

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

Fargo Presentation Associates

Information Session, August 2010

1101 32ND AVENUE SOUTH, FARGO, ND 58103

Fargo Presentation Associates Information Session

Welcome to the first ever on-line effort of the Fargo Presentation Associates' Candidate Formation Process. This first session is an introduction to Presentation Sisters and Associates and will, hopefully, help you to decide whether you wish to enter the process of formation leading to discernment about whether or not Presentation Association is for you. Since this is our first attempt at doing this process online, we all will be learning from one another along the way.

First, let us introduce ourselves to you and tell you a bit about who we are.

The Director of Associates is Sister Francine Janousek. Francine is a native of North Dakota, born and raised near the village of Veseleyville, a settlement near Grafton. She entered the community of Presentation Sisters in 1958.



Her ministry experiences include education at the elementary and university levels; health care as dietitian and administrator; parish pastoral work, and internal congregational ministry as Director Vowed Formation since 1993, member of the administrative council since 2000, and editor of *The Acorn* since 2000, and spiritual director. She was appointed Director of Associates in 1996.

Co-Director of Associates is Associate Don Smith. Don was appointed to this position in 2004 and he has continued in a part-time volunteer position since that time.



Don was born in Hudson, Wisconsin and received BS, MS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota.

Don is a retired Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at North Dakota State University, Fargo, where he taught for 27 years. Prior to that, he was a research engineer at General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York and the Army Electronic Laboratories at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Don and his wife, JoEllen, became Presentation Associates in 1996 and made perpetual commitment in 2004. They have been active in retreat work, presenting candidate formation classes, serving on Peace and Justice Collaborative Council, and participating in social events.

Now it is your turn to tell us a bit about who you are and what brought you to seeking to learn about Presentation Associates. What are you seeking? Please put your responses into the e-mail in which you received this information. You will see the names of the others who are exploring Association in this fashion. Please hit the **Reply to All Button** when you respond. In September, when we have all the names in this year's Candidate class, we will include all the local candidates in this grouping.

When you have completed that assignment, please go to the website www.presentationassociate.webs.com for the content of the information session. There you will find the prayer service and information about the Presentation Sisters and Associates. Here is some information that is not included there.

A Little History



A Small Beginning in Ireland

Presentation Sisters were founded on December 24, 1775, in Cork Ireland by Nano Nagle. She was 58 years old at this time and was from a rather well-to-do Irish family. At that time, the Penal laws in Ireland forbade the teaching Catholic children anything, even the basics, let alone, the Catholic faith. Nano felt the call to do this and had been doing so for a number of years. She also would visit the sick and elderly in their homes at night. She was known to have carried a lantern to guide here and became known as “the lady with the lantern.” (The lantern continues to be an important symbol for Presentation Sisters and Associates.) As she grew older, she felt the need to plan for the time when she could not continue this herself along with the few women who worked along with her.



Nano brought in a group of Ursuline Sisters from France, but they were forbidden to leave their convent in order to teach. Finally, Nano, along with 3 others founded her community to reach out to the poor and vulnerable of her time and that mission continues into the present day.

And then to Dakota Territory

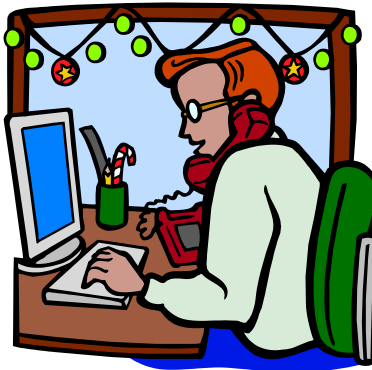


Presentation Sisters were invited to come to Dakota Territory in 1880. They settled first in the area now called South Dakota (near Deadwood). After moving from place to place for numerous reasons, they finally came to Fargo on July 22, 1882, and established a convent here. On July 26, 1882, they opened a school! The rest is history (and we will send you more history later). Since that time we have been involved in education, health care, social work, pastoral work, domestic service, and social justice. Currently we are 45 Sisters and 105 Associates.

Fargo Associates

The vision of the sisters who were involved in vowed formation and the request of relatives and friends of some of the sisters brought about what we now call Associates. Our first class of Associates was received in 1981. It seems that many of the changes that have come about for Associates since that time have come at the request of Associates who see the on-going need for adaption and change. (You are living proof of that!)

So Now Let's Hear From Some of Our Associates



We asked Associates to reflect on and to respond to three statements to give you an idea of their experiences.

- How I was called to be an Associate
- What being an Associate mean to me
- I continue to remain an Associate because

Below are several responses with the name of the Associate, year received as an Associate, a picture of each, and the e-mail address if you wish to correspond with any of them.

