

# PRAYER/REFLECTION TO CELEBRATE NANO NAGLE

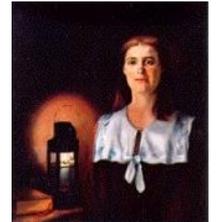
April 2011

## 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.

## *Take some minutes to reflect quietly on some of the major turning points in Nano's life:*

- ◆ Anne and the bolt of silk
- ◆ the experience of grief – her father's death (Nano aged 29), her mother's death (Nano aged 31), Anne's death (Nano aged 32).
- ◆ her time at Ballygriffin to reflect on what she had lost and what she was learning about the poor and the deprived
- ◆ her failure to live a monastic life and being disturbed by the cry of the poor – "their idleness, dishonesty, impiety, drunkenness (became) like spectres stalking before her"
- ◆ the decision to become a school mistress – illegal, against social conventions, isolated and without human support because of secrecy
- ◆ her isolation – her sister Catherine died in 1754, uncle Joseph in 1757, her brother Joseph and sister-in-law Frances moved north of Cork, her sister Elizabeth and her family lived in Galway, her sister Mary and her family lived 30 miles away, her brother David's infant son died in 1753 meaning there were no heirs to Ballygriffin
- ◆ the failure of the Ursuline project
- ◆ her decision to form a congregation of sisters.



## Reading 1

"All of the great spiritual traditions want to awaken us to the fact that we co-create the reality in which we live. And all of them ask two questions intended to keep us awake: What are we sending from within ourselves out into the world, and what impact is it having "out there"? What is the world sending back at us, and what impact is it having "in here"? We are continually engaged in the evolution of self and world – and we have the power to choose moment by moment, between that which gives life and that which deals death." (Parker J Palmer)

## *Take some moments to reflect on and to share with your group if you are praying with others:*

- **What did Nano send out from herself into the world and what impact did it have "out there"?**
- **What did the world send back at Nano and what impact did it have in her heart and soul?**

## Reading 2

To meet people's fundamental concerns change is needed. The world as it is does not offer the majority of humanity life but rather hell. I believe that change is possible, because I cannot accept a God who could remain indifferent to this world, but only one who cares about the poor and the suffering. God's grace gives us strength to resist, strength to liberate, opens up new ways. Grace can be seen quite clearly in our world. The grace of the living God is at work everywhere that life is protected and defended.



*(Spiritual Rebellion: Interview with Leonardo Boff)*

### Response

God of Light, we give thanks that you have asked us to be bearers of your light – sparks of your very self, illuminating the world and making love tangible. Forgive the ways in which we try to evade being who we are, for the times we resist your invitation out of false humility or fear. As we become flames of your love, may we recognize that we are not separate from you, but because of your will we are participants in the divine Mystery. This day may we be conscious of bringing light everywhere we go, building up a field of love that will help transform the world. Amen. (cf Judy Cannato)

### Reading 3



... One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires ... causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of 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. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.

... The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours: They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But ... that is not what great ships are built for. (Clarissa Pinkola Estés 2003)

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### Reading 4

#### a poem

I will not die an unlived life.  
I will not live in fear  
of falling or catching fire.  
I will choose to inhabit my days,  
to allow my living to open me,  
to make me less afraid,  
more accessible,  
to loosen my heart  
until it becomes a wing,

a torch, a promise.  
I choose to risk my significance  
to live  
so that which came to me as seed  
goes to the next as blossom  
and that which came  
to me as blossom, goes on as fruit.

(Dawna Markova)



### Response

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### Reading 5

Those who instruct many unto justice will shine as stars for all eternity. (Proverbs 10:7)

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## Reading 6

### Always we hope

Someone else has the answer  
Some other place will be better,  
Some other time it will turn out.

This is it.  
No one else has the answer  
No other place will be better,  
And it has already turned out.

At the center of your being  
You have the answer,  
You know who you are  
And you know what you want.

There is no need to run outside  
For better seeing.  
Nor to peer from a window.

Rather abide at the center of your being;  
For the more you leave it, the less you learn.  
Search your heart and see the way to do is to be.  
(Lao Tzu)



### Response

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**Reflect on and share if you are in a group which of the above readings or images speaks most strongly to you of Nano and her mission.**

**Pray these Intercessions:** *Litany from the Frontiers of Charity*

**Response:** May love find a way through us.

1. In a world fragmented and divided, may love find a way to bring harmony and unity. **R/**
2. In a world of economic extremes, may love find a way to level injustices. **R/**
3. In a world where some consume more than all need, may love find a way to awaken consciousness. **R/**
4. In a world of spiritual poverty and material surfeit, may love find a way to open hearts to the “enough” of God. **R/**
5. In a world of small thinking and selfishness may love find a way to live with global intent. **R/**
6. In a world of suffering humanity and dwindling natural systems may love find a way to bring the fullness of life to all. **R/**

7. In a world of growing wakefulness across boundaries, may love find a way to connect energies and efforts. **R/**
8. In a world of increasingly complete geo-political and socio- economic webs, may love find a way to create simple and just solutions. **R/**
9. In a world where global dilemmas seem overwhelming, may love find a way to take one step at a time. **R/**

## 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*)

## Blessing Each Other

May your home always be too  
 small to hold all your friends.

May your heart remain ever supple,  
 fearless in the face of threat,  
 jubilant in the grip of grace.

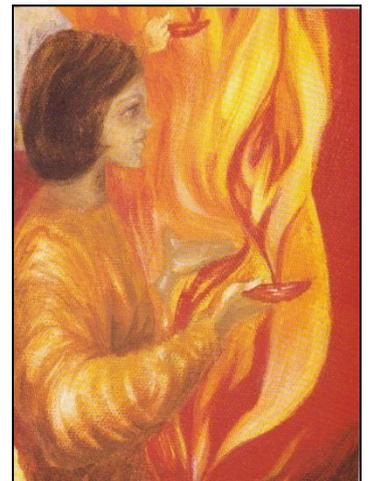
May your hands remain open,  
 caressing, never clinched,  
 save to pound the doors  
 of all who barter justice  
 to the highest bidder.

May your heroes be earthy,  
 dusty-shoed and rumped,  
 hallowed but unhaloed,  
 guiding you through seasons

of tremor and travail, apprenticed  
 to the godly art of giggling  
 amid haggard news and  
 portentous circumstance.  
 May your hankering be  
 in rhythm with heaven's,  
 whose covenant vows a dusty  
 intersection with our own:  
 when creation's hope and history rhyme.

May hosannas lilt from your lungs:  
 God is not done;  
 God is not yet done.  
 All flesh, I am told, will behold;  
 will surely behold.

(New Year's Day 2005)



## **Benedicere** by Ken Sehested

*Ken Sehested is co-pastor of Circle of Mercy Congregation and a stonemason in Asheville, North Carolina. The first stanza of this poem, which inspired the composition, is a traditional Irish blessing. The line "when hope and history rhyme" is taken from a Seamus Heaney poem titled "On the far side of revenge". Benedicere, a Latin word, means "to bless".*

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