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

ADVENT 2017

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.

Nano's Echo is for everyone Please share it far and wide.

Our umbrella name has been agreed as **Friends of Nano.** See more on page four. Thank you for your participation in choosing our new name.

"The best works meet with the greatest crosses ... Though [neither] you nor I should not *[sic]* live to see it prosper in our time, yet I hope it may [prosper] hereafter and be of universal service to the Kingdom." So wrote Nano Nagle to Miss Mulally on January 31, 1783. Nano's letters reveal a soul that spent much time waiting for events to transpire - the Ursulines' arrival, the convent's completion, the money obtained - but never in despair or passivity. Her letters depict a courageous woman of faith and action. She did everything in her 'power' to achieve her goals to better the lives of those on the margins, and she fueled this drive through a fervent prayer life.

On November 21st, the feast of the Presentation Sisters, as we commemorated the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple, we had the opportunity to visualize the faith and hope with which Mary entrusted herself to the service of the Lord, unaware of all the crosses that awaited her - pregnancy before marriage, birthing in a stable, being an asylee in Egypt, searching for 'lost' Jesus, following His beleaguered public ministry to an ignominious death.

> we dust out the spiritual cobwebs to prepare for the Lord's coming

Let us emulate Mary's faith and hope as she figured centrally in her Son's life from the cradle to the grave. Perhaps we have reflected on these 'milestones of grace' in our contemplative dialogues in preparation for Congregational Gathering 2018.

Advent, a season of waiting and expectation which is soon upon us, calls for the same combination of faith and action exemplified by Mary and Nano. As we dust out the spiritual cobwebs to prepare for the Lord's coming, we are invited to renew our commitment to further the Presentation mission, ever hopeful but cognizant of the fact that the fruits of our efforts may not be evident in our lifetime.

Karen Sacre
US Unit Coordinator

New mural at St Joseph's Presentation School, Upland, California. Artist Vivían Imbruglia

IPA - Who We Are

We are Presentation People who share the charism of Nano Nagle. We reach out in faith, in a spirit of hospitality, compassion and simplicity to all of creation. The cry of Earth and people made poor calls us to continue the mission of Jesus to bring forth a sustainable society founded on respect for Earth, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

Woman of welcoming heart - new Nano Nagle musical

A brand new musical about the life of Nano Nagle and her inspirational story, that still influences so many around the world, has been created and made available for performance from 2018 onwards.

In 2014, Sr Roisin Gannon PBVM gave Irish composer and musician Tom Conroy (Piano Man Tom) the book of poetry called "Songs of the Journey" by Sr Raphael Consedine PBVM. Little did they think that by the end of 2017, that act of kindness would have ended up with a full scale musical being written about the life of Nano Nagle.

Friend of Nano, **Piano Man Tom**

Tom felt inspired reading the poetry and started to set some of the beautiful words to music and a collection of songs started to gather. As more and more songs were composed, an idea began to form to create a script around the songs.

To do this, Tom asked his friend Dan E. Hyland for help. Dan is an English playwright, actor, and director living in Ireland and when he heard about the courageous story of Nano, he jumped on board the project and started to help shape a script.

After much work the musical was completed in August 2017 and it was launched at a meeting in Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre, Killenard, Co. Laois, Ireland on November 8th, 2017.

The musical "Woman of Welcoming Heart" is available for performance by schools, drama societies, or any groups that would like to share the music and writing.

To obtain a copy of the script and music for the show, please e-mail info@pianomantom.com or womanofwelcomingheart@gmail.com

Hello from the Philippines

Parolita's gather for 'Milestones of Grace'

Congratulations Kathy - we are proud of you!

Kathy Hogan, Coordinator of the Friends of Nano in the Midwestern region of the United States, has been selected as the 2017 Woman of the Year by the North Dakota Women's Network (NDWN). Kathy was honored at the annual meeting of the organization which has as its mission encouraging women's leadership and political participation, working to eliminate barriers to economic and educational opportunities for women, and working for equality through advocacy for economic fairness and civil rights. Kathy is a leader in the Presentation Sisters Collaborative for Social Justice. Kathy and her husband Dennis have been part of the Presentation Family since 2001.

From Jhelum, Pakistan

Recently the Friends of Nano in Jhelum gathered for a spiritual meeting with the aim of strengthening and growing in faith and in Nano's Spirit of service. New members were anointed

To be inspired and encouraged by Nano's vision we committed ourselves to selfless service.

