



# SND USA

FALL 2021



## SND USA Heritage: Catholic Social Teaching

### ALSO INSIDE:

SND USA Mission Resonates with Associate Sharon Harris

Join the SND Jubilee Celebration Online



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Above: Sister Nancy Vance serves the homeless at Claver House in Toledo, Ohio.

On the cover: Sister Mary Reinette Kroeger embraces a girl at the Notre Dame Urban Education Center in Covington, Kentucky.

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,

We hope you are enjoying a wonderful fall season – whether amid the colorful splash of reds, oranges and yellows of the sugar maple and oak trees in Ohio and Kentucky, or the rugged ginkgo trees in California. The beauty of nature truly reflects our loving God.

In this issue of *SND USA*, we shine the spotlight on our national ministry focus of Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) through the lens of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The Sisters of Notre Dame are actively involved in various ministries across the country that address many of these principles. This thought-provoking summary provides insights into Christian discipleship today within the context of what Jesus preached.

One new program spearheaded by the SND JPIC Office is Voter Voice, which educates the sisters and SND Associates about specific issues at the state or federal level using Catholic Social Teaching as the lens through which to view the impact of legislation. They are encouraged to send letters to their legislators about a particular bill in the hopes of effecting positive change.

Readers also hear from SND Associate Sharon Harris, a member of the JPIC committee in Covington, Kentucky. She works with the homeless and helps to educate others on the need for prayer and education while working to change policies which negatively affect the most vulnerable populations and ensure all are treated with dignity and respect.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *SND USA* and our spotlight on this national ministry focus. Thank you for your continued participation in our mission, and for your prayers as we continue to serve women, children, the elderly and marginalized persons across the United States.

Gratefully,

The SND USA Provincial Team



**SND USA Heritage:**

# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING





Jesus ate with tax collectors and rowdy fishermen. He rescued an adulteress from an angry crowd attempting to stone her. Jesus healed the sick, and he fed the hungry. Likewise, Jesus warned against indifference toward the marginalized -- the poor, the sick, the hungry, the homeless. It was the words and examples of Jesus which laid the foundation for Catholic Social Teaching.

While many Catholics may not be familiar with the term Catholic Social Teaching, the concept has long been a central and essential element of Christian faith. The Hebrew prophets announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice.

*"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner."* – Leviticus 19:9

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18-19), and who identified with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Matthew 25:45). CST is built on a commitment to the poor and most vulnerable, emerging from the truth that God's very nature is communal and social. Just as God is love, we too are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice.

In the document, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice* (1998), the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote: "Being a believer means that one lives in a certain way--walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, and living peaceably among all

# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

people. Christian discipleship means practicing what Jesus preached.” (from the section: The Catholic Layperson: Discipleship and the Pursuit of Justice)

Sister Kathleen Ryan of Chardon, Ohio, the Co-Chair of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office Advisory Council, says, “Jesus wants us to announce, tell, alert, shout, demonstrate that the good news is integral to life. Catholic Social Teaching gives us a map, a path, a direction to live the great commandment ‘to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself.’ It calls us to redefine our neighbor. The Gospel is full of neighbors--lepers, people from other tribes and cultures, outcasts, the unnoticed and uncared for. Some in the Gospel said, ‘Surely not them. Not those people.’ Jesus, through story-telling and loving actions, said ‘Yes, all are invited, all are included, all are lovable, and all are to be loved.’”

Sister Kathleen passionately continues, “Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that the vision of life--loving God, neighbor, self, and the earth, is announcing a vision of potential. This vision sees the Kingdom for all. It calls us to vie with the negative forces which keep individuals, whole segments of society, and entire countries within the global family from reflecting the image of God. God intends for each person to live and love in the struggles of life. When we live with a commitment to bring about the law of love, then we are living as Jesus taught us.”

While certain Catholic Social Teachings are clear and easy to articulate, others can be difficult to neatly summarize, particularly in applying them to given situations. Nevertheless, this complexity can best be summarized in seven key principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

The seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching include:

- 1. RESPECT for the Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
- 2. The CALL to Family, Community, and Participation**
- 3. RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 4. The PREFERENTIAL OPTION for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- 5. The DIGNITY of Work and the Rights of Workers**
- 6. SOLIDARITY**
- 7. CARE for God’s Creation**

According to Sister Rita Geoppinger of Covington, Kentucky, “The seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching are at the heart of the Gospel. The Church has continued over the centuries to delineate and expand our understanding of each one as it pertains to our particular time, enriching our appreciation of the core values of our faith.”

“These seven principles lay the groundwork for our work,” says Ann Clark, Co-Director of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office. “These principles guide us toward those to whom we direct our efforts, people who are poor and marginalized. The seven themes help us focus and frame our efforts, working for peace and justice by tackling the issues of the times, like poverty, racism, and things that work against human dignity.”

*“These principles guide us toward those to whom we direct our efforts, people who are poor and marginalized. .”*

- Ann Clark, Co-Director of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office





Ann Clark (left) and Katie Drager

Katie Drager, Co-Director of JPIC, adds, “When

I think of guideposts, I vividly remember being in a horrible blizzard on my way home to Cleveland from Albany, New York. The windshield wipers were freezing to the windshield, and I could not see the road in front of me. At one point in time, they finally closed the thruway near Buffalo, New York. I only made it off the exit ramp by following the reflective guideposts on the side of the road. I see guideposts as signs to tell you where to go, but also bumpers that protect you from going off the road when you have lost your way. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, ‘I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ To me this is a directive of how to live and gives strong parameters for my work in justice and peace.”

Clark’s role with JPIC is one of direct service. “Direct service is a way to provide an array of volunteer, immersion, and other activities that engage SNDs, Associates and partners in serving people on the margins. Through direct service, we gain a deeper, clearer and more thorough

understanding of what impacts our vulnerable populations. Additionally, it enables us to build relationships with people and create networks of SND stakeholders. JPIC volunteer and immersion experiences are held at local, national and international levels.”

Complementing Clark’s work, Drager’s parallel role at JPIC is one of education and advocacy. “Education and advocacy work together with direct service to make up the two feet of love in action. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to show our faith in serving one another. We also have the privilege of working to remove the varying structures that create the need for service. In Matthew 26:11, Jesus says, ‘The poor you will always have with you.’ Jesus is not saying we only need to keep feeding the poor and not worry about why they are poor. Rather, He is challenging us to look at the reasons for the poverty, be it racism, greed, climate change, lack of care for life and dignity. For systemic change to occur, we must educate ourselves on the reasons behind the injustices in the world and then we can use advocacy as a tool to change policies to be more just. Advocacy is about building relationships with those who represent us in government at the federal, state and local levels, sharing what we’ve learned and challenging them to create or support legislation that will represent more equitable conditions for all.”

With this understanding and framework, let us examine each principle in more depth.



Sister Kathleen Ryan



Sister Kathleen Hine volunteers her time at Zelig's Home, a caring community that empowers pregnant and parenting homeless women.



*"You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you."* — 1 Corinthians 3:16

We are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every person has dignity and worth from the moment of conception in the womb, through all stages of life, until they draw their last breath. In the words of Pope St. John Paul II, the foundation of Catholic Social Teaching "is the correct view of the human person and of his unique value, because 'man . . . is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself.' God imprinted his own image and likeness on man (Genesis 1:26), conferring upon him an incomparable dignity." (Centesimus Annus, II)

Respecting human dignity calls us to work toward many goals, including providing a quality education for all, ending the cycle of generational poverty through worker training and fair wages, and providing life-saving political asylum, just to name a few. In response to the many unjust wars, acts of terrorism, and acts of violence in our world, CST urges nations to find peaceful solutions to disputes whenever possible. Nations and individuals also have both the right and the obligation to protect innocent human life when it is threatened. These are concepts deeply embedded throughout the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching.



# DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Sister Marie Manning of Chardon, Ohio, says Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that, “the Church urges Catholics to act in charity and justice to end offenses against life itself such as abortion, the death penalty, euthanasia, genocide, nuclear war, etc. It also addresses

offenses against human dignity such as subhuman living conditions, racism, arbitrary imprisonment, human trafficking, and degrading working conditions.” (Vatican Council II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World #27)

*“I try to live out this principle by remaining faithful to a ‘consistent ethic of life’ which calls me to pray, educate, act and advocate along a range of issues...”*

-Sister Marie Manning, SND

“I try to live out this principle by remaining faithful to a ‘consistent ethic of life’ which calls me to pray, educate, act and advocate along a range of issues, ‘from womb to tomb’”, Sister Marie says. She encourages others to live out this principle as well in whatever way they feel they can make an impact.

As a congregation, the Sisters of Notre Dame respond to the prevalent issues of the day through a more formal process. For example, the increased incidents of discrimination toward people of color in 2020 prompted the sisters to undertake an 8-month period of intense prayer, reflection, education

and discussion on discrimination and racism, leading to the creation of a national Corporate Stance on Racism.

To date, the sisters have implemented four Corporate Stances: Water for Life in September, 2005, responding to protecting natural water supplies in many developing nations; Immigration Reform, responding to the increased pressure faced by immigrants and migrant workers in January, 2008; Opposing Human Trafficking in July, 2008; and in February 2021, a Corporate Stance Against Racism.

The sisters work together on Corporate Stance messaging by identifying goals and concrete actions which are then implemented throughout their ministries with employees and sponsored institutions at the individual, community, and national levels to make a broader and more effective impact within society.



## PRINCIPLE 2: THE CALL TO FAMILY,

*“Another task for the family is to form persons in love and also to practice love in all its relationships, so that it does not live closed in on itself, but remains open to community, moved by a sense of justice and concern for others, as well as by a consciousness of responsibility towards the whole of society” -Pope St. John Paul II, The Family in the Modern World, 64.*

We are not simply an individual but a member of a community. We are made to be in community to support, guide and care for one another. This takes place in a family setting as well as in a group, in our local community, and in the wider society. The gospel calls us “to care for each other and build each other up.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Sister Kathleen Ryan explains, “Family is the first place the Gospel is lived out. For example, when we listen to children and try to hear and understand their pain and frustrations, their cares and concerns, and refocus or reaffirm their actions with respect to themselves and others, we are knee deep in spirituality. Every time we applaud their critical thinking, respect for themselves and others, positive creativity, cooperative skills, curiosity, and self-correction we have reinforced their capacity to be resilient, to think of who they can become. We are teaching them to participate in building up the common good.”

The wider social network also plays an important role in today’s concept of family. Social conditions can contribute to either the stabilization or destabilization of family structures. Destabilizing conditions include unreasonably long work hours, excessive taxation, and a social culture that denigrates fidelity.

Our economics, politics, laws, policies, and social institutions must defend children, marriage, and family life. They must uphold the responsibility to build and care for the common good of the society. CST calls on Christians to stay true to the Word of God and care for oneself and others



Sister Shirley Marie McGovern embraces a California student.

including the teenager addicted to opioids; the homeless person on the streets with no place to rest at night; the pregnant, unwed woman with no emotional or financial support; the trafficked person who does not see a way out, or the person oppressed because of the color of his or her skin.

One example of ministering to families within a community is the work being done by Sisters of Notre Dame in Toledo, Ohio. For the past 29 years Sister Suzette Fisher has worked with children and families impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in Toledo. “The Sisters of Notre Dame began the DoubleARC Center for FASD in 1992 to equip parents, educators, health care providers, and social service professionals with strategies and information they need to support children with FASD and their families. The ministry began when our sisters in the central city began witnessing a



# COMMUNITY, & PARTICIPATION



dramatic rise in behavioral problems. We realized we were dealing with behavior issues possibly stemming from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. At DoubleARC we provide diagnosis, counseling, family engagement and education, training for professionals and parents, and parent support groups,” Sister Suzette compassionately describes. “I even counsel parents who have contacted me from other parts of the country, British Columbia, Canada and Hong Kong.”

