

Associate Partnership

MISSION



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Conversation Four Mission

(This conversation may need to be completed over two meetings.)

Welcome

God is manifest in the day-to-day ordinary and extra-ordinary experiences of our lives. If you are willing, briefly share a happening or insight from life during the past month.

Prayer

Light a lantern and enter into prayerful meditation.

Leader *(Pause after reading and read a second time)*

Jesus at Nazareth: He came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me
for God has anointed me.
God has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.”

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, “This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.” *(Luke 4:16-21)*

Brief Silence

“If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the world, I would willingly do all in my power.” *(Letter 1)*

These well-known words of Nano were written in 1769, some twenty years after she had begun work in Cork. Although it was the needs of her own people which had first drawn Nano to a life of apostolic service, the local scene alone could not contain her enthusiasm for the spread of the Gospel. For her the whole world mattered. *(Fire on Earth, page 95)*

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Quiet Reflection

What did Jesus see as the mission? What did Nano see as her mission?

Do you think it would be different if Jesus/Nano were speaking to us today?

This is the vision of God that seduced and captivated the heart of Nano. In what ways did Nano carry out the mission Jesus proclaimed?

Mission and Ministry

Definition of Mission

All Christian life is rooted in mission, the mission of Jesus, which is the manifestation of God's love for all of creation. Often this call to mission is referred to as participation in the coming of the Kingdom of God or the bringing of new life and hope to the world. Mission is not always the same as ministry. While mission can be or include a specific action or ministry, it is more of a call to bring alive the values of love, justice, compassion and liberation by the witness of our lives of prayer and community. The common call to mission is broad, with Baptism as the foundation. As the People of God grow in their understanding of this call, there is within persons a movement of God's Spirit to seek God's guidance for living out this call. *(NACAR Lead with the Spirit Leadership Manual)*

Mission is the vocation to live in the pattern of Jesus who calls us to transform the world. A world that prefers peace to war, producing to consuming, empowering to controlling, sharing to possessing, community to individualism. *(2014 Associate Orientation Manual)*

Definition of Ministry

Ministry is the specific manner in which we carry out the mission. The Sisters of the Presentation receive our apostolic identity from Nano Nagle, our foundress.

Since coming to Dubuque in 1874, Presentation Sisters have focused ministry efforts on meeting unmet needs. The initial need was for education. Our ministry still has its roots in teaching; however, today, our educational ministry reflects less traditional forms. A common thread that runs through all ministry efforts is a desire to joyfully go where need calls most loudly.

(Sisters of the Presentation website)

- How do you understand mission and ministry to be interrelated?

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Dubuque Presentation Mission Statement

A mission statement is a summary of the aims and values of an organization and guides the actions of that organization.

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are called to evangelize, offering hope and love to our broken world by incarnating the hospitality of God, confronting injustice and working for peace.

- How do you understand incarnating the hospitality of God? How do you/might you incarnate the hospitality of God?

Presentation Associates share in this same mission with the sisters.

- How does this mission statement challenge your understanding of mission?
- How can we help one another live out this mission?
- In what ways are you already living out the mission of Nano and the Presentation sisters?

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Dubuque Presentation Direction Statement & Commitments

The Presentation Direction Statement and Commitments flow from the mission statement and drive the ministry and action of the community and associates for a period of time. The direction statement is reviewed every five years during Chapter to make sure it is still relevant and expresses the ongoing direction of the community.

Direction Statement

We, the Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa,
Associates and Companions in Mission,
are called to live our charism of radical hospitality
in response to the cry of women and children made poor,
our wounded Earth and all creation.

Adopted April 2023

Commitments

We invest time, energy and resources to a process of inner work,
opening ourselves to personal and communal transformation.

We listen and respond to the cry of women and children and
advocate for racial equity and immigration reform.

We foster connections with people and land
to nurture healing of our wounded Earth.

Adopted April 2023

Associate Identity Statement

Dubuque Presentation associates are women and men called to share in the life, spirituality and mission of the Dubuque Presentation Sisters. Grounded in prayer, we support and encourage one another as we seek to embody the Presentation charism of radical hospitality both individually and communally. In the spirit of Nano Nagle, we reach out with hospitality and compassion as we seek justice and respond to the needs of the world.

The statements directly relate to associates while the commitments are internal promises for the community.

- How does the associate identity statement invite you to participate in mission?
- How does the associate identity statement invite you to participate in mission?

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Current Ministries of Sisters and Associates

Dubuque Presentation Sisters and associates live out the direction statement in a wide variety of ways, both in active ministries and in prayerful support of and as advocates for people on the margins and justice issues such as racial equity, immigration reform, human trafficking, earth care and sustainability. Presently Dubuque Presentation Sisters and associates live and serve throughout: Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, South Dakota, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Mississippi, Florida, Oregon, South Carolina, Nebraska, Washington DC, California, Alabama, North Carolina and Arizona and Bolivia. ([See Ministry Map under Mission & Ministry - Where We Are on website](#))

Sharing of Ministries

Presentation Sisters and associates share in the mission of Nano Nagle as they minister to a broken world offering hope and hospitality to all they encounter in this time in history.

