

At home now in the Presence of the One, your lives show forth a unity not clear when you walked your separate journeys here, a unity of vision and of heart.

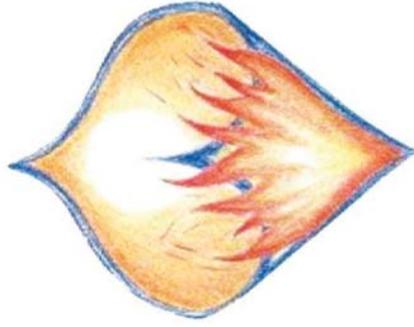
Together teach us all who walk your way how to live as brothers, sisters, now, in our world which yearns in travail still to be re-born, one family in God. *''(Raphael Consedine - Songs of the Journey p.43)*

**Call to share:**

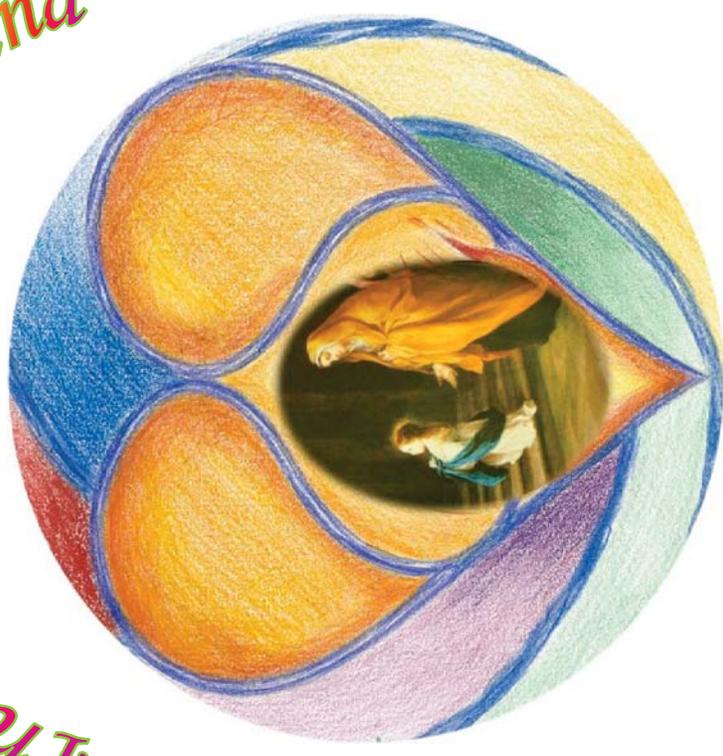
- ✚ What are the 'hard realities of our world' today?
- ✚ Where do I see the 'Spirit's boundless possibilities'?
- ✚ How do I see others carrying the flame of Nano where I live?
- ✚ Recall and share a story of an associate/friend of Nano whose enthusiasm and creativity for the Charism of Nano Nagle has inspired you?

**Call to pray:**

O fire of God, transform us. Burn away all hardness of heart.  
Free, O set free the fire within us.  
Break down the walls we have built.  
Let your fire leap through our resistance over the walls of our hearts and out into a world yearning for transformation.  
Burn into our hearts these words of Jesus, *'I have come to light a fire on the earth; how I wish the blaze were ignited! (Lk.12.49)*



# Presentation Day Novena



12 November - 20 November 2013

Hymn: Nano's Song (Chris Skinner)

November 21, 2013

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Associates and Friends of Nano,

We greet each of you and wish you a very happy Presentation Day. This year's Presentation Day Novena is based on the *Direction Statement* of the Congregational Gathering 2012, and the Direction Statement and Commitments from the IPA Assembly 2012. As with all aspects of our lives, these are heard and responded to in the context of the Spirituality of Being in Communion with the whole of life.

As we thank the Reflection Group for the *Looking to the Future* process (England and Ireland) for preparing this Novena, we are mindful that one of their members, Sr Nuala Mottley (English Unit) "crossed over" into eternal life just days after the work had been completed by them at Mt St Anne's Retreat Centre, Portarlington, Ireland. May she rest in *peace*. The timing of her death invites us to ponder the communion we also share with all those who have died and are no longer visible to our earthly way of seeing but who communicate their love to us through the "thin veil" that separates us from one another.

