



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

OCTOBER 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.

By degrees with the assistance of God we may do a great deal. (Nano Nagle)

Congregational Leadership Team announcement of the Appointment of an International Animator for the Friends of Nano

In 1989 the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) called the Sisters to collaborate with Laity as 'equal partners in our common mission'. In our last Congregational Gathering we committed to '**play a supportive role towards furthering the growth of the International Friends of Nano Movement**'. Responding to that commitment and to a recommendation made by the previous CLT, we tried to create a salaried position and appoint an International Coordinator, but at the time none of the people recommended to us by Unit Leadership Teams was willing to take on the role.



In the last few months, Mary-Ann Greaney, New Zealand, who previously worked on an International Coordinating Committee for the **Friends of Nano**, became available to work with the **Friends of Nano** again. After conversations with Mary-Ann we have decided to appoint her as the International Animator for the **Friends of Nano** for three years, commencing on 1 October 2021. This is not a salaried position. This was Mary-Ann's decision. We have agreed to provide the expenses necessary to carry out the role till 2024.

The Role Description was written following conversations with Mary-Ann, it states that: The International Animator will focus on four main aims: **Communication, Formation, the Promotion of the Movement among new and younger members, and the Promotion of Leadership**. To enable her to do this, she will:

- 1) Familiarise herself with the **Friends of Nano** in each Unit Community of the Congregation
- 2) Gather a Multicultural Team to work with her, in moving the **Friends of Nano** towards becoming a co-responsible and sustainable Movement, who share the vision and charism of Nano Nagle and who collaborate with the Presentation Congregation in finding creative ways to further the Mission.
- 3) Promote creative ways of supporting the ongoing formation of each local group of the **Friends of Nano**.
- 4) Promote creative ways of attracting new members especially among the younger generation.
- 5) Continue the development of good communication across the Movement.
- 6) Promote the development of a pool of leaders who will be willing to take on leadership roles in the future.

We trust that each of you in your various **Friends of Nano** groups will give Mary-Ann all the support she needs from you.

We are deeply grateful to Mary-Ann for her willingness to say 'Yes' to becoming the International Animator for the **Friends of Nano** and for the graciousness and enthusiasm with which she is embracing her new role.



Anne McDermott
CLT and Link Sister

A Synodal Church is a listening Church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn. (Pope Francis)

A picture paints 1000 words in Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) there has been a strong *Friends of Nano* group for sometime now. Jacinta Garry is our contact in Aitape - a small coastal village of around 18000 people. Aitape was established as a train station by German colonists in 1905 as part of German New Guinea. During the Second World War the town was occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army. PNG is part of the Australian Society.



A group photo after receiving our badges as members of the Friends of Nano.



Friends of Nano join prison inmates for Mass.



Friends of Nano Christmas Hospital visit.



Contributed by Jacinta Garry, Papua New Guinea

The human face of Covid-19 in Chile



Since the Covid 19 pandemic began, Chile has lost 37,493 people of different ages. Today with 80% of the population vaccinated and following the protocol dictated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the quarantine has been lifted in almost

the entire country along with the curfew. Restaurants, bars and businesses in general are slowly beginning to open their doors.

Among the deceased is Don Waldo Zelada, 68 years old, who had no underlying disease. Don Waldo was a friendly taxi driver whom I contacted when my family and I moved from Iquique to Quillota in the middle of

the pandemic, October 2020. This kind and generous man transferred us from the airport to this small city, welcoming us, wishing us well and hoping that we would feel comfortable in his city. He guided us and told us where we could buy cheaper food and anything we might need.

During the suffocating heat of January, when the use of the mask was unbearable, Don Waldo took us to the outskirts of the city, to a beautiful area in the countryside, a wonderful grove where we enjoyed the landscape. We took off our masks and breathed clean air and we saw the vegetable plantations in the valley - a gift in the midst of a pandemic. Don had several clients and was very careful with the health protocol, but at the end

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of May he stopped answering his cell phone. We thought that perhaps he was very busy with his clientele, but in August another driver informed us that Don had died due to Covid and they did not know how he got infected. For my family, he was a beautiful person, one of those helpers that God sends us. Thank you, Don Waldo Zelada!

