Friends of Nano Newsletter Launch

For just over two years now a small group of Friends of Nano from Dunedin, Upper Hutt and the Kapiti Coast have been meeting regularly via Skype. We spend time praying together, sharing what is happening in our area, and planning for the future. We have also organized a few events—like when Sr. Anne Boyd came from Australia, and Sr. Anne Lyons from Ireland.

The group that meets is the Aotearoa New Zealand core group. Following the 2011 Gathering in Ireland that Trixie Campbell and Mary-Ann Greaney attended the Central Leadership Team, based in Ireland, asked that every country set up a core team. Those of us on the team have grown in our understanding of each other, what is happening in other areas, and clarified what it means to be a Friend of Nano. The time has come when we need to provide a regular newsletter for anyone interested in the Nano Movement.

This first newsletter will introduce you to the core team and say a little about who Friends of Nano are and what our values are. On the back page is a brief biography of Nano.

A number of sisters who shared many years with us ministering in Aotearoa New Zealand have returned to Ireland or are ministering in other lands. As time goes by we will catch up with them and find out what they are doing today. The first sister profiled is Catherine Mulcahy.

Nano and our daily life

The core values (above), or guiding principles, inform our work and our development as a movement. Our logo, a triple spiral, is a visual reminder of what lies at the centre of our endeavours, inspired by Nano’s way. We endeavour to give practical expression to these core values in our own daily lives through the following characteristics of her charism:

- **compassion** for those most in need
- **commitment** to our aims, persevering with our work
- **courage** in the face of setbacks and difficulties
- **confidence** in Divine providence
- **creativity** in exploring innovative solutions
- in **communion** with our fellow Friends of Nano and others

all underpinned by the practice of **contemplation**.
If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power.

Nano Nagle

South Island Team

Trixie Campbell

Trish Brenssell

Noreen McGrath pbvm

Jan Adams

Kapiti Coast Team

Mary Anne Kindell

Margaret Bevin

Tony Bevin

Hutt Valley Team

Mary-Ann Greaney

Ruth Coleman pbvm

Teresa Homan

Stewart Homan

Anything marked with the lantern symbol has been taken from the PBVM website: http://www.presentationsistersunion.org/friends/default.cfm?loadref=422
Friends of Nano are all those people who are inspired by the charism of Nano. Some are friends of Nano as vowed religious, others are lay co-workers, partners in mission and colleagues. Today, associates are part of the broader network of Friends of Nano.

Associate members share in the charism, spirituality and mission of Nano Nagle and its lived expression in our world today. Associate groups act in partnership with the vowed members of the Presentation Congregation in a relationship of equality and interdependence. Associates recognise the importance of on-going dialogue and discernment in the growth of the movement. Together with the sisters, associates share dreams and goals, vision and values and together find a way to be of service to our brothers and sisters, especially to those who are on the margins of our societies.

Associates link with initiatives of the Presentation Sisters or network with any local, national or international initiatives that seek to bring about a better world.

Where are they now?

Catherine Mulcahy pbvm arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand 4 September 1965 and returned to Ireland 19 November 2006. In her time with us she taught in Paraparaumu, Naenae, and Green Island before accepting a congregational leadership role and moving to Eastbourne. Among other things Catherine is remembered fondly as a passionate supporter of the Associate movement.

Catherine is in ‘retirement’ in Tipperary as a volunteer at a day care centre, involved in Fair Trade, fundraising for Eastern Europe and Africa as well as serving on a number of boards. In her spare time she may be found in her organic vegetable or flower garden.
Nano understood hospitality very well, reaching out and providing a welcome for those on the margins. She made a start by stepping outside into her own community and doing what she could.

She didn’t allow disappointments and setbacks to prevent her moving forward and was prepared to take calculated risks.

She networked with people that could offer help and guidance. She animated and enabled people to be self-sufficient. She recognised that education was the key to empower people to help themselves.

Nano was a woman in tune with the political and social conditions of her time and its effect on people. She was passionate about justice and took steps to alleviate the misery of her compatriots, challenging and holding out against Church and civil authority to achieve her ends.

Presentation Sisters and lay men and women gifted with the same charism are ministering in every continent working to bring about the reign of God where they live and work.

Mary-Ann Greaney