



# 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

DECEMBER 2020

### At the heart of our movement lies:

#### *A partnership with the Divine*

we attend to God each day and our actions are informed by that commitment.

#### *A passion for the poorest*

we stand with the poorest in society.

#### *A covenant with creation*

honouring all of creation, we live and promote sustainable lives.

It has been several years since the last *Nano's Echo* was produced. It is a pleasure to re-launch the newsletter where the focus will be for us to tell our stories. We are creating our own history daily by the quality of our presence, the way we live our lives, and the actions and activities we engage in.

I am often asked what **Friends of Nano** do. I like to think our motivation is what sets us apart and Nano is our inspiration. As you read the stories in *Nano's Echo* you will find **Friends** who make themselves aware of what is happening in their own area - just like Nano.

**Friends** work out ways to improve the lives of those who are suffering - Nano did that too. **Friends** are networking with like-minded people to create change - and yes, Nano is our role-model for that as

We are creating our own history daily

well. Joan Chittister, Benedictine theologian and author, wrote in her book *The fire in these ashes*, 'It is not what we do; it is why we do it and how we do it that sounds the bell of authenticity'. Joan's quote resonates with us very well.

The stories that are printed in *Nano's Echo*

are just a small snapshot of a very big picture. They will form an archive for those who follow us. In 100 years' time, when **Friends of Nano** look back and wonder how we managed in the great pandemic of 2020, they will discover groups of resourceful, resilient people who found ways of connecting when they couldn't leave their homes: people who reached out to the most vulnerable; groups who continued to live our core values in the most challenging of times. Please keep recording your stories.

Mary-Ann Greaney

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



The seven C words were discerned at the 2011 international gathering in Ballygriffin.

## Nano and our daily life

The core values, or guiding principles, inform our work and our development as a movement. Our logo, a triple spiral, is a visual reminder of what lies at the centre of our endeavours, inspired by Nano's way. We endeavour to give practical expression to these core

values in our own daily lives through the following characteristics of her charism:

- **compassion** for those most in need
- **commitment** to our aims, persevering with our work
- **courage** in the face of

setbacks and difficulties

- **confidence** in Divine providence
- **creativity** in exploring innovative solutions
- **in communion** with our fellow Friends of Nano and others

all underpinned by the practice of **contemplation**.

An ancient Irish legend may be worth reflecting on as we struggle with waves of Covid - 19: 'the sweetest and the finest music is the music of what is happening'.

## Two stories of our partnership with the Divine

### Living the Core Values of the Friends of Nano in Newfoundland and Labrador today

#### Partnership with the Divine

Conscious that the Divine is within each of us, and all of Creation, we find ways to enhance the value of all people. We are inspired by Nano's generosity of Spirit, hospitality, and love to be of service to others, especially the youth, the sick, the poor, the elderly, and the imprisoned.

The Presence of God in our lives makes us more aware and grateful to respond to the needs of others.



#### Passion for the Poorest

We need to acknowledge that we are poor ourselves so we can identify with the poor in society. We participate in actions that help ease the pain of poverty by exploring ways of linking youth with the elderly in homes in practical ways of being of assistance such as providing transportation to meet various needs. We collaborate with other groups such as the Saint Vincent de Paul to provide food and fellowship with people in need.

#### Covenant with Creation

Living the universe's story, we realize that we are all One with each other, and with all of creation.

We are called to care for the Earth – our common home. To fail to do so is to jeopardize our very lives. Our efforts to recycle, conserve water, plant trees, limit our use of plastics, and carpool are ways to preserve our Earth's resources.

**Eileen Coombs**

### Associate Leaders Gather Virtually in the USA

Late in 2019, Presentation Associate Leaders as well as Congregational Leaders across North America had ideas brewing about meeting and sharing information about our programs and how we could learn from each other. In January, an initial meeting happened and there was so much energy and connection among the groups that we set up another time to meet to continue the conversation. This session was equally enriching and Associate Leaders have continued to meet on a regular basis since that time. We have a google drive for documents and materials and we enjoy a shared vision of helping each other in our ministry of associate leadership. We are still learning and discovering but many hope, that in the future, we can join together in justice projects, awareness and ministry, either in person or virtually.



