



Presentation *sisters*

“NOT WORDS BUT DEEDS”

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fall 2017

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Anniversary of Unity

This year, the Presentation Sisters joyfully celebrated the anniversary of unity between two congregations who came together in 1997. The celebrations included a Mass held on July 10 (Foundation Day) as well as picnics on July 15 – one in New York, and one in Massachusetts.

The history of this unity starts back in the 1980s when the congregations of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and Newburgh, New York, began to mull over the possibility of joining together.

“It was not a merger, it was a new beginning,” explained Sr. Julie Cicconlini, president of the Massachusetts group from 1989-95. “There’s a difference and I think we did it, I really do.”

Fitchburg and Newburgh officially voted to make the change and, during the early-to-mid 1990s, slowly began the process of unity. They took the time to get to know one another and discuss in great detail how the unity would take place while keeping the mission of Nano Nagle alive and evergreen.

“We looked at the gifts that we brought and the challenges we were going to face. Our mantra became: ‘What can we do together that

neither one of us can continue to do alone?’” noted Sr. Julie. “That gave us the inner strength to say, ‘It’s the mission, it’s the charism, it’s being out there for the poor, it’s facing new challenges like Nano did. And we’re not going to be able to do it by ourselves, but we can do it together.’”

Then, in 1996, both congregation presidents called an extraordinary chapter. Delegates were elected and a personal referendum had to be submitted by each member. Between the two congregations, there was only one dissenting vote.

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Mother M. Joseph Hickey
Foundress of New York
Congregation – 1874



A Letter from Leadership

Fall, 2017

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

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Dear Friends,

The summer of 2017 has ended all too quickly! Hopefully, all of us have been renewed to carry on God's mission in our personal, professional and community lives.

One of the highlights of the summer was the celebration of our 20th anniversary as Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of New Windsor, resulting from the Union of the Newburgh, NY and Fitchburg, MA Presentation Congregations in 1997. This Union has energized and continues to challenge our Sisters and Associates to remain faithful in service to God and God's people.

In a recent conversation with a religious sister, Dr. Luisa M. Saffiotti, a clinical and peace psychologist stated that if there is a deep anchoring in God and the support of relatedness with others, then almost anything can happen. I think we can agree with Dr. Saffiotti's comment as we reflect on the stories about Sisters Katherine McKenna, Sheila Moroney and Mary Naccarato and Associate Rev. Dennis O'Brien in this newsletter.

These valiant individuals are only part of the story and belief that almost anything can happen when people join in mission. The deep anchoring in God and support of relatedness also occur daily in our relationship with you, our faithful donors. Through your prayerful and financial support of retired Sisters and ministries we know we will be able to make visible the values of human dignity, freedom and justice among all people, especially the poor and powerless.

We look forward to journeying with you throughout the coming year. Thank you for your continued generosity to us and know you are in the daily prayers of all our Presentation Sisters and Associates!

Gratefully in Christ,

Sr. Patricia Anastasio

Sr. Patricia Anastasio, PBVM
President

2017 Giving Statements

If you require a statement of your 2017 donations for your tax return, please contact the office of Mission Advancement after January 15th at 845-567-0204 x 122. Thank you.

In the Spotlight

Sr. Mary Naccarato takes her sense of humor very seriously.

“I think we get stuck in the thought that religion and our faith should be rigid. Pope Francis reminds us that we’re called to be joyful people,” she mused. “I think for me, my joy, my humor, my enthusiasm and my energy, certainly stems out of my relationship with Christ and my love and commitment to community and my vows. That joy hopefully overflows.”

It most certainly does overflow into the 161 parishes that she serves as the northern regional coordinator of youth ministry. Full time since December 2015, her role was created in the Archdiocese of New York after Cardinal Dolan decided to make youth ministry a priority.

“High school years, young adulthood, there are some serious issues young people are wrestling with, personally, societally, family, faith-wise,” she explained as to why humor is so important to her.

“To be able to laugh at ourselves and to poke fun at certain situations without being irreverent is pretty important. If more young people did that, there would be less suicide and substance abuse and all the things that are claiming the lives of our youth and young adults.”

Sr. Mary works with pastors and parishes to either begin or grow youth ministry programs. She’ll visit the parish and evaluate what they’re doing to see

which level of archdiocesan accompaniment is appropriate for that particular parish.

