

- England • India • California • Ireland • Peru
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*"If I could be of service in any part of the world,
I would willingly do all in my power." Nano Nagle*

**PRESENTATION DAY NOVENA
2012**

WELCOME

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Associates and Friends of Nano,

After some deliberation we, the Conference of Presentation Sisters, gifted with being the host of this year's Assembly, deemed it fitting to go with the theme of the 6th IPA Assembly – Consciousness Evolving – Rock, Sea and Fire for the 2012 Presentation Day Novena.

As together we reflected and prepared for this event, so together we pray the Novena, becoming more deeply aware of "Consciousness Evolving" as it plays itself out in our daily living. The world into which we were born, the Church to which we belong, the Congregation we entered have all grown in many ways, as have we. Helped by study and reflection, by scientific discovery and improved technology we have deepened our awareness of the wonders of Creation and the ever-loving God who graces us.

As we journey with Rock, Sea and Fire we will know in new ways the journey of Jesus, of Mary, of Nano and of our ancestors in our extended Presentation family. We thank the Sisters from the different communities of Conference who volunteered their time, expertise and experience and willingly shared their prayer with us.

As we move toward the celebration of Presentation Day on November 21st may we continue to experience life in creative ways and to graciously evolve in consciousness.

Lois, Mary and Stephanie
CPS Executive Team 2012



Response:

A saint walked among us
and graced us with her life.

In God's good time
she pursued a dream
that could not be deferred.

In Cork City
this servant of Divine Providence
defied penal oppression
to plant hope.

Corine Murray, PBVM

Blessing:

We bless each other and pray for Nano's courage on our journey,
especially through dark nights when even the stars hide their
faces. Trusting in Divine Providence, may our eyes and hearts be
open to the newness that is unfolding in God's good time until
every arid place sways green-gold. Amen



Creating Spirit of all life
create a space within our hearts
and draw us to a deeper awareness
of your presence
in the evolution of all creation.

As we embrace the Spirit
and policy of the IPA Assembly
may we remember the first flaring forth of rock
that came from the fire of your universal love.

May we deepen our consciousness
of the sea of bountifulness that surrounds us.

May we embrace the energy of passion,
of strength and of courage
shown to us by Nano Nagle
and become for those who are oppressed
sparks of love, of compassion, of justice
and of hope.

As Presentation people
may we foster a story of connectedness and unity
that nurtures our own evolution
and invites others to evolve
as well into the fullness of life.

Amen.

DAY 1: 12 NOVEMBER 2012

We gather in prayer. *(reflective music)*

Contemplating the Word:

All of history was a preparation for the coming of Christ in a more visible way. All the preparatory processes were cosmically and biologically necessary that Christ might set foot upon our human stage. And all this labor was set in motion by the active, creative awakening of his soul inasmuch as that human soul had been chosen to breathe life into the universe. When Christ first appeared in the arms of Mary, he had already stirred up the world.

Teilhard de Chardin, Penses

Scripture: Luke 12: 49

“I have come to bring fire to the earth! How I wish the blaze were ignited.”

Silence:

A Theological Reflection:

FIRE: Force of great destruction and Source of warmth and light. This paradox was pondered upon by our ancestors for millennia. Today, with all the scientific instruments at their disposal, humans can reach back into the mist—and mystery—of the story of the universe, tracing signs that go back to earlier and earlier times. Humans are particularly fascinated, for example, by stars. We notice that our own star, the sun, is perfectly situated so that if we were any closer, earth would be entirely scorched. If our star were farther away, we would die in the cold and darkness. Was this position of the sun a mere coincidence? Or did God interfere with the evolution process and adjust the sun to get it just right? Is that how God works in nature?

DAY 9: 20 NOVEMBER 2012

My God, my rock in whom I take refuge.

We Gather in Prayer: Play reflective music

Contemplative the Word:

Like water freed from patient holding rock our God's newness floods across the land till every arid place will sway green-gold. *Raphael Consedine, PBVM*

Reading: Mark 16:2-6

Silence:

For Your Reflection:

Over the years, Nano faced barriers and experienced uncertainties. With courage in both hands, and trusting in Divine Providence, she and the Presentation women who followed, our ancestors in faith, crossed oceans, moved mountains and set hearts on fire with the love of God. Their lives were often turned upside-down. Through it all, God was their rock of refuge.

Personal then Shared Reflection:

Name some times when Nano's life was turned upside-down. How does her example speak to us today as we face uncertainty? Can you name similar experiences from your own life or the life of your community?

Deepen the silence as we reverently hold what we have heard.

