

PRESENTATION ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Presentation Associates Vision Statement.

The Associate Community is a strong, **loving, and caring** group of people, diverse: ethnically, gender wise, age wise, and economically called by the mission and charism of Nano Nagle. We support each other in our spirituality and the following of the Presentation charism as lived out by Nano Nagle and passed on to us. Not words, but deeds best expresses it.

As we live out this charism, which is often counter cultural, we support each other calling each other back to the charism with respect and acceptance for differences, give each other support that our values are shared, and keep ourselves firm in our commitment to the Presentation charism. *Associate Program Handbook, Sisters of the Presentation San Francisco, September 2020*

Developing Our Form

Keeping our vision in mind, the committees we announced in our November Newsletter have begun their work. The **Finance Committee** chaired by **Nanette Miller** has prepared its first report on our finances. The **Governance Committee** has worked out a new structure for the Associates Leadership Team that will ensure continuity. **Gerry Fagoaga**, the Chair, **May Barisone**, and **Olga Barrera** will now conduct a vote to seek the approval of all the Associates. **Julie Merrill**, Chair, **Yolanda Santillan**, and **Tina Panelli** have begun work on a program to companion active Associates with those who are not able to attend meetings. Associates do not want anyone to feel forgotten. It also gives us a chance to know each other better. **Yolanda Santillan** set up the first zoom between Associates and Sisters at the Motherhouse. It was good to be connected, but we hope next time to be able to see the Sisters' faces better. Jane Hetherington will be chairing the **Outreach Committee**. She is developing a presentation that we can use to introduce Association to interested groups or individuals. **We still are looking for a BACAR representative**. This group is very active with the many Associate groups in the Bay Area. It is a great way to meet and work with other Associates. **Who wants to give it a try?**

We are still pursuing our interest in learning more about how we fit into the Presentation Community locally in San Francisco, nationally, and internationally. The Leaders of the Presentation Associate Programs in the Conference of

Presentation Sisters are meeting monthly to strengthen our ties nationally and share ideas. **Kay Sweeney and Sister Anita Torres** are our representative to this group.

Our monthly Coffee Hours continue. On December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Loretta Nekota will host a celebration of the day.

Kathy Wade to Act as a Consultant to Associate Program

The Associate Leadership Team has asked Kathy Wade to facilitate three workshops for interested Associates starting in January. The purpose of the workshops is to explore the possibilities for us as Associate Program in the future.



Kathy is a Mercy Associate, so she understands Association. She currently offers workshops and retreats tailored for associates of religious communities. Her focus is on guiding various associates as they explore new ways to express their respective charisms. She has worked with several other Associate programs whose positions are similar to ours. She has been designing and directing leadership-development programs and workshops since 2010, primarily for religious women and their associate members.

Kathy was one of the founding members and the Director of the Collaborative Leadership Development Program (CLDP), a coalition of multi-congregational, multi-national, and multi-faceted organizations seeking to educate and support women religious, their associates and ministry partners. The CLDP focuses on emerging leadership and ongoing learning for individual, Church, and global transformation.

She is well qualified to facilitate our process. We look forward to working with her.

Spotlight on Ministry - Betty Canton Self

Betty Canton Self is a woman who has never allowed her heart or feet to stay still. She has been a Presentation Associate for more than twenty years. After leaving Texas where she lived after escaping the civil war in El Salvador, she moved to



California. She has never stopped moving since she arrived. She sees her work as an example of the Presentation motto "Not Words but Deeds".

In San Francisco, she lived and worked with Sisters of the Presentation as part of the Sanctuary Movement. Betty, along with the Sisters of the Presentation worked to help to pass the Temporary Protected Status and the 1996 Immigration Reform. She

was part of the Central American Refugee Center that advocated for Central Americans rights to political Asylum and worked with religious leaders and the Central American community to advocate for immigration reform.

Her experience in El Salvador helped her to respond to the needs of the community. The Catholic Worker, where they provided half way houses for families, the Support Group Training Project, the Coalition of Family Support Resource Centers and the Family Support Network for Immigrants and One Million Voices for Legalization were some of the services she either established or supported. In partnership with several communities, she has helped to pass legislation including The Dream Act or Access to Higher Education.

