

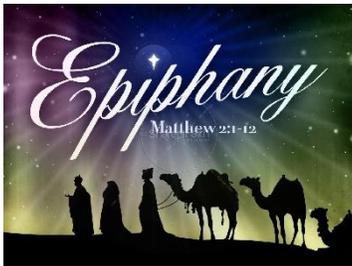
Presentation Associate News

February 2022



Epiphany Day on Zoom

Kathey Valenzuela and Pat Diaz planned this year's Epiphany Celebration. Sisters and Associates met on Zoom on January 6th at 10:00 a.m. Kay Sweeney opened the gathering with a video of the gospel told through the eyes of Nathan, the camel shepherd for the Wise Man Balthazar. He tells his story of the amazing journey following the star to the child Jesus. This wonderful video set the tone for what was to follow. It can be seen at <https://youtu.be/6pmWJEZPMQc>.



Yolanda Santillan introduced our guest speaker Sister Jane Bonar, PBVM of the Presentation Learning Center/PLC. Sister Jane and Sister Catherine Burke, PBVM are Co-Directors (founding mothers) of the PLC a project of the Presentation Sisters, serving primarily the Spanish-speaking community of the Watts area in Los Angeles. The Sisters gave the background on how the center came to exist and thanked Sisters Pat Davis, Pat Reinhart and Catherine Mary King for their help in its early development stage. The Center relies on donations and dedicated volunteers to run its various programs. Education (ESL, Citizenship, Literacy, GED preparation); Health (Zumba, Tai Chi, Meditation) Social Justice (knitting hats/scarves for battered women shelters; homeless support) are but a few. The sewing class students learn all phases from pattern making to sewing their outfits and participate in a highly attended fashion show fundraiser at their graduation. Sister Jane shared different class pictures in her presentation. In spite of COVID, some programs continued via distance learning through Zoom with help from donors. More program information is on their website at presentationlearningcenter.com. Our custom has been to ask for donations for the organization highlighted at our Epiphany Celebration. If you would like to donate, please mail your check to Associate Program, Sisters of the Presentation, 281 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. Make it out to PRESENTATION LEARNING CENTER. We will forward the checks to PLC.

After a short "stretch" break, it was time for a little fun. Kathey coordinated a quiz game with winners receiving a gift card. The winners were Olga Barrera for knowing the designated healthy fruit for the month of January (*pear*), Kay Sweeney for knowing Presentation Sisters serve in 20 countries, and Sister Pat Reinhart for singing *We Three Kings*.

To enjoy as we gathered, Associates were sent instant apple cider and tea, and Sisters' instant hot cocoa. We ended with a closing reflection by [Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB](#). Her spiritual writing, "[The Star Shines On](#)" encourages us to follow our own Epiphany shining star in making this a better world.



Spotlight on Ministry: Following Nano

Reflection from May Barisone to come in March 2022

SoCal Associates and Sister Gather For the New Year



SoCal Associates (Left to Right) [Kathey Valenzuela](#), [Pat Diaz](#), [Gerry Fagoaga](#), [Rosalie Cabrera](#), and [Yolanda Santillan](#) gathered to celebrate the New Year with [Sister Katherine Jones PBVM](#) (Center) at [Mijares Mexican Restaurant](#) on January 9th, 2022. A good time was had by all.

Spiritual Reading Circle News

The Spiritual Reading Circle started the new year reading [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by [Robin Kimmerer](#). A [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) review called it a “hymn of love to the world”. The book calls on its readers to look closer at the natural world, and become part of it, rather than existing outside of it. Dr. Kimmerer weaves scientific knowledge with ancient indigenous wisdom and the teachings of plants, showing that they needn't be



Dr. Robin Kimmerer

mutually exclusive. She channels her love of the living world, with grief for the living world, into action to care for the land.

On January 27, 2022, the group discussed the first section, *Planting Sweetgrass*. We learned about the Potawatomi Creation story and how a creation story can affect how a people see the world. Dr. Kimmerer agrees with Ilia Delio that we need a new story. That we cannot heal the land until we hear its story.

Please join us. Get a fresh look at the story of the land. Our next meeting is on **February 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be reading and sharing our insights on the second and third sections *Tending Sweetgrass* and *Picking Sweetgrass*. Don't be shy! Give it a try!

Other Books to follow: May Barisone - *Let Us Dream: Conversation with Pope Francis*; Pat Diaz - *Radical Saints: 21 women for the 21st Century*; and Gerry Fagoaga - *The Long Loneliness: Autobiography of Dorothy Day*.

So please, consider joining us by emailing nanetteolga00@gmail.com.

Passing the Torch



Earlene Dutton

We all have received beautiful cards and notes signed “The Associates” on our birthdays or other occasions. The person behind the notes has been Associate **Earlene Dutton** for many years. As of January, Earlene has passed the job of “Sunshine Girl” to **May Barisone**. May has always been the Associate known for hospitality so we think she is well suited to the



May Barisone

job. Thanks, May, for being willing to serve!

