

Updates from Covington, Kentucky



Dear Partners,

SND USA ministries are far-reaching, but depend on the involvement of individuals at a local level. Contact us to partner with the Sisters of Notre Dame in Covington, KY:

Prayer Requests & General Info:

infoKY@sndusa.org
859-291-2040
1601 Dixie Highway,
Covington, KY 41011

Associates:

Sr. Luann Bender
lbender@sndusa.org

Donations and Mission Advancement:

Jodee McElfresh
jmcelfresh@sndusa.org
859-392-8228

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC):

Sr. Rita Geoppinger
rgeoppinger@sndusa.org

Volunteer, Young Adult and Vocation Outreach:

Sr. Ruth Lubbers
rlubbers@sndusa.org

Careers with SND:

hr@sndusa.org
www.sndusa.org



**Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States**

We Remember



***Sister Mary
Jean Clare Lamping***

08/16/1933 - 01/02/2021

*May Sister Jean
Clare delight in the
embrace of our good
and loving God.*

*To read her full
obituary, please visit
sndusa.org/tributes*

On the Cover:

PANCAKE BREAKFAST DRIVE-THRU We greatly missed hosting the in-person Uganda Mission Pancake Breakfast in the spring. Although we pray we can welcome everyone for breakfast and conversation over coffee next year, the modified breakfast bag+baked good drive-thru was a successful alternative for 2021. Through 75 bags sold, plus donations, our partners raised more than \$3,000 for our sisters and students in Uganda and East Africa. God is so good! Thank you to everyone who participated, including our very talented bakers. *Clockwise from top left on cover: Sr. Delrita Glaser, Sr. Helen Joseph Riehle, Sr. Joell Overman, Sr. Ann Marie Pflum, Sr. Nance Hehman, Sr. Evelyn Reinke.*



SND staff Sheila Hemmer and Mike Goebel transport baked goods to the Pancake Breakfast drive-thru at Notre Dame Academy in March.

Sister Spotlight: Sr. Pamela Mae Geiger

What is your current ministry role and duties?

I have been at DCCH Center for Children and Families in Fort Mitchell, KY for 28 years. I started as principal of the on-site school, went into residential support when we opened a short-term unit, then I moved to foster care, and most recently into development. I am the assistant development director and one of my main duties is to connect with our constituents, including reaching out when someone has lost a loved one. I also help with the typical development office work—entering donations, running thank you letters, assisting with events. I try to help out wherever I can be of assistance to our staff and volunteers.

What is your favorite aspect of your ministry at DCCH?

This work supports our 40 residents and their needs, which includes therapy, clothing, and food, as well as the many other functions DCCH serves in the community.



Sr. Pam Geiger, left, with DCCH receptionist Patty Kissel

I also enjoy contacting people in a friendly way and being able to offer my prayers and condolences to those whose loved ones have died. It is especially touching when I receive thank you notes back. So many people give what they can even if it's broken up into smaller amounts each month. Our flea market has been closed for three months due to COVID. One of our longtime shoppers stopped by and gave a donation since she hasn't been able to buy from the flea market. This is all for the good of our residents and the families connected to DCCH.

How would you say your ministry has impacted you?

Just seeing the dedicated people who support us and work with the kids on a continual basis has made me look at my own life. Seeing what I had compared to what our children have or don't have today is very humbling. The physical or mental abuse they've suffered is something they deal with each day. Being there when they need somebody to reach out to them has helped me be a more compassionate person. This year has been hard because we don't get as much direct interaction and not being able to do that is something I have missed.

What does it mean to be a Sister of Notre Dame in your opinion?

In today's world, it's being there for people, for anyone who calls the office even, assuring them of prayers, being that listening and compassionate person I feel I'm called to be. I am a quiet person and I don't like being the person out front. I feel that I am someone there to help people, just behind the scenes.

I would like to make a note of appreciation for all the support and help many people have given to the Sisters of Notre Dame and to DCCH. It is greatly appreciated.

DCCH Center for Children & Families helps rebuild the lives of individuals with traumatic, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Services include residential treatment, foster care, adoption, therapy, and counseling services to meet all mental health needs for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families in Northern Kentucky.



“...Everyone has this dedication that makes my heart full and lets me know the presence of God is all around...”