Associate Julie French, Scobey, Montana

**Received in first class of Associates, July 22, 1981;
julfrench71@yahoo.com**

How I was called to be an associate: My aunts were Presentation sisters and so Presentation Sisters had been a part of my life from birth to the present time! I wanted to be a sister until I met my husband my senior year of high school! Being an associate seemed a very natural step for me.



What being an associate means to me: It allows me to be connected to a group of women who have been a strong influence in my life, all my life! Being an associate is life-giving for me.

I continue to remain an associate because: It keeps me grounded in my spiritual life, in a daily life that at times is wild! It also gives me a strong basis to minister from, wherever I am called to be. The Presentation Sisters of Fargo are visionaries and challenge me to think outside the box and to go beyond what is comfortable. The Presentation charism is a driving force in the day to day decisions I make, big and small.

Associates Jenny and Joel Rheault, Fargo, North Dakota
Received June 12, 2010; jkrheault@umary.edu



Jenny: Fourteen years ago I met S. Francine at an RCIA meeting at Nativity Church, Fargo. She was presenting on the topic of prayer and I was a sponsor. I was in the throes of an explosive opening of my spirituality and felt strongly called to speak with her. I had never done anything like that before. My conversation with her started a sequence of events in my life that have led to where I am now. Through many joys and most importantly, huge challenges, the sisters have been a beacon of hope, hospitality, love, care, acceptance, and support in my life journey. When I reflect upon my life, noting the significant movements, Presentation can be found in the story as a guiding light. And that was before I learned about the symbol of the lantern! At this time, I have a deep, deep knowing in my heart that I am called to Presentation. I don't know exactly what that will mean in my life, but I've learned its best to just "shut-up" and follow!

Joel: There are many reasons I wish to be a Presentation Associate. Through my own reflection, I have realized that the Presentation Community is something that I want to be a part of. I identify with the Presentation mission. Also, I appreciate the Presentation mission to support the homeless, hungry, and children in need. I feel the Spirit leading me to act as well as talk and I am looking for a community that I can join and support with my participation. I have found the Presentation Center to be a peaceful place and I have always been someone who chooses to live in peace. In addition, I am also looking for a place where my spiritual needs are met and I believe I have found it here.



Associate Elizabeth Fletcher Lamb, Grand Forks, ND
Received June 28, 2003; made Perpetual Commitment as an Associate June 12, 2010;
elizabethfletcher@mail.und.nodak.edu



Called...

I became an Associate after much discernment because I feel better connected to the Associates than apart, personally and spiritually. Even though I live in Grand Forks, ND and can only come a few times a year, I know my spiritual life has deepened immensely. and...the prayers from the Sisters and Associates are necessary and appreciated.

Means...

Belonging to the Associate group has strengthened my spiritual walk, my journey. The connection is Spirit-filled, sacred. And...having taken the step to Perceptual commitment after seven years as an Associate, feel some of these relationships are for life!

Remain...

I know I am held in prayer daily. I have a physical and spiritual place to call home. I am also reminded to use my abundance of zeal, compassion, and hospitality as Nano did! Especially because I educate teens and adults who are harder to teach: those poor in spirit or skills...and they need our charisms of compassion and hospitality to have the best life possible. And I need my zeal some days. Thanks Nano, for modeling good teaching and care for humanity.

As has been said, "It just takes one!" to make a difference. Just think if we all become that one!!!

Associate Catherine Miyamoto, Fargo, North Dakota
Received June 12, 2010; cmiyamoto@msn.com

How I was called to be an Associate - my spiritual quest brought me across the threshold of the Sacred Heart Convent (Home of the Presentation Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

What being an Associate means to me - Belonging. As if I was legally adopted, and now I belong somewhere spiritually.

I continue to remain and Associate because I feel called to continue this journey.



Associate Don Smith (see photo on page 1), Fargo, ND
**Received as an Associate Summer, 1996; made Perpetual
Commitment as an Associate June 13, 2004; appointed Co-
Director of Associates June 12, 2004; dasmith@cableone.net**

How I was called to be an Associate.

My wife and I were both invited by a Presentation Sister, Sister Yvonne Nelson, to consider becoming Presentation Associates. At the time I was unfamiliar with Presentation Associates. As I looked into it more, I thought that this was something that I might be interested in and would like to learn more about.

There were 4 of us at the initial meeting. Three of us continued through the formation process. Sister Jane Walker conducted the sessions. We met one evening a month for 9 months. I learned about the history of the Presentation Sisters and about our foundress, Nano Nagle. I found her life to be an outstanding inspiration. Inspiring is the way she dedicated her life to the oppressed and impoverished Irish people and worked openly in defiance of the British penal laws to educate the children and to care for the sick and the poor.

I learned of the works of Presentation since the time of Nano Nagle and the works that continue today and became convinced that I wanted to become an Associate.

What being an Associate means to me.

I am impressed with the works of the Presentation Sisters and feel in my own small way to be part of those works. It is gratifying to feel a part of these wonderful works and service performed by the Presentation community in the spirit of Nano Nagle.