The health personnel have worked with great strength and dedication to save lives. Ignacio Marin, 26, is a young doctor and was part of the Valparaíso Hospital team that tirelessly fought against COVID 19. His mother Carmen Gloria told me about him, when I met her at her business. She told me how very worried she was as she had not seen her son for more than a year due to Covid. He only communicated by cell phone, because he did not want to expose her to the virus. But she feared for him, as his shifts were long and exhausting. Recently Ignacio told her, "I have never seen so much suffering."



Her maternal fears materialized when Ignacio told her that he felt very stressed, tired, exhausted, that more than a year rescuing people from a ruthless virus left him totally without energy. She was worried about his capacity to cope. On the digital page of the *Friends of Nano* a prayer request was made for the young doctor.

Two weeks later I met Carmen Gloria, her eyes shining with joy, and even though she was masked, I could imagine her smile as she told me, "Soon I will see my son!" They had transferred him to the maternity area of the hospital, where life is born together with hope. I smile and say to heaven "Thank you, Nano".

Contributed by
Nelly Hidalgo,
Chile



Passion for the poorest

One of our three core values is to **stand for the poorest in society**. How do we understand this? Gerry Rosario SJ suggests that Government Organisations look after the poor and Non-Government Organisations look after the poorer in society. It is movements, such as ours, that are needed to look after the **poorest**. **Nano's focus was on the poorest of her day and we are called to do the same in our time**. It is heartwarming, in the two stories that follow, to read how *Friends of Nano* in Zimbabwe and North India are caring for the poorest.

Celebrating Sister Margaret's birthday through giving

Friends of Nano from St Michael's Presentation School in Zimbabwe this July celebrated the late Sister Margaret's birthday by generously giving food, clothes and bedding to the Bingu family, who have three children living with disabilities.



Click on the photo to take you to the full story in pictures

The two male children, Thaddeus and Ernest, and one female, Dadirai, are all in their thirties. None of them can talk, or do anything for themselves like bathing, as their

limbs are so weak. Their father is an old man and is partially blind. Mrs Bingu is the only one who is able-bodied, thus she takes care of this family on her own.

Living in rural Zimbabwe means she has to walk many kilometres to fetch water, look for firewood and do all the household chores, as well as growing food crops. They do not have an income at all since they do not get any social grants from the government.

We are so grateful to Sister Margaret for sharing with us the charisma of Nano Nagle and embracing us as lay people who continue the mission of Jesus Christ as one big family. Through her teaching, leadership, and mentoring, we now have a **passion for the poorest** in society. It is our prayer that we will continue to be advocates for sustainable development to the poor, the marginalized, the disabled, women and children.

Contributed by
Naome Pasipamire,
Zimbabwe



The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry (Pope Francis, Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools 2013).

God's Mysterious Ways

During the Pandemic many families underwent tribulations and struggles. The bread winners of many families were under pressure as they had lost their regular income. I would like to share a story of Divine intervention. Recently my husband was taking online



classes with a student. It was the oral test as part of the internal assessment. Afterwards, I discovered that many students were not allowed to join the online classes because they had

not cleared their dues. The student he was working with had not paid a few months' fees, so my husband was trying to help the students outside school time.

I was feeling disturbed and wanted to help. After talking to the student's father, we realized they were genuine and needed help. I contacted a group I thought might be able to help and, after having fulfilled all the formalities, a cheque was issued to the school. There was such rejoicing in the family. The father wrote, "I feel it is the power of God ... you all are such angels ... I will never forget this kindness ... I will always be grateful." I felt deeply grateful to God and to Venerable Nano Nagle. I had prayed to her. I felt it to be a Divine intervention. Venerable Nano is still reaching out to support others, bringing hope and joy into the lives of people.