We used contemplative dialogue to reflect on:

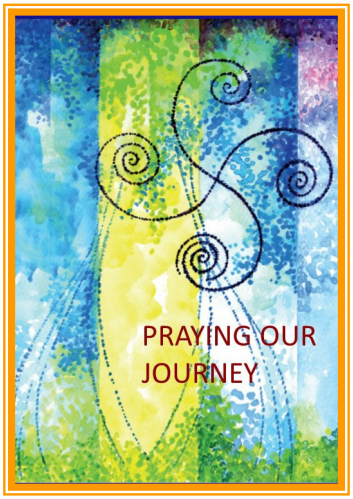
- ◊ Milestones of grace, The Pilgrim journey of the Universe.
- ◊ The Pilgrim journey of Jesus and Mary in the temple and our way to life.
- ◊ The Pilgrim journey of Nano Nagle
- ◊ Our Pilgrim journey as Friends of Nano.

Mehreen Chaman
Friends of Nano in Jhelum group, Pakistan

Nano Nagle Commission

The **Nano Nagle Commission** members are delighted to have completed the prayer resource 'Praying our Journey' which is now available for use. The work was undertaken to mark Nano's Tercentenary and we hope that it will be a very useful resource for many years to come. It crosses boundaries, faiths, cultures inviting everyone to the table to engage in prayer and reflection. There are six sections to the resources:

The Nano Journey
The Ashram of Contemplative Awareness
The Ashram of Wisdom
The Ashram of the Heart
The Ashram of Communion
And the final section contains a number of blessings for all occasions.



We hope that you have access to this resource and that you too find it formative and transformative.

If you haven't yet seen a copy of the book with its beautiful prayers and its wonderful layout and artwork contact your local Presentation Community.

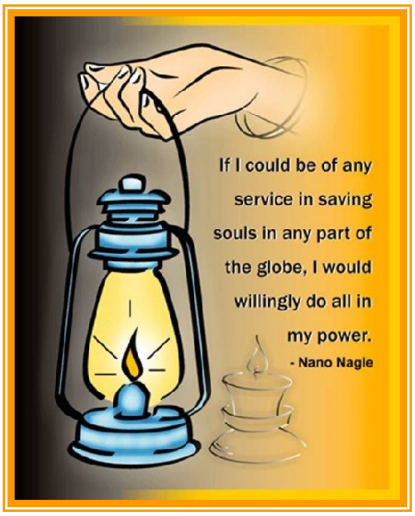
As we are rapidly approaching Christmas and the launch of the Tercentenary celebrations we remain hopeful of a miracle to facilitate Nano's beatification. Sadly, we are still unaware of one that meets the criteria. Hundreds of wonderful letters have been written to Pope Francis so we hope he now knows a lot about Nano and her amazing influence across the globe.

Invitation

As a next step towards her canonisation we invite the Presentation Family to join across the globe during Advent and to pray the prayer for her canonisation daily.

Prayer for the Canonisation of Nano

Gracious and loving God,
we come before you pleading the cause of
Canonisation of Venerable Nano Nagle,
holy foundress of the Sisters of
the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Bless her Presentation Family and the Church
by declaring Nano Nagle's sainthood.
With her as light for our journey,
may we be blessed with the vision,
courage and fidelity that stirred Nano to
passionate service to those most poor
and abandoned.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, in Whom she
found light and strength.
Amen



What constitutes a miracle?

What are the steps to sainthood?

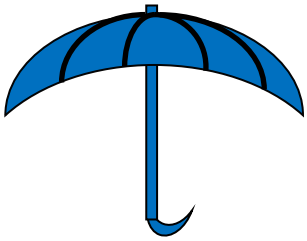
What kind of records need to be kept?

What else needs to happen for Nano to be a saint?

Our Nano will be a saint yet

Click on picture for answers

We have found our 'Umbrella' name... We are all Friends of Nano



Remember …. This umbrella name encompasses all levels of Presentation association. It can be *added to* your existing name but does *not* have to replace it.

What is a Friend?

Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between people. Friendship is a stronger form of interpersonal bond than an association. Wikipedia

Also a person supports a cause, organization, or country by giving financial or other voluntary help …

'Friend' has a different connotation than 'Associate' for us. It is a friend you relate to in a natural way, without counting the cost, whereas with Associates it is a formal commitment. (*Friends of Nano Group, Tuam*)

'Being a friend of Nano and an associate has increased my everyday awareness of the need in the present changing world to be more vigilant regarding issues such as the environment and issues of modern slavery as we have discussed these extensively at our gatherings.' *(Friends of Nano, Derby)*

Who is Nano?

Born in 1718, Honora Nagle was known as Nano but took the name Sister Mary of St John of God when she and her friends were professed.

She was also known as Mother Nagle.

In October 2013 Pope Francis declared her **Venerable Nano Nagle**. We know her as our friend and guide.

She was an ordinary Irishwoman who had an extraordinary vision (*A Dream Unfolds* - Noela Fox pbvm)

In June 2016 (Corpus Christi edition of Nano's Echo) we asked:

Where is Nano's heart calling us?

What difference do we make to the world by being Friends of Nano?

Where is our movement taking us?

