

# 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY GUIDE

A guide for various activities that your unit, congregation, community or family can do in celebration of the Presentation Congregations 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!





# INTRODUCTION

As we mark 250 years since venerable Nano Nagle first lit her lantern and began her mission of compassion, courage, and justice, we are invited to pause and celebrate the extraordinary journey of the Presentation Congregation. From one woman walking the dark lanes of Cork to a global network of Presentation People standing for hope, education, and human dignity, this anniversary is both a remembrance and a renewal.

The spirit of Nano continues to inspire countless acts of love and justice across the world. Her legacy calls each of us - Sisters, associates, friends, and partners - to keep her flame alive in our own time and context. Whether through prayer, service, advocacy, or simple moments of connection, we are all part of this unfolding story.

This activity guide offers ideas and inspiration for how you and your community can celebrate 250 years of Presentation life and mission. Each activity is an invitation to reflect, act, and shine Nano's light wherever you are - so that together, we may continue to "go one step beyond" for the sake of our world.



## LIGHT THE LANTERN A GLOBAL PRAYER MOMENT

Across 250 years, the flame first kindled by Nano Nagle has travelled far beyond the streets of Cork - shining in classrooms, shelters, clinics, and homes around the world. To honour this living light, we invite our world-wide community to join together in a **global moment of prayer and unity**.

At a chosen time - perhaps at sunset in your local community on the anniversary day - **light a lantern, candle, or small flame**. Let this simple act remind us that Nano's lantern still burns brightly through each of us, illuminating paths of **compassion, justice, and hope**.

Together, begin with this prayer:

***"We are lanterns of hope, bearers of light in times of darkness.  
May Nano's flame burn within us - guiding our hearts to see,  
our hands to serve, and our lives to shine with love."***

Take a few quiet moments to **reflect** on how you can continue to bring light into the world - through **kindness, courage, and everyday acts of justice**.

Finally, share your light with the world! If you can, capture a photo of your lit lantern or candle and send it to us to share! Together, our collective light will form a beautiful, global symbol of the enduring Presentation spirit.







## ECO-JUSTICE ACTION

### PLANTING TREES FOR THE WORLD!

Nano's lantern did more than light the dark streets of Cork - it illuminated a vision of **dignity, interconnectedness, and care for all creation**. In celebration of 250 years of Presentation presence, we invite our global family to unite for **Eco-Justice**! This activity will be a shared commitment to protect our planet and nurture "a future full of light and life."

Each community is invited to take an action that reflects Nano's deep care for creation. We will do this by **planting trees** — as many as you are able! Whether it's one tree, ten, or more, every contribution matters. Together, as a global Presentation family, our shared goal is to plant **2,500 trees across the world!**

Every seed planted will stand as a living symbol of our collective promise to nurture and protect Earth, **our common home**.

As you work, take time to **reflect** on the **sacred connection** between **justice and ecology**. Remember that Nano's mission calls us not only to serve people in need, but to protect the fragile world that sustains us all.

When your activity is complete, email us with any photographs, short stories, or reflections - showing how your community is helping to keep Nano's lantern burning brightly for generations to come.







# 250 ACTS

## ACTS OF PRESENTATION

### KINDNESS

Nano's life was defined by **courageous compassion** - by small acts of love that **transformed lives** and rippled across generations. To honour 250 years of this spirit in action, we invite you to take part in the  
**"250 Acts of Kindness" Global Challenge!**

Each Presentation community, school, and group is encouraged to engage in acts of **justice, compassion, and kindness** that reflect Nano's mission. These may be simple or profound — a smile that restores dignity, a meal shared with someone in need, tutoring a struggling learner, visiting the elderly, giving someone a hug, or standing up for justice in your community. **Every act, no matter how small, carries the power to light the world anew.**

Together, our goal is to reach and surpass **2,500 acts!**

As you complete each act, note it down and share it with others. Communities can collect their stories, photos, or short reflections and share them with us.

All contributions will be gathered into a global online map or video montage, illustrating the extraordinary ripple effect of Nano's legacy - a world alight with Presentation kindness.





## LET'S SHARE!

As we celebrate **250 years of Presentation life and mission**, may each of these activities remind us that Nano's light still burns brightly — in every act of **kindness**, every prayer for **justice**, and every seed of **hope** planted across our world.

Thank you for joining this global celebration of faith, courage, and compassion. Your participation helps to keep Nano's vision alive and to strengthen the bonds that unite us everywhere.

**We would love to see how you and your community are marking this special milestone!**

Please send any photos, stories, or reflections from your activities by emailing :

250th.pres.anniversary@gmail.com

We'll be gathering and sharing these inspiring moments on the International Presentation Association website - [www.ipango.org](http://www.ipango.org) - under the **"250th Anniversary"** tab. We will also share them with the communications teams of Union, Conference and Society.

Together, let us continue to carry Nano's lantern into the next 250 years - lighting the way with faith, justice, and love.



# RISE O PEOPLE

## 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SONG LYRICS

250th Anniversary Song for the Presentation Congregation

Written by: Jessica Dewhurst, IPA Executive Director

Produced by: Legacy School of Music

### Verse 1

In the silence of the night, a lantern gave its glow,  
Nano walked the narrow streets, where few would dare to go.  
She carried hope for all children, a flame that still survives,  
Two hundred fifty years, her spirit is alive.

### Chorus

Rise, all you people, lift up your eyes,  
The lantern still guides us, the flame never dies.  
Through trials and triumphs, our story still unfolds,  
With justice and mercy, our hearts brave and bold.

### Verse 2

From Cork to every nation, her vision took its flight,  
A family of compassion, united in the Light.  
Across all seas and all borders, her mission calls us still,  
To stand with all the silenced, in love and in goodwill.

### Chorus

Rise, all you people, lift up your eyes,  
The lantern still guides us, the flame never dies.  
Through trials and triumphs, our story still unfolds,  
With justice and mercy, our hearts brave and bold.

### Verse 3

Our voices from all nations, rising evermore,  
Bound by love and purpose, one people, one call.  
In every stand for justice, in every heart consoled,  
Her lantern burns within us, a vision to behold.

### Final Chorus

Rise, all you people, lift up your eyes,  
The lantern still guides us, the flame never dies.  
Through trials and triumphs, our story still unfolds,  
With justice and mercy, our hearts brave and bold.  
With justice and mercy, Nano's vision still grows.





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