

The Gathering 2016



Sr. Ann Marie Quinn

The Way of Life Gathering held in Mt. St Anne's on October 7th & 8th 2016 was a special time of coming together of the area groups that form the Way of Life office. These areas are an expression of Province Life taken care of in the Way of Life office.

The theme of the Gathering **'Roots, Rhizomes and Reality'** explored, highlighted and developed the growth relationship between and among the area groups. The theme also reminded us that what nourishes one nourishes all (all our relationships, our networks and, all the multiple circles we inhabit where we can use our influence). Each of us, individually and together are interlinked and this enables us to give inspiration and life to each other, all rooted in and fed by

the Charism of Nano Nagle.

The programme of the Gathering allowed for contemplation, sharing, discussion, exploration and inspiration around the presentations and facilitation process by Judith King on the theme itself. Sr. Bernadette Flanagan spoke on the charism of Nano Nagle in the context of the Way of Life office structure /systems.

However, it was when we met in our area groups that spiritual contemplation found expression in the identification of practical actions for each of the areas. As you will read in the following pages, some of these actions are still in embryo, others are a continuation and building on what has gone before inspired by insights shared at the Gathering, and still others are just ripe for development. There was a spoken commitment 'to tune in to the needs of our times' and respond as Nano did in her time.

One of Judith's open quotations from the wisdom of Charles Dicken's struck a chord: *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope it was the winter of despair ..."*. This could have been written for our times. A reminder then that the daily challenges of life don't change, but that our response needs to recognise and address the particular needs of Irish society today truthful to the Gospel message as lived by Nano.



L-R: Sr. Bernadette Flanagan & Judith King

Ann Marie Quinn (Director of the Way of Life Office)

Way of Life Gathering 2016

In the presentation given by Sr. Bernadette Flanagan on: **'The Charism of Nano Nagle in the context of Way of Life Office structures/systems,'** she said:

"Charism is an invitation: To discover where the face of God, seeks to smile on people today through us; To live, with clarity and compassion, in an unjust, torn and violent world; To interpret the unique signs of the Spirit at work in our society today".

The Way of Life Office Logo



Life is shown flowing through and around the areas inter-connecting and holding them together in an integrated expression of Presentation Life. It is this 'flow of life' that feeds the Way of Life Office structure and vice versa.

Way of Life Office Areas.....



Spirituality

Spirituality is the centre and core of the areas of Province Life taken care of in the Way of Life Office. It is possible to truly read the signs of the times and respond from a Gospel perspective, if we live out of a contemplative consciousness. A commitment to taking a contemplative stance awakens us, fosters awareness in us and helps us see in new ways and respond in new ways.

Lived Aspect: To develop contemplative dialogue.

Action: To take on important aspects of community life and reflect on it using Contemplative Dialogue.



Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

The JPIC Commission is working to honour the commitments as set out by:

- The Congregational Gathering 2012
- The 6th International Presentation Association
- The Province Assembly 2016 call for a 'Local Action with a Global Impact'.

Lived Aspect: Ending Global Hunger is certainly possible but it is up to all of us that we devote the time & resources necessary to meet this important goal. (*UN Document Goal 2: Global Goals for Sustainable Development*).

Current JPIC Commission Action: An Event on Goal 2: 'Food Justice, Fact or Fiction—Our Call' - Sat 4th February 2017 in Mt. St. Anne's.

Sr. Brigid Phelan works with The Little Flower Penny Dinners (Parish of Meath St & Liberties, Dublin), which has fed the hungry for over 100 years. Pope Francis urged us in his World Food Day 2016 address, to continue individually & collectively to take responsibility for our use and waste of food. Currently close to 800 million people in the world are hungry and under nourished.



Photo L-R: Sr. Ann Pender, Alf Monaghan, Sr. Breeda Walsh, Sr. Agnes Byrne, Sr. Veronica Casey and Niamh Brennan.

.....An Expression of Presentation Life

Friends of Nano /Associates

Mission: To consolidate and expand the Friends of Nano and Associates Movement at local county level in the Province.

Lived Aspect: See link to current Newsletter for Friends of Nano & Associates. [November Newsletter: Being Enough](#)

For further information email: Miriam@presprone.com.

Action

1. Leadership Training Event 20th—22nd January 2017
2. Annual Gathering - 22nd April 2017.

Friends of Nano & Associates



Photo L-R: Sisters Josephine James, Mary Hanrahan, Bernadette Purcell, and Riffat Sadig.

