



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 2022

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.

A newsletter to connect everyone who is drawn to Nano Nagle. A sharing of ideas and a deepening understanding of Nano and her impact in our lives - locally and globally.

Advent: A season of meaning

December has finally arrived. Along with the Christmas celebration, it also signals the beginning of the Advent season - a time for solemn reflection. This is the time to light the candles of our Advent Wreath, one each week. These candles signify hope, love, joy and peace, respectively.

The last candle which represents the life of Christ will be lit on Christmas Eve. Along with the preparation of our

Advent Wreath, we must also prepare ourselves to receive Jesus Christ in our hearts - the greatest gift of God to the whole world. This is a season of reflection, a time for celebration. The Advent Season provides us the hope that there will be another coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Above any physical and worldly arrangements, it is our hearts

that need the most preparation. We must pave the way to our hearts and become ready to receive Him wholeheartedly. Today, we should ask ourselves: if Jesus is to arrive anytime, **are we prepared** enough for Him? Start by clearing your heart of any hate,

sorrow, and sinfulness. Reconnect with your loved ones. Do something that will bring you peace within. Share your blessings; better yet, become



yourself a blessing to other people. Advent season is all about making our life and that of others meaningful and worthy of salvation that is gifted to us through the life of Jesus Christ.



Renz Vincent Garcia
Philippines

How do we revision the Christmas devotion to 'the baby in the manger' to that of an empowering faith for adult engagement? Diarmuid O'Murchu

Click on the picture to view the six minute video of the nativity story told using stones to create beautiful pictures. Suitable for old and young alike.



Christmas: Re-birthing the human face of God made radically visible on earth.
Diarmuid O'Murchu

Celebrating Presentation Day

Installation of Nano statue



On
November
18, 2022,



St. Joseph School in Upland, California,

America

held a special prayer service to install a statue of Nano Nagle in the Lantern Garden, a newly dedicated space for prayer. Years ago, members of the school community fell ill and the students responded with daily prayers. The Nano Nagle prayer, written by two beautiful Presentation People and recited every morning, is etched on a plaque in the garden. Names were added asking Nano to intercede on behalf of all the people of the community in need of God's help. Individual recipients of these prayers over the years were invited to attend the service. Also present in person or via Zoom were some sisters and **Friends of Nano.**



The school choir members are **Friends of Nano** too, serving people in a nearby Rehabilitation Center with their time and talent. This month students sang Christmas songs for residents, who often feel lonely or forgotten. Nano took her lantern and visited the sick of her community. Students are shining Nano's light of compassion and love today.

Another school tradition has been for the 7th graders to present a play depicting the story of Nano's life around the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple, the event beautifully depicted on a mural in one of the hallways, in honor of the Sisters who used to renew their vows on that day. For this year's performance, [click on painting.](#)



Sandra Alamo-Ng
Principal
USA

Novena Gathering

Vulnerability in relationship with earth

We often forget that we are nature. Nature is not something separate from us. So, when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we've lost our connection to ourselves. **Andy Goldsworthy**



North India



Friends of Nano came together for four days of Novena, remembering and praying for the Presentation people in England, Ireland, the Holy Land, and Slovakia.

We invited the group to feel the earth and plant a seed in a pot with an awareness that we are part of nature and nature is not something separate from us. Consequently, we realized that we are part of the community of life, partners, and participants rather than stewards, in a sacred covenant with a creation that contributes to the table of life. This is a time when we must choose for we know now that "Earth is our only Bank". It was an awareness that the brokenness of our world challenges us to become persons and communities of reconciliation, hope, and celebration. The whole creation is charged with Divine presence. Wherever we turn is the face of God, pulsating with the heartbeat of the Holy One, permeating with the breath of God.

Reflection:

What choices can I make in my life to express an awareness of the sacredness of Creation?
How are we as FON called to bring about reconciliation and healing to Earth?

We solemnly concluded the Novena with a hymn of Ven. Nano - **Who will light the lantern...**



Molly Joseph PBVM
Link Sister
North India

Novena via Zoom

The **Friends of Nano** Core Team, that includes the Link Sister, offered a nightly Novena Zoom at 7pm to enable those who would have been on their own, to gather as a group. On several nights we were delighted to be joined, from Rome, by Anne Lyons PBVM, who said she would otherwise have been praying it on her own. There were probably equal numbers of **Friends of Nano** and Sisters. Members of the Core Team led on different nights.

