

PRESENTATION
NORTH EAST
PROVINCE

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BESIDES!!!

Bachlóga



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2017



*‘In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God
What has come into being
in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it’.*



*Wherever you are, whatever your Christmas
holds, we wish you a most blessed day, and
may Christ our Light go with you.*

Happy Christmas!



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Life ever ancient ever new

It was in summer 2016 that we moved on from *Síolta* to *Bachlóga*. The intention at that time was that our Province magazine – having up to then offered several wonderful founding stories - would now feature life in the present, rooted of course in our history but also making visible the promise of a future however unknown.

When the Process Group for CG2018 and the Province Delegates met together recently to distil the wisdom coming through in the contemplative dialogues of all our communities, here is how they summarised their second of three themes:

In our context, marked as it is by aging and diminishment as well as by creativity and vision, we live with the ambiguity of fragility and newness. We are challenged by our desire to provide an effective ministry of care for our Sisters while remaining open to new horizons and possibilities.

We reflect on the paradox of completion and death yielding birth and new life, as autumn harvests lead through the seeming inactivity of winter to the wonders of spring growth and summer plenty.

We are conscious of our call to 'live life to the full' at all stages and to respond with gratitude, while honouring our losses and nurturing hope.

To my mind, this issue of *Bachlóga* confirms the life – the faith, hope and love - which abound in our local and province communities. I hope you enjoy it, and find in its pages that vitality that I have found inspiring, moving and challenging.

Sincere thanks to all contributors to this issue and, on behalf of all of us, to Margaret, whose diligence and skill, combined with appreciation for the content and patience with all of us, go well beyond the call of duty.

May we and all be blessed, as we mark the mystery of God with us.

On behalf of the PLT.

Anne



ARD Family Resource Centre



'The photos from the launch day capture at once the joy and celebration of a whole community availing of these wonderful facilities, and moving forward together'.

Nowadays we hear regular reports in the media of the challenges and issues raised by accommodating families (even short-term) in hotel accommodation in our cities and towns.

The story of the official opening of the community owned **Cumasú Centre in Doughiska, Galway City** and the launch at the **Cumascú Centre of Ardaun, Roscam and Doughiska Family and Community Resource Centre (ARD FRC)** on the 11th September this year is truly a good news story about what a community can do, and the services and supports that can be provided from 'a local hotel' that has been 'reinvented'.

This particular twenty bedroom hotel was purchased from its original owner by the local community for community, educational and pastoral use in July 2013. The purchase was made possible with funds acquired from a combination of voluntary subscriptions, donations, interest free loans and grants. As a result, the former hotel began a new life as a multi-unit facility serving the needs of the local people, managed by a Community Development Company (Doughiska Roscam Ardaun CDC).

The ARD Family Resource Centre had been in existence since 2009 elsewhere in Doughiska but has now leased a substantial part of the first floor of this newly opened facility where it currently runs over seventy different courses and projects.

This FRC is situated in one of Ireland's most culturally diverse communities (ref: Project Lifecourse 2015). Just to give you an idea, forty-one different languages are spoken in the local Secondary School, with thirty of those languages being the prominent language spoken within the children's homes. Forty-

eight percent (48%) of the local community are Non-Irish. In housing terms, over fifty per cent (50%) of properties are rented from a private landlord, compared to a city average of 35% and a state average of 18% (CSO 2016).

It is no surprise then that the ARD FRC is considered to be a vital community hub by those living in the area, due to its inclusive and welcoming atmosphere and the way in which it supports integration and a sense of belonging.

- Within all of the projects particular attention is paid to the differing acculturation experiences of residents.
- All the work of the FRC is planned and delivered in such a way as to support the whole family in order to achieve effective outcomes.

Such an approach takes time, but has already resulted in a significant increase in the number of visitors arriving at the Centre on a weekly basis e.g. the number has risen from 400 to nearly 1,500 per week. This has resulted in an increase in immigration status issues and in the housing support needs of those attending the Centre.



ARD Family Resource Centre



While Sisters Laura Boyle and Brid O'Donnell still live in the area (see photo on right), Sisters Chanel Canny, Evelyn Geraghty and Miriam O'Malley continue to work in the Centre.

But nothing stays static. A recent announcement to build 2,700 new houses in the area while very welcome, also gives rise to a very real fear that this population increase could result in the creation of yet another disadvantaged community. This newly launched Centre is already operating at full capacity to address the existing challenges and needs of local people. The photos from the launch day capture at once the joy and celebration of a whole community availing of these wonderful facilities, and moving forward together.



Volunteer Ireland Awards 2017

The Slieveardagh area is a rural disadvantaged area in South Tipperary. Since 1996 Sister Patricia Wall has worked with the three main projects in this area. She was involved at the outset, in the establishment, setting up and running of all three and is on the Board of each of them. She continues to take a hands-on approach as she visits each project regularly.

