



# 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

JULY 2021

**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.*

*What if ... we really believed we are gifted with the Charism of Nano?*

Nano's journey was one of great awareness of the circumstances of the times in which she lived, and responded with creative solutions. These few pages contain stories of *Friends of Nano* being aware of the circumstances of our day and responding with creative solutions.

Margaret Rosair, from India, helps paint a picture of the reality facing our world.

### India's pandemic experience

Covid-19 hit India in January 2020; as the rate of infection grew a total lockdown was declared in the country. Daily wage earners and migrant workers faced multiple hardships: dealing with lost income, food shortages, and lack of transport. Many lost their lives on the highways as families walked days on end to their villages.

India was soon able to ride over the first wave considerably well, but we were not prepared for the ravages of the second wave of Covid. The transition from listening to reports of covid on the news channels to hearing about our inner circle being affected was very aggressive and rapid. We witnessed the most heart-rending scenes where people died for want of oxygen and medical facilities. As the situation spiralled out of control,

entire families were wiped out. Hundreds of children became bewildered as they suddenly found themselves orphans. Even more distressing was the dearth of facilities for burying or cremating a dearly beloved one.



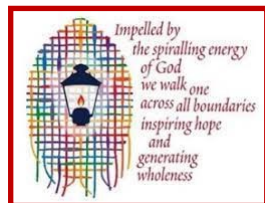
Margaret Rosair

However, during this most distressing and hapless situation, God raised amidst us great Samaritans who braved all odds to reach out to their neighbours. Irrespective of religion or caste and creed, people came forward to help in burying the dead; helping people to reach medical aid;

arranging the supply of food and medication to affected families. The intervention of the government with its implementations and restrictions has now curtailed the spread of the infection. However, we still face many challenges. Covid has not only affected the health of people but also the economy of the country and many have lost their jobs: hence we face a severe economic recession. These factors in turn take a toll on the mental health of the people and we have witnessed many youngsters facing depression that leads to suicide.

As we are healing, we grasp the hope that the situation will soon change for the better. Faith in God is the prime strength of our country. Faith, charity, and hope will help us tide over this dreadful period.

**Margaret Rosair**

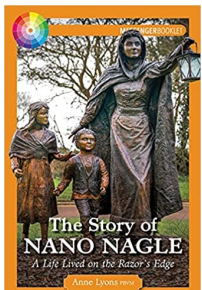


Earlier in 2021 most of the *Friends of Nano* Coordinators and Link Sisters from around the globe came together for a Zoom gathering. Some of our time together was spent reflecting on the times we have gathered in our local groups. We shared **moments when we had an elevated experience** which made us feel engaged, joyful, surprised, and motivated. Some of us had **new insights, felt connected, and experienced pride** when a project we were involved in made a difference in people's lives.

A small sampling of some of these stories are shared in *Nano's Echo*. You may like to spend a little quiet time reflecting on your Nano journey and recall special moments.

### Nano moments - English unit

Our Core team meets regularly (the past year by Zoom) and we have kept in contact with the link Associate for each Group. We had planned to have a Pilgrimage during this year, so took advantage of the Team at Nano Nagle Place, Cork, who were thinking creatively during the 'lockdown' in Ireland. We embarked on a 'virtual' pilgrimage led by Sorcha O'Brien, Education and Outreach Officer, and resident Sisters Prema Anthony, Mary Kealy and Sheila Reen. As we 'journeyed', we paused to reflect and pray; lit our candles and remembered the Presentation People who introduced us to Nano. We learnt of the past and heard of new ventures bringing the Women of Hope into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This informative and spiritual experience is to be recommended: a 'possible' way of visiting the museum and the grave of Nano Nagle in our post-pandemic world.



Click if you wish to buy the booklet

Our Justice and Peace Team keeps us well informed on all matters including COP26 - to be held in Glasgow and new campaigns post G7. Through prayer and action, we respond to the IPA Priority Action Areas by living contemplatively, walking lightly on the earth and witnessing prophetically.

