



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

MARCH 2023

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.

Our new leadership structure

Where do we come from? This is a question many people ask and our family history is a way of understanding ourselves.

Nano Nagle was a laywoman who lived in the 18th Century during a time when the lives of Irish Catholics were severely restricted by English Penal Laws. Nano, against all odds, became the founder of a religious order now known as Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM). The PBVM Order continues to survive and in 2013 Pope Francis declared Nano Nagle 'Venerable'.

Over 60 years ago Pope John XXIII called for Vatican II. This resulted in the Church opening its doors, examining every aspect of Church life and revisiting its liturgy. Two of the decrees, *Perfectae Caritatis* and *Lumen Gentium*, recommended religious orders revisit the Charism of their founders and find ways to become more relevant with the times. In the decades that followed, the General Chapter meetings of the Presentation Sisters looked at welcoming lay people as 'Associates'. Guidelines were established for the movement and often the meetings were held in local convents. Over the 40 years of Associates, many lay people have been gifted with Nano's Charism and adopted Nano's model of being of service to others.

In 2009 the Congregational Leadership Team reflected on what it meant to be 'associated' and invited two Associates from each Unit to explore the development of an International Network of **Friends of Nano**. This took place in Ballygriffin in 2011. After a life-giving gathering, the representatives returned to their home Units to strengthen the **Friends of Nano** movement or sow the seeds where it didn't exist. A Formation Team continued to summarise the shared wisdom and experiences, and these became our core values. As Associates/**Friends of Nano** we have endeavoured to give practical expression of these values, in the light of Nano's Charism, through compassion, commitment, courage, confidence, creativity, in communion with other Presentation People.... and all these values are underpinned by the practice of contemplation.

Following the 2012 Congregational Gathering, the Movement was reviewed and it was decided to form a team to lead an International Presentation Lay Movement for Mission. This Team reinvigorated the movement across the

Changes are just around the corner



Thank you to Sue McGregor, PBVM, from Zambia for the cartoon of some of our Unit Coordinators. Do you recognize any of them? From the top Naome Pasipamire (Africa), Maria Owen (England), Caroline Thompson (Australia), Karen Sacre (USA), and Dhira Madan (North India). [Click on any face](#) to take you to a 20 min video that explains our new structure.

Cont. next page

From pg. 1 globe through collaboration and sharing the work of the **Friends of Nano**, amongst all Presentation People, through the periodical: **Nano's Echo**.

The new Congregational Leadership Team elected in 2018 discerned an International Coordinator would best serve the development of the movement. Mary-Ann Greaney from New Zealand was invited to be the International Animator and, being a great communicator and collaborator, she was soon in contact with Unit Coordinators and Link Sisters organising zoom meetings and 'looking' for the way forward. The International Movement has co-responsibility for the PBVM mission and ministers collaboratively alongside the Sisters and other like-minded people. **Friends of Nano** have responsibility for our communication, formation, the promotion of the movement among new and younger members, and the promotion of leadership.



Maria Owen
Communication
Team Leader
England

Increasingly 'Presentation People' is being used as an inclusive term as it encompasses the IPA; PBVM Union; the Australian Society and Conference of Presentation Sisters.

We know that significant ministry is happening in every corner of the Presentation world, while also appreciating different cultures and geography can make a difference as to how each task may be accomplished. Our ultimate goal is for the continuation of Nano's mission among the poorest of the poor. Over the past months we have formed three teams to collaborate and support an International Leadership Team:

The **Communication Team** has wide ranging tasks including finding a way everyone can have an equal voice and communicate in a way that is understood by every

culture. The five team members come from North India, Philippines, Ireland, England, and South India. A WhatsApp Group has been set up for ease of communication.

The three members of the **Formation Team** are already discovering what resources are available and looking at a number of related tasks including how to meet the needs of new members. The team members come from Australia, USA, and North India and have also set up a WhatsApp Group.

The **Young Members Team** come from Africa, Philippines, and South India. Their tasks will involve the schools and focus on sharing Nano's charism, sowing and identifying seeds of faith during what could be a relatively short time of association.

Led by Mary-Ann Greaney, the leaders of these Teams form the International Leadership Team. This exists to support your ministry and will continue to collaborate with all Unit Sisters and Coordinators as in the past. The various tasks of the Teams are listed on the video (8 mins into the video - link provided on front page).

