God’s divine hand will uphold us.
- VENERABLE NANO NAGLE

Igniting the Spark of Nano
Dear Friends,

We begin 2018 in celebration! We come together, with our Presentation Family around the world, in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of our foundress, Nano Nagle.

Growing up in Ireland in the 1700s, Nano saw the injustices of the time, the banning of Catholic children from education; the poor and sick that society had forgotten. Today, three centuries later, our world is different, yet the same. There are still areas of injustice; there are still those that society has forgotten.

Continuing in the legacy of Nano, we open our hearts to those in need, “igniting a spark” and striving to change the systems that keep people poor. We value your partnership as we work together to bring mercy and justice to all, reaching out to people whom society disregards, strengthening them in faith, hope and love in these challenging times.

Nano had a deep faith and trust in her Lord, praying and discerning God’s call. Her love for God sent her forth with zeal, witnessing God’s love. She adapted to the needs of the time and followed her call to teach and serve the poor.

Our congregation too is discerning God’s call in how we will carry forth our Mission and Charism into the future. This is a transformation process for us. As you read on pages 4-5, we describe this experience as being in the chrysalis; we are transforming into something new. Our hearts and minds are open as we listen, like Nano did, for God’s call to us now.

We invite you to walk with us as we journey into an emerging new future. Together, may we continue to live out the spirit of Nano, building up the people of God, welcoming with hospitality, compassion and joy, all from different walks of life.

In peace and mercy,

Sister Janice Klein, President
Presentation Sisters
1. Sisters and partners share love by packing lunches with the Salvation Army

2. At the annual Women on the Prairie Conference, we were reminded that the best is yet to come

3. We enjoyed a presentation by Aberdeen students in celebration of All Saints’ Day

4. Energy and enthusiasm were present in the young volunteers that filled our halls and shared their smiles with us

5. The Aberdeen community comes together monthly to provide compassion, hospitality, and a warm meal

6. Sisters and community leaders shared a meal together (prior to sleeping outside) to raise awareness for homelessness in Sioux Falls

7. Students at a Sioux Falls school planned their own “souper bowl” as they collected and distributed over 1,000 cans of soup to those in need

8. The Lenten Retreat encouraged attendees to embrace the traits of Nano and become a servant’s heart of justice and joy
Every four years we come together for Chapter to reflect on our common life and ministry and to discern where the Spirit is leading the Congregation into the future. We opened this Chapter last October and will conclude it in early April. Practically speaking, this is a time for the Congregation to set direction for the next four years and to elect a leadership council that will lead implementation of the Chapter directions.

Since October 2016, we have been in a transformative planning process toward the future. We are working with consultants, Plante Moran Cresa and Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, to understand more fully the transformative call to apostolic religious today. Sister Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, is facilitating the Chapter process for the second time. She works with many congregations bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the process. We are guided by the Spirit in our endeavors being responsive to protecting the spiritual heritage and Mission of the Congregation. We attend to those elements that will enhance developments within the Congregation which promote growth in faith, community living with the Gospel, with our Mission and Charism at the center.

"We delight in the beauty of a butterfly, but rarely acknowledge the changes it has gone through to get there."

– Maya Angelou
During this past year we have created a document outlining Core Essential Values which guides us as we consider the possibilities before us. One core value emphasizes the partnership and the call to “do nothing alone” as we seek ways to continue to serve those most in need among us.

Thus far in the journey we have been reflecting upon member well-being and community life as well as stewarding the Mission and Charism into the future.
Sisters and partners from 19 countries were represented at the 2017 IPA Assembly. Opening ceremonies were a beautiful tribute to the traditions and culture of the Aborigines from Australia and awakened us for a week of sharing and connecting.

An intentional shift in attendance occurred this year as younger sisters and lay Presentation People were invited. The Conference additions included two younger sisters and three lay people. The diversity was celebrated and seemed appreciated by members to include the voice of these attendees. There was a great consensus at the end of the week to continue to extend and grow this invitation for the next Assembly.

The week began with joining our table groups and discussing what was burning in our hearts. The participants were very welcoming and filled with Nano’s spirit. The views we brought were all different and yet at the same time, shared a similar message of justice concerns for our sisters and brothers.

Our speaker, Sister Shalini Mulackal, from India, inspired us to see that working for justice is integral to our Christian vocation. She challenged us to practice non-violence of the mind as well as in our actions.

