



# Nano's Echo

Newsletter of the Friends of Nano

A Spirit-led initiative of the International Congregation of Presentation Sisters (Union) which celebrates and promotes the charism of Nano Nagle in new and creative ways

CHRISTMAS 2018



The beautiful 300 anniversary 3D wall hanging is the creation of Srs Marilyn Doyle, Marie Furey, and Elizabeth Kennedy, from Newfoundland. A photo can never do it justice! Take a little time to reflect on the figures and symbols - and what it expresses about our shared story.

*Nano's Echo is for everyone  
Please share it far and wide.*

## An update from the new Congregational Leadership Team

As a worldwide community of lay women and men who share a 'passion for the poorest' live in 'partnership with the Divine' and make a 'covenant with creation' the **Friends of Nano** Movement is a Thread in our Presentation Tapestry that has grown in strength and vibrancy over the years. This issue of *Nano's Echo* is living proof that the Movement is evolving and that throughout the world there are women and men, who strive to ensure that her heart beats on in them today.



Our last Coordinating Committee reported that 'the movement is still working towards co-responsibility for PBVM Mission and Ministry alongside the Sisters.' (Congregational Commissions and Teams Reports 2012 to 2018) As a way to move forward, they recommended that we appoint a full time International Coordinator.

At the Congregational Gathering we committed to 'play a supportive role

towards furthering the growth of an International **Friends of Nano** Movement.' (CG18) We are now putting in place the processes and structures that will facilitate the appointment of an International Coordinator. We will hopefully introduce you to our International Coordinator in the next issue of *Nano's Echo*.

As we come to the end of Nano's 300 Birth year, we, Julie, Sharon, Aurea, Neneth and Anne, (Congregational Leadership Team) wish to convey our deep gratitude to every **Friend of Nano**, who was involved in any way in enabling people to celebrate Nano and to keep her mission alive by working towards creating a more just and sustainable world for all. We are particularly grateful to Maria Owen and Mary-Ann Greaney for ensuring you all got to share in the celebrations of Nano's Birth Year, by gathering the stories in this issue of *Nano's Echo*. May Nano's 'passion for the poorest', that was ignited by her union with the Divine, continue to burn brightly in all of us.

Anne McDermott pbvm



## Special tercentenary edition

It has been a wonderful privilege to gather the many stories and activities that **Friends of Nano** have been involved in around the world. Thank you for sharing them and sending your photos. We are sorry that it has only been possible to give you a glimpse of some of the initiatives.

The spirit of Nano has been let loose!

thanks



## Africa



**Friends of Nano** from Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered in Zimbabwe to celebrate the Tercentenary, this was the first time gathering for the friends of Nano in both Countries. The theme was 'No greater love than to be in union'. We were touched by these words as we all enjoyed the union of Zimbabwe and Zambia **Friends of Nano**, because of the interaction we had. We shared various activities such as prayers, rituals, songs, dances, poems, video show on the life of Nano and we were reminded on the three core values of the movement, partnership with the Divine, passion for the poor and covenant with creation. We also shared on how each one of us was inspired to join the movement. The activities shared honored Nano Nagle's commitment, wisdom, courage and strength. Nano's last wish of educating the vulnerable and poor challenged us to believe we still have a big workload to accomplish with our community in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

We continued the celebrations and the **Friends of Nano** gathered in Kaoma during the week of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to have a local celebration. We visited Kaoma State Prison and rejoiced with a total number of 184 inmates and the Presentation Sisters. We donated/offered the inmates' gifts of drinks, biscuits, soap, salt and cooking oil. It was a lovely day as the **Friends of Nano** had an opportunity to interact with the inmates in the Prison. On 9<sup>th</sup> September we had a big day where we had Sunday Mass to celebrate the Tercentenary and all the **Friends of**



**Nano** renewed their commitment and 15 new members were welcomed. Celebrating the birth of Nano Nagle this year has been of great value in our spiritual life as **Friends of Nano**. It's amazing to see, to hear or know that even after 300 years, people are still inspired with the works of Nano Nagle. We will make the light shine throughout the world by helping the vulnerable, educating the poor, caring for the sick and caring for mother earth.