Vocation Promotion



Photo L-R: Miriam Healy, Margaret Farrell & Ann Keating.

Vocation Promotion

Our task is to promote a 'Culture of Vocations'. Young people are searching for meaning and the best response is to go out where they are, stop and listen to them, and share with them the call of God as we live it in Presentation Life, bringing them to an encounter with God. Presentation Life offers a particular way of understanding a prophetic call & engaging with the world contemplatively.

Lived Aspect: Two members of the Province Vocations Promotion Working Group attended the UK National Religious Vocations (NRV) Conference in London on November 5th 2016.

Action: To promote a Culture of Vocations in the community through ensuring advertising in local churches and through parish newsletters. For further information contact: nepvocations@presprone.com.

Ongoing Formation (Living Gracefully)

The stages of transition in our lives are special opportunities for growth enabling us to live more deeply the mission of Jesus (C29—Way of Life). Pope Francis encourages us by saying: *“What counts, is the capacity to repeat the initial ‘yes’ to the call from Jesus, that continues to be heard in an ever new way in every season of our life. His call and our response keep our hope alive”.*

Action: A series of workshops will be organised in 2017 to enhance our capacities to live each stage of life more deeply.

Ongoing Formation - Living Gracefully

Photo L-R: Sisters Teresa McDonagh, Barbara Raftery & Kathleen Meagher.



Way of Life Office Areas ctd../

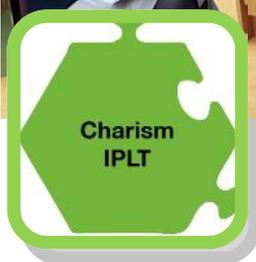


Photo L—R: Bernadette Fitzgerald, Sisters Marie Therese King & Mary Grennan & Marie Therese Kilmartin.

Charism (Ter-Centenary of the birth of Nano Nagle)

To facilitate creative ways of making Nano known, loved and proclaimed as a woman of our time, now, in collaboration with Sisters, Friends of Nano, Associates, Co-Workers, Past Students/Teachers and Current Students.

Action: To energise the appreciation of Nano Nagle through the Ter-Centenary Celebrations.

New Expressions of Nano Nagle's Charism

To collaborate with spiritual seekers in Ireland with a passion for justice and right relations in society, while remaining faithful to a prophetic vision and contemplative stance.

Life Aspect: Nano's call is a call to cultivate capacities for service, presence and compassion with others so that we can do together what we cannot do alone, in response to the concrete realities of Ireland today.

Action: Dr. Ann McCollum (who was lead development worker with the South African Bishop's Conference) was commissioned by the Provincial Team to undertake a piece of research entitled: 'New Community Expression of the Presentation Charism', to review, assess and offer recommendations on the world of spiritual seekers in Ireland. The PLT having met with Ann in relation to her research findings are now preparing a reflection which you will receive.



Roots, Rhizomes & Reality

Judith King facilitated the Way of Life Gathering and in her opening address she set a valuable context into which the programme of the Gathering could unfold. Here are some valuable insights offered from this opening address.

- ◆ The value of knowing the moment you are in historically, socially and culturally.
- ◆ Our deepening and intensifying relationship with Information Technology is a significant catalyst for change not only in human behaviour, but also in the way groups, organisations & even families do things. Our embrace of technology is also giving us a truly visceral sense of the interconnectedness of all things.
- ◆ Both our technological advances & the multiple effects of climate change are giving us regular reminders of just how interconnected to one another and utterly dependent we are on the intricate web of life of our planet.
- ◆ Social activism has been a cornerstone of Catholic and Christian life since Jesus of Nazareth said: 'What you do for the least of my brethren, you do unto me'.
- ◆ One of the changes in the expression of religious experience today is a desire to separate spirituality from religion. These changes in religious affiliation and articulation of religious experience are important to us because we are trying to grow something new in this very changed reality.
- ◆ Why Rhizomes? They are a naturally occurring root system. Their roots are short and tend to grow horizontally rather than deep down into the earth. They mingle easily and well with the roots of other flora and plant life nearby, happy to share root systems and food.
- ◆ Our groups gathered here this evening are akin to rhizomatic roots and shoots. What matters is to participate in the seeding, the rooting and in the growing and flourishing when it comes, content to be small, close to the earth, contributing to the whole.

If you would like a copy of Judith King's Presentation email: nepwoloffice@presprone.com.