

Using the Icon in Formation Programs & Reflection

The icon is a visual story that can be used in many ways to recall, retell, or reinterpret the story of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. Here are ten suggestions for using the icon for formation, discussion or reflection with staff, students and wider groups.

- Use the icon with groups to recall Nano's life and ministry. Challenge participants to read the story and the messages within the images. Give each person a copy of the icon.
- Cut a copy of the icon into its component panels. Give each person a particular panel and ask them to tell that segment of the story and then to put the icon back together as a group exercise.
- Use a black and white icon for a mandala style prayer, where participants add the colour as quiet music is played. A black and white template is provided in the appendices.
- Ask groups to construct their own icon telling the story of their own ministry and what is important in their story. They may include the central panel of Nano Nagle with their individual story in the side panels.
- Use a Visio Divina where participants take the icon and walk with a particular image as a reflective prayer experience. Instructions on using the Visio Divina prayer form are provided in the appendices.
- Ask groups to analyse aspects of the icon – the use of colour and shape, the religious imagery, the key elements of Nano Nagle's life. Ask: What image of Nano is the artist depicting? What aspects of Nano's life are not included and why?
- Match the images of the icon with words from Nano Nagle's letters to create posters for display in a staffroom or other communal area.
- Create reflection cards using key panels of the icon. Team these with quotes by or about Nano Nagle and gift them to others in the workshop – quotes about Nano Nagle are included in the Reflections section of this resource.
- Situate the icon of Nano Nagle in the context of Catholic iconography, noting similarities and differences of style and approach. You might invite an expert on icons to share insights about this style of religious art.
- As a ritual, undertake a group reading of the icon. Standing in a circle, invite ten people (one for each panel in the icon) to step forward with a candle (or lantern) and read their panel in their own words.