She continues, “Approximately 80 percent of the children we work with were adopted or in foster care. Many adoptive parents are unaware their child may have been prenatally exposed to alcohol, but they know their child struggles with problem-solving skills, memory problems, impulsivity, poor judgment, and may lack social skills. The child may be diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), yet the root cause may be prenatal alcohol exposure.”

“Our ministry is not about blame and shame,” Sister Suzette adamantly exclaims. “Birth mothers already feel guilty. Many may not have realized

they were pregnant until several months into their pregnancy. FASD affects the whole family. Siblings are challenged due to the behavior. We try to support families and help them understand

*“We try to support families and help them understand their child’s disabilities and strengths. It is not about survival but helping these children thrive.”*

– Sr. Suzette Fisher, SND

their child’s disabilities and strengths. It is not about survival but helping these children thrive. Most of these children can succeed when adequate accommodations are in place. When you see the successes, it is so heartening!”

DoubleARC Center for FASD has recently merged with A Renewed Mind, another Toledo organization, and Ohio Guidestone in Berea, Ohio. Both are behavioral health agencies serving children, families and adults in northern and central Ohio.

As a religious educator, Sister Jolisa Lazaro models concern for others to the students at Notre Dame Academy Elementary School in Los Angeles, California.



Sister Suzette Fisher works with children and families impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.





Sister Margaret Hartman serves as a lawyer in Cleveland to ensure all receive equal justice.

For communities to thrive, uphold and protect the dignity of human life, rights must be protected, and responsibilities met. Pope St. John XXIII enumerates these rights: “Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own, he is deprived of the means of livelihood” (Pacem in Terris, 11).

Every natural right begins with the right to life. The right to life must be protected above all else, for without life, there are no other rights. CST also defends the right to private property, which helps secure human freedom. A person’s ability to act freely is greatly hindered if he or she is not allowed to own anything. To that end, meaningful work not only provides material benefits but also a sense of connection to the larger society. We are all responsible to use our rights well in service of God and each other.

One way to participate in protecting personal rights as well as the rights of the marginalized is through Voter Voice, a new program initiated by the JPIC National Office. Let’s look at this program in more detail.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Voter Voice

As Catholics, we are encouraged to use advocacy to respect the life and dignity of all our brothers and sisters and ease human suffering. We are reminded to participate fully in economic, social, and political life by our Holy Father, Pope Francis who said, “We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” (Pope Francis, morning meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Monday, 16 September 2013)

The JPIC Office utilizes Voter Voice, a web-based advocacy system which allows the Sisters of Notre Dame, Associates, collaborators, and partners to learn about specific issues and choose whether they want to send a letter to their legislators telling them how they feel about a particular piece of legislation. While we cannot tell the legislators how to vote, as their constituents we can let them know what we believe and stand for. Their job as an elected official is to accurately represent their constituents.

The JPIC office sends out an Advocacy Alert at least monthly on issues that are bipartisan (both Democrat- and Republican-supported) and bicameral (both chambers of Congress: House of Representatives and Senate) to alert and inform Sisters of Notre Dame, Associates, collaborators, and partners concerning CST principles.

JPIC staff watch the legislation going on at the state and federal levels, looking specifically for legislation pertaining to women, children, and those on the margins. When they see legislation that is presented, they research it thoroughly and prepare what is called an “Action Alert.”

For example, JPIC may send an Action Alert if Congress is planning to cut SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. The Office might suggest that respondents urge their representatives to maintain or increase SNAP

benefits based on the needs of people who rely on those benefits.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, JPIC sent an Action Alert asking Congress to direct COVID-19 relief stimulus monies directly to non-profit agencies, so people most in need could receive the services they require, from the people who know how to respond to their needs.

According to the co-directors of JPIC, each message is thoroughly researched and in full compliance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The issues are current and relevant, and the recommended actions are endorsed by well-established sources such as the Vatican, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Conference of a particular state, Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Catholic Charities USA, and/or Catholic Relief Services.

Voter Voice will soon be a part of the SND USA website, found under the JPIC button on the [sndusa.org](http://sndusa.org) homepage. You may sign up to receive alerts when the SNDs, Associates and others receive them, or you could periodically check the website for updates.



## PRINCIPLE 4: THE PREFERENTIAL

In Isaiah we read, “True worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed.” How the most vulnerable are faring in a society is an important indication of how healthy that society is overall.

In an article in the Homeless Grapevine, a newspaper written for and by the homeless in the Greater Cleveland area, a homeless man conveyed a story of how much poverty hurts: “Left over broken pieces is what I get...Oh, people mean well when they give me a shirt that’s too small or pants with a broken zipper... It is sort of like the Gospel when Jesus said to the boy with

the loaves and fishes, ‘Break what you have and share it.’ Is that what he really meant --for me to have everything broken?”

When we all do well, especially those who

are poor and living on the margins, every other part of society is healthier and better able to be productive and peaceful.

Pope Francis speaks to us about our call and responsibility to “make the plight of the poor a priority in our lives at every level: in our personal lives, in the ways communities reach out, and in the ways our government handles poverty issues. He said, “The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world, and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor

persons. Poverty today is a cry.” (A presentation that Pope Francis gave to Jesuit school students 6/7/2013)

Catholic Social Teaching obligates us to work towards making the common good a greater reality for all. It encourages people to strive to create social conditions whereby all people can flourish.

What does this mean to each of us? Human fulfillment includes a physical and psychological dimension of health and well-being. For instance, if a country does not have clean drinking water, nourishing food, and a non-toxic environment, its people are unable to achieve their full potential. People who do not have access to quality healthcare for themselves and their families are unable to fully participate in society. Those at the poverty line are most at risk.

Since coming to the United States, the Sisters of Notre Dame have been privileged to serve children on the margins from many cultures including Black, Hispanic, immigrant, Appalachian, and Native American families. The sisters continue to believe that education is the surest path out of poverty. An African proverb says, “If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.”



Sister Roseanna Mellert works with students at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, OH bringing food to those on the streets.



Sr. Lynette Shelton and Sr. Reinette Kroeger visit the homeless, bringing water and supplies.



# OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE



*“When people are denied rights to live in decent housing, attend good schools, have a job that provides a decent wage, these are acts of violence that prevent people from a dignity of life that all deserve.”*

– Sister Nancy Vance, SND

Sister Nancy Vance of Toledo, states, “The pandemic made us acutely aware of areas where the poor and vulnerable were not being served or were underserved. Children and young people in poor communities did not have access to technology and were left out of the virtual classroom when that was their only option. It was even more evident with children with disabilities who needed the one-to-one care. Poor families were challenged

to find food for meals when the schools were closed. A number of families could not work from home due to the nature of their employment.”

Sister Nancy adds, “When people are denied rights to live in

decent housing, attend good schools, have a job that provides a decent wage, these are acts of violence that prevent people from a dignity of life that all deserve. I hope we have learned from the pandemic and will find solutions to better serve the poor.”

Sister Nancy works in the Claver House Soup Kitchen and at the Cherry Street Mission Life

Revitalization Center in Toledo where the mission is not only to feed and shelter people but also to help them work toward a solution to their homelessness. “We provide services for personal growth and offer trade classes such as tool and die, welding, and auto tech so they can find meaningful employment. We also offer a library and literacy classes, teach basic skills on the computer, and instruct



Jose, a homeless man in California, receives a care package and a hand-knitted cap from volunteers.

them on how to apply for jobs and build a resume.”

While the soup kitchen was closed this past year, Sr. Nancy and other volunteers packed lunches each day to distribute to those in need. “I bagged 50 lunches every Monday during the past year and am still doing it until we can open the kitchen safely,” she reports with a smile.

## PRINCIPLE 5: THE DIGNITY OF WORK



The dignity of work has its roots in the Book of Genesis. God not only created man and woman but also put them to work naming the animals and tending the garden. Human work reflects God's providential care of the universe. Work is a good thing for workers themselves and for all of humanity. And God calls for our work to be excellent. In today's global society, it is essential to prioritize steady employment for everyone. Freedom is achieved when people find stable employment with fair wages and room for advancement.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than making a decent living. If the dignity of work is to be protected, basic rights of workers must be respected: the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiatives.

"The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers addresses our ability and need to create and to 'renew the face of the earth' through our work," Sister Rita Geoppinger passionately describes.



# AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

“As creative workers, we each have a basic right to just compensation for our labor in a supportive workplace that enables a secure and life-giving existence. We also need to be aware of local, state, and national legislation that promotes or detracts from just labor practices and speak up on behalf of justice.”

*“As creative workers, we each have a basic right to just compensation for our labor in a supportive workplace that enables a secure and life-giving existence.”*

— Sister Rita Geoppinger, SND

Sister Rita recognizes that no matter our role in the system – whether we are employers, employees, or those who receive the services – we all must be mindful that every service comes at a price.

Sister Elizabeth Wood, SND USA archivist of Chardon, reminds us that... “St. Julie Billiart taught marketable and practical skills to her students after the French Revolution. She also welcomed lay people as co-workers in ministry.”

Decades later, SNDs’ global reach resulted in the sisters founding schools in Africa, India and Papua New Guinea, enabling children to reach beyond what they dreamed achievable. Through those efforts, women and children from small, impoverished, and isolated communities are now teachers, lawyers, doctors, government leaders, business executives, and more. We can all celebrate their achievements with them, and we all benefit from their gifts and wisdom as they flourish.

California SNDs participate in a Mass for peace and justice at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.



Sister Dolores Mikula, pictured at St. Mary Parish in Painesville, Ohio, where there is a large Hispanic community.



## PRINCIPLE 6: SOLIDARITY

*“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community” – (Fratelli Tutti, 116).*

“Solidarity is action on behalf of the one human family, calling us to help overcome the divisions in our world. Solidarity binds the rich to the poor. It makes the free zealous for the cause of the oppressed. It drives the comfortable and secure to take risks for the victims of tyranny and war. It calls those who are strong to care for those who are weak and vulnerable across the spectrum of human life. It opens homes and hearts to those

*“Solidarity helps us recognize that what touches one of us, touches all of us.”*

– Sister Betty Mae Bienlein, SND

in flight from terror, and to migrants whose daily toil supports affluent lifestyles. Peacemaking, as Pope John Paul II has told us, is the work of solidarity.” (Called to Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes, United States Catholic Conference, Nov. 12, 1997)

CST reminds us we are a single human family. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. As Pope Paul VI taught, “If you want peace, work for justice.” (Message of His Holiness Pope Paul VI for the Celebration of the Day of Peace, 1 January 1972)

After visiting and working with the poor in other countries, Sister Roseanna Mellert of Chardon,



Sister Paulynne Tubick congratulates newly-ordained Deacon George Mora, a California Associate.



Ohio, realized that simplicity of living and lack of ‘stuff’ can open a person to a different kind of peace and joy than might be possible in our fast-moving ‘stuff-seeking’ society.

Sister Roseanna offered a brief example. “One day, while I was visiting the mother of a family in the Dominican Republic, her teenage son came in and asked what was for supper. His mom responded that there was nothing. He left without a word and went outside to continue playing soccer with his friends. That is just the way it is sometimes. So, what did I do the next day? I brought food for the family. However, it was more important that I cared and showed that, through me, Jesus cares. The problem is bigger than providing food for a day.”

Sister Betty Mae Bienlein of Thousand Oaks, California, says that solidarity means “to stand





Sister Ethel Parrot in Uganda visiting with students and families of the St. Julie Mission.

with, to stand next to, to support, to agree with a group, a person, a cause. To be there for others and to give others dignity and respect. Solidarity helps us recognize that what touches one of us, touches all of us. As religious women, our vowed lives lead us to live lives of solidarity with all creation. Science proves that everyone and everything on this planet/universe is connected in the web of life.”

Sister Betty Mae serves as a hospice volunteer through the No One Dies Alone program. “I also faithfully respond to the Voter Voice emails and participate in anti-human-trafficking freedom walks in the downtown Los Angeles areas. I watched many Zooms on racism, initiated prayer services on the topics, and interviewed a black woman about growing up in the U.S.” She also continues

Sister Rose Bernard Groth in Papua, New Guinea.



to distribute daily Mass guides for people incarcerated at the nearby detention facility.

