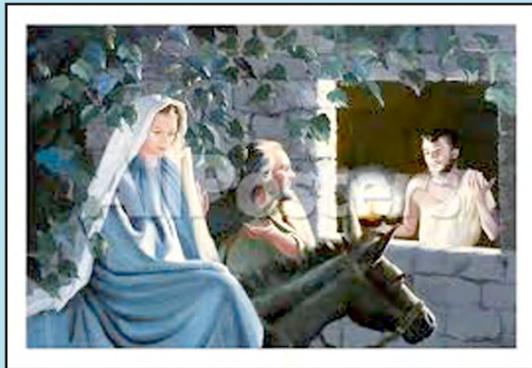




December 2019

# Presentation Associate Newsletter

Newfoundland & Labrador



*"...because there was no room in the inn."  
Lk. 2:7*



## Message from Sister Betty Rae Lee

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As we approach the Christmas Season, we observe the narrative of exclusion in our world today in:

- detention of refugees at world borders to preserve national security at home;
- devastation of Mother Earth by individual and corporate greed;
- exploitation of innocent people by oppressive regimes and corporations.

These systemic injustices, which are also within each one of us and our institutions, have their roots in sexism, racism, militarism and a myriad of other ills that demean humankind and seek to destroy our planet.

Yet, the Christmas story calls us to a way of life where oneness is treasured and celebrated. The narrative of inclusion is evident in our world today in:

- people, including our Sisters and Associates, offering sanctuary to migrants;

- youth addressing the fragility of the environment;
- grannies acting globally against poverty and AIDS.

Our desire for a kingdom of peace, justice and love, the essence of the Christmas miracle, challenges us to value and live by the universal principles of interiority, differentiation and communion, evident in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Nano and in the benevolence and chaos of our evolving universe – all moving together towards the fullness of life.

As we take time this Christmas to contemplate who we are in our time and place, we can be encouraged by the words of John Ruskin, *"To see clearly is poetry, prophecy and religion all in one."*

Presentation People, we are poets and prophets and our world needs us to be includers who proclaim, *"There is plenty of room in the inn."*

*Christmas Blessings!* 



## *Celebration of Presentation Day in Corner Brook*

On Thursday, Nov 21, Associates from the Corner Brook area celebrated Presentation Day with a special gathering at Xavier House that concluded with a Pot Luck Supper. It was an occasion to join with Presentation Sisters and Associates across the province and throughout the world in honouring Nano Nagle, a remarkable woman of faith, determination and service to the poor and sick. Present for this celebration were Sisters Kay, Patrice, and Ruth, as well as associates Rose Joyce, Tom and Jo Griffin, Kay Carey, Patricia Payne and soon to be a "friend of Nano", Kay Clatney. Unfortunately, due to illness and others being out of town, five associates are missing from the group photo.

Sister Ruth, link sister for the Associate Relationship, took the opportunity to bring us up to date on what is happening with other Associate groups across the province. The main focus of her presentation was leadership as it relates to the future of the Associate program. She explained that those presently in leadership roles will complete their term in June 2020. Who will offer themselves as replacements? A handout listing the responsibilities of the different leadership roles was made available. Each one of us is encouraged to consider a more active role and/or at least, nominate an individual whom we consider suitable for leadership. Workshops re: Leadership - are planned for our region beginning in June 2020.

Sadly, Sister Ruth informed us that she will be resigning from her position in June after ten years of devoted service to the Associate Program. We will miss her presence and support and we look forward to the guidance of her successor.

*Submitted by : Tom Griffin*



# Reflections on the Congregational Directional Statement



Sister Bernadette Doherty, a member of our Provincial Leadership Team and the liaison for our Associate Relationship, graciously accepted an invitation to speak at our gathering of Associates and Sisters in the St. John's area on Sunday November 2, 2019. Sister gave a very reflective summary of previous Congregation Gatherings and, in particular, the Congregational Gathering of 2018. Time was given for reflection and sharing, using Contemplative Dialogue Practice. Contemplative Dialogue Practice was presented as a way of life in all settings of Presentation life. All present received copies of the Congregational Directional Statement and Contemplative Dialogue and were encouraged to spend some time in their gatherings, reflecting and sharing on its contents.

Sister Bernadette also accepted an invitation to give a presentation on the Congregational Directional statement to the Corner Brook, Deer Lake Associates and our New Persons on December 13, 2019.

A sincere thank you to Sister Bernadette for an excellent and informative session for which we were very appreciative.

