



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

JUNE 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.

What does 'being presentation' look like into the future?

We stand at a moment in time when the future of the Presentation charism is in the spotlight. In many western countries, Presentation congregations are in diminishment and leaders of Presentation ministries, or ministries with a Presentation heritage, are called upon to nurture and reimagine the Presentation charism into the future. The words 'nurture' and 'reimagine' may seem contradictory, but they underscore our contemporary reality: there are many blessings and riches in the lives of Nano Nagle, and the Presentation Sisters who walk(ed) in her footsteps, but our current reality calls us to reimagine a 'Presentation' way in a multicultural, global and increasingly secular world.

It is amazing to think that a ministry to the most vulnerable people in Cork, in the mid-late 18th Century, still connects with people in very different social, cultural and political contexts within places as diverse as Africa, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and India – to name just a few!

Jan Richardson reminds us that the Presentation way is a journey and the road ahead is our choice: how to take this wonderful, life-giving charism forward; how to inspire new leaders; how to re-bestow the Presentation blessing on future generations across the world.

With every step you take, the blessing rises up to meet you.

It has been waiting long ages for you.

Look closer and you can see the layers of it, how it has been fashioned by those who walked this road before you, how it has been created of nothing but their determination and their dreaming,



how it has taken its form from an ancient hope that drew them forward and made a way for them when no ways could be seen.

Look closer and you will see that this blessing is not finished, that you are part of the path that it is

preparing. That you are part of how this blessing means to be a voice and a welcome for the way (Circle of Grace. 2015).



Caroline Thompson,
Formation
Team Leader
Australia

Friends of Nano leadership team mission statement.

The FoN leadership team is a vehicle for sharing information and resources to empower groups to live PBVM in their place.

Mary-Ann Greaney (New Zealand); Maria Owen (England); Isabel Thomas (South India); Caroline Thompson (Australia).

Continued from Front page:

We are indeed part of the blessing that is not finished, the ongoing path of welcome and Presentation justice. How we achieve this is a question for every Presentation person wherever they live and whatever their circumstance.

We are invited us to consider:

- How can Friends of Nano and Presentation congregations be truly global communities of support, inspiration and justice?
- Who are our Presentation role models – our contemporary Nanos?
- How can we harness the energy and Presentation spirit of the young people in our schools to keep Nano's flame burning?
- What models of ongoing formation are needed to support a global Nano revolution?
- Where are the Corks of today's world? How can we reach out to *our* most vulnerable?

These are critical questions for Presentation people around the world.

Nano's charism must live on, her spirit set loose, her dreams realised.

We can all play a part – we can all connect locally, nationally and internationally.

Caroline Thompson, International Formation Team Leader



Answering Nano's Call



The call of Nano Nagle and transformation of her life is a great miracle that has left a lasting impact on her followers and the world. Today we are following in her footsteps due to the truth of her vision. This is the story of the **Friends of Nano** Jhelum: we strongly believe in teamwork, unity and taking everyone along. All the members of the group are greatly inspired by the charism of Nano Nagle whose life story aroused the passion of serving humanity in their own capacities. The lady of lantern, who shone the light of hope in darkness, is a great inspiration for the **Friends of Nano** Jhelum. By following Nano's way, we are working enthusiastically alongside our Presentation Sisters. Following the example of Nano, in her love of children and as a friend of the poor, we always try to answer the call of Nano by helping those in need. We work in education; we visit the sick - praying with them; we help young people by conducting seminars for career guidance and we reach out to the poor.



