

GATHERING OF PRESENTATION PEOPLE

Light the Lantern



SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2022
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Congregation	First Name	Last Name	Service Assignment
Aberdeen	Janelle	Bierle	St. Francis House
Aberdeen	Kathleen	Bierne	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Aberdeen	Pegge	Boehm	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Kathleen	Daly	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Aberdeen	Jenny	Dix	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Pam	Donelan	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Aberdeen	Katherine	Donis	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	Theresa	Doss	not here on Friday
Aberdeen	Francene	Evans	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Elaine	Garry	Avera
Aberdeen	Michelle	Gerlach	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Barb	Grosz	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Aberdeen	Carrie	Hansen	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Jared	Hohn	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Janet	Horstman	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Aberdeen	Mary	Ihli	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Mary	Jaeger	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Mike	Kelly	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Janice	Klein	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	Vicky	Larson	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	Jan	Lenz	Not here on Friday
Aberdeen	Mary	Lien	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	Carmen	Morrison	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Angelica	Narez Guitierrez	Avera
Aberdeen	Deb	Nelson	Avera
Aberdeen	Brooke	Nicholson Grote	Reserve Driver
Aberdeen	Christy	Nicolaisen	St. Francis House
Aberdeen	Julie	Poeppel	St. Francis House
Aberdeen	Pat	Prunty	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Aberdeen	Myra	Remily	St. Francis House
Aberdeen	Jamie	Risse	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	April	Ross	Caminando Juntos
Aberdeen	Jen	Rothenbuehler	Reserve Driver
Aberdeen	Jane	Schaffer	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	Jackie	Shives	Boys and Girls Club
Aberdeen	JoAnn	Struzl	Letter Project
Aberdeen	Mary	Thomas	Avera
Aberdeen	Matthew	Tschetter	Caminando Juntos
Aberdeen	Lucille	Welbig	not here on Friday
Aberdeen	Lynn Marie	Welbig	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Union: Western Aust.	Cecilia	Phetpanomporn	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Conference Guest	Debbie	Asberry	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Conference Guest	Danielle	Jacob	taking photos
Conference	Lisa	Olson	Reserve Driver
Dubuque	Jessi	Beck	Caminando Juntos
Dubuque	Diana	Blong	Letter Project
Dubuque	Marilyn	Breen	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House

Congregation	First Name	Last Name	Service Assignment
Dubuque	Rita	Cameron	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Dubuque	Jane	Conrad	Avera
Dubuque	Therese	Corkery	Letter Project
Dubuque	Martha	Donnelly	St. Francis House
Dubuque	Rachel	Dunlap	Boys and Girls Club
Dubuque	Donna	Ewy	Letter Project
Dubuque	Marge	Healy	Boys and Girls Club
Dubuque	Michaeline	Healy	St. Francis House
Dubuque	Carmen	Hernandez	Caminando Juntos
Dubuque	Jeanine	Kuhn	Boys and Girls Club
Dubuque	Jean	Lange	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Dubuque	Megan	Lucas	Boys and Girls Club
Dubuque	Maura	McCarthy	Caminando Juntos
Dubuque	Rita	Menart	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Dubuque	Anastasia	Nicklaus	St. Francis House
Dubuque	Joyce	Peterson	Letter Project
Dubuque	Jennifer	Rausch	Avera
Dubuque	Barb	Ressler	Letter Project
Dubuque	Brigid	Stanley	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
New Windsor	Pat	Dowler	Letter Project
New Windsor	Maryann	Gisler	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
New Windsor	Julia	Gomez	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
New Windsor	Mary-Jo	Halloran	Boys and Girls Club
New Windsor	Yliana	Hernandez	Caminando Juntos
New Windsor	Natalys	Kavallaris	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
New Windsor	Patricia	Lanza	Letter Project
New Windsor	Carol	LeBlanc	Letter Project
New Windsor	Mary Kate	Lowe	St. Francis House
New Windsor	Dale	McDonald	St. Francis House
New Windsor	Marichen	Montiel Hertling	Caminando Juntos
New Windsor	Justin	Perez	Boys and Girls Club
New Windsor	Mary Jane	Person	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
New Windsor	Carol	Ponsolle	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
New Windsor	Mary Catherine	Redmond	Letter Project
New Windsor	Dorothy	Scesny	Avera
New Windsor	Laura	Urbano	Caminando Juntos
San Francisco	Paula	Baker	St. Francis House
San Francisco	Crystal	Catalan	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
San Francisco	Pam	Chiesa	Letter Project
San Francisco	Rosina	Conrotto	Boys and Girls Club
San Francisco	Judith	Cunningham	St. Francis House
San Francisco	Holly	Elkins	Boys and Girls Club
San Francisco	Gerry	Fagoaga	Avera
San Francisco	Jean	Holsten	Boys and Girls Club
San Francisco	Dayna	Lawson-Hurst	Boys and Girls Club
San Francisco	Kristina	Luscher	Caminando Juntos
San Francisco	Nanette Lee	Miller	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum

