

Moments in Mission

Igniting the Spark of Nano



*“Take down your
lantern from its
niche and go out!”*

– RAPHAEL CONSEDINE, PBVM

Annual Donor Report

2017-2018



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Justice is our Work

In Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation: "Rejoice and be Glad," he impels us to "allow Jesus' words to challenge us, to unsettle us and demand a real change in the way we live." (#66) Working for justice is sometimes unsettling and demanding, but Nano's legacy of compassion, coupled with the tenacity to pursue change, encourages us to continue this important ministry.

In opposing the death penalty and working for prison reform, we embody Nano's compassion for all of God's children. We live our call of hospitality by welcoming people of different cultures as our neighbors and friends, inviting them to our liturgies and into our homes, and encourage others to do the same. We are courageous in our opposition to violence in all forms,

beginning with ourselves, and steadfast in our support of social programs as we work for social change, just as Nano worked to change the social systems for people in her time.

A major component of our work for social change came with our 2014 decision to begin actively lobbying during the South Dakota legislative sessions. Our efforts have focused on healthcare and educational issues, efforts to end the death penalty, immigration legislation and care of the environment. Mentored by seasoned lobbyists, Julie Johnson, Aberdeen, and Deb Fischer-Clemens, Sioux Falls, the presence of Presentation Sisters Lynn Marie Welbig and Kathleen Bierne has brought a depth of faith awareness to the dialogue in Pierre. ●



Sisters and Cojourners stood together in unity at a Families Belong Together rally in Aberdeen earlier this year.



In partnership with the Watertown Coalition and Mother of God Monastery, we continue our education and awareness efforts on the issue of sex trafficking, including billboard messages like the one above.



International Day of Peace (above)

On Friday, September 21, Sisters, Cojourners, Employees and Presentation People held a prayer service for the International Day of Peace.

Participants placed blue stones in our Mary Garden. This representation of the symbol of water as the worldwide source of all life is shared with peoples across the globe. We held the stones in our hands and examined the roles we may have played in causing division and brokenness among people. We asked our Creator God to guide our thoughts toward ways that we may help the lives of impoverished and marginalized people. Let us direct our hearts to opportunities to help remove barriers, use the earth's resources wisely and determine ways that we can speak out against unjust systems and structures.

Together, Let Us Leave a **Legacy of Justice**

As we dream about the emerging future, what do you see in the world around you? As we have reflected on the 300th anniversary of Nano's birth this year, we are reminded of the strong conviction she had in doing what she knew in her heart was right. Nano left us a tremendous gift in her legacy. She led by example with her tenacity and her ability to stay rooted in faith and Mission, which allowed her to say no to many enticing paths in order to accomplish her overall goal. We often reflect on what our legacy will be, what gift we are leaving to the world as Nano did. We pray the choices and plans we make today, will offer peace and opportunity to those coming after us.



As vowed women religious, we have dedicated our lives, inspired by Nano's work for justice, to alleviate oppression and promote human dignity. We know that this cannot be done alone and are thankful for your partnership. The efforts of many coming together make the journey more gratifying and seem easier than traveling this path alone. We are united through your gifts, volunteerism and prayer, so together we may focus on the task at hand, making the world a better place.

We invite you to continue this journey with us in whatever capacity works best for you. If you are interested in learning more about ways to leave your legacy, we would be happy to discuss options with you. Leaving a lasting legacy, of any amount, can be very simple and will contribute to our continued Mission, a Mission shared by our partners, for years to come. ◆



For more information, contact
Brooke Nicholson Grote or
Jen Rothenbuehler at 605-271-0468.

Thank You, Partners

The Presentation Sisters are grateful to the donors listed in this annual report, as well as the individuals who prefer to remain anonymous, for their partnership over the past year. It is through this support that we are able to continue our ministry to those in need. It is our intention that this report accurately reflects the names of our donors from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. We also remember in our prayers those whose names are

marked with a cross (†) as they are our partners who are deceased.

We have established style guidelines to ensure consistency. If there is an error with your name, please let us know using the contact information listed on the back of this report.

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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 programme for the future she gave in
one word;
Love.