-Kelly Hyland (pictured)
Director of Healthcare in Covington, KY

Caring in Covington

On the second floor of the Covington Sisters of Notre Dame building, you will find retired teachers, nurses, death row counselors, cooks, seamstresses, and advocates for those experiencing poverty. This is Lourdes Hall Care Center, the health care epicenter for the SNDs in Covington, Kentucky, and the home to more than twenty Sisters of Notre Dame retired from official ministry.

Kelly Hyland, BSN, is the Covington SND Director of Healthcare. She leads a staff of nurses, nurse aides, dietary aides, and an activity coordinator to provide quality care in Lourdes Hall and to the wider Covington SND community, helping to keep sisters healthy and engaged in ministry.

“When I interviewed for this position, my husband asked what I was thinking!” Kelly laughs. “I loved my old job and the set daytime hours, but when one of the hiring sisters asked outright if and why I wanted to be the Director of Healthcare, I said with complete trust, ‘I’m supposed to be here.’ I’m not sure why God blessed me with this position, but I am honored to be a part of this mission and to walk with the sisters in all their different life stages.”

While many see working at a convent as fairly unique, this setting is not foreign to Kelly, whose first job in the field was as a nurse aide with the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“It’s funny—22 years later I have come full circle and am back working with sisters. It’s my passion!” she says.

That passion is shared by the other Lourdes Hall health care staff and is evident in passive observation. During the interview with Kelly, a nurse relayed and discussed a message from an outside ministry partner with a sister. That shows concern and involvement beyond waiting for someone to ring for assistance. Another nurse assisted a sister with medicine at the nurse’s station, while laughing about a topic they both enjoy. That shows a desire to bring joy to the mundane. At one point, a bell went off and several nurses bolted down the hallway. A large jug of detergent had burst and spilled while a sister was doing laundry, creating a major fall hazard. That response shows a clear respect for “other duties as assigned.”

Kelly notices these actions, too, and sings her praises for the nursing staff, especially during an unusually challenging year.

Through exhausted but happy eyes, Kelly says, “I am so proud of our team at the Heights. The nursing staff has sacrificed so much during COVID. They missed out on seeing family and friends just to try to keep everyone here safe. Those choices outside of the workplace tell me they see themselves as part of a bigger picture and we are all so grateful for what they gave up to get us through some of the most challenging months we have experienced here.”

At the start of the COVID pandemic in March 2020, Lourdes Hall Care Center closed its doors to visitors, including to sisters living on other floors in the building. While a lockdown brings safety, the Lourdes Hall staff recognized

the potential side effects of isolation and worked with the sisters to find ways to promote engagement and, at the sisters' request, outreach to the community. That outreach included making masks and protective gowns, and preparing items to distribute to homeless individuals. Staff also utilized technology to keep sisters connected with family and sisters, and assisted with distributing and responding to letters fellow sisters from outside of Lourdes Hall sent throughout the pandemic.

"We are able to provide physical, mental, and spiritual care that's individualized," Kelly explains. "Beyond typical health care we have tapped maple trees for syrup, hatched butterflies, brought in continuing education speakers, and applied for grants for things like the interactive projector that has activities that are fun, but also stimulate cognitive skills. We are blessed to have resources to meet the sisters' needs and create an uplifting work environment that I wish every nurse could experience."

Despite being able to remarkably empower and retain staff during a difficult time in the history of health care, Kelly admits there is one downside to the job.

"We want to serve so badly, but it is hard for the sisters to accept that help sometimes. Even though we feel like it is our mission to care, the sisters seem to want to care for us instead. They check in on us, and we've almost all gained weight from their baking!"

That support comes from other SND staff, too.