Sr. Patricia has helped the local Playground Committee to get funding and land to build the local playground; she has been instrumental in developing a historical corner in the village of Ballingarry, turning a derelict site into a beautiful tourist attraction and historical monument. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to secure funding for projects in the area (including an airplane jump to secure much needed funds for AWARE), as well as helping community groups with paper

work and applications. It is because of her practical support, that many projects have 'seen the light of day'.

The Millennium Family Resource Centre, Ballingarry Community Development and Slieveardagh Rural Development came together to nominate Sr. Patricia for the impact she has had on their community. As one of three nominees under the Community Category of the 2017 Volunteer Ireland Awards, Sr. Patricia was named **Christine Buckley Volunteer of the Year** along with 10 other category winners. The overall winner in the Community Category was Patricia Lynch for her work in the Dunshaughlin Community, Meath and the other runner up was Konrad Im for his work with LGBT, Cork.

Warmest congratulations to Sr. Patricia and all of the Slieveardagh & Ballingarry communities.



Sr. Patricia Wall pictured with her Award .

A great deal to celebrate

One hundredth birthday celebrations are a really substantial landmark in anyone's life. It is the 100th birthday year for a number of our Sisters. We wish wishing them 'many blessings'.

Sr. Anthony Kelly celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year in Mooncoin Residential Care Centre. She was joined on the day by Sisters Veronica Casey, Mary Lenihan and Immaculata Buckley, De Lourdes Breen and Eileen Glendon as well as by some of her cousins from Mullinvatt. The celebration began with a joyful and thanksgiving prayer service joined by the staff in the Nursing Home. This was followed by a special afternoon tea and the cutting of the birthday cake. An afternoon of great joy and celebration—one to be remembered.

Shalom Nursing Home in Kilcock recently celebrated two momentous birthdays in quick succession, as two Presentation Sisters and two other residents reached 100 years of age. **Sr. Therese O'Malley** shared the birthday celebrations accompanied by her 96 year old brother and her nieces and nephews, Sisters and friends. Sr. Therese entered the Presentation Convent in Drogheda in 1934 and taught in Drogheda, Portadown and Portlaoise, before becoming in Greenhills. She always had a great interest in music and ran the choir there. St. Therese was in Tuam before coming to Shalom.

Sr. Columba was joined by sixty nieces and nephews for her special birthday dinner. Sr. Columba entered the Presentation Sisters in Virginia, Co. Cavan in 1933. Her ministry took her to India where she lived for fifty-one years, returning to Ireland in 1988.



Photo (above): Sr. Anthony Kelly enjoying the afternoon with her family, Sisters and friends.



Photo (above): Sr. Therese O'Malley enjoying the afternoon with her family.



Photo (left): Sr. Columba with her nephew and his wife, and her great-grand niece and nephew.

Raising funds for Age Action



Sr. Bernadette Keating

The colder months can be tough for a lot of people. As many as 25,000 older people may be at risk because of cold. This is why this 'Innocent Smoothie' fundraising campaign is both so clever a visual reminder as well as a fundraiser. Thanks to knitters Age Action Ireland has raised over €140,000 so far for this cause.



Sr. Pius Canavan

Every time a little Innocent Smoothie bottle is sold wearing a little tiny hat, thirty cents is donated to age action to help keep older people warm and well over the winter period. Sisters Bernadette, Pius and Josephine responded to the request by knitting some of the little hats to help raise these much needed funds.



200 years in Rahan/Killina



'In Rahan on the 16th July 1817, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, two Presentation Sisters make their way from George's Hill, Dublin by Grand Canal, to Killina, to set up a new foundation. From that moment one begins a new and wonderful relationship with the Presentation Sisters in the Parish Community of Rahan & surrounding parishes'.

In a further quotation from the preface of the book produced for this occasion, Fr. Michael Carley, the current parish priest of Rahan (and nephew of the late Sr. Frances Carley) says:

'Thank you for the great and wonderful education for all in your care in the Primary and Secondary Schools. Thank you also for the wonderful support for so many families in this whole area, in good times and bad. For your commitment, prayerful example, prayers, devotion, sincerity, great goodness, hospitality and care for so many people over the years, we all say, well done to one and all'.

The programme of celebrations that took place on the weekend of the **29th September to the 1st October 2017** was an extraordinary experience of an entire community turning out to celebrate its deep rooted connectedness to the Presentation Sisters as well as to the life that continues to flourish from Nano Nagle's charism both in Rahan/Killina, and 'far beyond'.

'The Presentation Sisters in Rahan have an awesome and inspiring history. The Spirit of God has guided the Sisters, teachers, students, parents, benefactors and all co-workers from 1817 to the present day. We have always been aware of the enormous contribution made by those who have worked beside us and know that without their support our work of living out the vision of our foundress Venerable Nano Nagle, and the generosity of Maria O'Brien, would not continue'. – Sr Mary McDermott

In the grounds of the local Church are the graves of all of the Sisters of Rahan convent who have gone to their eternal rest during the past 200 years. There is also a tomb erected there to the memory of Maria O'Brien, as a reminder of her commitment to Catholic Education for the children of Rahan. Maria O'Brien of Rahan Lodge was instrumental in bringing the Presentation Sisters to Rahan in the first place in, and became a great benefac-

tor, eventually joining the Convent herself. On the front panel of this tomb are the names of those valiant Sisters who set out on a distant mission to Madras, India in 1842.