Contributed by Mr Progress



## England



A year of reflection and prayer culminated in celebrations of the Tercentenary of Nano Nagle's birth: In Swindon, Presentation people gathered for a special Mass of celebration. The Parish Priest, Fr Gary, is a great Friend of Nano. Bishop Declan Lang, the main celebrant, recalled the words of Pope Francis (on declaring her Venerable) by saying that **Nano was a 'woman of heroic virtue'**.

The Icon of Nano was given pride of place on the Sanctuary and a piece of African Nano300 cloth was used as the Altar frontal: several of the Sisters have close links after years working in Africa.

School children brought up birthday cards for Nano, read the Bidding Prayers and sang a hymn at Communion time. At the close of Mass the Parish choir treated us to a 'Tribute to Nano Nagle' especially written for the occasion by Pat Langley-Poole.



The first two ladies to the left are née Nano, the next lady is née Mathew and on the right is Charles Mathew and his wife. Fr Gary in the middle.

Presentation hospitality was extended to everyone with Tea in the Convent. It was an opportunity to meet old friends and new. Special guests included two ladies of Nagle ancestry: Elizabeth Smith and Kate Slater; From Nano's Maternal ancestry: Charles Mathew and his wife, Eleanor, and also Anne, Countess of Norbury (née Mathew). The Mathew family helped publish the two booklets that show Nano's connections in South West England. The artist Desmond Kyle, who created the Nano Icon, was also a guest at the Mass.

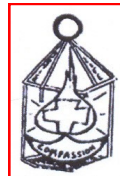
Contributed by Maria Owen

The Convent in Ryde closed in 2009 but one Sister remained in the Parish. Associates in Ryde are now few in number and when Sr Rosario moved to Matlock earlier this year we decided to arrange a Foundation Mass to mark the work of the Sisters, the many children who have been educated by them and in remembrance of the Sisters buried in the local cemetery. The first of these Masses was celebrated by Fr Ken Rimini, on 21st November. He used his homily to remind us of Nano's story and, after Mass, we shared memories of the school and the Sisters in Presentation House.





## India



God certainly had a plan for each of us when He gathered us all as **Friends of Nano**. People gathered together from different beliefs, regions, and cultures, with one aim and mission of serving humanity. It is nothing less than a blessing, a miracle to be a proud member of Friends of Nano. We are indeed indebted to our mother Foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle, for inspiring, enabling and entrusting us with carrying forward the light from her lantern. As a part of this mission, we gathered for our first cluster meeting. We were

happy to have the esteemed presence of our dear sisters, who are an integral part of the **Friends of Nano**, Sr. Elizabeth, the Link from the North India Province team, Sr. Jayarani, Link sister for the Province, Mrs. Alice Victor, Lay Coordinator, Sr. Aurea, newly elected to the CLT from the community here at Delhi - 6, four teachers with Sr. Anish Priya from Rohtak, three teachers from Bhalsawa and Sr. Amelina, vice-principal from our school. We were delighted that, despite facing all odds of distance and travelling, so many **Friends of Nano** were able to be together - every heart resonated the feeling of oneness and we shared a sense of the divine.

Sr. Jayarani led us in a reflective prayer service using powerpoint and videos for songs. We were enthralled with the group activity: divided into five groups, we were challenged to present Nano in a unique way. Many devised skits, mono acts, songs and poetry to express Nano. The meeting ended with thanks. A meaningful day spent well, and one which was blessed.



Contributed by Alice Victor



## Ireland



The **Friends of Nano** throughout Ireland have been meeting and celebrating the Nano300 in many different ways throughout the year. Many groups undertook special trips and others participated in events organised in their locality.