Why friends? They say 'show me your friends and I'll know the type of person you are'! So we chose to be called **Friends of Nano** because we want to emulate the work that was done by Nano Nagle … to be a **Friend of Nano** and participate in various things to help people who have been made poor brings a sense of satisfaction in us all ... Naume Pesipamire (Zimbabwe) Included in Nano's Echo - Corpus Christi 2016.

We are all Friends of Nano

I am a Presentation Associate *and* a 'Friend of Nano'

I belong to the Parolitas *and* I am a 'Friend of Nano'

A few ponderings from the stories you have shared

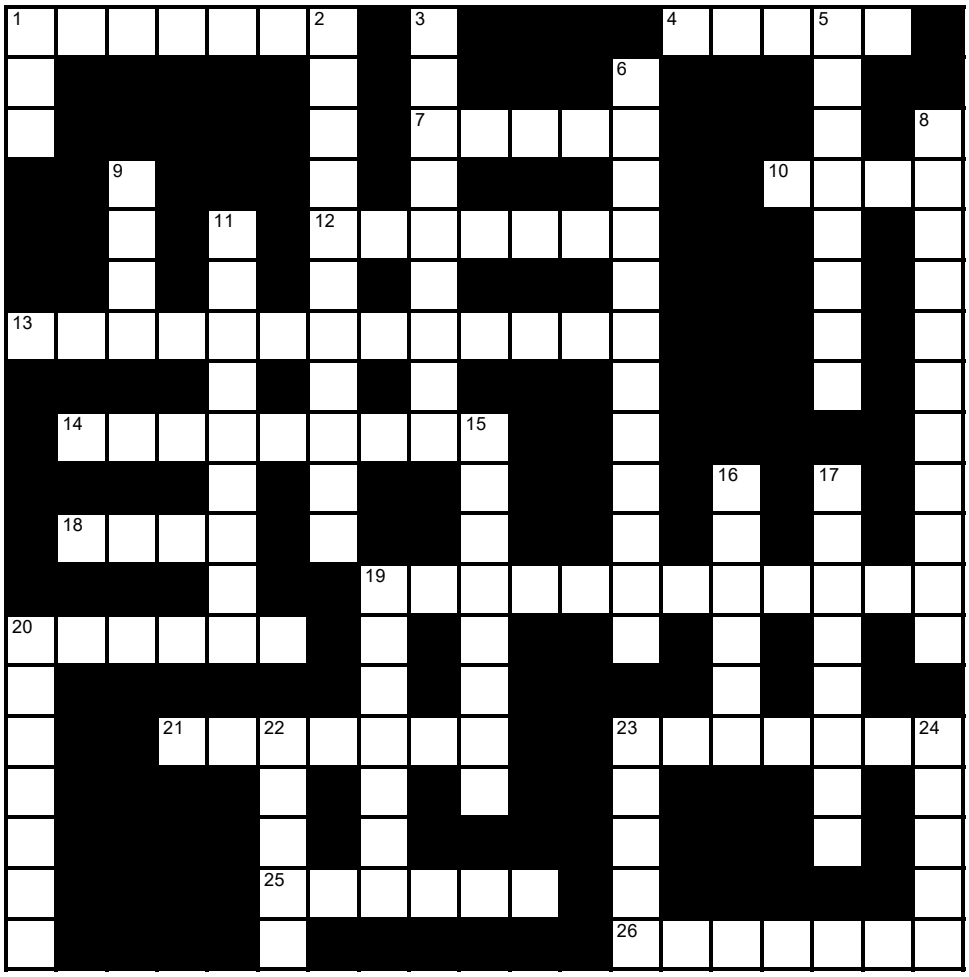
One of the tasks of Maria, Mary-Ann, and Mildred pbvm, (since we were appointed in 2015) has been to make clear the different kinds of commitment and the criteria around what constitutes different groups: Associates, **Friends of Nano** and Others. As members of the International Presentation Lay Movement for Mission (IPLMM) we had difficulty describing our role to others. The all-inclusive term **Friends of Nano** explains who we are and through the pages of *Nano's Echo* we have tried to share stories of all different pathways that lead to ministry.

The term '**Friends of Nano'** allows for different ways of living the charism of Nano and the mission of Jesus, as shown to us through Nano's life and example.

Across the globe Presentation People have shared with us their experiences as **Friends of Nano** – we are part of a worldwide movement that transcends boundaries and faith traditions. **Friends of Nano** are free to respond and initiate gatherings and projects within the vision and spirit of Nano. We all share the mission together: rather than 'helping the Sisters' we share a partnership as one charism, one mission, one light (many lamps).

During our time in office we have also discovered that the process of formation, and the requirements for a formal commitment, vary from group to group and across the Units: e.g. discernment rather than a timeframe. In some places there seems to be the expectation of 'association' if working within a Presentation establishment. Hopefully seeds of Nano's charism are sown among those who then move on to other schools.

