



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

SND USA

WINTER 2022

PASSING THE TORCH

**Lay Leaders Embrace
SND's Mission
and Charism**



ALSO INSIDE:

SND Mission & Charism Embraced by Associate Lannie Davis-Frecker

A Web of Kinship

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Above: Sister Marla Monahan chats with Sister Carol Gregory at the Sponsored Ministry Leadership Conference in November.

Left: Members of the NMC Board meet at the SND Education Center in Chardon, OH.

l-r: Sister Rebekah Kennedy, *Thousand Oaks, CA*; Sister Shauna Bankemper, *Covington, KY*; Sister Regina Fisher, *Toledo, OH*; Sister Margaret Gorman, *Chardon, OH*; Sister Patricia Garrahan, *Chardon, OH*



LETTER FROM **SND USA PROVINCIAL TEAM**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! With the new year just begun, we are enthusiastic about the work before us in 2022. As Pope Francis reminds us, “This year, while we hope for new beginnings and new cures, let us not neglect care. Together with a vaccine for our bodies, we need a vaccine for our hearts. That vaccine is care. This will be a good year if we take care of others, as Our Lady does with us.”

This issue of *SND USA* focuses on one of our top three mission priorities: sustaining our sponsored ministries. You will read how lay persons are partnering with Sisters of Notre Dame to extend the congregation’s charism in all SND-sponsored ministries. These lay leaders are receiving guidance and support through our National Ministry Corporation Board, which is diligently working and planning for the future of all SND ministries. Additionally, our National Sponsorship and Network Office provides tools and ongoing training for lay leaders as they fulfill their responsibilities within SND-sponsored ministries.

Readers will meet one of many such lay leaders, SND Associate Lannie Davis-Frecker, President/CEO of Julie Billiart Schools in northeast Ohio. Lannie is committed to carrying out God’s mission for Julie Billiart Schools, working alongside Sisters of Notre Dame to set priorities, goals, and strategic plans for the entire organization. Her enthusiasm and commitment to each student exemplify the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

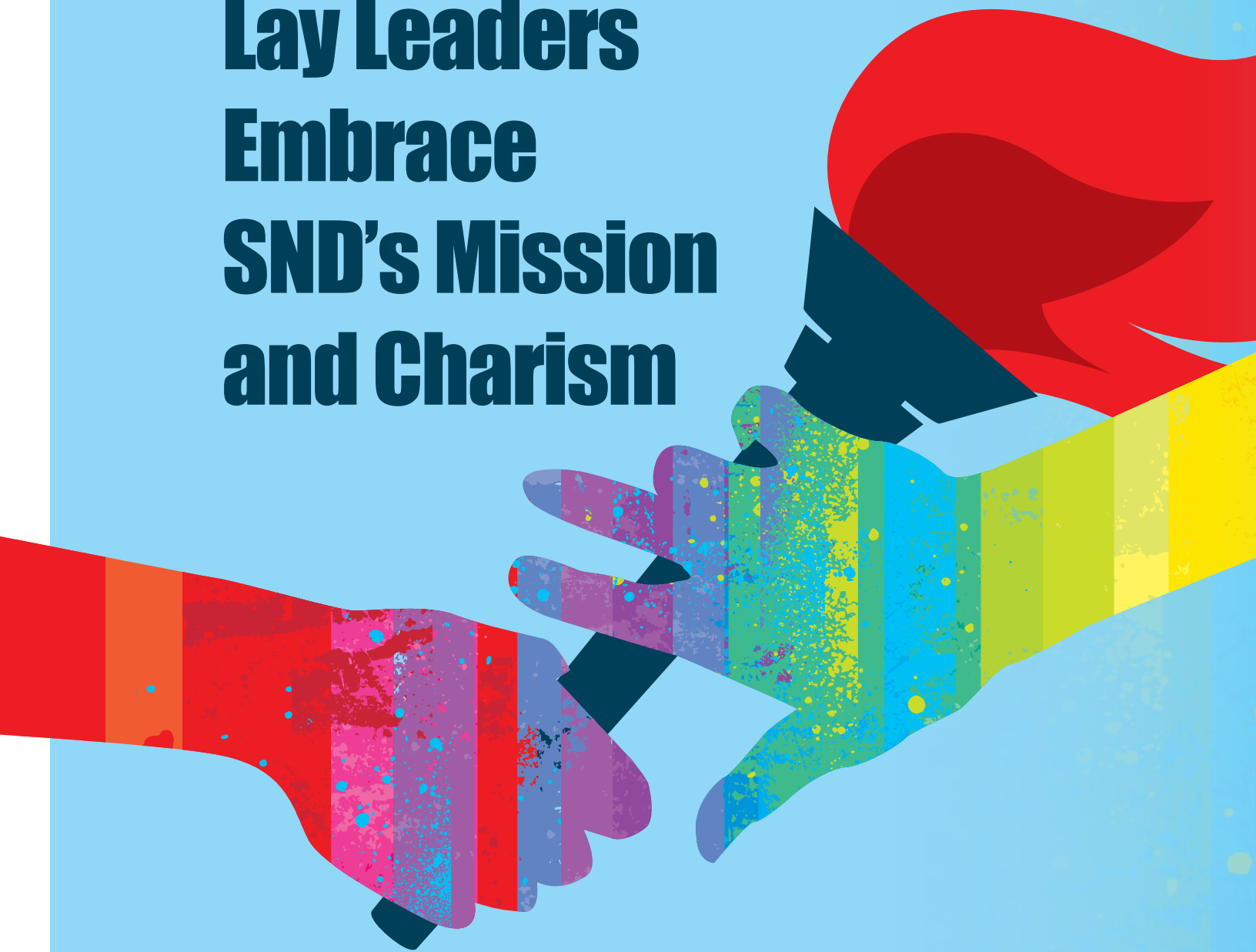
May God’s goodness and provident care guide you through this new year. Thank you for your support as we continue to care for each other and for all our brothers and sisters.

Gratefully,

The SND USA Provincial Team

PASSION THE TOOL

**Lay Leaders
Embrace
SND's Mission
and Charism**



NG RCHI

When the Sisters of Notre Dame left Prussia in 1874 to escape religious persecution, they were invited to teach the children of German immigrants in parish schools in Ohio and Kentucky. Soon the sisters began to found their own schools in each of their geographic areas, and in the 1960s initiated their own healthcare ministries. Within these institutions owned and operated by SND, the teachers, staff members, administrators and governing board were all sisters. It was a thriving family business model that reached its height in the mid-twentieth century.



From 1962-65 the Catholic Church held the Second Vatican Council, often described as the most important religious event of the twentieth century. The Council affirmed the universal call to holiness, that all members of the Church—clergy, religious and laity—are called to the fullness of the Christian life and service.

This theological shift had far-reaching consequences for Catholic life and ministry in the United States. In the years after the Council, the number of sisters in the United States declined steadily, influenced by complex social and economic changes in family life and the role of women. At the same time, large numbers of people educated in the Catholic school system reached maturity. An educated Catholic laity

“We enthusiastically carry on the vision and mission of the SNDs that come from their charism.”

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D., Executive Director,
SND National Sponsorship & Network Office (NSNO)*

began to enter ministries in schools, hospitals and parishes that had previously been open only to sisters and priests.

SND institutions followed the same trend. Blessed with increasing numbers of dedicated lay colleagues, the sisters developed formation programs and promoted lay leadership. Today, lay persons serve as presidents, principals, health care administrators, and in other leadership roles. Early in the 21st century the sisters established governing boards for their institutions and invited lay board members to assume fiduciary responsibility for the SND family business. When the four U.S. provinces of Sisters of Notre Dame united in 2020 to form SND USA, the sisters also created a model for the sustainability of the congregation's ministries.

"Sustaining our sponsored institutions is one of the top three mission priorities of the new national province," states Sister Margaret Gorman, provincial of SND USA. "We want to expand our mission beyond ourselves into the future, and institutions can give that longevity." To accomplish that goal, the sisters are engaging their lay partners. "Lay people do not simply fill in because sisters are not available. Our lay partners strengthen our institutions," Sister Margaret continues. "Their professional skills and ways of living out their values enrich the mission beyond what sisters could do alone. If we focus only on the declining number of sisters, we miss the other half of the story. The whole point of the Council's theology of the laity is that the Church needs the gifts of all its members. Partnership is a fuller reflection of the Body of Christ."

One such lay partner is Laura Koehl, Ed.D., first lay principal and president of Notre Dame Academy in Kentucky, who now serves as Executive Director of the newly named SND National Sponsorship & Network Office (NSNO).

SISTER MARLA, DONALD, NICHOLE

"Don Lloyd, CEO of St. Claire HealthCare, and Nichole Smith, CEO of St. Charles Community, two healthcare ministries sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, embody the charism and spirit of the Sisters of Notre Dame, sometimes more than we do ourselves. They are true ministers of the Gospel who embody the love of our good and provident God."

Sister Marla Monahan, Chair, Board of Directors, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY

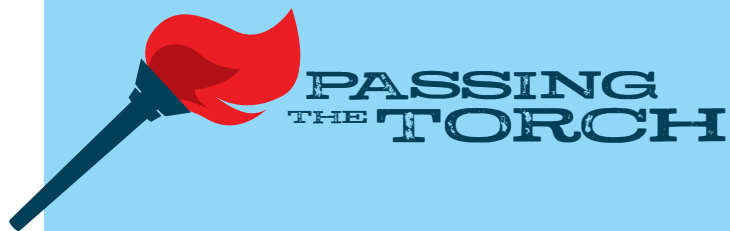
"With every encounter I have with the Sisters of Notre Dame, I feel immensely blessed and grateful for the trust they have placed upon me to lead St. Claire."

Donald H. Lloyd, II, President/CEO, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY

"Knowing that from the very beginning the Sisters of Notre Dame were called to serve the aged and infirm fills me with a deep responsibility to ensure that each person associated with St. Charles knows he or she is called to a place of meaning, purpose and participation in the lived expression of the SND mission and charism."

Nichole Smith, LNHA, CEO/St. Charles Community, Morehead, KY





NSNO is charged with the task of ensuring all SND-sponsored ministries across the United States sustain and further the legacy and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Dr. Koehl is joined by Lisa Fredrickson, Programs and Services Manager, in the National Sponsorship & Network Office.

SND Charism

In religious congregations, charism is the distinct spirit that directs and guides all members. The charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame is a deep experience of God's goodness and provident care.

"Our charism is being shared with lay people daily. This is not a gift that we keep to ourselves. Rather, the value of this gift is in the sharing. You don't need to be a sister to experience the charism," explains Sister Lisa Novak, Director of Mission Effectiveness for the Sisters of Notre Dame. She continues, "SND charism is the shared vision of God's goodness and provident care throughout our congregation. The SND mission represents different ways the congregation expresses this vision or charism to others."



Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School is one of many SND-sponsored ministries.

Sponsorship

Each sponsored ministry has its own unique mission, which is an expression of the SND charism in a particular setting. Sponsorship is a dynamic relationship between the SND ministries and the Sisters of Notre Dame. The Catholic identity of each ministry flows from the Catholic identity of SND as a Roman Catholic congregation of women religious.

Formally, sponsorship is a connection between canon law and civil law. The civil law structures of the sponsored ministries reflect the canonical governance structures. SND USA as the sponsor holds a few reserved powers related to each of the sponsored ministries. These reserved powers fall under the categories of purpose (mission), people (CEOs/board members), and property. Reserved powers are set forth in each sponsored ministry's code of regulations, articles of incorporation, or by-laws.

Sponsorship is most effective when it is also a deep commitment and mutual relationship on the personal level. "We enthusiastically carry on the vision and mission of the SNDs that come from their charism. It is at the core of who we are. We want to carry on the legacy and work of our founders and sponsors. Sponsorship honors the past, lives in the present, and prepares for the future," simplifies Dr. Koehl.

LANNIE, SISTER AGNESMARIE

"I was blessed to work closely with Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto for a transition year as I moved into my role as President/CEO of Julie Billiart Schools. In that time and after, she became more than a mentor – she was my friend, cheerleader, prayer partner and confidant."

Lannie Davis-Frecker, President/CEO, Julie Billiart Schools, Lyndhurst, Westlake, Akron, OH

"Lannie began teaching at JB and served as Assistant Principal, Director of Special Education, and Vice President. During all these years, she learned and lived the mission and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. I am very confident that the mission and charism will live on."

Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto, Former President/CEO, Julie Billiart Schools, Lyndhurst, OH





SND National Ministry Corporation

When the sisters established SND USA, they formed the SND National Ministry Corporation (NMC) which in turn established the National Sponsorship and Network Office (NSNO). The NMC serves two purposes:

1. To ensure that SND ministries operate in accordance with the Church's canon law and applicable codes of civil law.
2. To ensure that the sponsored ministries remain sustainable well into the future and true to their missions beyond the time when the sisters can actively participate in them.

According to Bruce Jarosz, NMC Board Chair, "We do this primarily by serving as the Member of the sponsored ministry corporations, and exercising the reserved powers concerning changes to their mission, key people relationships, and certain property transactions."



NMC Board (from left to right) Nancy Coonis, Laura Koehl (ex officio), Sr. Carol Gregory, Jane Meier, Sr. Mary Frances Taymans, Bruce Jarosz, Sr. Patricia Garrahan, Sr. Mary Ethel Parrott

Bruce continues, “We are all standing on the shoulders of the giants who came before us. In this instance, it may be more appropriate to say that we are all standing on the shoulders of the saints who came before us. We are blessed with a window of time, perhaps the next 10 years or so, where many of these saints are walking with us in these ministries. We are challenged to intentionally identify the strategies, actions, and disciplines that will ingrain and cement the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame in each ministry as we transition to lay leadership. We do this by encouraging the ministries to adopt best practices concerning sustainability. I was very encouraged this week to see Sr. Joanne Keppler’s presentation on Mission Assessment (read later within this article). In my opinion it is an excellent resource document that covers the sustainability and charism horizons.”

The goals of the NMC are implemented through working with the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office which provides support and services to SND-sponsored ministries, especially in these areas:

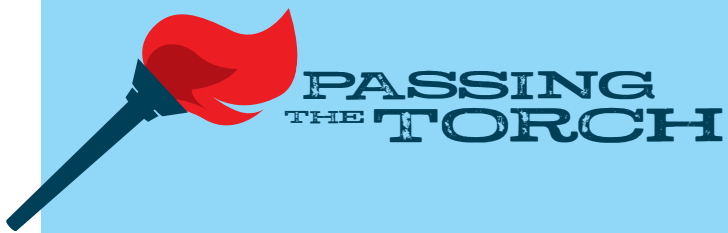
- General board formation and governance training for ministry leaders and boards
- Support to the NMC’s Board of Directors as the primary point of contact between NMC and SND-sponsored ministries

Jarosz says NMC operates as a volunteer board appointed by the congregation. The NMC Board consists of between five and nine members, with the majority of voting members being from the congregation.



“We are challenged to intentionally identify the strategies, actions, and disciplines that will ingrain and cement the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame in each ministry as we transition to lay leadership.”

Bruce Jarosz, NMC Board Chair



“The Corporation ensures accountability for the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and for fidelity to the charism, spirit, mission, and educational vision and principles of the SND congregation,” Jarosz emphatically states. “The National Sponsorship and Network Office was formed to create programs and services that ensure the fidelity of sponsored and affiliated ministries to the SND mission and Catholic identity.”