Initially, we anticipated that our meeting would, at least partially, be an introduction to each other. It has developed into so much more and we now enjoy a monthly connection that enriches and inspires the attendees. We have decided that when we run out

of discussion topics, the time frame will be re-evaluated. Virtual connections have developed in ways we couldn't anticipate and we are enthusiastically building relationships. We plan to gather in person in 2021. Each group of **Associates**, **Cojourners**, or **Friends of Nano** is unique in its own right yet the shared connection of the Presentation Charism brings us together across the miles and time zones.

**Carrie Hansen**



## Three stories of our passion for the poorest

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Josephabad, Pakistan



**Friends of Nano** is a worldwide community of lay women and men who share a 'passion for the poorest' living in 'partnership with the Divine' and making a 'covenant with creation'. It is a movement that has grown in strength and vibrancy over the years. It is evolving and all over the world, women and men are carrying the mission and vision of Nano with great zeal and enthusiasm. In Pakistan also the **Friends of Nano**



**Nano** are carrying the mission of Nano. We visit the needy and reach out to the ones in need. Our enthusiastic members throughout the country are serving and carrying the flame of Nano but, due to pandemic COVID-19 that everyone is suffering throughout the world, sadly we couldn't continue our work. When the situation is improving we will continue the mission of Nano and will share the passion for the poor again and will work on the SDGs.

In February 2020, in the village of Josephabad where people are facing a lot of problems, a short survey and visit was done and SDGs were discussed. People shared the problems they are facing. The young people were encouraged to clean the village. We are hoping to work with them in future regarding the problems they are facing (especially the lack of clean water).

**Carol Sohail Bhatti**

### A story of gratitude from North India



As a young man, studying at Delhi University, I first met Mithlesh Jha whom we addressed as 'Bhel-puri Bhaiya', showing our respect for him and the Bhel-puri (a tangy, spicy savoury snack made with puffed rice) which he served with warmth and an ever-smiling countenance. Though his stall was in a corner, it was popular among students. He knew us all *and* when we had spent our allowance but needed food!



This year, accompanying my Mother for her Cancer treatment, imagine my amazement at seeing him outside the gates selling Bhel-puri. After identifying him under his facial mask of Covid times, I discovered he was unemployed (since lockdown) and savings spent. Hunger and the plight of his family compelled him to come out in such testing times. I bought a plate of Bhel-puri, paying him extra, but couldn't forget his plight. Anxious to do something, I contacted my college friends on WhatsApp. Most were shocked and expressed sympathy, but one, who is associated with an NGO, knew what to do. Using Facebook we spread the word throughout the University community and within two days had collected Rs. 2 lakhs. By each contributing a small amount we had been able to help someone in need.

Playing a minor role in providing succor, I have peace of mind and an increased belief in the power of gratitude. May God and Ven. Nano Nagle continue guiding the **Friends of Nano** in making this world a better place.

**Sherin George**

### Supply of groceries during Covid-19 in South India



In July, the **Friends of Nano** Community of Egmore, Chennai in South India, decided, during their monthly meeting, that we needed to act to help poor people during the pandemic. Sr. Celine suggested we help a small village called Thozhuthavur so we got in touch with the Parish Priest, Fr. Balraj, to gather details of the village and discover the needs of the people. We found there were 163 families who were not able to leave their village due to 'lockdown' and they were

struggling for basic needs of food and clothing.

We were able to collect sufficient funds to purchase groceries for a month for all the families in the Parish. All the groceries were purchased and packed for distribution. On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020, these were taken to the village and distributed to the families who assembled at the Church premises, under the supervision of the Parish Priest. The villagers were incredibly happy to receive their share.