In conclusion to say together Raphael's poem:

She was a woman who in her simplicity dared greatly...
dared to let herself be guided by the Spirit of God
And when the Spirit, like some will-o'-the-wisp
on the mountains, led her from the warmth of what
was safe and comfortable, out past the four walls
of what was "enough and reasonable" away beyond
the security of the familiar, tried and proven,
she followed with laughter in her heart!
for she had caught a glimpse of the
Divine delight in reversing human logic,
in drawing power from weakness,
wisdom from folly, life from death.



Theologians bring particularly keen insights to conversations about the evolution of the universe. They challenge the mechanistic understanding of the place of God in the universe. Theologian Edward Schillebeeckx has this to say:

"At the center of the universe is an infinite sigh of compassion.
This we call God."

In response to this original claim, mathematicians are eager to point out that of course there can be no center of an infinite universe. Rather, every mathematical point in the universe becomes a center itself and God is in every center simultaneously. In other words, God's presence is everywhere and in everything, not as an inert, passive entity, but as Infinite Compassion eternally alive.

Personal, then shared reflection...

In what ways do we see PBVMs and Associates helping to ignite the fire Jesus spoke about? Comment on how both Nano and Mary ignited the blaze. How have you helped to bring fire to the earth?

Prayer Leader:

We are the generation that stands between the fires: behind us the flame and smoke that rose from Auschwitz and from Hiroshima; before us the nightmare of a Flood of Fire, the flame and smoke that consume all Earth. It is our task to make from fire not an all-consuming blaze but the light in which we see each other fully. All of us different, all of us bearing One Spark. We light these fires to see more clearly that the Earth and all who live as part of it are not for burning. We light these fires to see more clearly the rainbow in our many colored faces.

Together: Blessed is the One within the many.
Blessed are the Many who make One

Arthur Waskow

With undaunted courage
she stood her ground with the poor
the uneducated and the disadvantaged
and attracted kindred spirits
in the ready
to spend themselves for what could yet be.

Through her words and by her deeds
in her living and her dying
Nano, herself, became the lantern.

Corine Murray, PBVM



Revisiting some "mountain climbing experiences" of Mary and Nano for reflection or sharing.

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have never been with a man?" "I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say." Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to be with Elizabeth. *Luke 1:34,38,39*

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been so worried, looking for you."

Luke 2:4

At a certain point, the wine ran out, and Jesus' mother told Him, "They have no wine." Jesus replied, "Mother, what does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." She instructed those waiting on tables, "Do whatever he tells you."

John 2:3,4,5

It was not for nothing that in the old, proud days the Nagle family crest had borne the motto, 'Non vox sed votum' – "Not a passing word, but a vow'. Half-heartedness was foreign to the Nagles, and having once given approval to the idea of the school they were eager to offer what help they could. "I suppose you need money", Uncle Joseph said bluntly to Nano. "What is the most necessary thing at the moment?

"Another school", responded Nano with equal directness. "I have had to turn away so many youngsters."

One Pace Beyond M. Raphael Consedine

"I know now that I shall not see it. But don't lose faith in the future of the Society." She broke off suddenly, and then in a tone of ringing certainty concluded, "Oh, Sisters, be assured! It will certainly flourish after our death."

One Pace Beyond M. Raphael Consedine

DAY 8: 19 NOVEMBER 2012

ROCK formations varied and exotic from the smallest pebble to the crusty bolder, to the majestic mountains that present a commanding revelation of the greatness of God's creation.

We Gather in Prayer: Enjoy some reflective music.

Contemplating the Word:

"I will make a highway of all the mountains, and the high roads will be banked up. You mountains, break into happy cries for Yahweh consoles his people and takes pity on those who are afflicted." *Is 49:11 and 13*

Silence:

Reflection:

As we look at our world today, there are many mountain paths to climb so that compassion can reach every aspect of the care of our earth and its peoples. We as Presentation women are exploring for ourselves and learning from others our sacred place in this evolving universe. Bill McKibben, the author of *Earth*, cautions: The story of the twentieth century was finding out just how big and powerful we were. And it turns out that we're big and powerful as all get out. The story of the twenty-first century is going to be finding out if we can figure out ways to get smaller or not. To see if we can summon the will, and then the way, to make ourselves somewhat smaller and try to fit back into this planet.



DAY 2: 13 NOVEMBER 2012

"The day will come when, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire."

"The Evolution of Chastity," in Toward the Future, 1936, XI, 86-87

Leader:

We gather in prayer with our Sisters throughout the world and so we pray, God of glory, your work is like a fire, like a hammer splitting rock. *Jer. 23*

Your word in us is a burning fire, burning in our hearts, imprisoned in our bones, and we are weary with holding it. *Jer. 20*

All:

Let it burst from within our hearts, O God, like fire and flame that it may transform the earth and all of your people!