“I am amazed and thrilled with the level of skill and professionalism of the lay leaders employed within our SND-sponsored ministries, particularly on the NMC Board of Directors,” Sister Patricia Garrahan, Provincial Councilor and NMC Board Member, states enthusiastically. “They are really dedicated to our mission and share our charism!”



(l-r) Sr. Lisa Novak and Sr. Mary Ethel Parrott at NSNO training.

National Sponsorship and Network Office

The SND National Sponsorship & Network Office (NSNO) serves all the SND-sponsored ministries founded by each of the four former provinces. The office also offers services to 33 affiliated schools in six states plus Washington, DC. “NSNO provides strategic leadership for the integration of the SND charism, vision, and mission in the sponsored ministries of the SND USA network,” Dr. Koehl states. “This includes support and services to the sponsored ministries related specifically to mission and Catholic identity, especially in its work with ministry leaders and governing boards. It is important to note that the SNDs have had a National Education Office for more than 20 years. This new office, in many ways, evolved from that as part of the transition to SND USA.”

Sister Mary Lisa Megaffin concurs. “The Sisters of Notre Dame started the Notre Dame Education Association (NDEA) in the 1980s as a means to foster collaboration between and among their educational ministries. Sr. Marthe Reinhard would often comment that initiatives such as NDEA were ‘new structures for new realities.’ NSNO is a further development of this evolution and progress.”

“I am proud to follow in the footsteps of former SND network directors who include Sister Patricia Garrahan, Sister Donna Paluf, and Sister Mary Frances Taymans. It was Sister Mary Frances who shepherded the evolution of the SND National Education Office into what is now the expanded National Sponsorship and Network Office. She diligently worked with the SND leadership as they established the SND USA National Ministry Corporation and its board,” Dr. Koehl says.

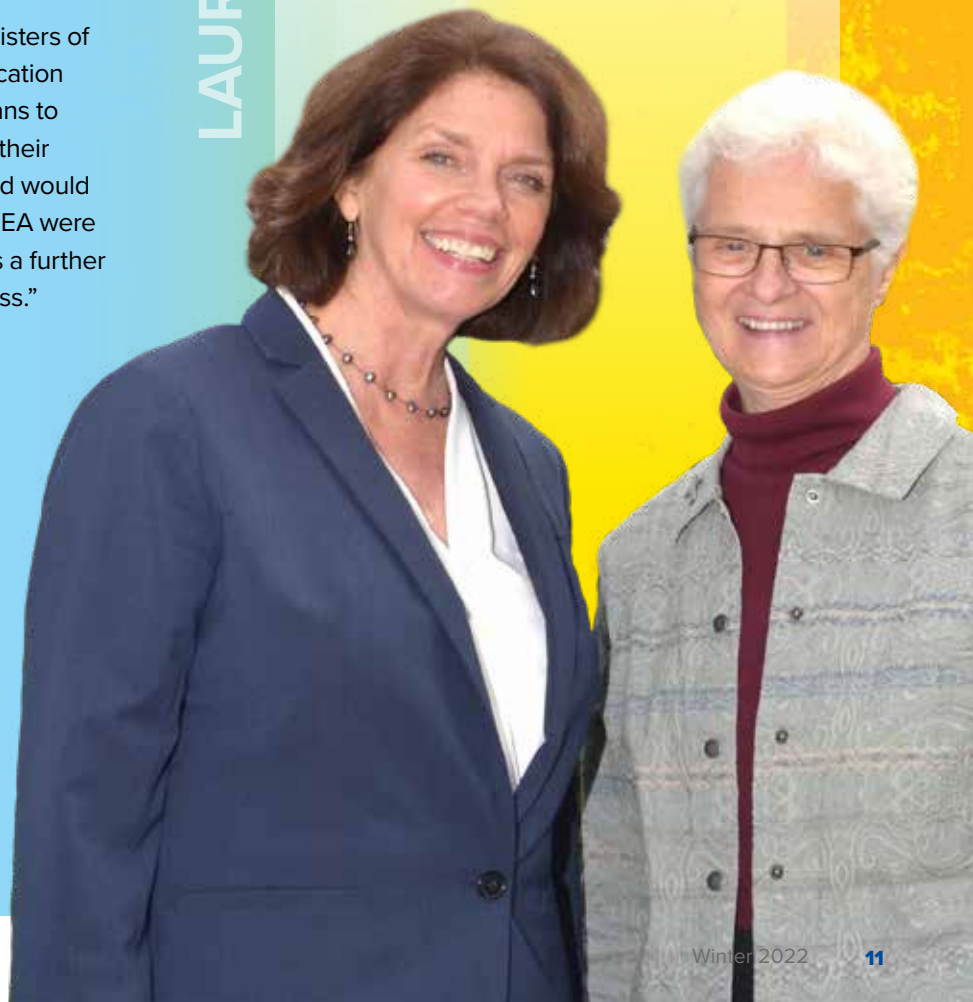
LAURA, SISTER SHAUNA

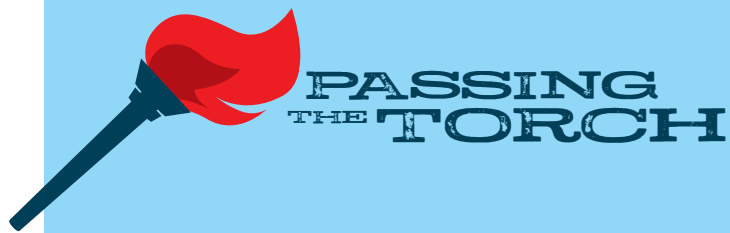
“What I love about Laura Koehl is how well she articulates the SND spirit and mission. Some would say better than most sisters. There’s some truth to that. We, the sisters, have lived the spirit and mission in all that we say and do. However, the SND leaders of today have had to put that lived experience into words passing it on from one generation to the next.”

Sister Shauna Bankemper, Assistant Provincial SND USA, Covington, KY

“I have always appreciated Sr. Shauna’s good will, optimism, and joy – so characteristic of her dealings and service to others. She never shies away from sharing the mission and inviting others to join in that with her. You can’t help but say – Yes!”

Laura Koehl, Executive Director, NSNO





About her successor, Sr. Mary Frances observes, “Laura brings scope across the challenges and possibilities currently before Catholic ministries, coupled with depth of understanding of SND mission in ministry. I am grateful and proud to pass the torch to her.”

Under the NSNO umbrella are 16 SND-sponsored ministries, which include 13 SND-sponsored schools, a hospital, and two senior-living facilities.

In addition to the mission, SND-sponsored ministries are guided by four educational principles which are stated below:

- the centrality of God
- the human dignity of each person as an image of God
- the educator as a Gospel witness
- education for transformation

“These principles guide the strategic planning and day-to-day operations of our sponsored ministries in many ways,” explains Dr. Koehl. “They are foundational to expectations for boards, administrators, students, faculty, staff, and health care providers. They inspire activities related to professional development, faith formation, spiritual guidance, bereavement support, and mental health counseling. They call us to provide inclusive caring environments that offer experiences of God’s goodness and provident care.”

“Our health and senior-care facilities serve people at the margins – financially, socially, and physically,” Dr. Koehl says. “We treat people with dignity and respect, sharing Gospel values and honoring the legacy of our SND founders.”

The impact of SND-sponsored ministries is far and wide. SND schools have graduated tens of thousands of students who live in every state in the U.S. and numerous countries around the world. SND USA healthcare and senior-living facilities provide valuable services to thousands of patients and residents and their families every year.

NSNO also works with SND-affiliated ministries in supporting the legacy of the SNDs. Affiliated ministries are those in which sisters have worked as leaders, administrators, teachers, and staff. In many cases, their ministry was essential to establishing and sustaining the parish or diocesan school. While these ministries are not sponsored by SND, many embrace the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame, recognizing the role they played in promoting Catholic education in communities across the United States.

“All of our institutions have a legacy of people who benefited from being in an SND institution – whether sponsored or affiliated,” Dr. Koehl says. “The challenge is to partner with the sisters in handing over their work and legacy to lay persons in a way that respects the SND tradition and upholds their charism.”

Sister Rebekah Kennedy, SND USA Provincial Councilor, states, “I am excited to welcome more lay people in leadership positions, in our SND-sponsored schools especially. During my years as a leader in a number of schools, my staff was a majority of lay men and women who supported me in a million different ways. When I transitioned back into a staff position, my aim was to pay that forward in recognizing the lay leadership through support, dialogue, and collaboration.”

Sister Agnesmarie Loporto concurs, “I am pleased and excited that dedicated lay people want to live and spread our precious SND charism. This is the only way our ministries can prosper in the future.”

Sister Jacquelyn Gusdane, former President of Notre Dame Schools in Chardon, Ohio, adds “Our priority, especially through the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office, is to increase and extend opportunities for present and future lay leaders to serve and lead in our sponsored and affiliated ministries. The Sisters of Notre Dame are committed to this endeavor. Even more, the Church calls us to seek out men and women of faith and talent to live this vocation of service. Moving forward, I trust deeply in God’s provident care!”

“We treat people with dignity and respect, sharing Gospel values and honoring the legacy of our SND founders.”

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D., Executive Director,
SND National Sponsorship & Network Office (NSNO)*

“Sr. Rebekah Kennedy’s support, experience, counsel, and guidance has had a profound impact on me.”

*Anthony Guevara, President, La Reina,
Thousand Oaks, CA*

“I am confident that the charism and mission of the SNDs will live on in these ministries because we have already laid the groundwork in providing personnel, sponsorship materials and partnerships that continue to shape the future of our ministries. AND I believe in the power of the breath of the Holy Spirit!!!”

*Sr. Rebekah Kennedy, SND, Provincial
Councilor, Thousand Oaks, CA*





NSNO Support and Services

NSNO provides support and services related to mission, Catholic identity and institutional viability. The office works with the National Ministry Corporation to help ensure the sustainability of the SND mission through the ministries they founded. This includes the following:

- leadership support and succession planning
- board formation and governance training
- operational best practices
- NMC Board of Directors operations and support
- primary point of contact between NMC Board and the ministries

- mission integration and assessment
- networking opportunities for the sponsored ministries
- resources related to governance, succession planning, SND heritage, and mission

Mission formation and assessment is at the core of the work with the SND-sponsored ministries. Sister Joanne Keppler recently developed an Assessment for Sponsored Ministries to be used in evaluating an organization's alignment with their Catholic identity and the SND heritage and mission.

"This is a formal tool for schools, healthcare ministries, and other educational/social services sponsored by SND to use for conversation, reflection and accountability.

SND-Sponsored Schools and Ministries



- **Julie Billiard Schools**, Lyndhurst, OH (PreK–8)
- **Julie Learning Center**, Covington, KY (PreK)
- **La Reina High School & Middle School**, Thousand Oaks, CA (6–12)
- **Lial Catholic School**, Whitehouse, OH (PreK–8)
- **Maria Early Learning Center**, Toledo, OH (Infant–PreK)
- **Notre Dame Academy**, Park Hills, KY (9–12)
- **Notre Dame Academy**, Toledo, OH (7–12)
- **Notre Dame Academy Schools**, Los Angeles, CA (PreK–12)
- **Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin School**, Chardon, OH (9–12)
- **Notre Dame College**, South Euclid, OH (Post HS)
- **Notre Dame Elementary School**, Chardon, OH (PreK–8)
- **Notre Dame Learning Center Preschool**, Thousand Oaks, CA (PreK)
- **Notre Dame Urban Education Center**, Covington, KY (K–12)
- **Notre Dame Village**, Chardon, OH
- **St. Claire HealthCare**, Morehead, KY
- **St. Charles Community**, Fort Wright, KY

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Parish Schools / Affiliated Schools

The SNDs have been involved in many schools across the country as educators. In some cases, they helped found the school, but they are not considered the founders or sponsors. Most are parish schools/affiliated schools across the United States. They include the following:

- **Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh, NC** (9–12)
- **Cardinal Mooney High School, Sarasota, FL** (9–12)
- **Clearwater Central Catholic High School, Clearwater, FL** (9–12)
- **Cleveland Central Catholic High School, Cleveland, OH** (9–12)
- **Guardian Catholic School, Jacksonville, FL** (PreK–8)
- **Julie Billiard School, Akron Campus, Akron, OH** (PreK–8)
- **Metro Catholic School, Cleveland, OH** (PreK–8)
- **Our Lady of the Assumption School, Ventura, CA** (PreK–8)
- **Our Lady of Victory School, Washington, DC** (PreK–8)
- **Prince of Peace School, Covington, KY** (PreK–8)
- **Queen of Apostles School, Toledo, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Agnes Catholic School, Arlington, VA** (PreK–8)
- **St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright, KY** (PreK–8)
- **St. Augustine School, Covington, KY** (PreK–8)
- **St. Columban School, Loveland, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Francis Elementary School, Cleveland, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Helen School, Newbury, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Helen School, South Gate, CA** (PreK–8)
- **St. John's School, Delphos, OH** (K–12)
- **St. John School, Ashtabula, OH** (PreK–12)
- **St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, KY** (PreK–8)
- **St. Jude the Apostle School, Westlake Village, CA** (PreK–8)
- **St. Leo School, Versailles, KY** (PreK–8)
- **St. Martin of Tours School, Cincinnati, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Mary's Catholic School, Leipsic, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Mary Magdalen School, Camarillo, CA** (TK–8)
- **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School, Avon, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Peter School, North Ridgeville, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Peter School, Lorain, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Peter School, Canton, OH** (K–5)
- **St. Pius X – St. Matthias Academy, Downey, CA** (9–12)
- **St. Richard Catholic School, Swanton, OH** (PreK–8)
- **St. Thomas Aquinas School, Cleveland, OH** (K–8)

SISTER MARY ANN, KIM

“Kim demonstrates in her own life the importance of prayer and reflection and ensures that the Catholic mission of Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio is strong and central to the school’s mission. These are all hallmarks of education in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame.”

Sister Mary Ann Culpert, Assistant General,
Suore di Nostra Signora, Rome, Italy

“I consider Sister Mary Ann to be a dear friend and mentor. Although she is many miles away in Rome, I know she is there when I need her to be a mentor or just listen. I recognize I am always walking with the Sisters of Notre Dame to advance the mission of Notre Dame Academy and promote the SND mission.”

Kim Grilliot, President, Notre Dame
Academy, Toledo, OH





Certain expectations are clearly spelled out. However, the real impact is not in a rating but in providing a template to evaluate the strength of a sponsored ministry,” explains Sister Joanne.

The Assessment for Sponsored Ministries reviews five domains or characteristics necessary for Catholic identity and mission effectiveness within a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. These domains are Charism in Action, Mission and Vision, Leadership and Collaboration, Transformative Education and Care, and Stewardship and Sustainability.

The assessment process enables a sponsored ministry to quantify, with evidence, its alignment with the intended goals. Through the conversations and reflection that occur during the assessment process, a ministry will affirm and confirm its practices as well as surface areas of potential growth or improvement. The results are used for reports presented to the SND National Ministry Corporation Board.

“It is a catalyst for collaboration, and a motivator to continue each ministry’s mission with goals and practices. Catholic identity and our SND charism are not static. They evolve over time. Values, traditions, and circumstances of culture and life remain true but adapt within the realities of today,” says Sister Joanne.

