

NETWORK NOTES

SND NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE NEWSLETTER



NSNO Announces National Network Award Recipients



The SND National Network Awards Program is designed to formally recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of employees and/or volunteers in the SND Network for witness to the mission, vision and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. We are so pleased to congratulate the following winners!

Transformative Leadership Award recognizes individuals who are catalysts for growth; inspire hearts; and transform lives of those with whom they minister.

- Lannie Davis-Frecker, President, Julie Billiart Network
- Sr. Jacquelyn Gusdane, Past President, Notre Dame Schools
- Tamara Harper, Board Chair, La Reina High School and Middle School
- Courtney Hollingsworth, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, St. Claire HealthCare
- Sr. Pat McClain, Past President, Lial Catholic School
- Dulce Roman, Past Principal, Clearwater Central Catholic High School
- Joseph Waler, Principal, Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin High School

Gospel Witness Award recognizes those who reflect and nurture the Notre Dame charism, spirit and mission within their professional communities and among all they minister.

- Scott Kay, Theology Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo
- Chris McClurg, Chief Financial Officer, St. Claire HealthCare
- Tom Richmond, Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
- Chad Ribordy, Religion Department Chair, La Reina High School and Middle School
- Sr. Mary Seton Schlather, Teacher, Cleveland Central Catholic High School
- Sr. Karen Somerville, Past Principal, St. Francis School
- Sr. Mary Barbara Soplata, Enrichment Teacher, Notre Dame Elementary School
- Betsy Ward, Assistant Head of School for Mission, Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles

Father Bernard Overberg "Teacher of Teachers" Award recognizes educators that demonstrate exceptional, inspirational impact on the formation and professional learning of teachers.

- Laura Gallaher, English Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo
- Ron Greife, Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills
- Sr. Jean Hoelke, Ministry Team, Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon Region
- Maggie Marschner, Principal, La Reina High School and Middle School
- Shari Sasso, Retired Literacy Specialist, Julie Billiart School, Lyndhurst

More information on the awards can be found by visiting www.snded.org/national-awards.

Spring 2021 Issue

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Frances Taymans, SND

This July marks the first year of the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office (NSNO) which brought together 15 sponsored and 33 affiliated ministries into one SND USA network. Working together virtually, important questions and significant insights shaped our shared understandings of and course forward across sponsorship, mission identity, governance, and leadership. All was done amid loss and profound health, social, economic, and faith-based challenges, individually and as communities. It has been my privilege to share this year with you.

As I conclude my 10-year tenure as executive director of the National Education Office, now the NSNO, I wish to share my appreciation for what we did together during this time to further our shared mission through education and direct care.

With the guidance and involvement of the Education Advisory Council (EAC), two national summits and several regional meetings brought

together over 450 educators from the U.S. and Africa. These were opportunities to explore, express and integrate the Notre Dame Educational Vision and Principles, as well as the Hallmarks and Standards, that give expression to mission and vision in the 21st century.



2017 New Leaders Meeting

New leaders came together focused on the founding of their ministry and their role in the context of the SND charism, heritage and mission. Board retreats, new member orientation, and board and ministry leader convenings began and continue as opportunity to probe and share best practices, mission-driven decision making and strategic planning forward. It was and is a privilege to work closely with boards as they engage in executive searches, as well as when challenging decisions are being processed. It was through the impetus of the EAC that resources specific to the boards of sponsored ministries continue to be sought out, reviewed and made readily available.

Pandemic delayed but nearing launch are the Emerging Leader Program initiative, and a Rural Healthcare Student Immersion Experience in partnership with St. Claire HealthCare.



2018/2019 Education Advisory Council



2019 Northern KY Regional Meeting

Following two years of research and development by Sr. Joanne Keppler, *Sponsored Ministries Assessment* will become an instrument for growth and validation for each sponsored ministry.

The response of each ministry to the challenges faced these past months demonstrate that the call to Mission and Vision is not just surmounting challenges but embracing possibilities. As individual ministries and together we are called to be Gospel witness not only for the personal transformation of those we educate, care for, and serve, but for society, our nation, our Church, and world. Never

underestimate the influence you have for transformative goodness.

