



SND USA

SPRING 2024



Amazing Grace!

ALSO INSIDE:

Respect for the Environment

Tim Duncan: A Man of Action

A Heart of Compassion

And more...



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

SND USA

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

LETTER FROM **SND USA PROVINCIAL TEAM**

Dear Friends,

Amazing Grace, how sweet it is!

As the year 2024 gains speed – and the ever-increasing polarization taking place in our country gains a greater foothold in our news and social media outlets – we thought it would be a good time to reflect on God’s free and undeserving gift of grace.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines grace as “unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification.” This issue of *SND USA* magazine examines grace as an acronym for Generosity, Respect, Action, Compassion, and Empowerment – all attributes of the life-transforming gift of grace.

Readers will learn about the tremendous generosity of a gentleman in Kentucky and about a Sister of Notre Dame ministering in a poor Toledo neighborhood to bring awareness of the need to respect our environment and care for the marginalized in our communities. Other articles introduce an active SND Associate ministering to the incarcerated in a California prison while also leading faith-filled programs to draw others to a more vibrant relationship with God. Lastly, you will read about the compassionate heart of Grace Jones and about Sister Grace Leung, who experienced empowerment as she entered religious life.

As the lyrics of the song “Amazing Grace” proclaim:

*’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

May God’s amazing grace provide you comfort, peace and joy amid the turmoil and difficulties of daily life.

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame with your time, prayers and financial gifts.

Gratefully,

The SND USA Provincial Team

LCWR Initiative Aims for a Transformational



The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), a national association representing approximately 70% of the leaders of all Catholic women's congregations in the United States, is embarking on an initiative utilizing existing elements common to religious life – contemplation, a life based on Gospel values and effective communication skills for communal living – and applying those tools to the work of building a more just and peaceful world. The Sisters of Notre Dame are enthusiastically participating in this new movement, known as Transforming Grace, and they welcome all who want to join them in this endeavor.

Why is this focus essential in our world today? Look around you. Americans have become increasingly polarized in our societal interactions, especially in this election year. Many have lost the skills of active and sacred listening, consideration, collaboration and compromise. Acts of aggression between countries are escalating. Even within our own communities, violent crime and conflicts between neighbors are skyrocketing.

Grace

Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director of LCWR, says that developing a level of consciousness for the collective good is a start. “The science behind conscious thought shows us that in the past 50 to 70 years, we have begun

In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls all people to “care for our common home” and to take swift and unified global action to address environmental issues that include the destruction of the planet in pursuit of short-

term economic gains; the disregard of unwanted people, the elderly and the poor discarded as waste. The Pope invites all to see that both our social and environmental crises are one complex crisis that must be solved together.


“In the work of transformation, we want to go together, to be that work of Gospel justice and to be of service to humanity, to be the breath of grace.”

- Sister Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, Associate Director for Transformative Justice, LCWR

a shift in human consciousness from the ‘I’ to the ‘We’ tier of consciousness. Science calls this a ‘leap of transformation’, where individuals are thinking at a level that is more global.”

The question remains: how do we move ourselves into transformational grace? First, pray. Next, allow yourself to be vulnerable. As Sister Bridget Bearss, RSCJ, Associate Director for Transformative Justice, LCWR, explains, “In the work of transformation, we want to go together, to be that work of Gospel justice and to be of service to humanity, to be the breath of grace.”

In considering how to begin this transformative process, we look to the words of a French Jesuit priest, Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who—many decades ago—understood that humanity was in a process of evolving toward greater unity: “Our role is no longer to merely ease suffering, bind up wounds, and feed the hungry, but—through every form of effort—to raise the powers of love upward to the next stage of consciousness.”

Utilizing God’s gift of amazing GRACE (Generosity, Respect, Action, Compassion, Empowerment) is where we begin. 

Generosity:

The Outward Expression of the

Accolades abound when the name Jim Parsons is mentioned in Covington, KY, and beyond. One word dominates the narrative: Generous.

Jim grew up in Dayton, Ohio and attended Mount Union College in Alliance, OH, before transferring to Defiance College in Defiance, OH. He soon realized college was not for him so he returned to his hometown of Dayton and began working at his father's custom home building company. A year or so later, Jim accepted a position as an outside sales rep for an iron pipe manufacturer in Coshocton, OH. His sales territory included Kentucky, Cincinnati, and southern Indiana.

"I knew absolutely nothing about this field at the time," recalls the now 72-year-old gentleman with a chuckle. "A few years later a customer, who was a distributor, asked if I would join his supply yard company selling pipe, valves, and fittings for the waterworks and sewer industries. That's how I ended up in northern Kentucky."

Eventually, the owner of a competing local distributor sought Jim out and hired him. "I began as an outside sales rep with the intention of purchasing the company within five years. I owned Viking Supply from 2002 to 2020. We distributed pipe, valves and fittings for the waterworks and sewer industries. Our customer base included contractors who installed our various materials for new subdivisions, commercial developments, and highway projects. In addition, we supplied materials to various municipalities," Jim explains.

"I have received so many personal rewards through giving. It truly is better to give than receive."

- Jim Parsons

Despite the challenges inherent in running his own company, in 1999 Jim was asked by the Notre Dame Academy (NDA) athletic director in Covington, KY, if he would coach the school's cross-country team. "Three years later, NDA's head varsity track and field coach stepped down. I applied for the coaching position and was hired," Jim says. "I was blessed to be surrounded by other passionate coaches and assistants as NDA won six regional track and field championships in the Triple A division. The teams also set many school records." In 2022 Jim was inducted into the NDA Athletic Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding career as an NDA track and field coach.

"I remember how excited I was to learn that NDA was planning to construct their first soccer/track and field complex. At the time, our girls had to use another school's track," he says. Jim made a generous pledge for construction of the soccer field and track.

In addition, Jim established a Viking Supply Scholarship to go to a senior track or cross-country athlete at NDA, a scholarship that continued until 2020.

Furthermore, Jim contributes annually to the Sisters of Notre Dame. He has donated a week's stay at his condo on James Island in Charleston, SC, for

the past 11 years for the SND Silent Auction, held at the annual July 4th Festival in Covington, KY.

