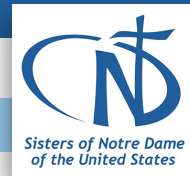


# NETWORK NOTES

SND NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE NEWSLETTER



## National Sponsorship and Network Office Welcomes New Executive Director, Dr. Laura Koehl



Continuing a long history of work with and dedication to the Sisters of Notre Dame, Dr. Laura Koehl started her position as Executive Director of the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office on September 1, 2021. Laura is a 1975 graduate of Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, KY. She returned to the academy as a science teacher in 2006, served as NDA's first lay principal from 2010-2015 and then as the first lay president from 2014-2021.

While at NDA, Laura worked closely with former NSNO Executive Director Sr. Mary Frances Taymans and several SND ministry leaders as a member of the SND National Education Office Advisory Board, serving as its chair from 2014 through 2020.



### *From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl*

Welcome to the NSNO Fall Newsletter! As the seasons change, so do we all inevitably experience change in our lives - hopefully embracing the challenges and opportunities that follow. This is certainly true as our office continues to evolve our role in supporting and collaborating with our SND sponsored and affiliated ministries. We welcome the many opportunities to partner with the SND USA National Ministry Corporation (NMC) Board in supporting and promoting the mission-centered work and Catholic identity of our SND ministries.

Change is certainly no stranger to any of you as you respond to the challenges of our times, including the COVID pandemic, while staying true to your mission of service to others. It has been a time of great challenges to which you have responded with innovation, resilience and faith. I hope you find inspiration in the ministry updates provided here.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Lisa Canterbury who has faithfully served our office for over five years. Please see the insert on the back page highlighting Lisa's contributions to the NSNO as well as the new opportunity she is embracing. We offer Lisa our deepest gratitude and wish her well on the next phase of her journey.

May you know gratitude for the many ways you bring God's goodness to others.

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D.*

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



For the third consecutive year, **Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin School, Chardon, OH**, has been named a winner of the Top Workplaces Award by *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, Ohio's newspaper. This designation is

based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey that measures NDCL's workplace culture, including leadership, communication, morale, and mission effectiveness.



**St. Charles Community, Covington, KY** has been recognized as a Top Workplace for 2021 by the Enquirer Media in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

In September, CEO Nichole Smith announced two new initiatives -- the HANDI program (Helping Adults in Need Develop Independence) and a new Senior Resource Center in Latonia, KY.



*School of Excellence*

**Julie Billiart Schools, Lyndhurst, OH**, was named a National

Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) School of Excellence. Selection as a NASSET School of Excellence is the highest honor a private special education school can achieve through the professional association. The recognition is bestowed on private special education schools that meet rigorous professional criteria and have demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment, and achievement in the field of special education.

**St. Claire HealthCare (SCH), Morehead, KY**, recently received the Kentucky Hospital Association President's Service Award for its dedication and perseverance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to meeting primary, specialty and emergency care to its patients during the pandemic, SCH also began serving as a national COVID-19 testing site in April 2020 and has been providing community vaccinations since January 2021, conducting more than 30,000 COVID-19 tests and administering at least one dose of the Moderna vaccine to more than 11,000 patients.



**Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin School, Chardon, OH**, was named the only high school in the world to win the 2021 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Teaching

and Learning by Blackboard Inc., a leading global EdTech software and solutions company. The award recognized persons and institutions that have adopted flexible, distance and online delivery models to positively impact the educational experience.