*Submitted by Sister Ruth O'Reilly on behalf of all the Associates*

## REMEMBERING ANNE

On behalf of our Presentation Associates and Sisters across the Province and the world, I would like to write about Anne's goodness, dedication and commitment. Anne was a Presentation Sister for a short time and a Presentation Associate for 18 years. She loved Presentation and gave many of her summers at the Motherhouse as a driver, visiting and sitting with the sick. We are grateful for Anne's presence among us and for her service to our Congregation. Anne gave a dedication and commitment to our Associate Relationship as she gave to all her service to Church and Parish. She was the Associate Coordinator of our group here in Grand Falls, Windsor. We will miss Anne's goodness and presence. Bless you Anne and thanks for all you were for Presentation and our Associate Relationship.

*Submitted by: Sister Ruth O'Reilly*



## *Aiding Alzheimer's*

15 years ago, I wanted to host an Alzheimer's coffee break in memory of my mom, who died in 1985. Because I was not in a workplace whereby we could host the regular type "coffee break", with the support of my sister, Mary Holly, we decided to invite people to come and make a donation whereby they would receive a tax receipt from the Alzheimer's Association.

Our first gathering was in our parish hall where we collected a little over \$200. Because it lacked warmth and hospitality, we decided to invite others into our own home. Since that time, we alternate each year, her house or mine, and gather around the first of October. Once September comes, we have friends and neighbours asking "When are you having your Alzheimer's fundraiser?"

What was once coffee and cookies and amounts of \$200, is now potluck and peach trifle and \$1000 in donations. This year we presented \$1015 to the Society. It is usually scheduled from 2 to 4 PM but most people go home at 6 or 7 PM, and I love that. We do not need entertainment, as everyone is too busy talking and sharing stories and catching up on the news. Their dedication and support spurs us on and their giving is so generous and genuine, certainly a blessing.

As you know, Alzheimer's is afflicting more and more people at a much younger age. Many of our earlier guests have long passed away and some afflicted with Alzheimer's are now in nursing homes. It breaks my heart to see this condition claim more and more of those around us and rob them from their family and friends long before their time. I'm so happy we started this little venture and that it's bearing more and more fruit each year.



Picture shows Sister Betty Quinlan, when she was at the Avondale convent, at our coffee break sharing a cup of tea, and her infectious laugh, with my sister-in-law, Betty Cole, who was since diagnosed with Alzheimer's and passed away in January 2019.

*Submitted by: Barbara Murphy, Associate Coordinator Avondale*



# The Christ: Divine Presence in All Creation



On June 8, 2019, Associates and Sisters from our three Presentation Associate groups – Avondale Ballygriffin, and Nano, together with Sister Ruth, assembled at the Virginia Waters Retreat Centre. Here, our group shared Nano Nagle’s charismatic vision, as those in attendance eagerly engaged with our presenter, Sister Dorothy Corrigan.

Sister Dorothy immediately captured our interest, as she introduced our topic, the *Divine Emerging Empowerment* that has been at work since the beginning of time. She referenced the extensive research of scientists, which indicated that this emerging began some 13.8 billion years ago. In our discussion, she noted that during this time period, a Divine presence was active and this Divine presence is called, “The Christ.”

Sister Dorothy went on to say that The Great Soul, The Cosmic Christ, pulls and directs creation forward to its end points, this being the greater unification and spiritualization of the universe. During the presentation and discussion, she took time to address how Christ is necessary for the whole of creation, and how Jesus is necessary for the individual soul.

Throughout the session, the presenter invited participants to take time for reflection, prayer, and stillness, and share thoughts on three key questions:

- Who made you?
- Who is God?
- Why did God make you?

As the retreat concluded, we felt grateful for each other, for God in us, for the opportunity to be part of the Presentation’s Movement and the positive energy that we felt was surrounding us. Clearly, we were grateful for Sister Dorothy’s heartfelt encouragement, as she challenged and guided us throughout the session. Her sense of humor and her personal stories touched our hearts.

*Submitted by: Eileen Kelly Freake, Associate St. John’s.*



## Our Future Associates



Presently, we have 12 New Persons preparing to become Presentation Associates – six in Corner Brook and six in St. John’s. At present, they are continuing their formation through the Presentation Associate Orientation Process. In corner Brook, this process is being facilitated by Eileen Coombs – Associate Coordinator in Corner Brook, and Bride Doyle – Unit Coordinator for the Western Region. In St. John’s these sessions are facilitated by Pauline Lake Devine. Please continue to pray for our New Persons and their facilitators



## *Associate Meeting Motherhouse November 2, 2019*



On November 2, 2019 Associates and Presentation Sisters from Eastern Newfoundland gathered at the Presentation Motherhouse for a meeting that included the prayers “Autumn Reflections” and “We Are in This Together” for reflection. Sister Ruth O’Reilly and Pauline Lake-Devine facilitated the session.

The theme centered on succession planning and moving forward while keeping the charisma and spirituality of Nano alive and active among Presentation People and those we encounter.

