

The Anniversary
of the Death
April 26, 2016



Open with a song of your choosing

Opening Prayer

We begin in the name of God our creator, Christ who shows us the way and in the Spirit who continues to give us hope and courage. Amen

Leader:

In the introduction to Raphael Consedine's *Fire on the Earth* she quotes from a letter by Bishop Francis Moylan after the death of Nano describing the small community, "Her spirit animates the Sisters that compose it." Sister Raphael explained that, in speaking of Nano's spirit, Bishop Moylan meant "the sum of the values and attitudes which guided her understanding of her own life and call, her relationship with others, with her world, with life itself, and – in, through and beyond all these – with the mystery of God."

Today, more than two centuries later, Presentation people of very different cultural backgrounds and in very different times still draw inspiration from these same values and attitudes. We see these values lived out in the characteristics/qualities that were evident in Nano's life. How can we live those same values and demonstrate those same characteristics in the place and time in which we live today?

Reader:

A Future Not Our Own

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral
visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives include everything. This is what we are about. We
plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a
beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. -Archbishop Oscar Romero

Leader:

Spend time in silent reflection on our call to contribute to a future not our own.

Reader:

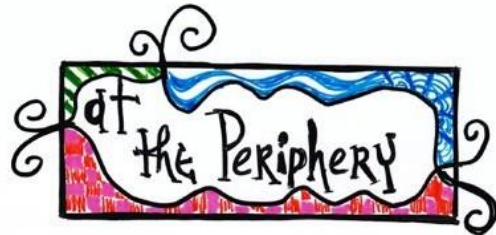
I am convinced of one thing: the great changes in history are realized when reality is seen not from the center, where one's viewpoint is equidistant from everything, but from the periphery. -Pope Francis

Pause

"We stand at the margins and we look under our feet and we hope for the erasure of the margins because we've chosen to stand there and we're confident because Jesus did it way before us." "Stand at the margins and what gets revealed to you is not your superiority but your brokenness." -Greg Boyle

Reflection and Sharing

Nano Nagle stood at the periphery and from there she saw and reached out to those made poor. What does this mean for each of us as we consider the part of the world where we live and serve?



What are the ways our community stands at the periphery?

What does it mean for me to walk on the edge?

Prayer for the Life of the World

There are days and times, Holy God, when our wish for a new earth is almost overwhelming; days and times when, as we look around this old earth, we can see only brokenness and sorrow, war and violence. And what do we do with that, Loving God, but turn to you and utter our often-helpless prayers, asking you to hear and help.

- With mounting frustration, we pray for the Syrian peace talks which flounder around disputes over forming a transitional government.
- With sorrow, we pray about the recent renewed violence between South Sudan and Ethiopia, with more than 200 killed and over 100 children abducted.

- With ever-deepening grief, we pray for the nearly 500 Syrian refugees who have died in a shipwreck in the Mediterranean, as they were attempting to sail from Libya to Italy.
- With heavy hearts, we pray for the tens of thousands of refugees trapped along the border of Turkey.
- With confusion and doubt, we pray for all of the candidates and the voters in the increasingly contentious presidential primary race in the United States.

Yet, in the midst of all things we do not understand, things that sadden, confuse and dismay us, we hear these words of promise and hope:

All Respond:

The home of God is among mortals. God will deal with them; and they will be the people of God, and God's own self will be with them, wiping every tear from their eyes.

And living in that promise, dwelling in that hope, we raise tear-filled eyes and offer prayers of thanks for the good news which is appearing in places far and wide:

- for Ouch Leng, an environmentalist from Cambodia, who has been working long and faithfully to stop loggers from destroying his country's forests.
- that justice is prevailing as 3 government officials in Flint, Michigan, US, have been charged in the water crisis which has deeply effected that city.
- for the aid workers who have already rushed to Equador and Japan to bring help and hope to those affected by the recent earthquakes.
- that the Ethiopian army is in the process of trying to rescue the 100 kidnapped children.
- for the commitment, faith, dedication and service to the people of the UK and Ireland and the Commonwealth shown by Queen Elizabeth II over almost 65 years. During her reign there have been 12 US presidents. May her example inspire us when we grow tired of working for good, God and our world.

Through it all, through what we see and experience as both good and bad, joy filled and painful, we hear these words of promise and hope:

All Respond:

The home of God is among mortals. God will deal with them; and they will be the people of God, and God's own self will be with them, wiping every tear from their eyes.

Through it all, we turn to you in our helplessness, Gracious God, certain that you do hear, you do heal, you do love, and that is the great Good News. Amen and amen.

Sometimes we see differently if we just make a small shift. Move to a new position today – at the table, in church, drive a different way to work and see what you see. You might enjoy the following visual experience: vimeo.com/118793707

Closing Prayer

May the blessing of peace be with us.

May we have the courage to step to the edge and to allow God to lead us.

May our eyes be open to see the needs around us.