What can YOU do to live in solidarity with others? Sister Betty Mae offers one simple example: “Make eye contact and smile at a homeless person on the corner as you wait at the stop light. Give that person the dignity of being recognized as a human being.”

“Our world has a great need to recognize all people as equal with equal rights,” adds Sister Roseanna. “There are many ways of practicing solidarity: through actively responding to injustices; by making those in our communities aware of common needs; by learning to live with less; and by taking a moment to greet and care for those who pass us by each day.”



Sister Betty Mae Bienlein and other hospice volunteers share information about care-giving organizations at the Nun Run Community Service Fair.

## PRINCIPLE 7: CARE FOR GOD'S



On a planet conflicted over environmental issues, Catholic Social Teaching insists we show respect for the Creator by our care for all of creation. We are called to protect both people and the planet, as Pope Francis reminds us: “The Book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.” (General Audience Wednesday, May 1, 2013)

The earth is not ours. It is God’s gift for everyone, and we have an obligation to those who come after us. Pope St. John Paul II insists, “We face a fundamental question which can be described as both ethical and ecological. How can accelerated development be prevented from turning against man? How can we prevent disasters that destroy the environment and threaten all forms of life, and

how can the negative consequences that have already occurred be remedied?” (John Paul II, “International Solidarity Needed to Safeguard Environment” Address by Holy Father to the European Bureau for the Environment, *L’Osservatore Romano* June 26, 1996)

The Preferential Option for the Poor makes us aware that the poor suffer most directly from the changes of the earth. For instance, the poor are often the ones living closest to factories that spew harmful toxins which damage the air they breathe and the water they drink. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “Environmental pollution is making particularly unsustainable the lives of the poor of the world. We must pledge ourselves to take care of creation and to share its resources in solidarity.” (Pope Benedict XVI during his Angelus address on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2006.)



# CREATION

*“For years, we have let progress dictate what we developed without always looking at consequences.”*

– Sister Nancy MacDermott, SND

Pope Francis cautions us that our relationship with the earth and creation is intricately woven into our relationship with others and that the earth is not just a resource for us to use but is rather a living, breathing organism. Just as God advises us that

we must rest, as He did on the seventh day, so also we must allow the earth to rest.

Sister Nancy MacDermott of Chardon, Ohio, says, “For years, we have let progress dictate what we developed without always looking at consequences. We looked at nature as supplying unending resources for us even when science proved we were harming our waters, depleting our forests, and polluting our cities.”

How can we become better stewards of God’s creation? First, REDUCE. If we adopt a simpler lifestyle and are more conservative in our use of energy and other natural resources and if we adopt a more plant-based diet, there will be less to throw away or recycle. Pope Francis says all is not lost, “Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning.” (Laudato Si’ 205)

The Vatican proposed a plan for the next seven years for the universal Church to learn and grow, taking action to care for each other and for the home we share. As a nation-wide province, the Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States will be working with Associates and partners across the country in *Creation Care Teams* to consider steps and actions to take within their communities and throughout their ministries and sponsored institutions. They will focus on the work already being done, while also looking at ways to protect the climate, respect biodiversity, protect our waters and divest from fossil fuels.

According to Ann Clark, the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching are interconnected and overlapping. “They hinge on one another. The first principle, Respect for Life and Human Dignity, and the seventh, Care for God’s Creation, are particularly under attack in our times,” she says. “Looking at the problems that plague us, we see so many issues working against human dignity, including grave poverty, lack of access to clean water or nutritious foods, lack of quality education, the lack of respect for people of different cultures, etc. And for those who are greatly affected by the issues just listed, climate change is also a direct factor in so many cases. Poverty rates increase as people can no longer earn a living farming, or the land cannot yield what a community needs for sustenance. People are forced to flee where they have lived for generations, which leads to immigration issues and culture clashes.”



## CONCLUSION




Our strength to use these seven principles as our guides springs from the great commandment of love. Through love, we find God among and within us. It is a conscious choice to disarm one's heart, to lay down one's life, to care on purpose, and to be a presence offering an alternative vision in a world full of contradictions and violence. We rely on the message within Genesis, "God created man in his image, male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)

Several years ago, while Sister Kathleen Ryan was delivering Thanksgiving food to a mom and her two children, the eight-year-old boy said to her, "I knew you would come."

"How did you know I was coming?" Sr. Kathleen teasingly replied.

"Because when I was praying this morning, I reminded God that I know you," he said.





Sister Kathleen adds, “When mercy, forgiveness, and compassion are practiced, especially toward the most vulnerable among us, love is present. When we recognize Jesus, as Saint Mother Teresa said, ‘...in the distressing disguise of the poor’ and respond, love is born again.”

Why did God come to the poor, the humble, the vulnerable, the lowly? Why did He speak of forgiveness, compassion, mercy? In reflecting on these questions, the great saints seemed to conclude, in the end, we don’t have to do anything. In the end, all our behavior is a matter of love.

Catholic Social Teaching is a soul-force, an orientation, a worldview, an attitude, a guidepost to bring the justice of Scripture into our everyday lives. It is active. It leads to work—feeding, sheltering, clothing, setting free, counseling, forgiving, praying, comforting. It leads to advocacy and action that come from the heart and go to the heart. As shown by the response of the little boy to Sr. Kathleen, our actions can be an answer to prayer.

Service and action based on the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching enable us to do what St. Paul said: “Live a life worthy of your calling.” (Ephesians. 4:1)

For more information, or to get involved in JPIC initiatives in your area, contact the SND USA JPIC National Office at [jpica@sndusa.org](mailto:jpica@sndusa.org).

*“When mercy, forgiveness,  
and compassion are  
practiced, especially toward  
the most vulnerable among  
us, love is present.”*

— Sister Kathleen Ryan , SND

# THY KINGDOM COME



**Sister Joyce Marie Bates** has ministered in education, diocesan vocation ministry, parish ministry, and children's homes. She has spent many years doing JPIC work for the community. She presently serves as the Co-chair of the Advisory Council for the JPIC National Office for the Sisters of Notre Dame. She also works part time at St. Mary Parish, Wakeman, OH and Miriam House, a long-term shelter for homeless women and children.

today works for justice, shows compassion, lives peaceably among all peoples and in God's creation. Discipleship is found in a relationship with Christ and in a commitment to his mission of bringing "glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free." (Lk. 4:18)

## ***Christ Has No One But You***

*Christ has no body now but yours.*

*No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which He looks*

*With compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.*

*Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.*

— St. Teresa of Avila

This prayer of St. Teresa perfectly exemplifies what it means to be a Christian — a disciple of Christ. It means that one walks in the world being Christ's eyes, hands, and feet.

A disciple today works for justice, shows compassion, lives peaceably among all peoples and in God's creation. Discipleship is found in a relationship with Christ and in a commitment to his mission of bringing "glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free." (Lk. 4:18)

Scripture provides us with insights and powerful examples to understand how to live in right relationships with our loving God of life. Jesus perfectly exemplified this love in word and action throughout the Gospel stories. Working for peace and justice means being in right relationship with God, my neighbor, the earth, and myself. It is the Gospel message of inclusion. Our faith calls us to take our rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and make it all about LOVE!

During my recent trip as a volunteer to the Texas-Mexico border, I came to understand more deeply who my neighbor is and how I am Christ to those who are in need. As I was working with other volunteers to serve our guests at a Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center, I saw the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Since I could not speak Spanish very well, I tried to give each person a smile and I blessed the children on their foreheads saying "Dios te bendiga" (May God bless you.) The parents seemed to appreciate my simple gesture of showing Christ's love to them.

Each of us is called to be the eyes, hands, and feet of Christ right now, right where we live. Expressing this call does not have to be a big project. We can be Christ to others in small and simple ways: by visiting an elderly neighbor, emailing Congress to change an unjust law, speaking up in support of our brothers and sisters of color when a racial remark is made, volunteering at a food bank or other charitable outreach organizations.

We pray so easily and quickly the Lord's Prayer, but do we ever reflect on the meaning of the words: "Thy kingdom come..." or "...on earth as it is in heaven"? With our acts of compassion and love we help to bring about on our planet the fullness of God's Kingdom where one day God will be All-in-All and all of creation will live in peace, harmony, and love. The blessings of faith are most abundant when they are shared. I invite you to find ways within your own community to put the messages found in Scripture into action in your unique way.





# Receive Fixed Payments for Life

## A Charitable Gift Annuity Helps You and the Sisters of Notre Dame

A charitable gift annuity is a worry-free gift that's easy to implement and offers you a unique opportunity to also support the ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame. In this arrangement, you make a donation, usually with cash or marketable securities. You, and another person if you choose, receive fixed payments for life. After your lifetime, the remaining amount helps to support our ministries.

### With this plan you can:

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- Relieve yourself of investment worries or responsibilities.
- Obtain tax-favored payments that you cannot outlive. Part of your payments are income tax-free throughout your estimated life expectancy.
- Receive an income tax charitable deduction if you itemize.
- Reduce capital gains tax, in most cases, when using appreciated securities to fund your gift.
- Have the satisfaction of helping to support the ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

### How is my income tax deduction determined?

When you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return in the year of your gift, you can claim a charitable tax deduction. The amount is determined, in part, using an IRS interest rate called the charitable midterm federal rate. This rate can change slightly each month. (Please contact your local SND Mission Advancement representative for the latest information.) Your deduction is also based on the amount of the gift and the ages of the individuals receiving the payments.

### To learn more:

Every person's situation is different. To learn more, please contact your local SND Mission Advancement Office to discuss your needs—without obligation.

#### COVINGTON, KY:

JODEE MCELFFRESH | [jmcelfresh@sndusa.org](mailto:jmcelfresh@sndusa.org)

#### THOUSAND OAKS, CA:

SISTER LISA MEGAFFIN | [lmegaffin@sndusa.org](mailto:lmegaffin@sndusa.org)

#### TOLEDO, OH:

SISTER CAROL GREGORY | [cgregory@sndusa.org](mailto:cgregory@sndusa.org)

#### CHARDON, OH:

CARRIE HIGGINBOTHAM | [chigginbotham@sndusa.org](mailto:chigginbotham@sndusa.org)

**California residents:** Annuities are subject to regulation by the State of California. Payments under such agreements, however, are not protected or otherwise guaranteed by any government agency or the California Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association. **Oklahoma residents:** A charitable gift annuity is not regulated by the Oklahoma Insurance Department and is not protected by a guaranty association affiliated with the Oklahoma Insurance Department. **South Dakota residents:** Charitable gift annuities are not regulated by and are not under the jurisdiction of the South Dakota Division of Insurance.

The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.

# SND USA mission resonates with Associate Sharon Harris

For Sharon Harris, becoming an SND Associate in 2018 seemed the best way to show her love for the Sisters of Notre Dame and what they taught her while attending Notre Dame Academy in Covington, Kentucky. She says the SND mission emphasizing the sharing of “God’s good and compassionate nature with all people” resonates with her personally. “As a scientist, it’s easy to say all life is connected through a simple chemical, DNA. What’s more important is recognizing this connectedness of all as a manifestation of God’s love for us,” Sharon states. “I can’t fathom a life without compassion and service.”

Upon graduating from NDA, Sharon went on to earn a BS in Environmental Studies and an MS in Biology from Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. She worked in research for 16 years – conducting research in Antarctica and studying in Ukraine -- and for the past 26 years has been teaching at Mercy McAuley High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“One summer evening, Laura Koehl (former president of Notre Dame Academy and recently appointed Executive Director of the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office) and I were sharing a meal and reflecting on our education by the Sisters of Notre Dame. We easily recognized the voices and actions of the sisters in how we lived. At this dinner, Laura told me about the Associate Program and shared that she would begin a year-long process of discernment in the Fall. After a long discussion with her and Sister Luann Bender, I, too, decided to start this journey,” Sharon recalls. “At my Covenant, a friend congratulated me saying, ‘I know that, in truth, your association with them has been life-long.’ I hadn’t realized that at the time, but she was correct. Becoming an SND Associate was a formality that gave me community and direction.”