She shared that the moment our minds and attitudes are clouded with thoughts of judging, comparing or competing, our actions are probably not grounded “in the mind of Christ.” She called us to clear our minds through contemplative prayer as we discern our actions for justice.

As we moved through the week, we listened to reports and began discussing the policies and proposals brought to the group. As we listened to one another in a contemplative process, we practiced non-violence of our minds and hearts, respecting and honoring each speaker. We paused to listen to the Spirit among us, especially as divergent views were expressed.
As the week went by, Nano’s spirit grew in all of us as deeper connections were formed. All too often we are surrounded by the justice concerns of the world as we read the news and hear the fears of the people. Our time together at assembly was inspiring and gave a sense of engagement and empowerment as sisters and Presentation People discerned together. Concerns were addressed with our sisters and partners from all over the globe. We touched each other’s lives leaving the Assembly enriched and inspired to share as we returned home.

This article was submitted on behalf of those who attended the Assembly: Sister Janice Klein, Sister Pat Prunty, Sister Vicky Larson and Brooke Nicholson Grote

IPA Direction, Identity and Mission that were adopted from Assembly:

**DIRECTION:**
We Presentation People embody the compassion of Jesus and Nano. We practice non-violence of the mind and heart as we listen into the chaos and feel the pain of our time. We find strength in connectedness trusting that our feet know the way and our hearts carry the light.

**IDENTITY:**
We are Presentation People who share the Charism of Nano Nagle. We reach out in faith, in a spirit of hospitality, compassion and simplicity to all of creation. The cry of the Earth and people made poor calls us to continue the Mission of Jesus to bring forth a sustainable society founded on respect for Earth, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

**MISSION:**
Our Mission is to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation.
Happy Birthday Nano

As we celebrate the anniversary year of the birth of our foundress Nano Nagle, 1718-2018, we continue to be inspired by her and follow in her footsteps.

Nano had a deep love and trust of her Lord. Despite everything against her and other Irish Catholics in the 1700s, she prayed, listened and followed God’s call. Even in the most challenging of circumstances, to go where others feared to tread and do what others feared to do, she displayed many beautiful qualities. These qualities sparked Nano’s Mission and continues to shine bright. We are inspired as we continue ministering In Joyful Service and respond to current needs throughout the world in faithfulness to the Gospel.

In the face of fear, 
*she chose to be daring,*
In the face of anxiety, 
*she chose to trust,*
In the face of impossibility, 
*she chose to beg.*
To universal misery, 
*she proposed ministry to persons,*
To ignorance, 
*knowledge;*
To disillusionment, 
*tenacity of purpose;*
And to multiple vexations, 
*singleness of heart.*
Faced with failure 
*she held fast to hope;*
Faced with death, 
*she believed in a living future;*
A programe for the future 
*she gave in one word;*
*Love.*

—Raphael Consedine, PBVM

©Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
We asked our Sisters and Presentation People what they admire most about Nano:

In the midst of helping the homeless children and others, Nano would take time for prayer, especially early in the morning. It was God’s love and strength that filled her spirit and her being as she accompanied those in need with a servant heart.

I admire Nano’s courage and initiative. She was open and sufficiently vulnerable to “see” the oppression around her in Ireland and she responded by sacrificing her comfort, career and security in order to take upon herself the cause of the oppressed.

The greatest trait of Nano I admire is her unshakable trust in God, to continue going forward after so many set-backs. She started a new community that put the members right in the center of poverty and needs.

She was fearless as she addressed the needs of the poorest, those who didn’t have access to resources, like children and widows, despite the oppressive dangerous social and political climate of her time.

Her love and compassion for the poor and neglected.

Please watch for our articles in the Sioux Falls Woman Magazine this year. Each article outlines a trait that Nano passed down to the Sisters and ways we are able to share and encourage the reader to embrace the trait as we work together toward a more just and loving world.

Articles may also be viewed in the latest news on our website: www.presentationsisters.org
Social justice is the work of all of us. It is central to the mission of the Presentation Sisters. We work concurrently to provide for immediate needs through direct service and at the same time, work toward systemic change that will address the deeper causes of many of the problems faced by those we serve. Together, with our partners, employees and volunteers we are able to continue the justice work of the congregation both here and throughout the world.