**Contributed by
Leelamma John,
North India**



Covenant with creation

Season of Creation



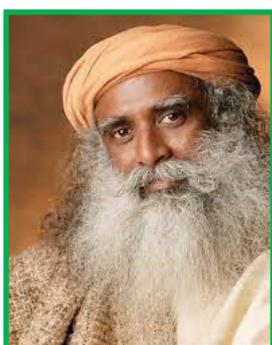
This year is the 6th anniversary celebration of *Laudato Si'*. In response to the Pope's invitation to act, Binalbagan Catholic College (BCC) with some Lay Associates and the Presentation Sisters launched an activity called "PlantTree" to our BCC Community Garden and Mini Forest by planting Madre de Cacao and Banana tree in BCC Isla property three-hectare lot. The plants were chosen because they can endure the dry

season. The project was launched in May 2021.

We continued our tree planting activity in October with a short ceremonial introduction about creation followed by a prayer for planting (rogations). We planted native hardwood and fruit trees in the designated areas. Other parts of the land are allotted for organic animal, vegetable, and vermiculture farming.

We are committed to be part of the healing of our Common Home today and into the future. Creation calls us to sustainable living with passionate care and use of its fruits. We appreciate God, our great creator, who has abundantly gifted us nature's blessings.

**Contributed by
Athena Sayson,
Philippines**



Sadhguru is a familiar figure in India and Pakistan. [Click on his image to view a very short video on the sacredness of creation.](#) Sadhguru's reflection resonates with our core value of a **Covenant with Creation** and sends a powerful message of the need to collaborate in any way we can with the U.N. climate change summit, **COP26**. The climate change summit is set to begin in Glasgow, Scotland on 31 October through to 12 November. Some 20,000 delegates are expected from all over the world. We may not be able to attend in person but we can hold all the decision makers in prayer.

The impact of being a **Friend of Nano** is one of the best kept secrets in the Presentation world. Very often the ministries we are involved in are invisible as we go quietly about making a difference in the lives of people. Many **Friends of Nano** have changed their priorities and refocused on the things they are involved in after reflecting on Nano or meeting others in the Presentation family. For some the transformation has been dramatic and others a more gradual process. **Friends of Nano** in **New Zealand, Pakistan, South India**, and the **USA**, share a few insights on how knowing Nano motivates all they do.

Taking Nano’s influence into daily life

Recently I have become a volunteer at Invercargill prison New Zealand working with prisoners on a program called “Seasons for Growth”. The aim of the program is to assist prisoners dealing with grief and loss, enabling them to make better choices and decisions when released.

Prior to commencing, we were invited to attend an interdenominational service on Saturdays with the aim of building rapport and trust with the men. I was “blown away” with the way the majority participated with music, readings and sharing of personal testimonies which were often lives of abuse, little support or love.

Volunteers were asked to introduce themselves, share a little about themselves and what had brought them there. While working out what I was going to say, I found myself reflecting on the journey of my own life and the people who had guided me along the way.

It took me back to the day I became an Associate of Nano Nagle, where in my statement I vowed to carry Nano’s influence into my daily life. I didn’t realize it then, but her influence had already begun as a first day pupil in 1950 at St. Peters Chanel school in Green Island New Zealand. I was taught by The Presentation Sisters who had recently arrived from Ireland. They instilled in me morals, respect and care for others. Their influence contributed to my decision to become a nurse and advocate for vulnerable people, to love all God’s creatures and our earth.