We are encouraging our Groups to read the book "The Story of Nano Nagle – A Life Lived on the Razor's Edge" by Sr Anne Lyons PBVM, as a good resource for Zoom/telephone or physical meetings. The chapters are short but are packed with 'food for thought' and provide ideas for pondering.



Click to an interview with Anne Lyons PBVM

Maria Owen

### Ministry with women and children in violent situations in the Philippines

The Presentation Lay Associates (Parolitas) in Negros Island, Philippines, are mostly connected through the Presentation schools. We are partners with the Sisters in their apostolates, especially in the cause of violence against women and children. In May 2021, some Parolitas provided support to five couples whose marriages had experienced difficulties. The invited couples had been already processed and settled in their local area under the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) desk. Having provided activities for their children, our aim was to support each of the couples in a reconciled relationship. During the short



Some faces covered for confidentiality

program, the husband and wife were asked to recall memorable experiences, before and after marriage, in a simple question - answer segment. This was to determine how well they know each other. A short discussion about the roles of husband and wife was shared. I provided information on domestic disputes and how couples handle different situations. The couples were given the opportunity to freely share their life's struggles. Before the activity ended, the couples were given grocery gift packs and toys for their children, in appreciation for their cooperation. We agreed to

support these families with life skill training and workshops. As we went home, we felt that today's accomplishment will be worth a lifetime to us all.

Athena Sayson



There is a contact person in each Unit. If you do not know who your local contact is, e-mail Mary-Ann and she will send the details: [m.greaney@greaney.co.nz](mailto:m.greaney@greaney.co.nz).

**A Nano moment in Africa - from the USA**



The Presentation Sisters always inspired total trust in God. As an Associate in San Antonio, Texas, I desired to experience this trust for myself by working with Sisters in Africa in 2001. Sr. Wiona Engel, the Congregational Leader at the time, connected me with Sr. Sheila Sheehy in Zambia, and I was invited to live with Sr. Mary Brennan in the Chipata Compound, a slum area in Lusaka, to teach English to the students there. This work certainly fulfilled Nano Nagle’s desire for the Sisters to work with the poorest of the poor! While there, I was inspired to set up a class for special needs children living in the compound. Through Sr. Mary’s networking with a physical therapist who had visited all the sandstone huts in the compound, she discovered the children with disabilities (cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and mild retardation) were left in the huts and never allowed to go to school. Our challenge was to set up a classroom to accommodate these children so they could have an opportunity to learn. A real “Nano Moment” - an elevated experience - occurred as we watched these precious children come to school with their piece of bread in a small bag and a big smile. Through the generosity of people Sr. Mary had contacted, we provided them with a hot breakfast of porridge and carpeting to sit on, since several of them were unable to sit at a desk. This ministry continues today.



**Mary Jo Quinn**

**Friends of Nano in Pakistan stay engaged and motivated**



Time aside for sharing and planning

The *Friends of Nano* have many experiences that make us feel engaged and motivated every day and give us the strength to carry the Charism of Nano. Because of severe restrictions and lockdown, due to Covid-19, we couldn’t do much last year but this year we have revived our group and recommenced some of our activities. We decided to restart Sunday school and have visited a few of the families in our respective cities. In April, our Unit Leaders and Group members celebrated the anniversary of Nano’s death.

- *Friends of Nano* in Josephabad have some women in their group who are not educated but are working with us with great passion: helping with visits and praying the rosary with the families in the village every evening. They are a great inspiration for all the young people in the group.
- Sunday school children regularly come to the church and their enthusiasm and love for the divine, in this stressful situation, give us more energy.
- While visiting people, listening to them, experiencing their pain, becoming their voice, we can feel our mission is appreciated. Praying the Rosary gives us joy and inner peace and helps us in faith formation.
- Sharing our experiences in the group gives us more strength and encouragement.

