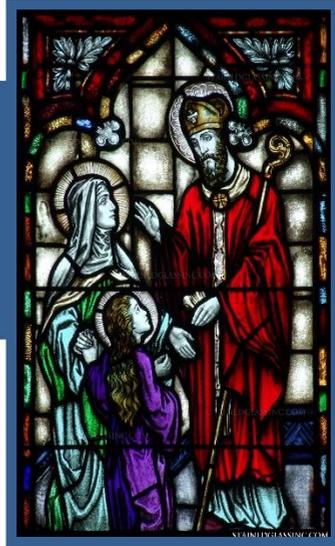


*Presentation Day
Novena
November 2018*

*Mary and
Nano*



*call us
to ...*

Silence...

Deep Listening ...

Heartfelt Response ...

Awareness ...

Hospitality and Welcome ...

Courage ...

Trust ...

Communion ...

Journeying ...

As God planted the seed of life in the womb of Mary
with her **YES** at the Annunciation,

As God planted the seed in the heart of Nano
with her **YES** in responding to the needs of the poor
in her native Ireland,

As we celebrate
the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple
and the

300 Anniversary of Venerable Nano Nagle's birth,
our Novena for 2018 is based on significant calls by God
in the lives of Mary and Nano.

The opening songs, hymns for each day of the Novena are to be chosen by each local community.

May God's blessings be upon our whole Presentation Family as we respond to the calls of Mary and Nano during these two great celebrations.

Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor, New York

21 November 2018

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends of Nano,

On this Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, the feast of our Congregation, we wish you all a very blessed and Happy Presentation Day. We thank the Presentation Sisters of New Windsor, New York, who are members of the Conference of Presentation Sisters, for the lovely reflections on the calls presented to us by Mary and Nano.

Throughout this year many celebrations have taken place to honour the 300 Anniversary of the birth of Nano Nagle. We are grateful for her life and her generous response to the call of God to spend herself for the most vulnerable of her time.

Both Mary and Nano took the path of faith. Deep within they listened patiently and found strength and courage that enabled them to bring forth life in unexpected ways.

In our unsettled world today, we are also called to journey as people of faith radiating an energy that nurtures our fertile potential to become dwelling places of God's compassionate and joyful presence on earth. We are being led to foster oneness wherever we find ourselves.

May we continue to model communities of hope, love, and reconciliation as we

live contemplatively

walk lightly on Earth

witness prophetically.

(CG2018 Direction)

Julie Smith Aurea Sharon Anne

Congregational Leadership Team

Day 1

12 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to SILENCE.

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

Opening Song



Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we come to you today and ask for the gift of **SILENCE**. We know that the **SILENCE** is deep within us. Help us to breathe deeply, opening our minds and hearts. May we find Christ and the gift of peace in the stillness of our hearts. Amen.

Reading: *Protoevangelium of James* 7:4-10; 8:1

When the child reached the age of three her parents took her to live in the temple. Joachim gathered the young girls from the neighborhood to form an escort. Mary joyfully followed not once looking back at her parents and the Lord God sent grace upon her. Mary danced and all the house of Israel loved her. Zacharia, the high priest, welcomed her at the entrance of the sanctuary. She dwelt day and night in the sanctuary until the age of twelve.

Reflection: The child's dance evokes a sense of trust in God's promise.

Sharing: What is my level of trust at this time in my life?

Intercessions: *(Response) May we find Christ in the stillness of our hearts.*

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, as we live out our day, clothe us with your peace-filled stillness. Help us to remain focused on what you desire of us. We desire to stay mindful of all the ways that we can be attentive to your love. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.

Day 2

13 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to DEEP LISTENING.

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



Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving God we rejoice in the deep listening and response of Mary, woman of faith. We are grateful for the power of the Divine Presence as God came to Mary and as God comes to each of us today. We pray to renew our commitment to a life of a resounding **YES** as we strive to be faithful to all that God asks of us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Reading: Luke 1:38

Then Mary said, *“Here I am the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.”*

Reflection:

Remember Mary's **YES** to God's request to bear divinity within her. Hear her response: *“Be it done to me according to your word.”* Mary was an open vessel. She heard the surprising request made to her. She struggled with uncertainty. She questioned. She listened. She responded with YES.