If the parish has little to no youth ministry presence, Sr. Mary walks through a four-level system with them. First, she meets with the pastor to help him hold an information night and compile a core team to evaluate and survey the parish. Then, it is decided which volunteers are best for certain duties by matching their gifts with the various roles needed. Is the volunteer passionate about social? Fun games? Catechesis? Next, volunteers are procured for duties such as chaperones, hospitality or even providing free pizza because, as Sr. Mary notes, kids are all about the food! Finally, the entire parish is then asked to pray for the kids,

participants and volunteers.

“It is so exciting and rewarding to watch a pastor and a parish build a team, stay with the process, launch their youth ministry program, see the lives that are being touched,” she enthused.

Sr. Mary’s time isn’t just spent at the archdiocese. She participates in service and outreach programs, and is also the spiritual director during girls’ weekends for the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministry at Capuchin Province of St. Mary.

“As a young person, I didn’t go to Mass, I didn’t have the time to sit there and listen to somebody, but I would go on service trips. I would sign up, and I would volunteer and I would be active in doing things. For me, that’s how I grew in my relationship with Christ,” she reminisced. “I’m so blessed to have had the opportunity to share that with young people and young adults.”

She feels that in today’s world, service is almost a new “sacrament” that really encapsulates the charism of our foundress Nano Nagle.

“Think about the rise in the number of young people who are doing years of service, who are involved in getting service hours beyond their school requirements. Hopefully, that’s catching on and it’s a way of living our Baptismal call,” she said. “That’s a complete joy for me, to have that involvement with young people. It’s really what gives me the most energy.”



Celebrating Our **2017 Jubilarians**

50 Years **Sister Janet Brisky**



Since 1985, Sister Janet Brisky has served as Pastoral Associate at St. Joseph parish in West Milford, NJ. “St. Joseph’s is the oldest Catholic community in the state of New Jersey,” she says. “Founded in 1765. And I have the honor of having served there longer than anyone else!” Sister Janet Brisky entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 10, 1967 and professed first vows on August 22, 1970. She began her teaching career at St. Andrew’s School, Clifton, NJ, 1970-73, and then went to St. Mary’s School, Pompton Lakes, NJ. In 1976, Sister Janet transferred to her “alma mater”, John S. Burke Catholic High School, Goshen, NY, where she taught mathematics and religion. After nine years there, she moved to

St. Joseph’s parish in West Milford where she continues to minister. As Parish Associate, Sister Janet is involved in many aspects of parish life, from music ministry to outreach to the sick, elderly, and homebound. Reflecting on her special memories of community life, Sister Janet says, “I’ve always enjoyed the laughter and the encouragement. The Sisters know how to bring the best out of others.”

60 Years **Sister Mary Ambrose Balboni**



Looking back over her 60 years as a Presentation Sister, Sister Mary Ambrose treasures the memory of her years in the classroom, especially those spent at St. Mary’s School in Stamford, CT. Sister Mary Ambrose Balboni entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 24, 1957 at Holy Family Convent in Fitchburg, MA. She professed first vows on August 20, 1960. Sister’s first teaching assignment was for grades 2 and 3 at St. Leo’s school, Leominster, MA. In 1967, she transferred to St. Mary’s in Stamford. After 5 happy years there, Sister Mary Ambrose moved to Holy Family School, Fitchburg, where she remained until 1987. From 1987 to 88, she taught at St. Bernard’s School,

Fitchburg, and then went to St. Joseph’s School, also in Fitchburg. In 1990, Sister Mary Ambrose changed careers, taking up housekeeping. Sister Mary Ambrose loves her life in community, especially the many happy get-togethers. She now resides at Presentation Convent, Leominster, where she is grateful for the opportunity for daily Eucharist.

