Sisters Mary Byrnes, Patricia Anastasio and Barbara King (above right) were pleased to attend the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) annual assembly from August 11-15 in Houston, Texas. The LCWR is an association of the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. The conference has more than 1400 members, who represent more than 80 percent of the approximately 51,600 women religious in the United States. Founded in 1956, the conference assists its members to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today’s world.

The approximately 800 participants of the assembly discussed some of the essential considerations facing religious life and its leaders under the theme of “Springs of the Great Deep Burst Forth: Meeting the Thirsts of the World”, acknowledging the suffering endured by people throughout this past year – globally, as well as in Houston, a city recently besieged by floods.

Photo above: from left, Sr. Sandy Butler, New Foundland, Srs. Ann Jackson and Beth Driscoll, Dubuque, Iowa, Sr. Barbara King, our congregation and Sr. Lorraine Hale, Staten Island.
A Letter From Leadership...

Dear Friends,

This past May, our congregation held its Fourth General Chapter. This event is one in which the Sisters evaluate their life and faithfulness to God’s mission and set appropriate directions for the future in light of changing needs in the church, society and the congregation. The Chapter opened with the sisters singing a prayer to the Holy Spirit in which they asked the Spirit to guide all their actions, and show the path they should walk. During their days together, the Sisters and Associates committed themselves to the following calls of the Spirit:

As Presentation Sisters and Associates, we embrace our call to be fire for mission in our time as our foundress, Nano Nagle, was in her time. Aware of our current realities and those of our global community, we claim the courage to proclaim the Gospel in word and action and commit ourselves personally and communally to:

- Witness the Gospel call to make visible the values of human dignity, freedom and justice among all people, especially women, the poor and the powerless.
- Listen and respond to the cry of Earth urging us to bring forth a sustainable society.
- Collaborate with the International Presentation Association, Conference of Presentation Sisters, LCWR and other organizations to effect systemic change.
- Support one another in our Gospel mission in a spirit of prayer, presence, hospitality, and compassion.

Implementing these calls will be our work and challenge for the next six years. As you read this newsletter and all our newsletters during the coming years, I pray that you will see these calls continually embraced in the work and life of our sisters. I also pray and invite you to respond with a generous heart in becoming part of our commitment to these calls and to the mission that God began in us 174 years ago when the first group of sisters arrived in New York from Ireland.

Together, may we be able to sing the final verse of the prayer to the Holy Spirit we sang at our Chapter:

United in your name forever
May our work reflect your desires
May your mercy and love always fill us
Abide O Spirit of Life.

Gratefully,

Sr. Patricia Anastasio, PBVM
President
What does a couple do when their children are preparing to receive the sacraments which they themselves have never received? Hopefully, they approach someone like Sr. Laura Urbano, who draws them into a sacrament preparation journey for parents and godparents. Is your language Spanish? Fine. Is it English? Also fine.

Sr. Laura was approached recently by a couple who had been married for seventeen years and decided it was time to deepen their faith and enter fully into the Catholic tradition as their children began sacramental preparation. She drew the couple into her pre-Cana classes, the marriage enrichment encounter and the marriage congress after introductory faith sharing sessions. All went along just fine with just one still unresolved problem: big church wedding (husband); small, private one (wife)? Perhaps the solution will emerge gradually as they and others in the group continue their Sunday sessions, sharing also some breakfast and talk of daily comings and goings.

Sr. Laura, the Youth Minister/Advisor, works with a team of five youth leaders in running the teenage youth group in St. John Chrysostom Parish in the Bronx, New York, and as such, accompanies parishioners in their faith development and formation, which starts with leadership training sessions for eighth graders and includes a young adults group as well as Baptismal preparation of parents and godparents.

To contact Sister: Sr. Laura Urbano, PBVM, St. John Chrysostom Church, 985 E 167th St, Bronx, NY 10459
Email: Stjohnchry@aol.com

Sister explains that “What gives me hope are the persons who share their lives with me, and in these experiences I have come to learn how much they want to grow, become more active in their faith and deepen their relation with Jesus Christ and His church.”
As a Physician Assistant at North Central Bronx Hospital, Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond serves as Chief Physician Assistant, Student Preceptor – or tutor – and dispenser of emergency medicine. North Central is located in a disadvantaged neighborhood and is dedicated to providing medical care to ANYONE seeking it. Sister’s responsibility is to complete the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of the problems presented and to supervise the physician assistant staff and students who rotate through the department.