Sharing: How does Mary's **YES** challenge me at this time in my life?
How is God nudging me to move toward growth?

Prayer of Miryam: **Annunciation** Luke 1:26-38

In prayer Miryam watched.
Eyes of her soul turned inward, she watched.
Ears of her spirit stretched out, she watched.
Watched for the Gentle One in stillness.

In awe Miryam listened.
With the firm beat of her heart, she listened.
With the deep stroke of her breath, she listened.
Listened for the One Alone in stillness.

In the stillness Miryam reached out.
Mind alive, she reached out.
Memory reflecting, she reached out.
Inviting her God to inspire.

Excerpt from *Miryam of Nazareth* by Ann Johnson

Individual Intentions:

(Response) May we listen as Mary and Nano did.

Closing Prayer:

Mary, thank you for your example of **DEEP LISTENING**. We too are not alone in the call to face an unknown future. May we always trust that the Holy One will accompany us on our journey as we carry the Divine Presence deep within our hearts. Amen.



Day 3

14 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to HEARTFELT RESPONSE.

Today we remember our Sisters and our Presentation Family in Canada: Newfoundland and Labrador and the West Indies.



Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, “How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news.” May I be aware of all the places my feet carry me throughout each day. Amen.

Reading: **Blessed Encounter** Joyce Rupp

Mary of Nazareth and her beloved cousin Elizabeth, each woman with a sacred story secreted in the heart, life stirring, quietly nurtured inside a darkened womb, each woman living her days with cloudy mystery, trusting there will be light enough to follow the way.

What uncertainty gathers daily at their awakening? How could it be, this growing child each one carries?

Who will this unknown, hidden one in the womb become? Where will the women, young and old, seek their courage?

Go, Mary, go. Travel to your beloved cousin's doorstep. Listen, Elizabeth, listen. Someone dear comes down the road. Open the door and welcome wide this wondrous visitor.

Gasp in amazement at the dance skipping in your womb. Oh, blessed are you among women, blessed are you.

Reflection: Visualize yourself in the presence of Mary and Elizabeth as they greet one another in a **HEARTFELT RESPONSE.**

Sharing: Share a thought or word from your personal reflection.

Canticle of Mary: Magnificat of Friendship Luke 1:39-56

My soul flowers in the light of your love, my God,
and my spirit sings Alleluia in the reality of your joyful presence,
because you have chosen my kinswoman and me with the
summons of your eyes.

Yes, we are known now and for all time. We are known as women,
blessed.

Holy is your name.

The tenderness of your hand rests on us as we journey in your way.
Your power in my life has led me into the embrace of your loving
arms.

You have exposed my lonely pride that I might turn my head to your
enduring breast.

You have revealed the hollowness of achievements and have
opened in my heart a space filled with simple, loving moments.

My hunger you have satisfied, my excess you have ignored.
You are my help as I remember your tender love for me,
...for we have touched each other you and I
and we have made promises...

I remember your tenderness for all that you have begun in me
and in those with whom I walk
and I respond with all that I am becoming
in this hour and in all times to come.

Miryam of Nazareth, Ann Johnson

Individual Intentions: *(Response) Hear us, loving God*

Closing Prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we ask for the grace to be persons whose hearts
provide a loving and **HEARTFELT RESPONSE** to and for all of your
people throughout your beautiful world. Amen.

Day 4

15 November 2018

*Mary and Nano call us to
AWARENESS.*



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

Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, awaken my heart and quiet my mind that I may know your presence deep within. Enfold me in awareness that I may be mindful of your presence in the beauty of nature and the beating of each heart as we gather together in your name. Amen.

Canticle of Mary: **Magnificat of Now** John 2:1-12

My spirit watches for the potent moment, Eternal One,
and in the midst of this celebration
you are a throbbing presence.

All of us are here.

All of us are ready.

Yes, in this time the nearness of your blessing is felt.

“Wine they have not,” I said to him.