60 Years **Sister Pauline LeBlanc** *(formerly Sister Mary Agnes)*



When Sister Pauline retired in 2016, she had completed 25 years as Administrative Assistant at St. Bernard’s School, Fitchburg, MA. Quite an accomplishment! Sister Pauline LeBlanc entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 24, 1957; she professed first vows on August 20, 1960. Sister Pauline began her long career in elementary education at St. Leo’s School in Leominster, MA. From there, in 1964 she moved on to Sacred Heart School, Woonsocket, RI; St. John’s School, Clinton, MA; St. Benedict’s School, Warwick, RI; and St. Mary’s School, Stamford CT. In 1972, Sister returned to St. Benedict’s School and, in 1976, went back to St. Leo’s. Two years later, Sister Pauline started teaching at Holy Family

School in Fitchburg. In 1983, she began a third stint at St. Benedict’s, this time as school principal. She returned to the classroom a year later at St. Bernard’s School, Fitchburg. In 1985, Sister Pauline returned to

Holy Family. In 1984, while still teaching, Sister Pauline was appointed to a term as Secretary General of the Fitchburg congregation of Presentation Sisters. Except for those 7 years, Sister Pauline's entire ministry career has been involved in elementary education, finishing up with her Silver Anniversary (1991-2016) year at St. Bernard's as Administrative Assistant. Among her happiest memories, Sister Pauline includes the entrance of her sister, Sister Linda LeBlanc, into the Presentation Sisters in 1964. She also fondly recalls the two summers spent as co-director of Camp Joy, the Sisters' vacation house, 1982-83.

60 Years **Sister Kathleen Reilly** (formerly Sister Mary Patrice)



Sister Kathleen Reilly, a lifelong educator, possesses that rarest of gifts: the ability to relate well with very young children.

Sister Kathleen spent her entire teaching career in the primary grades. "Among my happiest memories," Sister Kathleen says, "are the many times I prepared children to receive the Sacraments. It's always a blessing to see how they meet the Lord in Holy Communion with so much peace and happiness." Sister Kathleen Reilly followed her sister, Sister Patricia Reilly, into the Sister of the Presentation on September 8, 1957. She professed first vows on April 23, 1960. Sister Kathleen began teaching at St. Frances of Rome School in the Bronx, NY, and then transferred to St.

Bartholomew School, Yonkers, NY, in 1962. In 1968, Sister moved to St. Mary's School, Fishkill, NY, returning to St. Bartholomew's 4 years later. She went back to St. Mary's, Fishkill in 1975, and returned to the Bronx in 1978. Sister taught first grade at Our Lady of Solace School, Bronx, from 1978-1992. Afterwards, Sister transferred to Annunciation School, Crestwood, NY, where she spent the next 25 years until she "retired" from full-time teaching in 2016. "One of the greatest joys I found in my classroom ministry was the opportunity I had to see the children grow in knowledge and maturity," Sister Kathleen says. "And I appreciated the gratitude I saw in the parents." She herself is grateful for her special memories in community: Jubilees, community gatherings, "watching our congregation address the changing needs of the world today." Presently, Sister continues in part-time ministry as needed at Annunciation School.

60 Years **Sister Bernadette Rohan** (formerly Sister Mary Roseanne)



With her great sense of humor and a gift for mimicry, Sister Bernadette Rohan brings a smile to the face of everyone she meets – a wonderful asset to her work with patients and their families during her long nursing career.

Sister Bernadette entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1957 and professed first vows on April 23, 1960. She began teaching at St. Andrew's School, Clifton, NJ, and moved to St. Frances of Rome School in the Bronx, NY, in 1963. In 1967, she became a "pioneer", one of the first Presentation Sisters to teach at St. John the Evangelist School, Manhattan, NY. Two years later, she was transferred to Our Lady of Consolation School, Wayne, NJ and in 1970

she returned to St. Frances of Rome School. Although Sister Bernadette enjoyed teaching and has happy memories of her former students and their parents, she felt herself called to a different ministry. In 1973 Sister Bernadette became one of the first Presentation Sisters to study nursing, enrolling in nursing school at Misericordia (now Our Lady of Mercy) Hospital in the Bronx. Moving to reside at St. Michael Convent in Manhattan in 1975, she began her new career at St. Vincent Hospital, also in Manhattan. Five years later, she became staff nurse at Mary Manning Walsh Home, Manhattan. In January, 1985, Sister Bernadette became Nursing Coordinator at Mount Saint Joseph Infirmary, New Windsor, NY. After taking a year to engage in Clinical and Pastoral Education training in Massachusetts, Sister Bernadette returned to St. Vincent's

Hospital. There she used her nursing skills in an outreach program for New York City's homeless population, the poorest of the poor. The program brought her to several sites in Manhattan. "I really felt close to Nano Nagle during that time," she recalls. "I loved getting to know and help the people I met." Sister Bernadette retired in 2010 and moved to Mount Saint Joseph in 2016. After 40 years at St. Michael's, Sister Bernadette misses the hustle and bustle of the city. "But God is good," she says. "And I'm glad to be here with the Sisters, especially old friends I've lived and worked with in the past."

