



December 2017 - Issue 5

Presentation Associate Newsletter

Newfoundland & Labrador



Christmas Greetings from Sister Betty Rae



*Celebrating 300 years
since
Nano's birth*

*Birthing is God's primary activity-
radiant in every aspect of creation.*



All of our Associates across the Province are participating in the **Contemplative Dialogue Practice**, in Preparation for the Congregational Gathering 2018.

Associates Preparing for 2018

The Associates from the St. John's area met on October 29 at Presentation Convent. The meeting was facilitated by Pauline Lake- Divine and Sister Ruth O'Reilly. The opening prayer and the seating arrangement set the tone for the session.

We sat in a large circle, signifying the equality among us. The purpose of the session was to lay the ground work for the upcoming meetings and to distribute the



resources for the 'Two part Contemplative Dialogue Practice'. The IPLMM was explained with such clarity and enthusiasm that we felt blessed and privileged to have been invited to participate in the preparation for the upcoming Congregational Gathering 2018. *Submitted by, Seana Lee, St. John's Associate*

Remembering Agnes

In this busy world, Agnes humbly touched the lives of many people during her involvement with church, community, and society at large. She recognized "a need," communicated it to others and tirelessly sought to address it. All the while, sharing the power of the presence of God in her actions.



She has left us with a visible memory of her generous giving of her gifts of the heart, a true connection with Nano, whom she loved.

Submitted by: Philomena Carroll, Corner Brook Associate



The Best Kept Secret



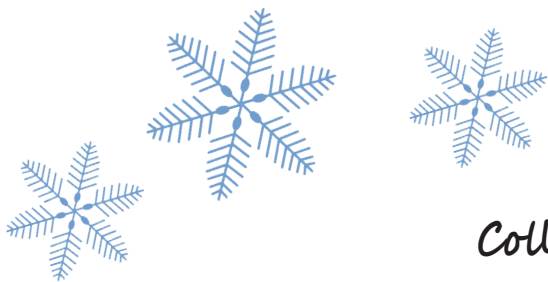
What is it about a woman born in 1718 that has the power to ignite a flame within the hearts of so many people in the twenty first century? Nano was a woman in tune with the political and social conditions of her time and its effect on people. In the eighteenth century if a girl was to be educated at all it was primarily as a decorative companion for her husband - music, painting and dancing were what mattered. Nano broke this mould. The life of this amazing woman has great significance for us today, not so much by **what** she achieved in a hostile environment - but **how** she achieved it. She was sensitive to those things that were 'not fair' and certainly prepared to 'walk the talk'.

Nano didn't wait until she had a grand plan and the money to finance it. She made a start by stepping outside into her own community, doing what she could, and allowing her ministry to develop. She recognised that education was the key to enable the poor to break the cycle of poverty and raise their status in society. She didn't allow disappointments and setbacks to prevent her moving forward and was prepared to take calculated risks.

Nano networked with people and encouraged others to collaborate with her at a time when what she was doing was illegal. She worked out a way to give permanence to what she had started and worked tirelessly to achieve it. Nano was prepared to challenge and hold out against Church and civil authority. Everything Nano did was underpinned by her relationship with a loving God.

Nano spent only the last nine years of her life as a religious, the bulk of her ministry was accomplished as a lay woman. The **way** Nano went about her ministry could be a blueprint for us as well. On every continent, there are numerous lay men and women, nurtured by the spirit of Nano engaging in ministries large and small. For the most part, these ministries are hidden. The time has surely come when we gather the stories – what a powerful read we would have. I suspect the Friends of Nano may be the best kept secret of the Presentation family.

*Submitted by Mary-Anne Greaney
Team member of IPLMM*



Collaboration in Mission

Love radiated from the hearts of our Associates, as they listened and responded to the call to assist in the restoration of Dominica. In partnership with their parishes, children in the religious education classes, direct donations and the wider community, funds were raised for this worthy cause. This collaboration with our mission in Dominica gave deeper meaning to the Spirituality of Being in Communion in a focused way. Our associates feel a part of the mission in Dominica, and they believe in the words "where one of us is, all of us are." We assure Marie and Jean of our continued support and prayers.