Reading:

In the beginning was FIRE, and the FIRE was one with Creativity: The FIRE was Creator; and the FIRE was one with Divinity: the FIRE was Divine and the FIRE was one with the Holy One; The FIRE was God, FIRE was the Source of Life. Through FIRE all things were made; all things are one with the burning, searing power and energy of that originating FIRE. The FIRE was the Source of Life, and FIRE is LIFE, and that LIFE is the Light of all life, a Light shining in the darkness, never to be extinguished, never to be over."

Womanprayer, Womansong, Mariam Therese Winter, pages 49-50

Leader:

Remember the spark of God that sets aflame the one who seeks. Let us pause now to invite the radiance of God into our lives...

Silence:

You and I... are we on FIRE? Do we burn with the same ZEAL?
Are we passionate in our desire to see all people live in JUSTICE
and PEACE?

Sharing:

We remember the times when we felt a great drawing within us,
when we yearned to be completely yours, God of Fire.

Response: May the fire of God, Mary, and Nano burst into flame
in the depths of our hearts.

We remember the people of faith whom you have given to us
through the scriptures, those messengers of yours whose hearts
were set on fire with love of you and your word.

Response: May the fire of God, Mary, and Nano...

We remember the people in our lives, the Sisters who went forth
from Cork to begin foundations, our parents, all who have kindled
your fire in us, all those who have motivated us to give ourselves
more completely to you.

Response: May the fire of God, Mary, and Nano...

We remember how, at every turn
in our journey, we need to trust in
your kindling and to count on your
love to fill us with the courage
new need in order to change.



Response: May the fire of God,
Mary, and Nano...

Blessing:

Bless us as we pray...

God of All Creation, you call each of us to evolve, to recognize
that you hold all that is in your loving embrace. As we grow
in your love, may we learn to hold others in an ever expanding
embrace as well. May we see the entire sweep of history as your
self-communication that calls us to awaken to who we are in you—
and who you are in us. In the mutual embrace that we share, may
we together hold the entire cosmos, each and every person, each
and every creature, in a way that nurtures and sustains and calls
forth the gifts that are given for all. May each of us participate
fully in a personal evolution that transforms us and transforms the
world. Amen. *Field of Compassion, Judy Cannato*



"Our thinking about everything needs to be done within a cosmological framework. The way we think about God, grace, creation, salvation, heaven, hell, violence, happiness, suffering, and joy needs to be done within a wider context..." *Illia Delio, OSF*

Personal then Shared Reflection:

Consider Mary's Story:

Her Presentation - Annunciation - Visitation - Birth of her child and their daily living - Jesus' public ministry, his death, resurrection, ascension...

Consider Nano's Story:

Childhood and early education - Education abroad - Witnessing the poor huddled at the church door - Discovering that her precious dress fabric was given away - The impoverished, deprived children and families of Cork - The illegal schools, the struggle, the heartbreak, the determination...

Consider your own PBVM foundation and personal story...

Consider the new Earth story...

How was/is consciousness evolving in all of these stories?

Deepening the Silence... as we reverently hold what we have heard.

Response:

"Our own life-experience is continually heightened, deepened, extended by our contact with others in our evolving world. Our sacred space is uniquely ours yet living from it makes us acutely aware of what we hold in common. Sharing the perceptions of the heart creates possibility, energizes us to reach beyond."

Raphael Consedine, PBVM

All:

Creator God, move us to feel this flow of life that surges within and bonds us to the entire family. Join our sigh with that of all daughters and sons so that together our groan may truly be one great act of a deepening awareness of the wonders of Creation and the every-loving God who embraces us. Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God, heal us for service in this Consciousness Evolving Universe.

Nano,
drawn deep into the heart of Christ,
your own heart kindled, burned,
till love became your daily bread,
and daily life your bread of love,
life-nurturing.

Nano, pray
our hearts may bear the selfsame fire
and cast it on our earth.

Prayer taken from Rapheal Consedine's book, Fire On the Earth

Leader:

With a burning desire to be consumed by the love burning within the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us respond in faith and in song, with our Presentation Community throughout the world.

Song: Follow the Flame by Mariam Martin, PBVM



DAY 3: 14 NOVEMBER 2012

"To be loved means to be consumed in the flame, to love is to shine with inexhaustible light." *Rilke*

Mary entered into the depths of her heart and freely allowed the "spiraling energies of God's love" to evolve into her "fiat", thus creating a home, a hearth, a center of belonging for Jesus to be born. There she communed with him as "he grew in wisdom, age, and grace" and learned to recognize himself as "The Beloved."