RAPHAEL CONSEDINE, PBVM
A reflection of Nano Nagle's life

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Take down your lantern from its niche and go out!

You may not rest in firelight certainties,
Secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear.
You may not build yourself confining walls
And say: "Thus far, and thus, and thus far
shall I walk,
And these things shall I do, and nothing
more."

Go out! For need calls loudly in the
winding lanes

And you must seek Christ there.

Your pilgrim heart

Shall urge you still

One pace beyond,

And love shall be your lantern flame.

RAPHAEL CONSEDINE, PBVM
A reflection of Nano Nagle's life

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God's Boundless Love

Nano's vision is part of God's vision.

Nano's passion for the poor
had humble beginnings.
Zeal and trust,
courage, impatience, crosses,
are the stuff of ones who are
channels of God's boundless love.

Nano's zeal is for God's mission,
for love-in-action,
and for solidarity, whatever the cost.
Nano's mission is as big as her vision
and her passion for the poor
is contagious.
Nano could not do it alone
or without love.

Nano's dream
is still alive today
all over the world where
her vision is shared.

ANNE O'LEARY, PBVM

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

RAPHAEL CONSEDINE, PBVM
A reflection of Nano Nagle's life



Aberdeen Area Hispanic Outreach



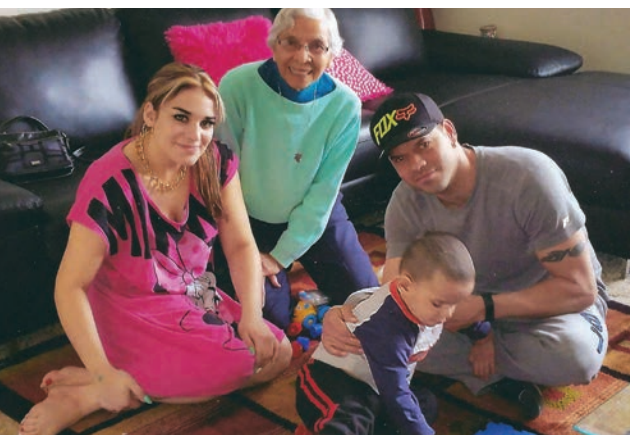
oresight brought a new ministry to the congregation in 2008 as more Hispanic families began to move to Aberdeen and the northeast area of South Dakota.

We recognized the growing need for services that would help us to welcome the stranger among us.

Sister Consuelo Covarrubias (pictured below left) accompanies many Latino families in the Aberdeen area with a compassionate heart. She shares, **"I truly know that God blessed me when I received the call to walk with our Latino families in Aberdeen. One young mother thanked me over and over when I helped her find a place to live. With tears in her eyes, she exclaimed, 'Gracias! Gracias! I know that my children are safe now.'** Providing translation, transportation, a listening heart and prayerful encouragement made all the difference for this little family that is now a part of our Aberdeen community."

In this ministry, Sister Consuelo and Sister Myra Remily (pictured above left) provide translation services, especially for medical appointments and educational needs. We also stress the importance of education by helping prepare young children to go to school. Finally, by helping families find affordable, reliable housing and connecting people with different social service departments, we help them with a hand up so that they can thrive in their new community. ●

We are so grateful to our donors who give from their hearts to those in need. Especially in unexpected situations, such as car repairs or a dentist bill, even \$25 or \$50 can be a great help. God blesses each of you for hearing the cry of the poor.



Sister Myra Remily
Sister Consuelo Covarrubias
Aberdeen Area Hispanic Outreach



Caminando Juntos

(Walking Together)



As Sister Sheila Schnell announces her retirement, following 17 years of service at Caminando Juntos, we welcome April Ross as Director.

The Caminando Juntos Ministry works tirelessly to assist Latinos in the Sioux Falls area. Astrid Rosario, office manager, helps clients with a variety of needs, including furniture, medical assistance, job applications, social service referrals and housing assistance. In cases of domestic abuse, she refers them to Sister Janice Mengershauser, our bilingual counselor. With the compassionate spirit of Nano Nagle, the staff and partners work daily to accompany the stranger among us.