She was part of Dream Team Two that worked on the planning of the Lantern Center. She participated in programs supporting its mission and was a member of the Board. Every Monday at 3:00 PM there is a zoom session in Spanish for parents to help them with the education of their children. On Wednesday, it is in English. A program for Reading is held for adults and children. Betty has a hand in all of this.

In 2007, while Executive Director for the Interfaith Coalition of Immigrant Rights, Betty received a Master of Arts in Education and a Master in Theological Studies. She has received several other certificates and awards.

Today Betty's focus is on education and helping people become self-sufficient. As Director of Education and Parent Engagement at Urban Services YMCA, she is guiding children to look for opportunities to become self-sufficient adults. Her role promoting education and creating access to opportunities is key to the future of our communities.

About forty women with her guidance were able to study and get Child Care Center licenses through City College. One of these students is an Adult Math Teacher at UCSF today.

What does Betty do when she is not tending to the needs of others? Betty stays balanced by gardening, meditation and listening to music. When she goes to bed, she sleeps. Betty believes that everyone has the power to teach their own wisdom: Everybody is a teacher and a student.

Two projects Betty is looking for help with right now are a shared reading project and aid to El Salvador during the pandemic.

For the reading program, she is looking for people who speak both Spanish and English to read books along with her adult students. She is exposing them to books about other cultures like the Joy Luck Club and wants to provide the opportunity for them to talk about the books with others.

The pandemic has hit El Salvador as it has here. Many people there live in the edge and when they lose their income have nothing to fall back on. She is facilitating sending funds to provide emergency food baskets. Each basket costs \$40 and contains rice, beans, oil, coffee, sugar, and noodles for a family for two weeks.

If you want to help with either of these projects, you can contact Betty at bettyself@aol.com.

Presentation Novena Leads to Advent Prayer

Gerry Fagoaga, Pat Diaz, Olga Barrera, Yolanda Santillan, Rosalie Cabrera, Sr. Anita Torres and Kay Sweeney prayed the Presentation novena together on zoom. They found it very meaningful. This led to the decision to do something similar for Advent. They are considering several different formats and will send out an invitation for others to join soon.

Watch for our announcements of coming events during the month.

The December Coffee Hour - December 12, 2020. 10 AM. Loretta Nekota has prepared a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sign up at associates@presentationssf.org by December 10 to receive your zoom link and materials.

We end with our St. Francis Prayer:

***Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...
Where there is hatred, let me sow love...***

When politics tempt me to hate the other side,
when my envy delights in workplace intrigue,
when my thoughts walk the path of anger's edge:
teach me to love as you have loved me...

Where there is injury, pardon...

When words cut as sharp as knives,
when idle gossip tears apart,
when careless deeds wound deeply:
teach me to offer pardon and healing
as you have healed and pardoned me...

Where there is despair, hope...

Teach me, Lord:
to hope when I'm unsure of many things, trust when I want so much to just give up,
to believe when I'm confused and lost in doubt,

and to share the hope I find
with those who struggle to trust in you...

Where there is darkness, light...

Teach me, Lord:
to trust in your light to lead and guide me,
to walk by your light when shadows beckon,
to stand in your light when darkness threatens,
and to share your light with all who seek it...

Where there is sadness, joy...

Lighten my heart with the gifts of your Spirit,
touch my heart's ache with the peace of your presence,
lift my heart's burdens and free me to share
the gift of your joy, the joy of your grace...

O Divine Master...

Help me find peace in making peace,
to know your love in loving others
and to find in serving others' needs
all that I truly need myself...

Teach me to give as you've given to me,
to pardon my neighbor as I've been forgiven,
to deepen my faith in your dying and rising
that when I die I will rise with you...
With Brother Francis, I pray this morning:
Lord, make me a channel of your peace...

Amen.

A blessed Christmas season to all!

Until Next Month.

The Associate Team: Rosalie, Tina, Kay, Pamela, & Sr. Anita