



# Nano's Echo

## Newsletter of the Friends of Nano

A Spirit-led initiative of the International Congregation of Presentation Sisters (Union) which celebrates and promotes the charism of Nano Nagle in new and creative ways

SEPTEMBER 2023

At the heart of our movement lies:

*A partnership with the Divine*

we attend to God each day and our actions are informed by that commitment.

*A passion for the poorest*

we stand with the poorest in society.

*A covenant with creation*

honouring all of creation, we live and promote sustainable lives.

*A newsletter to connect everyone who is drawn to Nano Nagle. A sharing of ideas and a deepening understanding of Nano and her impact in our lives - locally and globally.*

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 8TH IPA ASSEMBLY

Invitations to the 8th International Presentation Association (IPA) Assembly in St. John's, Newfoundland, sparked excitement and anticipation in the privileged Presentation people honored to gather for this formidable experience. For the organizers, it was the culmination of months of praying, planning, and attending to a myriad of details to ensure the ambience, speakers, activities, discussions - every detail - facilitated the achievement of the assembly's goals, i.e. to examine what the IPA had accomplished since 2017 and to forge the path ahead, as evoked by the theme, "**Listen! God of the universe beckons.**"



As Carrie Hansen reflects, "The theme...intrigued and drew me in but it did not prepare me for the depth of meaning and emotion that being present brought." This sacred atmosphere was attained through daily rituals of word, silence, [music, and movement](#) which reverberated as a mantra.

Dr. Jessie Rogers set the tone, inviting us into contemplative dialogue and a 'dance of

discernment.' Juliette Toulon notes being particularly moved by Jessie's reference to 'a God of newness and surprises' and by presentations on 'Intelligence of the Heart' and 'Transformative Justice.' Of course, there were reports from the Executive Director and the Core Team, including the [UN representative](#).

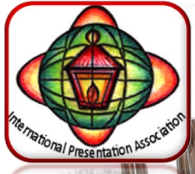
Nanette Miller remarks: "It was so inspiring to be with the various keepers of Nano's lantern and know we were united in our work." Justice contacts from every continent shared their lived realities. Participants' reactions were echoed by Pauline Aliskevicz: "Seeing and hearing the stories around the world made me feel part of something bigger than myself." Presentation unity across cultures and generations was intensified by the theatrical performance "[Path through the Dark](#)" and the historical re-enactment of the first sisters' arrival in St. John's.

A recurrent phrase throughout the week was "[We are all IPA](#)" which, as Anne Young stipulates, "is to acknowledge that Presentation people are one global community, interconnected in story and spirit, responsive to people and planet." As a host organizer, Deirdre Greene Lono observes, "This incredible experience afforded unique insight into Presentation culture and how it manifests in widely varied ethnic contexts."



Karen Sacre  
US Coordinator

Click on the blue words to take you to more IPA Assembly treasured moments.



## IPA far surpassed my expectations

My name is Juliette Toulon, from the Commonwealth of Dominica, and I was a third delegate at the International Presentation Association (IPA) Assembly held in Newfoundland, Canada. In 2017 I made a decision to spend quality time listening to God, through the gift of a silent retreat. Five years later, I was again gifted the wonderful opportunity to attend the IPA Assembly, which further enhanced and deepened my resolve to listen to the beckoning of my God. I can only describe my experience at the IPA Assembly as enlightening socially and spiritually educational, and by far, it surpassed any expectations that I had. The preparation requirements to meditate and reflect on the theme for the assembly – “Listen! God of the Universe Beckons” - began this journey. The many talks and small group discussions served to reinforce my convictions. I was particularly moved by the quote – **“A God of newness and surprises”** - from the guest speaker, Dr. Jessie Rogers. The presentations on “Intelligence of the Heart” and “Transformative Justice” resonated with my own views - providing a name for my perceptions on social justice, a new and surprising perspective. I am truly grateful and blessed to have had this opportunity to participate in so great an occasion. I will always treasure the sense of Peace that pervaded the whole conference and the overwhelming experience of “Unity in Diversity”. It is my hope that this wonderful Assembly will continue, well into the future. I thank all the Presentation Sisters, Associates and delegates who were instrumental in organizing and executing this assembly, and I particularly thank them for their invitation to me.



Juliette Toulon  
Dominica

The sign in  
some of the  
shop windows



Anne Young  
Australian  
Society

## ‘We are all IPA’

That ‘we are all IPA’ was a recurrent phrase spoken at the recent 8th IPA Assembly in St John’s, Newfoundland. It is worth pondering what this means for those of us in attendance at the Assembly and those of us more distant from the Assembly experience.

