

Sisters on the **FRONTLINES**



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

Fall 2020

Network

*One Heart.
One Hope.
One Mission.*

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On the cover: Sister Jacquelyn Gusdane meets with a woman at Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services.



Sisters on the

When it comes to responding to immediate, critical needs, Catholic sisters have a proven track record and impressive scope of services. They are visible on the ground, embedded in communities, and familiar with local needs. They are trusted.

On behalf of women religious, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and the GHR Foundation advanced a concept for providing relief to those adversely affected by COVID-19. Sisters on the Frontlines was launched as an initiative to resource mission-active Catholic sisters who, in turn, would provide monetary assistance to those in distress due to the worldwide pandemic – to help with such needs as rent payments, groceries, medical treatment, or even funeral expenses. The Sisters of Mercy piloted this initiative by giving \$1,000 to 100 sisters. It was only the beginning!

SISTERS ON THE FRONTLINES Northeast Ohio

The program spread like wildfire. Sisters on the Frontlines was adopted by other funders and congregations across the county. Locally, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, in partnership with the Hilton Fund for Sisters, the Congregation of St. Joseph, and the Conference of Religious Leadership financially supported the participation of sisters ministering in Northeast Ohio.

“While inspired by the original initiative, the process reflected the needs and realities of congregations in our region,” explains Margaret Eigsti, Program Officer, Catholic Sisters, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. “Congregations interested in participating completed a request for funding and returned it to the Sisters of Charity Foundation by June 1, 2020. Funding was awarded to 10 congregations, and each congregation was responsible for distributing funds to sisters who were identified by a selection process determined by each congregation.”

“I was a link, a conduit, and in many ways ‘a reed of God’ touching the lives of those in need. Through this experience, I learned this world is full of good people.”

- Sister Karen Somerville, SND

A total of \$61,000 was given to the congregations, supporting 61 sisters who each provided \$1,000 of assistance to individuals and families in need.

“Funding was not intended to support the operations or salaries of a sister’s ministry. All funds were to benefit individuals in need,” Eigsti clarifies. “Sisters reported on the use of their funds using a simple reporting process provided by the

FRONTLINES

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. The money was to be used within two months of being received."

"The program started in response to the economic and public health crisis created by COVID-19. This is not a regular grant program of the foundation but was initiated to support the community during this challenging time," Eigsti reiterates.

SNDs on the Frontlines

Fifteen Sisters of Notre Dame were selected to participate in Sisters on the Frontlines, with a total gift of \$15,000. Each sister who received \$1,000 was personally able to determine who would receive the gift – for the sole purpose of meeting emergency needs of vulnerable individuals and families suffering from the impacts of COVID-19.

Needs ranged from help with rent, food and monthly utility payments, costs of needed medical treatments put on hold because of lost jobs or wages due to the pandemic, gas and transportation costs for bus passes, etc. to name a few.



Sister Carol Ziegler, SND, Ph.D., Executive Administration Assistant and Executive Director of the Abrahamic Center, Notre Dame College

Sister Karen Somerville, SND, was excited to disburse the \$1,000 gift. She says, "I didn't have to think long about how to use this money. The needs are so great, especially now. I helped a struggling family with unforeseen medical expenses due to a recent hospitalization and diagnosis of diabetes of one of their children."

Sister Carol Ziegler, SND, Ph.D.,

Executive Administration Assistant and Executive Director of the Abrahamic Center, Notre Dame College, was also thrilled to disburse the \$1,000 gift. "I knew someone whose work schedule had been significantly reduced but didn't qualify for unemployment and was struggling to cover their medical needs. This money provided a brief reprieve from the stress and worry faced each week on how to pay for medications versus food."

Ten congregations participated in Sisters on the Frontlines:

- Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown
- Sisters of the Incarnate Word
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis



Sister Jacquelyn Gusdane, SND, reached out to a family she met through her work with the Migration & Refugee Services (MRS). "In my time at Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services, I worked with a mother of seven children who took two buses everyday just to attend ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class at MRS. She graciously accepted the envelope and instantly said it would be used for a month's rent and gas money for her husband to drive to his night shift job."

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland is looking forward to sharing additional stories of how the funds were used through their website and as part of the larger national initiative of sisters participating in Sisters on the Frontlines. †

Staying Safe During COVID-19



Caralyn Treharne, MSN, RN, Health Care Director for the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon, obviously has her hands full during the COVID-19 pandemic. Responsible for the care of more than 250 sisters residing in either the SND Healthcare Center, Memory Care facility, Notre Dame Apartments and other regional SND housing units, she is thankful that to-date no Sister of Notre Dame or staff member has tested positive with the Coronavirus.

