



# 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 2022

**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.**

There is so much despair in our world at the present time with the war in Ukraine and other places, displacement of people, natural disasters, and a global pandemic. A bright spot in our lives is the nourishment we gain by reading stories that transcend negative elements in all our lives and focus instead on ministries that would gladden Nano's heart. In this issue we are highlighting a group who are passionate about Nano and often overlooked - our young people. The main story on this page was written by **Jessica Lobo from South India**. Jessica was one of the winners of an essay competition focusing on what Nano might do if she were here today coping with Covid - you will see we are Nano's hands and feet. There are also stories of young people in **America** and **New Zealand** who, like us, are carriers of Nano's dream and making it real in today's world.

Other stories give us an insight into a Nano book club in **England**, a report from **North India**, the positive influence of Sisters in **Pakistan**, and how **Friends of Nano** in the **Philippines** have had to clean up after typhoon Odette and still manage to reach a helping hand out to others in need. A **Friend of Nano** in **Newfoundland** has written a prayer to mark World Social Workers Day celebrated this month. You may enjoy dipping into a selection of short **video clips** that help us broaden our understanding of the core values.

## Nano through the eyes of a teenager

Nano Nagle had a broad vision and was mission-oriented, recalling her quote, 'If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power'. On recounting her quote, it is evident that if Nano were here in these days of pandemic she would engage herself in the following ways.

In keeping with her charism, she would aid the poor as best as possible using education and the virtual and digital platforms.

Nano Nagle would render her services in counselling, supporting the sick and the aged.

Under her stewardship she would inspire her sisters, her associates, and the laity to reach out beyond the boundaries to pray, act, and work towards facilitating a healthy and conducive atmosphere by procuring



**Jessica Lobo**  
age 14  
South India

medicines, ensuring oxygen facilities, beds, etc.

Nano, trusting in the strength of the Almighty would constantly echo the words, 'the Almighty is all sufficient', and would courageously encounter all storms and sail through with the companionship of the Holy Spirit. As a disciplinarian, she would navigate her actions in the direction of the government. She would walk the gospel values of Christ as shown in the light of her last words before

dying, 'Love one another as you have hitherto done, spend yourselves for the poor'.

True to her image as the **Lady of the Lantern** she would train the Presentation Sisters, **Nano Club** Members, and **Friends of Nano** to be bearers of her lantern and permit the light of Christ to illuminate the paths of the needy in this pandemic.

Thank God for the legacy of Nano today through our Presentation Sisters.

## The life of Nano and her legacy



Nano Nagle gave her life to the poor and looked after them, especially the children. She taught Catholic kids who were not allowed to have access to education. She taught them in secret, inside sheds and bushes so they wouldn't get into trouble with their government. At night she took food and clothes to poor families and always carried a lamp. She was known as the lady of the lamp. She started off living in a rich family but shared her money around; over time she became poor too. Nano Nagle made me think that education is a privilege and really important, and that we have to look after one another, mainly the poor. For Nano it was important to look after others.

Nano Nagle started the Order of the Presentation Sisters who are the founding Order of St Peter Chanel school in Green Island, Dunedin.



Anamalia Tili  
age 11  
New Zealand

## The mission continues through Friends of Nano children's group

What a blessing to have had the Presentation Sisters at St. Joseph School for 66 years! Working alongside these faithful servants as they lived every day with a deep love for God and neighbor was an experience I will never forget! As painful as it was to say goodbye to these Sisters and see their convent close, I am happy to announce their mission continues through our *Friends of Nano* Children's Group.



Nano's children in Upland, California

In September 2021, this group began to meet monthly for prayer and service. Included in prayer time is learning who Nano Nagle is and discussing ways to continue her mission. Stories are shared of students who, like Nano, have stepped out in compassion for others. One such story is of a 4th grader who got her entire class involved in a tremendous school-wide popcorn sale in order to raise money to help find a cure for her brother's recent diagnosis of Friedreich's Ataxia, a degenerative disease.



