



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

MARCH 2024

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.

A newsletter to connect everyone who is drawn to Nano Nagle. A sharing of ideas and a deepening understanding of Nano and her impact in our lives - locally and globally.

Diversity - Blessing and challenge

Nano Nagle wrote, "If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power." Little did she know that her dream would come true as Presentation people and ministries are now worldwide. The spirit of the order she founded two hundred and fifty years ago is still strong and transformational.

The blessings of the Presentation charism are enormous. As Michael Green fms reminds us, *a tradition allows for more sources of inspiration than only the lives of its great characters. It provides a story to learn, tell and feel part of, sacred places to visit, folklore that carries the values and beliefs in usual human ways, even books to read and songs to sing ...* (2000. A Journal of Marist Education. Vol. 3. No.2). In other words, charism enriches and sustains through the life and example of its founders.

Charism cannot be limited to a specific location or time. It is a dynamic phenomenon and the result of the Spirit's work. This charism challenges us to see how Nano's vision and values are manifested in our modern world, which is characterised by different social and cultural contexts.

The Presentation charism's blessings are enriched by diverse cultures and people who respond to Nano's challenge. However, contemporary challenges like online influence, ecological justice, declining Church authority, and scientific advances in human genetic engineering pose new obstacles to this mission. There are many other issues we could add to this list.

These realities challenge us to take the Presentation charism out of its box and ask:

- ◆ Do all **Friends of Nano** groups have to be the same?
- ◆ Is there a 'right' way of being Presentation?
- ◆ What blessings can we embrace from the cultural diversity in our international conversations?
- ◆ How do we celebrate our differences?
- ◆ What would Nano say about our global outreach today?
- ◆ Why are international conversations so essential, and what can we learn from each other?

Nano Nagle lived in a primarily mono-cultural world. Even though Cork was a trading centre, there were not many influences from other countries, and people hardly questioned the usual way of doing things and the assumptions about life, worth, and value. Nowadays, we live in a genuinely multicultural society, and our **Friends of Nano** movement must recognise and accept this diversity and figure out what it means for our future.



Caroline Thompson
Australia

[Click on Caroline's photo to discover more](#)

Partnership with the Divine

Friends of Nano gather in Pakistan



Meetings of our **Friends of Nano** Groups around the globe follow similar patterns as we renew our partnership with the Divine. Here is an account of a gathering in Pakistan:



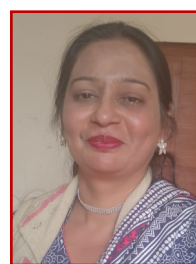
In early December, fourteen **Friends of Nano** gathered in the Presentation Convent High School, Sargodha, Pakistan. The opening prayer, led by Nish Francis, was followed by the Hymn "10,000 reasons". Shehnaz Khurshid proclaimed the Gospel from Matthew.

After a time of silence and reflection we shared in the bigger group. Gretta Gill PBVM (Link Sister for Pakistan) asked a few concluding questions. During the tea break we had time for renewing friendships.

At the start of the second session Ms. Munaza read a paragraph from '**One Pace Beyond. The Life of Nano**

Nagle' by Raphael Consedine, PBVM (p.164). This tells of the Christmas celebration when Nano Nagle and her sisters invited fifty poor people. In small groups we reflected and discussed: **How did Nano and her sisters celebrate their first Christmas and how would we plan to celebrate Christmas this Year?** After fruitful discussions we shared in the big group.

To end the meeting Sr. Gretta linked the two questions with the Gospel reading and shared seven secrets of happiness. The meeting ended in the spirit of Christmas with all the **Friends of Nano** enthusiastic about celebrating with the poor and needy of our present day so that Jesus may be born again with love and peace.



Reena Pervaiz
Pakistan

Passion for the poorest

Friends of Nano respond to flooding in South India



Just before Christmas there was flooding in South India and the Presentation Family collaborated with other agencies to assist. Isabel Thomas reports, "It's the people who live on the streets and makeshift houses that really get hit. The homeless and those affected by the floods will be sheltered, fed, and given medical aid in government schools, so schools won't work for a few days till the homeless are relocated. The **Friends of Nano** reached out to three tribal villages on 22 December. Presentation students and sisters gave provisions to 120 pensioners. Other Presentation convents and schools have reached out to the elderly and a few families who are homeless near their convents. Our Parent Teachers Association and Lions Club distributed tarpaulins to cover the top of huts which were damaged by the wind. Many areas did not have power,

Click on the image of the damaged dwelling to view a short video of some of the flooding.

network, and drinking water for almost a week. Milk, food, water etc. were taken by

helicopters and boats as the roadways were filled with stagnant water."



