



In this issue:

- EPS Group Cheque Presentation at Nano Nagle Birthplace
- The Purpose of Presentation School Is...
- Restorative Justice in Newfoundland, Canada
- News From the USA
- Important Dates in April

### ***EPS Group Cheque Presentation at Nano Nagle Birthplace***

Submitted by: Sr Lois Greene

On Saturday 26 February 2022, the Director of Nano Nagle Birthplace, Sr Lois Greene, PBVM received a cheque for €250 from EPS Group, Mallow, Co Cork. In support of a clean water distribution project, under the supervision of the Presentation Congregation in the Philippines where several recent typhoons polluted water and made clean water too expensive for those without employment.



L-R: Timmy Mulchinock, Sr Eileen Nash, Tadhg Mulchinock (EPS), Sr Lois Greene (Director of NNB), Maeve Lankford (Vice Chair BOM of NNB), Sr Mary Quinn (Administrator NNB)

Sr Lois explained how her Nano Nagle Birthplace zoom sessions were discussing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the past few months. When discussing SDG 6, (the aim of which is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all) one participant, Timmy Mulchinock, suggested that something practical needed to be done as a contribution by the zoom group. He and Sr Eileen Nash, PBVM prepared a selection of potted plants for sale at the Kilavullen Farmer's market. The proceeds from the sale of the plants, plus the contributions of the zoom group and the generous support of EPS will enable the Philippines project to bring clean, healthy water to numerous families.



*"As EPS is also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we were only too pleased to support the efforts of NNP to restore access to a clean drinking water supply to those affected by the recent typhoon in the Philippines", says Patrick Buckley, MD of EPS Group. "We have worked on a number of restoration projects and it's wonderful that the collective efforts of groups such as the NNB in Kilavullen can make a real impactful difference to those less fortunate".*



L-R: Presentation Sisters in the Philippines

Victoria Embate, Aquila Sy and Joy Puerta

### ***The Purpose of Presentation School Is...***

Submitted by: Sr Mahnoor Riaz from Swat School, Pakistan

The purpose of Presentation School is...

***To ensure the continuation and extension of the work and charism (spirit) of Nano Nagle and her companions for the education of the poor and for the relief of those exploited by unjust systems.***

Our mission statement calls us to recognise that life in this beautiful valley of Swat echoes the desire and longing for learning, not only learning but learning for life. This motivation has overcome all kinds of hindrance and exploitation of girls' education.



In the darkness of the soil a seed of joy sprang up, a day of celebration in honour of 85 highly successful girls. For the first time in its history, Public School Sangota Swat, Pakistan, secured three first positions and one third position in the Matriculation Exam from Swat Board of Education.

Sisters Teresa, Monica and Mahnoor were privileged to attend the gathering.

The ceremony started with the Word of God, from the Holy Quran and the Holy Bible. A sacred dance was performed by class 8. Sr Rozie, the Principal, appreciated all the staff and students for their hard work, proven by their achievements, as they leave an example for their fellow students. Sister thanked the parents for their support at all times. Encouragement Certificates, shields and medals were presented by Srs Riffat and Rozie to the teachers concerned and to

students who were outstanding in their results. International Girl's Day was celebrated in a beautiful dance conveying the message that if girls are empowered, they can change the world.



Those girls who took the first 4 positions in the Board were awarded with some amount of money by Mr Asim Effendi and Adnan Bhacha, the grandson of the Wali of Swat to motivate encourage and support these young Swati girls who may be leaders in this country in the future.

Sr Riffat thanked and appreciated the Sisters, staff and students for their hard work as they spread the mission and vision of Nano Nagle. Tokens of love were presented to Sisters Riffat

and Monica and refreshments were served to all.

The day is gone but we still treasure the smiles of the students and their justifiably proud parents as we continue to carry the dream of Nano and the mission of our Lord Jesus.



## Restorative Justice in Newfoundland, Canada

Submitted by: Sr Mary Rossiter and Deirdre Greene Lono (Presentation Associate)



During Restorative Justice Week in Canada (18 – 20 November 2021), a gathering to discuss related issues was held in St John's, hosted by the Indigenous cultural organisation First Light and Memorial University. Presentation Sisters NL supported the *Two-eared Listening for Deeper Understanding: Restorative Justice in NL Gathering* through a sponsorship and participation.