Margie Schnelle, Mission Advancement Manager, Covington, KY, has this to say about Jim: "Every year I ask if he would like to donate and, without hesitation, he says, 'Of course.' I know Mr. Parsons also donates his condo to the Notre Dame Academy Gala each year as

Inward Working of Grace



Jim Parsons

well. Mr. Parsons has also been a supporter, over many years, of our mission in Buseesa, Uganda, East Africa. Some of our sisters lived and taught there at our school for children from nursery school through high school levels. His support helps the sisters to provide an education and a better way of life to many who otherwise would not have this opportunity. Mr. Parsons is a good friend of the Sisters of Notre Dame. He believes in our mission and the work we do. None of this would be possible without the generosity of folks like him.”

“I have received so many personal rewards through giving. It truly is better to give than receive,” Jim states. “With my passion for coaching, ownership of a small business and deep faith, I feel compelled to give. It pumps me up,” he says.

Jim’s tremendous grace and generosity have also been recognized by others. Recently, he was awarded “Citizen of the Year” by the Rotary Club of Florence, KY, for “embodying the spirit of charity and compassion.” Not surprisingly, Jim donated the \$1,000 check he received from the Rotary to the Sisters of Notre Dame along with his own personal check to the congregation.


“Jim would give the shirt off his back to help someone in need without thinking twice,” wrote Jacob Brooks, former executive director of the R.C. Durr YMCA in Burlington, KY.

Laura Koehl, Executive Director, SND USA National Sponsorship and Network Office, concludes, “Jim is a compassionate, kind and generous

man who has shared his many gifts and talents with our Notre Dame community. During his tenure as a coach at NDA in Covington, KY, he had a very positive impact on many young women as athletes and as women of character and principle. We are grateful for all he has done to support the school, the student-athletes, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.”

Jim Parsons is certainly an example of generosity and grace.

****If you are interested in financially supporting the Sisters of Notre Dame, please call the SND Mission Advancement Office in your regional area or visit sndusa.org/donate.***

****If you are interested in volunteering in an SND Ministry, please visit sndusa.org and view the many ministries that can use a helping hand. ***

Respect for the Environment Junction Coalition Strives for Systemic

The Junction Coalition, located in the greater Toledo, OH, area, seeks to care for the environment and promote the revitalization of one of the city's low-income neighborhoods. The Coalition formed in 2014 as a response to the microcystic algal bloom which shut down Toledo's water system and required the entire neighborhood to rely on a substantial supply of costly bottled water.

Sister Marya Czech, support staff and grant writer for the Junction Coalition, states, "This action for neighborhood survival imbued us with a mission to provide a viable voice for residential sustainability and development. In response to the systemic

"This action for neighborhood survival imbued us with a mission to provide a viable voice for residential sustainability and development."

- Sister Marya Czech

disparities present in the community, Junction Coalition underwent 18 months of green infrastructure education and development through Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) Urban Water Projects. This resulted in the Junction Coalition working with city officials and government agencies to implement a green stormwater management strategy."

Aware of the dehumanizing aspects of systemic poverty, the Junction Coalition, previously the ONYX Community Development Corporation, constitutes a guiding force today for systemic change. The aim is primarily met through involvement in these actions:

- planning, organizing, directing and coordinating economic revitalization activities in affected neighborhoods;
- developing, redeveloping, and rehabilitating areas within and adjacent to the Junction Coalition;
- improving the quality of life for all neighborhood and community stakeholders, especially low-income residents.


"The Junction Open Space Action Plan, created from community input, seeks to engage residents in greening opportunities while prioritizing diverse reuse strategies for vacant land," Sister Marya says.

There is also a need for recreational and educational spaces within the local Junction Coalition community. Development of such spaces would promote leadership, healthy living and civic engagement for the youth. During COVID, the Junction Coalition hosted a community education event on urban heat islands and energy conservation as well as a youth-incentive, job-skills and job-fair event.

Junction Coalition's full-time staff includes Alicia Smith, executive director; Eunice Glover, housing coordinator; and a receptionist. With a strong, dedicated support staff, the Junction Coalition has been able to produce positive results against seemingly insurmountable odds. One of these successes was receiving an Ohio Environmental

Change in Toledo's Low-Income Neighborhoods

Education Fund Grant supporting a year-long project titled, "This is Where We Live." This project was a means to define/describe environmental issues as vast as the Great Lakes Basin which contains almost 20 percent of all global fresh water. The need for bottled water was ironic given that Toledo sits on the shores of Lake Erie, one of the Great Lakes.

"I encourage participants to get involved in environmental issues within and outside their own communities – becoming more conscious of environmental issues as justice issues that affect livelihood, public health and well-being of marginalized urban and rural communities," Sister Marya stresses. "Environmentalism is an attitude, an all-encompassing desire to understand the 'integrity of creation,' making us avid students and implementors of *Laudato Si*. Clean water, clean air and healthy soil in which to grow food are not unreasonable goals for which to strive. Christ's great commission involves all of us, including the least among us." 

Sister Marya Czech with the staff of Junction Coalition whose mission is to provide a viable voice to our neighbors and to cultivate healthy relationships throughout the community.



Tim Duncan: A Man of Action

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion upon the world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

- Saint Teresa of Avila

Tim Duncan is a man of action. And he says an encounter with Sister Kathleen Burns dramatically influenced the actions he would take moving forward in his life.

"I do not believe God could have chosen a better person to introduce me to the Catholic faith. Sister Kathleen shared the truth of Church teachings along with a love that permeated that truth," Tim emphatically states. "Somehow, whenever Sister Kathleen shares the faith, the love of God always seems to move through her to me. God loved me through her, and it was contagious!"

Tim met Sister Kathleen at an OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program in Long Beach, California. OCIA initiates adults into the Catholic faith. "She is one of my models of evangelization. Following OCIA, my wife Blanca and I attended a Bible study led by Sister Kathleen, where she continued to educate and share God's love with me and the rest of the group. I will be eternally grateful to God for the gift of Sister Kathleen in my life," Tim says.

Tim also recalls meeting Sister Val Roxburgh, who lived at Providence House in Long Beach at the time. Sister Val visited an OCIA class Tim was attending. "Anyone who has ever met Sister Val knows how joyful she is. That joy impacted my desire to continue growing and learning. There is nothing more attractive than a joy-filled Catholic. Sisters Kathleen and Val often opened Providence House for evening gatherings where our community could be built up.

Spending time with Sr. Val was tremendous. Her joy is infectious and rubs off on you. She is a blessing."