Isabel Thomas

Flood survivors

Gratitude is when the memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind - Lionel Hampton

Following in the footsteps of Ven. Nano Nagle



Following in Nano’s footsteps, Margaret Rosair, a **Friend of Nano** for many years, shared the celebration of her 75th birthday with the residents of **Jeevan Jyothi Ilam**, a home for the destitute elderly. She, and her very supportive husband Ian, sponsored and served lunch for the residents of this very special place in November. They were accompanied by Justin and Judy Stephenson (**Friends of Nano**, Perambur). The senior citizens felt extremely happy to be included in this birthday meal.

Margaret leads by example in influencing the younger members of her family. Last August her grandson, Ayden Nicholas, celebrated his birthday in a home where 30 street boys live. He knew from his grandmother not just to donate old toys, no longer used or liked, but also to share treasured gifts. At Christmastime, cricket sets and footballs were also bought for the home.



[Click on the image to view a video of Margaret’s grandson’s celebration with 30 street boys.](#)

Reflecting on such outreach experiences, Margaret simply said that she was following Nano Nagle who, like St. Clare of Assisi, discovered herself in the “mirror of the cross” through the love of Jesus. This empowered her to love beyond self-gratification, thereby sharing in the divine power by positioning herself at the cross itself. She concluded by saying that like Nano, **each of us must continually strive to go ‘one step further’ in serving the poorest of the poor.**

The gift of education, the hope for a better life



Brother and sister Ashley and Thierry

Pauline Aliskevicz is the Director of Haitian Outreach, a charitable trust that gives children of Haiti hope for a better life through the opportunity to attend school and get an education. Law student Thierry St-hilaire is one youngster who has benefited. Following the death of his father he was unable to complete his studies without financial assistance. When Pauline heard his story she organized sponsorship for Thierry and his younger sister, Ashley. Life is hard in Haiti with many experiencing poverty and ongoing political insecurity. Because of the sponsorship Thierry has been able to graduate and fulfil a dream of representing widows and orphans.



Pauline Aliskevocz USA Conference

Like Nano Nagle, Pauline understands the value of education that has the power to liberate people from ignorance and poverty. When Nano had used all her available money she simply begged. Pauline is following in her footsteps and seeks sponsorship for those in need. You may like to **check the website - just a click away on Pauline’s photo.**

Congratulations, Kim Kelly!



At the 8TH IPA Assembly held in June 2023, it was decided to invite a person who is not a member of a religious Congregation to become a Member of the new IPA governing body. Kim Kelly, an Associate from Newfoundland and Labrador, has accepted the invitation to join the team alongside Srs Julie Watson (Ireland) and Lizzy Mathew (North India). Following her appointment, Kim said, *‘I am truly honoured to accept the appointment as a trustee with IPA. I look forward to beginning this ministry. It is through all of us that Nano’s work continues.’* **Friends of Nano** are delighted with Kim’s appointment and look forward to collaborating with the IPA.



Click on the emblem for a one page summary of the strategic plan and on Kim’s photo for a summary of the 8th IPA Assembly outcomes.

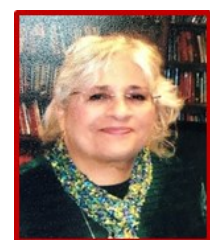
Collaboration is key



Friends of Nano in the US Unit who have been engaged in advocacy for vulnerable groups have found collaboration is the key to success in many areas. For the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita on February 8, they participated in a Solidarity Walk and Prayer Vigil (with one station at the statue of Nano Nagle) organized by the Bridge of Light Ministry, in St. Irenaeus parish in Cypress, California, which unites with other groups dedicated to ending the scourge of human trafficking and supporting the survivors of this type of modern slavery. **Click on the photo for a Taize-style Prayer Service.**

As part of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, **Friends of Nano** help asylum seekers released by Homeland Security traveling through San Antonio, Texas, to pursue their cases. Volunteers provide travelers with food, water, diapers, medicine, backpacks, ticket purchasing and communication assistance, and orientation about the details of their journey (sometimes more than 48 hours) to their sponsors. They also advocate for changes to immigration policies.