**Sancta Maria**

## A story of our covenant with creation

### Making real the Covenant with Creation in Aotearoa New Zealand



**Friends of Nano** all over the world are making a difference simply by choosing to live their lives underpinned by Presentation values. Click on the image to take you to a chapter from a book on eco-spirituality, *Living in the Planet Earth*. The chapter tells some stories of how **Friends of Nano** have been transformed by participating in workshops, retreats, and engaging in consultation with the International Presentation world.



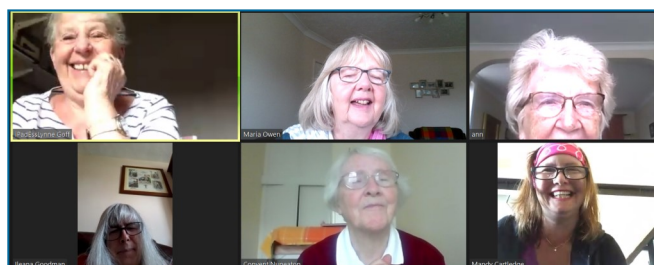
**Mary-Ann Greaney**

## Three stories of Friends of Nano during Covid-19

### News from the English Unit

In November 2019, after many years of work, energy and commitment to the Associate movement in England, Sr Teresa Phelan completed her role as Link Sister and Sr Mary Deane took over the reins. The New Year brought the promise of change with Brexit looming on the horizon.

On 31st January the first two cases of Covid-19 in England were confirmed. By March the virus was spreading and England went into **lockdown** - all meetings were stopped. Many **Friends of Nano**: Presentation Sisters and Associates are of the 'shielding' age so needed to keep safe and stay home.



In these unusual times we adapted to new ways of connecting and, as we had to cancel our Annual Assembly, looked for another way to meet. With some trepidation and excitement we gathered on 20 June 2020 for our Zoom Meeting. From many parts of England, from Ireland and the Holy Land, over 50 participants came together on-line for an engaging, informative and enlightening few hours. If you would like to see something of our Zoom

Assembly click on this link: <https://sites.google.com/view/copyoffriendsofnano-presentati/home>

We still hope to have a special liturgy with Sr Teresa later in the year to celebrate and express our gratitude for all that she has done. Meanwhile we continue to meet by phone, email and social media keeping in contact with each other and up-to-date with world events.

**Maria Owen**

### Living our Lives with a Welcoming Heart in the US

Our **Friends of Nano** group has been a blessing! We come together twice a month for prayer and faith-sharing while learning and reflecting on the life of Nano Nagle. This prayer group has helped us deepen our faith in God while challenging us to live our lives as Nano did...with welcoming hearts, full of compassion and care. It's this type of heart which is needed so desperately during this difficult time.



As we set out to follow in Nano's footsteps, in the midst of this pandemic, our focus has been on putting our compassion and care for others into action. Knowing that many of the seniors in our parish have been experiencing isolation, we began a ministry where volunteers reached out to those most vulnerable. When contacting these parishioners, we let them know they were in our prayer and we were available, should they need our assistance in running errands. While we found ourselves picking up groceries for some, or getting refills of medicines for others, this ministry seemed to be more about making connections. As many

were anxious to share, we heard stories of their experiences and realized this human connection was greatly appreciated. It was a simple act of kindness, a way of sharing compassion that was so characteristic of Nano: a simple way of sharing our welcoming heart.

May we live each day as Nano did...with a WELCOMING HEART!

**Loretta Bowen**

## Friends of Nano Ireland



Greetings from Ireland, to all the **Friends of Nano**. During these challenging times our members have continued to support one another, even from a distance. In March our lives changed when Lockdown began. **Friends of Nano** groups could no longer gather to meet.



During Lockdown the **Athenry** group appreciated the green fields and open spaces where they could walk freely and safely in the open air. Their members missed social interaction with their groups but were fortunate to be able to visit the Church and hear Mass on the radio. On reflecting the group said "We realised we had plenty. We hear the birds sing. We spoke daily, by phone, to friends and family. WE LISTENED".

