

Presentation Blessings

On the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple (21 November) we celebrate with the Presentation Sisters and with the whole Church the blessing of Mary and her devotion to God.

Like Mary, the Presentation Sisters have responded to God's call with a resounding 'YES!' allowing faith and commitment to lead them into futures unknown.

In 2009, Marlette Black pbvm said "Yes!" to an invitation to present material on **Presentation Charism and Spirituality** which challenged her to further reflect on the Presentation tradition. Below is a tiny morsel for you to read and with this small enticement comes an invitation to spend time reflecting on Marlette's full text (see link below).

Nano Nagle and the founding sisters' spiritual legacy "fuel our vision and shape the strategies to achieve it." The heart and temple are central to Nano's spiritual vision and to the two names given to her religious congregation – Sisters of Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The names were chosen in recognition of Nano's deep devotion to Jesus and Mary. It is recorded that in spite of bodily pain, she [Nano] did not fail to spend hours in prayer. Gerard Moore (The Devotional Life in 'Terra Spiritus' Vol 5 Issue 2, 2009) describes devotions as being more than pious prayers; indeed, they are spiritual disciplines requiring sustained effort and application to one's life. For Nano her life was her mission, the "Presentation face of God's mission" and that "mission is about seeking out, uncovering, building on and celebrating God's presence."

Marlette wrote, "Nano was alive with the Spirit of God, reaching out into a world crying out to be fed and healed. The Temple can no more confine God's

loving gaze and compassionate heart than convent walls could confine Nano.

"This is the spirituality of our Presentation tradition – the challenge to be the new Dwelling Place of God in our world – no longer a static building but rather a pulsating heart that is a source of life and loving energy for our world."

On 20 October 2018, Marlette Black pbvm was welcomed into the arms of God. May she rest in peace.

Presentations Charism and Spirituality PDF <http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Presentations-Charism-and-Spirituality-.pdf>

There is something deep and warm in living things. It is there. Call it grace, or the presence of God, or an awareness of the need for truth or love. But that 'something' is good. You may wonder about it on a quiet morning, in your yearning for some meaning to this life.

And memories may come, warm memories, about the goodness and love that have been shown you in life. And you will sense beneath the surface of our daily routines, goodness is slowly coming into being. Perhaps prayer is listening to that goodness, watching for it, and living from it. Perhaps prayer is nothing more than being still and asking God for God's warmth, for God's abiding presence in our lives.

Source Unknown

REFLECTION

- > Nano Nagle, the founder of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, challenges us to answer the need of the day, to read the signs of the time and act accordingly. How will you answer this challenge today?