In Fargo, North Dakota, Associates have routinely joined forces with other groups to sponsor educational opportunities like the “Ramadan Primer for Non-Muslims” on March 3; undertaken initiatives to end local homelessness; taken part in demonstrations that raise awareness of Indigenous Peoples’ issues (environmental rights and the boarding school scandals); urged a cease-fire in Palestine. Every year, they sponsor a Rejuvenation event for local Social Justice advocates. This year’s afternoon, called “Everything Is Connected”, invites all justice people in the community to learn how to “Live Restoratively”.



Karen Sacre
USA

Note: At 59mins the video changes from Prayer Service to a 4-minute video on the Red Sand Project - specifically on Trafficking – and then a Global Hope 365 presentation aimed at raising awareness of Child Marriage, Human Trafficking and other forms of Gender-Based violence.

Covenant with creation



Cry of the earth

Nagoa, Arpora Baga is a picturesque village in Goa known for its diverse flora and fauna. The landscape is a blend of hills, paddy fields, ponds, rivers, and mangroves, providing a home to exotic birds, marine turtles, wild boars, foxes, reptiles, fish, and oysters. The village has developed recently, and many resorts, hotels, and businesses have been established. This has led to environmental damage, destroying the biodiversity of the hills, mangrove areas, salt pans, and paddy fields.



As **Friends of Nano**, we follow Nano's teachings of caring for people experiencing poverty, which means caring for the Earth being damaged in our village. We decided to network and join other groups to make our voices heard. Luckily, our village council created various voluntary committees as support groups, including the Biodiversity Committee, which we joined as volunteers. We organized a clean-up drive with the help of villagers and the council to address the issue of plastic litter being dumped in a pristine field. This drew attention to the problem of shops and restaurants disposing of plastic waste in



Hilda D'Souza
South India

fields and ponds, contaminating the soil and freshwater. The council initiated daily garbage collection, and shops and restaurants were notified. We raised awareness about the mangrove destruction along the Baga River by preparing placards, inviting villagers, and sharing photos on social media. We're creating a People's Biodiversity Register to document the village's flora, fauna, medicinal plants, sacred groves, and landscape. This register will help us secure funding for a study from state biodiversity boards.

Answering Nano's call

Reflecting on my experience as a Presentation Associate, I feel that this experience is one of deep gratitude. Nano Nagle's charism has inspired me to reach out to others more easily in my daily life. Something more spiritual is deepening within me, and this is a humbling experience. I enjoy my Associate group, and the sharing, reflections and prayers inspire me. I always take a message from the presentations, which assists me in reaching out to others in the spirit of Jesus and Nano. This is life-giving for me. I understand that sharing in Nano's charism and mission is a gift and a call. This gives me the passion and energy to continue in the Associate relationship. Nano found ways to bring compassion and light to those living in darkness. I, too, can do the same when I sit with the dying and visit the lonely. I am grateful to be part of the Presentation Sisters and our Associates. I thank them for all my blessings from journeying with them over the years.



Kay McDermott
Newfoundland

New Associates make commitment

After being involved in the welcoming and orientation process and attending multiple retreats for over a year, we felt a great sense of togetherness, deep spirituality, and oneness. This year, they provided us with excellent preparation for our commitment to become Presentation Associates. On November 24, 2023, we met with Srs. Betty Rae Lee (Provincial Leader), Roisin Gannon, Sandy Butler (Link Sister), and Ruth O'Reilly. Kathleen White, an associate for twenty years, was also present at the meeting.



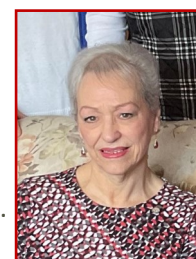
Newfoundland
Emblem (pin)



L-R: Lorraine Paddick, Bernadette Wicks, and Iris Walsh signing their commitment. Sandy Butler PBVM is standing.

After Sandy's PBVM, warm welcome, we began our Commitment Ceremony, which was filled with energy and the spirit of Nano. The tone for the morning was set with the Gathering prayer, "God of all Being." The ceremony commenced with the song "God of the Universe," followed by lighting our candles. We were then invited to continue the mission of the Gospel and walk as Presentation Associates, following the flame and Charism of Nano Nagle.

