A prayer for vocations used by the Sisters contains the phrase, “... so that they, too, may take down their lanterns and continue her mission throughout the world.” What has attracted women to heed this call is the charism of a religious group, linked to its founding history. A charism is a gift given by God to an individual for the purpose of benefiting others. The story of Nano Nagle, familiar to our readers, is a story of just such a gift. Along with a contemplative heart, Nano had a vision that reached beyond the 18th century. Her words, “If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power,” are a glimpse into the charism that was hers.

As is often the case, her vision was realized only after her death when ships sailed from Irish ports carrying Presentation Sisters to foreign shores. Then like a global relay, from those shores other Presentation Sisters journeyed to newer destinations, urged by a spirit within and beckoned by the call of those who needed the charism of Nano to heal, educate and work for justice. For the most part, these early immigrating sisters realized Nano’s vision independent from one another around the world.

In 1981, during an international meeting of congregational leaders in Rome, Italy, a group of Presentation Sisters met informally for the first time and recognized their strong ties in carrying out Nano’s desire to be of service in any part of the globe. That gathering in Rome and subsequent meetings held at locations around the world convinced the sisters that more could be done together than alone. By 1989, while remaining autonomous congregations, all Presentation Sisters were connected globally by membership in the IPA, International Presentation Association, as well as a Presentation Network for Justice. In ensuing years the IPA established NGO status, (Non-Governmental Organization) with the Economic and Social Council at the UN. Our mission was given sharper focus when four justice areas were identified by the sisters: women and children, indigenous peoples, environmental/sustainable development and human rights.

Continued on Page 8...
Dear Friends,

One of my favorite poets is Mary Oliver, who died just a few months ago. Perhaps her most known and most quoted poetic line is: “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild, precious life?” Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

This is a question that all of us may do well to ponder, no matter what stage of our wild and precious life we are in. I do not know about you but I have not won a Nobel Prize or discovered a cure for a rare disease or anything else spectacular. However, looking over my life and the lives of those I admire, famous or not, I find that the one quality that stands out is this: They showed up. I do not mean just physically showing up. I mean showing up with all of themselves; giving everything they have each and every day; giving all of their precious lives all the time.

Showing up requires a lot: patience, perseverance, commitment, and love. Day after day, you raise children; help your friends and neighbors. You lend your time and talents to charitable causes. Being there for people when they are in need is truly a precious gift. A gift that many of you have perfected.

You show up at your jobs and work hard even on the days when you don’t want to get out of bed. Many of you bravely served in our armed forces or served at home by worrying and praying.

I am a die-hard Yankee fan of more than 60 years but for one day a few years ago, I lent my allegiance to the Baltimore Orioles – the day Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig’s consecutive game streak. Even though Cal broke the record of a beloved Yankee, I admired him for showing up for the daily grind of his job.

Thank you for all the times you have shown up and, thus, enabled us to show up and work with God’s people. We are truly blessed by your support. We cannot thank you enough.

I would like to end with another Mary Oliver quote: “When it is over, I don’t want to wonder if I have made of my life something particular and real. I don’t want to have simply visited this world.” New and Selected Poems, Vol. 1

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Barbara King
In the Spotlight

Sr. Julie Ciccolini, PBVM

Her religious vows are hung next to her door. A picture of Venerable Nano Nagle has been placed over the door. She shares the meaning of her vows, the mission of the Presentation Sisters and the life of the PBVM foundress with her guests.

Prayer requests from Sr. Julie's guests are plentiful. She will pray with them and for them. There is a picture in her room of the outstretched hands of Jesus. The suggestion she makes to those requesting prayers is to visualize placing their intentions in Jesus' hands, trusting in His love and mercy.

Micah 6:8 “To act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God” is a favorite Scripture passage of Sr. Julie’s. This passage entwined with the Presentation mission is the foundation of her ministry.

Sr. Maureen Hickey, PBVM - Author
The Presentation Sisters have been part of my life for more than 60 years, since I attended St. Michael High School. I admired the Sisters not only as teachers, but also for the peace and tranquility, which always seemed to surround them.

Later, I became a member of the community, but after eight years, in my heart, I realized this was not the life I was meant to live. I treasure the community and the friendships I made and still have.

After one and one half years, I met my husband. We have three children, one girl and two boys, and now five beautiful grandchildren.

While my children were growing up, we took them to Mount St. Joseph many times for picnics, reunions, celebrations. The Sisters were part of my children's lives meeting them as babies, coming to confirmations, and graduations, and funerals. They were always very comfortable being around the Sisters and still are!