This year, inspired by Pope Frances and other spiritual leaders, we pray for *peace* in the troubled parts of our world, especially Syria. We pray for leaders of all nations. May they truly know that, like Mary and Nano, each person for whom they have responsibility is "the beloved of God." May they, and all of us together, be voices for those still unable to speak out in the troubled parts of the globe. As we approach this special feast day, also known as the *Feast of the Silence of Mary*, we pray that those suffering and displaced may soon be given what is their right – peace and prosperity, shelter from all harm, restoration to family and friends, non-contaminated air and food, and all that is needed to "have life and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10).

May our circle of prayer and contemplation across the globe during these days of Novena enliven our passion to promote the reign of God through the promotion of *peace*, justice and the integrity of creation.

With renewed wishes and every blessing,

Anne Grace      Julie Mary Frances,

Congregational Leadership Team

## Day 9: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### *Called to carry the flame into the future*

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one*

Today, we remember all the members of our Nagle-Rice Family.

Hymn: Nano's Song (Chris Skinner)

*We are called ... to continue to invite people to carry the flame of Nano Nagle creatively into the future. (CG 2012)*  
*[We commit ourselves to] exploring ways of 'widening the tent' (Is. 54:2) to further the IPA mission .... (IPA 2012)*

### Call to reflect:

One Heart for Mission

✚ Nano, Edmund, formed in your separate stories in the heart of the one Lord, You looked on the hard realities of your world and saw the Spirit's boundless possibilities. Living always closer to your people, you learned to share the Spirit's urgent longing: "that they may have life, and have it to the full." (Jn 10:10)

Hearts broken open to the world's pain, hearts afire for justice and compassion, hearts free for service, joyful in welcome, steadfast to endure, you walked with firm step, hands open to receive life and to share life, learning to be sister, brother with each one especially with the poorest, with the least, to Earth made poor.

the coals could be enflamed into life. It is not difficult to imagine what a vital and important duty it was to carry those shells with the coals inside them, carefully and with a great sense of responsibility. *(David Ranson)*

**Call to share:**

- ✚ What in this story reminds me of how my vocation was nurtured by the witness of those who went before me?
- ✚ What burning coal do I carry within my own heart?
- ✚ Am I ready to share this gift of call with others? “You received without charge, give without charge.” *(Mt 10:8)*

**Call to pray:**

- ✚ ‘God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.’ *(J. H. Newman)*
- ✚ Have you not heard his silent steps? He comes, comes, ever comes. Every moment and every age, every day and every night, he comes, comes, ever comes.
- ✚ Many a song have I sung in many a mood of mind, but all their notes have always proclaimed, “he comes, comes, ever comes.” In the fragrant days of sunny April through the forest path he comes, comes, ever comes.
- ✚ In the rainy gloom of July nights on the thundering chariots of clouds he comes, comes, ever comes. In sorrow after sorrow it is his steps that press upon my heart, and it is the golden touch of his feet that makes my joy to shine. *(Tagore)*

Hymn: Come and Follow Me *(David Haas)*

**Day 1: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Mary, our companion on life’s pilgrimage**

*We gather in our sacred space with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in Latin America and New Zealand.

Hymn: I Am With You On the Journey *(Kathy Sherman, CSI)*

*We are called ... as a pilgrim people to a way of life, rooted in stillness, contemplation and wonder at the unfolding mystery of God and of all God’s creation. (CG 2012)*  
*We consciously choose to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of God, the mystery of Oneness .... (IPA 2012)*

**Call to reflect:**

‘True pilgrimage changes lives...whether we go halfway around the world or out to our own backyard – capturing the quiet revelations that are all around us.’

*(Midwives of an Untamed Future p.167)*

The journeys of Mary’s life:

- ✚ Journey to Elizabeth/Journey to Bethlehem
- ✚ Journey into exile/Return journey to Nazareth
- ✚ The Searching journey for the Boy Jesus
- ✚ The journey to Calvary
- ✚ Journeying with the Disciples and the young Church

### **Call to share:**

Which aspect of Mary's journey speaks to you today?