Left to right: Yasmine Khawar, Nadia Daniel, Rabia Aneeta, Nayab Francis, Humera Tabassum, Myra Sharoo, Mehwish Kamal, Aneela Imran

Humera Tabassum, Friends of Nano Jhelum



Pakistan

Carrying Nano's Lantern

Carol Sohail, Friend of Nano

I feel myself blessed to be a Presentation Person: as a student of Presentation Convent High School (PCHS) I learned much more than basic schooling and coursework - I learned life lessons & moral values. I once read a quote: "In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn." How true this is, as I soon realised, when teaching at my own school: PCHS. Besides moral values I learned how to work and talk with people of all ages, and how to appreciate the life God gave me. When a student, I heard about Nano Nagle's life & mission, but being a member of the Presentation family and **Friends of Nano** I experienced it. I was inspired when we went to visit the sick or needy and prayed the rosary. When praying, at Mass, organising



seminars, retreats and prayer meetings with the Sisters, my faith increased. When I was twice awarded a gold medal for my hard work in academics, and then became a Microsoft-certified AI engineer, the blessings I received were due to the guidance and support of Presentation Sisters: my mentors Margaret, PBVM and Norris, PBVM. After serving for 13 years, and carrying the lantern and charism of Nano, I moved to Scotland, for higher education in Artificial Intelligence. The blessings and support of the Presentation family is still with me. I continue to carry Nano's lantern here in the UK and with God's grace will always take one step beyond.

Welcoming New Associates



Jayne, Carrie and Shirley

On May 1, 2023, three new members were welcomed into Presentation Associate Partnership in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mount Loretto, Dubuque, Iowa. For ten months Jayne Anglin, Carrie Breitbach and Shirley Lanners gathered with Associate Partnership co-directors Radie Roberts and Colleen Venter to pray, study, and reflect upon Nano Nagle and the Presentation heritage, charism and mission. Each month different Sisters and Associates introduced them to a variety of Presentation people.

Jayne shares, "In the discernment process, I experienced such a welcoming sense of connection and realized a much deeper understanding of faith-filled prayerfulness. I look forward to supporting each other while reaching

out in the spirit of radical hospitality that the Presentation Sisters live and honor."

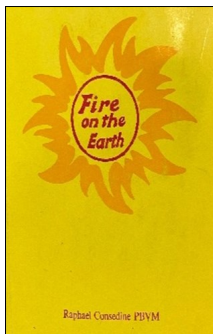
Carrie already had Presentation connections through family members and was also a long-time member of the Theresian Tapestry Group: "I saw the openness and felt the welcome of the Presentation community. They invited me so lovingly that I felt I belonged." Shirley reflects, "'Create in me a clean heart, O God ...' to carry the light of Nano and renew in me a willing spirit to seek justice for those in need. I am drawn to the Presentation Sisters because they are prayerful and fervent in responding to the needs of others in our world."

We welcome and congratulate Jayne, Carrie, and Shirley. Our lives will be enriched by the many gifts and excitement they bring to Associate Partnership!

Jane Buse-Miller, Director of Communications



America



Fire on the Earth book study a success

From the seed of an idea of how Presentation people from across North America could share an experience together, the recent shared book study of "Fire on the Earth" by Raphael Considine, PBVM grew and developed.

inheritance" (page 5).

Almost 30 people from the Aberdeen, Dubuque, Newfoundland, New Windsor and Union: United States, bravely answered yes to this new adventure. Carrie Hansen, Cojourner Coordinator and Justice contact for Aberdeen, led the book study. Weekly emails were sent with reflection questions for each chapter that was read during the week. Participants were invited to attend three Zoom meetings to discuss the reading and their personal reflections and responses to it.

Final evaluations are still to come, but many reported the positive feelings of reading and sharing with other Presentation people as well as the joy in meeting others who carry Nano's charism. If you are interested in being a part of a future book study, have ideas of books to share with others, and/or are willing to lead a future study, please reach out to Lisa at tlolson@venturecomm.net.