Promotion of Leadership is an important task of all Teams - although we are each responsible for encouraging others to use their leadership qualities. No two leaders are alike and all have their own gifts. We need to identify the time commitment given to a leadership role and by working collaboratively ensure no one is overburdened. Let us pray for good leaders so that we can continue to follow the path of faith Nano began**'By degrees with the assistance of God we may do a great deal.'**

Light the lantern

Light the Lantern, a gathering of Presentation People in Sioux Falls, U.S.A. Love, laughter and excitement flowed as over 130 Presentations from across North America and one from Australia gathered together to share an experience of living and exploring the gift of Nano's charism.



Through listening, sharing, and building relationships, the spirit of Nano was embodied and dreams for the future of Presentation people were developed.

Carrie
Hansen



Meet our new teams

Formation



Caroline Thompson
Australia




Karen Sacre
America




Helen Pinto
North India

Leader


Communication




Maria Owen
England




John Mendes
South India



Sorcha O'Brien
Ireland



Ariel Solina
Philippines



Dhira Madan
North India

Leader

Young members



Isabel Thomas
South India



Naome Pasipamire
Africa



Ronel Sapuan
Philippines

Leader

Friends of Nano Leadership Team



Mary-Ann Greaney
New Zealand

Leader



Isabel Thomas
South India



Maria Owen
England



Caroline Thompson
Australia

Answering Nano's call

All of us have been touched by Nano's words



Chile



The warm gleams of your magical light travel thousands of kilometers...

They cross the limits of time, to find me, to shelter me, to wake me up from a long night, from a dark time.

My lethargic soul begins to awaken, I feel your generous company and your voice like a cautious gazelle, announcing that it is time to bring forth energy, to illuminate the days to come and that the time of long and dark nights will be no more.

Friend Nano Nagle, with your silent voice you have repeated so many times that you will never leave, you are a time traveler, you watch over my dreams, giving me calmness and security.

I can only thank you, dear Nano, because since you appeared, good things have made space in my life, in my present, as well as your legacy that never stops, permeates my heart and the hearts of those most in need, crossing borders, breaking down the walls of thousands of souls who yearn for a voice of encouragement like yours.

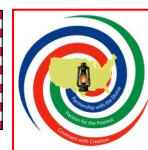
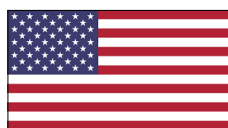
Today I am and we are.

All of us who have been touched by your words, living testimony that a sincere and disinterested initiative echoes in the deepest recesses of each being, bringing out the most beautiful desires to continue advancing towards a community free of prejudice, in a constant search for a deeper and truer union.



Jeanette Sepúlveda Osorio

Presentation mission has shaped my views and relationships



America

The Presentation mission has shaped my views and relationships in subtle and gradual ways over the past nine years. First, as I learned about the life and work of Nano and the charism of the Presentation community, I knew I had 'found my people' and come home. Next, I gradually came to understand on a deep level, I was a beloved child of the Creator and, if that is true for me, it is true for all of humanity.

The more I participated in retreats, days of reflection and celebrations with the sisters and fellow associates, the more I knew I am an integral part of this community and am connected to Nano and the Presentation sisters throughout history. I have been challenged to rethink my relationships with my spouse, my family, and the wider world, as viewed through the lens of unconditional love and acceptance, just as I have been loved unconditionally by the community and by my Creator. And as the lens widened, I have realized that my purpose - our collective purpose - is to love and to serve those made poor and those forgotten. I feel like the community at large is a lightning rod and a conduit for causes and organizations working for the same mission.

Finally, I have realized that I can fulfill the mission of Nano and the Presentation community in small but meaningful ways in my everyday life, by being mindful to be loving and caring, and 'doing what needs to be done.'



Catherine Miyamoto



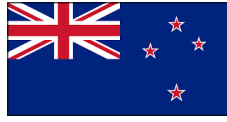
Charism resource

'Ready to use' worksheets and reflections, great ideas for exploring the Presentation legacy, prayers for every occasion, and much more.



For more information and how to order click on Nano's image.

I loved raising money for Presentation ministries in Chile and Papua New Guinea



New Zealand



I'm almost 91 years old and my memory is not what it used to be, but I have clear recollections of meeting Mother Vianney (RIP), PBVM, in the 1950s in the original convent. I joined the mission circle to support Presentation ministries in Chile and Papua New Guinea. I enjoyed making cards to sell and getting to know other sisters especially Srs Joseph Mary (RIP), Celine Prendergast (RIP), and Breda Ryan. I also baked many loaves to help raise money – they always sold well. On the day of the gala I had the sweet stall and along with Anita (**Friend of Nano** RIP) received the contributions and packaged them up into small paper bags for sale the

following day.