*Donald Lloyd, SCH President*



Please join us in welcoming the following new leaders in our SND sponsored and affiliated ministries:

**Mr. John Airhart**

*Principal, St. Peter Catholic School,  
Canton, OH*

**Ms. Guadalupe Castanon**

*Principal, St. Helen Catholic School,  
South Gate, CA*

**Dr. Christian DeLarkin**

*President, St. Pius-St. Mathias  
Academy, Downy, CA*

**Ms. Rachael Denger**

*Principal, St. Thomas Aquinas School,  
Cleveland, OH*

**Ms. Samantha Evers**

*Principal & Director of Admissions,  
Julie Billiart School, Westlake, OH*

**Mr. Daniel Gravo**

*President, St. Peter Catholic School,  
Canton, OH*

**Ms. Claire Therese Heyne**

*Principal, Prince of Peace, Covington,  
KY*

**Mr. Leo Labrillazo**

*Principal, St. Leo School, Versailles,  
KY*

**Ms. Donna Muchmore**

*Principal, St. Columban, Loveland,  
OH*

**Ms. Nancy Schroeder**

*Principal, St. Mary Elementary  
School, Leipsic, OH*

**Mr. John Smith**

*Interim President, Cleveland Central  
Catholic, Cleveland, OH*

**Mr. Jack VonHandorf**

*Interim President, Notre Dame  
Academy, Park Hills, KY*

## Congratulations to the 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 47 recipients of the 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award representing 31 SND sponsored and affiliated schools:

Alexandra Vaughn

Margaret Gartner

Alivia Fineske

Matthew DiLoreto

Amelia Kotlarsic

Megan Pena

Avery Curry

Nathan Smith

Brendan McGraw

Olivia Lewis

Caroline Rabinowitz

Paul Grayson

Darren Robinson

Preston Smart

David DiSalvatore

Reagan Higgins

David Sullivan

Rhiannon Kasunic

Drew Michels

Riley Herald

Elinor Saylor

Ruben Hernandez

Evan Recker

Rylee Yackin

Hayden Bell

Sadie Hartig

James Granillo

Sam Lang

Jesaily Rodriguez

Sammer Harb

John Hirko

Sa'Nessie Brown-Harris

Joseph Kiet Tuan  
Nguyen

Sarah Boehnlein

Shelby M.

Kaitlin Cooper

Skye Denson

Kathleen Kovach

Taylor Melton

Kathryn Syta

Zoe Zamudio

Kayla Jarra

Keith Sauers

Since 1999, 1,137

Liam Lennon

DGAs have been

Luke Nedved

presented. Visit our

Madeline Salvador

website for more

Madison Arndt

information.

# EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION



## Julie Billiart Opens Westlake School

In August, Julie Billiart School in Westlake welcomed 44 students to the newest campus of Julie Billiart Schools (JBS). JB schools are designed to support children with mild to moderate autism, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, dyslexia and other learning differences. This school year, the newest Julie Billiart school opened to grades K-4 and will open to JBS's full model of K-8 in the fall of 2022 with the capacity to serve 132 students. "For years, we have thoughtfully considered and planned for this expansion of our family of schools," said Lannie Davis-Frecker, President and CEO of Julie Billiart Schools. "We know that JB's whole-child approach and expertise in special education will enhance the educational landscape in this community, and we're blessed to be able to bring the JB Way to families on the West Side," she continued.

Opening a new school bucks the trend seen nationwide in Catholic schools, where the National Catholic Education Association reports a 6.4% decline in Catholic school enrollment between the fall of 2019 and the beginning of

the 2020 school year. Additionally, in 2020, 186 Catholic elementary and 23 high schools closed their doors permanently.

JBS is working to reduce this trend by meeting the diverse needs of children with learning challenges - creating an atmosphere of inclusion, recognizing the students' unique talents, providing learning opportunities targeted to individual student needs and collaborating with

families to reach goals for each student. The "JB Way" represents the unique qualities and characteristics of St. Julie Billiart herself, setting JB schools apart from many private and public schools.

In addition to the Westlake school, Julie Billiart Schools has campuses in Lyndhurst and Akron, Ohio. The community of schools strives to build self-confidence, inspire Christian values and empower students with skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for life-long learning through small class sizes, onsite specialized therapies and highly experienced intervention specialists.

***"We know that JB's whole-child approach and expertise in special education will enhance the educational landscape in this community..."***

**Lannie Davis-Frecker  
President/CEO**

# GOSPEL WITNESS

## SNDs Share History of Life and Ministries



Over the past year, more than 50 Sisters of Notre Dame from various parts of the country were interviewed about their life, their ministry work, their calling to become a sister, and what motivates their commitment to serve. These interviews were compiled into a video featuring sisters sharing their personal stories and thoughts about being a Sister of Notre Dame and why they do what they do.