Since becoming Catholic, the Duncans have remained on the move. Both husband and wife serve at the Nun Run, an annual fundraising event in Thousand Oaks, California. Tim recalls the first time they attended the Nun Run. "I saw a model of total commitment to Jesus within the religious congregation. I was drawn to that commitment. I also knew I would be a better Catholic man if I spent more time with the sisters."

Tim and Blanca also decided to become SND Associates. They went through the Associate Program with three other couples that all met through Sisters Kathleen and Val. "Sister Paulynne Tubick sponsored my wife and me as we went through the SND Associate Program. We met for dinner often and discussed what we were learning. She continues to keep the SND Associates in Long Beach connected by organizing evenings of Lectio Divina prayer," Tim says.



Tim and Blanca Duncan

Tim works as a special-education math teacher at Warren High School in Downey, California. There, he spends three periods co-teaching with a general education teacher in a college-preparatory setting, and three periods in a special-education, diploma-track setting.

“Because I teach in a public high school, I am careful about sharing the Catholic faith, but I can be a hopeful presence in the students’ lives,” says Tim. “I have a crucifix in my room and wear one daily in class. My

students know I am Christian. I practice the values of humility and charity with my students. Teenagers are a daily challenge and an opportunity for me to practice the patience and compassion of Christ. They will test you. Occasionally, I lose my patience and have an opportunity to practice humility by apologizing and asking for forgiveness. I always do this in front of the whole class. I see it as an opportunity to show them how to make amends when needed. Fortunately, teens are as forgiving as they are trying.”

In addition to teaching, Tim serves as a Kairos Retreat team member at prisons.

“My journey with Kairos Prison Ministry began with Cursillo. I attended Orange County Cursillo in April of 2017, and it changed my life in a way that is hard to put into words,” Tim states. “I like to say that there was life before Cursillo, and life after Cursillo, and the two look nothing alike.”

The three-day weekend Cursillo focuses on showing Christian laypeople how to truly live a Christian life. The method stresses personal spiritual development through piety, study, action, and living a life in grace, according to Tim.

Tim reflects, “Cursillo moved Jesus and my Catholic faith from being a part of my life to being the center of my life. Cursillo prepared me to go into prison and serve on a Kairos team. I was asked to serve in a detention ministry

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Tim Duncan: A Man of **Action** (continued)

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Tim Duncan and the Kairos Team

“For the first time in a long time I was excited to wake up.”

“God, what are you doing to me!”

“It is at these moments that I know I am aligning my will for my life with Jesus’

in some form or another a few times prior, but I always shied away from it. This time, I saw God was not going to let up, so I reluctantly said yes. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life to spend time with the men in prison.”

He explains that the Kairos Prison Ministry is modeled after the Catholic Cursillo and adapted to the prison environment. The men do not have to be Christian to attend. “The basic goal of Kairos is to share the power of God’s love and forgiveness with the incarcerated men, to show them they still have value in the eyes of our Lord, and He wants to be in a relationship with each of them.”

At the end of the weekend, the men are given the opportunity to share their experiences and have expressed such sentiments as these:

“Thank you for treating me like a human being.”

“I didn’t know there were people like this out there in the world.”

“God showed Himself to be real through you.”

“Hate broke me, love healed me.”

“The basic goal of Kairos is to share the power of God’s love and forgiveness with the incarcerated men, to show them they still have value in the eyes of our Lord, and He wants to be in a relationship with each of them.”

- Tim Duncan

will for my life. Prison is exactly where He wants me to be.” The Kairos team served at the California City State Prison which recently closed. Tim’s team is merging with the team at Tehachapi State Prison. Their next retreat weekend is in April 2024.



“God has blessed me with a servant’s heart,” Tim reflects. “I find myself pulled to say ‘yes’ to any service call. I am often asked to talk about my Catholic faith. Between Cursillo and Kairos, I have presented approximately 10-12 talks on the weekends. I was a Rector (leader) with the most recent Cursillo in the Diocese of Orange. I have led five to six OCIA classes each year in the past. My wife and I also currently facilitate the Adult Confirmation classes at St. Hedwig Parish. It is a blessing to engage with people and answer the questions they have or explain why we believe or do what we do.”




Tim Duncan and the Cursillo Team

“I believe Catholicism isn’t something we do, it’s something we are. In everything I do and everywhere I go, I am first a Catholic man. If I spend any amount of time with you and you don’t know that I am Catholic, I have done something wrong. If Christ is to be known and His Kingdom shared and grown, it is the laity that must do it. The Catholic Church’s mission is to continue to do the work initiated by Jesus. We are called to know, love and serve God.”

He concludes, “People are drawn to God’s love and to a dedication to that love. It is what they need, whether they know it or not. As St. Augustine said: ‘You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.’ I try to act and respond always as a faithful, Catholic man. Whether as a husband, father, grandfather, friend, teacher, etc., I want my faith to form my actions.”

“I am forever grateful for the love shown to me by Sisters Kathleen, Val, and Paulynne early in the formation of my faith journey. Their ability to let God’s love shine through them and into me impacted me tremendously and set me off on the journey I find myself on today. Thanks to all of the Sisters of Notre Dame for your love, prayers and inspiration.”

****If you are interested in learning more about how you can become an SND Associate, please call your regional SND Center or visit our website at sndusa.org/associates.*** 

A Heart of Compassion

“Our compassion is the best vaccine against the epidemic of indifference.”

- Pope Francis

Grace Jones stands barely 5 ft. tall and weighs less than a few bags of garden soil, but her reach extends across cultures, economic divides, religious affiliations, and demographics. Grace is one of the world’s superheroes. Why? Because she is a compassionate volunteer.

“I do think God calls everyone to help others in need,” she shyly whispers, her arms cradling a baby at Zelig’s Home. Located in Garfield Heights and Lakewood, Ohio, Zelig’s Home provides an option for moms desiring to make positive changes in their lives through physical, professional, and spiritual care. Pregnant women or recent moms and their little ones may stay at either home up to a year while receiving guidance and encouragement in their new role as “mom.” They also obtain assistance to help them achieve their education or career goals.

Grace grew up in Mayfield Heights, Ohio and began first grade at St. Clare School in Lyndhurst, Ohio. She remained there until her family moved to St. Francis of Assisi Parish where she entered the 4th grade. Grace went on to graduate from Regina High School and John

Carroll University in Cleveland, with a major in Special Education and English Literature. She taught children with special needs throughout her teaching career.

