

The Presentation Yes

The Feast Day of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple on 21 November affords us a double celebration.

The Eastern Church celebrates the Presentation of Mary as the moment of exchange between the Old Covenant and New Covenant. Mary's womb will become the temporary dwelling place of the Word, her heart its permanent dwelling place through the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 2:19). (Anne O'Leary pbvm, *Woman of Light*, 2010, p65.)

The day is also an occasion for us to gratefully acknowledge the continuing gift of the **Presentation Sisters** to our Church and our world:

- > Like Mary presented in the temple, the Presentation Sisters locally and worldwide were also presented in their individual ways to religious life, to their ministries and to the communities they serve.
- > Like Mary who said 'yes' to God, **Nano Nagle**, stirred by the depths of poverty of the people of Cork, embraced God's mission of love and worked tirelessly to educate, support and empower the poorest of the poor. Presentation people around

the world are called to continue to say 'yes' to the call to love, compassion and service.

- > Like Mary who reminds us in the Magnificat that 'God's mercy is from generation to generation' ... and that 'God fills the hungry with good things', Nano Nagle's total commitment to the poor and her compelling vision of service is a legacy of mercy which continues to challenge us all.

Nano Nagle's lantern remains a symbol of hope, compassion and justice:

In a multi lit world the lantern flame cannot be diminished.

In dark places of heart and mind

... the kind word sparks hope anew

... acceptance brings warmth

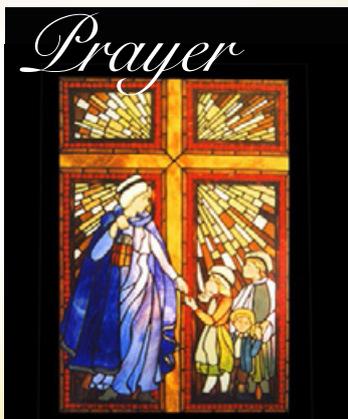
... solidarity fuels the flames of justice.

Hold the lantern flame close protecting it from the winds of negativity and bitterness.

Hold the lantern flame firmly lest its light be diffused and weakened

Hold the lantern flame high allowing no bushel to hide God's mercy.

Let your lantern flame transform the world one beam of compassion at a time.



God of love

Encourage us to reverently enter into the temple of our own beings, seeking out, celebrating and nurturing God's presence in the desires of our hearts and the work of our hands.

Mary said "yes" for the human race. Let each of us echo that 'yes' in our own lives and in the lives that we touch.

Like Mary and Nano who responded to the call to mercy and justice, bless us with the grace to open our lives to all that you call us to be.

REFLECTION

When Nano Nagle wanted to help others she didn't look around her and say "I can't do anything, too many people need help", instead she responded to the needs of those she could do something for.

- > How can we choose to do the best we can, where we are, each day of our lives?
- > How can we be present to the poverty and injustice in our world?