In conjunction with the Conference of Presentation Sisters and the International Presentation Association, we invite you to join us, and others around the world, in support of the United Nations and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Presentation Sister Pat Prunty (top left) recently attended the United Nations Commission on Social Development Strategies in New York City. From January 28 - February 7, 2018, I was fortunate to attend the UN Commission on Social Development Strategies in New York City. Sister Mary Therese Kruger, Dubuque, IA, Molly Gerke and Amber Atkinson from Australia and myself attended the meetings along with Sister Elsa Muttathu, NGO, who represented the International Presentation Association (IPA).

There were several issues that the Commission addressed during the nine days I attended: aging, people with disabilities, poverty, adequate employment and safety. Inequality was the issue I most often heard. I learned that the Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations. This began as a development with the Social Development Commission’s purpose to remind countries to do what they said they would do: combat poverty, reach full employment and foster social integration.

The UN Charter has three pillars with its underlying purpose to promote better standards of life and larger freedom:

1. To save future generations from the scourge of war
2. To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights
3. To establish conditions for justice and peace

I came away from the UN with an increased awareness of our global community and a sense of their respect for the UN. To hear different countries speak of the progress they have made was heartening. The world nations are invested in improving human rights across the globe and that gives me pride.

– Submitted by Sister Pat Prunty
Whether across the globe or on a more local level, our Presentation Mission, rooted in education and a commitment of caring for the poor, aligns with Sustainable Development Goals to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

One area we look to highlight is our Socially Responsible Investing.

Since the 1990s our Sisters have promoted social and economic justice by being involved in Socially Responsible Investing. We promote human dignity and just labor relations while safe-guarding the environment. Our congregation is an active member of our regional Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsibility, which belongs to the national ICCR (Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility).

This organization identifies current issues so that stockholders can participate in meaningful dialogue and file resolutions with corporations they wish to influence. Recently we have been dialoguing with companies regarding deforestation and slave labor in the production of palm oil, plus wage disparity and the reduction of green house gas emissions, slowing climate change. Presently, we are examining the issue of immigration as to ways of engaging companies involved in such activities as detaining and transporting migrants and refugees, or contracting for “Wall” construction. We screen-out corporations producing military and nuclear weapons, plus those involved with abortions or embryonic stem cell and fetal tissue research. Our goal is to have an impact on corporations and to make a difference in advancing the common good of all peoples and our common home.

To learn more about how you can get involved with Socially Responsible Investing, please visit seventhgenerationinterfaith.org or contact us at marketing@presentationsisters.org

Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsibility Mission Statement

Through the lens of faith, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment builds a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable by integrating social and environmental values into corporate and investor actions.
We had the privilege of hosting a traveling “Lakota Emergence” art exhibit in partnership with the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies last fall. Over 100 people enjoyed the exhibit which combined Native American art with passages of a traditional story narrating the emergence of the Lakota in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The exhibit presented the traditional belief that the ancestors of the Lakota people emerged to this world through what is now known as Wind Cave in southwest South Dakota. The story was divided into 16 passages, combining each with an artwork created by a Lakota artist specifically for this project.

Nano Nagle often said, “There is no greater happiness in the world than to be in union.” With the Mission and Charism of Nano burning brightly within us and the tremendous partners joining together, we were able to continue some wonderful events and be a part of new ones this past fall and winter.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with Sioux Falls Christian radio station, Life 96.5. Focusing on local needs, Life 96.5 highlights a nonprofit each month and encourages their listeners to help this organization by donating items. For the past four years, we have been their “January Ministry,” collecting warm winter items for clients at Caminando Juntos, our Latino ministry in Sioux Falls. This project would not be possible without the generous support of the community and businesses who allowed collection points for these items: HyVee stores and Coffea Roasterie locations in Sioux Falls and Divine Treasures Boutique in Brandon, SD. We are ever grateful to all of the partners, knowing that together we are warming over 500 neighbors each winter!
The concept of a Prayer Bus Tour evolved out of a deep desire by concerned citizens and faith-filled leaders to want to stand in solidarity with our brother and sister immigrants and refugees in a spirit of prayer and welcoming hearts. We wanted to witness, “We Are with You...in prayer, in person, with our care and love.” Pax Christi Southeastern SD Chapter took the lead in welcoming other organizations to partner and create a prayerful experience that seeks to bring all in solidarity with each other, no matter their race, color, status or creed. As a result, we partnered together with LSS: Center for New Americans, Multi-Cultural Center of Sioux Falls, Pueblo de Dios Lutheran Hispanic Community, U.N. Refugee Congress, Vietnamese Buddhist Community, SD Bread for the World, First Lutheran Church, Mt. Zion Synagogue, Benedictine Multicultural Center of Watertown, SD and Caminando Juntos, collaborating to make these Prayer Bus Tours a reality.