Congregation	First Name	Last Name	Service Assignment
San Francisco	Jan	Potts	Avera
San Francisco	Pat	Reinhart	Caminando Juntos
San Francisco	Kathleen	Sickly	St. Francis House
San Francisco	Michelle	Taylor Lagunas	Boys and Girls Club
San Francisco	Melissa	Ursin	Avera
Staten Island	Beth	Hassel	St. Francis House
Union: NL	Elieen	Combs	Caminando Juntos
Union: NL	Sharon	Evans	Letter Project
Union: US	Glendy	Aguirre	Letter Project
Union: US	Sharon	Altendorf	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Union: US	Diane	Beaton	Letter Project
Union: US	Loretta	Bowen	Letter Project
Union: US	Lois	Byrne	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Union: US	Judy	Drew	Letter Project
Union: US	Katherine	Fennell	Caminando Juntos
Union: US	Shawna	Foley	Letter Project
Union: US	David	Fortin	Boys and Girls Club
Union: US	Marie	Glennon	Letter Project
Union: US	Jean	Hannig	St. Francis House
Union: US	Mary	Hass	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Union: US	Mary Antonio	Heaphy	St. Francis House
Union: US	Kathy	Hogan	Boys and Girls Club
Union: US	Jan	Ihli	Boys and Girls Club
Union: US	Donna	Jakubowski	St. Francis House
Union: US	Cynthia	Jasso	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Union: US	Maurice	Lange	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Union: US	Regina	Lange	Letter Project
Union: US	Maria	Medina	Avera
Union: US	Colleen	Monahan	Boys and Girls Club
Union: US	Sandra	Nol	Caminando Juntos
Union: US	Maureen	Nolan	Letter Project
Union: US	Maren	Ortmeier	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Union: US	Wanda	Ottesen	Avera
Union: US	Jocelyn	Quijano	Letter Project
Union: US	Gail	Sacre	Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
Union: US	Karen	Sacre	Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
Union: US	Lorraine	Schmaltz	St. Francis House
Union: US	Bernadette	Trecker	Caminando Juntos

Welcome

Lisa Olson welcomed all to this Gathering. She introduced some guests who were present to assist in the work of the days ahead and/or share in the experience to further the work of Presentation:

- Sister Danielle Jacob, CSFN, who will be assisting with minutes, technology, and photos
- Debbie Asberry, the current facilitator for the Conference Leaders
- Sister Mary Catherine Redmond who will serve as facilitator for the Gathering

Lisa thanked the Core Team (Pam Chiesa, Jean Hannig, Vicky Larson, Rita Menart, Lisa Olson, and Mary Catherine Redmond) for their untiring and persistent efforts in assuring that this Gathering become a reality.

Individual photos will be taken throughout the days of the Gathering. These will be used to compile a photo directory for the use of all participants. There is also a space set aside in the meeting room as a photobooth, for any who may wish to take advantage of a photo-op.

