

HEART

at the heart of the whole of life

*May we be open to you
that we might love with a heart*

*that warmly welcomes all who seek safety
and shelter on Australian shores*

*that invites in those who have been pushed to the
outside of families, friendship groups and
communities*

*that reaches out to those who have not yet found
a place of belonging and acceptance*

*that encourages and enables those who are fearful
and unsure of themselves*

*that comforts and cares for those who are distressed
and for whom life offers much challenge and struggle*

*that restores relationships where they have been
damaged and discarded*

*that stands with those who are treated unjustly and
speaks up for those whose voice is not able to be
heard*

*that shares of its "substance not just its surplus
and gives of its bread, not of its crumbs"¹*

*that cares for and connects with all creatures
and the cosmos*

*that seeks to live simply, in ways that sustain
and support*

*that listens and learns not just for the sake of self
but for the building of a fair and just world*

*that is filled with passion for the possible and
a deep commitment to peace*

that is creative, hope-filled and hopeful

*that sees and celebrates the beauty, goodness
and gift in each other, in nature and in self*

HEART

at the heart of the whole of life

*May we be open to you
that we might love with your HEART.*

¹ 2008 Stanislaus Kennedy rsc (RSC Colloquium, Dublin)

Celebrating

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

That you will go into the heart of God
and find the heart of the world.
That you will go into the world
and find the heart of God.

Jan L Richardson , *In the Sanctuary of Women* , Nashville:
Upper Room Books, 2010 p.188



Nano's generous love and compassion for the poor was born out of her sense of being loved in her own life, by her family and by God. She shared this love and compassion with the world in very practical ways - by establishing schools for children otherwise excluded from education and society, and by tending to the everyday needs of those who were sick, elderly and on the margins.

Nano drew strength from her prayerful devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In Jesus, Nano experienced the human face and heart of God's compassion, and sought to share this love and compassion with others. She named her religious community *The Sisters of Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus* on its establishment in 1775. The congregation's name was later changed to the *Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

Blessing

That the desires of your heart
may draw you toward creation
and connection.
That community and kindred
will attend your path.
That you will not go alone.

Jan L Richardson , *In the Sanctuary of Women* ,
Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2010 p.188