**Carol Sohail Bhatti**

**A word from Pope Francis**

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful be passive recipients.



**Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #120**



Clicking on the image will take you to a variety of Presentation podcasts. There may be some that interest you.

# Ministry continues in the midst of Covid-19

## Mexican Friend of Nano creates Nano portrait



On Christmas Eve, 2020, the anniversary of the founding of the Presentation Sisters, Erandi arrived at our door to present us with a gorgeous portrait she had painted of Nano. Erandi is a 20-year-old *Friend of Nano* and a volunteer at Presentation Learning Center in Watts, California. She is finishing her second year of college and is a natural-born artist. Erandi is an immigrant from Mexico, currently in the DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals) program. No words can begin to describe the joy her gift brought us. It was in the middle of the worst surge of COVID in Los Angeles, and all was dark around us. Many we know were sick, some had died, and the majority were out of work. To have Nano come into our home on the night of the birth of our Lord, who “pitched his tent among us,” and on the anniversary of the founding of the Presentation Sisters was a true grace from God. We heard Nano and Jesus saying, “Don’t be afraid. I am with you.” Please remember Erandi and all the other young adults in the United States who are counting on immigration reform.



Jane Bonar PBVM and Catherine Burke PBVM, California

## Community pantry - Philippines



Community pantry

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the majority of people in our town have had difficulty meeting their basic needs. Our Community Extension and Outreach/Philanthropic Development Office headed by Mr. Daryl Landrinio, coordinator and a PBVM lay associate, launched a “Community Pantry Drive”. This was a response to the needs of the community and to demonstrate that we

are all capable of sharing our blessings with our brothers and sisters. Initially, everyone in our institution was encouraged to bring their local produce to our school for sharing. The goods - rice, eggs, vegetables, fruits, canned goods, dried fish, etc. were distributed, mostly by tricycle drivers who took the food to identified areas of need. The donations kept on arriving - some from anonymous donors in kind and as cash. Some even brought homegrown fruit and vegetables to share with the community. The pantry became a way of getting goods to far-flung areas and hacienda sugarcane workers. This activity was celebrated on May 14, 2021 with the campaign slogan “*Get what you need; share what you can*”. Together, let us lend a hand and fill a heart. The Spirit of Nano at work.



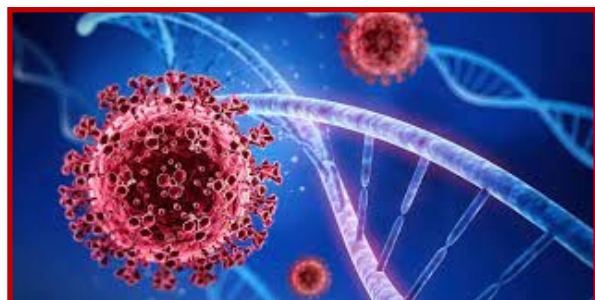
Hacienda sugar cane workers



Athena Sayson

## A Covid reality check in the Philippines

Our life has drastically changed since Coronavirus hit Negros province, Philippines. What we do; where we go; who we are in contact with? These are all monitored and documented. Even after strict



observance of hygiene protocols, some of our family members were afflicted by the virus. The Presentation School administration - where we are connected - decided we should not report to school but work from home for 15 days to lessen the risk. To ensure we are virus free, some of us are now lateral-flow testing and luckily have a negative result.



Jovelyn Lumahan Ganaba

## Friends of Nano Ireland walking the Nano way



It's not too late to complete the walk. Click on the image.