“It is important to look to the future and promote succession planning in our ministries. The NSNO seeks to assist with identifying and engaging future leaders for our ministries and boards. This includes assisting with leadership searches within each SND-sponsored ministry. Additionally, it is important to develop a pool of potential leaders for the future,” Sister Joanne encourages.



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Sister Joanne Keppler

NSNO Initiatives

The NSNO staff will be launching some special initiatives in the coming year. The Emerging Leadership Program is designed to identify and support lay people in discerning and preparing for leadership roles within SND ministries. “The Emerging Leadership Program components include the heritage of the SNDs, leadership skills, and the importance of being a mission-driven institution,” explains Dr. Koehl. “The goal of the Emerging Leadership Program is to cultivate identified individuals to become the next generation of leaders within SND ministries.”

NSNO staff will also assist with new board member recruitment. “The individual ministry boards identify potential board members, who are then presented to the NMC board for appointment,” notes NSNO Programs and Services Manager Lisa Fredrickson. “We will assist boards in this process as needed.”

Another initiative NSNO is excited about is the Rural Healthcare Student Experience (RHSE). RHSE involves a partnership with SND USA-sponsored secondary schools and St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead, KY, and is set to launch in the summer of 2022.

The Healthcare Student Experience connects students from SND-sponsored high schools with St. Claire HealthCare for a week of supervised activities in the hospital, at surrounding clinics, and in patient residences.

“This is a perfect opportunity for students who are considering a career in health care,” states Fredrickson. “The program encourages participants to consider this work as more than a career, but also as a mission to serve the poor and marginalized in rural America.”

SISTER JACQUELYN, JOHN

“Our working relationship – the best! Full of joy, synergy, visioning, and humor!”

Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE, Former President, Notre Dame Schools, Chardon, OH Board Relations

“We know the SND educational vision, mission and charism are worth preserving because we have seen their effects; namely, the importance of God in our students’ lives.”

John Venturella, President, Clearwater Central Catholic High School, FL





***“We look forward to bringing
our leaders and boards
together in different ways
that celebrate our shared
journey in this SND mission.”***

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D., Executive Director,
SND National Sponsorship & Network
Office (NSNO)*

Because NSNO works with a network of sponsored ministries, there are many opportunities for collaboration and shared best practices. “We use the term ‘network’ as both a noun and a verb,” describes Dr. Koehl enthusiastically. “We look forward to bringing our leaders and boards together in different ways that celebrate our shared journey in this SND mission. While NSNO’s newsletters and Zoom meetings helped connect leaders during Covid, we look forward to hosting in-person meetings and trainings as restrictions lessen. However, given the national distribution of our constituents, online connections will continue to be vital.”

SND Mission: Today and Tomorrow

As the sisters responded to the needs of the people when they first arrived in the United States, they have evolved to meet the needs of the 21st century. By entrusting lay collaborators with roles of leadership, SNDs are able to respond to other societal needs.

“The sisters are indeed trailblazers,” Koehl says. “And as they invite lay persons to partner with them in mission, we are challenged to continue to blaze that trail. Today, Sisters of Notre Dame are still present to us as they continue to minister to God’s people. At the same time, as partners, we are being asked to faithfully carry on their mission.”

"I think the Church and the world are blessed whenever those of us in religious life partner with our lay brothers and sisters," exclaims Sister Marla Monahan, Chair, Board of Directors, St. Claire HealthCare in Kentucky. "Early in the development of the education, health care, and social service systems in our country, women religious had the personnel, formation, and resources to establish schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Now, there are more-than-competent lay people to assume positions of leadership."

Donald H. Lloyd, III, President/CEO, St. Claire HealthCare, responds, "To serve St. Claire and lead this ministry is a sacred obligation for a lay leader. The charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame have served the people of Eastern Kentucky through the best and worst of circumstances for nearly 60 years. This legacy of service above self, especially to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our region, is the hallmark of the sisters' ministry at St. Claire. As the Sisters of Notre Dame have answered the call to serve the people through this ministry, we must always remember that our duty as lay leaders is to answer the sisters' call to serve, and assure this ministry lives in perpetuity."

Sister Shauna Bankemper, SND USA Assistant Provincial, adds, "I am thrilled to see the gifted and dedicated lay women and men being invited to fill leadership positions throughout SND-sponsored and -affiliated ministries. The SND spirit and mission lived out in the lives and service of these men and women fill us all with hope for the future."

LYNN, SISTER PAT

"I am in awe of the SND's vision, passion, and talent. The dedication to their ministry and to each other is nothing short of inspirational."

Lynn Cherry, President, Lial School, Whitehouse, OH

"Lynn Cherry definitely has what it takes to carry on our charism and mission. She is a strong, passionate, educational leader grounded in her faith. From the Board, to parents, to teachers and the children, Lynn is the right leader for this time. The torch has been passed and is shining brightly."

Sister Pat McClain, Former President, Lial School





Sister Mary Ann Culpert, Assistant General, Rome, Italy, agrees. “As Sisters of Notre Dame, we are so blessed and fortunate to have so many lay persons who share our charism and spirituality. Some of our colleagues have been with us many years – they were educated in our institutions and have returned to teach, administer, and serve with us in many capacities. The charism and spirituality of the SND is not for sisters alone. It is a gift to be shared with others and lived out in the lives of all who resonate with our spirituality and mission.”

As the Sisters of Notre Dame continue to pass the torch – bringing lay persons into more

and more leadership positions within SND-sponsored ministries – the sisters remain an integral part of these ministries, serving as board members, administrators, mission directors, mentors, advisors, teachers, retreat directors, and support staff. Their presence today ensures these vital ministries always reflect the congregation’s charism and mission today and well into the future.

“Through SND USA, the sisters have created a structure to ensure their legacy of bringing God’s goodness to the world,” summarizes Dr. Koehl. “We have much to learn from their stories of living their charism, and these



LILLIAM, SISTER MARY FRANCES

lessons will be central to how well we carry on the SND mission. Their mission to serve the needs of God's people lives on in each one of us – and this is truly a gift of God's goodness. With the SND USA governance model in place – the National Ministry Corporation, the National Sponsorship and Network Office and the ongoing dedication of our many ministry leaders – the charism of the SND is alive and well for generations to come.”

“My office is in one of the bedrooms in the old convent. Every morning, I think of the sisters as I enter their former home and settle into my office. This morning routine is a daily reminder of all of the sisters that raised me and the mission I have been entrusted with.”

Lilliam Paetzold, Head of School, President, Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles

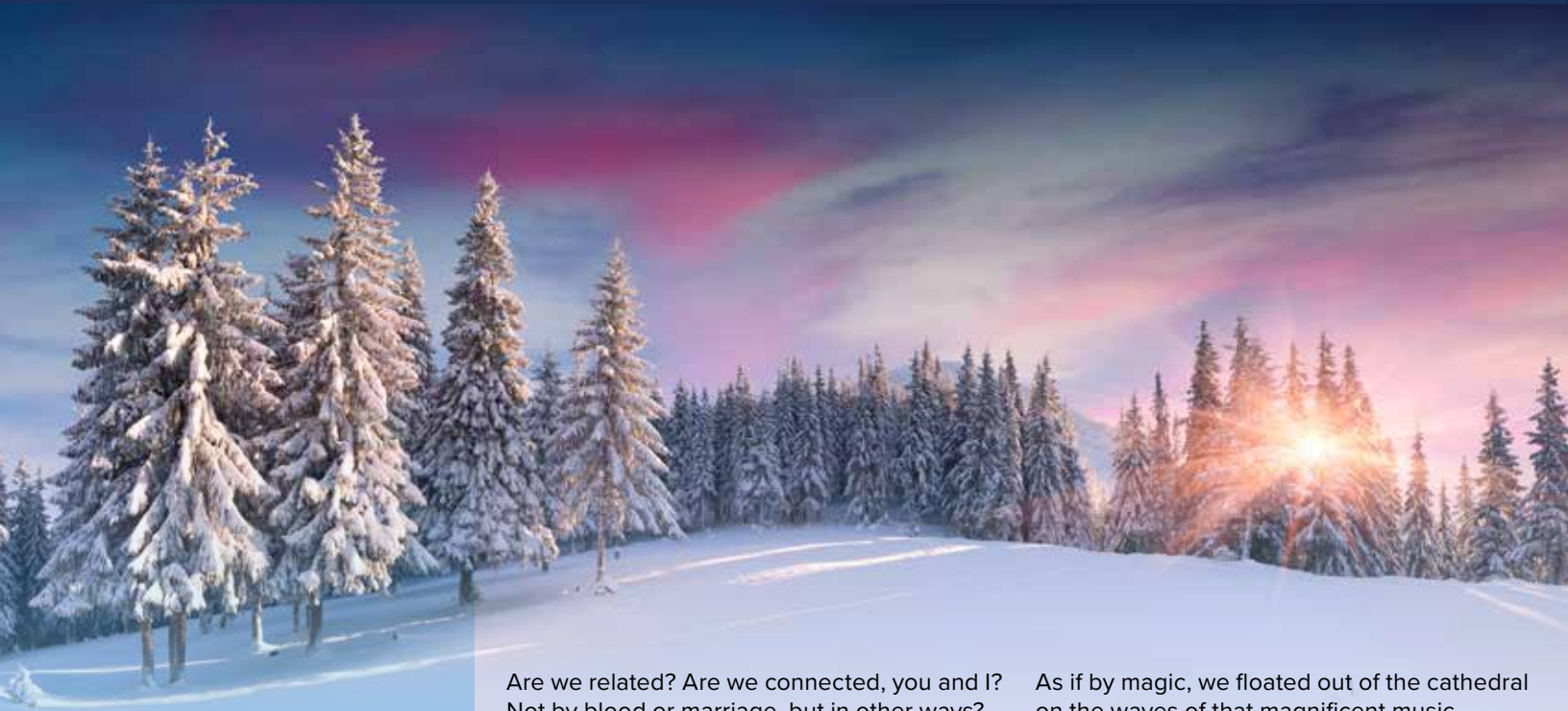
“Lilliam literally grew up immersed in and now moves forward the NDA/SND mission. As President and Head of School, Lilliam is moving the NDA community, broadly defined, forward with the energy of Mission LIVE vision.”

Sister Mary Frances Taymans, Board Member, NMC, Former Executive Director, SND National Education Office



A WEB OF KINSHIP

by Sr. M. Evelyn Reinke, SND



Sr. Evelyn Reinke's 50 years as an educator include nine years in elementary teaching and administration, eight years at Notre Dame Academy, Covington, KY, and 33 years in teacher education at Thomas More College (now TMU). In retirement she enjoys proofreading for the province and congregation; communicating with family, friends, and benefactors of the sisters; and helping out around St. Joseph Heights. A special delight is producing photo cards for personal and community use, and for sale.

Are we related? Are we connected, you and I?
Not by blood or marriage, but in other ways?

I believe it's very possible.

Let me ask you—

Can a sunrise stop your breath?

Do you look up when you hear a goldfinch
chittering?

Do you stoop to smell roses?

Does music set your toes tapping and bring a
lilt to your mood?

Can a wonderful aroma carry you for a
moment to another time and place?

If you said, "Yes," even once, then we may
share a vital connection, wrought by the
power of beauty.

The energy of beauty creates instant bonds
among those who share, for instance, a
concert or symphony, an art exhibit, a walk
through a lovely park, a refreshing douse
from sudden summer rain. The connection
emanates from the level at which we're
moved by a mutual experience. When spirits
are touched by the same source of wonder,
they know a shared resonance, which can run
very deep.

An example from my life: The religious
graduation ceremony of the college where I
taught typically ended with Widor's Toccata.

As if by magic, we floated out of the cathedral
on the waves of that magnificent music,
connected by its power. Now anytime I hear
that piece, with an aura of warmth, my faculty
friends who listened with me come to mind.
They are present to me again.

Establishing this kind of connection is among
my goals in making photocards. Each moment
of captured beauty can become a link from
me to the sender to the recipient. Thus,
though I may not know the card's receiver,
we can participate in a golden web of
interconnectedness that blesses each person
in its reach. As a result, even in moments of
solitude, moments of apparent loneliness, I'm
never really by myself when I have so many
wonderful relationships. Further, like the
energy of prayer that I send out each day, I'm
confident that the energy of beauty produces
good effects though I may never know where
or for whom.

I think this may be something of what
Hildegard of Bingen had in mind when she
prayed: "O Holy Spirit, you are the mighty way
in which everything that is in the heavens, on
the earth, and under the earth, is penetrated
with connectedness, penetrated with
relatedness." *

*Hildegard of Bingen, *Meditations with
Hildegard of Bingen*, by Gabriele Uhlein
(Santa Fe, NM: Bear & Co., 1982), 41.

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If you own stock that's increased in value since you purchased it (and if you've owned it for at least one year), you have a unique opportunity for philanthropy. When you donate securities to the Sisters of Notre Dame, you receive the same income tax savings (if you itemize) that you would have if you wrote us a check, but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes on the transfer, which can be as high as 20 percent.

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Please contact your local SND Mission Advancement Office for more information on how to donate stock to SND, or visit our website at sndusa.org/donate.

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SND Mission & Charism Embraced by Associate Lannie Davis-Frecker

Lannie Davis-Frecker first became acquainted with the Sisters of Notre Dame through her Nani, Esther Fisher. That simple introduction set the course for her life.

“Like the sisters, my Nani shared a deep love for education,” Lannie states. “I will never forget when she gave me a St. Julie Billiart prayer card in high school.”

Upon graduating from high school, Lannie went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Needs from the University of Dayton and a master’s degree in Educational Leadership from John Carroll University. Her journey into the field of special education began immediately after that in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she helped build a special education program within the diocese.

“In 2008, I was first introduced to Julie Billiart (JB) Schools by Bishop Anthony Pilla,” Lannie recalls with a smile. “I respected and loved Bishop Pilla, and he literally changed my life. I approached him after my time within the Diocese of Charlotte, eager to bring similar programming to Cleveland, OH. He said the program I described already exists at Julie Billiart School in Lyndhurst, OH. Well, I showed up the next day at JB, where I met President Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto and Principal Jodi Johnston.”

Shortly after that meeting, Lannie was hired as a 2nd grade teacher, working alongside Sister Sharon Kovalcik. She went on to hold a variety of roles at the Lyndhurst JB School: kindergarten teacher, Assistant Principal, Director of Special Education, Vice President, President, and currently CEO/President.

"I said 'YES' to every learning opportunity within the organization so I could deeply know and understand the impact and importance of our mission," she enthusiastically recalls.

Now that she is CEO/President, her day-to-day responsibilities vary, particularly since the expansion from one JB School to a network of three JB schools- JB Lyndhurst, JB Akron, and JB Westlake, Ohio.

"Julie Billiard Schools is such a different model, system, and mission," Lannie explains. "The focus in most schools is all learners; the focus at JB is on unique learners. We are a family of K-8, private, Catholic schools that serve students with special learning needs. This means that when our educators, who are all intervention specialists, come around the table, they bring innovation, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. They have the opportunity to team with specialists and therapists to build programs that are individualized for the needs of our students. They do this beautifully because of our small class sizes and child-centered approach. Most importantly, our teachers and staff connect with our kids and respond to them with love."