Go forth with courage rooted in faith and tip the scales in favor of hope.

With gratitude, appreciation, and great hope,

Sr. Mary Frances

Mary Frances Taymans, SND
Executive Director
SND National Sponsorship and Network Office



La Reina Board Retreat

Since 2011 the staff of the NEO/NSNO brought and bring personal dedication, insight, leadership and expertise to all that was and continues to be accomplished in support of mission and vision. Over the past decade this includes Sr. Donna Paluf, Paula Aveni, Lisa Canterbury and Lisa Fredrickson.



Sisters from Africa at the 2015 Summit



Award Recipients from the 2018 Summit

SND Distinguished Graduate Award Recognition



The SND Distinguished Graduate Award is presented to students who achieve academic excellence, are witnesses to God's goodness and provident care through outreach to those in need in school and/or community, and thrive to live Gospel values in daily life. Look for a complete listing of award recipients in the fall issue of *Network Notes*.

GOSPEL WITNESS

Sr. Regina Robbins Returns to La Reina



When Sr. Regina Robbins was a young nun at 24, she was assigned to teach at La Reina High School and Middle School (Thousand Oaks, CA) when it opened in 1964. She left La Reina in 1970 to take a position in Rome, where she spent four years before returning to the SND regional center in Thousand Oaks. She taught one more year at La Reina and moved on to a series of jobs that took her away from the all-girl academy, including serving on the provincial council.

When the provincial council position ended, she learned that La Reina was looking for a dean of mission. Realizing that if the school was unable to fill the position, La Reina would have no

Sister of Notre Dame for the first time in its nearly 60-year history, Sr. Regina answered the call. As dean of mission, she is responsible for making sure the school follows the guiding principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame, including the goodness of a provident God and the dignity of each person as an image of God.

Another responsibility Sr. Regina enjoys is yard duty, where she formed a special bond with the sixth graders she oversees. "It's a wonderful time in my life," she said. "I'm not tied down to a lot of scheduled stuff, so I can take yard duty and be present for whatever is happening. That freedom to say yes and to be around has been one of the greatest blessings," she continued.

CRS Establishes First Catholic High School Chapter at CCC



Catholic Relief Services (CRS) chose Clearwater Central Catholic High School (CCC) in Clearwater, FL to establish the first Catholic high school chapter in Florida. The purpose of the School Chapter is to educate and advocate on CCC's campus specific social justice and global poverty issues such as migration, climate change, global hunger, and human trafficking. CCC welcomes this partnership.

St. Francis School Raises Funds for SND Mission



St. Francis School (Cleveland, OH) students (pictured left) take part in an Advent and a Lenten mission drive to help the Sisters of Notre Dame's missions in third world countries such as Kenya and India. Together, the students typically raise over \$1,000 per year to help build playgrounds, fund water

programs and power schools. St. Francis students also take part in various outreach activities including conducting a Thanksgiving food drive, organizing a Fair Trade chocolate bar sale, and providing entertainment in the form of Gospel music to the residents of a local nursing home.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the annual Sponsored Ministry Leadership Meeting was held over a series of four Zoom meetings. Each Zoom meeting had over 60 participants representing SND and National Ministry Corporation board members, sponsored ministry leaders and board members, and affiliated school administration and staff. The following is a summary of the range of topics addressed during the leadership series:

1. **SND Sponsorship: Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships** (January 25) - Provincial Superior Sr. Margaret Gorman and the National Ministry Corporation Board Chair Bruce Jarosz discussed the meaning of SND Sponsorship in SND USA and the roles, responsibilities and relationships that are evolving to strengthen the bonds of shared purpose, mission and Catholic identity as well as the role of board support and ministry leadership in the strategic process of assuring financial sustainability for the sponsored institutions going forward.
2. **SND Ministry Identity Assessment** (February 24) - Sr. Joanne Keppler presented the Assessment Document for Sponsored Ministries, a formal tool for SND sponsored ministries to use for reflection and accountability.
3. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in SND Ministries** (March 8) - LaReine-Marie Mosely, SND; NDA-LA President Lilliam Paetzold; and Leadership Consultant Jeanne-Marie Tapke led a panel discussion on diversity, equity and inclusion through the lens of SND Principles and Catholicity. Additionally, Lilliam shared documents highlighting the tools used and steps taken by her school this past year to become a more equitable and inclusive institution.
4. **Winning on Social Media: Crisis Management in an Echo Chamber (March 22)** - Thom Fladung, managing partner for Hennes Communications, presented best practices and pragmatic, practical tools to use to succeed on social media including: dealing with social media threats; fundamental rules of effective crisis communications; evaluating social media threats; leveraging social media outlets to reach key stakeholders; and communication lessons from the pandemic.

