



February 2017 - Issue 4

# Presentation Associate Newsletter

Newfoundland & Labrador



## Message from Provincial Leader Sister Betty Rae Lee



Greetings to all!

Nano's words about her own openness to serve "in any corner of the globe" resonate in our Presentation hearts in those of us who have travelled to many parts of the world and equally in those who have never left their homeland. During my privileged seven years in Dominica I often mused on Nano's foresight in sending trained catechists, our first Associates, to the West Indies in the 1770's and I experienced our NL Presentation presence in the West Indies as fidelity to a deep ancestral memory.

I truly believe the truth of Thomas Berry's words, "The dream drives the action." To what dream are we faithful? What action drives us? To me, it is all about the heart space that moves us forward in mission, being attentive to a new consciousness of God's big dream for our emerging Universe, the Gospel of Jesus and the vision of Nano in our care for Mother Earth and those kept poor.

As we look at the map of the world and see the Presentation presence in so many corners of the globe, we are called to celebrate the unity and spirit of who we are together as Presentation women religious and as members of the International Presentation Lay Movement for Mission.

I am proud to continue to do my small part in sharing in our evolving Presentation story and I am blessed to do so in the company of such faithful women and men.



## Message from Co-Directors Pauline Lake- Devine, Stella Galway, Bride Doyle and Sister Ruth O'Reilly

It is with deep joy and gratitude that we, as your co-directors, bring greetings to you. Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened. We had our Provincial Gathering in 2016. Our report, which we, as Co-directors were requested to present centered around the beginnings of the Associate Relationship and the responses from the questionnaire and recommendations received from the Sisters and Associates. Following this gathering we met as co-directors and held sessions with our sisters and Associates. From these meetings and sessions we have been working on the recommendations

received. So far, a committee of sisters and Associates are in the process of compiling an Associate Handbook. We are revising the Orientation and Invitation processes, planning retreats to foster and nurture the Call to Relationship and re-visiting the structure of the Associate groups. A lot of work has been done and there is still a lot to do. Watch for an update on our progress in our next newsletter. We continue to be grateful to God for our many blessings and for all your prayerful support and commitment to the Associate Relationship.



St. John's Associate group enjoying time together after Associate gathering.



Presentation of Associate pins by Sister Sharon Fagan.

## Associate Commitment Ceremony, Maria Regina Parish Hall, Port au Port, November 20, 2016.



I have reached the stage in my life where one is considered an orphan. Both my parents have passed away, and having had no children, there is even a further emptiness there. However, during this year in preparing to become an Presentation Associate, I felt a new door was opening for me. There is a whole world of people out there to which I now belong. This world was sealed when we held our Associate Commitment Ceremony on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in November. The sun was "splitting the rocks" which gave everybody that good feeling inside, which heightened the feeling of why we were all there. It was a very reverent.

ceremony, having the air of jubilation in it from beginning to end. My heart was pounding as I participated in the different aspects of this ceremony, for I felt so proud to belong to this group. The positive energy in the hall was obvious, this is why when I drove home it was like driving with this feeling of peacefulness which I hadn't experienced before. I am grateful to be part of this worldwide group of men and women, and following/practicing the mission of Jesus and Nano.

*Marcheta Gallant, Associate*



Bride Doyle witnesses the signing of Willie MacNeil's Mutual Agreement.



Sister Bernadette Doherty and Bride Doyle Celebrate with our Port au Port New Associates.



Sisters and Associates of Port au Port with Sister Betty Rae Lee and Sister Bernadette Doherty.



Agnes McCarthy, Associate from Corner Brook is very involved in many ministries in her Parish and Community – a real witness of Nano. Agnes received the medal of Courage from the National Council of the Canadian Cancer Society. Congratulations Agnes, we are proud of you.



Special thank you to all for a beautiful reception.



The privilege of portraying Nano Nagle and having the new Associates present, as well as others, feel her presence among them for a few minutes, is a testament to how I feel about the Presentation Movement. When doing this, it was my hope that they left with a sense of her faith, as well as her Charism, tenacity and fortitude needed to make a difference in the lives of others. When back to reality, I find myself asking "what am I doing to nurture my call "and hopefully they are doing this to.