“My faith is the most important part of my life,” she unapologetically states. “I honestly don’t know how my life would have turned out with all of its twists and turns if it wasn’t for my faith.”

“I heard about Maggie’s Place (since renamed Zelig’s Home) a few years ago when they put out a request for volunteers. I remember thinking ‘I wish I could volunteer,’ but the distance from my Chesterland, Ohio home was too far.’ In early fall of 2022, I again came across a request for volunteers at Zelig’s Home in a parish bulletin. I really wrestled with the idea. I decided it wouldn’t hurt to contact the volunteer coordinator and find out more about it. When I learned about their flexibility with scheduling hours and days, I decided to follow through with it. As it turns out, the commute to the Garfield Heights location isn’t bad at all.”

Grace says Zelig’s provides her with an opportunity to “work with all the cute babies, of course. It’s the perfect place for anyone who loves being around adorable, crying babies!”

“I find that putting my personal needs and concerns aside for a short while to assist someone else with theirs helps me to view my own problems in a different light.”

- Grace Jones



This is not her only volunteering activity. Prior to her time at Zelig's Home, Grace volunteered at a domestic abuse shelter, spending time with the children who were housed there with their custodial parents. "It usually involved helping with homework, playing games, babysitting when a parent was scheduled for counseling, etc. When Covid struck and the world was put into lockdown mode, it came to an end," Grace explains.


"I find that putting my personal needs and concerns aside for a short while to assist someone else with theirs helps me to view my own problems in a different light," considers Grace. "Suddenly, my problems don't seem quite so important or terrible."

Grace volunteers at her parish, St. Francis of Assisi in Gates Mills, OH, as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Family members, friends, and others have also found a competent, compassionate babysitter in Grace as well.

"St. Therese of Lisieux once said, 'It is not the greatness of the work which matters, but the love with which it is done.' Small acts of kindness can make a huge difference. There are opportunities given to each of us every day to help someone in need – most especially in prayer," Grace encourages. "I really believe this!"



Grace Jones

****To learn more about volunteer opportunities in one of the numerous SND ministries, please call your regional Mission Advancement office or visit sndusa.org.*** 

Sister Grace Leung

A Story of Endurance

A Chinese-American born in New York City, Jane Leung took an unlikely path in becoming first a Catholic, and then a Sister of Notre Dame. One might say it was a journey of endurance and empowerment!

Sister Grace recalls, “My parents were immigrants from southern China who came to the United States as young adults after the Communist takeover. They later became naturalized U.S. citizens. Their marriage was an arranged marriage in China, but they were lucky. They grew to love one another deeply.”

“Our family could be classified as lower-middle income,” she modestly describes. “My parents, two brothers, grandparents and I lived in a two-bedroom apartment in New York City’s Chinatown. We did not have a religious affiliation. However, I was exposed to Christianity while growing up in Chinatown. My mother thought it was good for me to attend Sunday school at a Lutheran church where I learned the Lord’s Prayer. I remember

“There was joy on their faces. I wondered what Catholicism was all about. This led me to begin my own spiritual journey.”

- Sister Grace Leung

going inside a Catholic church in the neighborhood and smelling the fragrance from the candles. I even went to the public library and found books on the lives of saints. I was particularly drawn to St. Bernadette’s life story. I attended public schools throughout my academic years through college. Eventually, my mother was drawn to Buddhist spirituality, and my father was agnostic.”

In 1997 Jane was working as an executive assistant to the president of a large entertainment company when her boss asked her to move to Los Angeles, CA. While

she did not want to leave her family and friends in NYC, Jane loved working in the entertainment industry, “going to awards shows and meeting the stars.” Ultimately, she decided to move to LA.

“I was an adult, living in Los Angeles, when I experienced an epiphany when St. Pope John Paul II passed away in April of 2005. I had always admired him, especially when he spoke to youth around the world. When I watched news coverage of his funeral, I was struck by the crowds gathering in St. Peter’s Square. They were mourning but also smiling. There was joy on their faces. I wondered what Catholicism was all about. This led me to begin my own spiritual journey.”

“In LA, I was introduced to the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) program at St. Timothy Church, by a Catholic friend who became my sponsor. I was baptized during the Easter Vigil in 2006.”

Soon after her baptism, Jane considered a religious vocation. Her OCIA teacher introduced Jane to some sisters for casual conversations. “I met Sister Valerie Roxburgh by chance at the 2007 Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, CA. I was sitting in the arena for a Terry Hershey workshop when I overheard a conversation Sister Val was having with an older couple. My ears perked up because Sister Val said she was in formation, on her way to making her temporary profession. After the couple left, I introduced myself to Sister Val and the rest is history!”

Sister Val gave Jane’s name and contact information to Sister Judeen Julier, who invited her to a “Come and See” night at St. Francis Convent in Los Angeles. “I prayed with the sisters and enjoyed a nice dinner with them, but I did not immediately pursue entering the congregation. At the time, I wanted to remain a layperson but enter a community where I could grow spiritually.”

and Empowerment



Sister Grace Leung (third from right) is shown here with leaders and participants in the California Chinese Catholic Living Camp.

Jane eagerly continued her search. She discovered Third Orders and thought she would learn about the Benedictine community since she had a good friend who later became a monk in a Benedictine monastery. Another friend suggested she consider the Dominican Third Order. “There were many avenues of discernment for me to pursue,” Sister Grace recalls with a smile.

“Sister Judeen invited me to more dinners and gave me a brochure about the SND congregation, but I put it aside for a year. Meanwhile, Sister Val made temporary profession of vows and was assigned to Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles, working in their administration office,” recalls Sister Grace. “She and other SNDs came to Mass at St. Timothy’s, and they reconnected with me since I was a Eucharistic Minister there.”

Sister Val invited Jane to a Thanksgiving dinner at the Notre Dame convent. “I felt very welcomed by the sisters who gathered there, and I met Sister Kathleen Burns, who would soon be my postulant director. I felt at home with the Sisters of Notre Dame. They have a strong sense of community and hospitality which drew me in.”