"My Catholic faith has sustained me through some very difficult times, and it brings me great joy to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. It isn't hard for me to always see the goodness God has brought to my life. My Catholic faith is of paramount importance to my optimism," she says.

Sharon is a member of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) committee in Covington, KY. "JPIC committee members emphasize the unity of prayer, the need for education, and communicating immediate issues involving our three main areas of concern: immigration, human trafficking (modern-day slavery), and care for our common home," she explains. "We also work to aid the homeless and effect change for the poor and marginalized. We unite in prayer, work to change policies that might further alienate individuals, distribute goods to those in need, and educate others about how they can get involved."

"Personally, I've shared with others an awareness of how their choices affect the Earth and its inhabitants," she continues. "I've attended workshops and meetings related to environmental awareness and will be participating in a three-day Catholic Climate Covenant Conference through Creighton University and a "Climate Crisis and Ecological Conversion" seminar this summer."

Sharon is currently researching and evaluating how environmental racism plays a role in local governing bodies. "Care for the Earth is the ultimate right to life issue," Sharon insists.

In 2019 Sharon traveled to El Paso, Texas with several sisters and Associates for Ministry on the Margins.

"Our purpose was to learn about immigration and listen to personal stories from those fleeing persecution, poverty, and unsustainable ways of life – those who were in the U.S. and those still waiting at the border in Mexico," Sharon says. "We met incredible, selfless people working on both sides of the border on behalf of people in need, and we learned about the complicated, confusing legal aspects involved in immigration."

Sharon says during the pandemic-disrupted time she has been an Associate, she has accomplished two major, personal goals. "I've become a more prayerful person, more engaged in my faith, and I've immersed myself in the SND community by participating in as many events as I can fit into my schedule. As I mature in my Associate life, I hope to become even more actively involved in the causes we support. Certainly, my role on the JPIC committee is important to me. I'm still learning," she admits.

"Everyone can help, and everyone must find their own way of being involved. Doing one thing can be enough. All of us can pray!"

Sharon says being an SND Associate is a gift to yourself, the community of sisters and Associates, and to those you serve. "If you want to engage in a more prayerful life, support the ministry of the Sisters of Notre Dame, and actively effect change in our world by serving those in need, being an SND Associate is for you! And I haven't even talked about the fun we have!" she adds.

## "Care for the Earth is the ultimate right to life issue."

– Sharon Harris, SND Associate



Sharon concludes, "I am always amazed at the outpouring of love from our SND community. Sometimes, it's as simple as a request for prayer or for items to distribute to the marginalized. Our SND Associates need only be asked, and they immediately reach out to help."



*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

[www.sndusa.org](http://www.sndusa.org)

**Chardon Office Prayer Line**

440-279-1163 or [prayersCH@sndusa.org](mailto:prayersCH@sndusa.org)

**Toledo Office Prayer Line**

[prayersTO@sndusa.org](mailto:prayersTO@sndusa.org)

**Covington Office Prayer Line**

859-291-2040 or [prayersKY@sndusa.org](mailto:prayersKY@sndusa.org)

**Thousand Oaks Office Prayer Line**

[prayersCA@sndusa.org](mailto:prayersCA@sndusa.org)

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# Join the SND JUBILEE CELEBRATION Online

Please join us in celebrating the Jubilees of Sisters of Notre Dame across the United States.

Visit [sndusa.org](http://sndusa.org) to see the full list of sisters celebrating Jubilees this year.

[www.sndusa.org/jubilarians](http://www.sndusa.org/jubilarians)




# JPIC Work Alive in Northeast Ohio



Fall 2021  
**Network**

*One Heart.  
One Hope.  
One Mission.*

# JPIC Work Alive in Northeast Ohio



The Sisters of Notre Dame are involved in activities across northeast Ohio to help people who are marginalized, particularly women and children. Of course, this is nothing new. “The Sisters of Notre Dame have been doing justice work from the very beginning,” states Katie Drager, Co-Director of the SND USA Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office. “It’s part of who they are.”

Ann Clark, Co-Director of the JPIC National Office, explains that the JPIC staff works to educate SND USA Associates, partners, donors, and collaborators while offering suggestions on how everyone can become involved in these efforts. “JPIC advocates for the marginalized, the elderly, the human-trafficked, migrants and refugees. Their situations and problems are so vast that unless we focus on particular issues, it can be overwhelming,” Clark says.

This issue of *NETWORK* showcases a broad variety of local social service programs and agencies that reflect many of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and also includes information on how you can get engaged or learn more. While this is not an all-inclusive

list, the Sisters of Notre Dame welcome all to join in their many ministries, as well as others within your local parish or diocese.

## Human Trafficking

The United Nations International Labor Organization estimates nearly 21 million people are trafficked globally. An estimated 11.4 million women and girls, and 9.5 million men and boys are affected by this crime which generates approximately \$150 billion a year around the world. Two-thirds of these profits are generated by forced sexual exploitation.

The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking is a group of concerned people and organizations in Northeast Ohio whose mission is to educate and advocate for the prevention and abolition of human trafficking, while connecting services on behalf of trafficked persons. The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking was founded by members of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Congregation of St. Joseph, and Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland. Today, more than 40 organizations participate in the Collaborative

including representatives from the hotel and restaurant industries, law enforcement, health care and the courts.

The Collaborative shares expertise in education, health care, law, and social services, providing a multi-disciplinary foundation for this initiative. Additionally, they sponsor educational awareness events, provide speakers for diverse audiences, connect with local and national organizations working with victims, advocate for supportive human trafficking legislation, and build

**“Collaboration is key to ending human trafficking in the Cleveland area and across the United States.”**

— Sister Kathleen Ryan, SND, Co-Chair of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office Advisory Council

partnerships to provide services for trafficked persons.

“Collaboration is key to ending human trafficking in the Cleveland area and across the United States. This crime requires a victim-centered, multi-disciplinary response by every local community,” says Sister Kathleen Ryan, SND, Co-Chair of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office Advisory Council.

Send correspondence to:

**Network**

Sisters of Notre Dame

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024

[www.sndusa.org](http://www.sndusa.org)

440.286.7101



Katie Drager says, "It can happen anywhere, whether it's Gates Mills, Chardon, Mayfield Heights, Westlake or Solon. It is a crime that's hidden in plain sight. We want everyone to know this crime is not the fault of the victims who are lured into sex work."

Ann Clark says, "Life after being trafficked can also be scary. Victims have been held captive, traumatized, and are unable to make their own decisions. Many survivors are addicted to drugs and have criminal records that include prostitution or drug possession. That makes rebuilding their lives difficult."

Sister Kathleen recalls, "What started as a small group of sisters and other professional colleagues in a room, brainstorming around the table, has already achieved systemic change. Due to the efforts of the collaborative, there are now magistrate courts especially for victims of trafficking."

***If you suspect human trafficking, please call the local CLE hotline at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's Project STAR (Sex Trafficking Advocacy & Recovery) at 855.431.7827.***

## Voter Voice

The *SND USA* magazine includes an explanation of Voter Voice which is designed to help SNDs, Associates, partners and collaborators advocate for JPIC issues on national, state, and local levels.

There are three primary objectives:

- To educate both citizens and policy makers about issues that are relevant to Church teaching;
- To create a platform for creating new policies that benefit the common good; and
- To advocate for those who do not have the power to be heard.

If you are interested in subscribing to our Voter Voice Action Alerts, email Katie Drager at [kdrager@sndusa.org](mailto:kdrager@sndusa.org). You will be added to our database and will receive approximately one alert per month. With each Action Alert, you will be provided with the background information on the issue and Church teaching. If you choose to take action, your response will be directed to the appropriate legislator based on your zip code. The choice is always up to you!

## Blessing House

A Children's Crisis Care Center  
6115 Olivet Ave., Elyria, Ohio 44035  
440-240-1851

Sr. Mary Berigan, SND  
**Blessinghouse.org**

Blessing House is a crisis care center for children from birth through 12 years whose parents or caregivers are facing an emergency that might put their children at risk. More than 1400 children have received shelter here. Blessing House is open every day of the year and is staffed by trained employees who care for the children in a safe and loving environment. Blessing House is currently licensed to care for up to 20 children at a time. They are always in need of food, gas cards, diapers, and girls' and boys' mid-size bicycles. Volunteers are always needed; opportunities are available by emailing [info@blessinghouse.org](mailto:info@blessinghouse.org) and completing the online volunteer form.







## Women's Outreach Center

The River's Edge, a Ministry Center for the Sisters of St. Joseph  
3430 Rocky River Dr.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
216-688-1111

[www.riversedgecleveland.com/womens-outreach](http://www.riversedgecleveland.com/womens-outreach)

The Women's Outreach Center is housed in Franklin Circle Christian Church in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland. This daytime drop-in center creates a cozy, welcoming environment where women can feel safe, grow in self-esteem, and realize their potential.

Co-Director Sr. Patti Gentile, SND, has worked for years at the Women's Outreach Center, a program of the River's Edge Ministry Center. The Women's Outreach Center serves to accompany and empower women transitioning out of homelessness as they strive to realize their potential and attain self-sufficiency. Donations of hygiene products and yarn are appreciated. Volunteers are needed

to teach an arts/crafts session, join in prayer with the women, and help keep the ministry moving forward.



*Women's Outreach Center Co-Directors (l-r) Sr. Carrie Vall, CSJ; Sr. Felicia Petruziello, CSJ; and Sr. Patti Gentile, SND*

## House of Champions

2066 West 47th Street, off Lorain Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
216-630-7368

[houseofchampions.org](http://houseofchampions.org)

Children in second through fourth grade from Metro Catholic School and Urban Community School attend this after-school program, Monday through Friday. This ministry is accomplished through the collaborative effort of the

Sisters of Notre Dame, the Ursuline Sisters, and the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity, as well as many community volunteers. The young "Champions" practice respect for adults and appropriate social skills for home and school, and achieve improved academic grades across the school curriculum.

House of Champions follows the day school calendars of Metro Catholic and Urban Community Schools. Volunteers are needed, particularly current or former teachers, who can tutor children and help these young ones build self-confidence. Volunteers play a vital role in bringing prepared meals to serve each evening, assisting children in establishing good study skills, helping with homework, modeling basic table manners, engaging in dinner conversations, and providing opportunities to build social skills. Volunteers may share their hobbies and interests such as arts/crafts, cooking, baking, gardening, music, reading, and more with the children. Volunteer sign-up is flexible and can be selected by specific days of the week or month. Visit [houseofchampions.org/get-involved](http://houseofchampions.org/get-involved) to learn more.



## Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland has three Family Centers located on the city's East Side. The centers provide programs based on community needs. They all offer programs which focus on youth and young adults, families, and seniors, providing education, tutoring, recreation and arts and crafts activities as well as empowerment skills and training for individuals.

Volunteers are needed to help with various activities:

- Early childhood education programs
- After-school programming and summer camps
- Teen leadership and mentoring services
- Parenting classes and mentoring services

For more information on how to volunteer, contact:

### **Fatima Family Center**

6600 Lexington Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
216-391-0505

Fatima Family Center's 26,000-square-foot facility, located in the Hough community, provides programs and services for all ages, including summer camp, a senior program, youth activities and a food pantry. They provide cultural,



leadership and development activities as well as homework assistance, summer camps, field trips, and recreational programs for children and teens. In 2002, Fatima was recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as one of the top five family centers in the United States. Volunteers are appreciated.

### **St. Martin de Porres Family Center**

1264 E 123rd St.  
Cleveland, OH 44108  
216-268-3909

Located in the Glenville neighborhood, this center provides an array of services to meet the needs of all individuals within the community. Emergency assistance is a large part of the programming at the Center. Parishes,

church groups, book clubs, and organizations can help by supporting the Center's services with household supplies, cleaning supplies, health and hygiene products, baby and children's products, as well as food and clothing donations.