This ministry sponsors day and evening English classes for Latino adults, giving them opportunities to become fluent in the language and thereby opening doors to higher-waged jobs that better match their skill set. All is made possible with the dedication of ESL teachers and volunteers and our partners at Our Lady of Guadalupe, who so graciously offer the use of their facilities.

As an accredited immigration specialist, Sister Janet Horstman serves clients with the heart and tenacity of Nano. She offers each client compassionate, professional advice and helps clients apply for

citizenship, obtain green cards, and petition for family members abroad. The Sisters also partner with HAND IN HAND, an advocacy group trying to raise funds for an immigration attorney who can represent unaccompanied minors and families.

The impact of our ministry is far-reaching, both in terms of its effect on our clients' personal lives and on our community. In recent months, this ministry has reunited three unaccompanied minors with their mothers, processed 25 immigration cases, made 45 referrals to the Furniture Mission, completed 15 medical assistance and job applications, and served 12 Latina women through the Mujeres y Valores program. Because of your support, Latino families have developed a deeper sense of belonging and empowerment. ●



April Ross, Sister Janet Horstman, Sister Pegge Boehm, Sister Jan Mengershauser and Astrid Rosario




Catholic School Scholarship 2018-2019

Education has always been an anchor in the Presentation Sisters' ministry efforts. From the time when Nano taught Irish children—though it was against the harsh penal laws—to the late 1800s when our own sisters were called to Dakota Territory to teach, education has played a central role for the congregation.

Having taught in many Catholic schools throughout the region, we remain dedicated to Catholic education. In 2009, in partnership with donors, we established a Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund to foster Catholic educational opportunities. This year, 40 scholarships of \$750 and three scholarships of \$1,500 were awarded to students attending Catholic schools in the Sioux Falls Diocese.

For this school year, we received nearly 240 applications for these scholarships, showing that the need is still present in our communities. Since 2009, we have provided 340 scholarships in amounts from \$500 to \$1,500.



"Thank you for the generous scholarship you have given to my family. Catholic education is very important to my family. I hope that I will grow in faith and knowledge this school year. "

—Student

"We are grateful for donors like you who continue to support the importance of Catholic education for our children."

—Parent

"Thank you so very much for the scholarships you provided for some of our families at our school. They are all well deserving and will make the most of the Catholic School advantage."

—Principal

"I love my school because I learn about God and have friends."

—Student

"Thank you for the scholarship that will help us so very much this school year...knowing my grandchildren are receiving a Catholic education is comforting. With all in my heart and soul, I give God and you good Sisters, my humble heart."

—Grandparent



Good Samaritan Ministry for Adults and Children

Approximately 30 requests come in weekly to our Good Samaritan Ministry for Adults and Children. Administered by a committee of sisters and partners, this ministry was established to assist with emergency needs of those in South Dakota. The main requests are for emergency rental or utility assistance.

In one instance, “Lance” contacted us because he and his wife’s baby was born with serious complications. He had to take a leave of absence from work to be with his wife and baby at a specialty hospital in another state. During this time their electricity was shut off as they did not receive the disconnect notice from the electric provider while away. This ministry allowed us to assist Lance and his family to pay the past due amount so they had electricity when they returned home.

We consider each request for assistance with the compassionate heart of Nano. By providing for these immediate needs, we are able to help our friends and neighbors get back on their feet during difficult and unforeseen circumstances.



Sister Phyllis Gill
Ministry Coordinator

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

– ROMANS 12: 10-13





Above: Groups of women were waiting by Sister Virginia's office to talk with her about receiving a loan from the Redmond Loan Fund.

Below: We use local ingredients to make our own fish food for our Fish Hatchery.



Kaoma, Zambia, Africa

Heeding the call of Nano to go out where need calls most loudly, Sister Virginia McCall was inspired 10 years ago to join other Presentation Sisters in ministry in Kaoma, Zambia. Her time with the people in Kaoma led her to begin mission projects that assist people in developing sustainable careers and community.

