



June 2013 - Issue 1

# Presentation Associate Newsletter

Newfoundland & Labrador



## *Message from Congregational Leader, Sr. Sharon Fagan*

Dear Sisters and Associates,

The words of Nano Nagle, "There is no greater happiness in the world than to be in union," hold deep meaning among Presentation Congregations. Nano's vision and God's unfolding dream continue to echo around the world wherever sisters and associates endeavor to live a Spirituality of Being in Communion. Such spirituality calls us to reach out with compassion and justice to the cries of those made poor and to the cry of Earth.

Today, we live in the midst of a new consciousness of life's interrelatedness. We are growing in our awareness of the fundamental oneness and the shared brokenness in life which we all encounter. We are being invited to see all

things as being connected and as a part of the web of life. As Sisters and Associates, we are called to be open to this new moment of grace and to support one another on a journey that moves towards deeper expressions of wholeness and communion.

It is with joy and gratitude that I bring greetings and congratulations on the publication of this new Presentation Associate Newsletter. I hope that this initiative will be mutually enriching for all sisters and associates as our relationship continues to evolve and the sharing of our stories tell of a journey of unity in the great heart of God.

Sr. Sharon Fagan  
Congregational Leader



## *Message from Co-Directors Sister Ruth O'Reilly and Carmelita Pittman*

Welcome to the first edition of our Presentation Associate Newsletter. We have been exploring how we can better communicate with our sisters and associates. This newsletter is a first step in providing information on a regular basis and an opportunity for you to find out who we are and what we do.

We feel that in our Congregation, in our Associate Relationship and in the world something new is evolving. As Thomas

Berry stated, "A new vision and a new energy is coming into being". As we presented our Associate Relationship report to the Leadership Team and to all the Sisters, we noticed the positive energy that has developed around the Presentation Associate Relationship. We see great things happening! Many of our sisters said "This is a time of grace and blessing for our Congregation".

In the past we have not had a real opportunity to thank everyone who support us and the Associate Relationship. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your gracious hospitality, kindness and generosity to us and to the associates. Your ongoing support brings affirmation and encouragement to us.

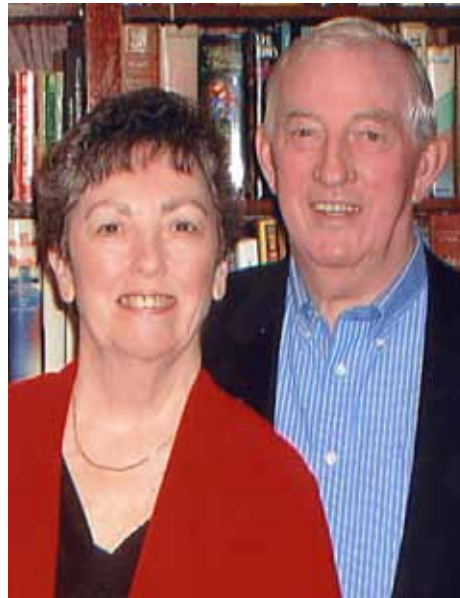
Finally, we ask God's blessing upon our sisters and associates and we thank you for your commitment to this relationship, and your openness to the voice of the Spirit within calling us to follow the flame set in our hearts by the charism of our Foundress, Nano Nagle as we move forward to care for God's people and earth.



## *Our Associate Journey*

The welcoming process to become Presentation Associates that we (Frank and Patty) followed back in 2000 was called 'journeying in faith'. In January of that year, Sr. Sharon Fagan, director of Presentation Associates, invited us on that journey. During the following months, we looked at an historical sketch of the Presentation Congregation – learning that it was established by Nano Nagle in Cork Ireland in 1776. The charisma she bequeathed her followers, a charisma of compassion and justice, was rooted in the pressing needs of her day – the education and religious instruction of the children of Ireland who were deprived of those rights under the penal laws. In our learning, we were inspired by the courage and vision, not only of Nano, but of the first four sisters who came to Newfoundland in August of 1833 - Mother Kirwan, and Srs, O'Shaunessy, Maloney, and Lynch. We were also inspired by the commitment and faithfulness of the Presentation Sisters of today who dedicate themselves to those same values.

In the intervening years, we have found that the welcoming and visionary spirituality of the Presentations has helped both of us to balance the



**Patty & Frank Fowler**

workaholic culture of our times. For the legal profession, access to justice for everyone regardless of means is an ongoing challenge. And, of course, the prevailing church culture is not amenable to equality of persons. And so, both of us have tried to some degree to live counter culturally in our respective professions and lives. Since becoming associates, we've walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and learned

anew how to appreciate and care for our wonderful earth. Frank has been instrumental in easing the way for many refugees in our province, along with doing 'pro bono' work for the marginalized of our city. Patty is a member of the JPIC committee (Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation) a group that is motivated by IPA (International Presentation Association), whose mandate is to address the root causes of poverty and confront the personal and corporate greed which exploits our earth. Over the past several years, the Basilica choir has listened to stories of our sisters who work among the poorest of the poor. By connecting the Sunday readings to the work of justice, the choir has been encouraged to collect and donate funds for the work of the Sisters in such countries as Zimbabwe, Kenya, Haiti, and Dominica, and for impoverished young adults in our own city through Streetreach. And finally, as we participated in Presentation chapters, assemblies, and meetings over the years, we have become more and more aware of the 'new story' of our cosmos, and consider ourselves fortunate that we are members of this spirit-filled association of sisters and lay men and women.