I always tried to attend the funerals of the Sisters I had as teachers and friends. However, when Sr. Mary Agatha died, we were in Florida and would not be able to get to the Mount in time. My youngest son Tim said he would go for me, and he did. I was and always will be very proud of him and my other two children.

A few weeks ago, I said to Timmy that I thought he was very brave to go to her funeral, and he said to me, “Are you kidding me mom, I love those Sisters! They are the sweetest and kindest people I know!”

Those words of his made me happy and proud.

I owe the Presentation Sisters so very much and I know I can never repay them for all they have given me in my life.

The least I can do is buy raffle tickets and make monthly donations. I always wish I could do more, because they will always be my community.

Mrs. Pat Mahon
Sr. Theresa Dadabo entered religious life on September 8, 1959 and received the name, Sr. Mary Lucy. From 1963 to 2014 she taught first graders throughout the New York Archdiocese in Fishkill, Goshen, the Bronx and Yonkers. Her renowned teaching tool, "Charlie Purple", brought smiles during instruction time to hundreds of first graders along her fifty-one year teaching career. In partial retirement she continued to interact with young children as a classroom aide in Annunciation school in Yonkers where she is retired today.

Sr. Katherine Fisher entered religious life on September 8, 1959 and received the name, Sr. Mary George. Sister’s career in education spanned the decades from 1963 to 1985. During those years Sr. Katherine taught first grade, seventh grade and was principal in three different schools in the Archdiocese of New York encompassing the Bronx, New Windsor and Manhattan. From 1985 to 2013 she turned to a different facet of education as pre GED teacher for the inmates of Bedford Hills Correction Facility. Currently retired, Sister lives in Yonkers.

Sr. Carla Lorenz began religious life on August 30, 1959. After several years as an elementary school teacher, Sr. Carla entered the field of Religious Education in 1979. She served as Director of Religious Education and Coordinator of Elementary Religious Education for the Diocese of Brooklyn. From 1991 to 1997 Sister held the position of Congregation leader for the Presentation Sisters. After completing her term of office she returned to work in Religious Education and Pastoral Associate. Retiring in August of 2019, Sr. Carla, continues to volunteer in the Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Bayside, Queens.

Sr. Gloria Perez entered religious life on September 8, 1959 and received the name, Sr. Mary Aquinas. Her forty year career as a teacher of Middle School and High School students as well as principal covered the years from 1962 to 2002. Her affinity for work with the inner-city population brought her to the position of Director of Eva’s Village in Paterson, NJ. From 2012 to 2016, Sister served in positions related to social services organizations for inner city residents in Paterson, NJ. Retiring in 2016 and relocating to Newburgh, NY, Sr. Gloria volunteers her time in the parish with senior citizens as well as the food pantry.

Sr. Enid Storey entered religious life on September 8, 1959 and received the name, Sr. Mary Noel. Between 1962 and 1983 sister enjoyed teaching as well as six years as school principal in New Jersey, the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. In 1983 Sr. Enid turned her energies to the field of health care, preparing with formal study to work in the sisters’ infirmary, as a hospital nurse and parish health care minister. Beginning in 1997 sister used her nursing skills as case worker in a women’s shelter in Manhattan and then in an outreach program in New Orleans. Now partially retired, Sr. Enid serves the congregation as Archivist and Grant Writer.

Sr. Virginia Wilkinson entered religious life on July 16, 1959 and received the name, Sr. Mary Annunciata. From 1962 to 2012 she was a teacher on several grade levels, director of religious education and pastoral minister on Staten Island, Kentucky and New Jersey. Relocating to New Windsor in 2012, Sr. Virginia was engaged in several outreach programs and the Newburgh Collaborative Ministry and was appointed the Congregation’s Justice Contact person. In this position she is deeply involved in social action and is an invaluable resource of current information involving justice and systemic change.
“Not words, but deeds!” is a motto familiar to all Presentation people. At the Congregational Chapter of 2009 we took a bold stand by committing ourselves “to work toward more just immigration reform”. Ten years later it is important that we look back at our efforts, thank God for what we have been able to do, and challenge ourselves to carry on for the long haul! During these ten years we have informed ourselves through speakers, articles, justice updates, webinars, and emails from advocacy groups. We have collected stamps and stationary for detainees. We have sent money to help asylum seekers at the border. We have written, phoned, and visited members of Congress. We have made public statements and written letters to the editor. We have advocated on behalf of DACA, TPS, and Green Light New York. We have worked directly with immigrants through financial assistance, moral and spiritual support, classes for ESL and citizenship tests, and preparation of government forms. We have prayed with them and for them. Most importantly we have loved them, not as a “category” but as individual persons, each with a story and each with rights. We have always tried to put a human face on immigration issues.