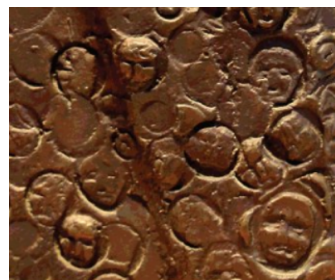
If you were not able to participate but would like to view a recording of one of the sessions (if available) and/or see the presentations or materials provided, please contact Lisa Canterbury at lcanterbury@sndusa.org.

HISTORY & HERITAGE



"Rapture in Action" is a bronze sculpture created by Megan Dull, SND (pictured left) depicting Julie Billiat's deep experience that apostolic action is the outflow of prayer. The intention from the beginning for this piece was to capture the expansive spirit of Julie herself, as in the upward sweep of her arms, rather than portray physical likeness.

The texture in the lower skirt area offers an accumulation of faces that represent Julie's vision of sisters surrounding her at Compiègne as well as a symbol of all the lives touched by the spirit and charisma that is Julie's and the Sisters of Notre Dame. Her hands are overly large, suggesting her rootedness with the working poor of her time.



Close-up of lower skirt area

The original Julie was commissioned in 1983 for Regina High School in South Euclid, Ohio. The figure was first modeled in clay, making use of numerous volunteer sisters who were drafted into posing for various aspects as they happened to stroll by the art lab door. A rubber mold was then constructed around the clay form from which wax impressions for the castings can be produced. The final piece is cast in bronze.

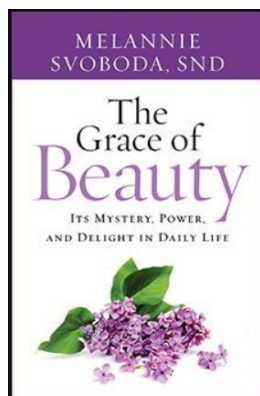
The first seven impressions can be found at the Generalate in Rome, Italy; Notre Dame Education Center, Chardon, Ohio; NDA, Toledo, OH; NDA, Los Angeles, CA; Clearwater Central Catholic High School, Clearwater, FL; and Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh, NC.



Lisa Kenion, Sr. Megan's foundry colleague, heats the metal as the chemicals are applied to the sculpture.

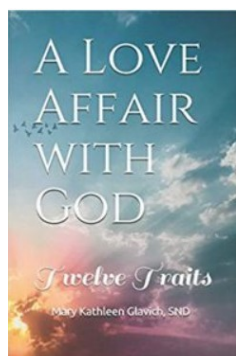
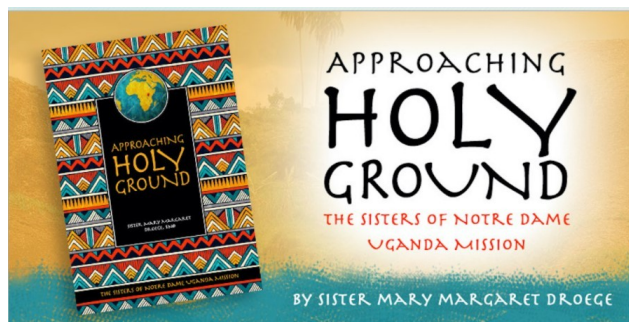