We were honored to host the November monthly gathering for the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours event. We opened our doors to 120 community leaders, where we recognized many as Presentation People, and welcomed new members to the community. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to celebrate and give thanks for all we have accomplished together.

The 13th annual Pax Christi Peace Conference held in Watertown, SD was blessed with great enthusiasm and engagement as we continue working towards a more peaceful world. The event is made possible thanks to our partnership with Pax Christi USA, local Pax Christi chapters, the Benedictine Sisters and the work of our Justice Team. This year’s speakers inspired and educated us on the key issues of climate change, immigration, human trafficking and alternatives to the death penalty.
Prayer Partners

Prayer Ministry is the heart of our mission. Our prayer centers us in our loving and forgiving God and moves us into joyful service. Since the founding of Presentation College in 1951, our Sisters have prayed for the students, faculty and staff of this sponsored ministry.

In wanting to strengthen the connection with our students attending Presentation College, we began our Sister Prayer Partner Program. For over 15 years this program has connected students and sisters with the opportunity to get to know one another while sharing and growing in their personal faith.

Today, the Prayer Partner Program has grown to include not only students, but faculty and staff as well. Prayer partners need not meet in person; some use email and skype to stay connected. For some, this connection has lasted many years.

Sister Josita Schwab returned to Presentation Heights in 2007 and signed up right away to be a prayer partner. “I worked at Presentation College for 18 years; it has always been dear to my heart. So when returning to Aberdeen from other ministry work, I asked to be a prayer partner to keep connected with the staff and students.”

Through the years, Sister Josita has been prayer partners with different students and since 2015 has been partners with Lindsey Swenson, Presentation College’s Director of Campus Ministry. Lindsey works with Sister Marilyn Dunn, Prayer Partner Coordinator, to help the students sign up to be prayer partners. Lindsey shares, “after promoting it to others, I realized that this would be a great program for me to also participate in. Knowing that I have someone ‘in my corner’ praying for me is indescribable. I know that Sister Josita is always there to encourage, lift up and guide. To be partnered with a Presentation Sister is the ability to have not only someone praying for you, but also to have an endless wealth of knowledge and strength to lean into.”

Prayer partners
Sister Annrita and Jacob share a meal together after Mass (left)
Sister Josita and Lindsey (below)

“Being a prayer partner is not about praying together all of the time. It is also sharing our lives with each other, encouraging, listening to one another, and just being there for the other.”

– Sister Josita
In Loving Memory

As we say farewell to our dear Sisters, we remember them with joy. While their time with us seems all too brief, each followed the path God laid for her, and God has taken her hand to lead her home. We lift up our hearts for they received faith’s reward, the fullness of life with God.

Sister Donata Daml
Born to Life 4/28/1936 - Born to Eternal Life 1/27/2018

Sister Donata (Donna) Daml earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master’s Degree in Guidance & Counseling. She taught third through eighth grades in Dell Rapids, Huron, Humboldt, Mitchell, Aberdeen, Milbank and Watertown, SD as well as Mound and Anoka, MN for nearly three decades, before working as a recruiter at Presentation College, Aberdeen. She felt called to minister to the Native American students at Presentation College Lakota Campus, Eagle Butte, SD and also to the community by offering counseling services. Sister Donata especially treasured her time on the Cheyenne River Reservation. She ministered there until 2012 and then returned to prayer and volunteer ministry at Presentation Convent. Her warm friendly smile, generous and humble heart shone brightly in the words she once said, “God is good and can’t be outdone in generosity. I have received much more than I have given.”