In reflecting back over these ten years, the reality is that we have used both words AND deeds in our efforts to faithful to our Presentation charism and the needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters. Let us support one another as we strive to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God in the years ahead. The work is far from over!

**Jubilee Celebration!**

On Saturday, September 7th, Srs. Mary Andre, Gloria Perez, Laura Follmer, Katherine Fisher, Eileen Treanor, Carla Lorenz, Virginia Wilkinson, Theresa Dadabo, Enid Storey, and Joan Marie O’Neill celebrated their 60, 70, and 75th anniversaries as professed religious sisters. We are grateful for their many years of religious commitment to their Presentation Community and their hard work while serving in various ministries.

Srs. Mary Andre, Gloria Perez, Laura Follmer, Katherine Fisher, Eileen Treanor, Carla Lorenz, Virginia Wilkinson, Theresa Dadabo, Enid Storey, and Joan Marie O’Neill are celebrating their Jubilee. Not featured are Srs. Elizabeth Burke & Mary Anne Duva.
During the month of July, we hosted two picnics, one at Mount St. Joseph in New Windsor, NY and the other at Presentation Convent in Leominster, MA. During these picnics, Sisters, staff, associates, friends, and family members renewed friendships, enjoyed good food, and escaped the heat with indoor air conditioning.

The Sisters would like to congratulate all our winners. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this year's raffle a huge success.
My Journey as a Presentation Associate

By Dona Piasecki

My first acquaintance with Presentation Sisters took place when I accepted a teaching position at St. Andrew the Apostle School in Clifton, New Jersey. My principal was Sr. Margaret Murphy and I was filling the position of Sr. Mary Charles who was retiring and who soon became my best friend. As time went on, I heard stories from these sisters about Nano Nagle’s life, her devotion to the Blessed Mother, her schools for deprived children and her commitment to the poor of Ireland. Nano seemed to be a wonderful role model for me. I also was a teacher who was raised with devotion to the Blessed Mother. I had a strong desire to help the less fortunate. Sr Christine Liegey, also a Presentation Sister, was my spiritual director and enlightened me further about the charism of the Presentation Congregation. Thus, my desire grew to emulate the life and works of Nano Nagle. Over the years I have had the pleasure of spending time with many of the sisters. I especially love the celebration of Presentation Day at Mount St. Joseph and retreat days with the sisters and Associates.

One of my goals is to live by Nano Nagle’s family motto, ”Not words but deeds” and I aim at doing acts of kindness, to enrich the life of someone else, even if only in a small way. Presently I am still involved in Catholic school education and weekly I bring the Eucharist to two shut-ins. As an Associate, I enjoy taking part in our Amen prayer meetings and contributing to our group’s outreach projects which have included donating handmade baby blankets, and other items for single mothers through Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond’s ministry. I look forward to receiving the Presentation Newsletter and calendar, both of which help keep me connected to the Sisters and their ministries. It is an honor for me to be a Presentation Associate with a prayer partner who is praying for me. My life has been enriched by the Presentation Sisters.

Kindling Other Hearts

Certainly this international thrust to serve those in need has taken on giant proportions since the days when Nano established her little schools in Ireland and personally visited the hovels of the neglected in her hometown. Yet, even then, she was no stranger to resistance and stumbling blocks as she began to advocate for those who had no voice to speak on their own behalf. The seeds, gently fallen from the hand of God so long ago, has flourished and taken root far from the first fertile soil. Not only Sisters, but our Associates and Presentation People world-wide, work to lighten the burdens of others by direct service or by working for systemic change for people in need. Through the centuries this charism has been dynamically at work in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America in imitation of our foundress who tended the gift so selflessly. Our gift of charism has been artfully illustrated in a poem by Sr. Raphael Consedine, an Australian Presentation Sister.

Nano,
Your heart yearned to embrace the world,
but your ways were held within narrow streets…
But within...ah, within...there blazed such fire,
Such beacon of desire to see the dream of God
made real on earth, that still it flames
to kindle other hearts afar in space and time ...

Inspired by “A Reflection on the IPA story”
By Kathleen Tynan PBVM
We Continue With Joy
By Sr. Sarah Ryan, PBVM
Sisters Hold Annual Assembly in Connecticut

From North, South, East, West – they came. . . with anticipation of decisions to be made, with a struggle to leave at home other concerns. . . but mostly with delight in being together. How fitting for our Presentation Sisters Family to be at Holy Family Retreat Center! We need the companionship of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in making serious decisions.

The opening prayer provided focus, recognition that we are not alone in our tasks but are provided divine assistance. Our facilitator Sr. Lynn Jarrell, OSU presides with grace and courage: her task is to keep us on track, moving steadily along while allowing ample time for absorbing each step.