RESOURCES



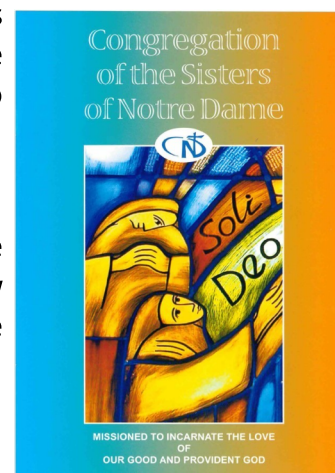
The Grace of Beauty by Sr. Melannie Svoboda: In a world beset by the ugliness of war, greed, and injustice, we all need to seek, find, and let our hearts rest in the experience of beauty. Not the beauty found in fashion magazines, but the true beauty, "ever ancient, ever new," sought by St. Augustine and countless philosophers, artists, musicians, poets, and holy people throughout the centuries. This beautiful book explores the mystery, power, and grace of the beauty our souls seek, the kind of beauty that evokes a whispered "Wow!" or heartfelt "Thank you, God!" *The Grace of Beauty* can be purchased from many outlets online. For more information about Sr. Melannie, visit: www.melanniesvobodasnd.org

Approaching Holy Ground: The Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission by Sr. Mary Margaret Droege: In the mid '90s, a group of Sisters of Notre Dame left behind everything they knew and travelled over 7,000 miles to a place where they didn't know the language or culture. Their mission was to build a school from the ground up and spread God's goodness. Sr. Mary Margaret Droege, recounts the sisters' adventurous time in Uganda with tales of exploding water tanks, "hippopotamus holes," and the Ebola virus in her first book, *Approaching Holy Ground: The Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission*. The book is based on verbal stories, archived letters, official reports, and first-hand accounts from the Sisters of Notre Dame who were involved with the Ugandan mission. Sr. Mary Margaret, who was a part of the mission's formation, was moved by the stories she heard and felt the world ought to know of the sisters' adventurous experience and the mission's impact. *Approaching Holy Ground: the Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission* is a success story of women taking a risk to respond to a call from a community in need. To purchase the book, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/203555892884167>.



A Love Affair with God: Twelve Traits is a new book by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich that explores the concept of religion as less of a theory and more of a love affair. The book examines God's passionate love for us and His desire for our love in return. Human beings exhibit certain characteristics toward a beloved, and Sr. Kathleen presents how God shows similar characteristics towards us and how these traits are reciprocated when we are in love with God. For more information on how to purchase the book, visit www.kathleenglavich.org.

Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame, a booklet prepared by the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Rome, Italy in 2013, is now available for purchase from the office for \$5 (including shipping). Please email lfredrickson@sndusa.org if you are interested in copies.



CALENDAR

Fall 2021

"New" Leader Meeting - More info to be announced

October 1

Sisters of Notre Dame Foundation Day

November 3-5

Sponsored Ministry Leadership Meeting at Bethany Retreat Center in Chardon, OH

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

March 25

Feast of the Annunciation

April 7-9

Charism Experience, Bethany Retreat Center in Chardon, OH

April 8

Feast of St. Julie Billiart

June 2022

Student Service Project: In an abundance of caution as the country recovers from the pandemic, the Rural Healthcare Student Immersion Experience is postponed. St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead, KY and the NSNO are excited to bring this plan to fruition and will keep you apprised of program developments.



Sisters in Prayer Service

Thank you to the five schools and eight sisters who are participating in the SND Affiliated Schools Prayer Sisters Project.

The following schools and sisters are paired:

- Cardinal Gibbons High School (Raleigh, NC) and Sr. Lenette Marcello
- Metro Catholic School (Cleveland, OH) and Sr. Alice Slowey
- Our Lady of Victory School (Washington, D.C.) and Sr. Regina Alfonso
- St. Mary's School (Leipsic, OH) and Sr. Kathleen Marie Knueven
- St. Pius X - St. Mathias Academy and Srs. Paulyne Tubick, Amy Hauck, Jane Marie McHugh and Julie Maria Arriaga

If your school would like to participate, please contact Lisa Fredrickson at lfredrickson@sndusa.org to be matched with a prayer sister.



Sunday, June 20 - Thursday, June 24, 2021: **Partners in Mission Annual National Advancement Summer Institute for Catholic Schools** presents *The National Enrollment Management Conference for Catholic Schools* and *The National Advancement Conference for Catholic Schools*. Visit www.partnersinmission.com for more information.