60 Years **Sister Theresa Turi** (*formerly Sister Mary Angela*)



Looking back over her 60 years as a Presentation Sister, Sister Theresa remembers especially her call to become a missionary to South America in 1967.

"My experience in Caracas, Venezuela, opened up a completely different kind of ministry to me that changed my life. Working with Third World people, I learned more from them than I was able to give." Sister Theresa entered the Sisters of the Presentation on September 8, 1957. She professed first vows on April 23, 1960. She taught at St. Jude's School, Manhattan, NY, from 1960-66 and then at Sts. John and Mary School in Chappaqua, NY, from 1966 to 67. Called to be among the first Presentation Sisters to go into missionary service,

Sister Theresa worked with the poorest of the poor in the barrios of Caracas from 1967 until 1973. From 1973-1982 she brought her missionary spirit back home, ministering to the Latino community in St. Jude's parish. After three years of congregational service (1982-85) at Mount St. Joseph, New Windsor, NY, Sister Theresa ventured into a different type of missionary outreach. From 1985 to the present (a total of 32 years!) she has ministered to the Latino community in Sullivan County, NY. "I try to be a Church presence to the Spanish-speaking community there. But most of my work deals with immigration issues. That has been the greatest need ever since 1987," she says. "After having worked with many, many undocumented people, my greatest memory is being present at the naturalization ceremonies (when immigrants become U.S. citizens). There is joy beyond description! ✚

Mission Advancement News

*From the desk of Sr. Mary Byrnes,
Director of Mission Advancement*

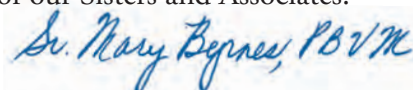
Thank you to all of our friends who have so generously given to our **2017 Annual Appeal, "Kindle the Flame,"** which is an important source of income for our Sisters. These donations are used to maintain two facilities, Leominster, MA and New Windsor, NY, supplements compensated and non-compensated ministries and helps provide

for our retired Sisters.

We are now in the midst of our **Annual Summer Raffle.** Thank you to all who have already returned your raffle tickets. We are looking forward to calling our winners on September 15th to announce your prizes – 1st Prize - \$5000; 2nd prize - \$2000; 3rd and 4th prizes - \$500. Remember "you've got to be in it to win it!"

All Soul's Day Novena – During the month of November we especially remember all those who have gone before us. The Sisters will pray for all the names sent to us during this month and they also will be included in a novena of masses. You may use the enclosed form to list your loved ones who you wish to remember in this way.

Be assured of the daily prayers of our Sisters and Associates.



Sr. Mary Byrnes, PBVM

On Location

Sr. Sheila Moroney, Dobbs Ferry, New York

As a chaplain of seven years at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, New York, **Sr. Sheila Moroney** sees her mission to tend to the spiritual and emotional needs of the patients and their families.

“Being placed in a nursing home at the end of their life, the faith that they exhibit, their positive attitude, it’s all amazing,” she reflected.

Her duties include taking Communion to the residents, visiting and praying with them, and holding an hour-long religious and inspirational music program once a week for the adult daycare.

She tries to live by Nano Nagle’s motto: “Not words but deeds.” “One of the basic skills of a chaplain is the skill of listening. And I think of that motto as I listen to the residents and try to understand where they’re at. It’s not what I do for them; it’s that I listen to them and try to understand and comfort them,” she pondered.

Her work also strikes a personal chord with her. “I had to put my own mother in a nursing home for the last two years of her life. It’s an emotional moment for [people]. It touches me that I can be there for them.”



From top to bottom: Sr. Sheila Moroney, Sr. Sheila Moroney and Sr. Elizabeth Burke, Sr. Katherine McKenna, Sr. Katherine McKenna.

Sr. Katherine McKenna, Worcester, Massachusetts

At Notre Dame Healthcare in Worcester, Mass., **Sr. Katherine McKenna**, also once herself a chaplain, now defines her job as helping employees and administrators of the facility be on the same page.