Each day began with smudging and prayer to encourage truth-telling and clear-thinking and acknowledgement of the elders in the room. All sessions were recorded by 'graphic-recorders' who created large posters of relevant comments and images from the discussions as they were ongoing.



The *Two-eared Listening Gathering* has given us many learnings to sit with and inwardly digest.

Above everything else, it was an opportunity for indigenous Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to share their stories with those of us who haven't experienced colonization, cultural genocide, geographic dislocation and physical harm...because we aren't indigenous. For us non-indigenous delegates, listening was the hardest part. Chief Joe began the Gathering by explaining that true listening, two-eared listening, is not just about being quiet and hearing what another is saying, it is about 'taking it in', keeping the story in memory beyond the moment, dwelling on it and trying to

understand. Most importantly, listeners must pay complete attention and not let our thoughts drift to what we'd like to say, how we'd like to respond. In this fully committed listening, we could experience empathy and a greater willingness to accept our responsibility, as people who benefitted from colonisation, to help our indigenous sisters and brothers heal from its damaging effects.

An Indigenous Leaders Panel comprising indigenous academics, lawyers and community leaders from Innu, Inuit, Mi'kmaq and non-Canadian communities all told remarkable similar tragic stories. Panel members spoke with moving sincerity, gently and factually and with no apparent bitterness. What they said hurt them most was not physical discipline, which everyone acknowledged was a fact for schoolchildren generally in the past. Some things stood out as most hurtful from almost all speakers:

- Denial that Newfoundland & Labrador had ANY surviving indigenous peoples: when Newfoundland joined Confederation, the very existence of its indigenous peoples was denied.
- Forbidding indigenous people to speak their own language: panel speakers were happy to have learned English but being deprived of their own languages cut them off from the most fundamental aspect of their cultures.
- Suppressing and / or denigrating many cultural practices: e.g. indigenous music, drumming, dancing, beading and use of traditional medicines.

Panel members also expressed common messages, beginning with Chief Joe asking a penetrating question: if we're pursuing restorative justice, what are we trying to restore? The answer, of course, was *we want to restore a right relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Newfoundlanders, Labradorians and Canadians*. Other common messages from the Indigenous Leaders' Panel were:

- Listening is essential to learning, learning is essential to change, and change is essential to restoring right relationship.
- Go beyond passive listening: actively engage with indigenous people, ASK them what they need to restore a right relationship. Governments and others who try to help are often locked in their own ideas of indigeneity and what indigenous people and communities need, rather than asking them. This is ongoing colonial paternalism.
- Education is essential to both 'sides': non-indigenous people must attain as high a level of education as possible, with particular emphasis on positive self-image and study of the law (so that indigenous lawyers have the knowledge and experience needed to interpret and improve Canadian laws that affect indigenous people).
- We need to get beyond talking and listening: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report is an important document achieved through an important process but is a beginning only; it shows the path to Restoration and Atonement. Too few of the Report's recommendations have been acted upon.

In discussion of the current reality of Canada's indigenous people a number of surprising facts (some positive, some negative) emerged, including:

- Generational trauma from colonization and particularly the Residential School experience continues to affect Indigenous Canadians, who experience much higher levels of addiction and mental health issues than non-indigenous Canadians.
- Racism against indigenous people is 'alive and well' in Newfoundland and Labrador. Indigenous communities are characterised as "full of uneducated drunks" and indigenous students have been referred to by their peers as "those orange-shirt people".
- St John's has the fastest growing urban indigenous populations in Canada.

- 30% of indigenous children live below the poverty line and experience the myriad “vulnerabilities created by poverty”, including food insecurity, unhealthy diet and housing insecurity.
- Indigenous youths are 8% of Canada’s total youth population but are 43% of youth correctional centre population. Too many indigenous youths are dying in custody.



Non-indigenous people's responses to the panel were also fairly uniform: there was a widespread shock and horror on hearing indigenous stories, particularly of current experiences. All felt that we need to listen more and to act promptly (particularly in enacting the recommendations of the TRC Report).