Reader:

We proclaim that the lights of the cosmos unite all people in the planet in a great oneness...

We proclaim that there is an unquenchable fire shining within each person, a light that is strong, deep, and enduring. It is the vigilant fire in the hearth of the soul...

We proclaim that the fire within cannot be contained. It seeks to move out, to permeate, to enter into every place that lacks passion and vitality...

We proclaim that there is a divine fire within us that is immeasurably loving inconceivably caring, consistently nonjudgmental, and enormously passionate...

We proclaim that the light within us is beautiful, precious, and wild. We urge everyone to do all they can to tend this fire, to care for it with courage and kindness... *Joyce Rupp*

Reader: Luke 24: 13-35



DAY 7: 18 NOVEMBER 2012

ROCK of faith and courage in us, in which our hope for the future can be reborn. *From IPA Logo*

We Gather in Prayer:
Enjoy reflective music

Contemplating the Word:
"I will show you hidden things that you have not known." *Is. 48:6*



Reading:

ROCK, flaring forth from the FIRE of God's creative energy and universal Love...

ROCK, fashioned by gentle stream, persistent river, pounding SEA...

ROCK, foundation of faith and courage prepared by those who have gone before us braving the "deep" to reach other "shores"...

ROCK, offering strength to risk and hope as we evolve to a new consciousness...

Silence:

For Your Reflection:

"The universe is a unity—an interacting, evolving, and genetically-related community of being bound together inseparably in space and time. Our responsibilities to each other and to all of creation are implicit on this unity. Each of us is profoundly implicated in the functioning and fate of every other being on the planet, and ultimately, perhaps, throughout the universe." *Chet Raymo*

Personal and Shared Reflection:

What kind of sea do you find yourself in at this time in your life?
Tranquil or tumultuous?

What new insights come to mind as you review the familiar story
of Jesus sleeping while the apostles bail out the water from the
boat?

Pray Together:

For the earth forever turning;
For the skies, for every sea;
To the Lord we sing returning
Home to our blue green hills of earth.

For the mountains, hills and pastures
In their silent majesty;
For all life, for all of Nature
Sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the sun, for rain and thunder;
For the land that makes us free;
For the start, for all the heavens,
Sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the earth forever turning;
For the skies, for every sea;
To our Lord we sing returning
Home to our blue green hills of earth

For Your Reflection:

Let the Word sink deep within. Contemplate the scene. The
disciples said, "Were not our hearts on fire as he spoke to us along
the road..." New energy and courage were rekindled in them as
they faced back to Jerusalem, bringing alive Jesus' message of
love, inclusivity and justice for all they encountered.

Nano's heart burned within her as she remembered her roots,
the original fire of love instilled in her by her parents and the
opportunities presented to her in France. This love could not be
contained. Its energies ignited in her a passion for justice and led
her to become a subversive presence among those who flaunted
unjust power over others.

Silence:

Appropriate Song

We know now in new ways that the
earth and all its fruits are not for our
exploitation, they are for our care. We are
co-creators with God of what God has left
unfinished. What has been left in embryo
is left for us to develop. What can be
developed, God trusts us to bring to full
potential... *Joan Chittester*



Closing Prayer:

Mary, amidst the joys and sorrows of your life you remained
serene. Like you, may we ponder the mystery of life in our hearts
and there find the strength to participate in the ever evolving
mission of Jesus. May we be contemplative, compassionate
women, passionate in our care for all of life. May we find our true
identity in the Divine and the Divine in all of life, so that, daily,
we may awaken to the Mystery of God, the Mystery of Oneness.
Amen.

DAY 4: 15 NOVEMBER 2012

Nano lived on the banks of the Blackwater as a young willful child delighting in playing in the fields . . .

In later years she trod the banks of the river Lee in Cork . . . even begging at the city gates.



We Gather in Prayer:

Play reflective music -
Smetana's The Moldau or
Schubert's Trout or "Water
Music" of your choice.

Contemplating the Word:

Scripture: Psalm 42:1; Psalm 46:4; Psalm 104: 10-13

You never enjoy this world aright 'till the sea itself flows in your veins, 'till you are clothed with the heavens, crowned with the stars... 'till you delight in God for being good to all.