IPA - Bringing the message back home



Thank you Maria Owen (England) for creating the clues for the crossword. The theme of the IPA Assembly was **Our feet know the way, Our hearts carry the light.** Answers to the crossword are hidden within these pages. For more information on the IPA Assembly in Sydney simply click on the image below.

If you would like the solution simply e-mail m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz and it will be sent to you.

Across

1. IPA includes the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North … (7)
4. We embrace the SDG in a … rights framework. (5)
7. IPA includes the … of Presentation Sisters. (5)
10. There is an IPA assembly every ... years. (4)
12. Presentations everywhere share the ... of Nano Nagle. (7)
13. The … Presentation Association. (13)
14. South India's concerns were the marginalisation of minority … & the poor. (9)
18. A Sister from Ireland ministers in Slovakia providing education to the ... people. (4)
19. The IPA is formed from ... people. (12)
20. The IPA Assembly 2017 was held in … Australia. (6)
21. The IPA family … the earth. (7)
23. IPA seeks global … (7)
25. A Presentation representative from Australia expressed his concern for … seekers and Refugees. (6)
26. This was the … assembly of the IPA. (7)

Down

1. To … is one element of the IPA mission. (3)
2. IPA is short for International Presentation … (11)
3. A Papua New Guinea delegate was concerned with the need for better … in the rural areas. (9)
5. An interim … group is to be established. (8)
6. … is under the IPA spotlight. (12)
8. SDG is short for Sustainable … Goals. (11)
9. 'Our ... know the way'. (4)
11. The Island of Dominica was recently devastated by a … and is need of help to rebuild. (9)
15. Presentations find … in connectedness. (8)
16. 'Our … carry the light'. (6)
17. One concern from Pakistan was clean … water. (8)
19. Zambia brought to the Assembly the concerns of … (7)
20. IPA includes Presentation … of Australia and Papua New Guinea. (7)
22. An aspect of IPA Mission is to … out. (5)
23. The mission of … is to bring forth a sustainable society. (5)
24. We are committed to respond to the cry of the … (5)

IPA Direction

We Presentation People embody the compassion of Jesus and Nano. We practise non-violence of mind and heart as we listen into the chaos and feel the pain of our time. We find strength in connectedness trusting that our feet know the way and our hearts carry the light.

IPA Mission

Our mission is to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation.

Commitments from the 2017 IPA Assembly

We will:

1. Respond to the cry of Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a human rights framework, addressing the issues of women and children, care of Earth and indigenous peoples, as is relevant to our local regions.
2. Establish an interim task group to determine the appropriate organisational structure for IPA to achieve its mission.
3. Establish an interim advisory group consisting of the three IPA directors and others with expertise in global work, human rights, development and advocacy that will put into place a new organisational structure for IPA.
4. Review all IPA role descriptions.
5. Develop a strategic plan for IPA.
6. Review the criteria for representation at IPA assemblies.
7. Continue to use current capital from the IPA fund and welcome any extra donations as we identify other sources of fundraising.
8. Continue to have an IPA assembly every five years.
9. Continue to include the IPA justice contacts as part of the IPA assembly.
10. Continue to work toward collaboration and partnership building.

Click on the hands to view a thirteen minute video from the **IPA Assembly in Sydney**. Listen to Associates, Sisters, and Friends of Nano from around the world speak of concerns they brought with them to the assembly.

In the hurly burly of Christmas let us be ever mindful of those on the peripheries

Milestones of Grace

Have you, as part of your reflections on the Milestones of Grace, been looking back over your journey as a member of the Presentation family?

*How has knowing Nano Nagle, and your life as a **Friend of Nano**, affected the way you live?*

Some Nano Nagle Milestones:

1718 born
1730 aged 12 sent to continent for education
1750 aged 32 began her ministry in Cork
1771 aged 51 established Ursulines
1775 aged 57 founded her community
1783 aged 65 opened home for aged women
1784 aged 66 died
2013 declared 'Venerable' by Pope Francis

Click on the image for a new song **Nano Aflame** by Miriam Martin pbvm

Prayer for the Congregational Gathering 2018

God of love and compassion,
as we step out in faith and hope on our journey towards the ninth Congregational Gathering, we thank you for the gift of your Spirit which set Nano aflame.
We pray that she will continue
to stoke our passion
so we, too, will become a vibrant fire radiating love as we continue to live in communion with all of God's creation,
especially those made poor.
God of the journeys, be with us. Amen.

Mary-Ann Maria Mildred

Feedback and suggestions are welcome.
The Co-ordinating Team are easy to contact via e-mail.

Maria Owen maria.E.owen@gmail.com
Mildred Soldevilla pbvm mildsol@yahoo.com
Mary-Ann Greaney m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz