

*Presentation Day Novena*  
2009

October 2009

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Associates, Co-workers and Friends of Nano

We join together again across the world to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of our Lady and to pray for nine days, so that we may be in communion with each other and with the very heart of God.

May the fire flaming forth from the heart of God enflame the hearts of all people of every nation, especially those at the margins of society. May it empower us in our work for justice so that we may not rest while there are still people trapped in the web of poverty and discrimination. May it give courage and strength to all of us to care for the earth for as we know where the earth is most wounded the poor suffer most.

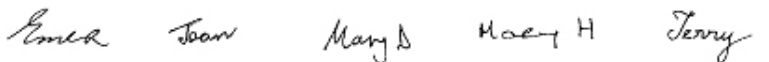
As we near the end of the jubilee year of Nano's death we are grateful for the encouragement her life gave us to fan into flame the gift of God all over the world.

We wish all of you the continued joy of walking by the light of her lantern and the consolation of knowing the great love of the compassionate heart of God.

We thank the sisters of the North American Conference for preparing the Novena this year.

Blessings on all of you as we celebrate Presentation Day

Joined with you in love and prayer,



Congregational Leadership Team.

# Welcome

*On Christmas Eve 1775, Nano Nagle founded a religious congregation identified as Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of The Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1791, seven years after her death, the religious order was given a new title, “Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”(PBVM)*

*Nano had a deep and profound devotion to the Sacred Heart. This spirituality of the heart of Jesus, which was readily accessible to ordinary people, offered love and compassion to everyone. Over the centuries this devotion and the practices that surround its integration into our lives included the picture of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, wearing the Sacred Heart Badge or medal, and holding fast to participating in the Nine First Friday devotions and novenas in preparation for the June feast.*

*Long ago this devotion sparked passion and fire in the hearts of believers, especially for those who once were known as “Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” In recent times, these symbols and practices seem to have lost their ability to influence and transform our lives. New thinking about the core message of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart confirms that this devotion is still relevant today, especially to the daughters and friends of Nano Nagle. May the praying of this novena deepen our faith in Jesus and help us to rediscover the riches of this devotion.*

## *Reflection on the Theology of the Sacred Heart*

*The Theology of the Sacred Heart is both a theology for our times and a spirituality which is reflected in the holiness and heart of Nano. The Sacred Heart is the Heart of God laid bare for us. This Heart of God is in the heart of everyone who is open to all who seek, to all who thirst, to every lost sheep waiting to be found and carried home. This Heart calls to our hearts. It invites us to step out of the futile attempt of self-preservation. By joining in the task of love, and by surrendering ourselves to God, we discover the fullness of love which alone sustains the world.*

*One who has pondered the image of the soldier's lance piercing the Heart of Jesus, and who has explored this powerful symbol in deep contemplation, has but one language to speak to the world: the language of the heart. It is learned not in conferences or classrooms or books, but in the silent contemplation of the Pierced One. It is learned especially in the presence of the broken hearts of the world. The language of the heart encompasses a thousand local dialects, a million accents. Devotion to the Sacred Heart impels us to an inventive charity, a love ready to explore every dark and treacherous place in search of the lost and vulnerable.*

*“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.” (Lk 14:21) (This meditation is based on the writings of Benedict XVI.)*

*As we celebrate the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle's death, we are challenged to “put on a new heart,” a “sacred heart.” In our day, may the devotion to the Sacred Heart cultivate a heart that is open, vulnerable and compassionate. Our love for the world, the vulnerable, and weak is a love that is born in the Heart of God.*

*Heartbeat of God, create within us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.*

*Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God  
and Son of Mary, Call Us to Passionate Discipleship*



*Day 1–12th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Ireland, England and Slovakia.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

*(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)*

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary

**All:** Call us to passionate discipleship.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

Trusted Guide,

You are my mentor, my Inspiration,  
my Home of good choices and decisions.

You help me to search with confidence  
as I find my way to inner peace.

*“Prayer to Sophia” by Joyce Rupp*

**Reader: Scripture** (Luke 24:31-33)

And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem.