"As we grow, my role grows and evolves with the needs of the organization," Lannie states. "I work directly with our Board of Directors and Sisters of Notre Dame to set priorities, goals, and strategic vision for the entire organization. I have the great honor of working directly with our principals and our executive leadership team to support and inspire their good work to execute our mission on a daily basis. I truly feel that I simply responded to God's will for Julie Billiard Schools."

"As the first lay leader of JB and as one charged to grow the organization, I knew our history must be ever-present in our work," Lannie says. "I felt the only way to honor this beautiful ministry the Sisters of Notre Dame founded and supported over many decades was to have an intentional relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame."

She continues, "As I grew to love so many of the sisters individually, I learned about who they were as a congregation of women religious. I wanted to link myself with them in a meaningful way. At the same time as I was discerning this relationship, my mom, Beth Davis, was involved in campus ministry at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School in Chardon, OH, and felt equally inspired by the lives of the sisters. We

went through the SND Associate formation together. I believe we may have been the first mother-daughter duo to enter together."

"Being an Associate has given me a different perspective on our daily work and future work at JB," Lannie says. "It keeps the charism and mission of the sisters at the forefront for me and allows me to use that lens as we make decisions for our growth. I feel that my Associate covenant allows me to see my work – professionally and personally – as a calling with greater purpose. I now look for and see God's goodness and provident care in the good times and the bad, and the opportunities amongst the crosses. The SND women are trailblazers and have left a legacy that all of us need to carry on. As an Associate, I feel that this is my promise."

"I would recommend others consider becoming an SND Associate," Lannie encourages. "It is powerful to be part of the way that what the sisters began will continue in the future. We can be their hands in the world, continuing the good work in their ministries."

Lannie concludes, "The charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame is felt in all of our buildings and lived out by our people. I am in awe of God's goodness and provident care at Julie Billiard Schools. I cannot wait to see where God leads us next!"

To learn more about the Associates Program, please contact your regional SND office.

"I feel that my Associate covenant allows me to see my work – professionally and personally – as a calling with greater purpose."

— Lannie Davis-Frecker,
SND Associate



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

SND USA National Office

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024

SND USA Regional Offices

1601 Dixie Highway, Covington, KY 41011

1776 Hendrix Avenue, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

3912 Sunforest Court, Suite B, Toledo, OH 43623

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Toledo Office Prayer Line

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Upcoming Events

March 8 – 14 Catholic Sisters Week, *nationwide*

March 11 – 13 Virtual Women's Retreat, *sponsored by our SNDs in Kentucky*

March 11 Stuff the Truck Food Drive, *Toledo, OH*

May 5 National Day of Prayer

Check out our new NSNO (National Sponsorship & Network Office) website at
sndusa.org/nsno

Check out more news and local happenings at
sndusa.org/regions



Julie Billiard Schools: Beyond Education. Beyond Expectations.



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

Winter 2022

Network

*One Heart.
One Hope.
One Mission.*



Julie Billiard Schools: Beyond Education. Beyond Expectations.

Julie Billiard (JB) Schools is a network of exceptional Catholic, private, full-day schools for children with learning differences. Children in grades K through 8 with mild to moderate autism, ADHD, anxiety, dyslexia, and

other learning differences find a home at JB where they can learn and grow. Julie Billiard Schools are located in Lyndhurst, Akron, and Westlake, Ohio.

According to Lannie Davis-Frecker, CEO/President of Julie Billiard Schools, "When children feel loved and accepted by their teachers and peers, they become free to explore challenging academics and social relationships that set the foundation for a successful future."

And explore they do. JB kids come from more than 40 school districts across Northeast Ohio. "All of our students are looking for a place to feel accepted," Lannie explains. "When a traditional school setting cannot serve a child, parents should truly consider Julie Billiard Schools. For almost 70 years, we've provided an award-winning, whole-child approach to education that instills a sense of connection, confidence, and curiosity."

Send correspondence to:

Network

Sisters of Notre Dame

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024

www.sndusa.org

440.286.7101

On the cover: Lannie Davis-Frecker, CEO/President of Julie Billiard Schools, chats with a student.

A Day in the Life of JB

From an early age, JB kids learn how to organize their materials, write down homework, and prepare for the day. Visual guides in each classroom give students extra support. While each grade level has a slightly different academic schedule, most of the heavy academics like reading, writing, and math happen early in the day when students are at their most focused. Students take numerous “brain breaks” throughout the academic day, as JB intervention specialists have found that a short walk, a bounce on the trampoline, or a sensory break can keep students engaged.

During lessons, the two intervention specialists working with each grade collaboratively identify students who need one-on-one or small group support. Classes are often broken into small groups so students learn to work together. Students use Chromebooks, Activboards, and assistive technology to take quizzes and follow along with the class.

Students enjoy two recesses each day. JB’s unique model keeps each grade level with the same two teachers for seven full hours of intervention each day, including lessons, social activities, and even recess and lunch. “This helps to develop strong student-teacher relationships and allows our certified intervention specialists to determine how each student learns in order to guide them through not only academic work but also interpersonal skills,” Lannie says.

By late morning, social science or science classes might rotate into special areas like the Makers Space or Library. In the Library, students can choose books for quiet or group reading activities. Makers Space gives students a creative place to practice STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects. Intervention specialists make lessons as multi-sensory as possible. While students work in teams, intervention specialists move between groups to provide individualized attention. JB recognizes that academics can cause anxiety and

even meltdowns if students feel left in the dark. Teachers take a hand-in-hand approach to learning so that every child achieves success at his or her own pace.

For lunch, students join their classmates in the cafeteria. Students bring their lunches, except for a hot lunch provided by Julie Billiard Schools’ Parent Organizations approximately once a month. Once a week, JB holds Lunch Bunch, a time when our speech-language pathologists join students to practice conversation skills in a more generalized, real-world setting. Immediately after lunch, students enjoy another opportunity to expend energy. “All JB campuses have playgrounds designed for our kids,” reports Lannie. “During play, kids build lasting friendships and practice the social and emotional skills they learn throughout the day.”

Music therapy, art therapy and occupational therapy are on the agenda following lunch recess. “Depending on the day and the unique IEP needs of each child, students receive a variety of onsite therapies as part of their JB education,” says Lannie. “Our licensed

continued on page 4

“During play, kids build lasting friendships and practice the social and emotional skills they learn throughout the day.”

*— Lannie Davis-Frecker,
CEO/President of Julie Billiard Schools*





continued from page 3

art therapists deliver group classes and individual art therapy sessions. In music, students learn how to express themselves through sound and movement.”

The engaged CEO/President of JB Schools reports that, once a week, JB students participate in a prayer service, a soothing time to reflect on their actions, intentions, and prayers, and to hear that God loves them. Prayer services include songs and readings. Twice weekly, students enjoy a gym class customized to each grade level.

By 2:30, teachers and students prepare for dismissal. “They reiterate the skills practiced in the morning and throughout the day by making checklists, planning for the following day, and making sure they have their homework and belongings prepared. For little ones, this might take place as a teacher-guided song. Our older students have developed routines that guide them into high school and beyond,” Lannie explains with a smile. “Children stay in their classrooms until their names are called. They are individually walked out to their bus or car by a teacher, and they are safely checked out of school for the day.” Parents who desire more social interaction for their kids often opt for JB’s Aftercare which includes tabletop activities, snack time, homework support, and physical activity.

The JB Difference

What makes Julie Billiart School different from other schools? Here are a few quick facts:

- A focus on the whole child by addressing his or her academic, social, spiritual, and emotional needs.
- Individualized learning programs adapted to meet the unique needs of students, leading them to become successful learners.
- Intentional fostering of self-esteem and confidence to reduce fear, build trust, and encourage our students to take academic risks and work beyond their comfort levels.
- Onsite therapies to promote creative and engaging solutions delivered in a collaborative and consistent manner. These therapies are included as part of JB tuition and cut down on the amount of time our students and families need to spend traveling to and from therapy appointments outside of school hours.
- A curriculum centered around students to encourage academic, social, emotional, spiritual, behavioral, and physical growth and development.
- Teaching methods adapted to meet the needs of how each student best learns.
- Low student/teacher ratios (8:1 maximum), flexible learning environment, and onsite therapists (speech, occupational, music, art, behavior), which contribute to JB's ability to meet each student's unique learning needs.

- Intervention specialist licensing of the teachers, qualifying them in the special education field, as well as advanced professional education and experience in differentiated instruction and development of students' executive functioning.
- Sensory equipment (alternative seating options, standing desks, noise-reducing headphones) to assist students with posture, proprioceptive input, and sensory-processing disorders.

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“Parents who desire more social interaction for their kids often opt for JB’s Aftercare which includes tabletop activities, snack time, homework support, and physical activity.”

*– Lannie Davis-Frecker,
CEO/President of Julie Billiart Schools*



Sister Carol Geiger
walks with a student.

Conclusion

This unique teaching style is a direct example of a mission-driven, SND-sponsored ministry embracing the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

“What really sets our teaching staff apart from others is the unconditional compassion and understanding that they bring to the classroom every day,” insists Lannie. “Many describe their role at Julie Billiart Schools as a ‘calling’ rather than a job.” In 2020, Julie Billiart Schools were recognized as a Top Place to Work by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and a “School of Excellence” by the National Association of Special Education Teachers.

The passionate educator/administrator adds, “Oftentimes, we hear parents say, ‘I just want my child to have friends and be happy.’ A simple concept for most, but it can be quite challenging for many of our students. For this very reason, social thinking is an integral part of our curriculum.”

Sister Lisa Novak serves on the Julie Billiart Schools Board of Directors. She observes, “Julie Billiart is more than a school. It is a family and a feeling. Our

goal is to see every student thrive, today and into the future. One of our first teachers, Sister Mary François of the Sisters of Notre Dame, famously said, ‘If I can’t teach your child to read, I will change the way I teach.’ This attitude guides us today. Many of our kids go on to college and become doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists, and authors. Others become community advocates, church or community volunteers, food service workers, mothers, and fathers.”

“More importantly, they become empowered individuals who have learned their inherent worth and practice love, acceptance, and belonging in their daily lives,” reports Sister Lisa. “Just as every child is different, so too, is every path to success. At JB, we recognize and celebrate the fact that success looks different for every one of our kids.” †

4982 Clubside Rd. Lyndhurst, OH 44124
www.juliebilliartschools.org



“More importantly, they become empowered individuals who have learned their inherent worth and practice love, acceptance, and belonging in their daily lives.”

– Sister Lisa Novak, member,
Julie Billiart Schools Board
of Directors

A Lasting Tribute

May our deceased sisters rejoice in God's everlasting love.



Sister Mary Dolores Stanko, SND

(formerly Sister Mary Charles Ann)

October 8, 1932 – December 26, 2021

Dolores Anna Stanko was the first of two daughters born to Charles and Anna Sotak Stanko. Dolores attended St. Benedict School, Cleveland, where she first met the Sisters of Notre Dame. High school years at Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road meant opportunities to explore a wide range of

subjects, especially math and science in which she excelled.

"I wanted to be a Sister ever since I could remember," she wrote in her autobiography. The example and goodness of her teachers guided her to Notre Dame; she became a postulant on September 8, 1950. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary Charles Ann, in honor of her parents.

Sister Mary Dolores began undergraduate studies at Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio, and in 1954 was assigned to St. Peter High School, Cleveland. Over the next 26 years, she ministered at 10 different high schools in Chardon, Cleveland, Elyria, South Euclid, and Warren, all in Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Science

degree from Notre Dame College in 1961, and a Master's in Science from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana in 1965. Her background in chemistry led to a keen interest in photography; expertise in math brought her to the forefront of computer science. She used her skills in new assignments, first as an editorial assistant to a team of sisters who authored high school religion books, and then most notably as an assistant in the province secretarial office for 27 years.

Sister Mary Dolores was ahead of her time. In 1977 she was awarded a grant to introduce her students to environmental studies. Besides instructing the secretarial staff in computer technology, she joined the Northeast Ohio Apple Club, whose members affectionately nicknamed her "The Computing Nun." An avid gardener, her organic grow boxes yielded prize tomatoes, each displayed with a card indicating weight and circumference, and then served for supper at the salad bar. She learned Spanish, and spent a month with a family for an immersion experience in Mexico.

Her many gifts were freely shared with others, expressing God's grace and energy at work within. After several years of declining health, Sister Mary Dolores died peacefully on December 26, the Feast of the Holy Family.



Sister Ruth Mary Perl, SND

(formerly Sister Mary Judith Ann)

October 22, 1935 – December 29, 2021

Ruth Mary Perl was the youngest child of Leo and Mary Hohnneck Perl, and twin sister to Sister Rita Mary Perl, born in Massillon, Ohio. Of their nine children -- three boys and six girls -- God called four of the girls to religious life as Sisters of Notre Dame: Ruth, Rita, Sister Mary Paulanne (deceased) and Sister Mary Lawrence

(deceased). Ruth attended Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, as an aspirant. She became a postulant on February 2, 1953.

Sister Ruth Mary taught intermediate and junior high students for 36 years. Assignments included schools in Amherst, Avon, Chardon, Cleveland, Elyria, and Independence, all in the Cleveland diocese, as well as in Austintown, Canal Fulton, and Canton, in the diocese of Youngstown. Sister Ruth Mary earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from St. John

College, Cleveland in 1963, and a Master's in Education from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, in 1968.

She also ministered in schools in Arlington, Virginia, Washington, DC, and in Maitland and Winter Haven, Florida. After retiring from teaching, she spent a year at St. Gabriel School in Greenville, North Carolina, and 22 years at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Raleigh, where she served as receptionist and coordinator of the after-school program. Most recently, she volunteered at St. Helen School, Newbury, Ohio. Sister Ruth Mary had a heart for others: she sewed blankets for Project Linus, and shared her love of nature by gardening and arranging flowers for chapel. She sang in the choir, and served on many parish committees.

Upon her return to Ohio, she was happy to live with Sister Rita Mary once again, enjoying community activities and spending time with her large and loving family. She celebrated her 65th jubilee in October, just a few months before her unexpected death during the joyful Christmas season.

2022 Reunions

If any classes are planning reunions for 2022, please let the Alumnae Office know so we can pass on information when classmates inquire about them.

The Alumnae Office will be happy to furnish you with whatever information we have to get you connected with members of your class at rhsalum@reginahigh.com or 216-905-4851.

Regina Alumnae Retreat 2022

When: February 25 – 27, 2022

Where: Bethany Retreat Center at Notre Dame Center

Cost: \$60 which includes meals and materials plus a “good will” offering.

Each participant will have a private room.

Retreat will begin on February 25 at 7 p.m. and end on Sunday at noon.



This year Sr. Melannie Svoboda '62 will be the retreat director. A former teacher, she now writes, gives talks, and directs retreats internationally. To learn more about her, visit her blog at <https://melanniesvoboda@snd.org> titled **Sunflower Seeds**.

Reservations are due February 18, 2022.

More information will be following.



*Cosgrove Center serving Thanksgiving meals.
Tara Quinn '05, Erin Longville '99,
Sr. Eileen Quinlan '69 and Alexandra Quinn '07*

Regina Spirit

Sr. Eileen Quinlan '69 had a pleasant surprise while volunteering to help with meals the day before Thanksgiving at the Cosgrove Center in Cleveland. While there, she met three Regina graduates and former members of Clown Ministry: Erin Longville '99, Tara Quinn '05 and Alex Quinn '07.