"The staff here in Covington is phenomenal. We are one-hundred percent supportive of each other. COVID turned things upside down for us, and our entire team in dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, and admin stepped up and did whatever needed to be done and did it happily, even delivering meals to sisters during one of our building-wide lockdowns," Kelly says with an appreciative smile. "There is something about this place. The doctors we work with, the sisters' families, our donors and volunteers—everyone has this dedication that makes my heart full and lets me know the presence of God is all around as we try to provide a living space with integrity and comfort." ■

Staying Healthy

by Sr. Mary Ellen Strunk

I live in Edgewood, Kentucky, AKA "Healthyville" to me. When I left the house this morning to go to St. Anthony School to teach, I passed at least 10 joggers, two dog-walkers, two bicyclists, a small child on a scooter, the fire department and life squad building, the heart and vascular institute, a women's health center, a family practice center, a rehabilitation hospital, the cancer center, St. Elizabeth Hospital's main entrance, the emergency entrance to the hospital, and another doctors' building, all within a mile of my house. On the way home from school, I passed the out-patient surgery building, an eye institute, an orthopedic center, a hospice building, and a variety of other dog-walkers and runners/joggers/walkers. Passing all of these places and healthy people tends to make me think there are answers to my sore knee, my cloudy eyes, and my sometimes crummy disposition. Another place that I pass on my way to and from school is St. Pius X Catholic church—a place where each day, I hear the priest repeat the words of Jesus, "This is my body which will be given up for you." I realize that this is at the consecration where transubstantiation is taking place, but I cannot help but relate it to the gift of my life—life gifted to me to be given for others. Later in the Mass, before Communion, I say, "Say the word and my soul shall be healed." For me, health is much more or less than a fine-tuned body; it's an on-going deepening of a relationship with the One who sent me.

A cheerful heart is good medicine

If you can't run, then walk

This is my body

A crushed spirit dries up the bones

If you can't run, then walk

Reasonable care that considers others

A crushed spirit dries up the bones

Keep involved

Reasonable care that considers others

A good laugh and a long sleep

Keep involved

Say the word and my soul shall be healed

A cheerful heart is good medicine

A good laugh and a long sleep

Say the word and my soul shall be healed

This is my body given up for you

Here and There

Video Call with Sisters in East Africa

In a collaboration that spanned eleven time zones, the mission advancement teams in Kentucky and California hosted a video call with sisters in East Africa on March 28, 2021. If you have an interest in St. Julie Mission in Uganda or want to learn more about other SND missions throughout East Africa, we highly recommend watching the recording at sndusa.org/AfricaZoom

Sr. Christine Syombua, the new superior of the East Africa Delegation, did an exceptional job informing and inspiring. Thank you to everyone who tuned in live and helped foster an ever-growing feeling of community with our sisters in Africa.



Thank You Retreat Team

Thank you to the team of women who helped plan our first virtual Women's Weekend Retreat: Kathy Kramer, Theresa Brugger, Mary Ann Stulz, Genny Pfefferman, Linda Verst, Sr. Reinette Kroger, Sr. Evelyn Reinke, and Margie Schnelle. The team is already thinking about next year's retreat(s). Have ideas? Let us know at infoKY@sndusa.org.

Letter from a St. Julie Primary "Old Boy"

An alum, or "Old Boy," of St. Julie Primary in Uganda wrote with a career update. We are immensely proud of the work he is doing and grateful for our partners who helped make his education possible (especially his past sponsor, who is also named Robert).

Dear Sisters and Friends,

I am fine and counting down the days to what has been a roller coaster of a year.

Something about me: I am currently working as a research associate for an international agricultural research organisation majoring in the breeding and promotion of new bean varieties for small-holder farmers. I am responsible for assessing the impact of the organisation's project on the lives of the beneficiaries and have almost made six months in the role. I was performing almost the same work in the UN World Food Program, but was more into food security assessment there. It's been a challenging time working on a post where most of my work involves traveling to rural villages, and the pandemic has made it very difficult sometimes. But I am managing pretty well.

I still have plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics-Econometrics major. Sr. Jane's math classes laid a perfect foundation for me! I intend to start in 2022 after getting enough field experience from my current role.

I am looking up to a more successful 2021!

Regards,
Robert Asiimwe (pictured above, far left)



A Gift to Remember

We cherish the unique connections our congregation has to every individual donor. It is a joy to learn about these connections through phone calls, letters, emails, and at events. One phone call from a donor to the mission advancement office stood out and touched our hearts. A man notified the staff that his wife died recently and that she had requested a gift to be sent to the Sisters of Notre Dame as a thank you for the care she received during World War II. He explained that at the age of ten, his wife fled Austria for England, seeking refuge from the Nazis.