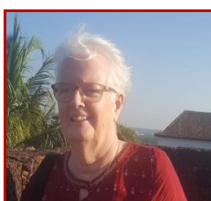
Sandy PBVM introduced us to Betty Rae PBVM and the Congregation. We accepted the invitation to embrace the charism and mission of the Presentation Sisters and share our talents and gifts as we journey together in faith. We proudly wear our Associate Presentation



Lorraine Paddick
Newfoundland

Pins to symbolize our relationship with the Presentation Sisters. After the ceremony ended, we felt a sense of acceptance and a solid commitment to continue helping people in need both locally and globally. We enjoyed a delicious meal, and Ruth PBVM gave us a copy of Anne Lyons' "The Story of Nano Nagle" as well as a poem called "Associate Creed" written by Father Tom Duffenais, which was explicitly dedicated to our new members. **Click on group photo to read the creed.**

Thank you to the outgoing Congregational Leadership Team



Anne
McDermott
PBVM
our CLT link

A heartfelt thanks to the outgoing CLT who have served the whole Presentation family with wisdom, understanding, and integrity these past six years and some even longer. In particular we are grateful for the unfailing support and encouragement of our CLT link sister, **Anne McDermott**. Anne has attended numerous Zoom gatherings to listen, walk alongside, offer words to help invigorate the movement and giving us responsibility for our own affairs. There has been a sense that **Friends of Nano** are finally coming of age, imbued with an understanding of the gift that Nano is in our lives and able to make good decisions because we have the information needed. Under the outgoing leadership we have our own structure to take us into the future, created and embraced by us - all made possible by being trusted to follow the voice of the Spirit and given a free hand to respond to that call. Thank you for the opportunities and may our great God continue to bless you abundantly in all your future ministries.



Young members

Ven. Nano Nagle's death anniversary was commemorated at St. Therese High School, Goa, during Nano Nagle Week from Feb 27 to Mar 2, 2024. Mrs. Sultana Sheik and Sr. Sofia coordinate the 'Little Nanos' group of 42 girls. They organize various school activities, such as drawing and poster-making competitions, innovative presentations, and quiz competitions based on Nano Nagle's life. During the morning assemblies, the young Nanos emphasized the three core values of **Friends of Nano** for three days. The Little Nanos organized an e-waste collection in school with collaboration from children and teachers, and the waste was properly disposed of.

The Little Nanos were recently appreciated for their kindness at school, home, and neighborhood. Three of them bought food from the school canteen and distributed it to homeless people, setting an inspiring example of selflessness. **Annaly Gomes** has been awarded 'Little Nano of the



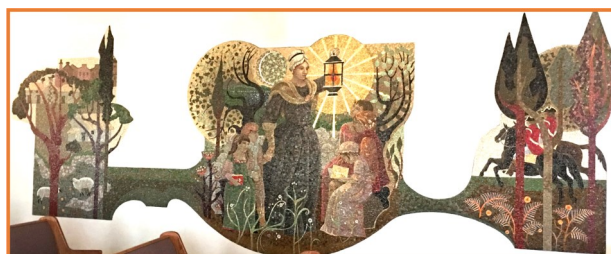
Year' for her kindness and generosity, including helping classmates with their studies and sharing her tiffin (snack) with poorer students. As recognition, she received a framed photo of Nano and a lantern.



**Sofia D'Souza PBVM
South India**

Nano's Mosaic

In the January crossword puzzle, a mosaic was displayed from St. Joseph's Chapel in Upland, California. Sheila Reen provided some missing information about the mosaic. The Presentation Sisters served in the area for over 65 years, from 1955 until 2021. The pastor, Fr. John Slattery, planned the mosaic to honour the Sisters and thank them for their ministry in the school and parish. It was possibly created in 1983 by a local artist from Claremont. There are numerous remarkable Presentation artworks located in schools and convents worldwide. If you have photos and stories of your place's treasures, you can send them to Mary-Ann Greaney (details below), and the team will try to feature them in the coming months.



All issues of **Nano's Echo** from April 2015 can be found on the Newfoundland Labrador website. Click on the emblem, scroll down, and enjoy.

Please start collecting items for the next issue. It would be great to include articles (250 words maximum) from a Friend of Nano from whom we have not heard before... Colourful photographs, video links and illustrations enhance each item - send by 4th June.

Nano's Echo production team

Next issue of Nano's Echo: June 2024



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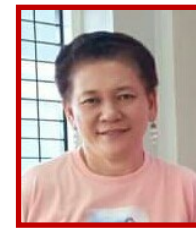
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