Contributed by
Trish Brensell,
New Zealand



A Story of Transformation

Though all the people who joined the movement certainly caught the spark of Nano Nagle’s charism and have been transformed by it, one of the greatest examples of transformation based on inspiration by the life of Nano in Jhelum, Pakistan is Mrs Shumaila Pervez. As a newly-married teacher from D.I Khan who joined the Presentation Convent Jhelum in 1988, she heard the life history of the venerable Nano Nagle and got inspired to change her own priorities, as Nano had. She started helping those students who were weak in studies, and visited needy families with the Presentation Sisters. One of the pioneers in her group, she is still an active member of the **Friends of Nano** in Jhelum. She



Shumaila Pervez

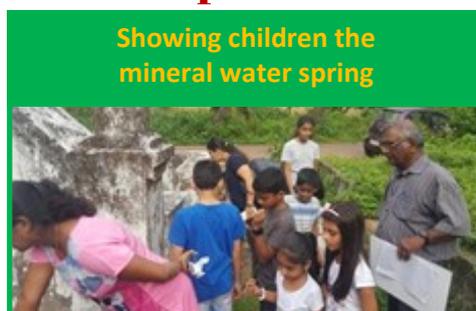
visits families in need on a regular basis even during the pandemic. Although she caught the virus, when she recovered from COVID-19 she again started visitations. She is actively assisting people not only in our town but also in other cities by providing them with groceries and clothes during the lockdown with the help of generous people in the community. She is really following the footprints of Nano in her own capacity. She is so enthusiastic that after her retirement in December 2021, she will devote herself to the service of her community.

Contributed by
Humaira Tabassum,
Jhelum, Pakistan



Transformation - A human response to a Divine experience

Prazeres Gonsalves, a **Friend of Nano** since 2019, is from Verem, Goa. He has organised awareness programmes for people to keep bees, shift to Solar Energy and other sustainable living practices. He found creative ways to live with them even during the pandemic



Showing children the mineral water spring

lockdown encouraged others to accept eco-friendly and sustainable practices. We prayed in the same parish as strangers, but when we got to know him, we encountered a wonderful person with a passion for life, commitment to service and in many ways for issues which we as

Presentations cherish.

He one day shared, **“It’s only when we let the Eucharistic celebration shape our hearts to reach out to creation and people in compassion, that we live it, or else it is simply a ritual.”** Like the Nagle Family motto, Prazeres always lives - **NOT WORDS, BUT DEEDS.**

He renovated an old barn house in Verem, which was used by the Portuguese administration before 1961, and is now a place for villagers to meet for community building. He invested his resources and talents into the transformation of the barn to become a Parish Centre.

Being a keen reflective observer, he notices things when done differently. He noticed our circular seating arrangement and values the fellowship of face-to-face conversations with respect and equality. We took part in the yearlong reflections on *Laudato Si’* and followed up



A barricade made by Prazeres with recycled plastic bottles and a little cement.

with significant actions.

If ONE person makes a choice, our presence is a blessing!

**Contributed by
Lancia PBVM,
South India**

Nano Nagle, the flame in my heart

Nano Nagle has been the flame in my heart that guides me daily! I have been associated with the Presentation Sisters for 28 years, and it has helped shape and mold me as a person and as a servant-leader. “Doing What Needs to Be Done!” has been my mantra throughout my career. I have spent 24 years as CEO of CHI Friendship, a sponsored ministry of the Presentation Sisters in Fargo, North Dakota. The organization supports and serves over 300 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Nano’s call to serve the underserved children in Cork is exactly what I have had the privilege and honor to do for this group of individuals. I have tried to live out her example by volunteering to bring individuals to church and encourage society to value and accept each person as a fellow human being. I have had the privilege to advocate on their behalf for additional

funding from our state legislature. Most importantly I have had the honor of being called a friend. I have learned to be grateful for the blessings they bring me each and every day. “Doing What Needs to Be Done” calls us to be many things to many people and most importantly it calls us to be selfless in meeting the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, the underserved and the forgotten. “Whatever you do for the least of My brethren, so too you do unto Me.” Amen.

**Contributed by
Jeff Pederson,
USA**



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