Throughout these days of the Gathering, all are strongly encouraged to wear masks while indoors. This is for the sake of those among the group who may be compromised and/or work with those who are likewise compromised.

Opening Prayer

After a brief welcome, Sister Mary Thomas, invited all to join in prayer, found in the prayer booklet. Calling to mind the history of living within the dream, from the time of creation to the present, all prayed to honor the dream and be worthy to carry it forward into the future.

History of the Gathering of Presentation People

Through a choral reading, the Core Team members shared a brief history and background of the Gathering of Presentation People. Beginning with the first meeting of major superiors of Presentation in 1950, they identified some key meetings and moments that paved the way for this Gathering of Presentation People.

In the fall of 2018, Presentation leaders developed various guiding statements, among which is one that focuses on providing contemplative, transformative experiences for Presentation people. The task force established to address this area noted two major areas of emphasis: resources and an in-person gathering. After an initial meeting in 2019, plans began to take shape for this Gathering of Presentation People.



Purpose of Gathering

Sister Mary Catherine Redmond shared the Intentions of the Gathering of Presentation People:

- To reflect and share on my piece of the Presentation story as vowed religious, associate, lay employee or other partner, and to develop a greater understanding of my personal role in how and where I bring the charism and mission of Nano Nagle to the world.
- To expand my experience of Presentation people and the interconnectedness we share.
- To dream possibilities for the future of Presentation people.
- To listen and share with each other, in building new relationships, in a spirit of openness, respect and curiosity as we embody the spirit of Nano who offered radical hospitality in her interactions with others.

Sister Mary Catherine reflected on the work and efforts that led to this realized moment in history. She noted that this gathering is not a workshop or a retreat. It is about sharing the charism of Nano Nagle as realized in the lived reality of our lives. Each was encouraged to breath in deeply the gift of this moment. Hold the silence – a gift in this busy, stimulating world. Though we may be uncomfortable for a time, we are invited to breath in the healing, energy, peace, compassion, and comfort. Breath out worry, fear, and ill-feelings. Breath in deeply and breath out.

Table Introductions

All present shared in table groups a little about themselves, highlighting their roles as Presentation persons and how they come to this gathering.

Cosmic Walk

After a brief break, all moved to the Palisades Room for a prayer experience: The Cosmic Walk. The Cosmic Walk is a symbolic journey representing the Story of the Universe and its emergence through fourteen billion years of evolutionary history. Through word, environmental art and ritual, all entered into a prayer pilgrimage, beautifully designed to guide each to a deeper understanding of how the Presentation story unfolded in creation and has given life over the centuries. All were encouraged to listen for the whisper of God's breath and feel the presence of Nano.



After the Cosmic Walk, time was given for personal reflection and journaling. The following questions were offered as a guide:

- 🌍 *What draws me in the Presentation story? What words are connected for me when I think about who I am?*

- 🌐 *What touched me as I heard the story of the Cosmic Walk? Where do I connect?*
- 🌐 *What does it mean for me to be part of this history?*
- 🌐 *Why did I say yes to being here?*

When all returned to the meeting room, Sister Mary Catherine invited the Gathering participants to share in small groups. After each had the opportunity to share the fruits of his/her personal reflection, each group sought consensus on common phrases or words that seemed to resonate during their sharing and would be important for the whole to hear. Those common phrases/words were shared with the large group. (Appendix 1)

Deepening Our Conversation

Sister Mary Catherine set the stage for the afternoon of reflection and sharing, inviting all to a deeper space of connection.

Time was given for personal reflection and journaling. The following questions were offered as a guide:

- 🌐 *What draws you here as a Presentation sister, associate, employee or partner?*
- 🌐 *What are you seeking as a Presentation person?*
- 🌐 *What are your hopes as we move into our future?*

Sister Mary Catherine invited the participants to share in small groups. After time for sharing by each small group member, table groups sought consensus on the following: *What are you hearing/seeing about what we seek as Presentation People? What are our hopes as we move into the future?* Table responses were shared with the large group. (Appendix 2)

Closing of the Day

The day closed with prayer, found on page 4 of the prayer booklet. After brief announcements, the group transitioned to the atrium for a group photo.