### **Call to reflect:**

We are called ... to live sustainably, and to use our resources creatively for the promotion of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. (CG 2012)

“Walking, I am listening to a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still they say. Watch and listen.”

(Joyce Rupp – *Walk in a relaxed manner p.25*)

### **Call to share:**

- ✚ Do I travel lightly on the earth?
- ✚ Am I taking from the environment only what I need for the day? Am I ready to move on?
- ✚ How does my journeying benefit all God's creation?

### **Call to pray:**

God of our journey you have carried us all along the way to this very day. As we continue our journey, be gracious to us, uncover your face to us and give us your peace.

Hymn: I Am With You On the Journey  
(Kathy Sherman, CSJ)



### **Day 8: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

#### **Called to an authentic living of our vocation**

Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in the United States of America.

Hymn: Come and Follow Me (David Haas)

*As Presentation people [we are] impelled by the radical gospel of Jesus and on fire with the spirit of Nano. (IPA 2012)*  
*We are called ... to invite women to join us in our vowed way of life through the sharing of sacred stories and through the witness of our authentic living of Nano's charism and mission. (CG 2012)*

### **Call to reflect:**

- ✚ Many years ago, among the Wurrundjerri people in Victoria, as it was most likely with other Aboriginal peoples, it was the sacred task of the women in the tribe during the gray, wet winter months to carry the fire. Fire meant life. In the drizzle and the damp that we associate with the winter months, it was, of course, not possible to start fires at every new camp-site.
- ✚ The fire had to be carried. This was achieved by maintaining hot coals in shell cones bartered from the coastal people, like the Bunmarong. Upon setting up camp



## Day 2: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### Mary and Nano, beloved of God

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

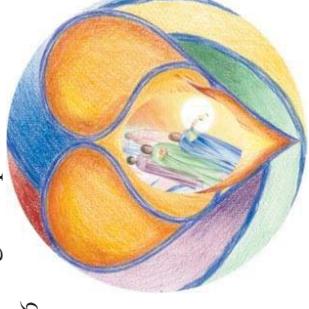
Today, we remember our Presentation Family in the Philippines and Thailand.

Hymn: How Could Anyone Ever Tell You (Shana Noll)

*We are called ... to nurture our awareness of being the beloved of God and recognise the other as beloved. (CG 2012)*  
*May we embrace the energy of passion, strength and courage shown to us by Nano Nagle and become ... sparks of love .... (IPA 2012)*

#### Call to reflect:

- ✚ 'I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you'. *Jer.31: 3*
- ✚ 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you....love one another as I have loved you'. *Jn 15:9/12*
- ✚ 'We are God's work of art'. *Eph.2:10*
- ✚ 'This has taught us love – that he gave up his life for us, and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters'. *1 Jn 3:16*



Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honourably,  
Who may be clearing you out for some new delight.  
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in.  
Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent as a guide from beyond. (Rumi)

- ✚ Luke 1: 46-55
- ✚ John 12: 24-25
- ✚ 2 Corinthians 4:7

#### Call to share:

- ✚ As you gaze into your 'cup of blessings' and your 'cup of brokenness' – do you notice any connections?
- ✚ How has the experience of brokenness and blessing helped you to be a more compassionate and loving person?
- ✚ When I don't transform my pain, I transmit it!
- ✚ Am I known as a person of a 'thousand little disgusts' or a 'thousand little blessings'?



#### Call to pray:

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd

Hymn: Healing is Your Touch (Monica Brown)

### **Call to share:**

We are called ... to be like Mary and Nano, heart-centred women, developing caring and meaningful relationships, especially in community. (CG 2012)

### **Call to reflect:**

- ✚ In what ways are Mary and Nano alike?
- ✚ What is my understanding of heart-centred?
- ✚ Can I name someone in my life whom I would describe as heart-centred?
- ✚ Think about some of the caring and meaningful relationships in the lives of Nano and Mary.
- ✚ As I reflect on these questions, am I aware how I am being called?