"I attribute our success to the dedicated staff that works here," Caralyn emphatically states. "From the very beginning, staff has made sacrifices to ensure the safety of our sisters and each other. Staff signed 'social contracts' that helped ensure we were doing even more than what Ohio Governor Michael DeWine suggested to keep

each other safe. Staff who have second jobs have not been working those second jobs and have not gone anywhere except for medically necessary appointments, and staff able to work from home have done so."

At the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the Sisters of Notre Dame closed the SND Healthcare Center and immediately formulated a plan to ensure the safety of sisters and staff. "We have taken safety very seriously

here, including temperature checks and wearing PPE (personal protection equipment) as appropriate."

Caralyn also explains that it is important for sisters' mental health at the SND Healthcare Center to stay engaged in life-giving activities. Many sisters in the healthcare center and throughout the region make face masks for healthcare workers, first responders, and others. At last count, more than 3,000 face masks have been donated by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Weekly, the sisters make thank you cards/videos for local first responders to thank them for all their hard work and sacrifice.

"We have forged many new friendships," Caralyn states with a smile. "They also make phone calls and write letters to isolated seniors. Some sisters joined virtual book clubs where they read a book and then have a virtual discussion with others in the community. Other sisters have taken virtual tours to faraway places, the Vatican for one, with a group of sisters from around the world. They discuss their visit with each other in live time. Tutoring and piano lessons for interested students continue via Zoom."

Another way SNDs are staying connected to the world is twice weekly group video calls with SNDs in Africa. "We also held a 'graduation' ceremony for four of our Aides who graduated from college since they were unable to have their official college graduation," adds Caralyn. "We also have a daily walking group. We track our miles and, hopefully, will have virtually walked to Chicago by the end of summer!"

The dedicated nursing professional offers advice to readers who may be caring for a sick or elderly family member in their home: "First, take care of yourself – your mental, emotional and spiritual needs. You cannot care for someone else if you are not tending to your own needs," Caralyn cautions. "Second, research resources that might be available (online Mass, grocery delivery, virtual park/zoo/museum visits). Most importantly, stay connected with family and friends with phone calls or video calls. It is extremely important to not isolate. Reaching out to others helps keep you feeling connected to the rest of the world."

†

"The amount of dedication and love our nurses and aides have for the sisters is amazing. They would do anything to protect them. We are family."

- Caralyn Treharne, MSN, RN, Health Care Director for the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon

Introducing Zelig's Home



(l-r) Sister Kate Hine, SND, with Erin Hathaway, Director of Zelig's Home.

Maggie's Place (the Zechariah House) in Cleveland was renamed Zelig's Home effective July 1. After 11 years of serving 142 pregnant and parenting moms, Erin Hathaway, Executive Director of Zelig's Home, says a decision was made to operate this Northeast Ohio home 100% independently based, operated and funded in Northeast Ohio.

"Our relationship with Maggie's Place is great, but ultimately, the Ohio location was the only one of the Maggie's Place

homes not in Arizona. The Maggie's Place Board of Directors and Leadership in Ohio and Arizona mutually agreed that an independent, Ohio-based home was the way to go."

The heart of the mission will remain the same. Zelig's Home is a caring community that empowers pregnant and parenting women to take positive and effective action on behalf of themselves and their children by providing physical, emotional, spiritual, and professional support. Zelig's Home is founded on five core values: human dignity, supportive and collaborative community, commitment to growth, safe learning environment and resiliency and creativity.

To learn more about Zelig's Home, please follow us on Facebook (@zelieshome1) or Instagram (@zelieshome) or visit our website www.zelieshome.org. To make a donation, please visit www.zelieshome.org/donate.

SNDs Host Virtual Chicken BBQ & Boutique



Due to the worldwide pandemic, the Sisters of Notre Dame's annual Barbecue & Boutique was canceled for the safety of guests, sisters, sponsors and volunteers. Instead, they hosted a "virtual" BBQ & Boutique that featured a series of social media posts that included a variety of "chicken" jokes and humor. Sisters engaged in a chicken dance, To Tell the Truth, Chicken Little story, a warning not to put "all your Eggs in one Basket," and many more hilarious skits to put a smile on people's faces during COVID-19.



The sisters would like to thank the many people who responded by making a donation. This support is vital to ongoing ministries, and they are grateful for the renewed partnership.

We hope to see you in person in 2021 at the SND Annual BBQ & Boutique!

Billy Jelenic, SND Social Media Manager, videotapes Sisters Marie Manning and Lisa Novak.

A Lasting Tribute



SISTER MARY ROSALIND

(formerly Sister Mary Janicemarie)

Born Rosalind VILICS, March 18, 1929

Entered into religious life, August 16, 1949

Entered into eternal life, May 12, 2020

Rosalind was the older of two girls born to James and Rose (Holieter) Vilics. She and her sister Janice learned to appreciate and take pride in their Hungarian heritage. While in the elementary grades at St. Margaret

School in Cleveland, Rosalind experienced a strong desire to become a religious, and through high school at John Hay in Cleveland, prayed fervently for the grace to accept this call. In her senior year, she transferred to Notre Dame Academy and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary Janicemarie.