Sister Bernadette Doherty presented a summary of previous congregational gatherings the Congregational Gathering of 2018. A copy of the Directional Statement was provided. We are invited to avail of the practice of Contemplative Dialogue as the way of life in all settings of Presentation Life.

We were given guidelines for the Unit Link Sister, the Unit Coordinator and the Group Coordinator to help us with succession planning. Succession planning is intended to give the Associates deeper ownership and foster spiritual growth as we move forward. The importance of the yearly renewal of our commitment with a prayer ritual was discussed as well as the profile of the Associates that is presently being completed.

Following our meeting a social was provided by the motherhouse staff and sisters.

*Submitted by: Evelyn Lundrigan*



# Update from Unit Coordinators



In each Newsletter we will continue to give a brief update of the Associate Relationship. We are now in the process of exploring autonomous leadership for the Associate Relationship. To assist us in this endeavor, we have developed a Succession Planning Process. This process will focus on identifying and developing leadership in the Associate groups. We feel this will safeguard the stability and continuity of the Associate Relationship.

To begin this process, Gatherings of Associates and Sisters were held across the Province and topics covered were: Congregational Directional Statement and copies distributed to all Associates, Reflection focusing on Succession planning: “We are in This Together” was introduced, and C 43 of our Constitutions was highlighted and shared. More information on other gatherings later.

A **workshop** is planned for June 2020 for all our Associates and Sisters in the St. John’s area and for Central and West in Corner Brook. Our facilitator is Mary -Anne Greaney. Information on dates, time and theme will be given early in January.

**Nominations for Unit Coordinators:** Our Provincial Leadership will be sending a letter to all Associates and Sisters requesting nominations for Unit Coordinator in your Region. Bride Doyle, Pauline Lake Devine and Stella Galway will be finishing their term as Unit Coordinators in June 2020. Sister Ruth will also be finishing her term as Link Sister. Please give this request serious thought, discernment and prayer.

It is important for us that Associates take more ownership of the Associate Relationship Movement so that the mission of Nano and the Presentation Sisters can be strengthened, deepened and continue into the future.

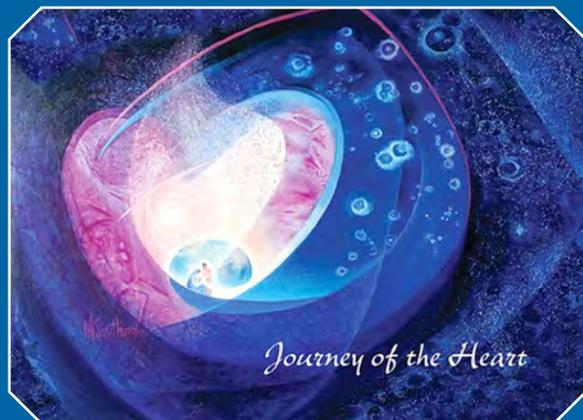
*Submitted by: The Associate Leadership Team*



## Christmas Greetings

Love is the heart of the universe - A joyful love that embraces all creation. May you feel God’s love alive in your heart this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year.

*best wishes from unit coordinators:*  
Pauline Lake Devine, Stella Galway,  
Bride Doyle and Sister Ruth O’Reilly.



Ministry of the Arts

**Presentation  
Associate  
Relationship**

3 St. Catherine Street  
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL  
A2B 1V7

Ph: 709-489-2823

Email:

presentationassociates@nf.aibn.com



*The Christ Divine Presence In All Creation  
The Universal Christ*

**"Changes in small systems create large system change." Margaret Wheatley.**

On Saturday, September 14th, we, the Deer Lake Presentation Associates, surrounded by the Central and West Coast Sisters and Associates, were "treated" to a presentation of Christ Consciousness Awareness from the perspective of Richard Rohr's book, **The Universal Christ**. The presentation was facilitated by Sister Dorothy Corrigan at All Hallows Parish Center, Corner Brook.

We began the day being guided into silence as we meditated on our own unique connection with Christ Consciousness deep within. We listened intently as Sr. Corrigan presented the history of the Cosmic unfolding of the Universe. This emerging of The Christ (Divine Consciousness) began 13.8 billion years ago, emphasizing the fact that the presence of Christ permeates through all stages and all ages of the evolutionary unfolding.

**After pausing for personal reflection, we pondered three questions:  
Who made you? Who is God? Why did God make you?**

Discussions then took place concerning the possible answers to these questions. These discussions sparked awareness that not only are we all one now, but we were all present in oneness from the very beginning. "In reality, it is all Mystery!"

Through Jesus we have an opportunity to claim our own place in this mystery and stir the fires of our own explosion of Energy and Light thus causing a ripple effect throughout the Universe.

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Bennett, Anne Harvey, Arlene Janes, Sharon Evans, & Carmelita Morgan, Deer Lake Associates*



*Presentation Associates and Sisters  
at The Universal Christ Retreat*