Carrie Hanson
USA



Nano Nagle Place, Cork

The creation of Nano Nagle Place (NNP), on the site of 'South Pres', Douglas Street, Cork, began just over ten years ago. NNP incorporates the original Convent which Nano Nagle had built for the Ursulines in 1771, the Cove Lane school, the Gardens, the Cemetery and the Goldie Chapel. The convent and school were used (and enlarged) by the Presentation Sisters when the Ursulines moved to Blackrock in 1824. **To receive Nano Nagle Place newsletter click on the photo.**

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God, each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary. There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him, and to speak with others of our friendship with Him."
Pope Benedict XVI 2005 (at his first Mass as Pope)

IPA is who we are!

How is the Presentation world structured?

There are three main groups, all of them have Friends of Nano, Associates, and Presentation People. We are global citizens and have global responsibilities.



Conference of Presentation Sisters established 1953

Aberdeen, South Dakota; Dubuque, Iowa;
New Windsor, New York; San Francisco, California;
and United States Unit of the Union of Presentation Sisters.



The Society of Presentation Sisters established 1958

Wagga Wagga, Lismore, New South Wales;
Tasmania; Victoria; Western Australia; Queensland;
Papua New Guinea.



The Union of Presentation Sisters established 1975

Africa (Zambia and Zimbabwe); Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Dominican Republic; England; Holy Land/Israel; India; Ireland; Latin America (Chile, Ecuador, Peru); New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Slovakia; Thailand; USA.

Presentations the world over are united as the International Presentation Association (IPA)



International Presentation Association established 1988

Formed by the Union of Presentation Sisters, the Conference of Presentation Sisters and the Society of Presentation Sisters. Our mission is to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance is a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation.

Click on any of the emblems to take you to their website
for more information and resources.



God of the Universe in this time of great vulnerability throughout our world, You beckon us the create space to engage in deep listening. May we listen to you in silence. May we open our hearts to listen to the voices of one another and may we listen to all of Creation with wonder and respect. In our listening may we be guided to speak courageously, love inclusively, imagine creatively and co-create a more peaceful and just world that flows from living a spirituality of being in communion.

What kind of world do we want to leave those who come after us ?

Pope Francis appeals to leaders and citizens to heed the “earth’s cries of anguish stemming from climate change”. One commitment of the 7th IPA Assembly was to bring significant improvement to the earth made poor. A core value of the **Friends of Nano** is a covenant with creation.

The **Friends of Nano** and other Presentation people realized that deforestation is a notable factor in Mother Earth’s cry of anguish and resolved to undertake some afforestation as part of our covenant with creation.

Friends of Nano, Presentation Sisters, and our Convent School students decided to plant trees in a government school where a large area of vacant land was made available to us. We planted about fifty tree saplings in the school campus and distributed fruit tree saplings to villagers for planting in their gardens.



The students of our Convent School prepared seed balls in large quantities by mixing neem seeds, cow dung and red soil. These seed balls were thrown on fallow lands where they would sprout when it rained.



John Britto
South India

To create awareness of climate change and emphasize the need for growing and maintaining trees, **Friends of Nano** and the Presentation Sisters conducted a program in our school. After explaining the adverse effects of climate change and ways to mitigate the effects of them, we distributed tree saplings to over a hundred students who have volunteered to grow them in their home gardens.

We have pledged to continue our efforts of planting saplings every year to give a green earth to the generations to come.

South India

What Was Your Call To Become A Friend of Nano?

“Will you come and follow me if I call you by name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?”



Margaret Rosair
South India

The words of this song reflect Nano’s ‘Yes’ to the call of God and also speak of my invitation to become a **Friend of Nano**. As a teacher in Presentation Convent Perambur, I had the opportunity to study the life of Nano and wrote articles and scripts for plays on her life, which the pupils enacted.

I was greatly impressed by this woman of Ireland, who was so in touch with the needs of the people of her time: their needs so similar to those of people in our time. It was not difficult for me to respond with a ‘Yes’ when invited to follow in Nano’s footsteps to ‘fan into flame’ the gift of God in my own life. Thus began my walk with people inspired by Nano’s story. We worked together for a more compassionate, just and sustainable world. I soon took up leadership and

was fortunate to attend the International Gathering of the **Friends of Nano** in Ballygriffin in 2011. My enthusiasm grew: to build this movement and release the living energy of Nano’s charisma. I travelled around India expanding the web of relationships and strengthening connections.