Just imagine, only fifteen years after arriving in Rahan, a member of the community, Sr. Xavier Curran, led a small party of Irish Presentation Sisters to open a school in Madras (now Chennai) in India. It was the first Presentation School in that part of the world. She went, as did those who followed her, knowing she was very unlikely to come back. The Suez Canal did not then exist so it was a long and difficult six month journey in a sailing ship. Three more sisters from Rahan also went to Madras, that community spreading from there into Pakistan. In addition, four Sisters, natives of Rahan, (the Doyles and Fogartys) went to Australia to found schools. Listed in the book produced for this 200 year



Living Locally -
Reaching Globally

Celebrating 200 years – Rahan/Killina



celebration, are the names of around 160 natives of the parish who joined religious communities, including the Presentation Sisters, over the past two hundred years. An extraordinary contribution to the mission of the Church over the decades. Indeed, everything about being part of this rich weekend of celebration, sparks off simple and profound realisations, continually reminding us as 'Presentation People' that we are part of a living history.

Food for thought

One aspect of this history that intrigues many, is why the Sisters accepted the invitation from Maria O'Brien to come to Rahan in the first place, rather than stopping in Tullamore, when they would have passed through it on the Canal? Rahan was not exactly high profile in the life of the country at the time, and you can be sure they would have been welcomed by many communities. (It is worth noting that theirs was the first house of female religious to be established in the Diocese of Meath, following the penal times).

Another, is the realisation of what a simple 'Yes' repeated down the years, individually and together can achieve and 'spark' in others. What makes it possible to move from a country crossroads in the midlands of Ireland to a mission in India? How did the Sisters manage when one hundred children presented themselves for schooling in the first few days of arriving there in 1817?

The Celebrations

This celebratory weekend began on the Friday night in Killina Presentation Secondary School where Sr. Bernadette Flanagan officially launched a special 200 year history compiled by the bicentenary committee which charts the story of Presentation Sisters in Killina: *'Presentation Convent Killina (1817-2017) – A Celebration of 200 years of Service'*. She acknowledged the courage of the founders of the convent in Killina while recognising that society today had much to learn from these women.

The meticulous detail and historic records reproduced in the book owe much to a host of contributors including

Sr. Oliver Wrafter who began teaching at Rahan in 1944 and continued in working tirelessly in the fields of education and history, through many challenges and changes, until 1988. From 1980 Sr. Oliver has collected artefacts from the locality recognising that the parish of Rahan has a remarkable heritage going back to early Christian times.

Mr. Jackie Hennessy, the MC on the night managed to bring the Ireland and the world of 1817 to life through his sharing of colourful facts and stories capturing the spirit of the era during which the majority of the Irish population existed in abject poverty. The entertainment on the evening was ably provided by the Rahan branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann members and students from Killina Presentation Secondary School.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sun-filled, setting the scene for a moving re-enactment of the arrival of the first Sisters by river barge. It seemed that almost everyone present had gotten into the spirit of the occasion, dressing in period costumes and adding to the authenticity of the whole scene. This event was followed by a guided walk around the historical landmarks of this rather special place, as well as an exhibition of material and photos relating to the convent and school and a chance to visit the recreation of a 'classroom of old'. On the Saturday night students and teachers from the local Secondary School, to everyone's delight, performed in an original dramatic production,

Sunday morning saw the parish church packed to capacity for the celebration of a special Mass to mark this bicentenary, presided over by the Bishop of Meath, Most Rev. Michael Smith and attended by the recently appointed Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo. Directly after Mass, Sr. Oliver Wrafter planted a tree to mark the occasion. In doing so she represented the many Presentation Sisters who dedicated their lives in the spirit of Nano Nagle in bringing education to those made poor. It is true to say that 200 years later this celebration was both a sincere thank you by the entire community to the Presentation Sisters currently living in the community, as well as a tribute to each and every Presentation Sister, living and deceased, who was associated with the convent in Killina through the years. It was also a cause of tremendous joy and inspiration for anyone lucky enough to be present for some or all of this weekend.

We remembered....

Throughout the celebrations Sr. Joan Bland (RIP) was remembered fondly by all who knew her and appreciated her commitment to Rahan and the preparation for the Bicentenary.

Nano 300 Resource Morning - 8th November 2017



L-R: Sisters Fatima Rodrigo & Bernadette Flanagan, Dr. Deirdre Raftery, and Sr. Ann Marie Quinn.

Way of Life Office

'I found the day most uplifting. The information shared is inspiring. The amount of work undertaken on so many levels is spectacular. Mount St Anne's is a very warm welcoming place. The opportunity to be part of these celebrations is an honour. Thank you for helping to make the meeting possible. The hospitality was amazing and the visit to the living museum was so interesting'.