Tara Quinn told Sister that they were carrying on a Thanksgiving tradition that started when they were members of Clown Ministry at Regina. The group would have different activities to make money to purchase food that they prepared and then served for the people at St. Philip Neri parish. When Regina closed, many of them continued to serve the meals there for the last 10 years. Tara said that they still come when their schedules allow them to, and many have gotten their friends involved. This year because of Covid, the program was moved to the Cosgrove Center. Sr. Eileen said that they had fun discovering the Regina connections and were very busy serving 140 people their meal.

The spirit of Regina's alumni continues to live on! We are sure that many more of you continue to serve others. Why don't you let us know?

Girls' Night Out

Girls' Night Out in October found 60 graduates eager to get out of the house and be with their friends. The class of '91 held their reunion there and the class of '76 did also. The class of '78 had a group come to have some fun together! We won't have the exact date for next year's event until January. If some classes would like to use that night for their reunion, it can be arranged. Hope to see you next year.



Class of '76



Class of '78



Class of '78 and '06



Class of '91



the Pulse

WINTER 2022



*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

INSIDE

We Remember

After the Storm

Sponsored Ministry Reflections

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
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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
careers.sndusa.org



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

After the Storm

Sisters help with Kentucky tornado relief

On the night of December 10, 2021, a storm cell engulfed the 7 square miles that make up Mayfield in western Kentucky. The cell unleashed an EF4 tornado that uprooted buildings, vehicles, and the lives of the 10,000 residents. Dozens did not survive the violent storm. Many who did survive were left with only the shirts on their backs and a feeling of helplessness as even access to clean water was hindered. From the rubble, though, small seedlings of hope took root as the hearts of fellow Kentuckians and people from around the world poured out for those impacted. Notre Dame Sisters Maria Francine and Anita Marie Stacy were among those whose hearts were touched and who assisted with outreach.

On December 14, Sr. Maria Francine Stacy, a Spanish teacher at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, KY, received a message from the Spanish National Honor Society. It was a request from Luran Young, an ESOL teacher in Mayfield schools, asking for translators at the tornado relief efforts.

After Srs. Maria Francine and Anita Marie offered their support, they wondered, “Can we stay overnight?” It is a five-hour drive to Mayfield from Northern Kentucky. Hotels, if any, would be occupied, principally by the families the Red Cross settled after their homes were destroyed. Looking at the map, there were few cities close to rural Mayfield, home to a large percentage of Spanish-speaking agricultural workers. About 50 minutes north of Mayfield is Eddyville. This rang a bell. The sisters knew of the city as Sr. Dolores Giblin and other sisters had stayed there when they did their yearly trip to the federal penitentiary. Now, this is what seemed

to be the work of the Spirit. Sr. Maria Francine found one church in Eddyville and called that Friday. The pastor said he had two rectories and they could stay overnight in one. A quick and perfect solution.

When the sisters arrived at Mayfield High School on December 20, they saw a gym that was completely rearranged. The bleachers held donated clothes: first row, women’s small, second row, women’s medium and so on. The floor of the gym had rows of tables with supplies, including food, water, and hygiene items. The superintendent, assistant superintendent, teachers and volunteers checked in people by recording names and addresses. All were allowed to take as much as they needed from the supplies.

The sisters arranged and replenished items until Luran called them to the middle school for the Christmas market. There Sr. Maria Francine helped Latino families go “Christmas shopping.”

Each child could fill a stocking and choose two stuffed animals, three books, a bike or scooter, a ball, and three crafts, and go to the gym for more toys.

Several children stood out to Sr. Maria Francine, who shared, “One girl’s face beamed as she refused to get off of her new bike! Even though she could go to other stations for presents, she was so happy to have a bike of her own.

“Another little girl had a new friend, a small doll, that she hugged so tightly we thought they would be glued together forever.”

Continued on next page

Sr. Anita Marie helped the families pack and carry the gifts. At the end of the line, the family could pick from a variety of gift cards.

Among the families was a woman with a tiny, precious baby. She was ushered into a side room and given diapers, clothes, a car seat, whatever was needed for the baby.

Sr. Anita Marie remarked, "I am sure the Christ Child was smiling down and saying, 'Look, Mom, this is the real spirit of Christmas – not giving just gifts, but personal time and generous love.'"



As more translators came to help in the middle school, Srs. Maria Francine and Anita Marie returned to the high school to translate at the Red Cross station. On the way, they were stopped while a team of utility workers put up an electric wire, something sorely needed in the area.

At the Red Cross station, people waited in a long line to report the damages their houses had sustained. Some of them the Red Cross might be able to help and others, not. It depended on the extent of the damage and if the dwelling was inhabitable or not.

In addition to the material donations, the Red Cross gave \$1,500 vouchers for those who qualified for immediate assistance. They also directed residents to federal aid.

Sr. Maria Francine noted, "The greatest need for everyone at the Red Cross station was water and electricity. Some people stayed in their homes without these necessities and expected to do so for at least three weeks."

As the sisters completed their service and Murray State University graduates arrived to help, Srs. Maria Francine and Anita Marie headed for home, reflecting on all they had seen.

Sr. Anita Marie said, "There were volunteers, particularly from the local community, who mobilized quickly and gave selflessly. Those who received help were extremely grateful. So many of those affected showed consideration for their neighbors and only took what they needed, not a surplus."

"Mayfield, a rather simple rural community, felt the eyes of the country upon them and hopefully felt its support," said Sr. Maria Francine. "The Red Cross volunteers were from Idaho, Arizona, D.C. and California. One group came from New York with truckloads of items. They committed to ten days, keeping them from their own families at Christmas."

This was not the Christmas that Mayfield had chosen, but there was a very real glimmer of the Christmas spirit in the hands and hearts that were open to help them. ■

We Remember



Marilyn Polley
SND Associate

11/29/1949 - 12/29/2021

Here and There

ON THE COVER

Main photo: Sr. Christa Marie Fox with Jan Turner, Assistant Healthcare Director

Left to right: Sr. Dennise Wagenlander prays for our partners' intentions; Sr. Carol Baglan on mail duty; Sr. Rita Geoppinger volunteers at the U.S.-Mexico border; Sr. Michyl Habermehl with Bishop John Iffert

100th 4th of July Festival
sndusa.org/festival

Lenten Retreats
sndusa.org/kyretreats

Pay It Forward Service Day
sndusa.org/payitforward

Keeping the spotlight on NSNO, we checked in with staff at the ministries originally sponsored by the former SND Covington Province. It is fascinating: These staff members did not see each other's submissions or consult with one another, yet common themes of personal ministry and community weave through all five reflections. We are grateful for their talents and contributions and are proud to highlight their experiences.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY (NDA) CAMPUS MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Working at NDA has really helped me to stay focused on what is important in life. I am guided by the 4 Educational Principles of the SNDs not only in my ministry, but I find myself turning to them in my personal life as well.

God has always played a central role in my life – but I find myself turning to “Our Good God” and recognizing His provident care playing out in the life of my family. And while most families talk about being made in God’s image – I find myself in discussions with my family about Human Dignity. That it is more than just recognizing God in them – but treating each and every person with respect, no matter their situation.

I am proud to be a part of the SND community – hearing about other SND ministries such as NDUEC, St. Charles and the mission school in Uganda makes me so happy. While I am not directly involved in those ministries, I feel a sense of joy hearing about how they, too, are positively impacting our community.



Park Hills, Kentucky



www.ndapandas.org

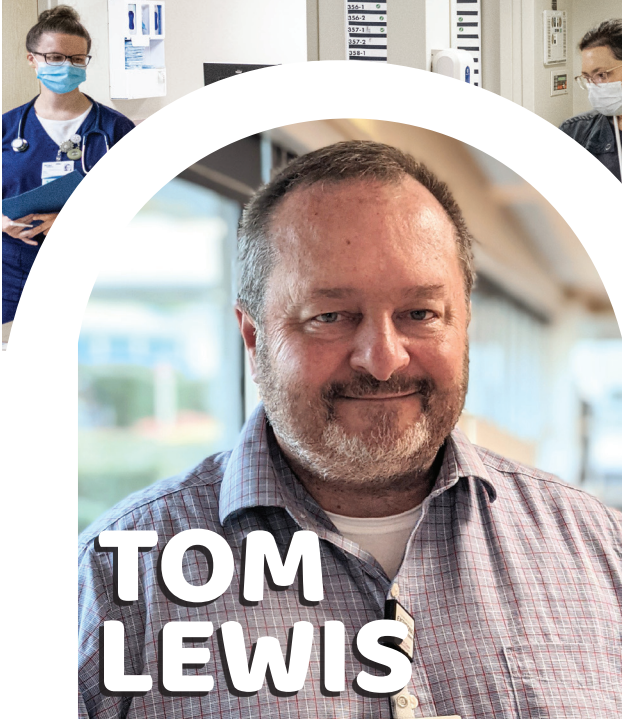
I love introducing our students to these other ministries and helping them to find ways of being involved – knowing that we are all connected through the Sisters of Notre Dame!

NDA is a unique high school where young women can learn and develop in an atmosphere that promotes dignity, faith, independence as well as the value of living and working in community. NDA encourages our students to push their boundaries, in service and academics, so that they can transform the world around them – during and after their high school days.

I see the students and faculty positively impacting the community through the service work that is completed each year. Our students are challenged to serve in the community as the “Hands and Feet of Christ”, helping to meet needs whether those are big or small. That is done through our monthly collections that help give food to the hungry, aid to those experiencing natural disasters, support to mothers and babies through diapers and other baby supplies, school supplies to students and so many more causes. I see that through the number of students who give of their time tutoring, volunteering at the hospital, volunteering in their parishes and serving at many of the local social service agencies.

I also believe that NDA impacts the community by providing a strong, well-rounded education to young women who will go out and transform our world and community no matter what path they take in life. ■





**TOM
LEWIS**

**ST. CLAIRE HEALTHCARE
FOUNDATION DIRECTOR**

Working at St. Claire has led me to rethink the way I look at ministry. Growing up in the Protestant church, I used to think of a minister as the preacher or someone in a full-time church position. Then I came to St. Claire, where our very mission is “to proclaim God’s goodness through a healing ministry to the people of eastern Kentucky.” As I pondered that, I realized that ministry at its core is attending to someone else’s needs. Ministry didn’t require a seminary degree or a church title. In fact, in my role and with my mission at St. Claire, I was in essence in “full-time ministry”. For me, that was a profound realization.

St. Claire is the only acute-care hospital in the country that’s sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, serving a population base that’s less than one percent Catholic. We continue to survive and thrive, even though we’re in the heart of one of the most economically distressed regions in not just Kentucky, but the entire nation. I challenge people to show me another hospital in a service region the same size and with the same economic conditions that’s providing 32 medical specialties. And I believe these things are possible because of the one constant since our doors opened in 1963, and that’s our mission. God has remained faithful to us as we have endeavored to remain faithful to our mission.

One of my favorite lines ever from a TV show was from Sister Monica Joan on *Call the Midwife*. She said, “The hands of the Almighty are so often to be found



Morehead, Kentucky

www.st-claire.org

at the ends of our own arms.” To me this is exemplified by the way the Sisters of Notre Dame have historically and consistently put their faith into action. They haven’t just supported ministries. Their hands have been actively involved in ministry. Whether it be teaching children and adults alike, providing holistic care to the sick and hurting, or extending help to the poor and marginalized, the Sisters of Notre Dame have been, by extension, the “hands of the Almighty” time and again. That example and servant leadership has set the tone here at St. Claire since the day our doors opened. I’m honored and humbled to work alongside, be affiliated with, and learn from such doers of the Word.

St. Claire positively impacts our community on a variety of levels. From a healthcare perspective, we are the largest rural integrated health system in northeast Kentucky. We offer 32 medical specialties, operate an acute-care hospital that serves as a regional referral center, have family medicine clinics in five counties in a largely underserved area, and provide an eight-county home health and hospice program. It isn’t uncommon for our home health and hospice staff in one year’s time to drive a million miles in just eight counties to care for people who can’t get to the hospital or doctor’s office. In all, we average about a half-million patient encounters a year. In Fiscal 2020, St. Claire provided nearly \$5.4 million in charity and uncompensated care, at cost. We have been a regional leader in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Economically, we are one of the two largest employers in our service region. We’re also active in grant-funded research, proactively addressing issues like Radon mitigation, colorectal cancer screenings, and fighting the opioid epidemic. And as much as possible, we strive to be an active partner in community and regional initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the people in our service area. At the center of all of these things is our mission. ■



NOTRE DAME URBAN EDUCATION CENTER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Working at an SND-sponsored ministry has profoundly impacted my life. The opportunity to help others has given me a broader perspective about life. The Sisters of Notre Dame welcomed my family and me with open arms, indicating that we are a part of the broader SND family.

After six months of employment at Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC), I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Leading up to my bilateral mastectomy, Sr. Maria Therese Schappert, NDUEC Executive Director, asked if I wanted to attend Mass at the Heights and receive the Anointing of the Sick. Receiving this sacrament was something I would never have considered without her encouragement. Not only was that Mass particularly moving, but it touched my life in a way that I will cherish forever. NDUEC embodies unconditional faith in action, which is driven by SND Catholic heritage. The support and care I receive from my colleagues continue to be unparalleled.

NDUEC is unique because it is the only known program in the area to provide consistent, individualized tutoring, homework assistance, and skill-building to early learners, elementary and middle school-age children. NDUEC relies on 90+ volunteers who generously give their time and talents to help our children achieve.



Covington, Kentucky

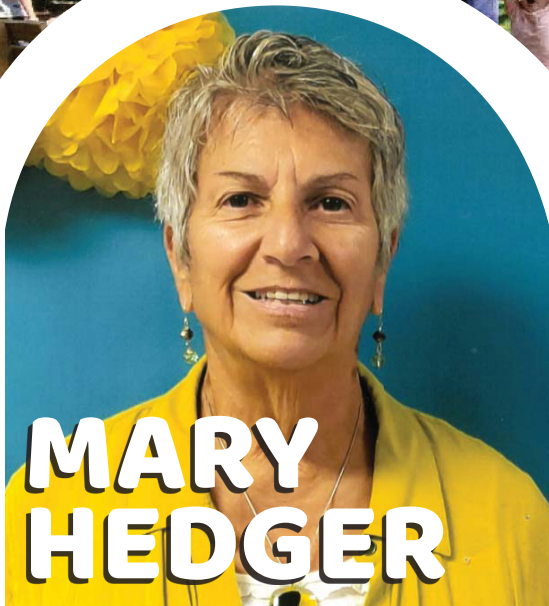
www.nduec.org

Volunteer tutors spend a minimum of one hour working with each child providing homework assistance, reading support, and educational skill-building activities. The use of volunteers as tutors and mentors sets us apart. This focused and consistent, individualized tutoring relationship allows children to establish a healthy bond with an adult role model, often developing into a mutually beneficial mentoring relationship.

Families of the children attending NDUEC are also provided with support, life-skills training, and coaching to improve their children's academic success more effectively. By promoting educational advancements and enhancing physical, mental, and social well-being, our students experience a measurable increase in grade promotion and visible signs of self-esteem. Furthermore, our programs give each child the personal academic success experience while reigniting their passion for learning.