**Athenry Group** them by webcam. A very special occasion for all the Friends. Fr. Francis spoke of Nano Nagle as a Beacon of Hope shining her light to help us at this time.

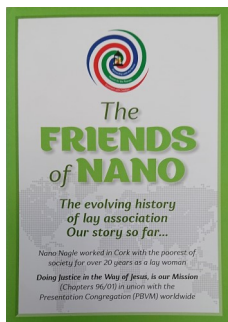
The **South Pres Friends of Nano** are planning an outdoor meeting at Nano's grave in September. They continue to learn more about Nano: recent research, in St. Finbarr's Church Baptismal Register, named Nano Nagle as a sponsor at the baptism of James Roche in 1773. Bringing Nano ever closer to us with this recorded event.

Before Lockdown the **Ballyphehane** group were actively promoting Care for Creation. Informing people in their local area of practical actions they could take in their homes to help save our planet.

We are now restricted as to what we can do but we continue to pray, thus keeping Nano's lantern burning.

**Anne Dwyer**

## Some resources that may be helpful



Click on the image to take you to a short history of the **Friends of Nano** that may easily be printed. The document helps us understand the breadth, depth, and diversity of the movement.

A beautiful collection for private or group reflection. Just a click away.



Click on the emblem to take you to the new website.



## Socially Distant

Mary,  
with your sister and some others,  
you stood on Calvary  
at a distance,  
helpless with grief as Jesus died.  
There are many today  
in this pandemic crisis  
who cannot be with those they love  
who lie ill, perhaps dying.  
All must remain *socially distant*,  
unable to hold or even touch  
lest the virus spreads.  
Be with those who feel so helpless.  
Comfort the healthy and the sick.  
Ease the stress that distance imposes.  
Open us to the strength you found  
and to the peace no distance can disturb.  
[Mark 15:40-41; John 19:25-27]

Fr. James Lyons



## Thanks to the International team who created Nano's Echo

Nano Nagle wrote letters and it is still a lovely way to communicate with people. Today, **Friends of Nano** often use technology to collaborate with others across the globe. However, as we have discovered during this pandemic, many of our parishioners and our friends do not have computers or smartphones. Some have no access to the internet or poor reception. Globally only 57% of the world's population has internet access. During this pandemic we might have discovered who these people are in our own area. It would be good to hear how we share *Nano's Echo* with those without a computer.



English is not spoken by all **Friends of Nano** and we are trying to overcome this obstacle. The team has created a full *Nano's Echo* in Spanish. We can look at producing future *Nano's Echo* in other languages if you think it would be helpful – to do this we will need the help of those of you who speak the language. **If you can help with this please e-mail [m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz) especially those of you in Africa, India, and Pakistan.**



Grateful thanks to **Maria Owen from England** who is translating everything into Spanish using an app.

Thank you to **Nelly Hidalgo from Chile** who is taking the Spanish translation and editing it – yes it does need fixing!

**Mary-Ann Greaney from Aotearoa New Zealand** puts the newsletter together.

**Karen Sacre from the USA** is our proof reader.

In future **Athena Sayson from the Philippines** will gather the stories and they may be sent to Athena at

[athenz008@yahoo.com](mailto:athenz008@yahoo.com).

We would love you to contribute your gifts to make *Nano's Echo* a tool for networking, sharing information, good ideas, **Friends of Nano** videos and more. Are you an artist, or a poet?

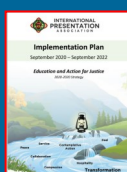
There is a contact person in each Unit. If you do not know who your local contact is e-mail Mary-Ann and she will send the details [m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz).

### IPA Corner

Click on the images to take you to a treasure trove.



IPA Strategy  
2020 - 2022



Education and  
Action for Justice



IPA news and  
contacts

### The 'Fairy Tale' of Nano Nagle

A dramatic  
imagining of  
Nano Nagle's  
early life  
launched on  
Presentation  
Day 2020