“What is this to me and to thee?” he said.

“Not yet has come my hour.”

Holy is this work now beginning.

Blessed is the first step.

Blessed are those who, prepared, have the courage to begin.

Blessed are you, Almighty God, the enabler of deeds great and simple for these people today.

The fruit of this work offers nourishment to generation after generation for those who harvest it.

Excerpt from *Miryam of Nazareth*, Ann Johnson

Reflection: Visualize yourself at the Wedding Feast of Cana.
Notice how Mary responds to the possible embarrassment
of the wedding couple and their parents.

Sharing: What quality of Mary impresses you the most?
Share your personal response with others.

Intentions: *(Response) Restore our awareness of your light-filled
presence.*

Come, show us how you are dwelling in those places
where we have forgotten to welcome you---

Come, help us believe in the possibility of what has
hidden itself from our path of growth---

Come, strengthen our faith, cultivate our hope,
and widen our love---

Come, keep us mindful of the larger world
in urgent need of our compassion and prayer---

Individual Intentions: *(Response) Restore our awareness ...*

Closing Prayer:

Compassionate One, you hear the cries of the world. We are grateful
to you for showing us how to be with those who struggle. Thank you
for your kindness and your gift of **AWARENESS**. Help us to notice
the beauty around us and teach us to be attentive to the needy in our
midst. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.



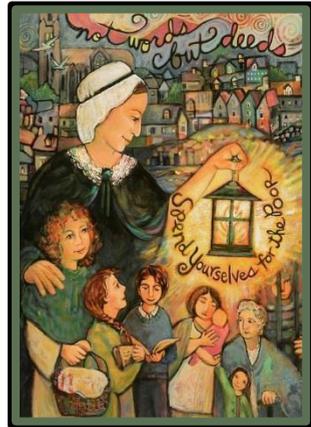
Day 5

16 November 2018

*Mary and Nano call us to
HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME.*

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

Opening Song



Opening Prayer:

Dear God, who welcomes me, show me today when I am open to you and to those around me, as well as when I am closed to you and those you have placed in my life. I need your wisdom, Lord, to discern your call in and through me in reaching out to others in a spirit of **HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME.**

Reading: Luke 14:12-14

Jesus said to the one who invited him: “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, do not invite your friends or brothers or sisters, or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite beggars and the crippled, the lame and the blind. You should be pleased that they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid in the resurrection of the just.”

Nano's Response: To mark the foundation of the Presentation Congregation, Nano invited 50 beggars to dinner on Christmas Day 1777. She and her companions waited on them with joy and motherly tenderness. It was service to the poor.

Contemplating the Mystery, Living the Mission, Mary T. O'Brien, PBVM

Our Response: Like Nano, Presentation Sisters and our Presentation Family are of service to, for, and with the poor. Share with someone your acts of service and how these services have enriched your life.

Canon of Hospitality: Prayer Seeds Joyce Rupp

As we gather around the table of friendship we come with profound thanksgiving for the countless times we have been welcomed by the Holy One dwelling in another person. Because of open minds and loving hearts we have been received with warmth and kindness.

All: Come in. Come in. Come in, I welcome you. God is here.

We are especially grateful for biblical compassionate persons renowned for their all-embracing hospitality. Their generous welcome inspires and encourages our own **WELCOMING** of those most in need of food, clothing, lodging and visitation.

All: Come in. Come in. Come in, I welcome you. God is here.

We remember the two on the road to Emmaus who were welcomed by the risen Christ. He drew them close with compassion and lifted their spirits with kindness. As they sat at table in the breaking of the bread their disappointed hearts began to heal.

All: Come in. Come in. Come in, I welcome you. God is here.

Individual Intentions:

Response: Come in, I welcome you. God is here.

Closing Prayer:

May all I do each day be for the healing of the whole.

May all I do each day mend our broken world.

May all I do each day bring blessings on the earth.

May all I do each day be for the good of all.

All I do each day. Amen. *Jan Novotka*



Day 6

17 November 2018



Mary and Nano call us to COURAGE.