To say ‘we are all IPA’ is to acknowledge that Presentation people are one global community, interconnected in story and spirit, responsive to people and planet sidelined by societies in all the places in which we live and work. The Assembly honoured this in its telling of grassroots actions for justice and its UN advocacy, conscious of the whole Presentation experience this represents and the collective contribution it makes.

To say ‘we are all IPA’ is also to acknowledge that the Presentation ‘whole’ is made up of many parts – Presentation individuals, each called and called first to just and right relationships in our daily living, our work, our choices, wherever we are, whomever we are with. It is this daily living justly that is the bedrock for our actions for justice beyond our homes, workplaces and communities, for actions and advocacy in support of people and planet made and kept poor. Such justice is a shared responsibility, strengthened by diversity and do-able by all who call ourselves Presentation. **It is the essence of what it means to say ‘we are all IPA’.**

**The God of the universe beckons us...** What a weighty call for those of us attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the International Presentation Association. The theme of this assembly intrigued and drew me in but it did not prepare me for the depth of meaning and emotion that being present brought. I attended as Justice Contact for the Aberdeen Congregation. Throughout the week, we shared ideas about the work of justice, learned together, considered future realities in changing demographics, and explored opportunities. **We imagined how the future could unfold.** Finally, we took steps to develop objectives and specific plans for maintaining, and building, the work of IPA through Presentation People.

We did vital work those days. It's easy to get discouraged with all the injustice in the world. However, when the people of Nano are gathered, there is profound hope in the future and our ability to make a positive difference in the places we are. God beckoned to all of us that week, whether we were in person, were following emails, Social Media posts or read about it afterward.

After three years of virtual meetings on zoom and emails, the delight of connecting in person was immeasurable. One truly doesn't understand how **the spirit of Nano flows** through her people until you experience how that charism energy is exponentially multiplied in a room of Presentation People from across the globe. In Newfoundland in June, I was gifted with joy, renewed energy, and passion; for Nano, Presentation Sisters, Presentation People and all we can accomplish together. God beckoned, I am answering.



Carrie Hansen  
US Conference

**A voice for Haiti -** It was my distinct pleasure to be invited to attend the 8th Annual IPA. I had no idea what to expect but was pleasantly surprised. Each day brought more insight into the amazing organization that the Presentation Sisters have built. There were over 20 countries represented and by Thursday my head was swimming trying to remember names and countries. What a beautiful and rich experience. Everyone spoke English and this helped my self-confidence to approach and speak with others from foreign countries.



Pauline Aliskevicz  
US Conference

Seeing and hearing the stories from around the world made me feel part of something bigger than myself. It gave me hope for the future of these poor countries who experience poverty, danger and insecurity daily. I knew I was there to be a voice for Haiti, even the first day. I came back renewed in my mission to help children attend school in Haiti and confident that the Lord wanted us to continue on. Despite the difficulties of the country, I heard **'adjust, revise, but keep going'** on. I returned a richer and more peaceful person with the confidence to continue my ministry.

## The Journey towards the IPA Assembly

It was my great privilege to serve as Coordinator for this quinquennial event, managing logistics: accommodation; nutrition; meeting spaces; local transportation; so that the representatives from over 20 IPA member Congregations could focus on the essential matters of the Assembly. During the two years leading up to the Assembly, as I was vetting venues, coordinating volunteers and poring over menus, I witnessed **the profound commitment of delegates** who read and reflected on a formidable volume of information both before and during the Assembly. But the real revelation for me was how each day was grounded in prayer, music and ritual that illuminated the Assembly theme of **"Listen! God of the Universe beckons!"**, ensuring that our hearts were as engaged as our heads.

This incredible experience afforded unique insight into Presentation culture and how it manifests in widely varied ethnic contexts. Assembly participants and volunteers continually demonstrated the Presentation values of mindfulness, generosity and community. Amid a very busy agenda, delegates took time to celebrate the unexpected appearance of the sun on Earth Day, mindful of the beauty and fragility of our common home. Despite having to pack for at least ten days away from home in an unfamiliar climate, delegations brought national costumes and beautiful gifts in order to share their ethnic cultures with the host community and fellow delegates; this generosity of spirit was also demonstrated by local Presentation People through gifts of music, art, books and simple service, as well as a pre-Assembly Welcome Mass and luncheon at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist – a powerful expression of our shared Presentation culture, regardless of geographic or ethnic origin, creating a global community that listens together to the beckoning of our God.