During the annual tea at St. Paschal Baylon Church in Thousand Oaks, CA, Jane met some SND Associates. “I felt their joy in helping the sisters,” Sister Grace enthusiastically exclaims. “I thought becoming an SND Associate was a possibility for me. ‘Joyful simplicity’ is what I saw in both the Sisters of Notre Dame and the SND Associates.”

Ultimately, Jane felt called by God to enter the SND congregation and chose Grace as her religious name. “Two people, unrelated to one another, told me they felt Grace was appropriate for me. I try to live out my calling to be ‘grace’ for others – to help people by sharing grace through personal encounters as well as in my ministries.”

Today, Sister Grace ministers as a Paralegal (Auditor) at the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal. This work involves gathering evidence for cases assigned to her as part of the tribunal team which includes a judge, auditor and notary. “I gather evidence by interviewing the petitioners, respondents and witnesses for a case,” Sister Grace says. “The process involves many stages before a case is resolved. Our primary goal is to listen. We listen to

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Sister Grace Leung (continued)

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area and in later years included large numbers of Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong and Macau. The present Living Camp includes Asians from other countries such as Indonesia. They welcome non-Asians as well.

people's narratives about their failed relationships and marriages. Many individuals are often seeking healing and hope. Other petitioners have remarried civilly but want to receive the Eucharist again."

Additionally, Sister Grace ministers in the California Chinese Catholic Living Camp (CACCLC) which brings together young adults in the Chinese Catholic community to grow and deepen their relationship with God.

"CACCLC encourages and invites young adults to stay connected with the Church, be witnesses to the Gospel, be active in discerning and answering God's call, and to know, love and serve God with an authentic faith," Sister Grace explains.

“We need to stretch ourselves to get to know people who come from different backgrounds. A faith community can help.”

- Sister Grace Leung

According to Sister Grace, the group has its origins in Canada where in 1977 the Eastern Canada Chinese Catholic Living Camp began to gather young Chinese Catholics together for fellowship and spiritual growth. In 1998, the Living Camp expanded to the San Francisco

As a Chinese

American, Sister Grace believes that “discrimination exists not only between racial groups but with religious groups, gender, age groups, and even within the same group. We all face discrimination of some kind, and we have laws to protect our rights, but changing one's heart and behavior is difficult for some. Growing up in New York City, I experienced discrimination against Chinese Americans and Asians. However, I chose to believe that much of that discrimination stemmed from fear and ignorance. New York City is such a diverse city with many religious and racial groups. I was ‘awakened’ during my college years to participate in activities to educate people about racism. Looking back, it seems some things have not really improved since then.”

Sr. Grace remains hopeful. “Change for the better starts with oneself. There are opportunities to educate oneself about people from different cultures by reading and participating in diverse faith-sharing groups. We need to stretch ourselves to get to know people who come from different backgrounds. A faith community can help.”

****Please visit the SND USA Facebook page to connect with the SND online community.*** 



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

4 Estate Planning Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

A 2021 study done by Caring.com estimated that more than two-thirds of Americans (68%) do not have an estate plan in place. Why? These four mistakes may play a role:

1. **Not wanting to plan.** Few people enjoy thinking about what happens after they're gone. But if you don't decide who gets what, the state where you live will.
2. **Not designating beneficiaries.** Some assets, such as life insurance or retirement plans, pass outside of a will. Those plans offer an opportunity for you to name someone to inherit them. This is called a beneficiary designation.
3. **Not reviewing asset titles.** Asset titling refers to the way in which you own an asset – including in your individual name, jointly with someone else or in a trust or other entity. Assets titled in joint tenancy pass outside your will and to the surviving joint tenant.
4. **Not planning for disability or medical emergency.** According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6.7 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease. Older generations (as well as all competent adults) need to prepare for incapacity and create durable powers of attorney and advance directives or living wills.

If you are among most Americans who haven't yet started the estate planning process, now is the time. Your family members and heirs will be glad you did.

When you plan your estate, you can also leave a legacy for causes close to your heart. We would be happy to talk to you about how a gift to the Sisters of Notre Dame will make a difference. Please contact your local Mission Advancement representative below to learn more.

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IN THE NEWS

Jubilee Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

The Sisters of Notre Dame of the California Region will be celebrating their centennial of presence and ministry in California throughout 2024. On August 30, 1924, eleven pioneers arrived in Los Angeles from Cleveland, Ohio. The year's festivities will be a celebration of gratitude to God and to the thousands of individuals who have journeyed with us as students, colleagues, donors and friends.

On January 28, the SNDs were honored at the annual Jubilee Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels for our 100 years of continuous service in Los Angeles. It was a celebration of profound grace as the Centennial Year was opened. Special guests included parishioners from St. Matthias and St. Lawrence of Brindisi Parishes, two original ministries of the sisters in California, as well as sisters from across the United States participating in the Press Pause program, and four Sisters of Notre Dame from Brazil, Indonesia and Korea studying English in the U.S. 



Sister Rebekah Kennedy (on the left) participated in the presentation of the gifts.



Sister Ann Carla Costello pins a California poppy corsage on Sister Colette Theobald.




Golden Jubilarians Sister Margaret Mary Scott (far left) and Sister Julie Marie Arriaga (far right) share the joy of the occasion with Bishop Brian Nunez and Bishop Slawomir Szkredka.



Ms. Lilliam Paetzold, (pictured on the right) president and head of school of Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles, presented each SND with a white rose to celebrate the occasion. In this photo she is shown with former NDA faculty members, Sister Anna Maria Vasquez and Sister Marie Paul Grech.

Religious Education Congress Booth

From February 16 through 18, the SNDs hosted a booth at the Religious Education Congress of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Approximately 16,000 attendees came from across the United States and foreign countries. The Sisters were able to visit with former students, colleagues and friends, share literature, prayer cards and photo opportunities. In addition, more than 300 special prayer intentions were collected and these are being included in the daily prayers of the SNDs of the California region. 




Because the Congress was held during Lunar New Year, fortune cookies with sayings of St. Julie Billiart and SND foundress Sister Maria Aloysia were distributed.



Congratulations Sister Mary Ann Culpert!



Toledo, OH - Superior General of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Ann Culpert, was inducted into the Notre Dame Academy Hall of Fame on February 23 at the school's annual Mad for Plaid event.

Sister Mary Ann is a 1975 graduate of the Academy and served as NDA principal 2002-2005 and as president 2005-2016. 