**Reader: Meditative Moment**

Nano Nagle’s wish, “If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power,” has been fondly realized. Today the daughters of Nano are carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, and there are no boundaries to the ministries that sprang from the tender and sacred heart of our foundress. The Presentation Sisters founded by this great woman with her sacred feminine heart is visible, flourishing in our midst – surprising in its origin, amazing in its growth, astonishing in its magnitude, and almost bewildering in its accomplishment. (*Flame of Love a biography of Nano Nagle by Sister Rosaria O’Callaghan , Aberdeen South Dakota P.B.V.M.*)

**Silence**

**Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

Guide of my life,  
thank you for all you have given me.  
Reveal my spiritual path  
and direct me in the living of it.  
Lead me to inner peace and oneness with you.  
Amen *Prayer to Sophia by Joyce Rupp*

### **Song:** “Open My Eyes” by Jesse Manibusan

(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God  
Grace us with Hospitality for all*



*Day 2—13th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Australia and Papua New Guinea.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

*(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)*

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God

**All:** Grace us with hospitality for all.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

Touch our hearts, loving and compassionate God.  
Make them like your own.

**Reader: Scripture** (Ezekiel 36:26)

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put  
within you; and I will remove from your body the heart  
of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

## **Reader: Meditative Moment**

The theme of today invites us to desire, as Nano did, a deep relationship with the Heart of God. We know how Jesus accepted the most “unacceptable” into his circle. He healed many, conversed with others, fed the multitudes and called sinners to be his friends. He touched the heart if not the flesh that needed his touch. How we make Jesus’ presence felt today is our privilege as we help others feel welcomed, respected and even loved, no matter where they come from or what they do, even if they are on the outskirts of our own safe circles.

## **Silence**

### **Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

**Leader: Blessing**

May Jesus, the loving Heart of God, place in our hearts a desire to love more fervently so that every thought and deed may grow in loving compassion.

**Song:** “We Are Called” by David Haas 1957, GIA Publications Inc., 1988  
(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God  
Open us to the Vulnerable and Weary*



*Day 3—14th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Central America and Latin America.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God

**All:** Open us to the vulnerable and weary.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

May Nano, whose welcoming heart reached out to the vulnerable and the weary, deepen our desires and strengthen our spirits to follow the merciful Jesus.

**Reader: Scripture (2 Corinthians 4:16)**

Therefore we do not lose heart.

Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

## **Reader: Meditative Moment**

Do not lose heart! In many ways, these words can touch our lives, our communities, our families, our ministries, our church and our Earth. Outwardly, we may feel discouraged, disheartened, disillusioned. Yet hope can be found in unlikely places. Nano struggled as well, but she was renewed each day. She learned the true meaning of compassion from the merciful Heartbeat of God, as she suffered with the vulnerable and weary. May we, too, be women and men of welcoming hearts, whose words and actions continue to “speak” the language of the heart each day.

## **Silence**

### **Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

May our God, who is rich in mercy and full of compassion, renew our hope, open our hearts, enliven our courage and bless us this day and always. Amen.

### **Song:** “Blest Are They” by David Haas

(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God  
Reveal the Path of Justice and Peace*



*Day 4—15th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in New Zealand.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God

**All:** Reveal the path of justice and peace.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

Listen to the song "Being in Communion" by Jan Novotka  
(from Hearts on Fire, to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of Nano  
Nagle's death)

OR

Listen to soft reflective music while saying these words:  
Being in communion, we are one  
Being in communion, being one.

**Reader: Scripture (Mark 12:33)**

And to love God with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

**Reader: Meditative Moment**

It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that He speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers, and children that He gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that He gives. It is with the feet of soldiers and tramps that He walks, and with the heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ. "Room for Christ" by Dorothy Day

**Silence**

**Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

God, you have given us hearts burning to relieve the suffering of people who have been made poor. May we continue to walk in Nano's footsteps, ready to go wherever You lead. Give us hearts open and ready to receive your grace and blessing, so that Your love may be poured out to all we meet.

### **Song:** "God of the Hungry" by Scott Soper

"Because We Love God" by Kathy Sherman, CSJ

(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God*  
*Stir Courage within us for New Beginnings*



*Day 5–16th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in India and Pakistan.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God

**All:** Stir courage within us for new beginnings.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

When I focus on the clock or calendar, I will stop and gently lean on Jesus, (like St. John at the Last Supper), my ear listening to His Heartbeat. I hear the love and compassion of Jesus and while being rooted and centered in that love, look at the world's atrocities, without anger and bitterness, and give a loving response.

**Reader: Scripture (Joel 2:12)**

Even now, return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.