Today we remember our Sisters and our Presentation Family in Africa and the Holy Land.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, you call us each day to live a life of strength and courage. Forgive us for the times we have failed you because of our weakness and discouragement. Send your Spirit upon us that we may experience the zeal and power necessary to be a caring presence for all we meet each day. Amen.

Reading I: Luke 2:42-48

When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up according to custom to Jerusalem. After they had completed the festival days they returned but Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem but his parents did not know it. They journeyed for a day and looked for him among their acquaintances. Not finding him they returned to Jerusalem. After three days they found him in the temple. His mother said to him, “*Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.*”

Reading II: **One Pace Beyond** M. Raphael Considine, PBVM, p.88

In 1762 David and Mary Nagle sailed for England and Joseph was soon to follow after winding up his business affairs. Nano had made a decision to stay in Cork despite the invitation to join her family in England. By then Nano had seven schools where daily hundreds of children were learning the principles and practices of full Christian living. Nano could not close her eyes to what had been achieved. She thought that the success was God's work. But there had been failures too, such as the mother who blamed Nano for her daughter's waywardness calling her school a training for prostitutes.

Reflection: How did Mary and Nano respond with **COURAGE** to the challenges of their day?

Sharing: How do I respond to the challenges of my day?

Canticle of Mary: Magnificat of the People Who Gather at the Temple

Luke 21:37-38

My soul opens before you, O God.

All that I am becomes acceptable in your saving love
because you have asked me to look within myself
with searching eyes.

Yes, from now on

I know that I am truly blessed
for you have helped me to do the difficult things.

Holy is your name.

Your mercy reaches into the hearts of all people
who seek inner knowing.

You are the Empowering One.

In your presence I can face my own darkness.

Excerpt from Miryam of Nazareth, Ann Johnson

Individual Intentions: (*Response*) Help us to respond with **COURAGE**.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the powerful example of compassion and courage of Mary and Nano. We invite you into our lives in a new way today. We ask for strength in times of weakness and courage in times of struggle. Thank you for your presence, hear our prayer and bring us peace. Amen.



Day 7

18 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to TRUST.

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



Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving and gracious God, I believe in your personal love for me from all eternity and that your love is as tender as a mother's love. Grant me the grace to **TRUST** your ways and love for me a little more each day. This I ask in your name. Amen.

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge God
And God shall direct your paths.

Reflection I: Mary's trust in God when she hears:

This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword. Luke 2:34-35
Woman there is your son; there is your mother.” John 19:26-27

Reflection II: Nano's **TRUST** in God when she hears:

Go back to Ireland. Work among the poor. Gather the children together and teach them their religion. It seems that God is calling you to help them. One Pace Beyond , M. Raphael Considine, PBVM p. 41

Reflection III: Your **TRUST** in God when you hear: _____

Sharing: How have these reflections enabled you to grow in the virtue of **TRUST?**

Canticle of Mary: Magnificat of Resurrection John 20:19-21

My soul sings and my spirit delights and rejoices,
O Faithful God, because you have removed the stone
which was rolled over our hearts and we are risen.

Holy is the name of God,
and compassion reaches from age to age
for those who walk hand in hand
with the Everlasting One.

You have come to the help of Israel, your faithful one,
Israel who remembers you are the God who saves ...
according to the history of our time with you...

Israel who remembers you are the God who saves us
from bondage,
from faithlessness,
and from ultimate violence.

You are the Forever Living One,
the Shatterer of Death.

Excerpt from *Miryam of Nazareth*, Ann Johnson)

Individual Intentions: (*Response*) May we never stop **TRUSTING**.

Closing Prayer:

With the psalmist David, we pray in praise of Trust in God:
I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." Psalm 31:15

God, I praise your promise, in you I trust, I do not fear. Psalm 56:11-12

O, Lord of hosts, happy are those who trust in you! Psalm 84:13

I trust in your faithfulness. Grant my heart joy in your help,
That I may sing of the Lord, "How good our God has been to me!"

Psalm 13:6

Day 8

19 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to COMMUNION.



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

Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, you call us to be one. Be with us as we pray and teach us how to open ourselves to your presence.