The center plays a vital role in building healthy local communities by providing critical services that induce change. NDUEC is well known for serving the urban core of Northern Kentucky by offering collaborative programs that promote and support academic and value-oriented personal growth for children and their families.

Often, we are the voice of those we serve, and we are called to promote awareness of the educational disparities we encounter. For example, our Early Learning Program was created to boost kindergarten readiness because only 22.4% of Covington children are adequately prepared for kindergarten. NDUEC recognized a local need and then acted. Our programs play an essential role in creating a more equitable and prosperous community. They are specifically designed to extend our vision of awakening and supporting one's passion for life-long learning. ■



**MARY
HEDGER**

**JULIE LEARNING CENTER (JLC)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Providence brought me to JLC. I had recently retired from a 42-year career as a teacher and principal and received a phone call from Sr. Margene Koester, who mentioned that JLC was looking for someone to work with the SND preschool ministry, and would I please apply. I laughed and told her that 26 years of teaching junior high was as far removed from 4-year-old children as one can get. Still, I applied. Within about a week on site, I was engaged, energized, and definitely hooked. Being with the children, having the daily contact with the sisters who live in the same building, and working with our dedicated staff and volunteers are the best ways to enjoy this post-retirement career!

JLC is not an ordinary preschool. It's a place where the staff continuously work to create experiences that allow the children to understand their relationships and responsibilities as children of God. We stress the importance of taking care of each other, our families and our communities. Although the pandemic has temporarily curtailed this, we interact with the Lourdes Hall sisters, exposing them to the differences and unique needs of older people.

We use prayer and good works as a connection to our faith; we stress the importance of being good citizens, and we engage the students in their learning.



Park Hills, Kentucky



www.julielearningcenter.com

Whether it's feeding the fish in the pond, looking for insects among the flower gardens, sweeping the floors after lunch, or making mud pies, learning at JLC is active, inquisitive, and fun. Our staff members are amazing. They give so generously of their time, work to make sure the children have as many unique learning opportunities as they can, and they are committed to the well-being of our students.

The sisters and employees here go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and important to the community. Whether it's the sisters who encourage, thank, or invite us to be a part of what's happening, or the employees who answer our calls for everything from maintenance to requests for special items, the atmosphere is one of inclusion and appreciation.

For children this age, their communities are mostly defined as school and home. Judging from comments and interactions we witness, the children at JLC certainly seem to bring a smile or laugh to the St. Joseph Heights community. We invite the sisters to our events as they do to ours, and it's usually difficult to tell who's having more fun.

Within their families, parents tell us how much their children have absorbed about helping each other, showing empathy, and contributing to family responsibilities. Grandparents often remark that they are happy to see their grandchildren learning about their faith at such a young age, and they enjoy the events they are invited to throughout the year. ■



CAROLYN DREWS

ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AND MORE

I have been asked many times what makes St. Charles Community special and unique, and why I am so supportive of their mission of caring for the senior population. In part, it is because I have witnessed loving and compassionate care, residents who feel safe in their environment and employees who go out of their way to make others smile. I have also seen family and care givers comforted and reassured when making difficult decisions and always reminded to take care of themselves as well. I have experienced these testaments to St. Charles' ministry as a volunteer, retired employee after 16 years, and as a family member of two residents.

I began volunteering at St. Charles as a member of the "Charlie's Angels" in 2003 when my mother-in-law was a resident at the Lodge, and both of my daughters were employees during high school. Within a short time I joined the staff in Activities. I knew then that I had not just found a "job", but an extended family. I was honored when asked to step into the role as the Development Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. Raising funds and community awareness is never an easy job, but when you truly believe in the ministry of the Sisters of Notre Dame, it is a much easier task.

Almost 7 years ago my own mom became a resident at the Lodge. Like many seniors, she was never really going to be ready to leave her own home and give up some of her independence. But at 90 years of age, it was time. The lifestyle at the Lodge allowed her to keep her independence and remain safe with many of my fellow employees around to support her. Many times she relayed stories of kindness and compassion shown to her. This was especially appreciated during the Covid-19 shut down, as I was retired by then. I'm not sure the employees really know the impact they made on their residents and family members during this challenging time, but I hope they know how much they were and are still truly appreciated.

I continue to be a part of the St. Charles Community as a member of "Charlie's Angels". By staying connected through volunteering, I feel I remain a part of the broader Sisters of Notre Dame family. As volunteers, we continue to support the residents and entire staff as much as we can. We sincerely look forward to the day when we can really get back to spending time with our precious residents, whom we so fondly care about.

Through the new Senior Resource Center in Latonia, KY, St. Charles' ministry extends further into the community and beyond the levels of care provided for the seniors on campus. It is a perfect example of their commitment to all seniors, not just those residing at St. Charles. The Senior Resource Center is making an impact on the lives of seniors and their families through education, information and empowerment when making decisions regarding senior care for themselves or family members. ■



Covington, Kentucky

www.stcharlescommunity.org

For more updates from the Covington region, visit sndusa.org/regions/#Covington

VOL. XXVII NO. 2
WINTER 2022

Vision & Challenge

A publication of the Sisters of Notre Dame, California | One Heart • One Hope • One Mission

Congratulations to our Jubilarians





VOL. XXVII NO. 2
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SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

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Photography notes:

Pandemic restrictions were followed for all photography during that timeframe.

Please remember to recycle your copy after reading.

A Message from *Mission Advancement*

Dear Friends,

"I thought you were a teaching order..." This query from a donor invited me to explain the breadth of our mission and various ministries, both locally and around the world.

"Is this all there is?" I distinctly remember this query while conducting a phonics drill--as a first-year teacher, teaching first grade at St. Timothy's School in Los Angeles. Today's students are probably drilling phonics on video games!

These ideas create a backdrop for the contents of this issue of *Vision & Challenge*. To paraphrase our *Constitutions*, "Consecrated for mission...we serve people, especially those who experience poverty in its various forms, through education and other ministries.... We place special emphasis on spiritual development so that we may help others to grow in faith and confidence in God..."

Teaching is usually associated with classrooms. But as we adults learn how to benefit from Siri, Zoom and live-streamed liturgies, we realize that there is so much more to education. This publication highlights some of our educational and outreach ministries, and various forms of poverty we hope to alleviate—especially the spiritual poverty of those whose faith is weak.

So yes, we are a teaching order—with seemingly infinite opportunities to share our faith and confidence in God, and to work for the transformation of society. And no, although phonics is an important skill for young readers, it is not all there is!

To each of you who support us through prayer, encouragement, and financial resources, we trust that you will feel inspired by these pages. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and ask God to reward you for being part of our awesome mission!

Gratefully,

Sister Mary Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

Director of Mission Advancement Services



In a recent Zoom meeting, the needs of the East African missions and possible funding sources were discussed by (top row) Jen Coito, Sr. Lisa Megaffin, and Sr. Christine Syombua and (bottom row) Jodee McElfresh, Sr. Kellen Muthoni, Sr. Therese Marie Nabakka and Sr. Colette Theobald.

With Hearts as Wide as the Universe

This fall, Sr. M. Kristin Battles and Sr. M. Kathleen Burns made an extended visit home to California from Rome, Italy where they currently serve in leadership for the General Council. A Global Update and Reception was held in their honor, marking the first time that guests were invited to Notre Dame Center in over 18 months due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. They were joined by Sr. Mary Ann



Donna Howard, Sr. M. Kristin Battles, Sr. Patricia Beirne, RSM, and Sr. Suzanne Krawczyk, RSM were happy to see each other.

allow newer members from diverse backgrounds to communicate across cultures as well as within language groups in order to envision and build for the future of the congregation.



Michelle Bubnis (who traveled with her husband Charlie from Texas) chats with Sr. M. Kathleen Burns.

Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, East Asia, and Indonesia), Brazil, and India.

Recently Sr. Kathleen and her team received a grant to provide tablets for each novice that could be loaded with the resources needed for the coursework. In Bataan there is no internet access, so the formator is limited to what she has in the house. Delivering tablets loaded with all the resources and documents needed was a huge help. In addition, the sisters in the international novitiates spend time learning English or increasing their language skills. Sr. Kathleen has been able to curate content, modify verbiage to make it more accessible for sisters whose first language is not English, and ensure greater consistency in the contents of the SND formation programs around the world.

Attendees, both virtual and in-person, were inspired by the many ways that the congregation is growing around the world.

The full presentation is available at sndusa.org/globalupdate

(Right) Sr. Kristin toured an HIV Center sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

What is the Global Missions Fund?

The Sisters of Notre Dame are present in 17 countries around the world. There are nearly 1,700 sisters spreading the Gospel in a variety of ways. In particular, Global Missions supports the education of sisters and their ministries in East Africa (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania), India, and Papua New Guinea. These are just a few of the ways your gift makes a difference.

EAST AFRICA

The missionary focus in East Africa (Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya) is to educate impoverished children and teach women skills that empower their lives. In addition to our work in Uganda, SNDs in East Africa are ministering to the semi-nomadic Maasai people and establishing an international novitiate to form the newest SNDs joining the community in East Africa.

INDIA

Originally a mission of the Chardon Province, there are now more than 300 Indian Sisters of Notre Dame who serve in schools and medical centers. Four SND doctors and more than 25 SND nurses minister in areas of India where hospitals are hours away. They also minister in a leper colony, a prison, and a program for the eradication of tuberculosis.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

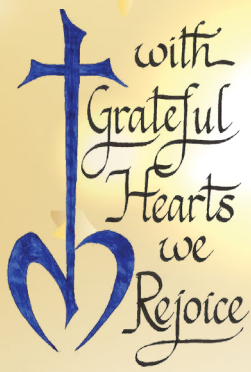
Sisters are involved in ministries of education and catechesis, pastoral care of AIDS patients, vocation awareness programs, and women's empowerment. Sr. Rose Bernard Groth received the Logohu Medal from the Australian Government in recognition of her incredible work in education and pastoral care for those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Your gift supports the day to day needs in these countries, and empowers sisters to be leaders in their communities.

LEARN MORE:

[SNDUSA.ORG/MINISTRIES/#GLOBALMISSIONS](https://sndusa.org/ministries/#GLOBALMISSIONS)





On Saturday, Oct. 1 nine Sisters of Notre Dame celebrated 410 years of consecrated life at a festive liturgy in St. Julie Billiart Church. A reception followed at La Reina High School & Middle School.

Sr. Rebekah Kennedy opened the liturgy with these words in a Call to Worship:

If you listen carefully to today's Scripture readings, you will hear about two things that most women, I believe, are interested in—clothing and jewels, specifically a mantle and a pearl. Now it is not that the women who are celebrating 40, 50, 60 and 70 years of jubilee are not thankful for these things, but over our many years in mission to the Church we have been gifted with clothes and jewels that don't have a price tag and are not on display in Tiffany's windows. We, the jubilarians, have welcomed the call to be clothed with the mantle of religious consecration in serving all God's people whether in a classroom, a parish office, on an airplane, in a coffee shop, in a soup kitchen, in a family gathering or even on a Zoom call!

And we are grateful that you, our family, friends, and religious community have joined us today because for us, you are that pearl of great price, that treasure in the field that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel. So please pray, sing, and rejoice with us today!

And these are highlights from their grateful hearts...

Sr. M. Deborah Giles | 40 Years



Who is your favorite saint or inspirational person, and why?
Mohandas K. Gandhi—he lived the Gospel.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your life journey? What made that person a good mentor?

Sr. Fredricka Marie Kollsmith was my (very young!) 8th grade teacher and has always been one to encourage me, challenge my thinking and tell me the things I need to hear whether I want to hear them or not!

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you?
Someone with 3 severe mental illnesses, on maintenance

therapy, told me she tried to live a trinitarian life: to know the Father's will, to be a more active member of the Mystical Body of Christ and to be ever responsive to the promptings of the Spirit. I was so touched by this person's faith, patience with the burden of mental illness and profound spiritual practice. This person lives in my memory as a gift of God.

Sr. M. Frances Wahl | 40 years



Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your life journey? What made that person a good mentor? Sr. Mary Ann Hanson is a special companion to me. She lives out her love and concern for others, is prayerful, supportive, a good listener, and she loves Notre Dame!

Briefly describe your vocation story.

• Relational • Love • Service • Eucharistic • Gospel • Other-centered

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you?

Meaningful experiences really vary! I find it so powerful to be on retreat with young people and share my love of the Lord with them. So often it is something they haven't experienced on a deep level.

I also find great meaning in sharing the scriptures with participants in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Most of the time I am unaware of how meaningful the sharing was until later when they come to me and tell me that they heard something the Lord wanted them to hear. It is when I share and get out of the way of the Lord that his mission can be accomplished. It is not about me, it is about the Lord.

Sr. Mary Amy Hauck | 50 Years



Briefly describe your vocation story. A homing instinct, a knocking on my heart's door

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your life journey? What made that person a good mentor? My most significant mentor was our novice

directress, Sr. Mary Damien May. Through her instructions I really learned how to "navigate" in Notre Dame. Her goodness, as well as her integrity, continues to inspire me.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you?

That would be when I was provincial superior. Sr. Mary Margaret Droege of Kentucky and I explored the feasibility of opening a foundation in Uganda. We traveled extensively and finally came to the little village of Buseesa. Welcomed by the entire village with song and dance, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. I knew from that moment that the Buseesa mission would become a reality. It was for me a deep experience of God's care for this future foundation and especially, the villagers.

Sr. M. Domnic Jones | 50 Years



Who is your favorite saint or inspirational person, and why?

I have loved St. Dominic since junior high. I so appreciate his devotion to Mary, his personal care for his community members, and his willingness to sell his personal possessions to give to the poor and enslaved.

Briefly describe your vocation story.

• Call • Response • Struggle • Prayer • Perseverance • Peace

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you?

The two years I worked with mentally challenged women at Marian Homes in Walnut and Anaheim were particularly meaningful. Some of the residents needed a lot of help with personal care, several had jobs, while some went to special needs day care programs. Their challenges were varied, including Downs Syndrome, schizophrenia, scoliosis and legal blindness. Everyone from the three group homes gathered for monthly birthday parties. The most popular house had a pool—so I had to take a lifeguard class! Overall, the residents' simple approach to life taught me what is most important.



Many of the SND Associates from the California region attended the jubilee.

Sr. M. Rebekah Kennedy | 50 Years



Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your life journey? What made that person a good mentor?

Sr. LaReina Kelly was not only a good friend but a good educational leadership model for me. When I was a junior high teacher and she was principal, she would ask me to

do some pretty crazy (I thought) art projects for the junior high students, like papier mache African masks and bowls of fruit! But we did those things and loved them!

Briefly describe your vocation story.

• Parents • Ohio • Route 66 • South Gate • St. Helen's

Who is your favorite saint or inspirational person, and why?

St. Oscar Romero is an example of a cleric who examined his life of privilege and chose to be one with the poor and persecuted.

How has your spirituality changed over the years?

My approach to Mary has changed. I grew up picturing the young teenager saying yes to God and giving birth. Now I choose to relate to the mature Mary who remained dedicated to her Jewish faith but was able to allow her faith in her Messiah Son to grow.

Sr. M. Joan Schlotfeldt | 50 Years



Briefly describe your vocation story.

I felt a conviction that God was calling me, and I wanted to respond.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your life journey? What made that person a good mentor?