2021 - 2022 Associate Annual Plan Update

The Associate Leadership Team has been working to implement the direction it received at our Annual Gathering in September 2021. To date, we have accomplished the following:

- To increase our participation with Bay Area Conference of Associate and Religious (BACAR) **Christa Hanson** has joined their Board. She will keep us informed of what is happening and the activities they have planned. Thank you, Christa for your willingness to provide this liaison.
- **Kay Sweeney** and **Tina Panelli** have agreed to evaluate and revise our recommitment process.

- **Nanette Miller** has volunteered to form a short-term committee to gather and organize materials to use for inviting new members.
- **Rosalie Cabrera, Tina Panelli, Kathey Valenzuela, and Kay Sweeney** will evaluate and revise the yearlong orientation for inquirers.
- The process of connection with other Presentation Communities has begun with the presentation at our Epiphany Day Celebration. (See opening story).
- Exploration of having a common cause to work on as Associates will be the theme for our February Coffee Hour. (See events for more information)
- The Team will have a retreat day in February to support its organization and orientation. It has reviewed and assigned roles as laid out in the Associate Program Handbook.

Help Wanted - Nanette Miller

The Associate Team has set up a short-term committee to explore the materials available that can be used by Associates and Sisters to invite people they see as good candidates for membership and organizing them in a way they can be useful. One possibility would be a presentation to be used with groups but there are other possibilities as well. The committee will pull together a proposal that can be presented to the Associate group for approval. Nanette Miller has volunteered for this task. Below is her message to you all.

Hi fellow Associates,

We are looking at the material we have created regarding inviting new associates and would like to update it. Currently, I am a committee of one so if you would like to work with me, please email me at nanettelmiller13@gmail.com.



2021 Retreat Slide Show

Nanette Miller has created a beautiful slide show of our 2021 retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center. She will be sending you a copy to enjoy.

BACAR Report- Christa Hansen

The BACAR Board met on January 19, 2022. We all introduced ourselves, looked at minutes from last meeting. We talked about the upcoming forum on February 9th. Information below under Other Events. We also will be doing a Synodal Discussion probably in May. More will be forthcoming. Lots of information and a good group of women.

On the Associate Calendar for February and March

We know that many of you like to plan ahead, so we have included the Calendar of Associate activities planned for the next two months. Most will be on Zoom as we have found it makes it possible for many more Associates to attend. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Saturday Coffee Hour (TBD)

Topic: *Considering a Common Associate Cause*

At our Annual Gathering in September, the suggestion was made that the Associates might want to decide on a cause that we would all support. At our February Coffee Hour, we will share our opinions and come to a consensus on this proposal. If you have a favorite cause that you would like to share with the group let the Team know. Our email address is associates@pbvmsf.org.

Time to drink coffee and chat will be provided. We might even ask Kathey to provide a few jeopardy questions to answer.

Lenten Sharing on **March 5, 2022**

Save the Date. More information to follow.

Associate Leadership Team meetings on **February 2 and March 2, 2022**

Spiritual Reading Circle on **February 24 and March 31, 2022**

Associate Leadership Team Retreat on **February 12, 2022**

Holy Spirit Center, Encino, CA. Facilitator: Sister Carol Quinlivan CSJ.

Other Events of Interest

Southern California Workshop from Associate Pat Cane and Capacitar

Pat Cane has designed a new Advanced Formation Class on Self-Care in Challenging Times and that will be held in-person on **March 26 and 27, 2022** at Holy Spirit Retreat Center (Encino, CA).

This class is a new curriculum based on our need for support and self-care at this time in history. The in-person training will focus on:

- Capacitar's commitment to supporting those impacted by Covid;
- Accompanying Climate Activists;
- Dealing with Eco-Anxiety and Climate Depression, especially among youth;
- Capacitar practices for self-care and to accompany those impacted by climate change;

- Strengthening our resolve and our commitment to global healing for the long haul.

The included text is Pat's newest manual, *Empowering Strength and Resilience, Capacitar Self-Care Practices to Accompany Youth & Other Climate Activists in Our Climate Emergency*.

Register: <https://app.dinirview.com/goWYm>

BACAR Virtual Event on February 9, 2022

4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. PST

Theme: *Responding to the Cry of the Poor - Water*

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis cautions us, "Access to safe water is a basic and universal right in which we have a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied their right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity." LS 30

Register: <https://mailchi.mp/7d007cbbf10d/bacar-feb-9th-event?ed84d4d31e1>

To end, let us continue to pray with the Community as we prepare for Chapter in March.

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful by sending us the light of Your Holy Spirit, grant that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy Your consolations, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Associate Team

Gerry, Kay, Kathey, Rosalie, and Sr. Anita