This is just one of the very many positive comments received as a response to the recent **School Leaders Resource Morning** organised by the **Way of Life Office's Nano 300**

Commission, which took place on the 8th November in the very beautiful and welcoming surroundings of Mt St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre in Killinard, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

The programme was created in order to 'kick start' our journey into 2018, enabling us all to begin to plan and prepare together for the year-long celebration of Nano Nagle's birth (1718-2018). If there was any doubt as to Nano's legacy 300 years on, then it is true to say that the energy and content of the morning sessions dispelled all of that!

The presentations (all eleven of them) were both inspiring and practical, and the energy and enthusiasm in the room palpable, reaching a natural climax as Bernadette Fitzgerald (Principal of St. Joseph's College, Lucan) and a member of the Nano 300 Commission, shared with everyone the myriad of ideas and actions that are already in planning, and gaining momentum within her school.

A total of thirty-six Schools represented by over sixty Principals and School Leaders from primary, secondary and community schools countrywide took up the invitation, alongside representatives from CEIST, the Diocese of Kildare & Loughlin, the North East Province Leadership Team, invited presenters, and NANO 300 Commission members. So a 'full house'!

On a crisp and frosty expectant morning, after very welcome refreshments, Marie Therese Kilmartin (Principal of Colaiste Bride Secondary School, Clondalkin and member of the Nano 300 Commission) took up the baton as MC and conducted us enthusiastically through the morning's programme helping to keep us all on cue with good humour and panache.

- Dr. Oonagh O'Brien, (CEO of Mount St. Anne's) warmly welcomed everyone.
- Pupils from Portarlinton Secondary

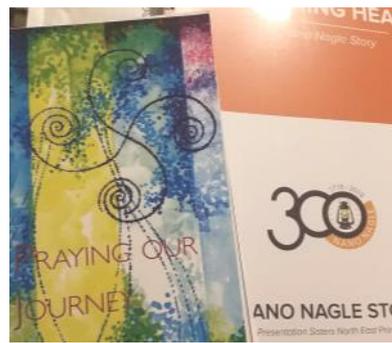
School Choir accompanied by their teachers, Lorna Cathail & Conor Mitchell then 'sang us into the Spirit of Nano's life' with a short extract from 'Woman of Welcoming Heart' (see detail later), followed by the much loved rendition of 'One Step Beyond'.

- Sr. Margarita Ryan (Provincial of NEP) then invited us to begin this journey together in preparation for the Tercentenary celebration of Nano Nagle's birth.
- Dr. Deirdre Raftery (Associate Professor & Researcher UCD) in her keynote presentation: 'Presentation Education: From Nano Nagle to Nano Technology' outlined the very many resources now becoming available worldwide on the life and legacy of Nano Nagle, showing how current developments in technology and archiving methods can bring to life and make accessible the vibrant and challenging legacy of Nano Nagle for our lives today. At the end of the presentation we were invited to think about: 'What it means to be part of Presentation Education history?' and about 'What can the trajectory of Nano Nagle's life mean to young people now and in the future?'

Three presentations then followed from Dr. Oonagh O'Brien, Sr. Mary Hoare (Director, Nano Nagle Birthplace, Ballygriffin), and Shane Clarke (CEO of Nano Nagle Place, Cork), each of whom shared valuable information on the excellent facilities and programmes available at these wonderful venues that we are lucky enough to have here in Ireland, connected directly to Nano Nagle and the flow of Presentation Life.

After the mid-morning break, Sr. Fatima Rodrigo (CLT Link person for the Congrega-

tional Commission for Tercentenary Year) had prepared a very beautiful presentation of the content of 'Praying Our Journey' (A Resource Prayer Book for the Tercentenary Year & beyond). A copy was presented to everyone present.



Then Sr. Mary Grennan (Postulator for the Advancement of Nano Nagle's Cause/Beatification/Sainthood) in her presentation outlined her role and the requirements for Beatification and Canonisation, while Sr. Marie Therese King (NEP Archivist) came armed with a series of archival items linked to her slide presentation, just to prove how accessible and inspiring these materials are, and the information you can glean from so much of their detail, about life at that time and about the cultural and social landscape in which Nano Nagle lived.

Sr. Ann Marie Quinn (Director of the Way of Life Office) put all of these resources in context as well as directing people towards the special packs that had been prepared for each school present, containing the Conductor's Score, an adaptation of Nano's Story and the CD of the Musical track for 'Woman of Welcoming Heart' – the Script written by Dan E. Hyland and the Musical Score composed by Tom Conroy. When Danny Hyland spoke about the work he outlined how it had been constructed in such a way as to be eminently usable as a school resource for use especially throughout 2018.

The morning came to an end with both Marie Therese Kilmartin, Bernadette Fitzgerald and Carol Burke-Heneghan (Principal, Scoil Mhuire Primary School Clondalkin) sharing from a School Perspective how it is possible to 'go one step beyond' with local actions and initiatives that can contribute locally, nationally and globally to making these celebrations vibrant and alive, as a continuation of Nano's legacy on our lives today.