In this role Sister comes in contact with the lives and struggles of a lot of people! She declares that there are so many stories that flow from these that she is often encouraged to write a book. (We’re waiting for that). She speaks with special fondness of an eighty-five year old woman who had been her patient and now lives with her daughter in a truck two blocks from the convent. For the past two years she and the other sister have been their support in the details of getting through each day, from providing Christmas breakfast to giving their ice packs freezer space in summer. The bond established is an emblem of the striving humanity she deals with each day.

In addition, Sr. Mary Catherine serves one day a week doing campus ministry at Fordham University.

“Each day I am called as a Presentation Sister in the spirit of Nano Nagle, our foundress, to spend myself for the poor, bringing dignity to those in need. No day is ever like another, offering endless opportunities to serve, and gives me hope of making a small difference in the life of another.”

Asked how many people she reaches she replies with a question mark. This computation is beyond her.

Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, PBVM
Come to the Edge is the invitation to Presentation Sisters and Presentation/Christian Brothers!

The first week in Galway was amazing! We reflected, shared and listened to the many ways that both Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice went to the edge in their outreach to the poor and needy of their day. Margaret Silf, author of ‘The Other Side of Chaos’- 2011 & ‘Simple Faith’- 2012, guided us through this first week of prayer and reflection. During this time we were given an opportunity to gather with folks from a local city parish to take to the streets and invite tourists, students and locals to join us for prayer at an evening service.

In our travels to Callan, Waterford, Ballygriffin, Cork we saw firsthand the effects of the ministry of our Presentation Sisters and Presentation Brothers/Christian Brothers. We saw and experienced their service and how significant it was in the early beginnings and how it continues to be so important to so many people to this day.

There were so many significant events that surprised us each day, people, places, and their stories. One very touching experience was our visit to Presentation Brother’s Home for their retired members. A group of five elderly brothers told us of their desire to live their days out in an intentional community. They spoke very openly about what they expected from themselves and the others in the group. They pledged themselves to live with each other, to love each other, to share their hopes, fears and desires in a spirit of trust and genuine concern for one another. Common prayer/sharing would be the focal point of their lives together. Edmund Rice’s brothers are indeed ‘gentlemen’ of welcome and hospitality.

Walking in the footsteps of Nano and Edmund was an exhilarating and challenging journey. Being with Presentation Sisters & Presentation/Christian Brothers from all around the globe was absolute grace. On the evening of Rosie’s birthday (a sister from Pakistan), we gathered to celebrate with food, drink, stories and song. The most impressive song was Happy Birthday-sung in many different languages, one at a time...It was such a joyful evening...a gathering of one time strangers...now truly sisters and brothers!

So now we take all that we learned, felt, touched and prayed as gift, as grace and we ask ourselves, “How do we go to the edge in our prayer, ministry and life today.”

-Sr. Dorothy Scesny and Sr. Paula Cormier
“If I Could Be of Service...” is a group of service programs offered by the Sisters of the Presentation. We were pleased to have college students, Lindsey and Grace volunteer to join Srs. Mary Naccarato, Christina Dougherty and Mary Catherine Redmond for the “Serving with the Sisters Week” at Newburgh Ministry, Habitat for Humanity of Newburgh, St. Patrick’s Soup Kitchen and Nora Cronin Presentation Academy the week of May 31st to June 6th.

If I Could be of Service - Year Long Service Program begins mid August and ends in June, Young Adult/College Week 2015 from May 31st to June 6th, Serving with the Sisters – Summer Service Week 2015 from July 6th-July 10th.

We invite anyone interested to join us on Family Service Saturday, October 10th, 2015.

These programs offer an opportunity to “spend yourself for the poor” in the Spirit of our foundress Nano Nagle and the sisters that have followed in her footsteps for many centuries. As our foundress said, “If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the world, I would willingly do all in my power.”

For more information: See the tab “Service Programs” on our website: www.sistersofthepresentation.org.