As in all of our ministries, education is an important piece of providing opportunity for those we serve to develop the skills necessary for success. We sponsor students in primary school, elementary school, high school and college. These young people would not have an opportunity to attend school without assistance. Encouraging and supporting the education of those in Kaoma will help them to break the cycle of poverty.

The Nano Farm is a model farm where we raise chickens and cows and have gardens, a fish hatchery and a multi-use conference center. Adults and students get hands-on learning as they are taught to use compost for gardening and to raise fish. These skills help them to provide a sustainable future for themselves and their children. They are also able to attend workshops in the conference center.

In addition to providing educational opportunities and employable skills, we are able to provide loans for women through the generous funding of the Redmond Loan Fund. Through this initiative, over 2,000 women have been able to establish or enhance a small business. After participating in workshops, women can receive the equivalent of a \$100 loan. We provide support and assistance as they become self-sustaining and establish businesses that provide an income for their family.



Sister Virginia McCall
Administrator



Leadership Camp



Leadership Camp in the Black Hills began as a means to allow 7th, 8th and 9th grade girls a place where they feel safe to share their feelings, where they strengthen their relationship with God and where the pressures of day-to-day living are shared and lightened. We encourage the girls to imagine themselves acting in new ways that reflect more fully who they want to become as they meet and interact with role models and peers who nurture in them leadership skills based on Christian values.

For 23 years, this camp has taught over 1,500 young girls about leadership, friendship and faith. The camp experience leaves a lasting impression on those who take part, and many have returned as counselors.

Being a junior counselor makes me feel so proud and so grateful to be able to inspire these young girls and help them grow in their faith. It is definitely a learning and uplifting experience for me and the campers.
– *Jr. Counselor*

Even though this summer marked our last camp in the Black Hills, the spark that has taken hold of these girls will continue to ignite the flame of Nano and her servant heart for generations to come. These past campers are students, young professionals, mothers and community leaders who will pass the lessons they learned at camp on to their children, friends and those with whom they come in contact with daily.



“The Mission of Nano Nagle is alive and well in the 2018 Leadership campers, counselors and support staff and we could not be more grateful.”

“You have taught me so much on how to grow and follow God’s path for me.”

“It was good to hear the junior counselor stories about their lives and to know that everyone struggles with their faith and has their struggles, but the most important thing is to turn to God.”

“Even though this is the last year for Camp, it will live in our hearts forever!”

“Camp is always an eye opener for me to never lose sight of my relationship with God. I am reminded to open my Bible and see Him everywhere. My faith has blossomed and has become such an important part of my life.”

LIVE Camp



resentation Sisters' LIVE camp completed its 12th year this past summer and **plans are already under way for our 2019 Camp**. The goals for LIVE

camp are to engage 7th, 8th and 9th grade Latinas to grow in their relationship with God, embrace their Latina heritage with pride, and be empowered in virtue as leaders in their families, church, communities and the world. The goals are expressed in the LIVE acronym: Latinas Inspiring Virtuous Excellence.

Days include many activities geared toward learning how to work together and be proactive, while developing friendships with other young and energized Latinas. Campers are empowered with skills that enable them to make healthy decisions, increase their self-esteem, grow in their faith and become aware of their potential to exercise leadership. We keep in contact with the campers throughout the year and encourage the girls to continue using the leadership skills they learned at camp.

We are also encouraged as many of these young women apply to come back as junior and adult counselors. These young women understand the campers' journey through adolescence and are willing mentors, embodying Nano's Mission and Charism and passing on her light. They witness to these girls the importance of their relationship with God and pride in their Latina heritage. They share with the campers their learnings as leaders in their families, church, community and world.

This year, we were blessed to have two wonderful Presentation Sisters from Dubuque join us and serve as Sister-Counselors. They drove all the way from Chicago to camp in the deep woods of Creighton University Retreat Center and also brought along two campers from Chicago. We hosted 58 middle school age Latinas, hailing from Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota as well as Chicago. This was our largest LIVE camp enrollment to date. The Campers and Sisters express their gratitude to the many persons and groups who help sponsor this enriching experience.



"After I leave this camp, I will no longer let the negativity get to me and I will become a powerful girl and **stand up** for not only myself, but for others as well."