### **St. Philip Neri Center**

799 E 82nd St.  
Cleveland, OH 44013  
216-391-4415

St. Philip Neri Center, located in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, offers a variety of programs and services meant to empower all individuals to become self-sufficient. From senior programs to job and career training, the focus is on educating individuals so they may develop the skills they need to strengthen their family and their community. Volunteer programs include the Hot Meals Program, Senior Programs, Emergency Assistance, and the Food Pantry.

*Sister Nanette Zeimet, SND, helps a child with her homework at House of Champions.*



*House of Champions' new home*





## Catholic Charities Serving Persons with Disabilities

Since the late 1800s the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland has offered ministries to persons with disabilities. This ministry provides a variety of educational, social, and recreational programs, as well as spiritual, pastoral, sacramental, and catechetical services for persons of all ages and abilities. Special events are also celebrated throughout the year, such as the annual Walk of Hope in October and the Journey to Bethlehem Mass in December. These events always need volunteers.

Information on programs, services and events can be found by contacting the individual centers at the following locations:

### OLA/St. Joseph Center

2346 W 14th St.  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
216-481-4823

### St. Augustine Church

2486 W 14th St.  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
216-781-5530

## Catholic Charities Meals and Pantry Programs

Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Services sites and programs collaborate with local organizations, public and private agencies, and religious institutions to ensure that the basic needs of the most vulnerable are met.

Catholic Charities staff and a large network of volunteers provide food,

shelter, and clothing to individuals in need, and currently offer support in Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties.

Here are a few examples of Catholic Charities outreach programs:

## Bishop William M. Cosgrove Center

1736 Superior Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
216-781-8262

At the Cosgrove Center, guests have access to many fundamental services:

- Daily hot breakfast and lunch
- Shower facilities
- Mail distribution
- Birth certificates and state identification cards
- Rent and utility assistance

## Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland offers employment services to prepare refugees to enter the workforce. They also provide affordable legal counseling and representation in a wide range of immigration matters. Through a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, Catholic Charities offers four levels of on-site ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) classes taught by Tri-C Aspire teachers and classroom volunteers.





There are many volunteer opportunities, such as teaching or tutoring English as a second language; serving as an interpreter to assist with in-person or over-the-phone meetings; helping set up an apartment for a refugee family; coaching life and employment skills; and many more.

To volunteer for any Catholic Charities missions, please email: [ccdocle.org/volunteer/volunteer-application](mailto:ccdocle.org/volunteer/volunteer-application)

## The Notre Dame College Abrahamamic Center

Carol Ziegler, SND., Ph.D.  
*Executive Administrative Assistant,  
Executive Director of the Abrahamamic  
Center and Co-Chair Office of  
Institutional Effectiveness*  
Notre Dame College  
4545 College Road  
South Euclid, OH 44121  
216-373-5238  
Toll Free: 877-NDC-OHIO  
**[NotreDameCollege.edu](http://NotreDameCollege.edu)**

The Abrahamamic Center provides space for dialogue, prayer, study, and social activism, particularly through the Annual Abrahamamic Lecture delivered in November. The Center supports interfaith conversation and commitment to the common good. Abrahamamic values such as leadership, hospitality, and compassion are a focus of the Center's on-going educational opportunities.

To learn more or sign up for a class or program, contact [NotreDameCollege.edu](mailto:NotreDameCollege.edu).

## The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

2929 Richmond Road  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
Phone: 216.593.0575  
Fax: 216.593.0576  
**[www.maltzmuseum.org](http://www.maltzmuseum.org)**

The Mission of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, which attracts students, adults, and groups alike, is

to introduce visitors to the beauty and diversity of the Jewish heritage in the context of the American experience. The staff hope that visitors will leave with an understanding of Jewish history, religion, and culture. The Maltz Museum builds bridges of tolerance and understanding with those of other religions, races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, serving as an educational resource for Northeast Ohio's diverse communities.

***The JPIC Office has many resources if you are looking for books, articles, films, etc. on the topic of Catholic Social Teaching. Members of the JPIC staff can offer guidance and make appropriate recommendations.***

For more information about the Sisters of Notre Dame Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation National Office, please email [jpica@sndusa.org](mailto:jpica@sndusa.org). †

# A Lasting Tribute

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



## SISTER MERITA STRAHLER

*September 24, 1926 - July 10, 2021*

Loretta Mary Strahler was born in Suffield, Ohio, the fourth of seven children of Raymond and Stella Oakes Strahler. With three older brothers and later, three younger sisters, Loretta described her childhood as "very happy." She enrolled at Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, as

an aspirant, and entered the novitiate as a postulant on February 2, 1945. Her sister Dorothy (Sister Mary Doreen, SND) was also a Sister of Notre Dame, and the youngest, Edna (Sister Sylvia, MMS) is a Medical Mission Sister who spent many years in Pakistan.

Sister Merita was professed on August 16, 1947 and began her ministry of teaching in 1950 at St. Benedict School, Cleveland. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland. Over the next 36 years, she taught primary and intermediate grades at 16 different schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses, as well as in Arlington, Virginia and Winter Haven, Florida.

In 1988, she accepted an invitation to become a certified teacher of the ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) program in Cleveland. Working with adults as a literacy tutor proved to be a perfect match for her skills and advocacy. Extending her ministry beyond the classroom through Catholic Charities, Sister Merita addressed the practical needs of refugee and immigrant families, accompanying them to medical appointments, performing job searches, and familiarizing them with grocery shopping and public transportation.

Ten years later, Sister Merita returned to Florida, where she assisted at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Dunedin and continued her work as an ESOL tutor and moderator of weekly conversation classes at local libraries in Clearwater. In 2012 she was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas County. Working one-on-one with six students per week, her persevering efforts helped them to complete GED and citizenship requirements. Sister Merita retired and joined the Chardon community in 2018.

## 2021 Reunions

Most of the reunions for this year will take place later in the summer and early fall. We'll have news and pictures of them in the next edition.

### Class of 2007

Gina Maglionico wants to know if anyone is interested in having a 15-year reunion. Gina can be reached at 216-403-8918 or maglionicog@gmail.com

**Class of 1972** – anyone interested in planning a 50th?

**Class of 1982** – 40th?

**Class of 1997** – 25th?

If any of these classes have started planning reunions, please let the alumnae office know so we can pass the information on to classmates when they inquire.

The alumnae office will be happy to furnish you with whatever information we have on your classmates and help in any way. Contact us at rhsalum@reginahigh.com or 216-905-4851.

**If you have moved, gotten married, or changed your email or phone numbers in the last 10 years, please let us know at rhsalum@reginahigh.com.**

## 2021 Regina Legacy Scholarship Winner

This year's scholarship winner is **Dorothy Nosse**, a senior at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School. She maintained a 4.0 or higher GPA through grade school and high school, and participated on the volleyball, swimming and track teams at NDCL.

Dorothy is a Eucharistic Minister, member of the Kairos retreat team this year, active on the Student Activities Board, a Certified Peer Ministry Educator, and part of the campus Peer Ministry Team and Student Ambassador Leadership Team. In her city, she has worked with the Euclid Police Department Safety Town for 4 years. At her parish, Our Lady of the Lake, she worked Vacation Bible School and is a cantor in the parish choir. In the summer she is a lifeguard at the Kirtland Country Club and Shoreby Club to earn money for college. Her goal is to become a trauma or pediatric surgeon "in order to help as many people as possible and continue to save as many lives as she can."

Dorothy is the niece of Maureen McShane Breen '58, JoAnne Nocero Scaminace '72, Margaret Nocero '73 and Cathy Nocero Carballada '86.

## 2021-2022 Calendar

### 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 11, 2022.**

More information will be following.

### Regina Spirit

These thoughts were recently posted on Facebook by a Regina alum in the Class of '09.

Regina High School was in existence over 55 years, produced more than 7000 graduates, and had hundreds of teachers working there and the spirit continues.

*"That feeling when a teacher you had in high school remembers you so fondly, that she finds the time to ask about you at her health checkup. Even though she went through a surgery so life changing, was at her most vulnerable, and hasn't seen you since high school, she still finds time to ask about you, a student she had 13 years ago."*

*Working in the operating room, you never know when someone you know might need your care, and it's hard to think of them needing the type of surgery you're so used to doing everyday. That being said, it is such an amazing feeling knowing that your people helped save their life. That teacher remembers me, and she knows that she helped influence me to get to where I am today. You go through so many years of education, and every teacher finds a way to impact your life. Because of them, you are who you are today, and thanks to teachers like her, I am a nurse providing the same care she received herself. Such a touching moment knowing the one who helped shape your life allows you to care for others just like her every day."*



Dorothy Nosse, Margaret Nocero '73 and Cathy Nocero Carballada '86



## *Updates from Covington, Kentucky*





## Dear Partners,

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

### **Prayer Requests & General Info:**

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

### **Associates:**

**Sr. Luann Bender**  
lbender@sndusa.org

### **Donations and Mission Advancement:**

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

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

**Sr. Rita Geoppinger**  
rgeoppinger@sndusa.org

### **Volunteer, Young Adult and Vocation Outreach:**

**Sr. Ruth Lubbers**  
rlubbers@sndusa.org

### **Careers with SND:**

hr@sndusa.org  
careers.sndusa.org



*Sisters of Notre Dame  
of the United States*

## We Remember



**Sister Marjorie  
Marie Thiel**

10/08/1935 - 06/23/2021

*May Sister Marjorie  
Marie delight in the  
embrace of our good  
and loving God.*

*To read her full  
obituary, please visit  
[sndusa.org/tributes](https://www.sndusa.org/tributes)*

## Here and There

- Srs. Paul Ann Hanneken and Rachel Nerone retired as work study coordinators at Notre Dame Academy (KY). To view photos, visit the NDA send-off article at [www.sndusa.org/news](https://www.sndusa.org/news) (under the "Covington" category).
- Good news from Global Missions: Every St. Julie Primary student who took the national leaving exam in Uganda earned the highest score. Also, Notre Dame Academy students performed so well on national exams that the school is now ranked 12th in Uganda. Congratulations!
- "Nobody is excluded from my love if nobody is excluded from God's love." This is a quote from one of the Sister Zooms we hosted in June. You can watch all of the presentations at [www.sndusa.org/sisterzooms](https://www.sndusa.org/sisterzooms)

## On the Cover

It was a joy to connect with our friends through this year's virtual/drive-thru 4th of July Festival. Our sponsors, raffle entrants, and drive-thru supporters raised \$117,209 (net)! Thank you to everyone who donated, made a purchase, and volunteered.

2022 is the 100th anniversary of the SND 4th of July Festival. We must do it big, as they say. Let us know if you have any ideas or would like to participate with Festival preparation!

[www.sndusa.org/festival](https://www.sndusa.org/festival)





# We are **GRATEFUL**



In true SND partner spirit, our donors recognized that the pandemic only increased the need to support our local, national, and global communities.

Please join us in thanking our partners who helped empower SND ministries this past year through their financial gifts. . . . . ➔

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YOUNG ADULTS  
ON THEIR  
VOCATION  
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OUTREACH  
TO THOSE  
WHO ARE  
HOMELESS

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OUTREACH IN  
APPALACHIA

EDUCATION  
OF GLOBAL  
MISSION  
SISTERS



**Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States (SND USA)** currently minister in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Our sisters also support and engage in ministry in East Africa (including Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda), India, Papua New Guinea, and Rome.

**The Sisters of Notre Dame are grateful to our many friends who have made financial and in-kind donations to the congregation between July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021, including those who wish to remain anonymous:**

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# A Message from *Mission Advancement*

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share the many ways that we are privileged to implement the Catholic Social Teachings so carefully explained in this edition of the SND USA Magazine. Perhaps some readers are more familiar with the traditional corporal and spiritual works of mercy. All of these inspiration points are derived from Jesus' Gospel. In Matthew 25, Jesus identified himself with the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable and taught practical ways for every person to live out their faith. "Whatever you have done to the least of my people, that you have done to me."

A more contemporary statement of these works of mercy might be:

To provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty and naked.