She is especially proud of the “Mission Moments” program she helped create to help improve the awareness of mission.

“People can nominate employees or residents or family members or visitors or volunteers,” she explains. “I could nominate another person if I saw them or experienced them doing something to benefit me or to benefit someone else that wasn’t part of their job.”

The employees have loved the program. “The value of this is how excited people are to be recognized publicly for a simple act,” she enthused. “The people on the committee tell me that it has helped morale and helped people be more positive in general.”

Each nominee gets a personal invitation for the ceremony held on the first Monday of the month right after the 10 a.m. Mass. A group photo is taken to mark the occasion and then put on a special bulletin board.

Sr. Katherine says one of the more memorable nominees was a local surgeon – along with his best friend.

“He and his dog were nominated, because when he comes to visit his family member, he brings his dog, Bonnie. He lets Bonnie visit the other people in the family room, they get to pet the dog!” she laughed. 🇺🇸

Rev. Dennis O'Brien

40th Anniversary of Ordination

On June 2, 1984, thirty men and women were welcomed into the congregation at Holy Family Chapel in Fitchburg, MA as our first Associates. The program was designed for people desirous of sharing in the spirituality of Presentation Sisters. It was hoped that through this association there would be opportunities to experience a growing realization of the Spirit and power of God in our midst.

Fr. Dennis O'Brien was one of those Associates. Growing up in Whitinsville, MA, he was taught by the Presentation Sisters in St. Patrick's School, and he was a special friend and student of one of our well-loved Superior Generals, Mother Mary Carmelita. After completing his education, he studied for the priesthood, and was ordained for the Diocese of Worcester. Fr. Dennis has lived the ideals of Nano Nagle as a seminarian, and now as a priest for the past forty years, and we are grateful and proud of the treasured connection he is to our congregation. ✚



Fr. Dennis, may the Lord God always be with you, in your going out and your coming in. May the Lord fill your heart and your mind with his love in Jesus Christ. And may the Lord always inspire you to share that love with all those whose lives you touch.

Important Dates - Catholic Volunteer Network

Saturday, September 16, 2017 – New Windsor, NY

Day of Service with Sisters, Associates and volunteers from Newburgh, NY

Monday, October 9, 2017 – Leominster, MA

Day of Service with Sisters, Associates and volunteers from Fitchburg State University and St. Bernard, High School

January, 2018 – Bronx, NY – Visitation Convent

Week of Service – Students from Le Monye/Canisius College

March, 2018 – New Orleans, LA, **Week of Service**

March, 2018 – New Windsor, NY, **Week of Service**

April 28, 2018 – Leominster, MA

Day of Service with Sisters, Associates and volunteers from Fitchburg State University and St. Bernard, High School

May 29 – June 2, 2018 – New Windsor, NY

Day of Service with Sisters, Associates and volunteers from Newburgh, NY



If you wish to join us please contact Sr. Mary Naccarato, PBVM at mtnacc@yahoo.com

Presentation Sisters and the Sustainable Development Goals

By Sr. Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a set of seventeen global goals with 169 targets. The goals were spearheaded by the United Nations, through a deliberative process involving its 194 Member States and adopted in September 2015. These goals for the year 2030 cover a broad range of sustainable development issues including: ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests. Lofty goals for sure, and important to us, in a special way, because of our NGO status at the U.N.

Last Spring when we as a congregation were asked to make preparation for the 2017 Assembly of the International Presentation Association, we were invited to become more familiar with the SDGs and to reflect on how we could implement one or more of



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

these goals in our own local regions.

The chart above lists the broad strokes of the Sustainable Development Goals. They can seem overwhelming until we realize that we can make a difference by even small efforts on an individual and congregational level.

We gathered in five locations to examine how we were already attempting to implement these goals. We looked at our efforts to make sandwiches for a local shelter, volunteer at a parish food pantry or drop-in center, teach ESL, work at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy, encourage recycling, distribute copies of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, and contribute to Habitat for Humanity. We saw that we each in her own small way was working towards the achievement of the SDGs. As a congregation we have pledged to reduce our use of plastic, have installed LED lighting at Mt. St. Joseph, have

collected money to provide water purification kits to poorer countries. Still, we know that our efforts, as important as they are, need another component – ADVOCACY. The Sisters and Associates regularly receive requests to make telephone calls to government officials and industry leaders to make known “the cries of Earth and of those made poor.” We sign on-line petitions dealing with immigration and climate change.