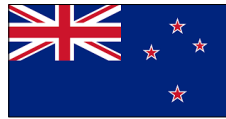


England



Maria Owen
England

Friends of Nano collaborate with school for Presentation Day celebration



New Zealand



Note the hand-painted altar cloth with an image taken from one of the panels in the Icon. The artist is **Stewart Homan**, *Friend of Nano*, painted in the late 1980's.



Mary-Anne Kindell
New Zealand

Our covenant with creation



Click on the picture to take you to a one-hour webinar on **Caring for soil**, presented by Cathriona Russell. You may see parts of your country in the presentation. Thank you to **Maureen O'Connell PBVM** from Ireland for sending the link to us.



What would happen if our natural resources ran out?

Click on the photo to take you to a **Readers Digest** article that will explain. It makes for frightening reading, so not for the faint hearted!

Answering Nano's call

Nano Nagle is the greatest thing that has happened in my life



Chile



When I met Nano, my life was good, but of course it was good just for me, because I was not aware of the world that existed outside my house.

When I became part of the group "**Friends of Nano Nagle**", I learned about her life and what she did for other people. I realized that we all have the gift to be able to help other people, we just don't know it. A whole new world opened up for me.

Nano is like a mother to me. She has taught me that life is much more than what you see with your eyes. With her I began to see people with the eyes of the heart. I see in others their pain, their joy, their love.

It has changed everything in me. I understand now that the world is part of me; the neighbors, the plants, and that UNIVERSAL LOVE dwells in me.

Nano Nagle is the greatest thing that has happened in my life. She helped me in the transformation that has happened in me. She helps all of us, in particular things, in everyday things, in simple things and things for the heart.

I would like to tell you that days ago I experienced Nano's help. I was looking for a figure of her and I could not find one. I was very tired, so I said, "Nano Nagle help me.... this is for you, for your celebration", and it happened. I found the place and people who helped me, and it was very funny, because I did not think it would happen so effectively and quickly. I realized that it was her achievement more than mine.

She guided me to becoming a Healing Touch therapist and she is my guide for the therapies. She is good; she shows me the love of the people and shows me that I must follow the good side of life, that I shouldn't deviate from that.

My great learning is that life is not only to live, but that I have to help other people, and try to help the earth get out of the chaos we are in.



Olga Pastene
Chile

Jesus is the affirmation, confirmation and celebration of all we achieved over 7,000,000 years of human evolution. Diarmuid O'Murchu

Nano's spirit has led me back to the future



America



Presentation Mission has shaped my life and leadership. My journey began with a pilgrimage to the home of Nano Nagle in 1998. The experience taught me what it means to live one's mission, vision, and values and revealed the power in connecting spirituality and leadership. Witnessing Nano's passion and early vision revealed how **we draw from incredible resources of the past** in our awesome responsibility of advancing the movement. We are the reality of dreams founded on great faith.

The pilgrimage piqued my curiosity, and I began to wonder more deeply about the interconnectedness of one's life and livelihood. I kept this inner journey alive through my decision to become an Associate and ultimately dedicated my PhD dissertation to the Presentation Sisters, who taught me that "doing what needs to be done" can best be accomplished when life and livelihood are integrated. My research question was: "How do leaders use spiritual practice to become self-aware and critically reflective of their role and responsibility as ethical leaders?"

My call to vocation has led me to serve in higher education, healthcare, and human services; and today, in the twilight of my career, I have come full circle. I began by helping single mothers and now serve as the Executive Director of Jeremiah Program whose mission is "to disrupt the cycle of poverty for single mothers and their children, two generations at a time." One thing for sure is that Nano's spirit has led me back to the future.



Lonnie Pedersen
USA

Nano taught me to touched the hearts of the marginalized.