[From her funeral program]

On November 9, 1938, “Kristallnacht” or “Night of the Broken Glass,” her world changed. Nazis and mobs burned synagogues and Jewish businesses, and rounded up Jewish citizens, sending them to Dachau concentration camp. Her father was one of them. Being a mischlin, or half Jewish, she was rushed to England with a family acquaintance and left with two women from the Quaker Organization that ran the Kinder Train. Her younger brother was a toddler and stayed behind with her mother, who was not given asylum because she was a Catholic.

She survived the Blitz and later was reunited in London with her father, brother, and aunt. Her mother died in Vienna when she was 12. She’d written to her every week through the Red Cross. In one early dispatch, she wrote to her mom that the English ate grass for breakfast (the ladies were giving her shredded wheat). She never saw the mother she adored again.

When she first arrived in England, she spoke only German and had to learn English quickly on her own. Her language ability served her in the convent school where she studied Latin, French, and later, Spanish. After graduating she went to secretarial college in London and parlayed the skills she learned there with her affinity for languages into a career at the United Nations in New York, where she worked as secretary to the Director of UNICEF. Soon, she met the love of her life. They married and raised three sons. She passed just a few weeks shy of their 62nd wedding anniversary.

We are honored to receive this gift in memory of a woman who overcame turmoil most of us will never experience nor understand. It is our privilege to continue to serve and promote ministries that respond to the crises of today, supporting those who are persecuted, overlooked, and marginalized. We remember her in grateful prayer.

Cross-Community Connections

An anonymous sister nominated Sr. Shauna Bankemper to be recognized for the assistance she provided to the Benedictine Sisters in Northern Kentucky. Sr. Shauna received her COVID vaccinations due to her work at the assisted living facility Carmel Manor in Fort Thomas, KY. In January 2021, there was a COVID outbreak at the Benedictine Sisters’ convent in Villa Hills, KY. With both vaccine doses completed, Sr. Shauna offered to assist in the infirmary when other volunteers were unable to enter at that time.





Sisters of Notre Dame 2021 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL GUIDE

The Sisters of Notre Dame Fourth of July Festival has been held annually since 1922 in Covington, KY. Due to the continued worldwide COVID-19 outbreak, we have made the decision not to host an in-person Festival on July 4, 2021.

We will, however, carry on with the following and hope to raise \$100,000 for SND ministries. Thank you for your support!

sndusa.org/festival

Grand Raffle

License 0000155

For just \$5/ticket, you could WIN

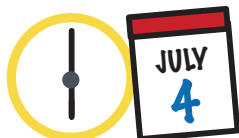
\$5,000 grand prize

\$2,000 second prize

\$1,000 third prize

Order your tickets today at

sndusa.org/raffle



Watch the Grand Raffle drawing at 6 p.m. on July 4 at
facebook.com/sndky

BBQ-To-Go

Order your 4th of July BBQ meal by June 25, and pick it up at our "drive-thru" on July 3 or 4.

BBQ Option	Price
Pulled Pork Sandwich	\$6
Sliced Brisket Sandwich	\$8
Babyback Ribs	\$10

Side Items	Price
Corn Muffin	\$1
Coleslaw	\$2
Mac & Cheese	\$2
Baked Beans	\$2

Order online today at
sndusa.org/bbqtogo

Online Auction

On your couch. Out for a walk.

You can **bid from anywhere** with this year's online auction!

Auction Open: June 28 - July 4

★ Still accepting items! ★

Do you have an auction item (or service) you can donate?

Please let us know.

Contact Margie at
mschnelle@sndusa.org
or 859-392-8229.

Sister Zooms

Register at sndusa.org/sisterzooms

6/10 Young Adult & Vocation Outreach - Learn how SNDs help young adults, both men and women, discern goals, career plans, their faith life...just about anything!

6/16 Ministry on the Margins - Those on the margins often have a powerless place in society. Learn about SND outreach for homelessness, human trafficking, the environment, and more.

6/23 The Daily Examen The Daily Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method. Tune in for a guided example.

Questions?
Don't use the Internet?

Contact us. We can help!

MARGIE SCHNELLE
859-392-8229
mschnelle@sndusa.org

FRONT DESK
859-291-2040
infoKY@sndusa.org