"I want to take the time to **thank you for your great service, dedication and time**. It is surely valued. The endless support that you provide to all campers is essential and more so to these lovely great ladies. It is much needed during these difficult times in the world."



“There is no greater happiness than to be in union.”

— VENERABLE NANO NAGLE



The title of this section evokes the words of Nano Nagle, who encouraged her sisters to work together for the greater good. As religious life moves forward to more fully embrace our non-vowed partners, we value all of the Presentation People that carry the spark of Nano into the world. We are broadening our partnerships while also deepening them as we recognize the Charism of Nano in not only our sisters all over the world, but also our friends and partners in Mission and Ministry.

In our Chapter calls, we are impelled to look for the spark of Nano in new places, to connect with others in ways that can further the Gospel message and help us to be in communion with all people and creation. As we embrace the wider Presentation community, we call ourselves to move forward on this journey not alone, but in partnership with those who carry the light of Nano in the world today.

Our partners include other Presentation congregations in North America who make up the Conference of Presentation Sisters. Together we are almost 500 vowed Presentation Sisters, as well as thousands of additional associates and Presentation People. Moving beyond our borders, we are a part of the International Presentation Association with around 2,000 Presentation Sisters and many more

partners serving around the globe, carrying the Mission of Nano to those in need.

We join with other congregations of women religious, especially those who are part of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, to work in solidarity for social justice and compassion for all. At our 2018 LCWR gathering (pictured above), we joined nearly 800 sisters from different congregations as we discussed our theme “Being in the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion.” In solidarity, we walked to the steps of St. Louis’ Old Courthouse where many years ago Harriet and Dred Scott sought freedom. Together, in silence and prayer, we took a stand against racism within ourselves, our communities and our nation.

Each of these partnerships provides an opportunity to do more in our world together than we could possibly do alone. We count you, our donors and partners, as Presentation People and are grateful for all that you do to walk beside us, as together we carry forth the Mission of Nano.

To learn more about partnering with our Sisters, please visit www.presentationisters.org.

Dear Presentation Family and Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, and continue celebrating the 300th anniversary of Nano Nagle's birth, we are energized by the "sparks" of Nano we have witnessed. We can only imagine how proud Nano must be for the traits she passed down to the sisters and how her desire to be of service anywhere in the globe has become a reality in nearly 2,000 Presentation Sisters today. We continue to see the forward movement of Presentation People, with your light shining brightly, and your willingness to pick up the lantern and go where the need cries loudly in the night. Proud indeed, she must be.

Your partnership continues to be a very vital step in the work of the sisters. The future is emerging. We share our gratitude with you, as we walk humbly together and work for a more just and loving world for those who come after us.

In the year ahead, we are looking forward to continuing the momentum that Nano instilled in all of us, allowing us to focus on nurturing the flame so we can courageously go one pace beyond. Thank you for your passion and commitment, as we carry the lantern together, to share the Mission and Charism with those we meet.

Peace and love,

Mission Development Team



Team members include:
(from left to right)

Jennifer Dix
Kathleen Daly
Barb Grosz
Jen Rothenbuehler
Brooke Nicholson Grote
Carrie Hansen

***"God is all we
need, His divine
hand will always
uphold us."***

- Venerable Nano Nagle



We love connecting with you and look forward to visiting with you in the year ahead.

Sioux Falls, SD
605.271.0468

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In Prayer, Charism & Mission

We go forth to any part of the world to work for justice, alleviate oppression and promote human dignity. We are fed by our spiritual lives and inspired by our foundress, Nano Nagle, to go where the need calls most loudly. Through service to those in need, we are living out the Mission of Jesus. By grounding this service in prayer, we are filled with a spirit of joy and love for those we serve.

We welcome you to join us for Mass at our Blessed Sacrament Chapel, pray the Stations of the Cross with us or send your prayer intentions to wepray4u@presentationsisters.org. May you continue to nourish your spiritual life to renew your spirit and enliven Christ's heart within you!

marketing@presentationsisters.org | www.presentationsisters.org | 605.229.8337