Today I continue this journey in various capacities and in gratitude to God for all my experiences and challenges as a **Friend of Nano**.



North India

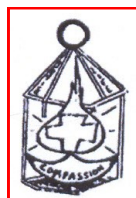
Answering Nano’s Call

I was invited to join **Friends of Nano** two years ago and, together with the Core Group members of the North India Province, read, reflected upon and discussed Ven. Nano Nagle’s letters and realized that education was very close to her heart. We are blessed to have the Presentation Sisters in our Parish. Being a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and also very close to the Sisters, I was approached to recommend any girl-child I thought would need help for her education. The needy were always my focus, so I have kept my ears open to anyone who might be seeking sponsors for their education. Over the years I have managed, through these sponsors, to provide succour to many children going through school.

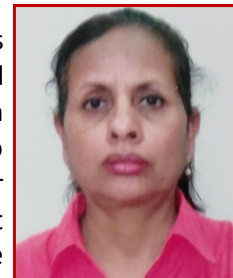
My daily prayer to the Lord, ‘Use me today to work for you’, was being answered.

A well-to-do family who had fallen upon hard times, was left with no option but to withdraw their three children from school. I approached the Sisters, asking for help. When the mother received a cheque, she cried out with joy, “It’s a miracle – I do not have to withdraw my children from school!”

This is just one experience among countless others. Let us express our sheer gratitude, dear Sisters, for all we continue to do for the underprivileged.



Brenda Noronha,
North India Friends of Nano
Core Group



International Zoom Gathering for Coordinators, Link Sisters & FON Leadership Team

On 13th May the Link Coordinators and Sisters gathered together on 'Zoom' to meet with the International **Friends of Nano** Leadership Group. Mary-Ann Greaney welcomed everyone and shared the Mission Statement agreed at a recent Leadership Team Meeting:

The FoN leadership team is a vehicle for sharing information and resources to empower groups to live PBVM in their place.

"The Teams neither want to overwhelm nor tell others what to do. We hope to provide (or point towards) resources, share ideas, and encourage the **Friends of Nano** groups to take responsibility for themselves." Each of the three Team Leaders shared news of their early meetings and everyone at the zoom was invited to join in what became a lively discussion. A report of the whole meeting has been sent to all the Unit Coordinators and Link Sisters (to be shared) but you are welcome to contact Maria Owen, Communication Team Leader (email below) to request a copy.

One subject that caused great excitement was the possibility of creating **Nano Pen Pals** across the globe.

Like Nano let us carry her lantern into the darkest corners of the earth.



"To create a bond between our children in the spirit of Nano, and passionately align their lives with hers, we are happy to launch a **pen pal** network between like-minded students of classes 5 and 6 (9 to 11 years) in our schools to begin with (we plan to include other age groups later). We hope to build a strong feeling of friendship, love, shared beliefs, interests and experiences that unites them in the Spirit of Nano Nagle our founder. It will be great if our children could share short notes, pictures of the co-curricula activities and other special events like Presentation Day, Nano's death anniversary." **Contact: isabel199527@yahoo.in**



We welcome and encourage all our schools to participate in this activity. Liaise with your Link Sisters and Coordinators.

**Isabel Thomas,
Young Members Team Leader**



Collaborative ministry is the primary way Presentation People minister. Click the picture to discover nine quick tips.



All issues of **Nano's Echo** from April 2015 can be found on the Newfoundland & Labrador website. Click on the emblem, scroll down, and enjoy.

Thank you to Caroline Thompson for the thought provoking front page. The next edition will focus on IPA and Creation. Send colourful photographs or illustrations with each article (250 words maximum). Try to encourage a Friend of Nano from whom we have not heard before.

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Next issue of Nano's Echo due September 2023



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