



December 2014 - Issue 3

Presentation Associate Newsletter

Newfoundland & Labrador



Message from Sister Sharon Fagan



Dear Presentation Associates,
Have you ever heard Christmas? not the bells and hymns and carols, beautiful as they are, not even the laughter of children as they open their presents... but Christmas itself? (Alan Harris)

As I reflect upon these words I am drawn to move away from the busy activity that goes with preparing for Christmas to find a place of quiet where I can listen to the silence within. So often we are faced with the task of living with the complexities of life. We find ourselves longing to withdraw momentarily and sometimes for longer periods into our own inner sacred space. We are moved to contemplate and listen to the Holy One within our hearts and at the same time we ponder a gentle oneness with all that lives.

Our foundress, Nano Nagle, a woman with a listening heart, often found an energy of love in silence, an energy that on Christmas Eve led her to leave her inner sacred space to embrace an outer sacred space. On December 24, 1775 she founded the Presentation Sisters and on Christmas Day 50 beggars were guests of honour as they gathered for Christmas Dinner.

As you,
Serene, alone,
Undisturbed by thought
Listen to the silence in your heart
May you hear Christmas.

May your Christmas be blessed with the warmth of the Creator's Love, the joy of family and friends and the deep contemplative silence of a Holy Night.

Sr. Sharon Fagan

Religious and Associate Conference, October 3-4, 2014

"Called to relationship: Widening the Embrace" was the theme of this gathering of Presentations, Mercy and Redemptorists religious and associates. Anne Walsh, the keynote presenter used the symbol of the a diamond to illustrate her message that the charism of Jesus has many facets.

Anne quoted Luke 4:18 as the essence of Jesus' charism. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free".

In living out Jesus' charism, Nano had a vision, Catherine McAuley another, Edmund Rice and Alphonsus Liguori another. Each community has one aspect of this diamond - the charism of Jesus. In the group discussions and sharing, charism was defined as energy, passion for the poor, vision, oneness, community, spirit, giftedness and service.

Anne discussed four facets of the charism as outlined by Laurent Boisivert, OFM. With each one, she provided reflection questions on how charism is lived out in each congregation.

1. Vision: Anne used the image of glasses - and gave reflection questions on how charism is lived out in each congregation. How does presentation view the Gospel? We look at it through the lens of Nano's vision of hospitality, compassion and global vision. Dorothy Fitzgreal, Presentation Associate, led the group in a song - "Go Tell Everyone" inserting Nano's name in it to illustrate Nano's vision.

2. Incarnation: God becomes human daily in the birth of a child, taking on flesh in our families, in the world as well as in scripture.

3. Mission: Giving witness to the gospel - it was emphasized how Presentation gives witness as different from Mercy or Redemptorists

4. Fruitfulness: Bearing fruit through the embrace of vowed religious and associates. The growing and flowering of the Gospel, as well as building up and nurturing the reign of God happens through the witness we bear.

The conference energized me and I felt proud to be a Presentation Associate.
Submitted by: Bride Doyle, Presentation Associate, Port Au Port, NL



*Thanks to
Sister Mabel and
her group for their
gracious hospitality*



Mandalas



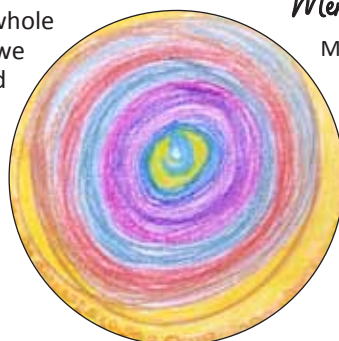
Mandala Art instead of giving us reflections of the external world, mandalas can help us see what is going on within us in our hearts and souls. They help us remain connected to ourselves and can help us understand the meaning of important life experiences. Mandala means circle and is used as the process of self expression and can lead us to an experience of wholeness. There is a central point of focus. This suggests there is a center within each of us in which everything is related and is itself a source of energy - the soul, the Christ within and the higher self.



In the Beginning - Creation and Connectedness

The hand depicting God's hand in the whole world of creation and all the gifts we are given come from the hand of God especially the gift of our children. In this beautiful universe we are all one.

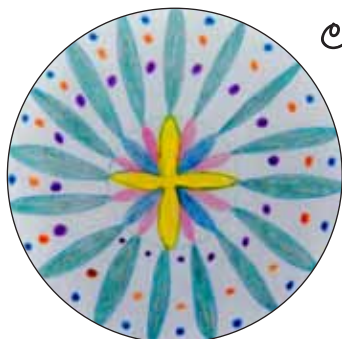
Barbara Murphy, Associate, Avondale, NL



Memories

Memories, honoring Mary when I was at St. Joseph's in Gander, as a child. Presentation vision of charism has helped me to learn I am an individual and valued. I deserve to live my life in peace - work with children and be at peace.