### **Call to share**

### **Call to pray:**

And so I saw full surely that before God ever made us, he loved us. And this love was never quenched nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his works, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us, and in this love our life is everlasting. In our making we had beginning but the love in which he made us was in him from without beginning, in which love we have our beginning. (*Julian of Norwich*)

Hymn: How Could Anyone Ever Tell You (*Shana Noll*)

### **Day 7: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

### **Called to acknowledge and befriend our blessedness and brokenness**

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Hymn: Healing is Your Touch (*Monica Brown*)

*We consciously choose to be drawn more deeply into ... the reality of people and Earth made poor. (IPA 2012)*  
*We are called ... to nurture our call, personally and communally, by entering the still spaces within, acknowledging and befriending both our blessedness and brokenness. (CG 2012)*

### **Call to reflect:**

The Guesthouse  
This being human is a guesthouse.  
Every morning a new arrival –  
A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
As an unexpected visitor.  
Welcome and entertain them all!

- ✚ Once you rearrange life around the table you begin to change your notions of social life. That I believe, was Jesus' most consistent social action: eating in new ways! In the midst of that eating he announced the Kingdom. *(Richard Rohr)*
- ✚ Recall some of the words and example of Pope Francis.
- ✚ "I will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labours and suffering of the world." *(Teilhard de Chardin)*
- ✚ Luke 22: 14-20

**Call to share:**

- ✚ In a world filled with self-absorption and self-centeredness where could you and where do you embody this great act of self-sacrificial love?
- ✚ Do I ever exclude others, or leave people on the fringes of the table of life? Who are the outsiders or excluded on the edges of my life?
- ✚ When I see the broken bodies of victims of war, violence, oppression, displacement, famine and injustice, and the destruction of planet Earth, hear Jesus say: "These are my body! Show great love to them in memory of me."

**Call to Pray:**

Lord, you are the sustaining Bread of Life, providing us with nutrition for growth and wholeness. You come to us in various forms: Eucharist and loving relationships, in little and big touches of caring, and in those subtle, inner stirrings that enrich us with a deeper love of you.

Hymn: The Servant Song *(David Haas)*

**Day 3: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Mary, Handmaid of the Lord**

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in Canada.

Hymn: Listen *(Monica Brown)*

*We are called ... to collaboration as our way of being in community and ministry, and in all our structures of leadership. (CG 2012)*  
*We engage in expansive partnerships that move us to personal and systemic transformation. (IPA 2012)*

**Call to reflect:**

Here is a Bethlehem,  
 a woman pierced by the Spirit's light,  
 Waiting in stillness  
 on the Spirit's strength,  
 empty of aught save the Spirit's gift.  
 A woman faithful to the Word received,  
 whole in her heart and her hands  
 To raise a house  
 built leaning on the breath of God.

*(Raphael Considine - Songs of the Journey p. 19)*



✚ Mary's Annunciation *Luke 1:26-28*

✚ Nano's "annunciation" the morning after the ball in Paris, had a profound affect on her. Not yet ready to respond fully, it was her compassion, intelligence and deep honesty in listening to life, which was soon to draw her away from coach and ballroom to take her stand among the waiting poor.

✚ "We all exist solely for this – to be the human place God has chosen for his presence, his manifestation, his epiphany." (*Thomas Merton*)

### **Call to share:**

- ✚ Mary and Nano listened deeply and attentively. They collaborated fully with God's call.
- ✚ Do I listen deeply and attentively?
- ✚ Do I value collaboration as my way of being in community, ministry and leadership?

### **Call to pray:**

Mary with what sureness you choose silence,  
Waiting on God's Word in heart's stillness pondering.  
Lead us into that silence where Word meets life,  
Piercing the mystery of God-with-us  
Emmanuel.

(*Raphael Considine – Songs of the Journey p. 27*)

Hymn: Listen (*Monica Brown*)

## **Day 6: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

### **Called to be love poured out**

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in prayer in Africa and our new mission in Palestine.

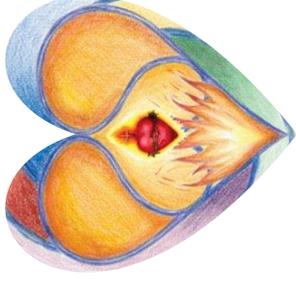
Hymn: The Servant Song (*David Haas*)

*We are called ... to commit ourselves to eucharistic living and 'be love poured out' for the sake of the mission of Jesus. (CG 2012)*  
*Energised ... we engage in expansive partnerships that move us to personal and systemic transformation. (IPA 2012)*

### **Call to reflect:**

✚ To "speak Eucharist" is to enter into communion with humanity and to dialogue with the whole cosmos. To "do Eucharist" is to reach out to every man, woman and child that ever was and ever will be – to reach out especially to the poor in every time and in every place. *Do* is a Eucharistic word, a verb conjugated as an urgent imperative: "Do this in memory of me."