Submitted by: Sister Ruth



Co-directors Update:



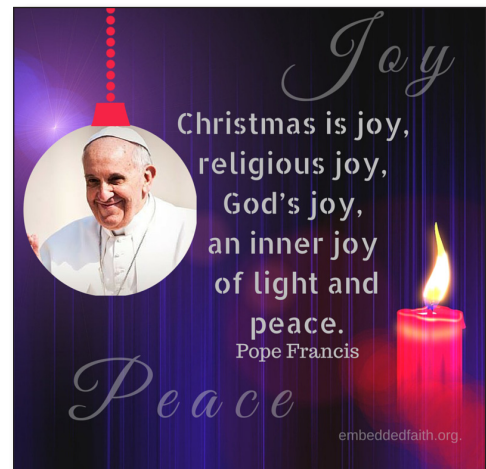
1. Co-directors met 8 times in 2016-17
2. Retreats held re "Nurturing the Call" in GFW and St. John's and facilitated by Bride, Pauline and Stella.
3. St. John's social in June,
4. Advent retreat in GFW for Sisters and Associates at SCRC 2016 and 2017
5. Associate Preparation for the Congregational Gathering in 2018 - resources introduced and distributed to all Associate groups
6. Meeting with Leadership Team November 14, 2017
7. Letter of invitation to invite new persons to the Associate Relationship will be sent out to all Sisters and Associates by the Leadership Team in early January
8. Advent reflection by Jean Hall- St. John's
9. Ruth attended ARCAN (Atlantic Religious Congregations Associate Network) meeting in Halifax
10. Ruth and Bride participated in a Zoom meeting with IPLMM in August 2017
11. Handbook initiated with representation across the Island
12. Newsletter in January & December 2017
13. Re-organizing of St. John's groups
14. We now have an associate coordinator for all groups



Mary's Table

The Presentation Associates of Port au Port, NL have grown "In Union" for 15 years. We have become Globally aware and are listening with our hearts. Each day we are challenged to be persons of Compassion and Love. The journey has enabled us to carry the flame of Nano's Charisim in our little place in the Universe Story.

Submitted by: Germaine White, Port au Port Associate



A Dream Unfolds

In reviewing the recommendations from the Sisters and Associates, it was noted that the development of an Associate Handbook was a priority. In response to this recommendation a committee was formed in September 2016. The members are: Susan Cummings, Kim Kelly, Sister Bernadette Doherty-liaison for the Associates with Leadership, Pauline Lake-Divine, Deirdre Greene-Lono with representation right across the Island. Several resources from other Associate groups were reviewed and accurate information was gleaned and supplemented by new information to create a working guide for current and prospective Associates. The intent is to have information available in one package specifically for the NL situation. A draft copy to pilot for a year will be available in the New Year. Once the GG2018 directions have been implemented the document could be presented in a final format.

Submitted by: Evelyn Lundrigan, St. John's Associate



Presentation Associate Relationship

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ETHEREAL BY DEFINITION: LIGHT AND DELICATE, ESPECIALLY IN AN UNNATURAL WAY: LIGHT AND WEIGHTLESS: EXTREMELY DELICATE AND LIGHT IN A WAY THAT SEEMS TOO PERFECT FOR THIS WORLD.

We are so blessed to belong to a loving universe....allow this love to fill every doubt and dissolve any thoughts of separation. When we choose to be awake and live based on this knowledge, we are not only aware of our own miraculous journey we lead others to their perfection! Be gentle with yourself, treat yourself delicately....after all, you remain a Miracle of Life! I wish you a journey too perfect for this world!

Namaste, Sharon Evans - Deer Lake Associate



*Thank you to Sisters
Martina, Alice and Connie*



To the Sisters at St. Catherine's Renewal Centre, we, the Associates, would like to thank you so very much for your hospitality, for the many times we met for our Associate meetings at the Centre. We were very much welcomed. You and your service will be greatly missed. May God and his Blessed Mother bless, guide and protect you all as you journey on to serve other people. Love and prayers.

Submitted by: Kathleen White for The Associates, GFW



Universal Union

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*Submitted by:
Germaine White, Port au Port Associate*

*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful.*

May you have all three this Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Pauline, Bride, Stella & Ruth