Sister earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College in Cleveland. Her ministry as a primary grade teacher spanned 45 years in the Cleveland and Youngstown Diocese. Preparing children to receive the sacraments for the first time was a special privilege and joy.

In 1994 Sister Mary Rosalind moved to the Provincial Center and assisted in the ND India Mission Office and then with activities in the SND Healthcare Center. Her desire to interact more directly with residents who were room-bound enabled her to meet the needs of individual sisters. She was an inspiration to the Healthcare Center staff. The twinkle in her eye, and her ever-present smile brought sunshine to others, both young and old.



SISTER MARY JOHNMARIE

Born Joan Mary HAGAN, July 23, 1929

Entered into religious life, August 16, 1950

Entered into eternal life, July 19, 2020

Joan was the second of three children born to John and Margaret (Eckhardt) Hagan in Washington, DC. Joan attended grade school at the renowned Catholic University's Campus School, staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame. It

was the friendliness of these sisters, along with their excellent teaching, that drew her to religious life.

Sister earned her bachelor's degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland, and a master's in administration from Xavier University. She taught intermediate and junior high students at more than 15 schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses in Ohio, and in Arlington, Fairfax, McLean, and Warrenton, Virginia. She also served as principal at several schools in northeast Ohio.

For more than 50 years Sister shared her love of music with her students, a gift inherited from her mother. Whether Sister was teaching, directing choirs at every level, playing the organ in church, or participating as a choir member, music was always a vital part of her life.

In 1998, Sister Johnmarie moved to Chardon. For the next 15 years, she used her skills to drive sisters to appointments and for visits to friends and relatives and assumed the special role of music minister in chapel. Sister Johnmarie celebrated the 70th anniversary of her religious profession, the Jubilee of Grace, on July 11th.



SISTER MARY ALICEMARIE

Born Mary Geraldine RESLEY, August 22, 1928

Entered into religious life, August 16, 1948

Entered into eternal life, July 24, 2020

Mary Geraldine (affectionately known as Gerry) was born to John and Julia (McGing) Resley in Cleveland, Ohio. After 8th grade graduation from St. Agnes School, Gerry gladly accepted her Aunt Kate's generous offer

to cover the cost of high school at Notre Dame Academy, a dream that Gerry thought could never be realized. Little did she know how that gift would change her life and become a blessing for so many people.

After completing high school and entering the Sisters of Notre Dame, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Notre Dame College, South Euclid, teaching primary grades

for more than 30 years at schools in Cleveland, Lakewood, Warren, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Lake, and Eastlake. She prepared many students for the reception of the sacraments and combined thorough classroom instruction with her warm and welcoming approach to each child. Willing to be of service wherever God placed her, she spent 11 years in food service at various convents. In 1997, she moved to the Provincial Center, and accepted a new ministry with world-wide outreach, working in the Notre Dame Global Missions Office.

Sister Alicemarie put her talents and gifts to good use over the next 20 years: organizing, pricing, and selling craft items from mission countries; sharing stories of mission activities with family and friends; reaching out to thousands of donors with personalized birthday cards and follow-up phone calls. Most especially, whenever anyone asked her to pray for a person, need, or intention, she responded, "I promise to pray...forever!"



SISTER MARY NANCY

(formerly Sister Mary Maureen Therese)

Born Nancy Ann PETRUCCELLI, August 20, 1946

Entered into religious life, August 15, 1974

Entered into eternal life, July 28, 2020

Nancy Ann was born to Fred and Ruth (Blayne) Petrucelli on August 20, 1946, in Cleveland, Ohio. After completing elementary school at St. Philip Neri, Nancy attended Notre Dame Academy, first at Ansel

Road, and then in her senior year, at the new campus in Chardon. After graduation, Nancy worked for several years as a switchboard operator, and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame on August 22, 1971.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Notre Dame College, South Euclid, and an M.A. in history from Bowling Green State University, she taught American and world history at Regina High School, Cleveland Central Catholic, and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. "She was legit, the best teacher I ever had," said a graduate. "I learned so much from her." Besides the broad course content, Sister Nancy taught study skills and showed students how to organize and evaluate source materials. She set high expectations for

active participation and respect for other people and diverse cultures. "Direct...no nonsense...you knew where you stood with Sister Nancy," explained a colleague. "Yet, no one had a bigger heart!" Her sometimes stern demeanor co-existed with a sense of humor and quick wit.