This video grew out of a Sisters of Charity Foundation Project called "Formed in Ministry" that seeks to understand and document the history and impact of women religious. Having this record of the SNDs' lives and work will benefit all those who seek to carry on the SND vision and mission to serve through the many ministries the sisters have founded and continue to sponsor.

This compilation video captures the essence of the ministries the sisters have been engaged in and enables them to share their stories. The video helps build a sense of appreciation for the efforts of the sisters and draws out the influence and effectiveness of the sisters' life-long and impactful ministry work throughout the United States.

The video can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/392ucEu>

## Prayer Sisters Program

Sisters of Notre Dame are drawn together by their love for Jesus, and their friendship and support for one another. The warmth of their community living and their shared prayer and work energized them for ministry with God's people. Many sisters share their love for Jesus through support for schools as a prayer sister, which furthers the connection between SND and school communities. One example of this love and support is Sr. Regina Alfonso, the prayer sister for Our Lady of Victory School in Washington, D.C. Sr. Regina (pictured right) used her talents to connect to the school by crocheting a likeness of their mascot, the Blue Eagle.

Please contact the National Sponsorship and Network Office if your ministry would like to be connected to a prayer sister.



## The Coesfeld Cross

The forked cross, or Gabelkreuz as it is known in German, portrays the crucifix as the Tree of Life, showing God taking on our great human suffering. The hands of Christ are turned in the position of a blessing. Such crucifixes were found throughout the towns and villages of Northern Germany and, in particular, at the parish church of St. Lamberti in Coesfeld, Germany. It was in prayer before the Coesfeld Crucifix that Hilligonde Wolbring and Elisabeth Kuhling came to the decision to continue their caring mission as the first Sisters of Notre Dame. This is why the Coesfeld Crucifix has special meaning for the Sisters of Notre Dame throughout the world.

The room size Coesfeld Cross is 9 x 4.5 inches. To order room size crosses, please contact Elizabeth Flores at (323) 497-4637 or [elizabethvquez@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethvquez@gmail.com).



## The Network Celebrates Foundation Day

Sponsored and affiliated schools across the network took time to remember and celebrate the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame on Friday, October 1. This year marks 171 years since the founding of the congregation.



*St. Charles Community in Covington, KY celebrated Foundation Day with lunch and cookies.*



*Students at NDA in Park Hills, KY were encouraged to wear gold or yellow shirts and accessories with their gray skirts to represent the color of a sunflower and paraded around St. Joseph Heights to wish the sisters who live there a Happy Foundation Day!*



*Lial Catholic School in Whitehouse, OH (left) celebrated Foundation Day by living out the charism and mission of the founding sisters when they partnered with Impact for Hope to collect supplies for those impacted by Hurricane Ida.*

*Sr. Patti Gentile (right) received a sunflower from a student at Metro Catholic School (Cleveland, OH) during their Foundation Day celebration.*



## St. Claire Receives Assistance in COVID-19 Fight

At the request of the state of Kentucky, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services deployed a team of medical professionals from its National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) to St. Claire HealthCare (SCH) to safely care for the surge of COVID-19 patients at St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead, KY. A Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) is part of the NDMS, which helps communities respond to and recover from public health emergencies and disasters. During a 14-day period, DMAT provided help from a medical officer, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, supply officer, respiratory therapist, four registered nurses and three paramedics.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) EMS (Emergency Medical Services) strike teams also assisted St. Claire with transfers and transporting COVID-19 patients. Each team is comprised of five advanced life support ambulances, and each ambulance is staffed with one paramedic and one emergency medical technician (EMT).