In addition to the daily sessions, delegates were invited to attend performances of the Spirit Song Festival organised by First Light on Thursday and Friday evenings. We were delighted and enlightened through indigenous storytelling and music. The audience felt truly and sincerely invited into the artistic, cultural experience of our indigenous peoples and so grateful to be so.

### *News from the USA*

Submitted by: Sr Philippa Wall and Sr Lorraine Schmaltz

#### *Visitor from Dandenong...*



Sr Sharon, Sr Katherine, Dalal and Sr Vera

The surprise contact through our website resulted in a visit from Dalal Smiley, Director of Wellsprings for Women, Melbourne, Australia on 10 January 2022. She was on a visit to her son in Texas accompanied by her husband and granddaughter. The Arbor Community hosted the occasion and invited our Sisters in San Antonio to join us in welcoming the distinguished visitors.

We had very interesting conversations about this Presentation Sponsored Ministry, begun by the Presentation Sisters in Australia in 1994. Wellsprings for Women opened its doors one day per week as a Drop-in Centre offering a friendly environment for women to meet in a non-threatening, homely venue. As the number of women attending the Centre grew, a holistic program was developed addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, recreational, educational and skill-based needs of the women. These programs were offered to encourage and empower women to grow in self-esteem and learn about

Centre offering a friendly environment for women to meet in a non-threatening, homely venue. As the number of women attending the Centre grew, a holistic program was developed addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, recreational, educational and skill-based needs of the women. These programs were offered to encourage and empower women to grow in self-esteem and learn about

the wide variety of opportunities available to them in the community. The large number of Refugee and Asylum Seeker families who have moved into the Dandenong area, a suburb of Melbourne, call for new and creative responses to a wide variety of needs and the centre has evolved to provide programs to meet these needs. From that beginning the Programs have gradually increased to the point where the centre is now open 5 days a week and caters for approximately 300 women weekly. Wellsprings has fully qualified staff and a number of well-trained volunteers.

We were excited to hear how the Presentation Sisters and the Brigidine Sisters in Australia have collaborated in setting up a separate entity 'Kildare Ministries' to manage all their sponsored Ministries. This happened in 2014 and they have agreed to support them for ten years. Hopefully, by then these ministries will be sustainable. This was of particular interest to us because the Unit has engaged Plante Moran to help ensure that our sponsored ministries are sustainable and autonomous as they carry forth the Presentation charism and mission into the future. Nano's charism is truly alive at Wellsprings for Women!



Front Row L-R: Sr Sharon, Dalal, Srs Finbar & Josepha  
Back Row L-R: Srs Cibriana, Immaculata, Patricia, Therese & Philippa

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### Catholic Schools Week in Fargo

"Sisters are like our Godmothers!"



Catholic Schools Week in Fargo, ND was celebrated with children, teachers, clergy, families and Sisters at a special Mass on 3 Feb at Sacred Heart Middle School / Shanley High School. Seeing the children and feeling all that young energy around me, my mind went back to my high school years and graduation at Shanley High School over 60 years ago, then later teaching in our Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools Week always had a *We are proud to be a Catholic School* feeling to it. Sisters Jan, Roselima and I, Lorraine, were the only Sisters available to join the liturgy and were honoured to bring up the gifts. President Mike Hagstrom reminded everyone that this was the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrating Catholic Schools Mass in this gym. I remember the celebration in the first Shanley that was close to our convent. I wondered where all these children will be and what they will remember 60 years from now. Bishop John Fulda, the presider, acknowledged us Sisters present thanking the Presentation Sisters for beginning the schools. Bishop Fulda concluded his message with saying, *the Sisters are like our Godmothers!*

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Nano Nagle Education Fund helps nursing students. I have been on the Nano Nagle Education Fund Committee for a few years and am inspired by the responses received from those receiving the funds. Grateful for the funds, we have been able to continue our ministry in health care by supporting the training of nurses. Through North Dakota State University, College of Health Professional, Fargo ND we have been able to sponsor the 'Presentation Sisters Scholarship' honouring former nursing department chair, Sister Mary Margaret Mooney. The money is awarded to a junior or senior student who has shown enthusiasm for the discipline of nursing and has demonstrated potential for effective practice through scholarship and compassion.