Presentation Sisters and associates incarnate hospitality of God in the world as they work to change unjust systems by working on behalf of the poor and women and children and advocating for racial equity and immigration reform. Some sisters and associates minister in direct service to those made poor. Some sisters serve as justice advocates for immigrants, the poor and the homeless, educators, parish ministers, spiritual directors, social workers, pastoral care workers and healthcare workers. Associates live the Presentation mission through their life style in their families, work places, parishes and communities. Some associates engage in promise groups that carry out the commitments. Sisters and associates partner for mission because we are better together.

Ask sisters and associates present to share how they minister on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

Collaborative Ministries

The Sisters of the Presentation maintain special relationships with the following ministries. Some of these we have initiated, some we have sponsored and all we support – they are part of our history and mission. Associates support some of these ministries through the associate scholarships and through direct service opportunities.

Presentation Lantern Center
LaLuz Centro Cultural
Bolivian Mission
Opening Doors
Hotel Hope
H.O.M.E. Ministry

(If doing the meeting in two sessions this would be a good place to break.)

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International Presentation Association (IPA)

The International Presentation Association is a networking of the various congregations of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary around the world, formed to foster unity and to enable collaborations for the sake of mission. Flowing from our identity as Presentation women the mission of IPA is to channel our resources so that we can speak and act in partnership with others for global justice. Together, we work for personal and systemic change for people and Earth. We are inspired by Venerable Nano Nagle who saw that justice flowed from spirituality. *(IPA Website)*

- In what ways do you recognize your global connection to others? To the Earth? To those who have come before you and those who will come after?

Because we are an association of over 1,500 religious sisters and Presentation People (sisters, associates, employees, friends), we have presence in over 20 countries. The association is comprised of the three Presentation units:

Union of Presentation Sisters:

Ministries in Antigua, Cambodia, Canada, Chili, Dominica, Ecuador, England, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America:

Congregations of Aberdeen, Dubuque, New Windsor, San Francisco and Staten Island with ministries in Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua

Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea:

Congregations of Lismore, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, Wagga Wagga, Western Australia and Papua New Guinea with ministries in Peru

IPA Identity Statement

We are Presentation women
who share the charism
of our foundress, Nano Nagle.
We reach out in faith, in a spirit of hospitality,
compassion and simplicity to all of creation.
The cry of those made poor and the cry of Earth
call 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. *(2003/2007/2012 IPA Assemblies)*

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IPA Directional Statement

We Presentation People embody the compassion of Jesus and Nano. We practice non-violence of 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. (2017 IPA Assembly)

- What do you see as the “chaos and pain of our time?” How do you see yourself embodying the compassion of Jesus and Nano?
- How would you explain what it means to be a Presentation person? In what ways does the Presentation heritage and mission impact your life?

View Youtube video

- How to Change the World (In Just One Hour)
(bit.ly/video_howtochangetheworld)
- What thoughts or questions are you sitting with at this time?

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Closing Prayer

Reader 1: A reading from the prophet, Isaiah

“Look, I am doing something new; now it emerges, can you not see it?”

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Brief Silence

Reader 2: A Missioning

The One called Jesus still works in our world
through His Spirit's light in men and women.
Some are sent to carry it afar,
some hold it on high, a beacon for justice,
some tend it on quiet hearths for children,
fan its gleam in questing minds,
or shade it gently for suffering eyes.
But it is all one light, living light,
each for other bearing, each in other nurturing,
till all creation is made whole in light.
Jesus, Lord and Christ, summons us today
to leave our narrow darkness for His Light.
He send us to wash in the pool of life.
Let us go that we may see,
and seeing, worship.

(Raphael Consedine, PBVM, Songs of the Journey)

Brief Silence

- Share with the group what is in your heart and going through your mind at this time.

Read Together

Jesus, light to the world, flaring forth of the divine among us, you embody the spirit poured into the whole creation from the beginning. May your spirit, alive in us now, flare forth to empower us to live as your beloved children. May we be signs of your love as we, like Nano and Mother Vincent, take up our lanterns and move one pace beyond. Amen

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Preparation for the Next Gathering

- Look ahead at the next section on Discernment
- Next meeting date
- Upcoming gatherings or events at Mount Loretto or other venues
- *(An important piece of the associate partnership is to make connections with sisters and associates and to continue to grow in understanding of the Presentation mission. When possible you are encouraged to participate in the various opportunities that are offered.)*

Additional Resources to Consider:

Websites

- Sisters of the Presentation
(dbqpbvms.org)
- Sister Spotlights
(bit.ly/sisterspotlights)
- Descriptions of ministries of sisters on the map
(<https://dbqpbvms.org/mission-ministry/where-we-are/>)
- International Presentation Association
(<https://globalpres.org/>)
- IPA Presentation People & Concerns
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyOC6UzK47U)