The *Friends of Nano* Ireland organised a Virtual Nano Nagle Walk from 19-26th April 2021. Using 'social media' this was to be a virtual pilgrimage of Gratitude and Hope reflecting on Nano Nagle's Life and her Legacy. The walk focussed us physically and spiritually and united us in spirit. Through our daily reflections, we prayed and thanked God for our families, baptism, education and the positive influence and help of others in our lives. We especially prayed for the sick, and those who care for them, in this time of Covid-19. Nano brought hope to the people of Cork and all whom she worked with. *Let us, as FRIENDS OF NANO, continue to bring HOPE to everyone we meet. Let us reach out to one another in the Spirit of Nano Nagle.*

*Friends of Nano*, Sisters and many young people from our schools, joined us. We started our 'walk' from Ballygriffin (Nano's birthplace) with a Zoom Reflection on Nano's young life. Our walk ended at Nano's Grave on the anniversary of her death 26th April.



Gathered at Nano's grave

Over 200 Presentation People, from across the world, joined the Zoom reflection from Nano Nagle Place. The *Friends of Nano* from South Presentation gathered at Nano's grave to 'be present' for us all.

*Let us continue our walk on the road trodden by Nano. Lighting our way by helping one another to make our world a better place and create a future of dignity for all people.*

Anne Dwyer

## Two items of interest

### When the Sisters are no longer resident - what happens? - New Zealand

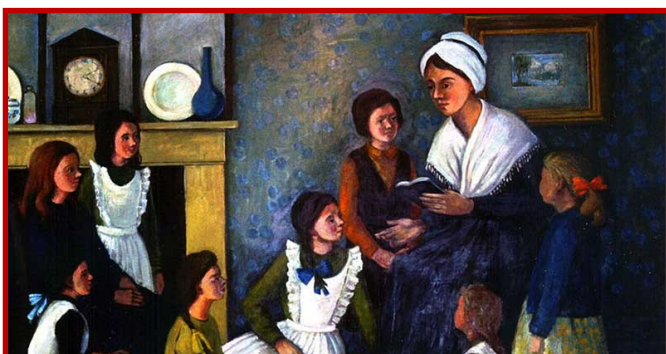


The Presentations first came to New Zealand seventy years ago. As time goes by, there are fewer Sisters and they are no longer living in some of the areas where they used to minister. Our hope and prayer is that Nano's Spirit will continue to flourish. We may be filled with optimism that Nano's Spirit has been set loose. I recently participated in the requiems of two *Friends of Nano*. Margaret Bevin and Epi Higgs (Samoan) were from the same parish and their funerals were just one day apart. During both funerals it was mentioned a number of times that they were *Friends of Nano* and the ministry they were involved in. The parish priest, Michael McCabe, wore a special PBVM vestment that is worn at special Presentation events New Zealand wide. The vestment was designed by Sue McGregor, PBVM, now ministering in Zambia, and sewn by a parishioner.



Mary-Ann Greaney

### Child from North India tells the story of Nano



Click on the image to watch a one-minute video of a young child telling the story of Nano. While some may find the accent a bit difficult it is worth listening to a delightfully animated poem. Thank you **Leema Rose Alphonse PBVM** for sending it in.





Put some time aside to explore the **Nano Nagle Place website** (click on image at the left). It is excellent and full of stories and resources. For those who can't visit Cork this site is the next best thing with wonderful photos and videos that bring it to life.



You may like to subscribe to a monthly **IPA news** put together by Brian O'Toole. It will keep you updated on what is happening and is full of useful links and resources (click on image at the left). Contact Brian if you would like to receive it.

[presinterprovjustice@gmail.com](mailto:presinterprovjustice@gmail.com)

### Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
remember those whose **lives are at stake.**

May we who are no risk factors  
remember those who are **most vulnerable.**

May we who have the luxury of working from home respect and support those who must  
**choose between preserving their health or paying the rent.**

May we who have flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember  
**those who have no options.**

May we who have to cancel our trips  
remember **those who have no options.**

May we who are losing our investments  
remember those who have **no money to invest.**

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
remember those who **have no home.**

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us **find ways to be the loving embrace of humanity to our neighbours.**

**Be aware. Be accepting. Be supportive. Be kind.**

Author unknown

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**Note new email**



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