On Facebook - Presentation Sisters Service and Outreach Programs

Photos from top right: Lindsey (left) and Grace volunteering at Newburgh Ministry in the City of Newburgh, NY, center: Grace hard at work for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh. Bottom right: Lindsey assisting 5th grade students at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy also in Newburgh. Bottom: from left Sr. Christine Dougherty, Grace, Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, Lindsey, shelter volunteer, shelter volunteer and Sr. Mary T. Naccarato help serve lunch at St. Patricks Soup Kitchen in Newburgh.
On May 12th, 2015, Sr. Regina Avard was honored at the St. Andrew Spring Gala in Clifton, New Jersey. She received the St. Andrew School Outstanding Person Award for her service to their school and in celebration of her long and faithful seventy-five years as a Sister of the Presentation. Above Photo: Standing, Sr. Margaret Murphy, principal of St. Andrew School. Seated: a guest and Sr. Regina Avard.

Sr. Irene Goguen (center) was proud to receive the “Distinguished Bernardian” award from the St. Bernard’s Alumni Association on May 2nd for her years of service to the community, especially her 24 years of teaching at St. Bernard’s Elementary School in Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Sr. Christine Liegey who received the Vivere Christus Award on June 14th in acknowledgment of the value and importance of the laity and to express gratitude and appreciation to those who unselfishly give of themselves for the building up of God’s Kingdom. Above Photo: Sr. Christine with Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Diocese of Paterson.

We are happy to announce Sr. Mary T. Naccarato, PBVM, will be making her Perpetual Profession of Vows on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Lake Katrine, New York. We will have more on this happy occasion in our Spring 2016 Newsletter!
Sr. Kathleen Cusack entered the Sisters of the Presentation at Mt. St. Joseph in Newburgh, New York on February 2, 1955, and upon her reception was given the name Mary Stephanie. She made her profession of vows on August 17, 1957, and her final vows in 1960.

Sister embarked on a long career in education, teaching a number of grades in elementary school and concentrating on English and history in high school, both in John S. Burke in Goshen, New York and St. Michael’s in Manhattan. As librarian she served in a number of schools as well as St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York. Finally, she returned to St. Michael’s as principal for a number years, a time very dear to her heart. As she reviews all of this she reflects: “I deeply cherish the memory of teaching reading to little ones, introducing literature, history and books to students of all ages and helping high school teens believe in themselves. I worked with marvelous co-workers throughout these years and hold dear the St. Michael Academy alumna and friends who supported the school.” Sister Kathleen sums up her regard for her teaching career in her fondness for the Chinese proverb, Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime.

As she looks back over the years she is “so grateful to have lived with many sisters...From early days in the novitiate to the present I have been blessed by their kindness and faithfulness.”

Sister Paula Cormier (Formerly Sr. Mary Paula)

Sr. Paula entered the Congregation on September 24, 1955 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. At the time of her reception she was given her present name, replacing her baptismal name, Mary Jean. She made her final profession of vows in August, 1963.

Sister was elected to the position of congregational Vice President in 1997 and served in that capacity for six years. She was appointed Novice Director in 2010, and served for three years.

She was a teacher in her early years of ministry, chiefly in schools in the Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts. However, her introduction to the missionary experience and all things Hispanic made a profound change in her life, beginning with her years in Peru, which continue to give her many memories. She explains, “One of the most significant was becoming a Sanitoria, providing basic health services such as vaccinations and wound care.” Back in this country she continued work in Hispanic apostolate and ministry.

In later years Sr. Paula served in St. Francis Nursing Home in Worcester in the area of pastoral care, and enjoyed her many contacts with seniors and parishioners, and currently she volunteers at St. Joseph parish, reflecting with a group on the Sunday Gospels. The women in this group talk about their life situations and how their faith continues to challenge them on a day to day basis.

And in community? There have been so many opportunities to celebrate life –birthdays, anniversaries, feast days, not to mention singing together in harmony.
Sr. Mary Anne Seliga entered the Presentation Congregation in Fitchburg, Massachusetts on September 24, 1955. At her reception she was given her present name, replacing that of her baptism, Felice Ann. She made profession of first vows on August 20, 1958, and her final vows on the same date in 1963.

Sister’s long and dedicated career in schools took her to both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She taught in St. Bernard’s in Fitchburg, where she also served as librarian, and also in Holy Family; St. Mary’s in Ayer; St. Leo’s in Leominster, where again she was also librarian; St. John’s in Clinton again as both teacher and librarian; and St. Benedict’s in Warwick, where she was also principal.

For a number of years Sister coordinated the congregation’s marvelous recreation/retreat facility at Camp Joy in New Hampshire until its recent (sad) closing.

Sr. Mary Anne retired from her long career in the schools in 2009, and since then has been serving other Presentation Sisters as Administrator of Presentation Convent in Leominster, Massachusetts (see p.14).