Prior to becoming a Presentation Associate, I felt something lacking in my spiritual life, but I didn't know what it was. I feel that this has now been fulfilled in my association with Presentation. I have found that it is important to have a sense of community in my life and that the Presentation community is the best way for me to achieve that.

I continue to remain an Associate because...

I have learned to value the characteristics of Presentation spirituality:

- Hospitality
- Prayerfulness/spirituality
- Zeal
- Professional competence
- Simplicity

Since becoming a Presentation Associate I have felt a special bond with the Fargo Presentation Sisters and Associates. This bond was extended internationally when I was able to join sisters

and associates on a pilgrimage to Ireland, where I had the opportunity to meet many other sisters and associates. I had a strong sense of community and a feeling of extended family as we spent time with the Irish sisters and associates.

Some activities in which I have been involved are

1. Active participation in the formation process.
2. Serve on Peace and Justice Collaborative Council.
3. Help put on a BBQ or meal for Sisters.
4. Participate in retreats and prayer events.
5. Participate in social functions such as St. Patrick's Day open house.
6. Serve as Co-director of Associates.

Associate Gloria Wilson, Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Received June 15, 2003; glow@mycitycable.com



I was called to be an associate by Sister Rosaria Acton. She was such a wonderful role model for all of us at Sacred Heart School, Poplar Bluff, MO. I thought, "If her order was anything like her, I wanted to be an associate." She was and is still an amazing woman.

What being an associate means to me? Although I am so far away, service is the common link that binds all of us. When I was in college, I was a member of the service sorority. And my mother and father and grandparents were always helping others. It came naturally. Also, to be part of an international group of fine women is so important. To follow in Nano Nagle's footsteps is wonderful.

I can continue to be an associate because "doing what needs to be done" is a goal for everyone and to be a part of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary order as an associate is a need I have to help. Just wish I was closer. I am no longer principal, but I have been placed on three Diocesan Committees, so my work continues. I also give service hours at the local animal shelter. We work on Saturdays to offer adoptions of dogs and cats. This week I gave a Virtus class to 40 volunteers, etc., for the Diocese. It is great work and it keeps me busy and alive for Christ.

God bless everyone.

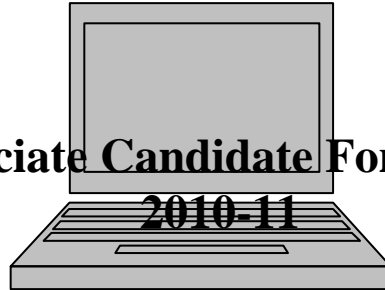
When you have read through the comments from some of our Associates, take some time to reflect on what you have read. Does anything resonate with you? If so, what? Do you have any questions? Comments? Please include these in your e-mail response.

Moving On...

Now let's take a look at the curriculum for the coming year. The dates on the calendar reflect when the local group will be meeting. You can expect to get material within a week or so after the session in Fargo.

Associate Candidate Formation

2010-11



Monday, September 20, 2010	Introduction and Welcoming Prayer Service
Monday, October 18, 2010	Universal Call to Holiness
Monday, November 15, 2010	Nano Nagle Icon and Mission and Ministry of Presentation Sisters and Associates
Monday, January 17, 2011	Characteristics of Presentation Spirituality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitality• Simplicity• Prayerfulness/Spirituality
Monday, February 21, 2011	Characteristics of Presentation Spirituality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional Competence• Zeal
Monday, March 21, 2011	Community; International Presentation Association
Monday, April 18, 2011	What does it mean to be a Presentation Associate? Do I want to become an Associate?
Monday, May 16, 2011	Gathering the Fragments; wrap up of formation experience
Saturday, June 11, 2011	Annual Associate Day



What Next?

If you desire to continue exploring Presentation Association through online formation classes

- Contact S. Francine or Don Smith by September 8th with your decision regarding continuing formation online
- Participate monthly in online formation
- Receive an Associate or Sister Companion
- Request Associate Status at end of formation period if that is your desire and the recommendation of the Director of Associates and your Companion
- If possible, Attend Associate Day, Saturday, June 11, 2011 and be received as an Associate
- Pray, pray, pray!

Sister Francine Janousek

701-237-4857, Ext 225

701-280-2822 Evenings/Weekends

fjanousek@cableone.net

Associate Don Smith

701-237-4857, Ext 210 (Wednesdays 10-3)

701-237-3612 All other times

dasmith@cableone.net

You may wish to visit the Fargo Presentation Sisters website at

www.presentationistersfargo.com for more information. You will find Associates under *Join us* and *Who We Are*.

This is the end of the Information Session and our initial attempt at online formation. We gratefully invite your comments and suggestions. Thank you for embarking on this journey with us!

May God bless and keep you. May God's face shine on you. May God give you peace.