Video Resources as an Inspiration for the Tercentenary Journey

You are invited to avail of the following inspirational video resources from the Nano 300 Resource Morning, which will be available on the Province website: <http://presentationsistersne.ie/> in the New Year:

- Sr. Margarita Ryan's Welcoming Address.
- Dr. Deirdre Raftery's Keynote address, and
- Sr. Fatima Rodrigo presentation of "Praying Our journey" (A Resource Prayer Book for the Tercentenary Year and beyond).

We will alert you through the NE News when these links are up and running.

If you wish to share your thoughts and inspirations in relation to your planned celebration of Nano's legacy during 2018 email: nepwoloffice@presprone.com or by post to: **Sr. Ann Marie Quinn, Director of Way of Life Office, Acorn Centre, Warrenmount, Blackpitts, Dublin 8.**

Who is Nano?



We continued in sharing mode over lunch accompanied by the closing words of Sr. Bernadette Flanagan, who thanked everyone present, those behind the scenes and those at the forefront on the day, for their contributions and inviting everyone to visit the 'Heart Aflame' Visitor's Centre on Mt. St. Anne's campus, recognising it also as a living resource through which we can gain some understanding of Nano Nagle's legacy.

The joy and enthusiasm shared on the day was a tangible affirmation that we can actually do so much more together than we can do apart. We look forward to sharing our progress on this particular journey through 2018 as we follow in Nano's foot steps.

NEP Nano 300 Commission

- Tom Conroy
- Sr. Bernadette Flanagan
- Bernadette Fitzgerald
- Sr. Mary Grennan
- Dan E. Hyland
- Marie Therese Kilmartin
- Sr. Marie Therese King
- Sr. Ann Marie Quinn



We have found our ‘Umbrella’ name...we are all Friends of Nano



Over the past year the Co-ordinating Team of the International Presentation Lay Movement for Mission (IPLMM) - Maria Owen, Sr. Mildred Soldevilla and Mary-Ann Greaney have been promoting and supporting a process of consultation and discernment across Friends, Associates and IPLMM members in order that they can explore a name that

encompasses all levels of membership.

In the Nano 's Echo (Newsletter of the Friends of Nano) of June 2017, they wrote: 'We are looking for a name that describes who we are as an international movement. You won't be required to give up your current name, but over time the new 'umbrella' name may be added to the name you currently use or replace it, if that is what your group wants to do'.

One of the tasks of Maria, Mary-Ann, and Mildred (since they 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. They said: '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).

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

(The content of this article is an extract from Page 4: of Advent 2017 Issue of Nano's Echo—Our Umbrella Name has been agreed).



Awards for Initiatives in the Spirit of Nano

The origins of both these highly successful 'educators' have their roots in Presentation Charism and with their development as companies, this connection remains very much alive. Both have been recognised for best Innovation in Technology for Learning' during the past year with Awards presented by Dot IE Net Visionary Awards 2017 (iScoil) and Social Innovation Fund Ireland Awards (iScoil & the Churchfield Community Trust).

(See websites: iScoil.ie and [Churchfield Community Trust](http://ChurchfieldCommunityTrust.com)).

Congregational Gathering 2018



The ninth Congregational Gathering of the Presentation Sisters (Union) in 2018 (CG2018) will take place from 19th – 26th April in Cork, and from 29 April – 14 May 2018 in Dublin.

As part of the preparation toward the CG2018, Sr Miriam Martin, PBVM (Newfoundland and Labrador Unit) has composed an inspiring song entitled, 'Nano Aflame!' See video link with the song which is based on the theme for the Congregational Gathering 2018: 'Nano Aflame! Stoking our Passion ... Becoming the Fire Radiating Love'. See link: [Nano Aflame Video of Song](#).

At the Ploughing Championships



Srs. Mary McDermott; Eileen Nash; Frances Crowe and Bernadette Purcell at the Presentation Stand at the Ploughing Championships.

- The number of posters requested for church display? - 165
- The number of bookmarks/ discernment prayer requested? - 875
- Pop-Up Banners Requested? - 3

For further resources contact Sr. Bernadette Flanagan at: vocationsadmin@presprone.com

Thanks to the generosity of the local community and Sisters in Killina/Rahan - who had a stand for the celebration of the bicentenary of Foundation - it was possible for the NE Province Vocation Promotion Committee to spend 3 days at the Ploughing Championships this year. While individual sisters have served at the Vocations Ireland stand during the years; this was a first for Presentation Sisters in their own right, to bring their way of life to public attention.

In meeting with many people afterwards the big question generally was: "Did many show interest in vocations?" Whilst this is part of the agenda in going to events like this; it's not really primary. The major reason for going to such events is just 'Being present in the Marketplace'. The Ploughing Championships is certainly a marketplace with 291,500 attendees overall for the 3

days. Thousands of people walked past our stand and just looked in but thousands did come over and visit us and many engaged in very serious conversation about our way of life, about our contribution to education, & about the state of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Everyone was extremely affirming.