When Celine, PBVM, took responsibility for the mission circle in the 1980s I became a **Friend of Nano**. These days I enjoy praying with other **Friends of Nano** and participating in learning courses about Nano Nagle. I have a drawer full of memorabilia from my time with the Sisters and **Friends of Nano**. I especially love coming together for Presentation BBQs and garden parties.

Jean Beaumont



Friends of Nano gave me a platform to reach out to the poor

Someone rightly said 'An empty mind is a Devil's workshop,' but worse than an empty mind I think an empty stomach is the brain of the devil.

Some time ago I decided to keep a fast. The day I kept the fast I still remember my whole mind was focused on only one thing – **food**. Whether I tried to read a book, watch a video or speak to someone, I noticed ultimately my mind would wander to the one and only topic – **food**. On analysis it seemed at that moment as though that was the most important event: everything else seemed trivial.

My love for the 'Education of the Girl Child' is what drew me to join the **Friends of Nano**. I always felt that for society to grow and prosper it is vital that women play an important role. And what better way is there to uplift women if not by educating them? The stories I heard about venerable Nano's humble yet brave endeavors for the upliftment of the underprivileged drew me to do something from my side to fulfill the cause.

The first point that kept pricking me when I tried to help poor students with their studies was as I mentioned above, the 'Empty Stomach'. How can a child who is hungry ever think of concentrating on studies when I,



North India



being an elder, could not bear hunger for just a few hours?

I can still vividly remember the late Sr. Martha and how in her little ways she showed love and compassion to the poor students, to the point of providing a tiffin (snack) to some of them.

Friends of Nano gave me a platform where I felt that I could help the cause by being a part of this organization. When we were deciding ways to promote Ven. Nano's mission, I was very happy that we were able to plan outreach programmes termed 'Ambassadors of love' where we could reach out in different ways to the poor in society.

It has been a fulfilling journey and each day is yet another milestone to be reached in order to make a difference in the lives of others, just like Ven. Nano Nagle did.

Anna Pinto



'Though you nor I should not live to see it prosper in our time, yet I hope it may hereafter and be of universal service to the kingdom.'

From Nano to Teresa Mulally, 31 January 1783

Nano's final Easter

Easter Sunday in 1784 was on April 11. During Holy week Nano read the Passion story three times each day in different schools. On Holy Thursday she kept an eleven hour vigil - all on her knees. It was discovered after her death that her knees were severely ulcerated. Nano and her sisters enjoyed a wonderful Easter Sunday celebration. Just six days later Nano became seriously ill. Ursuline Sister Angela Fitzsimons wrote to Teresa Mulally on 21 May 1784 with a first hand account of Nano's final days.



An inflammation had been long formed in her lungs; a violent cough, great oppression, and total weakness, were the symptoms; but she never once complained, not even of the blister, and had hopes of recovering, till about twenty-four hours before her death. On seeing her blood quite corrupted and inflamed, she knew it was impossible; however, she sent money to three of her favourite children to desire them to pray for her recovery, if it was for the glory of God, that she might have more time to prepare for eternity.

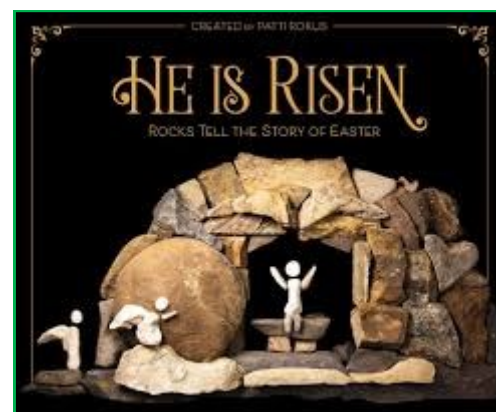
The doctors would not permit her to receive the last sacraments 'till about seven hours before she died, lest the application and extraordinary devotion would exhaust her too much, as they still had hopes that God would spare her longer to the poor and distressed, to whom she was a tender mother. She expired about one o'clock on Monday, the 26 April, the sixth day of her illness.

It has been 235 years since Nano died, and her memory and dream lives on in young and old the world over. Take some time to reflect on the ways that you keep Nano's memory alive. How are others doing it?

Mary-Ann Greaney, New Zealand

The Easter season is a time of hope. There is still fear, there is still a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there is also light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God's presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when that presence is not directly noticed. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining the Scriptures to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life.

(Author unknown)



[Click on the image for the Easter story \(2min\)](#)

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