Deidre Lono  
Green  
Newfoundland  
and Labrador

**Nano's charism is alive and well** This was my first International conference, and I was a stand-in delegate for our San Francisco Justice Contact. Needless to say, I was a little nervous about being in a room of 73 conference attendees some of whom are heavy hitters in the Presentation World. Well from the moment I walked into the room and talked to the first person, my fears vanished. **Everyone had the spirit of Nano** and you could instantly talk to anyone in the room. There were representatives from all the countries that the Presentation Sisters serve, and the ages went from over 80 to under 30. The liturgies and music were moving with some original music created by Miriam Martin PBVM just for the conference. Opening prayers and meditations worked their magic and got all of us ready for the day's business. There

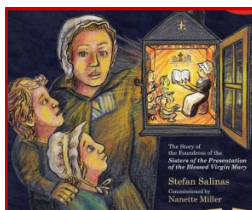


Nanette Miller  
US Conference



from L-R: **Sheila De Sa**, PBVM (S India)  
**Imelda Suyai**, PBVM (PNG) **Nisha Thomas**, PBVM (N India)  
**Carrie Hansen** (Conference)  
**Libania Fernandes**, PBVM (N India) **Brian O'Toole** (Ireland)  
**Mary-Ann Greaney** (NZ) **Lancia Rodrigues**, PBVM (S India).

were presentations and facilitated questions to discuss. We were able to work through the information and answer the questions raised and come up with concrete recommendations that were accepted. There was social time to interact and enjoy entertainment which deepened our knowledge of the early sisters and their work in Newfoundland. I learned we even have a full time representative at the United Nations on our three key issues: Women and Children, Climate Change, and Indigenous People. **It was so inspiring to be with the various keepers of Nano's lantern and know we were united in our work.** And the ultimate good news? Nano's charism is alive and well, we are still relevant and ready to do what must be done.



### I Am Nano Nagle

The story of the founder of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Written and Illustrated by Stefan Salinas. Commissioned by Nanette Miller. This is a **new children's book** on the life and legacy of the Venerable Nano Nagle. Now launched in the US and Nano Nagle Place, Cork.

**Watch the introductory video by clicking on the picture.**

Learn more about it and its availability here: <https://www.stefansalinas.com/nano/>

## A poem in loving memory of Sister Ruth O'Reilly's dog, Maggie

### Who journeyed ten years with Ruth and the Associates

If you hear Nano's call, come & see.  
Presentation associates you may be.  
Through discernment & orientation  
Embrace the covenant with creation  
Joining of the human and divine  
Deepening a relationship sublime  
Learning & teaching to impart  
Love to every breaking heart  
Wisdom, peace, joy and wholeness  
Partnership with the divine in holiness  
Silence, contemplation, and reflection  
Retreats, prayer, discussion, and action  
Personal and communal spirituality  
Forward thinking with vitality  
Coming together in one accord  
In communion with the risen Lord.  
Always trying to be aware  
Responding to all who need our care  
Awakening to the dream of Jesus  
Who truly inspires and frees us.



Ruth PBVM and Maggie



By Fr. Tom Duffenais  
PBVM friend  
Newfoundland

It's easy to take a thorough look.  
Go online see presentation associate handbook  
And also the associates' newsletters,  
Which help people to loosen fetters.  
Correspondence local and internationally  
Made passion for the poor a world reality  
Three hundred years since Nano's birth  
And her spirit continues to lead us forth.  
Contributions to Nano's Echo & ARCAN  
Connecting Ireland & Newfoundland  
Greening every heart, soul & mind  
We have drawn closer we find.  
The Lantern lady smiles from above.  
She has touched us all with love.  
For ten years, we give thanks and praise.  
May Nano's love lead us always.  
God blessed our journey every day,  
Precious Maggie accompanied us all the way  
And all of us marvel as we say  
That Ruth taught her to pray.

## Reflection on why I became a Presentation Associate

*a lifelong friend and colleague of Presentation in Newfoundland & Labrador who became an Associate in 2022.*



**Maureen Dunne  
Newfoundland**

I attended Holy Heart High School from 1963 to 1966: an all-girl school cooperatively provided and administered by both the Mercy Sisters and the Presentation Sisters of Newfoundland. I have often noted publicly that the group of young women who attended HHM during that period were very fortunate to have not only attended the most sophisticated and best-equipped school in Newfoundland at the time but were also cooperatively taught by two cohorts of the finest and very best educated women in the province. We were thoroughly imbued with strong moral values and religious perspectives. We thrived in that setting: our femininity was acknowledged; our spiritual development was fostered, and our academic abilities were celebrated. Many, many graduates of that era went on to become a very strong and confident cohort of female leaders in all walks of life. Their names are legion, and many are still working, and leading, in both the public and the private spheres and in all levels of government – both nationally and internationally. What I am realising, as I write this reflection, is that, within the Associate Relationship, I am seeking to stay connected to the strong and familiar charism of the Presentation Sisters, support the Congregation's outreach and further expand and deepen my own spiritual experience and learning, in order to feed my mind and soul as I approach my elder years.