**Reader: Meditative Moment**

Today, we live in a world where people are violent and disconnected (e.g. attacks in Mumbai, India and our convent in Swat, Pakistan, razed to the ground). We feel that this evil is completely separated from what we think and feel in our hearts. This separation is an illusion. The inner fascination with death and the most horrendous forms of human destruction are connected. Jesus knew this connection and when His heart was pierced, it was the heart that embraces our thoughts and far reaching actions. When we carry anger in our hearts, we do not hurt our enemies as much as we hurt ourselves.

**Silence**

**Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

**Leader:** Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

*All: free us from darkness.*

**Leader:** Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

*All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our heart*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

Heart of Jesus, bless us and forgive the times we forgot our connectedness to others. Give us the courage for new beginnings to explore every dark and treacherous place in search of the weak and vulnerable. Your Heart calls our hearts to a fullness of love and peace, a love which sustains the world and holds it in a loving embrace.

### **Song:** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

“Lay Your Hands Gently Upon Us”

(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God*  
*Heal us for Service*



*Day 6—17th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in the Philippines and Thailand.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God

**All:** Heal us for service.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

Gracious God, your daughter Nano had your law of love written in her heart. Open us to the loving wonder of your presence.

**Reader: Scripture (Jeremiah 31:33)**

This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people.

## **Reader: Meditative Moment**

In the face of the prevailing Jansenistic tendencies to see humanity as deprived and unworthy, Nano's devotion to the Sacred Heart was an affirmation of human dignity and the value of human life. This devotion to the Heart of Jesus resonated in her passionate service to those made poor.

We can imagine how Nano's long hours of prayer, uniting her heart to the wounded Heart of Jesus, would impel her to "spend herself for the poor."

As we ponder the wounded Heart of Jesus and our call to service, we are challenged to open ourselves to the fragile flesh of our time. This flesh may be that of a child without hope, an immigrant woman struggling to start a new life, or a forest about to be strip mined. The radical example of Nano's relationship to the Divine, challenges us to reflect on our lives of prayer and service.

## **Silence**

### **Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

May the fire of love that burned in Nano's heart open our hearts to be attentive to the broken of our world. Jesus, wounded Heartbeat of God, heal us for service.

**Song:** "May All I Do Today" by Jan Novotka

"Light for the Journey" by Miriam Martin, PBVM

(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God*  
*Stretch us into New Visions and Dreams of You*



*Day 7—18th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Zambia and Zimbabwe.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)  
Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God

**All:** Stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

**Leader: Call to Prayer:**

The great secret, the great mystery, is this:  
there is a heart of the world...  
and this heart is the Heart of Christ. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

**Reader: Scripture (Jeremiah 29:11)**

"I say this because I know what I am planning for you,"  
says the Lord. "I have good plans for you, not plans to  
hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

**Reader: Meditative Moment**

What a gift these words are—"I have good plans for you... I will give you hope and a good future."

A new stirring pulsates in our hearts, inviting, urging, prodding us to throw open the doors of fear or security and to step out into a future full of hope. God, immanent and transcendent, dwells within us, and we can do more than we ever imagined.

In our contemplation of the Heart of Jesus, we hear the call to be visionaries. In stillness before the Lord, we become fire, and the stirrings of our hearts turn to flames that dance in our imagination.

From this God-centered place, we are summoned to dwell in hope, for we know ourselves as graced. We move into the future with a joy far greater than we could have ever asked or imagined. We have owned God's promise and know God's plan for us—a future full of hope.

**Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

All: *love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## Silence

### Leader: **Blessing**

May the creative heartbeat of God  
keep us ever mindful  
of the ability to dream with God.  
May God's love wrap us 'round  
warming and comforting us,  
enabling us to share with others.  
May our new visions and dreams  
connect us with all creation,  
with all who are,  
with all who will be. Amen

**Song:** "Walk Into the Heart of God" by Kathy Sherman, CSJ in the album *A Language of the Heart* (This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God  
Free us from Darkness*



*Day 8—19th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in North America.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God

**All:** Free us from darkness.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

The Word, who is life, is our light. As the Light shines in the darkness, may Christ overtake all that robs our hearts of gentleness and compassion.