Evening Social

All gathered in the Ballroom for the evening meal and social. During the social, everyone enjoyed the multitude of talents demonstrated by the various groups represented in the evening's entertainment – *Presentation's Got Talent*.

Opening Prayer

The morning began with prayer, focused on the call to reach out in service and “spread the light.” During the prayer, those gathered heard brief descriptions of the service projects in which they would be engaged in the morning.

Service Projects

Prior to the Gathering, each participant selected a service project for this day. There were seven service projects from which to choose:

- ❖ The Letter Project
- ❖ Boys and Girls Club
- ❖ Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum
- ❖ Avera
- ❖ Bishop Dudley Hospitality House
- ❖ St. Francis House
- ❖ Caminando Juntos

Everyone organized themselves in groups according to chosen service projects and moved out for the morning.

Deepening Our Experience

When all gathered after lunch, time was given for personal reflection on the service experience of the morning. Sister Mary Catherine offered the following questions as a guide for contemplation and journaling:



- What feelings are stirring within me?
- What am I realizing about myself? Others?
- How am I being called as a Presentation person?

Next, the Gathering participants met in small groups to talk about their personal experiences and their time of personal reflection.

Sister Mary Catherine then asked the table participants to share on the question: *When I think of the feelings stirring in me, how am I being called as a Presentation person?* Each table group received a paper on which to share some representation of their reflections. The papers, on which the participants wrote words/thoughts/images, were placed on the tables and all were invited to prayerfully walk around the room and gently receive what had been shared.



Closing of the Day

The day closed with prayer, found on page 8 of the prayer booklet.

Evening Social

All gathered in the Ballroom for the evening meal and social. During the social, everyone enjoyed the masterful musical talent of Mogen's Heroes Band, and many danced the night away.

Words of Thanks

Lisa Olson expressed words of thanks to the numerous committees and individuals who contributed to the planning and success of this Gathering [Core Team, Liturgy/Prayer Committee, Communications/Logistics Committee, Socials Committee, Environment Committee, Registration Contacts, Finance Committee, Service Action Committee, other committees and individuals]. All expressed their appreciation for the many hours and years of dedication on the part of those who made the event such a wonderful experience.

Opening Prayer

The morning began with prayer focused on the dream of Nano, ever unfolding, never limited, driven by justice and full of hope. During prayer, all viewed a video presentation of the song, Everyday God by Bernadette Farrell, highlighting the service experiences of the previous day.

Dreaming the Future

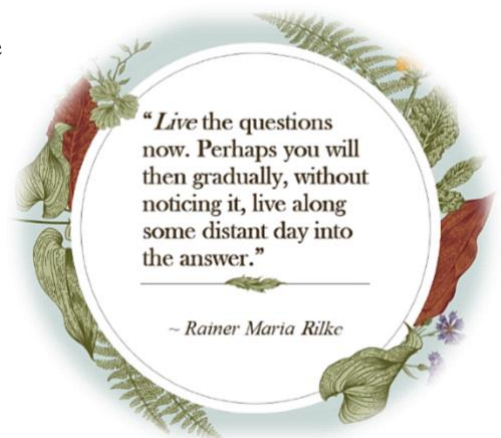
Sister Mary Catherine invited the Gathering participants to move deeper into dreaming the future. Throughout these days we have shared our experiences of being Presentation people and the passion we hold to be light for today's world. It is now time for us to dream. Dreams are big and small; some start and don't continue, others give rise to something else, and some come to fruition. Those gathered used the following questions for personal reflection and journaling:

- ☞ *What dream do you have as a Presentation Person?*
- ☞ *What impels you to move forward?*
- ☞ *What could your dream look like?*

After personal reflection time, all shared their dreams with their small groups, beginning with the words, "I dream...." Sister Mary Catherine invited all to find partners in the room with whom they could share their dreams.