Loretta Bowen  
America

Many inspirational stories are shared of students showing compassion in big and small ways. Our main service now is to the residents at Villa Mesa, an assisted living facility. The students create cards and crafts sending these to their new friends with prayers. We hope that once this pandemic is behind us, we will be able to visit them. Nano Nagle continues to live through this *Friends of Nano* Children's Group who are so excited to show others that "It's not words, but deeds."



## The Pope speaks to young people

Click on the photo of Pope Francis to see a short video of the Pope's best messages to young people. He is calling young people to be brave, take risks, and swim against the tide.

One way to respond to the Pope is to unite with other like-minded people who are keen to live the Gospel message in their lives. You may like to join a *Friends of Nano* group or a *Nano club*. If you do not know of any group you can join, you may like to start one. If you need help, just email any of the people who are on the last page of this newsletter; and they will give you a contact near you.

## Friends of Nano in the Philippines reach out to children after Typhoon

Life after Typhoon Odette hit our locality was difficult and added to the crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. These realities do not stop us sharing what we have with the less fortunate.



The *Parolitas* (*Friends of Nano* in the Philippines are called *Parolitas* - Carriers/Bearer of the Lantern.) decided to extend their outreach program to more than one hundred indigenous people's children in one of the depressed mountainous areas of Barangay Bi-ao, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental. We held a very short program to make Nano known. We provided them with warm snacks of pasta and chicken. We gave them relief goods of noodles, canned foods, candies, and biscuits. We also distributed new and old slippers/sandals, used clothes and bags.

The smiles on the faces of the children and excitement in their eyes were evident as they received a small gift from the organization. It is indeed true that a small act of kindness brings so much joy to a grateful heart. Helping one person might not change the whole world but it could change the world for one person. The organization always believes that helping the less fortunate is a blessed opportunity to show gratitude for the gift of life that everyone enjoys.



Florabel Ortega  
Philippines

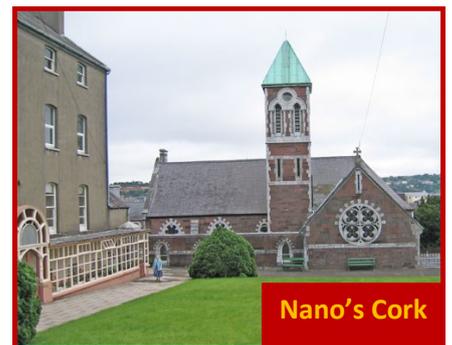
## Visit significant Nano places - click on photo



Nano's birthplace



Ballygriffin and Nagle connections



Nano's Cork

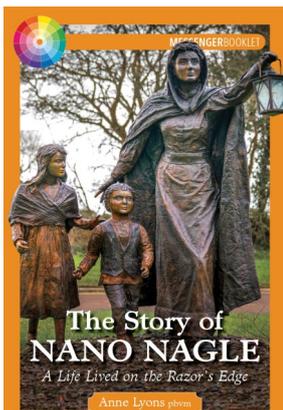
## Be free and authentic

*Be free and authentic, be the critical conscience of society. Don't be afraid to criticize!  
We need your criticism. Many of you, for example, are critical of environmental pollution.  
We need this! Be free in criticism.*

*Be passionate about truth, so that, with your dreams, you can say: 'My life is not captive to the mindset of the world: I am free, because I reign with Jesus for justice, love and peace.*

*Pope Francis to young people Presentation Day 2021 (21 Nov).*

## Nano Nagle book club



To find out more click on the picture

In the English Province we have been reading the latest book on Nano Nagle, “**The Story of Nano Nagle, A Life Lived on the Razor’s Edge**” by Anne Lyons, PBVM. Some groups have used the chapters in their meetings and others have joined in the monthly Zoom session set up by the Core Group. This book looks at an aspect of Nano, challenges the reader to reflect on Nano’s life and then ponders the questions at the end of each

chapter. We use the framework of a short welcome: the Nano Nagle Prayer; introduction to the chapter (approx. 10 mins); small group sharing (15mins); plenary session to feed back to the main group; a suitable song and the Prayer for the Beatification of Nano. By keeping it to an

hour we are able to focus our thoughts, especially as everyone has the chapter to read and prepare before the session. There are nine chapters, so we have been encouraging different facilitators to take the lead.