✚ "We need to be living and breathing Eucharist all the time, not just at those times when we are in church. The Eucharist needs to be a defining attitude, a way we meet life, receive it and share it with others." (*Ronald Rolheiser*)



who read the signs of the times and do something but usually do not effect real and lasting change. 10% are driven by vision and passion and risk all in working towards fulfilment of the mission to which they feel called. Nano Nagle is one of the 10%. Driven by vision and passion she risks all for the mission.

- ✚ “She merely wished them to become what she herself was, the servants of the Poor; and to be free, to seek them out, in their hovels of misery and want, and woe – she wished them to deserve it being said of them as it was of her, that ‘there was not a single garret in Cork, which she did not visit, and did not know’. This was the road pointed out by Miss Nagle, to be trodden by the members of her congregation – she walked in it herself – her example traced the way to them and they faithfully followed it.” (*South Pres Annals*)
- ✚ Luke 4: 18-19

#### **Call to share:**

- ✚ How has being with those made poor influenced and shaped my spirituality?
- ✚ Recall or name a time when I was a voice for the voiceless?
- ✚ Who are the prophets of our time?

#### **Call to pray**

Hymn: Who Will Speak (*Marty Haughen*)

### **Day 4: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

#### **Jesus, the Compassionate Heartbeat of God**

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*



Today, we remember our Presentation Family in Ireland, England and Slovakia.

Hymn: Pour Out Compassion and Mercy (*Brieger O'Hare o.s.c.*)

*As Presentation people impelled by the radical gospel of Jesus [we are called to] create space for contemplation ... [and find] new ways of expressing evolving consciousness of our interconnectedness with all creation, especially with those made poor. (IPA 2012)*

*We are called ... to gaze on Jesus the human face of God, as Nano did, thus enabling us to “be compassion” in our relationship with self, one another and all of life. (CG 2012)*

#### **Call to reflect:**

Micah 6: 8  
Luke 6: 36-38

- ✚ “Compassion means to come close to the one who suffers... A compassionate person says, “I am your brother; I am your sister; I am human, fragile, and mortal, just like you... We can be with the other only when the other ceases to be other and becomes like us.” (*Henri Nouwen*)

- ✚ “We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future...the future holds at once great peril and great promise...Humanity is a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive, with a unique community of life.” *(Earth Charter Preamble)*
- ✚ “This we know the Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the children of the Earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.” *(Chief Seattle)*

### Call to share:

- ✚ How does my contemplative living influence my relating with self, others and all creation?

### Call to Pray:

- Create in me a compassionate heart, O God,
- And put a new and right spirit within me.
- Create in me a caring heart, O God,
- That remembers how you went in search of the one that was lost.
- Create in me a merciful heart, O God,
- That reaches out to those in need each day.

Hymn: Pour Out Compassion and Mercy *(Briege O’Hare o.s.c.)*

## Day 5: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### Nano Nagle – prophet of her time

*Gather with soft music playing. Take time to become still. Be aware of the Presentation Sisters and friends all over the world gathering as one.*

Today, we remember our Presentation Family in India and Pakistan.

Hymn: Who Will Speak *(Marty Haughen)*

*We will address the root causes of poverty, especially by confronting personal and corporate greed which exploit Earth, her peoples and the whole community of life. (IPA 2007/2012)*

*We are called ... to be immersed in the lives of poor and marginalised people, who open us to the Mystery of Love, and to be prophetic voices with them for the transformation of unjust systems locally and globally. (CG 2012)*

### Call to reflect:

- ✚ 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. *(Adapted from Edwina Gately)*
- ✚ Sociologists tell us that in general 20% of humanity is made up of ‘come and go’ people who pass through life unaffected by events around them. 70% are good people