To shelter the homeless.

To care for the sick and the dying.

To visit the imprisoned.

To bury the dead and comfort the grieving.

To share knowledge and advice.

To comfort the suffering.

To be patient and forgiving.

To pray for the living and the dead.

Our cover shares the concerns and ministry priorities that the Sisters of Notre Dame and our Associates most treasure. In addition, we are pleased to feature the logos of various partner organizations.

As our friends, colleagues and donors, you are awesome partners with us. Together, we shower mercy upon thousands of God's children—whatever we have done to another person, we have done to Christ. Thank you for embracing our mission and making our outreach possible.

Gratefully,

*Sister Mary Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.*

Sr. M. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.



These photos show some of the precious children of Uganda. Their situation illustrates those in need of our works of mercy.



# Uncovering Love at Camp Dorothy Kirby

*Sr. M. Paulynn Tubick reflects on her experience accompanying incarcerated youth.*



*Sr. M. Paulynn Tubick leads an entrance procession at a community Mass.*

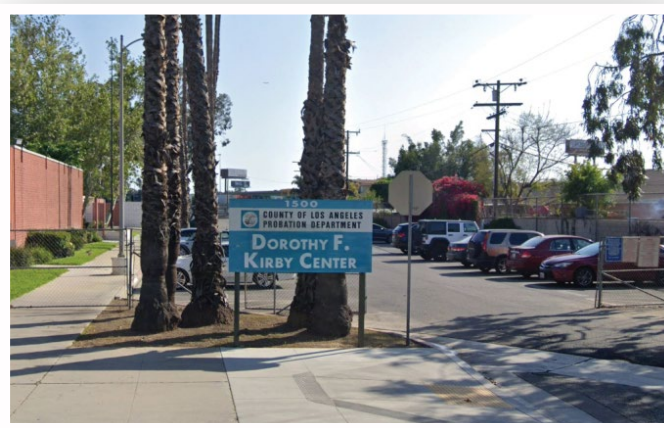
Each Saturday, Sr. M. Paulynn Tubick offers a prayer service and pastoral counseling to small groups of youth at Camp Dorothy Kirby, a juvenile detention facility. This program is coordinated in conjunction with the Restorative Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and required a 6-month training and approval process through the County Department of Corrections. Camp Kirby houses 67 youth ranging in age from 13-17, some

charged with minor offenses and others charged with violent crimes. All of them are still children.

Sr. Paulynn uses the weekly worship aids provided by the Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative to develop a service that involves Scripture, reflections from other incarcerated persons, meditation, and a time to share. Probation officers are present during the entire service, which makes it very difficult for the young people to share their personal traumas for fear that whatever they say may be used against them. Instead, Sr. Paulynn asks the youths, “Does this remind you of someone?” giving them the chance to share while protecting their privacy.

One young lady, Wendy, expressed a desire to be baptized. Sr. Paulynn journeyed with her and prepared her to receive Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Mass was cancelled for over a year at Camp Kirby due to COVID-19 restrictions. This past spring, Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, came to celebrate Mass for the first time in over a year and Wendy was able to receive the Sacraments. Although Wendy had been estranged from her family, her mother and aunt came to participate in the Mass. The chaplains organized a reception for her.

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Long Beach, where Sr. Paulynn serves as the Director of Ministries, donated a Baptismal candle, stole, rosary, Bible, and handmade certificates. She was gifted an autographed copy of Fr.



*Camp Dorothy Kirby is located in the City of Commerce, in East Los Angeles.*

Greg Boyle’s book *Tattoos on the Heart*. Wendy has now been released and moved out of state for her own safety. In reflecting on this experience, Sr. Paulynn proudly remarks, “She has turned her life around. She loves Jesus.” Although Wendy has moved on, Sr. Paulynn’s ministry continues. She has now begun working with another young woman who wishes to enter the Church.

**“NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, WE ARE ALL MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE AND LIKENESS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT WITHIN. IT IS NOT THAT I ONLY HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD, BUT OTHERS HAVE IT TOO AND WE CAN HELP THEM UNCOVER IT. WHEN I VISIT CAMP KIRBY I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE LOVE OF GOD IN MY LIFE AND IT HELPS ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND MERCY.”**

**~ SR. M. PAULYNNE TUBICK, S.N.D.**

*Concern for the imprisoned is demonstrated by Sr. M. Paulynn Tubick and Sr. M. Luellen Boeglin.*







In response to the needs of the poor and marginalized, Catholic Extension coordinated “Sisters on the Frontlines” during the early days of the pandemic. Here is a description:

Religious sisters are prophetic witnesses and voices of hope in our country and world. They are close to those who are in need and they are trusted by people of all walks of life. That is why Sisters on the Frontlines was launched during the pandemic. This initiative, which operated from the summer of 2020 to spring 2021, **met the exceptional goal of providing 1,000 Catholic sisters with \$1,000 each.** Each sister used the funds to help an individual or family suffering extremely adverse affects due to the pandemic. Sisters on the Frontlines was formed by an alliance of organizations interested in responding to the immediate needs of communities impacted by COVID-19. Ten Sisters of Notre Dame from the California region were privileged to be part of this venture. These vignettes share some of their passions and observations.

*Sr. M. Jolisa Lazaro joined St. Lucy's Parish in the midst of the pandemic and discovered the deep spiritual traditions of this multi-cultural community.*

**FROM SR. JOLISA LAZARO,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION,  
ST. LUCY'S PARISH, LONG BEACH**

As a new staff member at St. Lucy's Parish in Long Beach, I quickly learned about the needs of the parishioners and the unique multi-cultural environment of this low-income area. Families represent various cultures: Filipino, Pacific-Islander, Central American and Vietnamese to name a few. While poor economically, the people have a deep faith and sharing this faith with their children is a very high priority. Rituals such as the daily rosary, processions and celebrations of the saints are very important to them.

Funds received from Catholic Extension underwrote the expenses for the parish religious education program since many families could not afford the fees. In some cases, the grandparents, godparents or extended family members pay the fees; the family income can be used for food, rent, medical care and transportation costs. Many families also participate in the parish food bank, with food provided by Long Beach Unified School District.

I was thrilled to be of service to this parish community because I see firsthand the multi-faceted struggles and I want to support the families in their faith journey. Despite their own challenges, some of the St. Lucy's families helped the unaccompanied minors housed at the Long Beach Convention Center.

**“CATECHISTS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME  
AT THE CONVENTION CENTER, SHARING THE  
FAITH AND GIVING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL  
SUPPORT TO THESE CHILDREN WHO SO EASILY  
FEEL FRIGHTENED AND ABANDONED.”**

**~ SR. M. JOLISA LAZARO**





**FROM SR. JUDEEN JULIER,  
CHAPLAIN, DIGNITY-HEALTH CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES**



*Sr. Judeen Julier offers comfort and basic necessities to a client at Hope Street Margolis Family Center.*

“Our hospital serves many low-income residents of South Central and Downtown Los Angeles (including skid row) and provides services through the Hope Street Margolis Family Center.

The densely populated downtown area of Los Angeles became an epicenter of the COVID pandemic, causing financial distress for the families served by the Hope Street Center. Almost half of the families experienced job loss, with both parents unemployed in about 27% of the cases. The Center began distributing baskets of food staples to these families, and to others who were quarantined.

In my ministry, I saw COVID’s severity. It was distressing to see some families with several members of the same household hospitalized. Through this grant, Hope Street Margolis Family Center addressed their food insecurity, and I have the opportunity to share God’s goodness with them, helping to lessen their burdens. Seeing the smiles of the children and parents is a memory I will long cherish!”

## Frontlines Recipients

**SR. ANNCARLA COSTELLO**

CAST: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

**SR. SHAWN MARIE DOYLE**

Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Oxnard

**SR. LEANNE HUBBARD**

Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance, Santa Paula

**SR. JUDEEN JULIER**

Hope Street Margolis Family Center, Los Angeles

**SR. JOLISA LAZARO**

St. Lucy Parish, Long Beach

**SR. SHIRLEY MCGOVERN & SR. JANE MARIE MCHUGH**

St. Dominic School, Eagle Rock

**SR. LISA MEGAFFIN**

Many Mansions

**SR. ROSE MARIE TULACZ**

Unite to Light and St. Jude the Apostle Parish,  
Westlake Village

**SR. ANNA MARIA VASQUEZ**

St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Paschal Baylon Parish,  
Thousand Oaks



*Sr. Rose Marie Tulacz and Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson (back to the camera) give a solar cell phone charger to a homeless man near St. Monica’s Church in Santa Monica. During the pandemic, homeless individuals were unable to charge their phones at coffee shops or public libraries. Recipients were able to stay in communication with their AA sponsors, probation officers and other supportive services.*



# It all started with Mediterranean and Baltic

by Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

It all started with Mediterranean and Baltic, not exactly the high-rent district on the Monopoly Board. As kids, we quickly learned that hotels on those two properties didn't really enhance one's cash flow. On the other hand, we had to deal with the luck of the throw of the dice.

Fast forward to the 1990's. Repeatedly, I observed individuals whose luck had run out. On the northeast side of the Hollywood Freeway just past Sunset Boulevard, there were individuals whose mattress or shelter consisted of large pieces of cardboard. Even today, googling a map of the Hollywood Freeway shows tarps attached to a chain link fence to create some privacy and a sense of home. That type of situation would make a hotel room on Mediterranean or Baltic seem luxurious.

During these trips, I heard God calling me to action for my brothers and sisters in need of housing...and hope. What I was observing was a direct denial of human dignity. The homeless situation was not unique to Los Angeles (and today, in 2021, the homeless population has increased to more than 60,000 in LA and Ventura Counties). I also observed homeless people in Thousand Oaks, sleeping in bushes or creating cardboard shanties near corners of buildings, especially during the cold winter months. They were obviously down on their luck. Action someday, I thought...

In 1995, I was invited to join the Many Mansions Board of Directors, clearly a call of the Spirit. I felt overwhelmed by data, acronyms, and concepts beyond my comfort zone at the first few meetings. But I was deeply attracted by its mission to provide housing and resident services for low-income individuals.

It became obvious that advocacy is a huge part of our mission. One particular city council meeting comes to mind, when Many Mansions was negotiating to acquire the property now known as Esseff Village. It was a blighted motel, probably similar to Mediterranean or Baltic. When one official questioned the small size of the proposed units, an older woman testified, "Those rooms won't be any smaller than the back of my truck."

Unfortunately, the need for affordable housing continues to grow, with our ever-growing waiting list. In 2019, that list grew to more than 4,000, with a potential wait time of 10 years—and with sad hearts, the board concurred that it was necessary to temporarily close the list.

Regular media reports on the homeless situation, and state and national attention to this social and economic blight indicate incredible need. But true to Many Mansions mission, new communities are now under

development in Boyle Heights, Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Sun Valley and Sylmar.

How blessed I have been to work with incredibly dedicated and compassionate individuals--staff, board, volunteers, donors, city and housing authority officials. I deeply appreciate the encouragement of my co-sisters who regularly offer their interest and support for our SND partnership with Many Mansions. But most importantly, I have become acquainted with our residents who, once down on their luck, now enrich Many Mansions, and our local community, with the dignity and pride that are rightfully theirs.

Others may think that affordable housing corresponds to Mediterranean or Baltic. To our residents though, Many Mansions is Boardwalk.



Susan Cass, Many Mansions Board Chairperson and SND Associates Eileen and Marty Garcia award a Vicky's Scholarship to Aleli Perez.





## The SND Mission Lives on

Eileen and Marty Garcia are SND Associates with many years' devotion to Many Mansions. As a board member for 25 years, Marty established the Vicky's Scholarship Fund in honor of his mother. With just a fourth grade education, Vicky Garcia served as a teacher's aide in New York, giving her students the maternal affection and encouragement necessary for them to succeed in school and in life. Since 2014, 104 Many Mansions residents have received more than \$175,000 in scholarships, enabling them to continue education beyond high school. Past recipients include formerly homeless individuals, first generation college students, single mothers, and the disabled. Their success ranges from professional certificates awarded by technical schools to graduate degrees from major universities.