## *A Gratifying Experience - The Host Community*

As a member of a host community for our Presentation Associates, it gives me great pride and hope as I experience the growth of this graced initiative taken by our Congregation several years ago.

In her letter to us in October of 2009, Sister Sharon challenged us to pray that our efforts to improve the Associate Relationship would "foster respect and mutuality in a manner that enhances,

supports and challenges both associates and vowed members to live more fully Christian values and the spirit of Nano Nagle in their respective life situations". In our Chapter of 2011, we gave life and vision to these words as we affirmed our support and endorsed the Associate Relationship as an essential value for our Congregation.

As we continue our journey with these

wonderful Associates in Corner Brook, and prepare to welcome our four new people, Kay and I are encouraged and excited about how far the Associate Relationship has come and grateful for all we have learned thus far in the journey.

Submitted by:  
S. Rosalie Carey  
Corner Brook, NL



## *Gratitude and Gift*

As I reflect on my experience as a Presentation Pre Associate my feeling around this experience is one of deep gratitude. Nano Nagle's charism has inspired me to more easily reach out to others in my daily life. Something more spiritual is deepening within me and this is a humbling experience. I am enjoying this group and the sharing, reflections and prayers are deeply inspiring for me. I always take a message from Sr. Ruth's and Carmelita's

presentations which helps me to reach out to others in the spirit of Jesus and Nano. This is lifegiving for me.

My understanding that sharing in Nano's Charism and Mission is a gift and a call and it gives me passion and energy to continue in the relationship. She found ways to bring compassion and light to those living in darkness. I too can do the same when I sit with the dying and visit those who are lonely.



**Kay McDermott**

## *Mutual Relationship - Understanding and Commitment*

As I reflect on my experience as a Presentation Pre-Associate I feel I am closer to the charism of Nano Nagle than I was when we began this process. I understand it better and understand better how I can bring that charism consciously into my daily life as a woman, wife, mother, step-mother and as a member of my community. I do feel, however, that I need ongoing contact with the presentation community in order to grow in my

associate relationship. I don't see this process as a time limited event. I see it as an ongoing process like any deep relationship that can continue to yield understanding and inspiration for everyone involved. In a way it is like falling in love: You feel connected and committed and at the same time don't understand fully yet what it is you are connected to - perhaps because both parties are evolving all the time.



**Deirdre Greene Lono**

### *Together we tend*

### *God's unfolding Dream*

Presentation Associates follow the light of the lantern in living out their baptismal call to spread the good news of presentation charism and mission in their own particular lifestyle.



**Nano Nagle**

### *Dear friends in Christ,*

**N**ever did I let material wealth that I was born into hinder me  
**A**lways ready, I took my lantern and went where I was led  
**N**ot willing to let my courage and compassion ever flee  
**O**nly did I let my heart hear what my creator said

**N**ow my work is still continuing in joy and hospitality  
**A**nother vision is honed and continuing to develop  
**G**o in peace now and accept the challenge enthusiastically  
**L**et yourselves in justice and love always be enveloped  
**E**ver, wherever you may go, I will prayerfully be with you  
*Submitted by Associate Germaine White, Port au Port, NL*

### *Resources are available at the Associate Relationship Office.*

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Gift of Self Compassion - Joyce Rupp (DVD)</li> <li>2. Coming out of Exile - Coming Home to Soul - Joyce Rupp (CD A&amp;B)</li> <li>3. Living the New Story, Embodying Cosmic Dynamics - Alexandra Kovats (CD A&amp;B)</li> <li>4. Living from the Centre - Richard Rohr, OSM (DVD)</li> <li>5. The Expanding Universal &amp; Our</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding Hearts - Joyce Rupp (CD)</li> <li>6. The Heart of Compassion - Joyce Rupp (DVD)</li> <li>7. Sacred Journey, Life of Nano Nagle (DVD)</li> </ol> |
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*Congratulations to our  
Pre Associates on the  
completion of the  
orientation process.*

*The following will be making  
their commitment  
in the Fall, 2013*

**ST. JOHN'S:**

Austin Brophy  
Nora English  
Eileen Kelly Freake  
Seana Lee  
Josie Furlong  
Joanne Hogan  
Bridget Kelly  
Deirdre Green Lono  
Carolyn O'Donnell  
Catherine Power  
Maxine Sturge  
Maria Keane

**AVONDALE:**

Angela Duke  
Phyllis Woodford

**GANDER:**

Stella Galway

**GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR:**

Ursula Brophy  
Malinda Byrne  
Kay McDermott  
Marie Power

**DEER LAKE:**

Sharon Evans  
Anne Harvey  
Arlene Janes  
Carmelita Morgan  
Elizabeth Bennet

**CORNER BROOK:**

Philomena Carroll  
Eileen Coombs  
Mary Hogan  
Patricia Payne

*May the Holy Fire at the Heart of the Universe bless you.*



I am as old as the universe  
I've been here before and I'll be  
here again  
I am a child of the universe  
A part of all women and a part of  
all men

*Tribes of creation.wordpress.com*



During our pre associate sessions the International Presentation Association (IPA) was introduced. Since the Presentation Congregation is twinned with the Presentation Sisters in Zimbabwe, the pre associates suggested we support this congregational mission financially. A monetary gift was presented to the sisters at the motherhouse on Sunday, May 26, 2013.

S. Rosemary Kennedy      S. Patrice Sullivan      S. Betty Quinlan  
S. Connie Power      S. Carmelita MacNeil      S. Margie Byrne

The above sisters shared their call to presentation and their stories of mission and ministry to our pre associates across the island