



Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Sisters, Declared Venerable

On October 31, 2013, Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Sisters in Ireland, was declared Venerable in the life of the church by Pope Francis. This announcement brings the Canonisation of Nano Nagle, or her declaration of Sainthood, one step closer as her life of 'heroic virtue' is officially acknowledged.

Being declared Venerable is the second of four stages in the Canonization Process. The title, Servant of God, already bestowed upon Nano, is a title given to a person when the Pope gives permission for the opening of the cause of their sainthood, and a second step declares the person Venerable, when it is established that the person had practiced virtue to a heroic degree.

Nano Nagle's Cause for Canonization was officially initiated at the bi-centenary of her death in 1984. In 2004, the Central Leadership Team for the Union of Presentation Sisters set up a Nano Nagle Commission Office, to help in promoting Nano as a woman of faith and courage, in the hope that she may soon be declared Venerable.

Over the past several years much information has been gathered and the Nano Nagle Commission recommended to the Pope that he make a proclamation of Nano's heroic virtues and bestow upon her the title "Venerable". Once a person is declared "venerable" the faithful are encouraged to pray for a miracle wrought by her intercession as a sign of God's desire that Nano be canonized.

Presentation Sisters around the world and all those involved with them are celebrating the official announcement of the declaration of Nano Nagle as Venerable. This good news comes at a meaningful time. As expressed by Sister Sharon Fagan, Congregational Leader of the Presentation Sisters of Newfoundland and Labrador, in marking this momentous occasion, we pray, ***"May we grateful for this woman of faith and courage, who has touched our lives and inspired us to follow her vision and to live her spirit of love and compassion."***

In the words of Sister Mary Deane, Head of the Congregation Leadership Team for the Presentation Sisters, speaking on October 31st when the news was received, ***"We are delighted with the news. By proclaiming Nano Nagle as Venerable, the Universal Church has recognised Nano as a woman of Faith, hope and heroic virtue whose vision and work transformed the lives of so many. For our Sisters, Associates and Friends of Nano throughout the world, Nano has been and continues to be a source of inspiration and challenge as we respond to the needs of today in fidelity to the Gospel and in the spirit of Nano."***