Many Mansions has recently established an Advisory Council, community ambassadors who represent diversity in geography, socio-economic status, ethnicity, interfaith groups, professional expertise and community service organizations. Sr. Ann Carla Costello, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Sr. Judeen Julier, Chaplain for Dignity Health California Hospital in downtown Los Angeles have agreed to be pioneers in this venture.

Students from La Reina High School & Middle School have regularly volunteered at Many Mansions communities, especially as tutors in the Homework Club. SND Associates are included as regular donors, both financially and with in-kind gifts, especially during the holiday gift drive.

To learn more, visit  
[www.manymansions.org](http://www.manymansions.org)



SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME 

## NUN RUN

To Heaven on Foot - St. Julie Billiard

February 5, 2022, the race is on!

The Sisters of Notre Dame in California are still running "To Heaven on Foot". Our in-person Nun Run is scheduled to return on February 5, 2022! Not comfortable at a large event? Don't live in California? We will offer our incredibly popular Virtual Mileage Challenge again this year. Proceeds support the SND Life & Ministry Fund, providing spiritual, educational, and social outreach locally and around the world.

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

- Run/Walk on February 5, 2022
- Participate in our Virtual Mileage Challenge
- Invite friends and family to join a running/walking team
- Become a volunteer
- Reserve a booth at the Community Service Fair
- Start a fundraiser team
- Advertise with us

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

**WWW.NUN.RUN OR CONTACT JEN COITO AT  
805.917.3730**

## Registration is now open!



# The Grapevine

## NATIONAL NETWORK AND SPONSORSHIP OFFICE AWARDS

The Sisters of Notre Dame congratulate these four educators who were recently recognized for the impact they are making on hundreds of lives each year. Each of them demonstrates a commitment to the educational vision and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame in their various roles.

**TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD** recognizes individuals who are catalysts for growth; inspire hearts; demonstrate mission effectiveness, and transform the lives of those with whom they minister.



**Tamara Harper, Board of Directors, La Reina High School & Middle School**  
Tamara is a 1987 La Reina graduate and past chair of the Board of Directors.

Tamara has contributed literally thousands of hours of pro bono legal work and done much to advance the mission of Catholic education and the goals of La Reina High School.

## GOSPEL WITNESS AWARD

honors those who give witness to Jesus' spirit of compassion, hope, and joy, especially to those who experience poverty in its various forms.



**Chad Ribordy - Religion Department Chair, La Reina High School & Middle School**  
As chair of the Religion Department and 11th grade religion teacher, Chad Ribordy is highly respected as a religion teacher and

colleague. Chad keeps abreast of the latest Catholic educational resources and teaching methods. He demonstrates a commitment to the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame in remarkable ways.



**Betsy Ward, Assistant Head of School for Mission, Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles**

Betsy Ward has been a treasured and valuable steward of the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame for 26 years. Her colleagues describe her as someone who: radiates God's goodness and provident care and is Christ-centered, affirming, and readily finds the good in others.

## FATHER BERNARD OVERBERG "TEACHER OF TEACHERS" AWARD

recognizes educators who honor Father Bernard Overberg's legacy and demonstrate exceptional, inspirational impact on the formation and professional learning of teachers.



**Ms. Maggie Marschner, Principal, La Reina High School & Middle School**  
Maggie Marschner was inspired by the late Sr. Anita Hornack at St. Mary

Magdalen School in Camarillo. Maggie fosters the professional development of faculty and staff, creates a collaborative atmosphere, and encourages innovative learning, especially through the Universal Design for Learning model. Added to her professional expertise is her caring presence to everyone on campus.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH, SIMI VALLEY

The Sisters of Notre Dame congratulate Rev. Joe Shea, pastor, and the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Simi Valley on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Two SNDs claim St. Rose as their home parish. Sr. M. Kathleen Burns, daughter of the late Margaret and John Burns, is a member of the congregation's General Council. In this capacity, she coordinates the initial formation of new members who are preparing to be Sisters of Notre Dame in 17 countries. Sr. M. Colette Theobald has served in Uganda since 2005. She has been an educator at St. Julie's Primary Boarding School and a member of the leadership team for the East Africa Delegation.

## RCIA ZOOM PRESENTATION

Sr. Laura Marie Kane and Sr. Valerie Marie Roxburgh recently shared with the RCIA group at St. Paschal Baylon, led by Sisters Marie Paul Grech and Antoinette Marie Moon. The topic for the Zoom meeting was vocation and the call to religious life. Sr. Laura Marie shared her vocation journey with corresponding pictures. Sr. Val gave an overview on how religious life evolved and what it looks like today. Both were inspired by the group and their choice to become Catholic and were grateful for the opportunity to speak with them.

## DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARDS

Special congratulations to the young men and women who recently received the Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award through the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office. These graduates:

- Value their relationship with God and strive to live the Gospel
- Have worked to their ability and challenged themselves academically
- Express God's goodness and provident care for all through service and outreach.

### Taylor Melton

La Reina High School & Middle School, Thousand Oaks

### Megan Pena and Kathryn Syta

Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles

### Shelby M.

Notre Dame Academy Elementary, Los Angeles

### Joseph Kiet Tuan Nguyen

Our Lady of the Assumption, Ventura

### James Granillo and Zoe Zamudio

St. Helen Catholic School, South Gate

### Kayla Jarra and Preston Smart

St. Jude the Apostle School, Westlake Village

### Keith Sauers

St. Mary Magdalen School, Camarillo

### Madeline Salvador

St. Pius-St. Matthias Academy, Downey

## "GRACE HAS NO AGE"

What do Millennials, Xennials, Gen X and Gen Z have in common? They are all a part of SND USA Young Adult Ministry! Learn how SNDs have connected with thousands of young people this past year. Watch the archived event at [sndusa.org](http://sndusa.org).

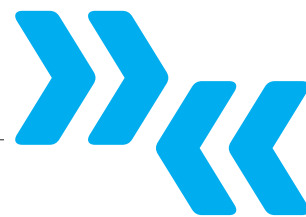
## PLANNED GIVING

Born in Holland in 1828, Hilligonde Wolbring was orphaned at age 7 and taken to Germany to live with relatives. She became a teacher, deciding to use her inheritance to benefit poor and neglected children. With this background, the Sisters of Notre Dame have a cherished legacy of inheritances as a source for funding our mission to live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Please consider joining this tradition by including the Sisters of Notre Dame in your will or estate plan. Our legal title is "The Sisters of Notre Dame" and our federal tax identification number is 85-2630127. And thank you to those who have already chosen this powerful form of partnership.





# CROSSROADS



FALL 2021



Sr. Maxine Young attends a prayer service at St. Martin dePorres in Toledo, Ohio.  
*Photo courtesy of The Blade*

## A LETTER FROM THE TOLEDO TEAM

# God's Goodness and Love

Dear Family and Friends,

Autumn! A beautiful season of God's beauty! It is also a season of paradox. A season where we see nature dying and nature seeding. We see how nature scatters seeds in abundance and then new life comes forth in the spring. What a powerful metaphor for our lives! In all the autumnal events of our lives we see how God has walked with us and at the end we experience a newness and a spring time in our lives.

In this issue, you will see how Sr. Betty Jeanne Kramer brings new life to L'Arche in Jacksonville, Florida. God called her to the L'Arche community and she continues to share love and compassion with the L'Arche residents. Sr. Betty Jeanne daily embraces her call to serve and lives the spirit and charism of our foundress, Sister Maria Aloysia Wohlbring. We hope you enjoy reading Sr. Betty Jeanne's calling from God to be one with the beautiful people of L'Arche!

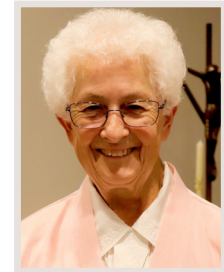
At this time, you will also read about Sisters who have responded to God's call to consecrated life and are celebrating their Jubilees. We ask that you also join us in holding in memory three sisters who are now enjoying the fullness of life with God. Don't miss the additional articles throughout the magazine featuring our regional Sisters, Sr. M. Nancy Vance and Sr. M. Suzette Fisher and the way they bring new life to their ministries.

Thank you for your interest and support throughout these years. Because of you, the sisters can continue to witness God's love at L'Arche and throughout the world. Just as we experience the Autumn season of dying and seeding, may our lives bear the seeds of God's goodness and love.

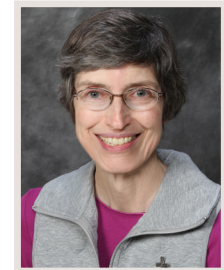
Sincerely,

The Mission Advancement Team  
Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo

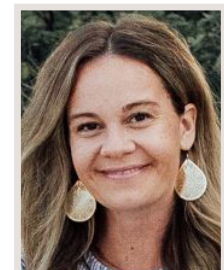
## THE TOLEDO TEAM



**SR. MARY CAROL GREGORY, SND**  
Advancement Team Advisor



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



**ERICA TYBURSKI**  
Advancement & Communications  
Coordinator



SR. BETTY JEANNE KRAMER

# Tangible Love

SR. BETTY JEANNE FOUND A PLACE IN HER HEART TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE MARGINALIZED.

**L**iving in an environment where all share their gifts, feel valued and needed, and effect positive change in the world sounds like a dream. It was a dream

for our foundress Sister Maria Aloysia Wolbring who established a home for needy children whom she taught. It is also the dream of Sister Betty Jeanne Marie Kramer. Our foundress' charism was "a deep experience of God's provident care [which] moved her to a compassionate love for others. . ." (Constitutions). Transmitted to each Sister of Notre Dame, this charism found a place in Sister Betty Jeanne's heart to share God's love with the marginalized by being part of L'Arche Jacksonville.

When a principal at Christ the King School, Toledo, in the 1990s Sister Betty Jeanne, then known as Sister Mary Rita, picked up Henri Nouwen's book *Road to Daybreak*. Sister said the book "struck a chord in my heart" and continued to resound during the next few years when she met two persons with Down Syndrome—a gentleman on the streets of Port Clinton and a three-year-old girl named Lisa, who impacted the lives of staff and students where Sister was principal. Finally in 2005 after talking with Sister Mary Lizette Hoevel who had ministered in L'Arche Cleveland and then visiting the community there, Sister said "I knew in my heart that L'Arche was where I wanted to be."



Sr. Betty Jeanne of L'Arche Jacksonville

Having lived in L'Arche Cleveland for a year, Sister had to leave for health reasons. However, four years later, the charism and dream still strong, she found a home in L'Arche Jacksonville, Florida, where she has shared life since 2010.

L'Arche is an international organization with 38 communities worldwide and 18 in the USA, a federation of people with and without intellectual disabilities. All share the same mission and goal. All live in homes where everyone gives and receives help, because mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of journeying through life together.

L'Arche Jacksonville is a community with four family-style homes, the Blanchart Community Center, and an off-site day program called the Rainbow Workshop. In the homes, along with common areas for meals and other activities, each core member and live-in assistant has his or her own bedroom, furnished simply and decorated according to one's tastes.

Those at L'Arche appreciate the diverse cultures and faith practices and work together toward a more human society in which each member is valued. To this end, the four homes gather as a whole at least twice each month. First Thursday has a special theme each year. This year's theme celebrates core members.

## Grant that L'Arche be a true home, where everyone m



A picture painted of the resident, Jeffrey

A slide presentation shows the family of origin and the highlights of the person's time since coming to L'Arche. Songs and prayers center around that person. After the sharing there is a meal prepared in each of the three closest homes to be shared with the guests.

The second monthly gathering begins with a simple meal in the Blanchart Center. This evening celebrates the anniversaries of core members, assistants, and staff who have arrived at L'Arche during that month in any year. For "Anniversary Night" all pray, listen to appropriate spiritual readings, and then celebrate each person who has an anniversary. Individuals with an anniversary are seated in a prominent place to enjoy a skit about them. Others have an opportunity to tell them what is most appreciated about them. After everyone has been specially appreciated, everyone is called forth to receive from the community leader a decorated candle in remembrance and thanksgiving. Finally, the entire community sings a song of blessing around those holding their lit candles.