When young Helen Welch was received into the Presentation congregation in June of 1956, she was given the name Margaret Mary, which she continues to use. She had entered the community in September, 1955 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and made her final vows there in 1963.

Sister went on to a long career of teaching in elementary schools in Leominster, Fitchburg and Fall River in Massachusetts, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. Of these years she treasures “many wonderful memories,” as she puts it. The great “love of her life” was the Montessori Method, whose aim was to encourage spontaneity and eagerness to learn and to question.” Close to her heart are memories of teaching religion to kindergarteners. It was her goal that they see themselves as unique creatures of God and a part of the Christian world. These happy years were spent at the Julie County Day School run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sister holds as a special memory of life in community the celebration of her golden jubilee a decade ago, observed with two other sisters who had entered with her. The celebration of Mass, followed by dinner and a reception “gave a wonderful feeling of appreciation, friendship and joy” as she puts it.

“I think there is no greater happiness in the world than to be in union.” - Nano Nagle
Both jubilarians celebrating 50 years were given religious names at the time of their reception, but were known by these names only in the small novitiate community and their families. Less than a year later the congregation adopted the practice of a sister retaining her baptismal name, and the new one was discontinued. 

Sr. Barbara King had been given the name Mary Johanna, and Sr. Barbara Muldoon, Mary Aquin.

Sister Barbara King
(Formerly Sr. Mary Johanna)

Sr. Barbara was recently re-elected councilor on the congregational Leadership Team, and will serve in that capacity for six years. During the previous term she also served as Wellness Coordinator for the Congregation.

Sister entered the Congregation in September, 1965 and made her profession of vows in August, 1968. Her teaching career was solely and solidly devoted to grades five through eight in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn, where she served for over thirty years in St. Rose of Lima in Rockaway, New York. Of course, sister explains, that career of teaching involved “side jobs”, all of which she loved: CCD and Adult Education classes, chairing the parish Liturgy Committee, serving as Eucharistic Minister and chairing the parish fundraising committee.

As she glances back she enjoys the reward of seeing young people grow up and start families of their own, eventually teaching their children. These and many other memories Sr. Barbara holds both in community and teaching were made possible, she maintains, by the monumental changes brought about by Vatican II which involved opening the doors to where the people are.

Sister Barbara Muldoon
(Formerly Sr. Mary Aquin)

A number of Sr. Barbara’s years in community were devoted to congregational service. She was elected to the post of Ministry Coordinator from 1984 to 1991 and Second Councilor from 1997 to 2003, and cites those years as councilor as a very special time for her, since the (now former) congregations of Fitchburg and Newburgh had just completed the Unity Project, forming the present New Windsor Congregation, and giving her the opportunity of being in on the “ground floor” as the growth into a sense of oneness took place. In later years she also coordinated funding sources for the Tolentine-Zeiser Community Life Center in the Bronx.

Sr. Barbara entered the Congregation in September of 1965 and made her profession of vows in August, 1968. Her years in ministry took her to a number of schools in New York, New Jersey and Louisiana, teaching in elementary and high school from 1968 to 1984. Sister speaks of her years at St. Michael’s High School in Manhattan as the most rewarding of her teaching career, citing particularly the school spirit among both students and faculty.

She particularly loved the Post Vatican II spirit that drew her into the life of the parish community beyond the schools she served in, and the opportunity to work with parish council and church committees, as in St. Rose of Lima in Rockaway, New York, and to experience the spirit of the South in St. David, New Orleans. Life in that city presented also a special opportunity to enter into a deeper relationship with her sister companions, since, they were all a such a distance from the rest of the congregation. Those years remain a very special community experience.
I am a Presentation Associate because...

I became a Presentation Associate because I wanted to share in the "spirit" of the Presentation community. I have been deeply touched by the love and support of the sisters of the congregation. I have always found them to be a tremendous source of encouragement through some of life's challenges. I have also been inspired by the works and life of their foundress, Nano Nagle, and wanted to have an opportunity to continue that spirit of sharing Gods love and fidelity to people in my every day life in my own small way.

I feel truly blessed to be an Associate member. I have found it to be life giving and am truly grateful.