IN THE NEWS



Blessing House Receives Three-Year Accreditation

Blessing House, located in Lorain, OH, recently received its three-year accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) International. To Sister Mary Berigan, Donna Humphrey, Sister Mary Beth Daly (*pictured*), all the staff and volunteers, Board members and Donors, we say, “Well done!”

This is the first time Blessing House has gone through this lengthy and detailed process, and it came out with flying colors. There were minimal recommendations for improvement and many “areas of strength” highlighted. Here is a sample of one of the many ways that Blessing House makes a real difference: “Family members interviewed who have taken part in the program all expressed a very high level of satisfaction with the program, the organization as a whole, and especially the staff. They stated that they do not know how they would have managed without the program and the employees’ open arms and hearts.”

May God continue to bless and be with Blessing House and all who enter its doors! 

Advocacy


All of the work of the SND Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Office is based on Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel. We focus on issues that compromise the Dignity of the Human Person and/or the Common Good.

We do Advocacy in three ways:

- 1. Education**—sharing information on CST with sisters, associates, collaborators and elected officials on how policies support or challenge these teachings.
- 2. Voter Voice Campaigns**— making sure our elected officials know where we stand on issues.
- 3. In-person or virtual meetings** with officials to build relationships and find common ground.

As we continue to build relationships, we can share the stories of those we minister with and to, with the people who have the power to create change. These lived experiences and observations are critical for bringing the truth to the forefront.


Key Themes: Poverty, Food Insecurity, Racial Justice, Women & Children, Education Choice, Victims of Crime, Human Trafficking, Immigration, Protecting Asylum, Opposing Death Penalty, Fair Working Conditions

**If you would like to learn more about how to get involved, please call the JPIC Office at 440-279-1182 or by email at jpica@sndusa.org. *



Sister Erin Maria Nagy entered SND USA in the fall and now resides at the National Novitiate Residence in Toledo, OH, with Sisters Alice Willman, Kelley Rush, Marilyn Ellerbrock and Diane Pfahler.

Sisters of Notre Dame And Friends SHINE at 2nd Annual Women's Summit

Toledo, OH - The Sisters of Notre Dame hosted the 2nd Annual SHINE Women's Summit on November 2, 2023. Nearly 300 women of all faiths, ages, and backgrounds gathered to support, honor, inspire, nurture, and empower each other. Attendees enjoyed hearing from Veronika Scott, the founder and CEO of The Empowerment Plan and a panel of local women who are working to empower their communities. Five women were honored as Women Who SHINE for their work to Support, Honor, Inspire, Nurture, and Empower women through their work and volunteerism. Proceeds from the event benefit ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The date has been set for the 3rd Annual SHINE Women's Summit, November 7, 2024. To learn more about SHINE or get involved visit www.sndusa.org/shine/ 




Long-time Toledo broadcaster, Chrys Peterson, hosted a keynote conversation with Veronika Scott.



The 2023 Women Who SHINE Honorees: Rachel Gagnon, Support; Wendy Pestrue, Honor; Dr. Tonia Pace, Inspire; Christina Rodriguez, Nurture; and Nina Corder, Empower.

Sister Valerie Sweeney Receives Paraclete Award

Sister Valerie Sweeney received the Paraclete Award, the highest staff award at Jennings, for her ministry on the Pastoral Care Team. Qualifications for the award include ten or more years of service, broad respect of peers, outstanding performance, and embodiment of Jennings' mission and values. Congratulations! 

A LASTING TRIBUTE

SISTER JOAN MARIE RECKER




(Formerly Sister Mary Josef)
August 18, 1940 – October 1, 2023

Born Joan Marie to Joseph and Agnes (Schroeder) Recker in Leipsic, Ohio, the fourth of eight children, she attended St. Mary School before becoming an aspirant at Notre Dame Academy, Toledo.

Having made her vows in 1960, she began teaching grade seven at Christ the King School, Toledo. The next year she became the Aspirant Directress, the first of many years as a formator of the young women considering religious life. She taught at Notre Dame Academy and Notre Dame Extension College 1964-74 before becoming a postulant directress in 1974 and novice directress in 1976.

Sister Joan Marie took on the role of Provincial Superior of the Toledo Province in 1988, a leadership position of nine years. After a sabbatical renewal in Sangre de Cristo Center in Santa Fe, Sister became Chancellor for the Toledo diocese, but within three months was elected to the General Council in Rome and then re-elected for a total of 12 years.

Returning to Ohio in 2011, she was a team member at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse. Described as a “contemplative in action,” she was a spiritual director until 2021. She moved to St. Clare Commons in Perrysburg in 2021 and later to Rosary Care Center in Sylvania. 

SISTER MARY MICHAELYN HEMPFLING




May 5, 1934 - September 9, 2023

Martha Lucille Hempfling was the oldest of seven children of Michael and Lucille (Youngpeter) Hempfling. She attended St. John School in Delphos, where she was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame. After eighth grade, Martha became an aspirant with the Sisters at Notre Dame Academy. She received the

name Sister Mary Michaelyn in 1952 and was professed in 1954. She attended Mary Manse College and the University of Toledo, obtaining a masters in education.

Sister Mary Michaelyn taught elementary school for 37 years, usually in the primary grades, at St. Mary, Gesu, St. Louis, St. Ann, Sacred Heart, St. Martin de Porres in Toledo; Immaculate Conception, Bellevue; St. Wendelin, Fostoria; Sacred Heart, Fremont; St. Mary, Leipsic; St. Joseph, Maumee; St. Joseph, Monroeville; St. Paul, Norwalk; and Holy Rosary School, Jacksonville, Florida. She was the principal at Sacred Heart School, Toledo 1973-78.

After retiring from teaching, she was receptionist at Maria Child Care Center in Toledo for four years. Then she began 13 years of coordinating and directing the religious education programs in St. Michael, Gibsonburg; St. Joseph, Paulding; and Holy Rosary/Sacred Heart/St. Stephen, Toledo. She spent four years in New Smyrna, Florida and one year in Gainesville, Florida as a parish and school volunteer. Throughout her years of teaching and beyond, Sister was especially gifted at ministering to the elderly and visiting the sick. Returning to her hometown in 2014, she gave two years of service to St. John Parish and Vancrest Nursing Home in Delphos. 

