

Nano Nagle's Memorial Day



26 April 2010

Ritual Setting a bell, a picture of Nano, a globe, a lantern

Gathering Proclamation (All)

- We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and their care of it.
- We acknowledge all the species with whom we share our planet.
- We stand in solidarity with our ancestors in the faith on whose shoulders we stand.
- We acknowledge all those who have given their lives working for a just, peaceful and sustainable planet.
- We acknowledge all those with whom we live and work on this endangered planet.
- We acknowledge each one of us gathered here and honour the dignity and wisdom of each one.
- We acknowledge all those waiting to be born. It is for their sakes that we work to make this world the best possible world where all may live life to the full.

Leader

Today we gather to celebrate and give thanks for Nano Nagle, prophet and disciple. Although she died 226 years ago, she has influenced and continues to affect the lives of generations of Presentation people and of those made poor and treated unjustly. (Ring a bell).

"Like the sound of a bell resounding in the welcoming air, so has the goodness of [this holy woman] resonated in our lives". (Joyce Rupp)



Reader 1



Whether we know it or not, we transmit the presence of everyone we have ever known, as though by being in each other's presence we exchange our cells, pass on some of our life force, and then we go on carrying that other person in our body, not unlike springtime when certain plants in fields we walk through attach their seeds in the form of small burrs to our socks, our pants, our caps, as if to say "Go on, take us with you, carry us to root in another place." This is how we survive long after we are dead. This is why it is important who we become, because we pass it on. (Natalie Goldberg)

Reader 2

Morphogenic fields are unseen forces that preserve the form of self-organizing systems (e.g. human beings, families, communities, organizations, the biosphere). Since each system has its own morphogenic field, our world is filled with fields that overlap and interact. (Judy Cannato)

Reader 3

A morphogenic field is a force that operates both outside and within a self-organizing system to help it maintain its organization of form. Like gravity or magnetism, these force fields cannot be seen, but their influence can be experienced and measured. They do not consist of energy, but rather are information systems that preserve the integrity of the system. Force fields contain a kind of memory that provides coherence and enables successive generations to learn behaviours more easily. Eventually the novel becomes habitual, deposited in the collective memory of the species. Morphogenic fields preserve stability while allowing for creativity and the emergence of something new. (Judy Cannato)

Reader 4

How can the idea of morphogenic fields help us claim the vision that Jesus passed on to us – the dream of the reign of God in the world, with us as its light? We must first recognize that as self-organizing systems morphogenic fields are integral to the identity of each of us as individual persons and as members of various groups. The thoughts, behaviors and words that come from us contribute to the quality of the fields in which we are maintained. In other words, as the universe having come to consciousness, we make choices that contribute to the condition of our fields. And these fields have formative power, shaping and affecting the quality of the energy around us. (Judy Cannato)

Reader 5

Besides being rooted in scripture, the capacity to operate out of our lived experience of Jesus Christ will keep his memory and mission alive, allowing his vision and values to become more deeply imbedded in our field of awareness. The keeping of the memory and mission of Jesus is not about making him the object of our worship but about making ourselves the locus of the reign of God. As we live the life to which we have been called, our habits alter the morphogenic field and we help create a hospitable environment that enables others to respond as well. They are pulled in, unable to resist the love that resonates around them. In community – as self-organizing systems – we maintain and creatively advance this particular kind of morphogenic field, and it becomes a formative power that contributes to the transformation of the universe. (Judy Cannato)

Reader 6

The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, build signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of the soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy toward others, both, are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. (Clarissa Pinkola Estes)

Leader

What morphogenic field, what formative power did Nano unleash and creatively advance to contribute to the transformation of the world? What sparks did her soul throw, what flares did she send up as she spent herself for those made poor? The following quotes give us some answers to these questions. Let us spend some time in **quiet reflection** on these quotes.

They know her in the crowded lonely ways
Woman of welcoming heart, whose lantern sheds
Kind beams for eyes waste-misted by the weary miles.

Raphael Consedine pbvm



Apart, in shadowed hours of night and dawn,
Leaning heart to heart on the One who pulses life
Into the lowliest and least of all that lives,
She learns to unclasp the last-kept store
And lay it down in welcome: 'Take and share'.

Raphael Consedine pbvm

Your pilgrim heart
Shall urge you still
One pace beyond.

Raphael Consedine pbvm

Go Out!
For need calls loudly in the winding lanes
And you must seek Christ there.

Raphael Consedine pbvm



And she, receiving, knows still more to give,
And, welcomed, grows in art of welcoming.

Raphael Consedine pbvm



To universal misery she opposed ministry to persons,
To ignorance, knowledge,
To disillusionment, tenacity of purpose,
And to multiple vexations, singleness of heart.

Raphael Consedine pbvm

Prophets do not conform. They burst upon our flat horizon with creative alternatives and new models of being human. Not for them the mediocre, not for them the binding of the human spirit to societal, political, or religious norms.

In spite of our reluctance to embrace new visions, the prophets create in us a stirring of fascination as we witness in their pursuits a courage beyond the norm. Do they, perhaps, remind us of our own dreams and visions abandoned as we adjust to the grey reality of our world?

Adapted from Edwina Gateley

To be a disciple means to put one's feet in the footsteps of Jesus and, in the power of his Spirit, to continue in one's own historical time and place his mission of announcing and signing the coming reign of God. Together as Church, the community of disciples is in a unique way called to be the instruments of the reign of God in history. Since peace and justice are among the most powerful signs of the reign of God present in this world, it belongs to the essential mission of the church to make these realities more visible in our time, so marked by oppression, violence, injustice and threat of total destruction.

Elizabeth A Johnson

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
Defend the rights of those who have nothing.
Speak up and judge fairly,
And defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Leader

You are invited now to share how you have been affected or inspired by Nano Nagle in your own life and ministry.





Blessing Prayers



Pass the bell around the group. When each person receives the bell, they ring it in memory of Nano and pray a blessing for themselves, for Presentation people, for those in need of prayer, for the Universe or for any other need. The blessings may be said aloud or in silence. When all have finished the final prayer is said together.

Final Prayer

God of the generations,
When we set our hands to labor,
Thinking that we work alone,
Remind us that we carry
On our lips
The words of prophets,
In our veins
The blood of martyrs,
In our eyes,
The mystics' visions,
In our hands
The strength of thousands.

Jan L. Richardson in *Wisdom's Path*