**Friends of Nano** with representatives from Waterford, Bandon, Carlow, Hospital and Cork City visited Nano Nagle Place, Cork. This was a special trip for the Tercentenary Year where the Friends took time to reflect at

**Friends of Nano National Gathering** took place in Mount St. Anne's on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October where we continued to concentrate on our value 'Covenant with Creation'. Members travelled from many parts of the country to join in celebrating 'Nano, Child of the Universe'.

Nano's grave and experienced the Cork of Nano and her life's work.

Contributed by  
Anne Dwyer



Nano Nagle 300 concert, in Knock Basilica, presented by students and teachers from the many Presentation Schools in Galway. Some of the Tuam and Athenry **Friends of Nano** groups were also there.







## South America

Quisiera contarles que tenemos en programación varias actividades en celebración del tricentenario del nacimiento de Nano, todas las actividades que iremos realizando tienen como objetivo dar a conocer la vida y pensamiento de Nano, así como su rol de educadora y orientadora espiritual, y su influencia hoy, en esta parte del continente.

Las actividades a realizar, algunas con fechas por definir, tienen como meta cerrar estas celebraciones con una procesión llevando faroles, saliendo desde la Casa Nana Nagle hasta la Iglesia para celebrar una misa al aire libre el próximo 21 de noviembre.

Exposición con la vida en imágenes de Nano en el centro cultural de la Municipalidad de Alto Hospicio Conversatorio sobre el rol de la mujer chilena en una sociedad machista, a la fecha hay 25 mujeres asesinadas en el país. Todas víctimas de violencia doméstica.

El 21 de noviembre lanzaremos un pequeño libro con historias de como Nana a influenciado la vida de las personas que viven en el norte de Chile.

Un grupo irá a los campamentos a entregar técnicas de autoayuda para el bienestar de niños y adultos.

Usaremos las técnicas desarrolladas por la Hermana Margaret Kehoe para aliviar el estrés de los niños a través de ejercicios, meditación y dinámicas de grupo.

Todas estas actividades en proceso de realización, partieron con la publicación en el Diario El Longino el 13 /06/ 2018 con un artículo sobre los trescientos años del nacimiento de Nana y como su legado está vivo en Alto Hospicio.

Translation in the email

Contributed by Nellie Hidalgo



## Newfoundland and Labrador



In August 2018, a two week Pilgrimage to Ireland to visit historic sites depicting Nano's life, took place. The Sisters and Associates who attended, remarked that it was a journey of celebrating Nano's legacy, as well as a personal journey of renewal and commitment to her Charism.

Seana Lee, Associate from St. John's reflected on her experience of the Newfoundland Ireland Pilgrimage, August 11<sup>th</sup>- 24th, 2018:

*'The exceptional organizational skills exhibited by the Presentation Team allowed us to ponder and internalize each phase of the grace-filled , life-giving journey. As we traveled the magnificent countryside and experienced the wonderful hospitality of the Irish Sisters, our hearts were full. ...we walked in Nano's steps, to where she... worshipped and ministered. To be privileged to read her letters and to realize the impact she had in the growth of Presentation, touched me to the core and sparked a renewal of faith and energy. The Pilgrimage didn't end when we arrived back in St. John's Newfoundland. The exhilarating energy of the group, the lasting memories and our deeper consciousness of the Divine will nudge us to take down our lanterns and fan the flame of our God given gifts to further Nano's charism wherever the Spirit leads us.'*



Associates and sisters set out on their grand adventure



Pauline Lake shares some of the celebration stories and plans for this special anniversary year.  
(Click on the 300 image)

Contributed by Bridget Doyle



Celebration cake made and decorated by Stewart Homan

## Aotearoa New Zealand



Nano Nagle, teacher to all  
 Telling children to never let their faith fall  
 Preaching the word of Jesus and God,  
 Whether the news was big or small  
 She wanted to devote her life to help others in need  
 She wanted to open schools for the poor but no one agreed  
 But she didn't care and began to proceed  
 She walked around, lamp in hand  
 Took children across the land  
 Led them to her school of Religious Education  
 Hoping everything will be passed on from generation to generation  
 Sadly she passed after years of teaching  
 Telling her sisters to keep Preaching  
 Keep teaching the children behind the bakery store  
 'Love one another as you have hitherto done. Spend yourselves for the poor'

By JuliAnna age 13

If you find the accent in the video difficult to understand the text is above. Duncan is the reader and he is from Samoa.