We collaborated with the JPIC Commission to prepare a handout for the event. In the spirit of Laudato Si, callers to the stand received an envelope with some bee-friendly radish seeds where were plantable in October. Contact telephone number and website details were on the 2,000 envelopes distributed. The newly designed purple hoodies with logo were worn at the stand and around the site. The visibility which these provided generated many interesting conversations when walking around. The new vocation bookmark was particularly popular with those who called to the stand.

Many young people who don't often have an opportunity to engage with religious today did come over and did chat., as ecological concerns are high on their agenda. We had very interesting conversations with some. about the countries in which we work, the justice projects we support & relations they had in Presentation communities. A number of people said how delighted they were to see us & congratulated us on being present at such an event to highlight the types of ministries in which we engage today. It is hoped to be present in the Marketplace throughout the year at a number of national events - the Divine Mercy Conference RDS (Feb 17/18); Body, Mind, Spirit Festival RDS (Mar 17-19); World Meeting of Families Congress RDS (Aug 22-24). If there are local events for which you would like a banner; posters; hoodies just send a message to Sr Bernadette Flanagan and she will ensure that you receive your supplies.

Communities & Vocation Ministry - Report



13 Sisters have volunteered to explore hosting a 'Sister Café'.

A workshop is being organised for 2018

If you wish to be included contact: Sr. Bernadette Flanagan at vocationsadmin@presprone.com
Tel. 01-4166124



We will have stands at the

Divine Mercy Conference in 2018 at the RDS, Dublin on 16th, 17th & 18th February as well as at the 'Body, Mind Spirit Exhibition' on the 17th, 18th and 19th March.

Would you be willing to be a hostess at the stand?

Would you be willing to provide a Workshop on the devotion 'Mary, Undo-er of Knots'?

If available contact: Sr. Bernadette Flanagan at vocationsadmin@presprone.com T. 01-4166124



We will have a stand at the World Meeting of Families Congress in the RDS, Dublin on the 22nd, 23rd & 24th of August 2018

Could you be willing to be a hostess at the stand?

If available contact: Sr. Bernadette Flanagan at vocationsadmin@presprone.com T. 01-4166124

Catholic Institutions Announce Largest-Ever Joint Divestment from Fossil Fuels



THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

WHAT IS DIVESTMENT?
Divestment is the opposite of investment—it is the removal of investments capital from stocks, bonds or funds. The global divest-invest movement is asking institutions to move their money out of oil, coal and gas companies for both moral and financial reasons.

\$5 trillion: the total value of the institutions that have divested to date

40 DIVERSE CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS...

4 DIOCESES
1 BANK
10 INSTITUTIONS
10 ASSOCIATIONS
3 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
1 ARCHDIOCESE

1 BANKING AND FINANCE
1 ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION
1 LIBRARY

...FROM 11 COUNTRIES DIVESTED

BEL 13 ITA 13 BRE 3 ZAF 2 GER 2
ARG 2 KEN 1 USA 1 DEU 1 AUS 1 SLE 1

4x GROWTH IN CATHOLIC DIVESTMENT IN 5 MONTHS

Learn more about Catholic divestment and join the next announcement at <http://bit.ly/catholic-divestment>

Global Catholic Climate Movement is a community of hundreds of thousands of Catholics and a global network of member organisations responding to Pope Francis' call to action in the Laudato Si' encyclical.

The Union of Presentation Sisters in Ireland (as one of these 40 organisations), have committed themselves publicly to divest from investments which deal with the highly polluting fossil fuels coal, tar sand and oil shale, and to encourage other Catholic investors to join the divestment coalition.

For several years, the Union of Presentation Sisters, have been diligently monitoring and overseeing the alignment of our investments with projects that reflect our values and commitment to caring for human rights and the whole community of life.

We regard our Ethical Investment Policy as an expression of our commitment as a Congregation. As part of this policy we commit over the next five years, or sooner if possible, to divest from any company whose primary business is the extraction, production and/or distribution of fossil fuel or uranium or who is responsible for environmental degradation and from making any future investment in any such company.

“We further commit ourselves to exploring how our investments can promote sustainable solutions to the current climate change crisis” — Sr Mary Deane PBVM (Congregational Leader).

The coalition of 40 is the largest joint announcement of divestment by Catholic organisations to date. The institutions are located on five continents, and represent fields ranging from a holy site to finance to church hierarchical entities. Catholic institutions' decision to remove their support for fossil fuels is based on both their shared value of environmental protection and the financial wisdom of preparing for a carbon-neutral economy. This divestment announcement comes amid united Christian action to protect the environment. (For further information & resources see link: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-and-reinvest/>).

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social,” Pope Francis writes, “but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental”.- Laudato Si - (LS No. 139).