Each Fall there is a scholarship recognition program and I was privileged to attend this Fall. I was pleased to meet the two young women who received our scholarship – they were beautiful, faith-filled and committed to nursing. They were pleased to have a picture with me and expressed their thanks to all Presentation Sisters for our support.

### ***Significant Dates in April***

There are many dates throughout the month of April that hold both humanitarian and ecumenical importance. Read about them here.

#### **4 April - International Day for Mine Awareness and Mine Action**

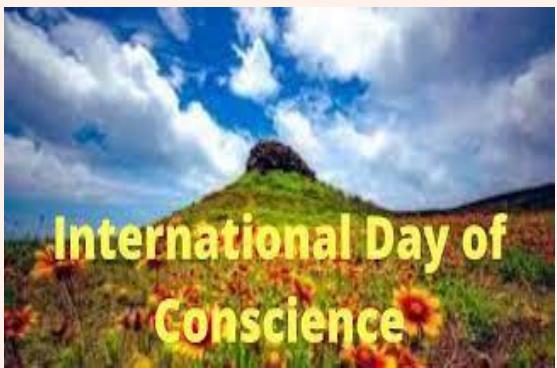


Last year, the United Nations mine action community stepped-up to the challenges faced during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The sector continued to deliver results, fulfilling obligations, surveying, clearing, training and eradicating the threat of landmines and explosive ordnance. The United Nations system advanced its work to mitigate the threat of improvised explosive devices and strengthened and built new partnerships. The Covid-19 challenges still require perseverance. Work will continue, landmines and explosive ordnance will be cleared, exit strategies and capacity development of national partners will carry-on. The mine action

community will continue to adapt. The United Nations will ensure to carry forward progress towards a world free from the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance. For over 20 years, the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has been driven by the needs of affected people and tailored to the threat of explosive hazards faced by civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarians. UNMAS works to save lives, to facilitate deployment of UN missions and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to protect citizens, to support the voluntary return of the internally displaced and refugees, to enable humanitarian and recovery activities and to advocate for international humanitarian and human rights law.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/mine-awareness-day>

## 5 April - International Day of Conscience



The preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that *disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.* Moreover, article 1 of the Declaration states that *all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

The task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society. Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the General Assembly declared 5 April the International Day of Conscience.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/conscience-day>

## 22 April - Mother Earth Day



Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action. Nature is suffering. Oceans filled with plastic and turning more acidic. Extreme heat, wildfires and floods, as well as a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season have affected millions of people. Climate change, man-made changes to nature as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity, such as deforestation, land-use change, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can increase contact and the transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans like Covid-19. From one new infection disease that emerges in humans every 4 months, 75% of these emerging diseases come from animals

according to UN Environment. This shows the close relationships between human, animal and environmental health.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day>

## 26 April - International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day



An explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986 spread a radioactive cloud over large parts of the Soviet Union, now the territories of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Nearly 8.4 million people in the three countries were exposed to the radiation. The Soviet Government acknowledged the need for international assistance only in 1990. That same year the General

Assembly adopted resolution 45/190, calling for *international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant*. That was the start of the United Nations' involvement in the Chernobyl recovery. An Inter-Agency Task Force was established to coordinate the Chernobyl Trust Fund – currently under the management of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since 1986, the UN family of organisations and major NGOs have launched more than 230 different research and assistance projects in the fields of health, nuclear safety, rehabilitation, environment, production of clean foods and information. In 2002 the United Nations announced a shift in the Chernobyl strategy, with a new focus on a long-term development approach. UNDP and its regional offices in the three affected countries took the lead in the implementation of the new strategy. There is still a great deal of work that needs to be done in the affected region. To provide support to international, national and public programmes targeted at the sustainable development of these territories, in 2009 UN launched the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN). On 8 December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 26 April as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. In its resolution, the General Assembly recognised that three decades after the disaster there remains persistent serious long-term consequences and that the affected communities and territories are experiencing continuing related needs. The General Assembly invites all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organisations, as well as civil society, to observe the day.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/chernobyl-remembrance-day>

Keep up to date with our Presentation Sisters, Friends of Nano and Associates around the world. If you have a story or article you would like to share, please email it to  
[communications@pbvm.org](mailto:communications@pbvm.org)

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