Lucy Dwyer, Associate, Gander, NL



Charism Blooming and Bearing Fruit

Nano's vision of charism was ever moving and growing to include everyone. We as Presentation Associates follow Nano's vision and continue her love and compassion for those made poor.

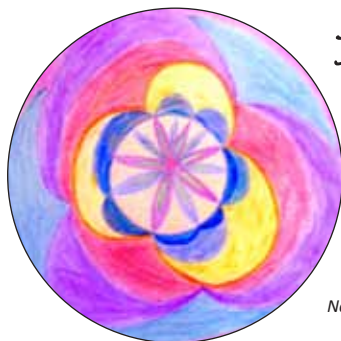
Madeline Hamilton, Associate, GFW



New Awareness

New awareness opening where I can make a difference since my association with Presentation. My heart surrounded by the Sacred Heart. My life so burdened before my awareness of Nano and her vision of Jesus' Charism.

Maxine Sturge, Associate, St. John's, NL



Inclusiveness

All connected - different values, cultures, beliefs and at the same time all in one universe and each a contributing part... surrounded by warm colours and enveloped in a cocoon - like embrace - safety, warmth, LOVE!

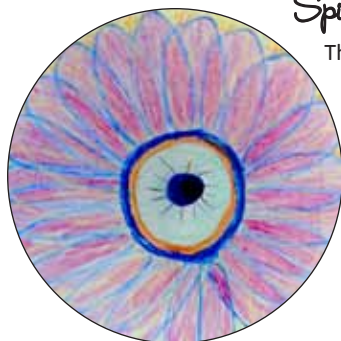
Nora English, Associate, St. John's, NL



Spirit Energy

Spirit of God within energizes my life to see all creation connected and continuing to be called to be the words I listed in the Mandella - Belonging, Accepting, Welcoming, Connected, Evolving, Changing, Affirming.

Sister Frances Molloy, Associate, St. John's, NL



Spirit - Working through Charism

The Spirit of Jesus is the driving force of charism - assisting us to live more fully our baptismal call to be with others especially those made poor.

Sr. Carmelita MacNeil, Deer Lake, NL



Small Seeds of God's Love

Love of God - small seeds within you - gradually growing larger and blooms surrounded by God's love, giving a sense of peace and the grace to be for others. I try to bring my spirit of forgiveness to those who are not speaking to each other, to reflect a positive attitude and to pass on the peace and happiness I receive from God.

Rose Joyce, Associate, Corner Brook, NL

Ecumenical Prayer Service



The Presentation Associates of Gander held an Ecumenical Prayer Service on October 15, 2014 in honor of the International Day of Peace which was designated by the United Nations. Candles were handed out to the congregation as they entered the church.

The service began with a procession of the participants carrying a globe and a Pascal Candle to symbolize world peace, while Gregorian chant was being played. Prayers from seven different faith traditions were shared by different members of the congregation and the associates. A candle was lit for each tradition. The prayers included: Taoist, Islamic, Hindu, the Native Indians of North Americas and the Christian tradition. Following the readings, a hymn written by the Associates and St. Joseph's 3PM Choir entitled "Mary" was played. A letter from the Dominican Sisters was read by Sisters Margaret Mary and Martina. A copy of this letter was given to the congregation as was requested by the Dominican Sisters.

A final prayer was prayed from Michael Morwood's book - Praying the "New Story". Peace is flowing like a River was sung and candles were lit to symbolize tolerance, religious freedom and peace throughout the world. Sister

Margaret Mary gave the final blessing. Submitted by: Stella Galway, Presentation Associate, Gander, NL



Sister Patricia

There are no words to convey to you how much we appreciate your love and support for us over the past few years.

You not only told us the story of Nano Nagel but you were Nano's presence in our midst. If people look with admiration at our little group it's because you raised us up.

Each one of us have had our own individual crosses to bear and you made them a little lighter by your phone calls, words of

encouragement and hope, your prayers and continually reminding us to pray for each other.

Our prayer for you is this: "Lord, thank you for this lady who loves you and has blessed us. We pray that you will pour your "goodness" on her for her "kindness" and may the joy she has given to others be returned to her many times over."

Sister, this is not a "good-bye", but merely a thank-you and a "we love you too" grace-filled moment.

With all our love,

Presentation Associates of Avondale (Maria, Mary, Rita, Dorothy and Barbara). Submitted by: Dorothy Fitzgerald, Conception Bay Center, NL



May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which You extend to every guest.
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.
May you Bring this peace into our world.