When

I was a student at Notre Dame Academy, Sr. Marilyn Palenchar was the first person to ask me if I ever thought of being a Sister of Notre Dame. Over the years, I experienced her prayer, encouragement and support. Later, when she was my principal at Notre Dame Academy, she mentored me as a beginning teacher.

Who is your favorite saint or inspirational person, and why?

One favorite inspirational person is Pierre Teilhard de Chardin because he combined a profound spirituality with a deep knowledge of the magnificent cosmos created by God.

Sr. M. Joanne Wittenburg | 60 Years



Who is your favorite saint or inspirational person, and why?

That person is St. Therese of Lisieux. The more I have read about her life as a Carmelite, I have come to realize that many of the challenges she faced are similar to those I experience. I have found it very helpful to

understand and pray over how she handled them.

What do you love most about being an SND? As we say in our renewal of vows, “the love and support of my sisters” means a lot to me. There have been times when most of the sisters have been away from our community, and there were only two or three of us home. Although I may have been doing something by myself, I always knew there was someone else there.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you?

In 1998-1999, I spent a year in Ukraine teaching at the Theological Academy and Seminary in Lviv. It was my first experience living in a foreign country and worshipping in an Eastern Catholic Rite. The people had only been free to practice their faith openly for about 10 years. Particularly among the young adults, there was a great enthusiasm for all things religious. It certainly made me appreciate my own faith, and especially my religious life.

Sr. M. Antonine Manning | 70 Years



What was one particularly meaningful experience you had in your ministry, and why was it meaningful to you? As a young sister I wondered if I would ever

get to visit Rome where our Motherhouse and Generalate is located. Well, when I was 50 years old I got my wish. I was called to

be the English-speaking secretary at the General Chapter of 1980. The meeting lasted about a month with work sessions Monday through Friday. This left the weekends for sight-seeing: St. Peter's, the major churches, the Colosseum, the catacombs and more.

I even returned to Rome for a formators' meeting some years later. A group of about 20 sisters from various provinces visited countries associated with our congregational history--Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and France.

All of these trips strengthened my faith immensely as well as my gratitude for my vocation to the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Congratulations to our 2022 Jubilarians

Sr. Florette Marie Adams, Sr. Betty Mae Bienlein, Sr. Kathleen Burns, Sr. Ann Carla Costello, Sr. Marie Paul Grech, Sr. Judeen Julier, Sr. Jolisa Lazaro, Sr. Regina Robbins, Sr. Joann Schlarbaum, Sr. Karlynn Werth

Laird Wilson: Gospel witness par excellence

To say that Laird Wilson has been a Gospel witness at La Reina High School & Middle School is a gross understatement. As an alumna parent, energetic volunteer, founding trustee, and Plant Manager since 2007, Laird touched thousands of lives before his recent retirement.

At his retirement celebration, Laird commented “La Reina is a college prep school. But in my world, CP stands for commitment and passion. Commitment is a state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity. Passion is a strong and barely controllable emotion. I strongly believe that those two things

are intertwined...our graduates clearly understand you must be committed to something and that you need to make it a passion. I hope that I have been able to model this and that my actions have spoken louder than any words I might say.”

Laird has also been a partner with the SNDs at Notre Dame Center. Whether it was giving advice during a plumbing crisis or facilitating SND activities such as jubilee receptions or the Nun Run, Laird's commitment and passion made an incredible difference.

Thank you, Laird!



Laird Wilson receives the standing ovation of the La Reina staff and students.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Dear Sisters,

...WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Since 1946, the Sisters of Notre Dame and many lay colleagues have provided a Catholic environment of educational excellence at Notre Dame Academy Elementary School in Los Angeles. A celebration of this anniversary was held on Sunday, September 12 and Lilliam Paetzold, an alumna and current President of Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles summarized it quite simply—NDA is in our DNA! Each SND received a sunflower, a congregational symbol inspired by St. Julie Billiart, with a personal message of gratitude from a current student. Their words reveal the lived reality of the SND educational vision, and its impact on generations of students.

"We still have many traditions like singing our school song after every Mass, making sandwiches (for those in need) on Founders' Day, and praying to St. Julie every day. Notre Dame has helped me become a leader." ~**Taline**

"I have grown in my faith even though I am Coptic Orthodox. I learn a lot from your religion books... I am forever grateful." ~**Piskoy**

"Without this school, I wouldn't have grown in a better relationship with God and my friends. Thank you!" ~**DYLIN**

"I really don't deserve your incredible kindness. Keep doing what you are doing. I bet God is very proud." ~**Morgan**

"I've attended this school since 4th grade and I have had a blast.... Your school taught me to be responsible, innovative and an effective learner..." ~**Kamran**

"NDA has helped me to grow in virtues and taught me how I can lead others, as you did!" ~**Sanna**

"Every morning I always tell myself how grateful I am to be in this beautiful school...The school you've built for me and my peers really shows me what faith can do and how faith can inspire others to love." ~**Valextino**

"I've learned how to be an academically prepared student... and not procrastinate." ~**Kelsey**

"Now when I'm struggling, I don't just have my parents and teachers to go to, I know I have God." ~**ANMOL**

"NDA showed me that as long as we have God, anything is possible. Thank you so much!" ~**Andrena**

"Before me, my aunt and sister went to this school, they loved it very much. Thank you for bringing this school into my family." ~**Emerson**

"Thank you for building this school for me, my sisters, and my 3 alum cousins!" ~**Brena**

"My mom went to NDA, both the elementary and the high school, and is the reason I am here.... I am so blessed to be at this school." ~**Nessa**

"This school will always have a place in my heart. Thank you for 75 years of amazing service!" ~**Christian**

"You made this school possible. Specifically, the school you built helped me grow in leadership, empathy, kindness, religion, and responsibility." ~**Tessa**

"NDA has helped me become a morally responsible citizen." ~**Kyle**

"Thank you for keeping us safe... for giving me and every other student a caring and nonjudgmental environment to work in..." ~**Jacob**

"I love everything about NDA: the gorgeous campus, the exceptional teachers, and the warm welcome I received from my classmates. Without NDA, I don't think I could've achieved the level of happiness that I've reached at this moment. I am forever grateful..." ~**Camilla**

"I feel that NDA has made me become a way better person. For that reason, again, I thank you Sisters of Notre Dame." ~**Jonathan**

"...Back in the 70's, my father grew up in Cleveland (Ohio). He attended Catholic school all his life. Every year we visited Chardon for Christmas Mass. Now in Los Angeles, I follow in his footsteps. School was hard at my old school. I was born as a left-handed person so school wasn't really made for me. I joined NDA in 5th grade and the teachers have showed me that I can still succeed. So thank you." ~**Fletche**



Celebrating the 75th anniversary were (from the bottom) Sr. Julie Marie Arriaga, Sr. M. Joann Schlarbaum, Sr. M. Luellen Boeglin, Lilliam Paetzold, Sr. M. Judeen Julier, Sr. M. Rebekah Kennedy, Sr. M. Jolisa Lazaro and Sr. M. Frances Wahl.

The Grapevine

LA REINA CLASS RETREATS



Notre Dame Center hosted class retreats for La Reina's 6th, 7th, and 10th graders this fall. The students spent time in the chapel journaling,

praying, and experiencing Eucharistic Adoration. Many reported how much they liked this quiet, peaceful time before the Blessed Sacrament. Sr. Regina Robbins, Dean of Mission, shared that for many students the opportunity to come to the SND convent was a special experience in itself. All of the class retreats are designed to instill a "sense of the sacred and search for transcendence that leads to a deeper meaning in life"—a practical example of the Notre Dame Educational Principles.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Through the recognition of the presence of God in each person and respectful listening, whatever separates us dissolves and a welcoming environment emerges. NDA provides curriculum, programs, opportunities and professional education that highlight the dignity of each person and respond to the needs of our time. By remaining true to our Catholic faith and to the educational principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame, our community is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These recent programs have put words into action.

The Black Student Union was inaugurated in 2021. BSU leaders created a series of videos called the "Black History NOW" moments that shared inspiring and educational messages centered on figures in the Black community. These were highlighted on the school's social media (and shared to the SND California Facebook page).

The Asian Pacific Island Desi American (APIDA) affinity group led an engaging session entitled "Colorism versus Racism in the Media" at the Media Inquiry Symposium. During Filipino American heritage month, the group presented the history and accomplishments of Filipino Americans within the arts, entertainment and political sectors.

The Latin American Hispanic Student Organization (LAHSO) hosted an information night for first-generation college bound students. Topics included college applications and financial aid. NDA Alumna, Cristina Cuellar '00 also shared her personal experience as a first-generation college student.

ST. PIUS X-ST. MATTHIAS ACADEMY

"Preparing Young People for College, Careers, and Heaven"

Throughout the pandemic, St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy became the stable source of the living Gospel and formation of mind, body, and soul for its students. Facing the difficulties of isolation for thirteen months, Campus Ministry took every opportunity to connect students virtually through prayer services and retreats. They safely gathered in the presence of God at drive-in Masses and outdoor Eucharistic Adoration services. "Through innovation, leadership, and dedication, the faculty and staff prepared young people for college, career, and Heaven," according to President Dr. Christian DeLarkin.

FUN FACT: 17 California SNDs attended either St. Matthias or St. Pius X High Schools. Today, St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy is an SND Affiliated School.



CONDOLENCES

The Sisters of Notre Dame offer their sympathy to the families of

Mrs. Leonor Casas
SND Associate

Mrs. Martha Huggins
SND Associate

Mrs. Oi Sue Leung
mother of Sr. M. Grace Leung

Mr. Frank Wahl
father of Sr. M. Frances Wahl

REMEMBERING

SR. MARY BERNADETTE PENDOLA



Born in 1945 in Richmond, California, Sr. Bernadette was the only daughter of Charles and Mary Dilena Pendola. Influenced by the SNDs in her schooling, she entered the community in February, 1963 and professed her first vows in 1965.

Although Sr. Bernadette spent 24 years as an educator, her passion was caring for the sick, and she eventually became a licensed vocational nurse. Her long-time dream to serve in a mission came true in 2000 when she was assigned to the dispensary in Jamalpur, India. Later, she ministered as the school nurse at St. Julie School in Buseesa, Uganda.

After an obituary was posted online, the SNDs received several testimonials, including memories of her former Ugandan students. Norbert Mwesige wrote:

"We have lost a great instrument indeed. I am one of the pioneer students at St Julie Model Primary School in Buseesa who has ever felt how her services were so great and caring. She loved her work and she always encouraged and motivated all persons of all ages. May the almighty grant her happiness with the angels in heaven. I will miss you always, Sister."

Her life of consecration and service was the lived reality of her personal mission statement.

"God is my good Father, in Whom I trust, and to Whom I abandon all. God is Jesus, my Lord and companion. I love Him and His mission and am willing to risk everything for it. God is Holy Spirit, Who makes all things new, and in His light, brings rebirth."

May she rest in peace.

PLANNED GIVING

By including the Sisters of Notre Dame in your estate plan, you will invest in the ongoing spiritual, educational and charitable outreach of our congregation. Our legal title is "The Sisters of Notre Dame" and our federal tax identification number is 85-2630127. And many thanks to those who have already chosen this enduring form of partnership.

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS

A Family Tradition



Megan (Sochacki) Cordes 05' with daughter Piper, mother Paula (Tietjen) Sochacki 75' and her late grandmother.

Spread warmth through kindness

As we long for warmer days amid this cold winter, let us remember we can spread warmth through kindness. A smile, a hug, a prayer can brighten even the grayest of winter days.

In this issue we feature a story that certainly warms our hearts. A local family shares how SND-sponsored institutions have touched their lives for generations and have become a family tradition. As you read the next few pages you will also meet Pam Edgell, a teacher at NDA and long-time friend of the sisters. We bid farewell to three sisters who have gone home to be with Jesus and announce some upcoming regional events.

This edition of Crossroads also allows me the opportunity to introduce you to our new Mission Advancement Director, Kerri Rose-Rochelle. Kerri comes to us with more than 20 years of career experience in the non-profit sector. Having worked for organizations such as the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association in development and public relations, she brings new ideas that will help our Mission Advancement Department evolve to support SND USA while also maintaining our local impact and relationships. Kerri hails from Kalida, OH, but now resides with her family in Swanton, OH where they belong to St. Richard Parish. We have enjoyed getting to know Kerri the past few months and have been blessed to meet her husband, Mike, and their three daughters as well.

The Sisters of Notre Dame thank you for your support and generosity and continue to pray that you feel the warmth and peace of God's provident love as we patiently await spring.

Sincerely,

SISTER CAROL GREGORY
Advisor, Mission Advancement

TOLEDO REGION ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT



KERRI ROSE-ROCHELLE
Mission Advancement Director



SR. MARY CAROL GREGORY, SND
Advancement Team Advisor



SR. SALLY MARIE BOHNETT, SND
Donor Relations/Grant Writing



ERICA TYBURSKI
Advancement & Communications
Coordinator

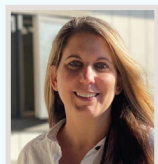
SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME TOLEDO REGION

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SNDUSA.org

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS TOLEDO REGION

Maria Early Learning Center

Maria Early Learning Center, a sponsored ministry of the sisters of Notre Dame, is an educational learning center. The sisters and their collaborators have been providing quality child care and learning experiences for infants through prekindergarten children since 1990.



Lisa Nowak
Director

MARIAELC.ORG

Lial Catholic School

Lial Catholic School, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, provides a caring community infused with Gospel values centered on the formation of the whole child. United with parents, Lial is committed to academic excellence and the development of necessary life skills allowing each child to use his or her unique God-given gifts to serve.



Lynn Cherry
Head of School

LIALSCHOOL.ORG

Notre Dame Academy & Junior Academy

Notre Dame Academy and Notre Dame Jr. Academy, a Catholic college preparatory school for young women, educates in the tradition, vision, and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame. NDA empowers students to be intellectually curious, passionately faith-filled, and socially responsible servant leaders.



Kim Grilliot
President

NDA.ORG

A family tradition worth keeping

BY SR. VALERIE SCHNEIDER

Eyeing the basket, only a second left in the game against City League rival Scott High School, sophomore Megan Sochacki aimed from half-court. A hope-filled prayer in her heart, believing in Coach Ray Strassner's faith in her, she watched breathlessly. Was the ball too far left? Too low? Megan's off-balance stance raced doubt through her heart. The game's outcome hung inches above the rim. Could it be? Could it be? Finally, whoosh! Nothing but net! The Notre Dame Academy Eagles had just claimed first place and remained the only unbeaten team in the City League during the 2002 season.

An alumna of Notre Dame Academy since 2005, Megan (Sochacki) Cordes enjoys reminiscing with her mother Paula ('75) and aunts Lisa ('79), Heidi ('81), and Andrea ('84)—the Tietjen girls, all alumnae of Notre Dame Academy. Megan claims "It's fun reminiscing about my 18 years with Notre Dame schools—Maria Early Learning Center (MELC), Ladyfield and Notre Dame Academy—and now to have sent my own children to MELC." Realizing the influence of the Sisters of Notre Dame on her life and thankful for the opportunities Notre Dame schools provided, Megan knows that the Notre Dame halls of learning are a family tradition worth keeping.