Sister Betty Jeanne primarily shares life with those in Peace House, a very caring place. Let's meet some of the residents. Viva remembers birthdays and other dates, giving her the moniker "human calendar." She prays persistently for the many intentions of those who have asked her prayers but accepts God's different plan.

Katrina, who also lives in Peace House, has a beautiful singing voice with perfect pitch and the ability to quickly memorize lyrics as shown by her large repertoire from the 70s and 80s. With Katrina's gift for whistling, she believes she is "the best whistler" and gladly enjoys competition. Visually impaired, Katrina "sees with her hands" as she prepares meals.

Jack is a pro with 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles. Besides his great help in preparing meals, he is the king of recycling and readies six bins for pickup. Joy, one of the founding members of L'Arche Jacksonville, has a sunny personality and never lets limitations hold her back as she goes out to shop, dine, and visit.

Jeffrey has a big heart. He loves animals and is something of a cat or dog whisperer. He also has an artistic bent; he can look at a picture and draw what he sees. Viva and Jeffrey enjoy Zumba classes.

Robbie and Chip, friends and housemates, go for a daily walk. When Sister stops them to chat, she always notices how Robbie conveys his thoughts through a giant smile but few words. Robbie came to the Rainbow Workshop where Sister enjoyed spending time with him coloring and doing simple puzzles. (Robbie has since died from Alzheimer's.)

Collaborators are attracted to L'Arche Jacksonville's mission to witness a simple lifestyle and mutual respect for differences as they nurture relationships. Collaborators include Father Tom Poth, a spiritual guide since the 1990s and who continues to be with the community whenever there is a death; Sister Rita Baum, a Sister of St. Joseph from St. Augustine who established L'Arche Jacksonville; and Christin Tomy, a young woman from Iowa who spent a year with the Dominican Sisters in Jacksonville and helped at the Rainbow House. Currently there are three sisters from India who are L'Arche assistants. Through the years, the Rainbow Workshop has had many volunteers. There was one artist who for several months came each week and took a photo of a core member. The next week she would come with a portrait of that person, often painted on a background prepared by the subject. Other longtime friends include Simone and Gerard from Montreal, Canada, where Gerard had been the L'Arche community leader. Upon retiring Gerard and Simone came to Jacksonville for a vacation. They lived in Peace House for a few weeks and assisted at the Rainbow Workshop.



## may find life. . . Help us to see, to serve, and to love.

Often in December Sister Betty Jeanne finds an assistant willing to dress up as good St. Nicholas to give everyone a candy cane. James from Tennessee donned the suit and took on the saintly role. After his graduation from Catholic University in Washington, James spent a year as an assistant. James was not the only one to assist and then move on. Assistants often spend a year or two after college before starting their careers, leaving L'Arche understaffed. Personnel are stretched, but trust that God will provide the right persons.

The Prayer of L'Arche has been posted in Sister's bedroom throughout the years. It reads in part "Grant that L'Arche be a true home, where everyone may find life. . . Help us to see, to serve, and to love."

Sister Betty Jeanne writes, "During these years at L'Arche I have come to appreciate and love the parents and families of those who have brought their children to our L'Arche community. I have come to understand and appreciate the blessings of the challenges of those Sisters of Notre Dame whose ministry is to a family member with disabilities."



Resident Joy with assistant James on St. Nicholas Day.



Jeffrey with Sr. Betty Jeanne.

**"I knew in my heart that L'Arche is where I wanted to be."**

SR. BETTY JEANNE

Sister Betty Jeanne thanks God for the years she has been a member of the L'Arche community. Now retired, Sister is living her dream by volunteering to just "be" with core members and experience their goodness and beauty. These visits give assistants much-needed breaks, too. Sister's ministry at L'Arche Jacksonville has given her the blessings of living with persons from different countries, including Peru, Germany, Poland, Philippines, India, England and Morocco. In Sister Betty Jeanne, her "deep experience of God's provident care" continues the lived charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. L'Arche is one of the many ways to fulfill our foundress' dream to meet the needs of the times by sharing God's compassionate love. It is a dream of love made tangible.



Residents Katrina and Viva with Sr. Betty Jeanne.

# Jubilees

2020

## 75 | JUBILEE OF JOY



*Sr. Ethel Mary Camp*



*Sr. Mary Patricia Snyder*

## 70 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r) Sr. Mary Frances Theresa Dorsey  
Sr. Mary Margaret Ann Polta  
Sr. Mary Danielle Coressel*



## 60 | DIAMOND JUBILEE



*(l-r standing)  
Sr. Loretta Marie Borgerding  
Sr. Mary Jaculin Manders  
Sr. Mary Carroll Schemenauer  
Sr. Julie Marie Bosch*

*(l-r sitting)  
Sr. Barbara Marie Sloan  
Sr. Joanne Mary Frania  
Sr. Joan Marie Recker  
Sr. Mary Charleen Hug*

## 50 | GOLDEN JUBILEE



*(l-r back row)  
Sr. Mary Cheryl Darr  
Sr. Mary Delores Gatliff  
Sr. Mary Jo Szpila  
Sr. Mary Brenda Haynes  
(l-r front row)  
Sr. Marilyn Ann Angel  
Sr. Mary Valerie Schneider  
Sr. Mary Joselyn Weeman*

## 40 | RUBY JUBILEE



*Sr. Sally Marie Bohnett*

2021

## 80 | JUBILEE OF PEACE



*Sr. Mary Jamesetta Krafty*

## 70 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r)  
Sr. Mary Georgene Fink  
Sr. Mary Ross Burgard  
Sr. Mary Rose Bernard Groth*

## 65 | IRON JUBILEE



*(l-r) Sr. Mary Francel Orosz  
Sr. Mary Raymund Johnson*

## 60 | DIAMOND JUBILEE



*(l-r standing)  
Sr. Mary Carol Gregory  
Sr. Julia Marie Hutchison  
Sr. Carol Mary Bogner  
(l-r sitting)  
Sr. Mary Lucy Suter  
Sr. Margaret Mary Collins*

## 50 | GOLDEN JUBILEE



*Sr. Margaret Mary Faist*

## 40 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r)  
Sr. Mary Deborah Giles  
Sr. Anne Mary Molyet*

*Congratulations to our 2020 & 2021 Jubilarians!  
Together, they represent 2,080 years of vowed religious life.*



## ETERNAL REST

# In Loving Memory

## SISTER MARY MARA BENNETT

September 2, 1938 - April 12, 2021

Religious Profession: August 11, 1959



Sister Mary Mara was particularly proud of her Polish heritage. She loved making Polish bread, knew several Polish expressions, and attended the Polish parish school of St.

Hyacinth in Toledo, Ohio. Graduating from Notre Dame Academy in 1956, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in September.

Earning education degrees, she taught children in Catholic schools of the Toledo Diocese and in Indiana for 46 years, primarily with 6th graders. Twenty-five years were spent in ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Indiana. She was an excellent educator, especially talented in teaching composition and research. Students later in life would thank her for teaching them these useful skills.

After retiring from the classroom, Sister used her pleasant voice and interest in others to assist in the Mission Advancement Office of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Daily she phoned benefactors thanking them for their donations, renewing friendships, and promising to pray for their intentions.

Sister Mary Mara developed a beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother. The Rosary and the Magnificat were powerful prayers which she recited faithfully. "My whole person lies open to God my Savior."

**May she rest in peace.**

## SISTER MARY MAURUS LABADIE

March 4, 1923 - April 24, 2021

Religious Profession: August 10, 1943



Consuello Labadie was one of five children of Mark and Cecilia Labadie. She attended St. Joseph School in Maumee and graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. Entering

the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1941 she received the name of Sister Mary Maurus.

Having attended Mary Manse College, Sister began her 65-year career in teaching children in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. Her expertise in helping children with learning differences led her to Mary Immaculate School in Toledo during her last 22 years in the classroom.

Sister embraced life with keen interest in the arts. She taught herself how to play musical instruments especially the violin and accordion. She basked in the brilliance of the great composers and perhaps imagined playing her violin in concert. Her life, like a musical score, was ready to receive divine notes.

When she needed skilled care in 2011, she became a resident of Rosary Care Center operated by the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio. She became one with the Franciscan spirit and enjoyed living with the sisters and residents.

**May she enjoy the music and glory of heaven. Alleluia!**

## SISTER REBECCA MARIE RAINY, NOVICE

June 4, 1992 - June 14, 2021

Entrance into the Novitiate: March 30, 2020



Sister Rebecca Marie was the fourth of seven children born to Canisius Leongai and Thecla Wanbisa in Wewak, East Sepik, Papua New Guinea.

Sister Rebecca first came to know the Sisters of Notre Dame in 2015 when she participated in a "Come and See" program in which she heard the history and spirituality of the Sisters of Notre Dame. This touched and inspired her and led to her entrance in 2017. Sister became a novice and traveled to the Philippines where she began her novitiate formation. In her second year as a novice, Sister became ill. It was deemed necessary she return to Papua New Guinea. Both parents were present at the time of her death.

Her postulant director, Sister Mary Saina Varkey, wrote: "She (Sr Rebecca) is an accepted leader in the group. She understands things and is very reflective. She draws a lot of strength from her prayer life. She has a great desire to be a sister."

Regarding her formation, Sister Rebecca wrote: "All of the conferences and instructions all really changed my prayer life and helped me grow deeper in my faith in following Jesus' call for me in Notre Dame in serving his people."

**Rest in peace, dear Sister Rebecca Marie.**

*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

# Care for God's creation through Photography

Photographed By: Sr. Marie Christine Cervi



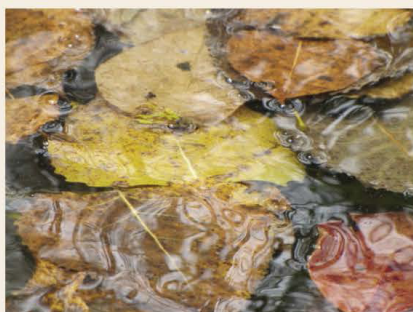
Sunflower and bud  
Menominee County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Lavender-tipped Dahlia  
Toledo Botanical Gardens



Eastern Screech Owl feigning sleep, sneaking  
a tiny peek at admirer  
Maumee Bay State Park



Fall leaves in shallow rippling water  
Independence Dam State Park, Defiance, OH



Multicolored maple leaf amid dry sepia  
foliage with tiny green growth  
Independence Dam State Park, Defiance, OH

"With the lens, I love to capture  
images from a unique perspective  
or focus on tiny details that can  
often be dismissed without  
intentional awareness."

-Sr. Marie Christine Cervi

## LIAL RENEWAL CENTER

A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF  
THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

5908 DAVIS RD., WHITEHOUSE, OHIO

### Upcoming Events

November 21, 2021

1:00- 4:30

#### Make your Own Greeting Cards

by Sister Rosemary Hug, SND

Come and learn how to create your own greeting cards.  
You do not need to have previous experience. Just come  
and enjoy being with other people who are creative.  
Supplies will be provided — you can make as many cards  
as you wish.

### Come and reflect:

How does Advent touch you and your spiritual life?

Each week would include a scripture  
reflection, a look at a  
December Saint,  
common Advent  
traditions, and small  
group sharing.



November 28, 2021 | Waiting in Hope  
December 5, 2021 | Letting in the Light  
December 12, 2021 | Anticipating Joy  
December 19, 2021 | Living in the Presence  
\*Each session will be 2:00-4:00p

*A sacred  
space to  
seek, renew  
and gather*

For more information and to  
register for an event,  
please visit

[www.lialrenewalcenter.org](http://www.lialrenewalcenter.org)

419-877-0482

LIAL RENEWAL CENTER

5908 DAVIS ROAD  
WHITEHOUSE, OHIO 43557

