their spiritual, psychological and physical needs.”

As health care coordinator in New England, Linda brings vast experience to her ministry. Early in her vowed life she helped in the convent infirmary during her summers and loved it so much she went on to get her LPN training. For nearly 50 years she has served as a nurse, first for the congregation and later in a hospital setting. She returned as health care coordinator about seven years ago.

While there are positive aspects to the move to Notre Dame, “this is a difficult time for the sisters,” explains Linda. “It is a time of transition.”

In New York and Massachusetts, these women provide a valuable service to our aging sisters, offering advocacy, companionship, dignity and a link to the community they hold so dear.

Eileen knows that sometimes when people get older we can begin to treat them “more as children than as the mature, well-educated adults that they are.” She reminds us, “Even though they may be ill or in a vulnerable situation, I try to not treat each sister as a child because they are mature women. I strive to afford the respect for each sister that they need and of which they are worthy.”

Linda concludes, “It is really a privilege to be able to journey with the sisters and to help them be as independent as they can be.”



Sister Linda LeBlanc and Mary Mailot prepare items to deliver to sisters in their rooms at Notre Dame du Lac. Supporting the sisters and helping to meet their needs is a part of their ministry of advocacy and accompaniment.

In Loving Memory



*Sister Barbara
(Shirley Helen)
Hobbs*

**October 31, 1934, to
September 4, 2023**

Sister Barbara Hobbs taught in schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut for many years, later ministering in spiritual direction and retreat work. In addition, she was a member of the leadership team in Massachusetts and director of the associate minister's program.



*Sister Grace
(Mary Vincent)
Gately*

**May 11, 1927, to
October 1, 2023**

Sister Grace Gately served in education ministry for many years before serving in religious education. She was also a catechist instructor in several parishes. During her years of retirement, Sister volunteered as a substitute teacher at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy and St. Thomas of Canterbury. She also volunteered at Newburgh Ministry.



*Sister Margaret
(Mary Barnabas)
Muller*

**July 19, 1933, to
October 17, 2023**

Sister Margaret Muller served as an elementary teacher before beginning ministry in religious education. She moved into young adult ministry and served as a pastoral associate. After working in adult parish education, she retired, but remained active in ministry as the congregation's archivist.

SHINING OUR LIGHT

Below, Sisters Barbra King, Norma Carney, Eleanor Joyce and Maria Lopez prepare for a tour of the solar panels at Mt. St. Joseph.



Above, Sister Yliana Hernandez and Associate Noelle Molloy take part in a service project.

Top center, associates in New England participate in a walk for CareNet.

Center, associates in New England work on projects to support Haitian Outreach Ministry.

Right, sisters, associates and staff support Nora Cronin Presentation Academy at its annual gala.



Top, staff member Justin Perez helps prepare a house for a Habitat for Humanity family in Newburgh.

Above, Sisters Janet Brisky and Mary Naccarato represent the congregation at the Catholic Charities golf fundraiser.



SUMMER PICNIC

Over 200 sisters, associates, staff and other friends joined us for a summer picnic at Mt. St. Joseph in August. For more photos, visit our website.

Partners and Friends

NEW MEMBER EVENTS

The New Member Committee sponsors events and prayer opportunities throughout the year. All are welcome to join! Check the back cover and our website for more information.

For more about these events or to visit with someone about becoming an associate minister, contact:

New York: Noelle at nojo1201@hvc.rr.com

Louisiana: Donaldo at drbatiste53@gmail.com

Massachusetts: Mary Jane at personmaryjane9@gmail.com.

If you are interested in learning more about religious life, contact:

Sister Mary Catherine at mcredmond@sistersofthepresentation.org

Sister Laura at lurbano@sistersofthepresentation.org.



Sisters, associate ministers and staff members took part in our fall day of service in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in October 2023.

Thank you to our partners in mission!

With the generous support of our partners in mission we have been able to continue meeting the needs of those we serve and of our own sisters, who have given so much of themselves to those we serve. We appreciate not only your monetary gifts but also thank those who have volunteered, who serve alongside us in carrying forth the mission and those who remember us in prayer.

We have listed all donors in each giving category in alphabetical order. It is our intention that this report accurately lists those who made donations from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023. We also honor those who opted to remain anonymous in their giving. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Angelita Ablaza
James Abriola
Giovanna Accolla
Janet Ackerley
Christine Ackert
Barry W. Adams
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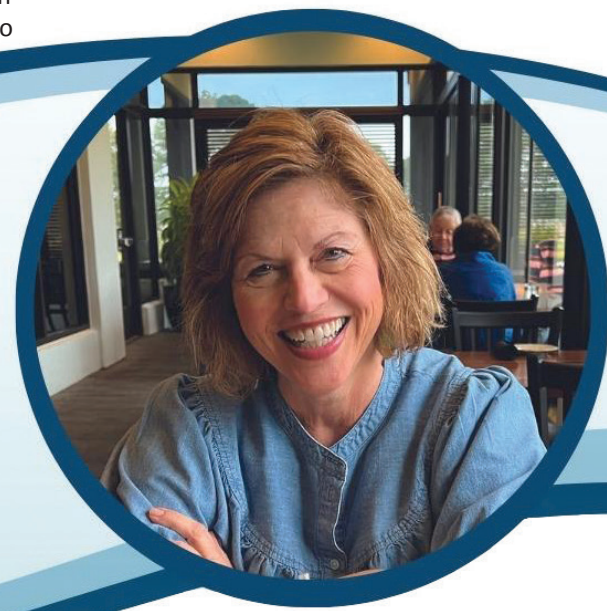
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Sharon shares, “I choose to give to the Presentation Sisters because they have been very instrumental in shaping my life and I believe in their mission. I was taught by the Sisters as a young child in Yonkers, New York, at St. Bartholomew. They not only gave me an academic education, but also helped reinforce the religious education that my parents instilled in me.”

Sharon also volunteers with the congregation, assisting with events and development projects.

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In Honor and In Memory

This year we had a very large increase in gifts that were given in honor of or in memory of our sisters or a donor's loved ones. We are so grateful for these special gifts that not only support our mission, but also honor very special people.

In order to list all of the honorary gifts, we are including a new page on our website. This page lists all of those who were honored. We hope you will log on to see a full listing. Thank you for your continued support. It is an honor to accept donations in the name of your loved ones.



Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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www.sistersofthepresentation.org

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JOIN US!

Come & Be



MONTHLY

Zoom Prayer

Join us monthly on the first Thursday via Zoom as we gather to pray, reflect and share as Presentation people. Meeting via Zoom allows our Presentation people from across the United States to come together monthly. All are welcome to join!

Service Projects



SPRING & FALL

Day of Service

Each spring and fall we gather as Presentation people to complete group service projects. This includes a gathering prayer, service experience and reflection following. You can find details about upcoming service opportunities on our website.

Associate Meetings



MONTHLY

Gathering

In New York and Massachusetts associates and sisters gather monthly to pray together, support one another and, often, to take part in service activities locally. Learn more on our website or by contacting the coordinator in your area.

Special Events



SEASONAL

Prayer

During certain times of year, such as Presentation Day, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, we offer special in-person and/or Zoom events to deepen our spirituality and shared prayer experiences. Check the website for details.

Join Us



YEAR-ROUND

New Members

We welcome new partners! If you or someone you know is interested in religious life, we would love to visit with you about Presentation. If you are interested in partnering as an associate minister, contact the coordinator in your area for more information.

Check the calendar of events on our website for more information: www.sistersofthepresentation.org