The tradition began in 1961 when Megan's mother, Paula (Tietjen) Sochacki, attended Ladyfield school for nine years. Paula writes: "Sister Julie Marie Bosch, formerly Sister Mary Dona, was our principal. I had great teachers for each of my classes. I remember fondly my kindergarten teacher Sister Mary Samuel Hohler. As she seated us on the burgundy and gold clock carpet,

I felt her kind soul. Second grade was a memorable year when Sister Mary Beatrice Ann Furlong prepared us for First Confession and First Holy Communion. We had our photo taken on the steps of the school. Back then I felt so pretty—holy, too—in my new white shoes and dress. Later I admired my upper grade teachers for their great rapport with us pre-teens. Does anyone remember the little piggy banks to help the missions? Everyone loved the Mission Fairs to support the Sisters of Notre Dame mission in Papua New Guinea. And I will never forget the Brown Jug tournaments. I finally got to play in seventh and eighth grade. It was so-o-o much fun!"

"I am so glad my children, Nick and Megan, had this core beginning to their education for nine years at Ladyfield."

Paula recalls that her parents were very active in Ladyfield School, and all her siblings attended there. No wonder Paula and her husband Ralph sent their children there as well. "It was a great education, and I have many fond memories. I am so glad my children, Nick and Megan, had this core beginning to their education for nine years at Ladyfield." (Actually Nick, born in February 1990, was the first on the list of prospective students when the opening of Maria Early Learning Center was announced.)

Paula's daughter Megan shares the same feelings about Ladyfield. She, too, played in the Brown Jug tournament, selecting the team's name and designing a t-shirt for the "Predators." Megan can quickly name each of her Ladyfield teachers and principals: Sisters Ann-Marie Borgess, Anton Peresta, Colleen Cousino, Mary Jo Szpila, Carolyn Schaffer and Pamela Buganski whom

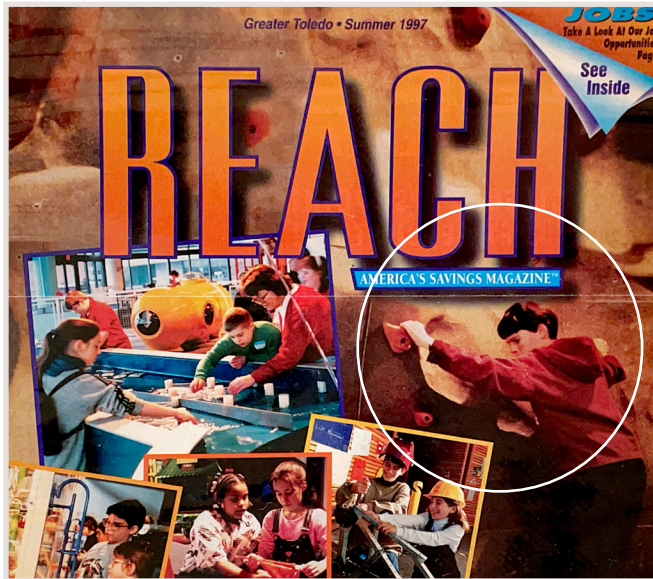


MEGAN'S 8TH GRADE GRADUATION



MEGAN'S CHILDREN PATRICK AND PIPER

“Notre Dame institutions provide the gar



MEGAN THE ROCK CLIMBER

she “absolutely loved.” Just as quickly Megan can name the exciting educational experiences: pen pals with students at St. Joseph School in Sylvania, tracking the Iditarod and voting for the mushers, capturing caterpillars and releasing butterflies, raising chicks, eighth grade class trip to Toronto, studying the Egyptians and making hieroglyphics, and dissecting fish at Stone Laboratory. When COSI opened in Megan’s fourth-grade year, her class was the first class to visit the building. Photographers from the national REACH magazine were on hand, and Megan became the “cover-girl” for the magazine as she climbed the rock wall at COSI.

Megan had plenty of opportunities at Ladyfield to use her athletic and musical abilities. She played soccer and basketball, ran cross country, played in the handbell choir, sang at school Masses, served as an altar server, and took piano lessons from Sister Marie Joyce Dettinger from grades one through eight. Educational opportunities abounded: speech team, broadcast club, Scoop newspaper



LINK CREW MENTORING PROGRAM

staff. At eighth grade gradation Megan was the recipient of the Woman of Service Award given by Sister Mary Carol Gregory, along with other scholarships.

Although quite athletic and theatrical, Megan found her greatest elementary school happiness in service and religious events. Making her First Holy Communion in second grade marked a very special time in her faith formation, and she recalls the priest was the uncle of a classmate that flew in from Hawaii. As a seventh grader she relished the times she mentored the preschoolers. She loved the weekly walks down the sidewalk to the Provincial Center where she felt mesmerized by the stunning stained glass and marble in the chapel. A few years later she would watch sadly as Ladyfield was razed, along with the grotto and Way of the Cross.

Like mother, like daughter. Paula (mother) and Megan (daughter) both attended Notre Dame Academy for high school. Paula graduated in 1975 when Sister Mary Patricia Snyder was principal. Thirty years later Megan graduated with the same “strong faith-based education” when Kim Grilliot was principal. Perhaps the most outstanding experience at NDA was being a member of the very first Link Crew, a mentor program for freshmen created in 2004-2005 that continues today. Unforgettable and very formative were the Kairos retreats. (Megan still has her folders with retreat notes from 2003-2005.) And the biology class! “Sister Bonita Sniegowski was so much fun! What other teacher would talk about the new TV show CSI?”

So many graduates of the Notre Dame-sponsored institutions claim their schools ensured their future happiness and success. Such is the case for Paula and Megan.

ame-winning point.”



(LEFT TO RIGHT) MEGAN '05 WITH DAUGHTER PIPER AND MOTHER PAULA '75



MEGAN #22 LADYFIELD BASKETBALL TEAM

Today Megan coaches CYO cross country, basketball and soccer. In her Christ the King Parish she sings in the choir, presides at Pastoral Council meetings and is a Eucharistic minister. Her greatest happiness, though, lies in her family where the tradition of Notre Dame-sponsored institutions continues. Her children Piper and Patrick both attended MELC. (When interviewed for this article, Patrick demonstrated the confidence that MELC's caring love and education provide.) His mother attested the nurturing spirit of the Maria community, citing it's the same sense of community which she experienced at MELC, Ladyfield and Notre Dame Academy— "a family that continues throughout the years."

The Tietjen and Cordes families claim that they all "grew up with the Sisters of Notre Dame." Megan's grandparents, Marcia and Henry

"Ladyfield and Notre Dame Academy – A family that continues throughout the years."

Tietjen, were very good friends of the Sisters. Through several generations, parents believed in Notre Dame education and sacrificed for their children to receive a "top notch" education.

For Megan it was "nothing but net." For generations, Notre Dame institutions have been nothing but student-centered, faith-based, high quality educational approaches to learning in a family-oriented environment. Someday Piper Cordes (age nine) will feel as so many

graduates have felt: I'm empowered, I'm transformed. By then NDA will continue to keep pace with the 21st century, but the ND values will feel as familiar as the 2021 structural updates to Notre Dame Academy, the 1960 move to Sylvania Avenue from Bancroft, the half-century of family-modeled education at Lial Catholic School in Whitehouse, the 1990 opening of MELC—each school built upon the founding charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame begun in 1850.

Notre Dame institutions provide the game-winning point. They're a family tradition worth keeping.



One Minute with Pam Edgell

How did you meet the Sisters of Notre Dame?

I didn't know them until I was a freshman at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. That was in 1969 and I graduated in 1973. All through my high school, the majority of my teachers were sisters.

Why did you choose to go to NDA?

My mother really influenced me. She felt that Notre Dame would be the best place for me.

How would you characterize this spirit?

Faith-filled, caring, giving, charismatic. The sister's spirit is there and very vibrant. The sisters over the years have branched out into different areas but mentoring and teaching are still strong. I know them as teachers and very much as mentors.

You graduated from Notre Dame Academy and then went to the University of Toledo?

Yes, I earned a teaching degree in Phys Ed and Health, a double major. I also took a multitude of classes to be certified, K-12. I also coached NDA basketball intramurals during college so I kept my NDA connection.

So did you teach right away at NDA?

I did. Teaching jobs were really hard to come by back then. One of my professors kept telling us, "No one is going to offer you a job! Don't plan on staying in Toledo. You are going to have to expand." But, I got a call from Sister Mary Patricia Snyder who was the principal at the time. The phys ed teacher was going on maternity leave. She asked if I could teach that next year. I said, "Yes!" As spring approached that year,

I knew I needed to start the job search. But as it happened, the teacher's husband got transferred to Columbus. She left and I am still here!

What's the best advice you have received?

I don't know so much as advice but as role models. The Sisters are such great mentors. I have a big affection for Sister Patricia; she had a very calm leadership. She led the school so well. I had her as my principal and then as a colleague. Sister Mary Carol Gregory, the assistant principal and then principal, was also a role model. I remember especially when I was inducted into the City League Hall of Fame as a coach and Athletic Director in 2010. You had to give a speech. Sister Carol advised, a calm approach in preparing – don't jump to conclusions, weigh everything said carefully.

In your ministry of teaching, what has been a particularly meaningful experience, is there anything that stands out?

Something just happened today ... we are starting a gymnastics unit. One student started to freak out! Gymnastics is a sport that some today don't have a lot of experience with but you see the improvement. They discover things that they didn't know they could do. Every year it's that aha moment when you break through. I get a tear in my eye and tell them, "Look at how far you've come!!" It's not selling yourself short on what you think you can accomplish. This keeps me going!



You did coach, right?

I went into education to teach phys ed. But I also coached. I coached tennis from Fall of 1977 until 1993. We had 13 city championships during that time. But my real passion was basketball. The first year we had it was the 1980-81 season. I was Athletic Director so I hired myself! I was waiting for this!! I had my first baby in 1982 so I only coached basketball for two years. But then I continued as Athletic Director.

Do you have a favorite memory of a SND, or human interest?

When you talk about being role models and supporting the students in what they do... the City Championship for tennis one year was at Jermain Park in Toledo. Two carloads of sisters came to watch. We won and in taking the group shot, all the sisters intermixed with the tennis girls – it was the final photo of the year. That picture was always in my office and it is at home now. I look at that and it makes you feel supported. The sisters are always willing to support us...

What is a favorite line from a movie?

I've got two!

Field of Dreams

"If you build it they will come!"

Rocky Movies

As a training motivator, use Eye of the Tiger!

ETERNAL REST

In Loving Memory

SISTER MARY GINA AIN

April 24, 1972 - July 29, 2021

Religious Profession: August 25, 2001



Sister Mary Gina once wrote, "Why should I be down or fear? For God is with me."

Both of Sister Mary Gina's parents died when she was young. But God did not abandon her. She was taken in by her

loving aunt and uncle and their children. It was in this environment that her faith was nurtured and led her to the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1998.

Sister Mary Gina spent her novitiate in Kumdi, Papua New Guinea. She then attended the Teacher Training College in Mt. Hagen. Graduating in 2004, she was assigned to teach grade five at Sacred Heart School in Goroka. After her perpetual vows, Sister continued teaching at Holy Trinity Rebiatul Cathedral Parish School in Mt. Hagen. Desiring to become a secondary teacher, she attended the University of Goroka from 2014-2017. She was then assigned to teach at Notre Dame Secondary School, Kumdi. She also served as the Mission Coordinator.

Sister Mary Gina loved teaching. Not only did she see boundless opportunity for herself but also for her students. She cheered them on and helped them achieve their goals.

Sister's very short illness and sudden death is a shock to all who loved her – family, friends, past and present students, and the members of her community. She will be greatly missed.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.

SISTER MARY PATRICIA SNYDER

February 9, 1925 - October 1, 2021

Religious Profession: August 13, 1945



A rich life lived in a dynamic process of action and attitude, hope and helpfulness describes the 96 years of Sister Mary Patricia Snyder's life and 76 years of religious profession. Her

ministries as elementary school teacher and supervisor, high school principal and counselor, college dean, and volunteer proved her as one who followed God's call and the needs of the times until her death on October 1 at Rosary Care Center in Sylvania, Ohio.

Ethel Elizabeth was the eighth of nine children born to Lucas and Kathryn (Mallory) Snyder. She attended St. James School and Notre Dame Academy. In 1943 she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame receiving the name of Sister Mary Patricia. She loved the Sisters of Notre Dame's educational legacy and began as a teacher and administrator in elementary schools of the Toledo Diocese. As principal of Notre Dame Academy from 1971-1982, Sister Mary Patricia imparted her high ideals of faith and integrity to students, parents, and teachers. With her educational expertise she made significant curriculum changes, established new departments and parent organizations.

Among Sister's joys were traveling abroad with high school students, leading a Bible study group with adults, and organizing the annual Interfaith Blood Drive. She oversaw public relations for the SND community, thus writing articles for the local newspaper and keeping the annals.

She often said, "God has touched my life in so many ways and is vitally present." On October 1, 2021, Sister Mary Patricia surrendered herself to God and now lives in the Divine Love.

MAY SHE REST IN GRACE AND LOVE.

SISTER MARY DANIELLE CORESSEL

June 1, 1928 - October 6, 2021

Religious Profession: August 16, 1950



Born to Daniel and Berna (Boff) Coressel, Mary Jean was the oldest girl in a family of nine children. After attending St. Michael Elementary School and Richland-Adams High School,

in Defiance, Ohio she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1948 and received the name of Sister Mary Danielle. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in education at Mary Manse College and a Masters degree in secondary education at the University of Toledo.

Sister's areas of expertise were math, science, and physics, teaching grades six through college in Ohio, Illinois, and Florida. Sister was also missioned to Papua New Guinea and taught at Notre Dame High School in Kumdi, Fatima Secondary School in Banz, and Holy Trinity Teacher College in Mt. Hagen. Sister's interest in Papua New Guinea continued throughout her life. She was especially eager to hear about the sisters in religious formation.

Quiet in manner but part of everything around her, Sister Mary Danielle led a disciplined life of teaching, missionary work, and clerical service, along with time for prayer, puzzles, sports, and attention to others. She was often called to repair items accomplished with tools perennially kept in her pockets. She was quick with numbers, savvy with technology, and willing to visit the sick and dying.

On October 6, Sister Mary Danielle completed her earthly mission when she died at Hospice of Northwest Ohio after a short illness. Sister Mary Danielle surrendered all that she was and had into the welcoming embrace of her Beloved.

WELCOME HOME, SISTER.

"By living in the presence of God in the spirit of faith we trust that one day we will be led to the fullness of joy when we shall see God face to face"

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, ARTICLE 52

Upcoming events

AT THE LIAL RENEWAL CENTER

MARCH 11, 2022

Music & Fellowship with Dan Schutte

Dan Schutte is performing at the SNDC in Whitehouse, Ohio.

For more information on tickets & reservations, visit www.lialrenewalcenter.org

MARCH 12, 2022

"Our Hearts are Hungry"

Dan Schutte will conduct a retreat at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio

For more information on reservations, visit www.lialrenewalcenter.org

AROUND TOWN

See you there!

MARCH 11, 2022 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sisters of Notre Dame Food Drive

The Sisters of Notre Dame will be hosting the 2nd Annual Food Drive to benefit the Toledo Seagate Food Bank at Walt Churchill's Market in Maumee, Ohio.

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022

AN SND INAUGURAL EVENT

SHINE

2022 WOMEN'S SUMMIT

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MORE DETAILS — Toledo Sisters of Notre Dame