~Mary-Jo Halloran
Clinton, MA

At the age of 17, I felt drawn to the Sisters of the Presentation. I had gone all through public schools and only knew the Sisters through my “catechism classes” and St. Leo’s choir. I felt called to join the community and did so immediately after high school. For 30 years I gave my all to live out my vocation but continued to feel a nagging to move in a different direction. I struggled as I loved the community but could not find peace in my heart. I left the congregation in 1991 and continued in ministry as a DRE and also worked as a consultant for a religion publisher (Silver Burdett Ginn Religion). I continued to keep in touch with friends in the congregation and realized that my heart was still with the PBVM community. I ministered in the parish until I took on a full time job with SBG Religion in 1999. Throughout these years, I tried to be financially supportive of the Congregation and gradually realized that I wanted to again feel more connected to Nano Nagle’s followers. I became an Associate a few years ago when I was invited. I have much to learn about Nano Nagle and hope to grow more involved in ministries related to the call of Nano to reach out to the poor. At present I have joined the Dream Team, am Coordinator for the First Eucharist program at St. Anne’s in Shrewsbury, and drive a mini bus for the disabled and seniors of Shrewsbury. I also am trying to bring Good News to the many residents of Manor on the Hill where my mother makes her home. I take extra time to talk with and visit some of the residents who do not have visitors. As an Associate, I look forward to gathering for prayer and retreats to support my spiritual life and to give me inspiration to continue to do good for others. I believe that Religious Life can have many forms and Associate Membership is an important link to furthering the good that was begun by Nano. I am grateful for the privilege to be an Associate Member and to continue to share in this Mission. ~ Mary Jane Person, Worcester, MA

To build on my faith and bring me closer to God and Mary.

~Anna Sabourin
Fitchburg, MA
Sr. Marcella Anne Sullivan
6/24/1927-7/3/2015

Sr. Marcella entered the Sisters of the Presentation in (then) Newburgh, New York on September 8, 1946, and at her reception the following April was given the name Mary William. Sister devoted many years to the field of health care, serving as Infirmary and later Infirmary Supervisor at the motherhouse at Mt. St. Joseph. She also brought her experience in health care and spiritual values to parish home health care ministry to programs in St. Frances of Rome in the Bronx. She served in Misericordia Hospital as Staff Chaplain and Director of Pastoral Care at Schervier Home, both in New York.

During her long life Sr. Marcella delighted sisters, family and others with her light and beautiful artistic touch: paintings for ornament, greeting cards, “welcome home” to the traveler, and just for the joy of doing it.

~PBVM Associate Helen Gorman~

Faithful PBVM Associate, Helen M. Gorman of Clifton, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2015. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mrs. Gorman was raised in Manhattan and had lived in Clifton for fifty-eight years. She was a homemaker, wife and mother to six children.

A parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle R.C. Church in Clifton, she was also a Eucharistic Minister there and was a member of the Rosary Society, the PrimeTimers and the Columbiettes. She was also a member of the Valley Seniors and the Red Hat Ladies, both in Clifton.

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

Mary Desimone
Johanna Jankowski
Edie Remier
Mary Thatcher

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.
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:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Cemetery, Fornoli, Italy

Soft golden light
Transfixes
The figures standing at each grave,
Transforms
Our muted assemblage of the living
Into the shining communion
We seek with those
Who rest alongside marble saints,
And wait for resurrection.
Our ancestors,
Transcendent somehow
In their formal portraits,
Best-dressed uncles and ancient aunts
Framed in ovals of silver
Affixed to each tomb.
They stare primly forward,
And wait.
We are momentary
And then move slowly on
Down the path to the shrouded town
And on into the burnished sunset.
©2002 Greg Friedman, OFM

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

Please return in envelope enclosed or mail to:
Sisters of the Presentation
Office of Mission Advancement
84 Presentation Way
New Windsor, NY 12553
Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Sisters, is usually pictured on her deathbed surrounded by her sisters. She is speaking, and each sister is raptly attentive to her words. What words did she speak? “Love one another as you have hitherto done.” These words serve as the job description as well as the spirit of the administrator of the retirement home, Presentation Convent in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Sr. Mary Anne Seliga (top two photos, center) has been the administrator there for the past six years. It is a place of prayer, peace and hospitality, rich in history, holiness and spirituality. Sister describes her ministry as “doing more for me than I am doing for the sisters. I’m learning to grow old gracefully.”