During the time we were unable to meet in person (because of Covid-19), we found that connecting via Zoom has enabled us to keep connected. We have been joined from NZ, for most of the sessions, by Mary-Ann Greaney *and*, one occasion, Anne Lyons (Presentation Congregation Postulator) joined us from Rome. Using this book has deepened our knowledge of Nano’s life and work, whilst also encouraging us to examine our lives as Presentation People and deepen our conviction in exploring our mission as *Friends of Nano*.



Maria Owen  
England

If you would like to start a book club, the *Friends of Nano* in England are happy to share the Power Points that have been prepared for each chapter. Contact Maria for details: [mariaeowen@gmail.com](mailto:mariaeowen@gmail.com)



Click on the photo to take you to a five-minute video that explains *Laudato Si’*. The video is very engaging and suitable for young and old alike. It would work well if you wanted to explore **A covenant with creation** in any *Friend of Nano, Nano Club* meeting, or on your own at home.

## Presentation Sisters are an inspiration!

Life is full of challenges and surprises. However, every day our ladies face many trials which mostly make them strong and grounded and valued members of society. Naheed Abid is a special woman who is not only strong in faith but committed to her spiritual growth and development. Her early education was a witness to the hard work and dedication of the Presentation sisters. Their dedication has, no doubt, transformed the lives of countless people. Naheed became a religion teacher in 1997 after she had completed her education. She was following the path of light just like Nano Nagle, who brought a ray of light to the dark. Tomsina PBVM supported her every step. She heard the call of God and spread HIS message to the people by teaching. In addition to her services in school she collaborates with Shamim PBVM who established a colony for a Christian Community in 2013 for homeless people affected by the floods. Rehana PBVM laid the foundation of the *Friends of Nano* on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Naheed joined the group and started services for women in their journey of spiritual growth and development. She started visiting people and guiding them towards God. Like Nano she

has devoted her life to people and is an inspiration to others. She continued her services even after marriage.



Hina Daud (L), wrote the story, with Naheed Abid  
Pakistan

## North India province prepare for the future



***We must think the Almighty permits everything for the best - Venerable Nano Nagle.***

The Christmas season was most befitting to have the first face-to-face meeting of the **Friends of Nano** Core Group at the Provincialate, 'Anjali', G.K. Delhi.

With a hot cup of coffee, Lizzy PBVM Provincial, formally welcomed the members of the team: Molly Joseph PBVM Province Coordinator; Regi Joseph PBVM Province Link; Leelamma John; Brenda and Helen Pinto.

The prayer service, led by Sisters Regi and Molly,

enriched each of us through reflecting on our lives: our moments of courage and strength, and took us one step forward. A central sacred space was created, with the three core values of the **Friends of Nano**, and multicoloured pebbles, symbolic representations of our journey in the universe, captured our attention and brought blessings to all who need courage in 2022.

During the gathering we shared in the **Friends of Nano** activities of North Province using a Power Point Presentation. Planning ahead for the 2024 Inter-province Gathering, we discussed how to prepare by engaging in different activities designed to take Venerable Nano's lantern forward. It is good to meet with other Presentation People, sharing hospitality. As always the warm heartedness and personal touch of the Presentation Sisters was commendable!



**Helen Pinto  
North India**

## A prayer we may all use

The following prayer was written by a **Friend of Nano** for social workers; however, it has a place for all who strive to stand with our sisters and brothers in need. **World Social Workers Day** is celebrated in March.