Following the small group and partner sharing, Sister Mary Catherine invited any who wished to share her/his dream with the large group. (Appendix 3) Synthesizers, [Brooke Grote, Jessi Beck, Jean Holsten] identified prior to the day, listened intently to the dreams shared to identify themes which surfaced. The themes were posted around the room.

When the group reconvened in the afternoon, the synthesizers explained the process used for generating the dream themes posted around the room. They noted that as members meet within a particular dream theme, the dream will unfold and evolve. Gathering participants perused the posted themes and considered which themes gave them energy and passion for action. All were encouraged to write their name and contact information on the themes that spoke to them



personally and with which they would be willing to assist. There was also a “Dream Box” placed in the room for any who may wish to add a dream that had not yet been shared or which rose as a result of further sharing; all dreams should be harvested.

The initial posted Dream Groups included the following fourteen:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✚ Care of Creation | ✚ Shared PBVM Experiences – service, pilgrimages, retreats, etc. |
| ✚ Diversity/Inclusion/Equity/Belonging | ✚ Storytelling and Celebrating Presentation People |
| ✚ Poverty, Homelessness, Food Insecurity | ✚ Spirituality and Charism of Presentation People |
| ✚ Immigration | ✚ Presentation Young People |
| ✚ Presentation People as Influencers | ✚ Leadership and Organizational Structure moving forward |
| ✚ Individual Transformation and Growth | ✚ Sparking Local Action |
| ✚ Education | |
| ✚ Widening the Tent – Intentional Invitations | |

Affirmation of Dreams

Each participant received three post-it notes. Time was given to move about the room and place one note on up to three different dreams in affirmation. This activity visually demonstrated group support for the various dreams.

Furthering the Dream

Participants reorganized into Dream Groups for initial conversations about their dream. Each group was asked to submit the following information for its dream theme:

- Contact Person for group
- List of members
- Contact information for all members
- Further information on **DREAM** that surfaced during sharing
- Next gathering for your group

Following the time for the initial conversation in Dream Groups, Sister Mary Catherine invited each group to share a brief synopsis of highlights of their discussion with the large group. (Appendix 4)

Next Steps

Sister Vicky explained the next steps for the channeling of the dreams surfaced at this Gathering. The Conference Leaders have discussed the importance of having a balance of having a structure that supports the movement and being open to the fluidity of a movement that allows the creative energy to take flight. The next steps are actually threefold:

- ✚ the work to which the Gathering participants have committed themselves
- ✚ the evolution of the “container” of the Conference
- ✚ the Conference being a communication channel

The Conference has a meeting set for October 26, 2022, to return to the previous conversation and help with the accountability necessary to move things forward. Sister Vicky thanked everyone for their work and participation over these days.

Sister Mary Catherine noted that our Presentation story continues. We are the spark for the next candle. The life and energy we have here will spiral and continue to create life. The Conference will sacredly hold the work of this Gathering and other dreams yet to be dreamt. A question the Conference Leadership holds is “*What do you need to nurture your dream?*” We are co-creators. The work of these days is now, not in days to come. We have been changed by our shared experience these days.

Hilton Grant

Lisa Olson offered an explanation of the Hilton Grant. She acknowledged those who worked with her on the Grant. She noted that the grant was not for sponsorship of this Gathering. The Grant, awarded in February 2021, was for the development of an online formation platform. A technology company has been engaged to develop a specialized software program. The program is for those new to Presentation as well as those who are seasoned in its charism and mission. Each community has identified a person as a curriculum developer. The website for the program is <https://pbvmconference.org>

Liturgy

All gathered in the Palisades Room for Sunday anticipated Liturgy. Mass was followed by a festive dinner in the Falls Room.

Missioning Ritual

Following dinner, the Gathering participants paused to pray and receive the call to “Go and be the light,” in a special missioning ritual.

Sister Rita Menart offered words of thanks to various people who assisted during the days of Gathering, helping to make the event a success.