

PRESENTATION ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

December 2021



Celebrating the Feast of the Presentation Together

The focus for November was the celebration of the Feast of the Presentation. Tina Panelli organized Associates Kay Sweeney, Yolanda Santillan, and Pat Diaz to facilitate the novena leading up to the Feast Day. All those who attended shared their reflections on the readings provided. They were inspired by the stories of the biblical women and to follow them by seeking justice and peace in our world today. It was a rich time together.

In Southern California, **Kathey Valenzuela** hosted the group on zoom for the closing of the novena. Kathey chose a beautiful art work of the Nativity scene highlighting how the baby Jesus and Mary were portrayed, that added to the reflections. They shared personal experiences of the Presentation Sisters and people, past and present, whose lives of faith and service have inspired them. They renewed their Associate commitments, holding a candle, and blessing one another.



**EARLENE DUTTON READING
HER ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT.**



**OLGA BARRERA AND NANETTE MILLER WITH SR.
JANET HARRIS AT THE PRESENTATION DAY
CELEBRATION.**

The Associates living near enough joined the Sisters' celebration at the Motherhouse on November 21, 2021 for mass, a reminder of their commitment as Associates, and a celebratory brunch.

November was indeed rich in the celebration of community.



Spotlight on Ministry: Following Nano

Reflection from Pat Diaz

I was asked to speak on my “ministry,” and how I saw it as expressing the mission of Nano. But first a little background on myself. Being a new Associate (for only 2 years), I found the request difficult to understand, since I always related the term ministry as pertaining to religious life or its related activities. I was fortunate to be educated by Presentation Sisters in high school (Our Lady of Loretto ‘74) and took to heart what I thought was the school’s motto “Deeds Not Words.” Those words only affirmed my then community activism, which had been instilled by my mother at an early age, that it was everyone’s obligation to give back, and to speak up, for those who could not speak for themselves. I always admired my English teacher, Sr. Janet Harris’, “side job” of social work with the local gang members and was amazed at her dedication and lack of fear. **She was my inspiration to do all I could in my own way.**

Since then, I have always been an activist on social justice issues, throughout my life, but now have narrowed down my efforts to three specific ones where I can directly see the fruits of my work: affordable housing, the LA Catholic Worker and Environmental Injustice; oil drilling in low income and economically depressed areas in my city (*closing the Allen Co Oil Site – two blocks from my home*).

Upon joining the **Loretto Friends of the Presentation Sisters** committee, and reading the Associate informational pamphlet, I was astounded to “discover” Nano Nagle and to learn about her life and **her** motto. This discovery came at a perfect time in my life as I was searching for a more meaningful relationship with God and my faith. I felt I was neglecting both because I was spending so much time on organizing, attending meetings, and speaking out for justice.



PAT EXPLAINING OIL DRILLING PROBLEM IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD.

Becoming an Associate has helped me reconcile my volunteer work and activism with God and faith. Meditating on the request to speak of my “ministry,” I slowly have come to realize that what I do is indeed a form of ministry -- and not the traditional format of my previous thinking -- I could not see the forest for the trees. I have found fellowship through the Spiritual Reading Circle and felt comfortable to speak, with longer term Associates, for guidance on helping to see and understand what was evident to them. **In**

my own way I was sharing in Nano's charism -- in my commitment and passion in working for justice.

Spiritual Reading Circle News – Nanette Miller

Ten of your faithful associates finished **Laudato Si**, the second encyclical of Pope Francis. We spent a good part of 2021 going through “**On Care for Our Common Home**” and a workbook we used. This combination and our life experiences sparked many discussions, concerns and ideas on how we can care for the earth and humanity.

For **2022**, we are going to change the format. Members will share a book and lead the discussion. We will meet monthly on Zoom. We are hoping to schedule the 4th Thursday of the month for our meetings. **Nanette Miller** and **Olga Barrera** will facilitate the schedule. Anyone can volunteer, and they will be put on the schedule.

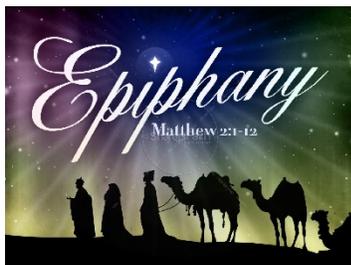
To implement the encyclical we just read, we will try to use either electronic books or used books and reduce our carbon footprint.

Please join us. Don't be shy! It is fine to only participate for a book or two. These sessions are such a good way to really get to know your fellow Associates and read some great spiritual literature.

The schedule so far: **Kay Sweeney-Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Kimmeler, **May Barisone-Let us Dream: Conversation with Pope Francis**, and **Pat Diaz-Radical Saints: 21 women for the 21st century**. Others are discerning.

So please, consider joining us by emailing nanetteolgaoo@gmail.com.

Coming Attractions



**Epiphany Day on Zoom – Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022
10 AM Pat Diaz/Kathey Valenzuela will be facilitating.**

Save the day. More information to follow.

2021 Associate Calendar

We know that many of you like to plan ahead, so we have included the Calendar of Associate activities planned so far for 2021. Most will be on zoom as we have found it makes it possible for many more Associates to attend. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Epiphany Day on Zoom – Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 10 AM Pat Diaz/Kathey Valenzuela

Lenten Sharing – Dates TBA - Kay Sweeney

Associate Leadership Team meetings- First Wednesday of Each Month at 1 PM

Spiritual Reading Circle – Fourth Thursday of each month

Saturday Coffees – First Saturday every other month Feb., April, June, August. October, December

Annual Gathering – September 3, 2022

Retreat 2022- October 1-2, 2022

Spring Gathering – Date TBA

Sister Chats – As scheduled -Yolanda Santillan

Prayer Day of Discernment 2022 – Date TBA

Let us pray during our advent wait.

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.



We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

The Associate Team

Kay, Sr. Anita, Rosalie, Gerry, and Kathey