Joyce Rupp



Sister Mary Tee rsm and Sister Dorothy Corrigan pbvm were invited to the Religious and Associate Conference, to share with the group some of their congregational initiatives in Ecology, Justice and the Universe Story. We thank Dorothy and Mary for sharing their gifts and ministry with us.



Collaboration in Mission: IPA Project for 2014

On the weekend of October 25-26, the Presentation Associates, Sisters and invited guests of Grand Falls-Windsor joined in a prayer service for the Eradication of Poverty. This same group

donated \$175.00 to a Sustainable Community Development Project in Papa New Guinea Village that was devastated by a tsunami. We thank all who came to celebrate with us and who gave to this worthwhile cause.

HYMM TO MARY



Mary privileged child of God,
Chosen for his only Son.
Nurtured by the hand of Angels.
Protected daily from all harm.
Presented at the Temple holy
By the parents who gave you life.
Welcomed by the priests and holies,
Loved by all the Israelites.
Frightened by the Angel Gabriel,
But surrendered to do God's will.
Teacher, example for humanity,
Working for the saviour still. REFRAIN
You bore the joys and the agony
Of your holy favoured life,
Watched your son grow to maturity,
Just to see him die in strife.

Mary help us grow in wisdom, guided by your only Son
Help us to do God's will and choosing, so in His body we are one.
Mary privileged child of God, chosen for his only Son. Nurture us your lowly children so in his body we are one. So in His body we are one.

Composed & Submitted by: Presentation Associate, Gander, NL

Presentation Associate Relationship

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

Ph: 709-489-2823

Email:

presentationassociates@nf.aibn.com



A quiet reflection on the song - Path To Senerity - provided the atmosphere and direction for our thoughts on our call to experience The New Universe Story. This beautiful creation story unfolded by highlighting "time periods" and their "wonders," (moon, stars, etc.) the coming of Jesus, Nano Nagle, ourselves... and the story continues to evolve. It radiated a desire in you to contemplate your own life - your cosmic walk. We are called to bring our hope and love in our service to all creation, thus continuing the work of Nano Nagle. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our retreat facilitators - Sr. Betty Daniels and her team.

Submitted by: Philomena Carroll, Associate, Corner Brook, NL

The Challenge of Sustainable Living

"The power of reason brings with it two great gifts: the freedom to choose and the responsibility to choose well. We may seize the freedom with both hands, but the responsibility may fill us with apprehension". In the words of the Benedictine poet, Ralph Wright: 'I fear that I am made to choose and so may lose.'

(Margaret Silf in Roots and Wings)



Congratulations

Congratulations to Angela Duke, Presentation Associate from Avondale, who made her commitment to the Presentation Associate Relationship, in the presence of Sister Sharon Fagan, sisters and associates in December 2014 at the convent in Avondale, NL.



Sister Lois Greene thanked the Redemptorist, Mercy and Presentation Associates who sold their artwork, crafts and books and donated \$650.00 to the Gathering Place.



A retreat was held at St. Catherine's Renewal Center for the Pre-Associates preparing for their commitment ceremony. The theme was the "Face of God and Compassion" and the reflections reminded us to embrace God's presence within ourselves and we will see God's face in every person that we meet and give love and compassion freely without judgement. Our sincere thanks to St. Catherine's staff for a delicious lunch.

Submitted by: Malinda Byrne, Associate, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL



As we entered the retreat house at Virginia Water, the spirit of hospitality was evident as we were welcomed as "one among us." The team, Sisters Alice Dower and Dorothy Corrigan, led us into a day of graced moments. Our day of inner quiet, spiritual nurturing and growth concluded with a powerful ritual, the celebration of "graced moments". We left committed to "change the story" and to be conscious of what face of God we show to the world. Our sincere thanks to Sisters Alice and Dorothy and to Sisters Mary Dower and Rose Kennedy for a delectable lunch.

Submitted by: Shana Lee, Associate, St. John's, NL

On December 1, 2014 in a very beautiful and meaningful ritual, Sister Sharon Fagan welcomed Stella Galway, Presentation Associate, Gander, to the Presentation Associate Relationship.



Sister Margaret Mary presents Associate Pin to Stella Galway.



Sister Sharon Fagan witnesses the signing of Stella Galway's mutual agreement.



Sisters, Associates, family and friends celebrate with Stella.

Associate Commitment Ceremony - Deer Lake, November 29, 2014



Arlene Janes receiving her Associate Pin from Sister Frances Molloy.



On November 29, 2014 Sister Sharon Fagan in the presence of associates and sisters welcomed Arlene Janes to the Presentation Associate Relationship.