There is a saying, “I cannot do everything, but I can do something.” As individuals and as a congregation, we wish to do our part in carrying out the Sustainable Development Goals. ✚





In Memoriam

Sister Mary Emery Duval

August 6, 1920 - June 29, 2017

Sister Mary Emery Duval entered into eternal rest on June 29, 2017, in her 75th year as a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She entered the Fitchburg, MA, congregation on September 24, 1942 and professed first vows on August 20, 1945. Sister Emery had a long and happy career as a teacher and often said how much she enjoyed working with children. She taught in many schools over the years, including assignments in Connecticut and Rhode Island. From 1948 to 1955 she was a teacher at St. Catherine's School, Riverside, CT. Most of Sister Emery's assignments, however, were in the Fitchburg - Leominster, MA area, including stints at Holy Family School (1944-45) and St. Bernard's School (1945-48; 1969-76), Fitchburg, and Sacred Heart School (1962-64), West Fitchburg. She taught at St. Leo's School, Leominster, from 1976 to 1986 and at Julie Country Day School, also in Leominster, from 1987 until she retired. Before her death, Sister Emery was looking forward to celebrating her 75 Year Jubilee in September 2017. She will be remembered as a dedicated and prayerful Presentation Sister, grateful for all the blessings she received during her long life and many years in God's service.

We Remember

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

Ms. Maryanne Weihl

Ms. Eleanor Gibbons

Ms. Barbara Dougherty

Ms. Sandra McAndrews

Mrs. Suzanne (Wilson) Klein

Mr. James Ryan

Ms. Maureen Darner

Rev. Edward Moran

Mrs. Margaret Miner

Mr. John Mulchay

Mr. George Follmer

Mr. John Stroh

Mr. Daniel St. Jacques

Mr. Joseph McDermott

Mrs. Mary Zaleski

Mr. Sansome

Ms. Kristen LaTour

Rev. James A. Hayes, SSJ



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.

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.



Picnic in New Windsor.

Official permission to become one was requested from Rome in 1997, and was followed by the first general chapter! Now one, the community became known as the Presentation Sisters of New Windsor, New York.

“We’re very happy that we became one at that time. The greatest strength of that was the belief that the union of the two congregations would maximize our energies for mission. I would say that we have been confident since that happened, that despite the difficulty in doing it, it was the right move,” reminisced Sr. Catherine Hannigan, who was the Superior General of the Fitchburg congregation at the time of the union.

She said comfort was found in the thought that the God who was journeying with them through the 1990s was the same God who

inspired foundress Nano Nagle to begin the order in 1775, and who once said, “There is no greater happiness than to be in union.”

Sr. Julie also remembers the challenges that surrounded the union. “It was difficult, I don’t deny it. And of course that meant a whole new leadership team, and there was a little bit of fear there for the Fitchburg group, but we did it,” she said. “The best thing we did in preparation was that



President Sr. Patricia Anastasio visited the Sisters in Massachusetts for their anniversary celebration picnic.

we took a long time to actually get to know each other.”

During the July 15 celebration, Sr. Julie enthused that unity is still well-demonstrated, as two of the council members traveled from New York to Massachusetts to celebrate with them, while two others stayed in New Windsor to celebrate with that group. “That meant a lot. The women in leadership have kept that sensitivity to keeping New England involved in that circle. They deserve a lot of credit,” she said warmly.

Both Sisters say the move took a huge leap of faith, but was definitely the move the Holy Spirit wanted.

“What would we have done now if we hadn’t made that move 20 years ago?” Sr. Julie pondered. “How many Sisters have we lost through health reasons and so forth, and how would we have been able to continue to support each other in mission and in charism and in lifestyle?” ✚

IN HONOR OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITY, two Presentation Sisters were chosen to make a trip to Ireland in 2018! Congratulations to raffle winners Sr. Enid Storey and Sr. Sheila Moroney.



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"

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of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mission Advancement Office
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**Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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Going Green

We are Going Green! If you would like to join us in this endeavor, please email us at [**missionadvancement@sistersofthepresentation.org**](mailto:missionadvancement@sistersofthepresentation.org)

Mission Statement

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