Sister Marie Celeste Sabers
Born to Life 10/01/1931 - Born to Eternal Life 10/20/2017

Sister Marie Celeste (Mary Joan) Sabers obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and earned her Master’s in Pastoral Studies which she applied to her ministry in Chaplaincy and Administration for over 50 years at (Avera) Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen, (Avera) St. Luke’s Hospital, Aberdeen and at St. Joseph Hospital (Avera Queen of Peace), Mitchell. In 2007 she volunteered visiting the sick at Avera McKennan, Sioux Falls, and moved to Presentation Convent, Aberdeen in 2016. She was steadfast in her duties as a Chaplain offering comfort and encouragement to patients and their families. She enjoyed visiting with family, friends and past co-workers and liked bowling, music, walking, water exercise, hiking and nature.

Sister Donata Daml
Born to Life 4/28/1936 - Born to Eternal Life 1/27/2018

Sister Marie Celeste Sabers
Born to Life 10/01/1931 - Born to Eternal Life 10/20/2017

Sister Donata (Donna) Daml earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master’s Degree in Guidance & Counseling. She taught third through eighth grades in Dell Rapids, Huron, Humboldt, Mitchell, Aberdeen, Milbank and Watertown, SD as well as Mound and Anoka, MN for nearly three decades, before working as a recruiter at Presentation College, Aberdeen. She felt called to minister to the Native American students at Presentation College Lakota Campus, Eagle Butte, SD and also to the community by offering counseling services. Sister Donata especially treasured her time on the Cheyenne River Reservation. She ministered there until 2012 and then returned to prayer and volunteer ministry at Presentation Convent. Her warm friendly smile, generous and humble heart shone brightly in the words she once said, “God is good and can’t be outdone in generosity. I have received much more than I have given.”

In Loving Memory

As we say farewell to our dear Sisters, we remember them with joy. While their time with us seems all too brief, each followed the path God laid for her, and God has taken her hand to lead her home. We lift up our hearts for they received faith’s reward, the fullness of life with God.

Sister Marie Celeste Sabers
Born to Life 10/01/1931 - Born to Eternal Life 10/20/2017

Sister Marie Celeste (Mary Joan) Sabers obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and earned her Master’s in Pastoral Studies which she applied to her ministry in Chaplaincy and Administration for over 50 years at (Avera) Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen, (Avera) St. Luke’s Hospital, Aberdeen and at St. Joseph Hospital (Avera Queen of Peace), Mitchell. In 2007 she volunteered visiting the sick at Avera McKennan, Sioux Falls, and moved to Presentation Convent, Aberdeen in 2016. She was steadfast in her duties as a Chaplain offering comfort and encouragement to patients and their families. She enjoyed visiting with family, friends and past co-workers and liked bowling, music, walking, water exercise, hiking and nature.

Sister Donata Daml
Born to Life 4/28/1936 - Born to Eternal Life 1/27/2018

Sister Donata (Donna) Daml earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master’s Degree in Guidance & Counseling. She taught third through eighth grades in Dell Rapids, Huron, Humboldt, Mitchell, Aberdeen, Milbank and Watertown, SD as well as Mound and Anoka, MN for nearly three decades, before working as a recruiter at Presentation College, Aberdeen. She felt called to minister to the Native American students at Presentation College Lakota Campus, Eagle Butte, SD and also to the community by offering counseling services. Sister Donata especially treasured her time on the Cheyenne River Reservation. She ministered there until 2012 and then returned to prayer and volunteer ministry at Presentation Convent. Her warm friendly smile, generous and humble heart shone brightly in the words she once said, “God is good and can’t be outdone in generosity. I have received much more than I have given.”
Help us celebrate and recognize the sparks of Nano this year! If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved or want to share a spark you have witnessed, please contact us at: marketing@presentationsisters.org

Together, let’s ignite the spark of Nano in ourselves and others as we work towards a more loving and just world!

Connect with us on Facebook/Presentation.Sisters.Aberdeen or visit us at www.presentationsisters.org

“We willingly go forth to any part of the world to work for justice, alleviate oppression and promote human dignity.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 22
Green Aberdeen Earth Day Fair
Aberdeen, SD

May 5
Presentation College Graduation
Aberdeen, SD

May 12
Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Falls Park – Sioux Falls, SD

June 18
Women’s Golf Tournament
Moccasin Creek – Aberdeen, SD

June 20
World Refugee Day Celebration
Sioux Falls, SD

June 25-29: LIVE Leadership Camp
Creighton Retreat Center – Omaha, NE

July 16-20: Leadership Camp
Storm Mountain – Black Hills, SD