Soul Food

Ethical Investments in an era of Climate Change

Ethical Investments in an era of Climate Change

A GUIDE TO REVIEWING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL GOVERNANCE OF CATHOLIC INVESTMENTS

The Global Catholic Climate Movement **trócaire**

Trócaire and the Global Catholic Climate Movement have launched a guide for faith-based institutions concerned with the ways in which their investments align with their mission and vision, particularly in light of the global challenge of climate change.

The guide, whilst specifically referencing Catholic Social Teaching, is also of interest to all institutions which share the common concern expressed by Pope Francis in Laudato Sí, to address the moral challenge of climate change and ecological degradation.

Given the global reach of the Catholic community, with 1.2 billion members, and the leadership of Pope Francis, the potential for impact is significant. If a significant portion of Catholic institutions review their investment policies and publicise their decision to divest from the most harmful sectors, Catholic institutions can make a significant impact in caring for the planet. There is possibly no other global institution as well placed to show prophetic and practical leadership at this critical moment. The guide can be downloaded as a pdf.document from here: <http://www.cidse.org/publications/climate-justice/>.

(Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Irish Catholic Church. Trócaire is the Irish member organisation of Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE and a member of the Global Catholic Climate Movement).

Awakening to the Mystery of God



Seventy Sisters were joined by family, friends and colleagues of Marion O'Raw on Saturday 9th September in St. Anthony's Franciscan Church, Athlone to welcome with much joy and celebration, Marian's first profession of vows as a Presentation Sister. Marion has taken up full-time ministry with the Peter McVerry Trust and has joined the community in George's Hill. We wish her every blessing and assure her of our prayers.

'Our gathering here this evening on the occasion of the Profession of Vows of Sr. Marion is for us and the whole global Presentation family a moment of deep gratitude and delight. A woman like you, Marion, mature and with everything this world could give you, chose an alternative journey. You chose to listen to the quiet small voice deep within you, you decided to say 'Yes' to God's call and to entrust yourself in love and joy to the God who calls you the Beloved. You have shown courage too. We are overjoyed to welcome you as our Sister'. *And later...*

'Marion, this journey that you have chosen with the Presentation Sisters, is one that requires happy joyful people, daring persons, with hearts that are aflame with the fire of Nano Nagle. She dared to be fearless and different at a time when her life and that of her family was at stake. As her Sisters, we are called to bring about change from the inside out, from the 'Soul -Self'. In religious life we witness to it if we are authentic in our own communion among ourselves and with all other beings. Our way of doing Justice!

Our identity as Religious Sisters rests no longer in what we do or what we wear, and it is not in what we say. It is in who God is, who we are.

We are deeply indebted to all the people who have carried us into the mystery of this presence. The vows we profess to live by, enable us to delve into these depths: **Poverty**, living a shared community life from God, the real Source of Life, from whom all is gift; **Chastity**, self-giving love and compassion in service of the mission of Jesus Christ on this earth; **Obedience**, a community attentive to signs of newness, discerning together the working of the Spirit in each heart. The vows open up for us new and wider horizons of religious life, of Presentation Way of Life.

Marion, you belong to a new generation of Presentation Sisters that the Holy Spirit and the spirit of Nano continue to bring to birth'.

(This text is an extract from the reflection given on the day by Sr. Ann Fox, as part of the ceremony for Profession of Vows).

A few lines from the Word of God on the day:

"Speak, Lord, I am listening. Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is thirsting for you my God. Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love."



Blessing

May you continually be surprised by God. May each day draw you closer to God.

May you rest peacefully each night, and live cheerfully in God's presence each day.

May your gentleness and friendliness reflect the presence of God among us.

May your heart come to life in the love of God and those He has given you to love.

May you find rest for your soul in the presence of Christ.

May you leave all worry behind in the Providence of God.

May the Lord live in your heart through the love you show to others.

May each of your days be filled with opportunities to put love into action. Amen

Closing Mass for Bicentenary Celebrations—Thurles



The wonderful Bicentenary Year Celebrations (1817-2017) in Thurles & surrounding areas drew to a fitting end with a Closing Mass where, joined by students, friends, and Sisters, and by all those who had contributed to this substantive story, gave thanks, carrying the lantern forward following in Nano's footsteps for the next stage of the journey.

Icon of the Holy Family



Soul Food



The icon of the Holy Family was specially commissioned by the World Meeting of Families 2018 (WMOF2018), written by iconographer Mihai Cucu, and assisted by the Redemptorist Sisters of the Monastery of St. Alphonsus, in Iona Road, Dublin, as part of their ongoing prayer for families.

An icon is not like a photograph, nor is it a portrait. It is an image which invites us to prayer. It is hoped that this icon will do just this, while we prepare our hearts for the WMOF in August 2018.

About the Icon

It is a triptych, and on the outside doors are Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who carry with them, the desire of God to protect. On the base of the icon is the inscription: 'Amoris Laetitia—The Joy of Love', the title of the document by Pope Francis which is the source of our reflections during this World Meeting.