Contributed by children and teachers at St Bernadette's School

There has not been a Presentation Sister employed at St Bernadette's school for over 20 years. The charism is kept alive primarily by lay teachers with support and visits from sisters and **Friends of Nano**. Click on the cake to take you to a two minute video on Nano, written and performed by children from the school. The dramatization was part of one of the tercentenary masses celebrated in different areas of New Zealand.



## Pakistan



**Friends of Nano** came from many groups: Peshawar, Jehlum, Risalpur, Sargodha, Josephabad, Rawalpindi. We gathered at national level, in Presentation Convent High School Rawalpindi, to celebrate Nano's 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Beginning with prayer and worship of God, led by Sr. Norris, special Candles were lit by **Friends of Nano**. Celebrating, with a great spirit of thankfulness, we salute the Presentation sisters who share Nano's spirit and passion.

In the program we highlighted her life, spirituality and Charism. It was a privilege to hear one of Nano's Letters: this was thought provoking and inspiring. By reading, and hearing her words, we felt her presence and understood her vision and mission.

Nano's relationship with God was very deep and strong. Each letter shows '**Divine Providence does everything for the best**'.

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners .....' (Luke 4:18)

The Evolving history of **Friends of Nano** and Associates was shared. We had a ceremony in which the **Friends of Nano** committed themselves in the presence of God to continue the mission and vision of Nano and to carry her lantern and take one step beyond. As her Friends, we have been touched by Nano's passion for the poorest of the poor and felt a great privilege to be celebrating the life of this great woman, also known as the lady of the lantern.



Contributed by Carol Sohail Bhatti





## Philippines



The Parolitas (*Friends of Nano*) gathered to reflect on the Tercentenary of the Birth of Venerable Nano Nagle in Cebu. Nano is an inspiration to everyone and strengthens our Faith to serve because of her example in helping the poor. This is a time of thanksgiving for her God-given life ... her dream and mission for educating the children: Nano broken and shared for many.



Photo taken in the newly blessed Garden at the Tercentenary culmination celebration. Those in purple are Parolitas, those in white are Sisters.

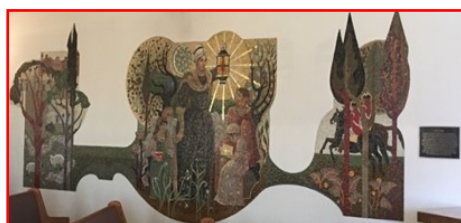
Contributed by Athena Sayson



## USA



The Watts group created a banner to celebrate Nano at the Presentation Learning Center where many former clients now teach the classes.



Contributed by Karen Sacre



*Friends of Nano* in Watts and Cypress, California, made a pilgrimage to see the statue in Orange, as well as the mural of Nano and mosaics in the chapel at St. Joseph's Church in Upland, CA.

On April 26, at a huge celebration of Nano's life at the St. Norbert Catholic School in Orange, California, a new statue of Nano, inspired by a student's sketch, was unveiled. The program involved resident and alumni faculty and students, as well as many parents and visitors, including 16 Presentation Sisters. Participants enjoyed a feast for all the senses, including food, music and student artwork.



*Friends of Nano* in Fargo, North Dakota had their annual gathering for Associate Day. To celebrate the tercentenary anniversary of Nano's birth, the theme this year was **Being Nano Today**. Seventy-three Associates/Sisters and guests participated throughout the day of prayer, reflection, music 'Nano Aflame' contemplative sharing and fellowship.

On October 25, *Friends of Nano* in San Antonio, Texas, celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth with a program, potluck meal, cake and the annual fall raffle drawing at the Presentation Ministry Center.