*Submitted by Germaine White*



## Associate Commitment Ceremony, Presentation Motherhouse, June 2016

Our Commitment Ceremony was a very inspiring celebration of Oneness and Life for all of us. As I looked around the beautiful chapel of the Motherhouse, I felt overjoyed that I was accepted as a Presentation Associate along with my dear friend Lucy and our group companions. Together, we are finally here to continue our journey on this new path with Nano Nagle as our guide.

There were many in attendance, Sisters, Associates, family and friends of all. I was so happy to see my son Cory and his girlfriend Patricia behind me. When I looked into his eyes I felt that I had met with his approval as well. This made the day complete for me!

When the Ceremony began we all joined with what seemed like heavenly voices singing with us. Feelings of Peace, joy and belonging swept over me, my life had come full circle! I am home among these wonderful ladies and men who have gone before me. Hopefully I will continue to bring hope, light and love into the lives of others especially those made poor.

Special thanks to the Sisters at the Motherhouse for a beautiful Choir and Reception.

Thank God and the Sisters of the Presentation Union.

*Peggy Roche*



On December 7, Associates and Sisters from the East Coast gathered at the Lantern for a Christmas Social. Prior to the luncheon, Jean Hall led the group in an inspirational Advent reflection. Participants were invited to share their thoughts and/or feelings on a variety of quotations and imagery prepared by Jean. The event was well attended and a meal was catered by The Hungry Heart Café.





## Presentation Associate Relationship

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### Union of Presentation Sisters



Meet the Leadership Team of the Union of Presentation Sisters, elected in 2012 - 2018.  
L-R: Srs Anne O'Leary - Texas, Fatima Rodrigo - India, Mary Deanne (Leader) - England, Julie Watson - Pakistan and Frances Murphy - Ireland.

The Leadership Team are elected every six years at the Congregational Gathering. They are based in Monasterevan, Co. Kildare, Ireland and minister to the Congregation worldwide.

Nano Nagle began her life in Ballygriffin, Co Cork, Ireland. When she died her companions continued her work with and for the poor people of Ireland. Remember one of Nano's sayings, "if I could be of service in any part of the globe, I would gladly go"... Her Congregation spread throughout the world. We celebrate our IPA, International Presentation Congregation, The Union of Presentation Sisters, The American Conference and the Australian Society. The Union of Presentation Sisters began forty years ago.

The **Presentation Sisters**, also known as the **Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** are a group of women founded in Cock, Ireland, by Nano (Honorata) Nagle in 1775. The Sisters of the congregation use the postnominal initials of **P.B.V.M.**

The Presentation Sisters are located in 24 countries including Antigua, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Ecuador, England, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Presentation Sisters have helped people worldwide, mainly the poor and needy.

The Union of Presentation Sisters is a congregation of 1300 women working internationally in fourteen units. Each unit takes responsibility for its own life and mission in response to the direction of the congregation.

*Presentation Sisters Newfoundland became part of the Union of Presentation Sisters in 2014. Submitted by Sister Bernadette Doherty*

Four pioneering Sisters among Nano's followers, Sisters Bernard Kirwin, Magdalen O'Shaughnessy, Xavier Maloney and Xaverius Lynch, carried her vision and spirit the shores of Newfoundland in 1833. They came at the invitation of Bishop Michael Fleming to establish a school that would offer improved educational opportunity for girls and young women in St. John's. Nano's vision had birthed a response that was both broad and penetrating. For the next 175 years our sisters continued to respond to this call. Academic learning, spiritual development/religious education and a deep appreciation for the arts and music were central to our education ministry among students, teachers and parents. Nano's spirit, the spirit of these four women and those who followed them, continue to guide us as we endeavour in new ways to meet today's emerging needs.



Mother Bernard Kirwan, Sister Magdalene O'Shaughnessy, Sister Xavier Maloney and Sister Xaverius Lynch.

Nano Nagle, Ballygriffin Ireland mmnb



With sincere thanks to our former Leadership Team.



Welcome to our New Leadership Team, Sisters and Associates.



Sister Sharon Fagan witnesses the signing of Peggy Roche's Matural Agreement.



A warm welcome to our sisters from Ireland, Sisters Roisin Gannon and Bernadette Doherty. Both are members of our Provincial Leadership Team. Sisters, we are happy to have you with us. Blessings on both of you.

*Sister Ruth for Associates and Sisters.*