An excellent talk by Sr. Maco Cassetta CND drew attention to absorbing new members in this challenging time. She focused on three questions: What needs to be done to prepare for new members? What is required when a new member enters? What happens with the community once the person in formation moves in?

After a break following Sr. Maco’s talk, we shared with one another on her points: in view of our aging membership, should we continue to accept new members? Each table member responded and provoked discussion. (A new feature at this meeting was the use of “Pocket Talkers,” devices which provide headphones that allow the table conversation to be heard more clearly by each table participant without distraction from neighboring tables.)

Time was allowed for questions and answers at each table. Then one person from the table gave a summary to the entire assembly. These are weighty matters. We attended carefully to how each Sister responded. “Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found.” We strive for this charity and love in listening and hearing and trust the presence of God.

The next major topic was how to respond to and prepare for the future. We have no simple answers but began to address this topic which clearly needs attention. Further information and meetings will be needed, but as always, we trust in God’s presence on this journey.

2019 Giving Statements

If you require a statement of your 2019 donations for your tax return, please contact the office of Mission Advancement after January 15th at 845-567-0204 x 122. Thank you.
In Memorium

Sr. Anna Farragher

January 27, 1919 - June 6, 2019

Sister Anna Farragher, 100, formerly known as Sister Mary Bernard, of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary died June 6, 2019 at St. Patrick Manor in Framingham, MA. Sister Anna was born in Clinton, MA on Jan. 27, 1919, a daughter of the late Matthew and Ellen (Kerrigan) Farragher. She was a 1936 graduate of Clinton High School, Clinton, MA and entered the Sisters of the Presentation on Feb. 2, 1937, professing her final vows in 1942. She received a Bachelors’ degree in Education from Catholic Teachers’ College in RI in 1951 and a Masters’ degree in Education from Boston College in 1957. She was certified as an elementary school principal, secondary English and Social Studies teacher and a religious education teacher. Sister’s teaching career included Presentation schools in Leominster, Fitchburg and Clinton MA, Central Falls, Warwick and Woonsocket RI and Riverside and Stamford CT. She was also involved in International Homecare Services and Catholic Charities from 1985-1995 when she retired.

All Souls Remembrance

Please list the names of your loved ones that you would like the Sisters of the Presentation to remember in their masses and prayers during the month of November:

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Please return in envelope enclosed or mail to:
Sisters of the Presentation
Office of Mission Advancement
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, NY 12553

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

Mission Advancement News

As we move into the new year, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to our 2019 Annual Appeal, “Kindle the Flame,” which is one of our main sources of income for our Sisters. Your contribution helped us surpass our goal of $125,000. This helps us to maintain our facilities in Leominster, MA and New Windsor, NY. In addition to maintenance, it helps us to provide for our retired Sisters who volunteer in many ministries. Please contact our Mission Advancement office at (845) 567-0204 x 121 or email our Director, Sara Gunn @ SGunn@sistersofthepresentation.org if you would like to learn more about how you can make an impact!

$125,000
$100,000
$75,000
$50,000
$25,000
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.

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<th>Mrs. Bianca Beck</th>
<th>Mrs. Gloria Kelly</th>
<th>Mr. Robert Melsopp</th>
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<td>Ms. Mary Beth Brow</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen Kehoe</td>
<td>Mr. Charles Moran</td>
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<td>Ms. Yolanda Celuzza</td>
<td>Sr. Estelle Leveillee, PM</td>
<td>Mr. Doug Noble</td>
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<td>Mr. Frank Crawley</td>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Leyen</td>
<td>Ms. Beth O’Mara</td>
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<td>Ms. Jeanne Dealy</td>
<td>Mr. Gabriel Liegey</td>
<td>Ms. Sharon Ponsolle</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rosanna Doyle</td>
<td>Ms. Margaret Lynch</td>
<td>Ms. Carolyn Price</td>
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<td>Ms. Gwendolyn Gordon</td>
<td>Mr. Patrick McCaffrey</td>
<td>Ms. Karen Sheldon</td>
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<td>Ms. Majorie Huk</td>
<td>Mr. James McMahon</td>
<td>Ms. Joan Smart</td>
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<td>Mr. Jack Kelly</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Tocci</td>
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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.

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.
“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

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
99 Church St.
Leominster, MA 01453

www.sistersofthepresentation.org

Find us on Facebook
Find us on Instagram

Presentation Sisters Northeast

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.

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.

Please help us keep our database up-to-date. Please change this label if necessary and send it back to us, call us at 845-567-0204 x 121 or email us at sgunn@sistersofthepresentation.org