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Dear Reader,

This Booklet, **The Story of Nano Nagle: A Life Lived on the Razor's Edge** written by Sr. Anne Lyons, is broken into nine compact chapters. It narrates a clear picture of the background, inspiration, and the key moments in the life of this extraordinary, daring, courageous and pioneering Cork woman.

Nano had a burning passion for justice, and a belief that education was the key to empowerment, transformation, and liberation of her people. In the period of the Penal Laws, she began the dangerous project of setting up what she called 'her little schools' - 1754 in Cork City. She was a woman of deep faith, a courageous and prophetic figure who was 'certain that God was on the side of the poor and vulnerable: in God's eyes they were the important ones [p50]. In the faces of the poor, she discerned the face of Jesus Christ: "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, sick and imprisoned and you came to see me" (Mt 25:35-36). Nano Nagle was a voice for the voiceless and a source of hope for the hopeless.

Her pioneering and prophetic work would provide a ready model for many later founders, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, Mary Aikenhead, Catherine McAuley, Margaret Aylward, and others. The Nagle Family motto. *Non vox sed votum- Not words but deeds*, accurately reflects her life and her legacy. In October 2013 Pope Francis named her Venerable- recognising her as a woman who lived a life of heroic virtue. Her journey towards canonisation continues.