Sister ministers to approximately thirty people, both religious and lay. She describes her role as listening to the sisters, preparing communal prayer experiences for them, being sensitive to each sister’s cares and concerns and—Parties! Parties! Parties!—to which sisters living in the area are happy to be invited. Not only do the sisters celebrate religious and national holidays, but they delight in such joys as a visit from La Befana—in Italian legend, the Santa Claus of little children—and St. Joseph’s Table, which is shared by hungry families from “Nano’s Nook”, a food pantry serviced by our sister).

Sr. Mary Anne also coordinates jubilee and Presentation Day liturgies and celebrations at the convent. However, apart from celebrations and the like, there are very serious health issues which she must place in the hands of Our Savior. These have given her an open, trusting, and understanding heart for those who are dealing each day with deteriorating health, simple aches and pains and striving to age with dignity, accepting God’s will one day at a time.

Nano’s last request is honored simply by loving service to the retired sisters. The Serenity Prayer is ever in mind, and presents a mantra for aging: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change/ Courage to change the things I can/ And wisdom to know the difference.

When Sr. Kathryn Geisel (bottom 2 photos, center) was asked about her responsibilities as Administrator/Activities Director of the convent at Mt. St. Joseph in New Windsor, New York, her first response was that she aims to “maintain a spirit of welcome and hospitality.” The details are numerous, and have kept her busy for the past six years, especially in fulfilling her goal of assisting the resident retired sisters to be as independent as possible and encouraging them to have a voice in their care, as well as in community living.”

Her time and imagination are given to the development of programs for exercise and activities, for planning dinner and a prayer service for a Sister’s special calendar day, shopping for and with them for some odds and ends. Her day may bring her into contact with a sister’s Leadership Contact Person and a family member regarding changes in her condition, or help coordinate care in a hospital or rehab facility. And then there is the nitty gritty of working with kitchen and other staff and overseeing the budget for the facility.

The convent at Mt. St. Joseph is often the center of larger events on campus, and at these times Sr. Kathryn is the one who works out schedules for housekeeping not only for the convent, but the Administration Center and use of the guest houses, as well as arranging the annual retreat and other congregation-wide events.

What does she have to say about all this? “I have a Life is Good t-shirt that reads ‘Do what you like – Like what you do.’ And I DO.”
Thank you to all the friends who have so generously given to our 2015 Annual Appeal, “Kindle the Flame,” which is an important source of income for the Sisters. The money donated is used to maintain two campuses, Leominster, MA and New Windsor, NY. It also supplements compensated and non-compensated ministries and helps provide for our retired Sisters. If you have not yet sent a donation, please consider sending one and helping us reach our goal of $100,000.

Today’s Total: $84,763

We are planning to have another “Friendraiser” on November 13, 2015 at the PBVM Administration Center in New Windsor. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones! Invitations and more details to follow.

Online Donations
Please make note that donations can now be made securely and safely online at: www.sistersofthepresentation.org.

PBVM Prayer Association Greeting Cards
An assortment of Presentation Prayer Association cards can also be viewed on our website and ordering by calling 845-567-0204 x. 122.

2015 Giving Statements
If you require a statement of your 2015 donations for your tax return, please contact the Office of Mission Advancement after January 15th, at 845-567-0204 x. 122. Thank You.

September, 2015

Dear Friends,

May the Lord’s peace be with you.

It is with great joy that we greet September this year. There is much excitement about our Holy Father’s visit to this part of the United States. Saint John Paul II, known as the Pope of the Family, created the World Meeting of Families in 1994 in Rome to explore the critical role families play in society and to give families an opportunity to discuss the challenges and blessings that all families have. This year the meeting will be held in Philadelphia. It is the first time the gathering has been here. “Love is our Mission: The Family Fully Alive” is the theme of the meeting. Pope Francis supports this theme.

As he lives and speaks Pope Francis embodies the message of mercy, joy and love at the heart of the Gospel. Our Presentation Sisters and Associates are continuously inspired by his word and example. We strive in our ministries to serve the people of God, especially the poor and homeless. In the midst of many changes in our religious life we endeavor to follow in the footsteps of great people, Nano Nagle, our foundress, and Pope Francis to give us the courage to stay on the journey towards caring for others.

Thanks to you for your generous donations we are able to continue this work. We are happy to partner with you in this response to God’s call to serve. Be assured of our daily prayers for yourselves and your families.

Have a wonderful year.

Gratefully in Christ,

Sr. Mary Byrne
Director of Mission Advancement
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.