



Dear Partner in Mission:

This year has been a true celebration of faith, gratitude and mission as we marked the 150th anniversary of our arrival in New York. On September 8, 1874, Mother Joseph Hickey, along with five sisters, four postulants, and two lay-postulants, journeyed from Ireland at the request of the bishop of New York. Their mission began at St. Michael’s School in Manhattan, where they welcomed 600 children on the very first day. From that foundation, sisters were later sent to Staten Island and Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to continue expanding the mission of education and service.

For 150 years, we have faithfully responded to the needs of God’s people. What began with education ministry expanded after the call of Vatican II into health care, pastoral care, parish ministry, social justice, and direct service with the poor. The call of Vatican II asked religious congregations to go back to their roots. Inspired by our foundress, Nano Nagle, who urged her followers to “spend themselves for the poor,” we remain deeply committed to walking with those most in need.

During this year of our anniversary, 23 sisters, associate ministers and partners in mission were able to take a pilgrimage to Ireland. We walked in the footsteps of Nano, who faced great adversity to serve the needs of her people. We were deeply touched as we prayed, shared sacred experiences and heard the stories of our early years. We were inspired and ignited again with the flame of the lantern that brings the light of Christ to those most in need.

We live faithfully this moment in religious life as vowed religious in mission. This mission is lived out in dynamic partnerships that extend compassion and justice to women and children impacted by economic, environmental, and racial inequity. It is exciting to see the spirit of our charism and mission grow as we continue to meet others.

At the same time, we remain committed to caring for our sisters who have given their lives in service to others. Your generosity allows us not only to sustain vital ministries but also to provide for the needs of these women who have touched countless lives with their dedication.

We are deeply grateful for your financial and spiritual support, which makes our mission possible. Together, we carry forward the legacy of Nano Nagle and the sisters who came before us. May God’s blessing grace you and your family.

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Leadership Team

Sisters Mary Catherine Redmond, Catherine Cleary, Dorothy Scesny and Laura Urbano

Mary Catherine Redmond Catherine Cleary Dorothy Scesny Laura Urbano

YES! I want to support the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a monetary donation that allows them to continue their mission and care for their members.

Enclosed is my gift of _____ to support the Presentation Sisters.

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Return this form with your contribution in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your continued support!

All contributions are tax deductible when made payable to the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you prefer to donate via credit card, please visit our website: www.sistersofthepresentation.org/support-us.

1886

Foundation in Massachusetts begins with St. Bernard's School



1874

Arrived from Ireland to St. Michael's in New York City



1960s

Vatican II Council calls religious to return to roots; ministries expand; reawakened call to serve as Nano Nagle did



1997

Unity as Newburgh, N.Y., and Fitchburg, Mass., come together as New Windsor



2021

Chapter commitment calls Presentation people to serve those impacted by economic, environmental and racial inequity



How Your Gift Makes a Difference

At our last Chapter, we committed ourselves to addressing the needs of women and children—especially as they are impacted by economic, environmental, and racial inequity. Your generosity helps make this mission a reality.

Economic Inequity

Through both direct service and community partnerships, we continue to focus on supporting those who are most vulnerable. This year we launched new initiatives to address food insecurity. Our sisters and associates have provided food and hygiene items for families living in hotels in the Newburgh area. In addition, we partnered with Fearless to serve monthly hot meals to individuals recovering from domestic violence. In Massachusetts, Presentation associates work alongside the Orchard Street Rehab Center, ensuring that women and children have what they need while mothers focus on recovery from addiction. We also remain strong partners with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Catholic Charities, as well as Lantern Light in New Orleans, responding to the needs of our neighbors as they arise.

Environmental Inequity

In both New York and Massachusetts, our gardens provide fresh produce to those experiencing food insecurity. Recently, we deepened our commitment to environmental stewardship by entering into a land trust with Orange County Land Trust. Together, we are preserving 13.54 acres of woodland critical to the local watershed, ensuring that this land will continue to nourish both the earth and our neighbors for generations to come.

Racial Inequity

Matthew 25 reminds us of Christ's call: "I was a stranger and you invited me in." This call compels us to practice active compassion, especially toward those who suffer from systemic racism and oppression. We continue to ask ourselves how we can better live out this Gospel mandate. That means listening with open hearts to the experiences of our neighbors, acknowledging suffering, and working to create a community where every person is treated with dignity and respect as a beloved child of God.

Caring for Our Sisters

Your continued support helps us to care for the ongoing well-being of our retired sisters as we honor their years of dedicated service. As we support their needs, we are reminded that they have given so much of themselves to support the needs of those we have served over the years. Through both prayer ministry and volunteer efforts, they continue to support our efforts and remain vital members of our Presentation community.



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