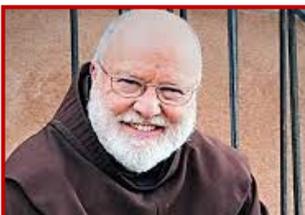
Please pray for me...  
 I am a social worker In Critical Demand  
 Called to serve humanity all over the land  
 As the profession of *Social Work is Essential*  
 Help me support people at all stages of life to develop  
 their full potential  
 Let me join with Indigenous peoples to honor  
 the land and protect creation  
 To strive for collective healing and true  
 reconciliation  
 Let me be an instrument of peace  
 And the equity, diversity, inclusion and  
 anti-racism lens never cease  
 Let me use social work knowledge, skills and theories for  
 community capacity building and to answer never  
 ending queries  
 Help me expand my network so it is not just us  
 Who create supportive resources and pursue social  
 justice  
 Let me be competent and skills based  
 To seek mutual solutions for the issues people face  
 Let me uphold confidentiality as I lend a listening ear  
 To help bring hope to those in despair  
 Open my heart to those in need  
 While I enhance health and well-being and help my team  
 lead  
 Let me always use the Canadian Association of Social  
 Workers Code of Ethics as my guide



To enhance research and influence policy that will  
 change the tide  
 Let me juggle my many roles and foster unity  
 To serve individuals, families, groups and everyone in  
 the community  
 Let me use my strengths for the common  
 good  
 To help people understand and be  
 understood  
 Let me always respect the worth of persons  
 and show inherent dignity  
 To counsel, support, refer with compassion and maintain  
 integrity  
 Help me give back to my profession through continuing  
 education as I am able  
 To mentor, share, teach, and inspire as I am capable  
 Let me continue to build knowledge and skills through  
 continuing education  
 And make time for self-care to take care of me  
 When I have a bad day and experience  
 some sorrow  
 May I find strength to help build a  
 better tomorrow  
 Wherever you work, whichever area of  
 practice you do  
 May pride in the Social Work  
 Profession be always with you!



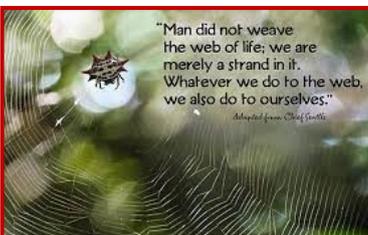
**Kim Kelly  
Newfoundland**



Click on photo to view video. 10 min.

### A partnership with the Divine

**Richard Rohr**, a Franciscan priest from America speaks on contemplative prayer. *'Our hope lies in the fact that meditation is going to change the society that we live in, just as it has changed us'.*



Click on photo to view video. 6 min.

### A covenant with creation

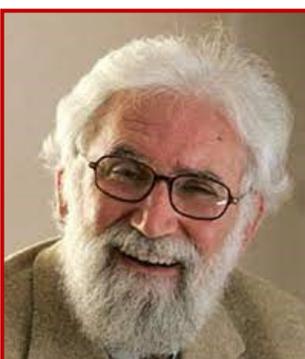
**Jane Goodall**, English primatologist and anthropologist, *'You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.'*



Click on photo to view video. 1 min.

### A passion for the poorest

**Mother Teresa** tells us, *'If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one...Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'*



Click on photo to view video. 2.5 min.

### Everything is connected

**Leonardo Boff** is a Brazilian theologian, philosopher, writer, known for his active support for liberation theology. Leonardo received a major award for helping people realize the links between human spirituality, social justice and environmental stewardship - another way of articulating our core values. The video is in Spanish with English subtitles.

## The Nano Nagle prayer

Lord God, You raise up people  
From age to age  
To speak anew Your Word to us  
And to show us your ways.  
Such is Nano Nagle.  
In days when courage is needed,  
You give us this woman of strength  
To walk before us with conviction.  
In days of great change,  
You present us with a prophet  
whose faith is firm.  
As the light of her lantern brought hope  
Into the lives made wretched  
By poverty and oppression,  
So may she inspire us  
To compassionate action  
For those in need around us.



Everything is integral and interacts with everything else. This means that nothing is itself without everything else. There is a commonality, an integrity, an intimacy of the universe with itself.

Thomas Berry

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Next issue of Nano's Echo due June 2022



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