Enable us, O Lord, to tend our hearts as we strive to be present to you and to one another. We need to learn again and again the deep meaning of communion. Thank you for your compassion and your love. Amen.

Reading I: Acts 1:13-14

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All of these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

Reflection: How do you think Mary felt as she joined the apostles for prayer?

Reading II: In Our Own Words; Religious Life in a Changing World.

COMMUNION has eucharistic, spiritual, communitarian, ministerial, and even social elements. If we in religious life are called to become experts in communion, then we would do well at least to consider how communion happens, because it emerges neither automatically nor naturally. I propose that communion is the result of values, our choices in living, and our interactions in community. In religious life, I believe

communion is expressed through our vowed commitment to God manifested in discipleship, community, and service.”

Communities in Communion: Shifting into New Life, Virginia Herbers, ASCJ p. 3

Reflection: How would you rate yourself on **COMMUNION**?

Sharing: What touched your heart in either of the two readings?

Canticle of Mary:

My heart praises my God
And my whole being is glad
because of the one
who enters my life daily to save me.
For our loving God
Has remembered me
One so dependent and poor.
From now on all will see my happiness,
great things our God has done for me.

Sing your praise my heart
Tell the greatness of God
Faithful to the promises
Made so long ago.
Sing your praise my heart
Tell the greatness of God
Faithful to the promises
Made so long ago.

Individual Intentions:

*(Response) May we live in **COMMUNION** with all of creation.*

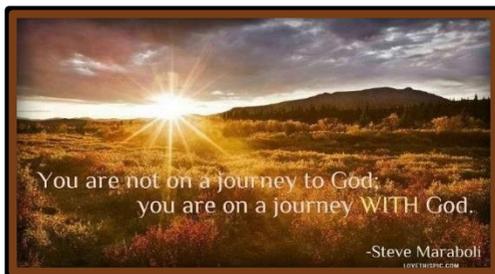
Closing Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for Mary, for the way she joined the Apostles in prayer; thank you for Nano and her deep devotion to prayer and the Eucharist. Help us to grow in our capacity to be in communion with one another and to always realize that what unites us is much greater than what divides us. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.

Day 9

20 November 2018

Mary and Nano call us to JOURNEYING



Today we remember our Sisters,
our Presentation Family and our Nagle and Rice Families.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we ask for the graces and blessings each of us needs in **JOURNEYING** into the future.

May our journeying be one of hope as Pope Francis states: *“Hope is never still; hope is always **JOURNEYING**, and it makes us journey.”*

We ask this in your name. Amen. *On Hope*, Pope Francis, p. 16

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Reflections: **In Our Own Words – Religious Life in a Changing World**

Edited by Juliet Mosseau and Sarah Kohler

The future of course is now, and will forever be, a mystery, but it is the one to be lived into by faith and hope.” Susan Rose Francois, CSJP, p. 197

Despite the uncertainty of the future of religious life and the very public brokenness of our church, young women who have eyes to see and ears to hear are still choosing a future that is committed to God, in service of the church – an unknown future it is true, but one which is filled with passion, hope, and joy. Deborah Warner, CND p. 213

Living a global sisterhood necessitates that we live our charisms with enthusiasm and hope. If you are looking for hope for the future of religious life, you need only go so far as a newer member to find it in abundance. Mary Therese Perez, OP pp. 77

Sharing: Share any insights from the above reflections.

Canticle of

Spend some time writing your own Magnificat on this Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple and the 300 Anniversary of Venerable Nano Nagle's Birth.

Individual Intentions:

*(Response) May we always **JOURNEY** in hope.*

Closing Prayer: Assembly Prayer 2017, Sydney, Australia

Creator God, you are luring us into a future more expansive than our minds can conceive. Grace us and make space in the womb of our hearts for the possibilities you offer

Unsettle us! Disturb us!

Move us to the edge of new horizons that we may be open as you come to us in our sisters and brothers and the cry of our Earth.

May wisdom's flame shine for us,
within us and from us –
our feet know the way;
our hearts carry the light. Amen.

