

From the Postulator's Diary in Rome

November 2021

Greetings once again from Rome. It's been some time since I have been in touch with you all, so allow me to offer an update. Covid 19 brought impacted on all our lives. My plans for study and attendance for the Studium 2020- 2021 were put on hold as I returned to Ireland. Over that period, I was busily engaged promoting Nano Nagle, through a variety of invitations, requests for interviews and engagements, mainly online; a consequence of the publication of the Booklet: Nano Nagle- A Life lived on the Razor's Edge.

September Return to Rome

I returned to Rome early September to begin again! Initially I had accommodation with the Teatini Fathers, at Piazza Vidoni. However, this proved short lived- and once again I was in search of a more 'permanent' place to live and to study. I must honestly say that Divine Providence provided me with the best of accommodation for now, at the Villa Irlanda, on the grounds of the Irish College, in Rome.

The early weeks of September was a busy time: a few visits to the Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi. I am now officially named as Postulator for the Congregation. The Vatican Bank was another interesting place to visit. As I received an invitation as the Postulator for our Congregation to attend the Golden Jubilee Mass for Cardinal Semeraro, the cardinal for the Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi. I saw this as an opportunity to meet up with other Postulators, but the opportunity didn't arise.

Birth of the School of Higher Formation in the Causes of the Saints



The most challenging event in September was attending the required interview at the Lateran University on September 18th. In mid-July 2021, I received news that a school of higher education by the Vatican dicastery and the Lateran University would soon begin! Highlighted as a School of Higher Formation in the Causes of the Saints, it would replace the previous Studium course, which was instituted in 1984. The curricular time to obtain the "diploma of specialization in the causes of

the saints" will be two academic years ordered in four semesters. The new course promotes study the of theology, church history, canon law, and the theological -juridical foundations of



canonized holiness. It includes a total of 19 courses, a written essay and a final exam. A daunting scenario for any Postulator. The first year's focus consists on introductory subjects to theology, church history and canon law; while the second year will be entirely dedicated to the specific subjects concerning the causes of saints and practical exercises.

As you can appreciate dear reader, it was with some trepidation that I attended the required interview at the Lateran University, my transcripts in hand. Fortunately, I received an exemption for 3 of the 8 required course for year 1. My study began October 4th, 2021. Suffice to say that there are no shortage of challenges, as the Lateran University lectures conducts all areas of study in Italian. Oh, to have the gift of tongues! My level of the Italian language for ordinary every day communication leaves a lot to be desired, and now I am faced with the added challenge of faithfully turning up for lectures but lacking totally in the required proficiency! I sit there trying to look intelligent and am delighted when I grasp a phrase, or the occasional word or two! Google Translate, has become my 'best friend' of late. My modus operandi now is, to translate texts into English, and then return to the Italian! Exams will be in Italian! Prayers are most welcome! I continue daily to apply myself to the study of the language online. Meanwhile, the beauty and history of Rome are on hold for now, until I get some handle on my present workload!

God turns up disguised as people

In all this reality, I try to pay attention to notice how God is providing for me. Nano was strong on Divine Providence at work in her life, and since September I have noted plenty of such moments of Divine Providence. God has turned up through unexpected kindnesses and surprised encounters with significant people. In these situations, I have noted how interested people are as to why I am here, and who is this woman Nano Nagle! So, whatever about the study side of things, the opportunity to make Nano Nagle known doesn't pass me by!



Pope Francis visits the Lateran



October 7th was a red-letter day for the Lateran University. Pope Francis, in the company of Patriarch Bartholomew and a member of UNCHR addressed the study body. A new chair of study "Ecologia e Ambiente" – a new degree course dedicated to our Common Home was launched. I was fortunate to be in the Aula Magna and not too far away from Pope Francis. However, due to his recent surgery Pope Francis entered from

the side-entrance. There was no opportunity for the study body to meet him.

I had secretly nurtured the hope that I might just be at the right location should Pope Francis enter through the doors of the Aula. To this end, I'd discreetly carried, the humble booklet published last year on Nano. My hope was that it would serve as a reminder to him October 2013 when he had declared her Venerable.

However, that would not to be. But Divine Providence stepped in once again. I was most fortunate to meet with Cardinal Tagle. He assured me that he would personally deliver the humble booklet brought to Pope Francis. A fortunate encounter indeed.

Bishop Fintan Gavin

Another 'unexpected' encounter was with Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross, here at the Irish College. We had a very interesting conversation. He shared how since taking on his new role, he has grown in his knowledge and appreciation for Nano Nagle, the woman she was, her legacy, the vision she inspired in so many hearts. He assured me of his help in any way he can be of service!

Two Wings

You will recall in an earlier communication, I use the image of a bird, who to fly on needs both wings. You are one very important wing and I need all your help! I reach out to you once again to continue the great work that you are all doing in the various parts of the world in promoting devotion and making Nano Nagle, known, and loved.

Recently I returned to resume my studies at the Lateran University, after the death of my mother. Nano's words spring to mind these days: "the best works meet with the greatest crosses". I am depending on the Lord and Nano to see me through this challenging passage of time and to keep me undaunted regarding the course demands.

Thank you for your interest and being with me on this journey. Together we carry the great work of beaming the lantern flame of Nano's courageous spirit throughout the world. Please do feel free to keep in touch with me with any news of favours, or even 'a miracle'. Remember, Record keeping is always vital.