I come from Aitape, Papua New Guinea, and serve as a Resource Teacher for children with disabilities. I am also the Secretary of the **Friends of Nano**. When I started teaching In 2004 I met Benedine Telemai PBVM, and we taught together at the same school for three years. During those years I became a close friend to the Presentation Sisters. Spending time with them I got to know a little bit about Nano Nagle.

When I transferred to teach in a town school in 2016 I was introduced to the **Friends of Nano** Group. I attended meetings where we discussed important agendas. We fundraise to support the group especially with the running costs. We visit the hospital, prison, elderly and disabled people.

At first I did not understand why I had to dig into my



Papua New Guinea

pocket to help the disadvantaged but as I continued to read about Nano Nagle's charism, I was moved by how she helped others from what she had. Nano reached out to the needy, even in the night with her lantern. She brought hope, love and compassion where ever she went. She really touched the hearts of the marginalized. That strengthened me to continue to do my visitations so I may also touch the hearts of the most needy people.



Jacqueline Keri
Papua New Guinea

In solidarity

Cranes for Ukraine



Iona Presentation College senior students came together to make paper cranes for Ukraine. The students were aware that the crane has always been a strong symbol of success and good fortune in Japanese culture. When the crane is folded into origami, it is believed that one's heart desire will come true. The heart desire of Iona students was symbolised in their coming together as a faith community to fold, to reflect, to pray and to speak about their hope for the people of Ukraine to experience peace. The students folded over 1000 cranes that were made into works of art.

College **Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity, Gemma Thomson**, along with Anna Fewer PBVM, attended Mass at the Ukrainian Catholic Church and presented the cranes to the Ukrainian community. During the presentation Gemma shared, "As Catholics, we stand in solidarity with one another, and journey together through what are very challenging times for your families and your community, both here and abroad. Please be assured of our continued love and prayers for peace, and that we admire the strength, courage, and commitment to faith of the Ukrainian people. In educating our students it is our hope that they will be bearers of light and hope, and actively live out the Gospel in a time when this is so needed in our modern world."



Gemma Thomson
Western Australia



Australia

Children helping children



The **Friends of Nano** are thankful to our parents and students who are very supportive.

With their help we were able to collect a variety of items ranging from food to school supplies. These items were taken to Jairos Jiri by the Grade 5 Class. This is an annual trip and when delivering the items, the boys were able to pray and play with the children.



Africa

Naome Pasipamire Zimbabwe

Nano through the eyes of a child



Our Presentation Schools are a treasure trove of Nano experts.

Varshika H.V. is a student at St Kevin's School in Chennai. Click on the image of the school to see Varshika present her Nano wisdom (three minutes). Many other youngsters are equally talented. If you have videos you would like to share with the world do send them to Athena (details bottom of page).



John Britto
South India

Gathering together



Associate get together, Grand Falls - Windsor

Newfoundland



Sandy Butler PBVM, Link Sister and Eileen Coombs, our Unit Coordinator for the West and Central, came to meet our Associates and to spend some time in prayer, reflection and sharing. A quiet reflection of the video song, **You are the face of God**, by Karen Drucker, set the atmosphere. Sandy noted as Presentation, we are no longer just us. We are international. The song had an international tone to it. Sandy also shared the importance of 'being', rather than always being conscious of 'doing'. In keeping with this, the Presentation Newfoundland and Labrador Associate handbook, on the purpose of Associate relationship was quoted,

emphasizing that we are in relationship as Associates.

Iris Walsh read from Philip Newell's book, **Praying with the earth**. That lent itself to some deep sharing that gave life-giving energy to the group.

Two questions were presented for reflection and sharing:

Where do I see the face of God?

Is it sometimes difficult to see the face of God present in our world and what makes it difficult?

At the conclusion of the session, we shared afternoon tea together before Sandy and Eileen left for the West Coast. It was a positive experience of being together in relationship.



Lorraine Paddick
Newfoundland

Nano's Echo production team

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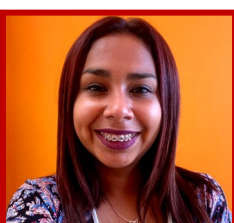
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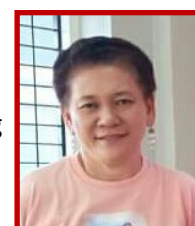
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