Thomas Traherne

Silence:

For Your Reflection:

The courage of a river to continue belief
In the slow fall of ground,
Always falling further
Toward the unseen ocean.
The river does what words would love,
Keeping its appearance

DAY 6: NOVEMBER 17 2012

"The blue planet," so named because of the striking beauty of the oceans that cover almost three-fourths of it, is Earth, our home. Can you recall the first time you saw the famous photo of the Earth suspended in space? That image profoundly changed not only our perception of Earth, but also of our perception of ourselves. And it certainly provided a deeper meaning to the notion of "world view!"

We Gather in Prayer: (reflective music)

Contemplating the Word:

Scripture: Luke 8:23 Jesus calming the tempest

Silence:

For Your Reflection:

In the city of Cork there is a bronze statue near the harbor, on the spot where millions of Irish immigrants prepared to take that infinitely difficult step of leaving Ireland and journeying across the sea to unfamiliar lands. One figure is a young boy eagerly pointing to the horizon. The other figure, a young woman, stands behind him. She is not looking at the horizon. She is looking back at the city of Cork and she seems worried and sad. Soon she and her young son will be out on the ocean, making their way toward a new horizon. What kind of sea awaits them? Tranquil or tumultuous?



Response:

Holy Spirit-Force of this creation,
 Source of life's beginning and end,
 we thank you for our stories,
 honoured as we are
 to be a part of your Greater Story.

We are grateful for our consciousness and our memory,
 and for the multiple episodes of our lives in all their ambiguity.
 Their ebb and flow makes sense in your purview,
 and we bless You for your caringness through all the eons of
 evolutionary unfolding.

May our stories be a part of a conversation with creation itself,
 transparent and meaningful in a larger context than we can begin
 to comprehend.

Prayers to an Evolutionary God – Wm. Cleary

Blessing:

May we know
 in ourselves that
 what we are doing
 is just a drop
 in the ocean,
 May we believe that
 all our stories meld
 into One Great Story.
 May we glory in the
 awareness that if any
 drop were not in the
 ocean, the ocean would be less because of the missing drop.



Suggested hymn: "Speak the Story" by Miriam Martin, PBVM

By insisting on disappearance;
 Its only life surrendered
 To the event of pilgrimage,
 Carrying the origin to the end,
 Seldom pushing or straining,
 Keeping itself to itself
 Everywhere all along the flow,
 All at one with its sinuous mind,
 An utter rhythm, never awkward,
 It continues to swirl
 Through all unlikeness,
 With elegance:
 A ceaseless traverse of presence
 Soothing on each side
 The stilled fields,
 Sounding out its journey,
 Raising up a buried music
 Where the silence of time
 Becomes almost audible.

John O'Donohue

Personal then Shared Reflection...

What speaks to you as you reflect on the rivers of Nano's and your life?

Deepening the Silence...as we reverently hold what we have heard.

Response:

Water: voice of grief,
 Cry of love,
 In the flowing tear.

Water: vehicle and idiom
 Of all the inner voyaging
 That keeps us alive.

Blessed be water
 Our first mother.

Blessing:

When the canvas frays
In the curragh* of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.

*small Irish boat

Suggested Music:

Continuation of The
Moldau, Schubert's Trout
or "Water Music" of your choice.



DAY 5: 16 NOVEMBER 2012

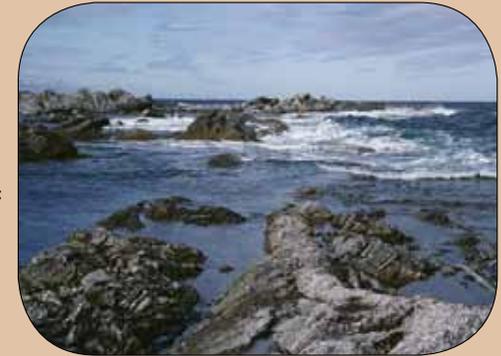
The landscape which shaped us is the work of a
magnificently wild God!

We Gather in Prayer: Play
reflective music

Contemplating the Word:

"If I could be of any service
in saving souls in any part of
the globe, I would willingly
do all in my power."

Nano Nagle



Scripture: Luke 4:16 - 20

Silence...

For Your Reflection:

The ocean is one of the delights for the human eye. The seashore is a theatre of fluency. When the mind is entangled, it is soothing to walk by the seashore, to let the rhythm of the ocean inside you. The ocean disentangles the netted mind. Everything loosens and comes back to itself. The false divisions are relived, released and healed. In Haydn's *The Creation* it is the vocation of man and woman to celebrate and complete creation! If you enter into the dream that brought you here and awaken its beauty in you... Then the beauty will actually awaken all around you.

John O'Donohue

Personal then Shared Reflection...

What speaks to you as you reflect on Nano's dream?

Deepening the Silence...as we reverently hold what we have heard.