SISTER MARY KATHLEEN MCCAFFERTY



(Formerly Sister Mary Lisbeth)
July 11, 1941 – January 16, 2024

Kathleen Therese McCafferty was born in Cleveland, the first of three children of Richard and Elizabeth (Lucko) McCafferty. In her junior year at St. Stephen High School, Kathleen became editor of the school newspaper and considered a career in journalism. A school retreat in May

brought thoughts of a religious vocation. She decided to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame after graduation. Kathleen became a postulant on September 8, 1959 and at investment she received the name Sister Mary Lisbeth.

With a bachelors degree from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, OH, and a masters from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, Sister Kathleen embarked on a 30-year teaching career. She taught Theology, English, French, and Drama at Regina High School, South Euclid, and Notre Dame Academy, Chardon, both in Ohio. In 1971 she was missioned with two other sisters to Clearwater Central Catholic High School in Clearwater, Florida. Her two-year assignment paved the way for the community’s decades-long presence on CCC’s staff, as SND ministry expanded to other parts of the state.

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

From 1973-1978, Sister Kathleen served as Director of Admissions at Notre Dame College. She did post-graduate studies at Oxford University in England, and at the City University of New York and Yale University. A grant enabled her to interview the famed playwright Arthur Miller. Theater became her passion, integrating her interest in literature, language, dance, music, and visual arts. Her students learned to work as a team and explored ways to reach the minds and emotions of the audience, understanding themselves better in the process.

Sister Kathleen had spiritual gifts to share as well, in a new ministry as Pastoral Minister, Director of Parish Life, and Administrative Assistant at Holy Spirit Parish, Garfield Heights, from 1999 until March of 2023.

SISTER GRACE MARY CORBETT



(Formerly Sister Mary Foster)
January 2, 1940 – November 18, 2023

Grace was the second of three daughters born to Edward and Stella (Gunn) Corbett in Cleveland, Ohio. After elementary school, Grace attended Regina High School in South Euclid, Ohio. During her senior year, she decided to enter the Sisters

of Notre Dame and became a postulant on July 2, 1958. At investment, Grace received the name Sister Mary Foster.

With a bachelors degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland, and a masters from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Sister Grace taught junior high students at various elementary schools in the Greater Cleveland area and Virginia for 25 years. She served as principal at six different schools: St. John the Evangelist in Warrenton, VA; St. Thomas, Sheffield Lake; St. Anselm, Chesterland; St. Benedict and St. Stephen, both in Cleveland.

From 1988 to 1991, Sister Grace was a member of the Administrative Team of Metro Catholic School, a merging of three schools serving nine parishes on Cleveland's near west side. As one of four "Founding Mothers," she was awarded a Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* from John Carroll University in 1995.

After her retirement from full-time classroom teaching in 2010, Sister Grace spent the next 12 years as a Science Lab teacher and educational tutor at Notre Dame Elementary School, Chardon, and at Metro Catholic, Cleveland.

SISTER MARGARET MARY PER



(Formerly Sister Mary Valerie Jean)
May 22, 1935 – October 12, 2023

Margaret Mary Per was the youngest of five children born to John and Mary (Biaggio) Per in Cleveland, Ohio. At St. Vitus School, Margaret's eighth-grade teacher encouraged her to enter the high school aspirant program at Ansel Road. Margaret entered the novitiate on February 2, 1953, and at investment received the name Sister Mary Valerie Jean.

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland, and a master's from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She taught middle grades and junior high for 24 years in parish schools in Canton, Massillon, Chardon, Eastlake, Lyndhurst and Gates Mills. In Cleveland, she ministered at Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Stephen, St. Joseph Franciscan, and Holy Redeemer parish schools. She also had an Advanced Catechetical Diploma from Notre Dame Institute, Middleburg, VA, and was a Pastoral Minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Winchester, VA. In service to the community, Sister Margaret was an infirmity aide in the Health Care Center for 10 years.

Artistic and creative, Sister Margaret crafted many items for the annual SND Chicken Barbecue/Boutique. She wrote poems and computerized them as cards or in decorative frames —selling hundreds of these over the years. She learned the art of stained glass, producing individual sun-catchers as well as unique Nativity sets.

The past 11 years were devoted to prayer, presence, and praise, as Sister Margaret experienced a decline in strength. "The image of the cross," she said, "enshrines what is dearest to my heart. . . in times of joy and sorrow."

A LASTING TRIBUTE

SISTER JOSETTA MARIE LIVIGNANO



October 10, 1939 – October 15, 2023

Phyllis Livignano and her sister Maria (Sister Mary Trina, deceased) were the only children born to Joseph and Concetta (Caputo) Livignano. They grew up in a neighborhood of Cleveland where the first Italian immigrants had settled and were always proud and appreciative of their Italian

heritage—it was an integral part of their lives. Phyllis attended SS Anthony-Bridget Elementary School and then St. Peter High School, both staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame. At St. Peter's, Phyllis followed the business program, her favorite subjects being shorthand and typing. These were great assets for future employment! Phyllis realized she could not enter the convent immediately after graduation as her sister Marie had done. She recognized that God was calling her to fulfill the need to support and care for their parents. She described this time, more than 22 years, as “a blessing and a privilege” and always felt that the love and prayers of Sister Mary Trina were with her. She was employed by the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, spending 18 years as a long-distance telephone operator and then doing clerical work for the company. In 1979, at age 40, Phyllis came to Chardon as a postulant. At investment she received the name Sister Joesetta Marie.

For 21 years she taught second grade at St. Mary Parish School of Religion in Chardon. She also served as an aide in the Chardon Healthcare Center, as a switchboard operator, and assisted in the Notre Dame India (Global) Mission Office.

SISTER MARY JUDEANN LUEKEN



September 16, 1942 – November 5, 2023

Rhea Mary Lueken, the 4th and youngest child of Helen and Ferdinand Lueken, was born on September 16, 1942. Rhea attended St. Martin School in Cheviot, Ohio, where she came to know the Sisters of Notre Dame. She became an aspirant after the eighth

grade, attending Notre Dame Academy. She entered the

congregation on February 2, 1960, made her first profession of vows in 1962, and then was assigned to teach primary grades at St. Joseph, Cold Spring, and St. Augustine School, Covington, KY. After her final vows in 1967, Sister Mary Judeann pursued nursing education at Lexington Technical Institute and the University of Cincinnati.

