

Meet Our Newest Associates



Carol: I am the third oldest of thirteen children, mother of five, grandmother of nine and great grandmother of six. My passion in life has been raising my children, taking care of my husband, gardening, cooking and canning, ceramics, hiking, painting landscape, photography, fishing, motorcycle hill climbing and open road, camping, fishing, sewing, rebuilding and remodeling buildings, landscaping anything, and a business women and I am now a certified nurse assistant. My husband and I were farmers and business people. After retiring we traveled all over the country in a RV working in national parks and camping grounds allowing us to basically see the United States for free. This last year has been a coming into a new life of loving knowledge reality and kindness. I have changed so much this last year and am a more calm person. I am so happy to be an associate.



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.



Sandy and Dean: We have lived in the F-M community for a long time. We did, however, come from opposite ends of the state. Sandy was raised in the small northern community of Greenbush, MN and Dean is from Marshall in southern MN. We have six grown children who live in Moorhead and St.



Joseph, MN and 2 very fun grandchildren ages four and one. For the past 13 years we have owned and operated a local home improvement business, *Neighborhood Services*.

We were invited to attend the associate program by a good friend. We feel that the mission of the Presentation Sisters is the way we want to live our lives. Mission, compassion, inclusion, and justice are very important elements to living a faith-full life. We are excited and feel very blessed to be Associates of the Sisters of the Presentation.



Annie: I live in Moorhead, MN and belong to St. Joseph's Parish there. I work for US Bank as a telephone trainer because of an inability to travel due to a brain injury.

I was drawn to the Presentation group by the words of Associate Marty Wolla. Initially I was thinking of/drawn to another religious community. But Marty said, "Maybe the reorganization of the other group and your inability to get there is a message to go with the Presentation group." That comment struck me during my struggle to decide and thus HERE I AM!

Catherine: I am a middle child—third in a family of eight. My mother was a mathematician. My father was a carpenter. (I've always appreciated that I at least have this in common with Jesus.) I am joyfully the mother of Daniel and Laura, two of the most important people in my life. They taught me everything that I know about unconditional love.



For some unfathomable reason, I was called back to my Catholic roots after a 33 year gap. This makes absolutely no rational sense given the ingredients of the mix. The only foundation I had setting out on this journey was a reverence for the price paid by both of my parents to afford me this gift. I can't even say that I understand what that really means other than the conviction that the value is great. The convent was the only place where I found a sense of acceptance for where I had been and where I was going. I came into Association because I could see what it meant to be in community.

At age 20, I was asked what I wanted out of life. I said, "I want two children, preferably a boy and a girl. And I want to be happy." In recent years, I've come to realize that I have everything I ever asked for!



Rosie: I live in Fargo and am the mother of a son and daughter and grandmother of a grandson and granddaughter. When I was invited to consider Association I found myself attracted to the Presentation Sisters. I have always admired these women who were my teachers and mentors throughout my elementary and high school years at Holy Spirit and Shanley, all in Fargo. I look forward to using my gifts in service to others in the spirit of Presentation.

Welcome Back, Jeanette



Jeanette left Association a number of years ago. This year she asked to be reinstated. She writes: "I am a native of Wahpeton, ND. I wanted to be reinstated into Association to deepen my spiritual life with the sisters and Associates as we follow our dreams to become better people of God to those we serve. My days are spent in volunteering at the *Lost and Found Addiction Library* in Moorhead. God has blest me with much serenity in working there. Peace and contentment come to me in making greeting cards, so in these ways I share my abilities and talents. As an Associate I can deepen my life in the Lord as I continue my service to others. A saying that guides my life is "God has given me a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have I used one to say *Thank You?*"

Congratulations, Elizabeth, on Your Perpetual Commitment

Elizabeth Fletcher Lamb made Perpetual Commitment as a Presentation Associate. She writes: Use discernment! Reflect well! This helps when considering making perpetual commitment. It is a process. It is a lifetime step.



In 2003 I became an Associate. My discernment process at that time took a year and was agonizing for me...a BIG decision. This one was easier...go with the flow...once I made the decision to trust God, trust LIFE all over again in 2003, this time it just felt right. So, I went with my gut, my intuition, that still small voice within, and said "YES," just as Nano, and Mary did.

I also desired to make this step because I feel better connected to the Sisters and Associates than apart, personally and spiritually. Even if I leave the area, I feel that history of understanding between us all is already there and does not need to be reestablished.

Perpetual commitment means I don't have to rethink my association every year. I know I am held in prayer daily. I have a physical and spiritual place to call home. I'm going through a lot of transformative change, and Association helps me stay grounded, to keep positive spiritual energy. So, please keep me in active prayer at this time, as I will all of you.