## The Season of Creation

The theme of Creation 2023 is **"Let Justice and Peace Flow,"** inspired by the prophet Amos: **"Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."** Pope Francis tells us, **"God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival."**

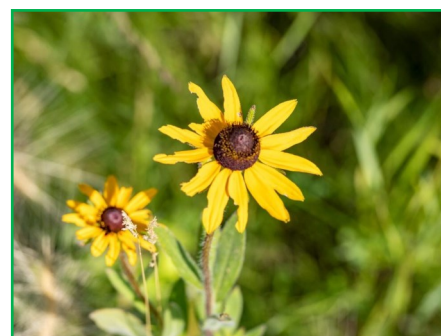
## Our Covenant with Creation

In 2019, the Aberdeen S.D. Congregation broke ground to build new residences. Changing health needs of the Sisters, a smaller carbon footprint and better stewardship of resources were all reasons for the changes. Since moving from the Motherhouse at Presentation Heights, we have been discerning how best the land there may serve the Presentation Mission into the future. We desire to enhance the property, which is located on the ancestral homelands of the Oceti Sakowin, meaning the "Seven Council Fires" of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people, and bring out more of the natural beauty to restore the prairie and wetlands. The overarching message of **Laudato Si'**, the groundbreaking encyclical by Pope Francis, is that **everything is connected** – our inner lives, our jobs, our consumption habits, farming methods. Everything we do has an impact on the earth and on the poor. We commit ourselves to connect with our partners as we do the work that is ours to do – through all those connections, we have been able to plant a variety of native grasses and plants and look forward as we continue to enhance the prairie and restore the wetlands, knowing that our work impacts all of the planet.



**by Jamie Risse & Jared Hohn  
Co-directors of Laudato Si,  
Aberdeen Presentation Sisters**

As we continue to learn, we strive to bring educational opportunities to others, bringing a more widespread awareness to what we can do as together we "listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." **If you are interested in following our journey please [click on the photo on the right](#) for more photos from our prairie restoration for you to enjoy.**



**During this Season of Creation click on the image to the left to watch a six minute video of Brian Swimme talking about The Cosmic Story. Brian is considered by many to be a guru on the creation story.**

## The Season of Creation ..... Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos

God, the ultimate artist, we honour you. You who paint sunrises and sunsets, the plumage of birds and the camouflage of insects.

You, who with your finest brushes, watercolour the wings of butterflies and the costumes of flowers, we honour you .....

The prayer was created by Fr Sean O'Laoire.

Click on the photo for 13.5 minutes well spent on a prayer-filled liturgy of the Universe.



### Resources for the Season of Creation

The USA Unit's Peace and Justice Director, Maurice Lange, has created a series of **Reflections on the Season of Creation**. They are posted on the USA Unit's website. Click on Maurice's photo to take you to them.

### Formation opportunity



Would you like to **enrich your understanding and appreciation of Nano Nagle**, our history, justice, mission, spirituality and how we are connected? Click on the picture on the left for information on this on-line opportunity and how to register. Registration is required in September for an October 02 - November 17 start. **Everyone is welcome.**

### NEWS

#### Update on Penpals (Young Friends of Nano)

*This venture is being enabled by the Young Members Team led by Isabel Thomas. Children between the ages of 10-13 from South India, New Zealand, and Africa are beginning the penpals network. Anyone else ready to join will be welcome - please contact:*

*[isabel199527@yahoo.co.in](mailto:isabel199527@yahoo.co.in)*

*The aim is to create a global network sharing common goals and may include praying for Nano's sainthood, sharing stories and artwork, and other matters of interest. Presentation and Presentation heritage schools will be able to engage with each other and even perhaps Zoom as a class. You will be limited only by your imagination. There will be guidelines around keeping children safe online.*



Thank you to all the contributors to this edition.

Send colourful photographs or illustrations with each article to Athena - details below (250 words maximum).

Try to encourage a **Friend of Nano** from whom we have not heard before.

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Next issue of Nano's Echo due December 2023



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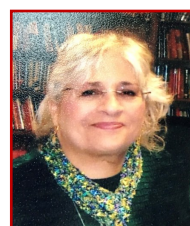
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