Opening the doors of the icon you see the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph seated at a table, sharing a meal and sharing their faith. A faith celebrated in their own home as it is in ours. Their gathering around the table is reminiscent of the Three Angels in the famous 15th Century icon of the Holy Trinity by Andrei Rublev. The family is called to be the living icon' of the Most Holy Trinity. Similar to the

Rublev icon, here in this icon, the Holy Family have a place at the table for us too. Flanking the Holy Family icon are the two Gospel narratives: the raising of Jairus' Daughter and the Wedding Feast at Cana; an example of where Jesus showed deep compassion and concern for marriage and for those living with the burdens of family life.

This icon has started to travel to each Diocese in Ireland, following its unveiling in August 2017. It is accompanied by petition boxes where families can write their intentions and prayers. Contemplative communities around Ireland will then pray for the intentions collected during the coming year. These petitions will also be brought to the WMOF2018 in Dublin from 21st – 26th August 2018. See website: <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/>



The theme for each World Meeting of Families is chosen by the Pope. In choosing *The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*, as the theme for the ninth World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on a theme that was central to the Synodal process that led to his post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*: On Love in the Family.

‘Súil i Solas Dé’ - Walk in the Light of God’



The Trinity Bog Oak sculpture at Scoil Charthaigh Naofa

Coming around the bend of the road of an autumn evening as you pass Scoil Charthaigh Naofa in Rahan, you see the flash of gold and light dancing off a very special sculpture in front of the school. The inspiration for this striking Trinity Bog Oak sculpture derives from the school motto: ‘Súil i Solas Dé’ – ‘Walk in the Light of God’.

This sculpture by the Kildare based artist, Brian O’Loughlin, holds in its flame like bog oak tendrils much symbolism quite aside from its profound interconnection with nature and the space around it. In its peaceful silent aspect of an evening, it draws one heavenward, but yet is very much linked to earth. Its shape embodies many facets of educational life through the ages in Rahan, namely:

- * The triumvirate of pupils, teachers and parents who come together in harmony to further the education of each and every child The three cornerstones of education, ‘hope, ambition and reward’
- * The cornerstones of Christianity – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

“The lamp at the base of the sculpture commemorates Nano Nagle – the ‘Lady of the Lantern’ ”.

The lamp at the base of the sculpture commemorates Nano Nagle – the ‘Lady of the Lantern’, while the bog oak maintains an historical link to the monastic life of St. Carthage, the patron saint of the school, as well as to the Irish Oak forests which once blanketed the area around Rahan.

There is also one final aspect to the Trinity sculpture, one that represents and commemorates the amalgamation of the three primary schools in the parish, when in 2007, Killina GNS joined with Scoil Charthaigh Naofa to form the school, we know today. The Island NS had previously been amalgamated with these two schools in 1972.

(Local information taken from an article by James Hayden in ‘Presentation Convent Killina – 1817-2017: A Celebration of 200 years of Service’).

Praying Our Journey*

We pray, mindful of men and women throughout human history who allowed the Spirit of Life to work in them for the betterment of our world and humanity, for their lives and their inspiration, we give thanks.

Michael Morwood, Praying a New Story

**(An extract from ‘Praying Our Journey’ - Prayer prepared by Nano Nagle Commission as part of the resources for the Tercentenary Celebrations of Nano Nagles Birth in 2018).*





This official logo which will be used for the Tercentenary Year of Nano Nagle's birth was created by Christ the King Secondary School, Turners Cross, Cork. The Tercentenary Logo and the general guidelines are accessible in the Members Area on the Presentation Union website at: <http://pbvm.org/>

Want to know more?

If you have read this magazine and have enjoyed it or have comments or ideas to share that would help make it better — please let us know, as the ‘little shoots’ are all ready and determined to grow? Also feel free to pass your copy on to someone else who may not yet be familiar with the ‘world of Presentation’.

As a new reader—if this is your first contact with Presentation North East Province or if you just want to know more, please contact us at any of the links given below or throughout the magazine or visit our website, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or make contact with someone directly at local level. **We are not hard to find** 🙌🙌🙌



**Acorn Centre
Warrenmount
Blackpitts
Dublin 8.**



presentation north east province

We are a community of women rooted in stillness and contemplation committed to developing caring and meaningful relationships in education, community outreach, charity and international missions. We are committed to living sustainably and we promote justice, peace and equality.

We live out the vision of Nano Nagle, the distinguished Irish woman who started our congregation, by responding creatively to ever changing social challenges. Our daily work involves creating innovative responses to unmet needs, participating in diverse educational services and making a difference in many small ways to people’s lives especially the poor and marginalised.

We are an international group of Sisters who aim to be mystics and prophets in today’s world.

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Contributors to this issue: Ann Marie Quinn, Concepta O’Brien, Bernadette Flanagan, Ann Fox, Sheila Fox, Anne Codd, Margaret Agnew. Extracts included from articles appearing in Nano’s Echo—Advent Edition and the commemorative issue of ‘Presentation Convent Killina—1817 to 2017: A Celebration of 200 years of Service’, reference especially James Hayden’s article.