**Reader: Scripture (Matthew 11:29)**

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

## **Reader: Meditative Moment**

In moments of grace our soul becomes clear and quiet. Our worrying stops. Our yearning and waiting for fulfillment stop. Grace uncovers the mysterious essence that unites us with all beings in right relation. What is inside of us and what is outside of us come together, if only for a moment. In this moment we sense the indwelling essence of spirit and stand humbled before its mystery. We know and are known by something larger than ourselves. Grace awakens in us a natural compassion, allowing us to be kinder with ourselves and with other living beings. We open our hearts knowing all creation to be holy. Adapted from "Moments of Grace and Illumination" in *Life Prayers*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon

## **Silence**

### **Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

**Leader:** Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

*All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

O God, in ancient Decembers,  
In the narrow corridor at Newgrange,  
ancestors huddled very low,  
yearning for the solstice sun.  
We, too, wait – but for the Son.  
We wait expectantly in the pregnant, holy dark.  
We wait in joyful hope for the advent of our Savior.  
Let the Christ light penetrate  
into the inner corridors of our hearts.  
Where there is darkness, let there be light.  
Where there is coldness, let there be warmth.  
Where there is doubt, let there be hope.  
Where there is guilt, let there be forgiveness.  
Marantha! Come, Lord Jesus!

From “Cycles of the Earth and Church: Prayers and Rituals” in A  
Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book, by William John Fitzgerald ©1998

### **Song:**

“Come to Me” by Gregory Norbet, OSB, ©1971, 1994 (revised text)  
The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont. (This suggestion may  
be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting  
to your own cultural experience.)

**All:** Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God*  
*Love Through us in the Sacred Homeland of our Hearts*



*Day 9—20th November*

*Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer all members of the Nagle-Rice family.*

**Leader: Creating Sacred Space**

(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.

Place your fingers on your wrist  
and be aware of your pulsating heart.

Be at peace.

Be attentive to your heartbeat.

Imagine God's heart beating within you.

Be in solidarity with God's heart and the  
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God

**All:** Love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

**Leader: Call to Prayer**

“It is only with the heart that one sees rightly.”

by Helen Keller

**Reader: Scripture (John 19:34)**

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

## **Reader: Meditative Moment**

A pierced heart...asked to give all. It is only an empty cup that can be filled. It is only an empty, receptive, humble heart that can be enlivened by the Sacred Heartbeat of God.

Pierce our hearts, O Jesus. And then blood will gush forth...the passion of life...the love for all the living. And water will pour out...the symbol of cleansing and forgiveness that enhances interrelationships for the created cosmos. Pierced like Jesus, we pulse with a passionate love. We wash in the stream of interconnectedness. Jesus, love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

## **Silence**

### **Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...

All: *call us to passionate discipleship.*

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...

All: *grace us with hospitality for all.*

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...

All: *open us to the vulnerable and weary.*

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...

All: *reveal the path of justice and peace.*

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...

All: *stir courage within us for new beginnings.*

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...

All: *heal us for service.*

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...

All: *stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.*

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...

All: *free us from darkness.*

**Leader:** Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...

*All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.*

## **Silence**

### **Leader: Blessing**

May the Sacred Heartbeat of God  
bring our pierced hearts

to hallowed places of passion and peace.

We pray that the sacred homeland of our hearts  
will be fertile with the love of Jesus  
and that compassion and reverence for ourselves  
and our Earth take root.

May we journey together from the homeland  
of our hearts

To the homeland of eternity...

into the Sacred Heartbeat of God.

### **Song:**

“River of Glory” by Dan Schutte (verses 1 and 2)

“Rain Down” by Jaime Cortez (verses 1 and 3)

“At the Cross Her Station Keeping” (verses 2, 10, 11)

“Healing River of the Spirit” (verses 2 and 3)

“Healing Waters” by Trevor Thomson

“Jesus, Remember Me” by Jacques Berthier

“Lord of the Dance” (verses 3, 4, 5)

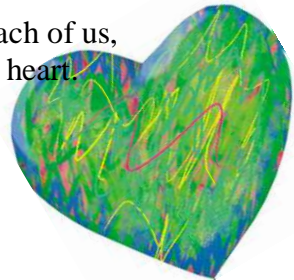
“Restless Is the Heart” by Bernadette Farrell

“Turn Our Hearts” by Barbara Bridge

(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or  
you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

### **All:**

Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,  
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.



*If you believe in me,  
you will experience  
the power of my heart.*

*St. Margaret Mary Alacoque*

*On this the 225th anniversary of Nano's death,  
it is with joy that the Conference of Presentation Sisters  
of North America share our prayer for a deepening  
of God's love pulsing within us.*