A voracious reader of history and biographies, Sister Nancy attended workshops and traveled to historic places. She encouraged beginning teachers and met with students who needed extra help. She wrote valued letters of recommendation for generations of college applicants.

Her sudden, unexpected death shocked and saddened all who knew her. Messages of condolence and remembrance number in the hundreds. Along with being "a legend in her time" as a teacher, Sister Nancy left a legacy of relationships. "Thank you for believing in me even though I was a super-stubborn student," a graduate wrote. A friend explained, "She cared about you, about your whole being and how things were going for you." A colleague who taught with her more than 30 years ago concludes his tribute: "She was a wonderful teacher, person, friend, and Sister of Notre Dame."

2020 Reunions

Class of 1960

Reunion scheduled for June 6 was postponed until future notice.

If you are not receiving emails, please send your email address to rhsalum@reginahigh.com to stay informed, or contact a friend who gets our messages to keep you up to date.

Class of 1970

Has been postponed. More information will follow.

Check the Facebook page-Regina@50 - ask Deborah Buckley to friend you on Facebook to get on the page.

QUESTIONS: Contact Deborah Buckley at djb215@gmail.com or 408-234-2962.

Class of 1975

Regina High Class of 1975 - 45th Reunion

Due to the coronavirus, we have decided to postpone the reunion until 2021. We will be sending out a list of lost classmates to try to find their email addresses. Pam Koeth will post Facebook messages on **Regina High School Class of '75**. It is private, but one of us will let you in. You can send email addresses to rhsalum@reginahigh.com or Claudia.lund9@gmail.com. We will keep you posted.

The reunion committee: Jo Ann Balmat Bacnik, Mary Kay Conway, Lynn Fistek Reardon, Pam Koeth, Mary Nitsche, & Claudia Lund.

Class of 1980

Regina High Class of 1980 - 40th Reunion

Has been postponed until next year.

Please contact Pam Bell Huth with your contact details.

Class of 2010

Has been postponed until 2021. More information will follow.

Send your information to RHSroyals2010@gmail.com.

2021 Reunions

Class of 1961

The reunion date is June 26, 2021 at Beth Ulery Parnin's house. Contact Beth at funwithfit@sbcglobal.com. More information will follow.

Class of 1966

Mary Judith Burdecki Fina is looking for volunteers to help with the reunion. Her email address is thatgirl@yahoo.com if you have any ideas or would like to help.

Class of 1971

A group is looking into a possible 50th reunion next year. More information will follow. If you have moved in the last 10 years or if you are not receiving emails from your class, please send your information to rhsalum@reginahigh.com or call or text to 216-905-4851. It would be wonderful to see everyone after 50 years.

Class of 1976

Mary Anne DeGrandis Bauccho, Sue Dileo and Maureen Stein-Vavro have started working on your reunion. If you are interested in having one, please contact Mary Anne at madbauccho@sbcglobal.net.

Class of 1986

Julie Lawrence has started working on the reunion. If you would like to help or have any ideas, contact her at julie@krunchfinancial.com.

Class of 2010

There is a group starting to make reunion plans. If you are interested, send your contact information to ReginaHS2001@gmail.com or rhsalum@reginahigh.com.

2021 Calendar

Girl's Night Out 2020

Has been postponed until-October, 2021 – exact date will follow later.

PLACE: The Jake at Pizzazz in University Heights

If any of the reunion classes have not planned a reunion but would like to come, we will save a section for your group if you let us know.

Regina Alumnae Retreat-2021

DATE: February 26 – 28

PLACE: Bethany Retreat Center at Notre Dame Education Center

COST: \$55.00 plus a "good will" offering.

This year Sr. Melannie Svoboda'62 will be the retreat director. Some of you might know her as your teacher. She now writes, gives talks and organizes retreats internationally. To learn more about her, go to the SND website and visit her blog titled **Sunflower Seeds**.

Reservations are due by February 18, 2021.

More information will follow, or if you have questions, call or text 216-905-4851.

2020 Scholarship Winners

Thanks to those of you who contributed to the scholarship fund, and the Class of '79 who sent enough money for a second scholarship this year.

Julie Mucci, daughter of Nicole DeCaro Mucci '88, will be a junior at VASJ this year. Julie has a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the VASJ volleyball team, a student ambassador and plays JO travel volleyball in the winter. Julie is undecided about a major in college but is thinking about nursing or business.

Kathryn VanBurik, the daughter of Robin Hanks VanBurik '83, will be a freshman at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, N.C. Kathryn was an A student in grade school and plans to continue getting a 4.0 GPA in high school. She is interested in playing basketball and soccer. She plans to join one of the many outreach programs at the school, depending on what will be allowed because of the coronavirus.

Congratulations and good luck to both girls!



Julie Mucci & Nicole DeCaro Mucci '88



Robin Hanks VanBurik '83 & Kathryn VanBurik