In addition, members of the Kentucky Army National Guard have been at St. Claire since September 1 and are helping with non-clinical logistical tasks throughout St. Claire Regional Medical Center, including assisting security, the stock room, and pharmacy. According to the staff at St. Claire, these soldiers hit the ground running and helped open an expanded COVID unit on their very first day! "We will make sure we're doing whatever it takes to care for our patients in this extraordinary time of need," said Donald H. Lloyd, II, SCH President/CEO.



*The Kentucky Army National Guard has been working alongside the SCH team, providing non-clinical assistance whenever and wherever needed. When eight of the soldiers ended their duties at SCH, they were honored with a reception and presented with the Spirit of St. Claire Award in recognition of their dedication to St. Claire HealthCare and the mission to serve.*

# CALENDAR

**Oct 14, 18, 28  
2021**

New Board Chair  
Orientation (Zoom  
Sessions)

**Nov 3-5, 2021**

Sponsored Ministries  
Leadership Meeting  
(Chardon, OH)

**Jan 30 - Feb 5,  
2022**

Catholic Schools Week

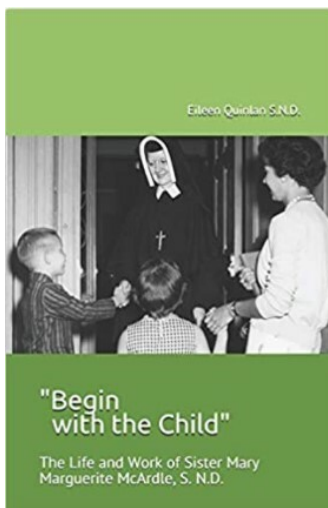
**April 6-8, 2022**

Charism Retreat  
New Leader Gathering  
(Chardon, OH)

**June 19-24, 2022**

Rural HealthCare Student  
Immersion Experience  
(St. Claire HealthCare,  
Morehead, KY)

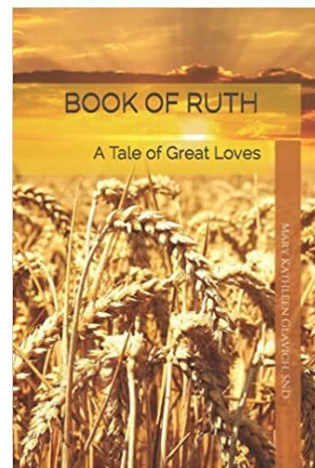
## Resources



**"Begin with the Child": The Life and Work of Sister Mary Marguerite McArdle, SND,** by Eileen Quinlan, SND. Influenced by the whole-child pedagogies of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Progressive Movement, and the Education Department of the Catholic University of America, Sister Mary Marguerite McArdle, SND, was an expert in teaching reading and in preparing primary teachers at Catholic University and Cleveland's St. John College. She founded Julie Billiart School in Cleveland for children with

special learning needs, edited the MINE magazines, and wrote the primary-level readers in the Faith and Freedom series produced by Ginn Publishing and the Catholic University of America from 1942-1969. Her balanced and forward-looking approach to life and teaching made her an influential figure in 20th century Catholic education.

**Book of Ruth: A Tale of Great Loves,** by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND. The touching biblical story of Ruth is ageless and well loved. For millennia, she has been viewed as a paragon of faithful love. At weddings her commitment is repeated: "Where you go, I will go..." Ruth addressed these words not to either husband but to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Using imagination and what is known about the era, Sr. Kathleen expands upon this timeless story with insights into what the characters likely thought and did, bringing them to life. Love is the dominant theme in the book of Ruth, above all, God's never-ending love for his people.



## Lisa Canterbury Takes on New Role

After five years of service with the NSNO/NEO, Assistant Director Lisa Canterbury has taken a position with Life Act, a non-profit providing programming to middle school and high school students about depression awareness and suicide prevention. In her time with the NEO/NSNO she helped organize the 2018 National Education Summit as well as numerous regional gatherings, EAC meetings, and leadership meetings. She also assisted with the transition from the National Education Office to the National Sponsorship and Network Office as well as the transition to SND USA with SND Sponsored Ministries. Join us in congratulating Lisa on her new opportunity!