Upon receiving her B.S.N., Sister ministered as staff nurse at St. Claire HealthCare for three years and then at St. Charles Care Center as Director of Nursing. In 1977 Sister Judeann returned to St. Claire HealthCare as Director of Nursing and served until 1998 as Vice President of Patient Services. During this time Sister obtained her master's in nursing administration from the University of Kentucky. Sister Judeann continued to serve in health care until retiring in 2015.

In addition to health care, Sister Judeann was at times involved in community service, especially in administrative tasks, such as organizing the spiritual library, and distributing the daily mail. In January 2023 Sister Judeann moved to Lourdes Hall at the St. Charles Community campus.

SISTER MARYLYN EHRMAN



(Formerly Sister Mary Elene)
October 31, 1931 – November 11, 2023

Marylyn Kathleen was born into the loving family of George and Helen Ehrman. She was the second oldest of five children. Marylyn attended Holy Cross Grade School, Latonia, Kentucky, and Notre Dame Academy High School, Covington,

Kentucky. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame, taking her profession of vows on August 17, 1957.

She received her B.A. from Villa Madonna College and masters of education from Xavier University. Sister Marylyn served for many years in elementary and junior high grades as teacher, principal, and secretary. After many happy years in education, Sister Marylyn was asked to go to St. Claire HealthCare (St. Claire Medical Center) in Morehead, Kentucky. At the hospital, Sister Marylyn began working in the Business Office. She also decided to register for a course in Clinical Pastoral Education. Soon a part-time position opened in pastoral care and she was asked to serve as the center's chaplain.

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

Sister Marylyn also volunteered to help the men in the detention center receive their GED. Later, sister retired and returned home to Covington, helping in community service at Rosedale Manor as a eucharistic minister. She was among the first sisters to move to the St. Charles Community.

SISTER MARY LAURA WINGERT



February 12, 1942 – February 26, 2024

Joan Marie Wingert was the oldest child and only daughter of Wayne and Mary (Zettler) Wingert, born on February 12, 1942 in Canton, Ohio. Together with her four brothers, Joan enjoyed a happy childhood in the family home, surrounded by acres of farmland and woods to play in. Joan's

innate love of nature and care for the earth found deep expression in her spirituality and in her art. At St. Joseph and then at St. Joan of Arc Parish School, and then at Central Canton Catholic High School, Joan made lifelong friends.

In 1960 she became a freshman at Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio. With a major in Art and English, she planned a career in fashion design. Joan entered the Sisters of Notre Dame as a postulant on September 8, 1962 and began her 35-year teaching career at St. Stephen High School, Cleveland in 1965. Assignments at Cleveland Central Catholic, Cardinal Gibbons HS in Raleigh, NC, and at Notre Dame Academy, Chardon followed. She earned a master's degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and an Advanced Catechetical diploma from the Middleburg Institute. She studied Native American Arts in New Mexico.

Sister Laura taught at Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg, Virginia in 1966-67, returning in 1980 and spending the next 21 years in ministry there. Her students learned drawing, painting, ceramics, crafts, graphics, and related arts. She directed and staged plays, initiated inter-departmental art/environmental activities, and produced art exhibits featuring works by students, faculty, and alumni.

Since moving to the SND Center in Chardon in 2001, Sister Laura has been involved in many activities. Sister Laura lived with simple trust in God, through joy and sorrow. "O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay and you are the potter. We are all formed by your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

SISTER JESSICA KARLINGER




February 1, 1936 – February 24, 2024

Carol Anne, born in Cleveland, OH, was the only child of Victor and Anna Pezdirtz Karlinger. Carol attended Oliver Hazard Perry School from grades K-8, and she chose Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road for her high school education.

As a high school senior, Carol became a postulant—the day after her 17th birthday.

With a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame College, Sister Mary Jessica began a 28-year ministry as a high school teacher of history, government, and religion. She taught at Regina, St. Peter, and Elyria Catholic High Schools; at Cardinal Mooney in Youngstown; Cardinal Gibbons in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland, Chardon, and Middleburg, Virginia.

Sister Mary Jessica earned an advanced catechetical diploma and a master's degree from the Notre Dame Institute in Middleburg, in addition to a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame. Two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities enabled her to study the role of religion in a democratic society and in public education.

In 1989, Sister Mary Jessica came to the Chardon center and began research and writing on the history of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Thanks to Sister Mary Jessica, the people, places, and events that are part of our history and heritage can be shared with our international congregation. 



Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

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Jubilee of Grace

70 YEARS

Mary Anne Glaser
Mary Margaret Harig
Mary Roseria Helmkamp
Mary Margaret Kerr
Mary Jean Ann Luken
Mary Helen Joseph Riehle
Mary Francismarie Seiler
Mary Alice Slowey
Mary Rochelle Walter

Iron Jubilee

65 YEARS

Mary Bryan Gabel
Mary Ralph Gerdeman
Mary Sharron Goller
Mary Lucille Kime
Mary Kathleen Knechtges
Mary Noella McEntee
Mary Barbra Ostheimer
Mary Joell Overman
Mary Popoczy
Anne Marie Robinson
Mary Jacquelyn Sefcovic
Mary Geralyn Stenger
Mary Jesse Thompson
Mary Ann Tusai
Mary de Porres Westrick

Diamond Jubilee

60 YEARS

Mary Virginia Andes
Mary Krista Benda
Mary Catherine Caine
Mary Antoinette Dershaw
Elizabeth Maria Garcia
Mary Catheryne Geoppinger
Mary Anne Philomena Grady
Mary Francein Herold
Barbara Marie Hurlander
Mary Barbara Knuff
Betty Jeanne Marie Kramer
Mary Stephan Kreinbrink
Mary Cecilia Liberatore
Mary Judith Ann Sabau
Mary Sartor
Mary Theresa Sharp
Mary Patrycia Sweeney
Mary Frances Taymans
Mary Jo Toll
Mary Lourita Warken
Marilyn Zgonc

Golden Jubilee

50 YEARS

Julie Marie Arriaga
Mary Rose Falorio
Judith Mary Frederick
Mary Margaret Kozlowski
Mary Jennifer Kramer
Mary Catherine O'Malley
Mary Kathleen Ruddy
Margaret Mary Scott
Patricia Marie Tyree
Linda Marie White

Ruby Jubilee

40 YEARS

LaReine-Marie Mosley
Ann Marie Teder