

Sisters of Notre Dame **GO GREEN**



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A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR



Dear Friends,

Even though the snow flurries may still be flying here in northeast Ohio, we anticipate the first signs of spring and the renewal of the earth we experience each year. It is fitting that we celebrate the Lenten spring at the same time. A renewed commitment to our Christian life can open up a deeper sense of resurrection in the midst of our daily lives, just as through the winter darkness, spring will come and make all things new.

Within this issue of the Network, I hope you will enjoy reading about the many ways the Sisters of Notre Dame continue to “Go Green.” Being in touch with the Earth’s goodness is important to our Sisters, and we want to share that goodness. In the words of Pope Francis,

Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

(General Audience, May 21, 2014)

Love for creation is one of the reasons why Pope Francis chose his name. He wanted to be named after St. Francis of Assisi, “the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation,” the same created world “with which we don’t have such a good relationship.” (Meeting with media representatives, March 16, 2013). He will be the first pope to write an encyclical on the environment, due to be released this summer in advance of the 2015 U.N. Conference on Climate Change.

We can show gratitude and respect for creation at every level, from international affairs to daily life. Through many small, incremental steps such as conserving water and recycling paper and metals, we can all raise awareness and realize that change is possible. We hope our efforts to “Go Green” contribute to making the world more sustainable.

You will also read about several national awards: Notre Dame Elementary School’s Blue Ribbon award, Metro Catholic’s Green Ribbon award, and a design award for Network Magazine. Take a look at the continued mission in Nicaragua as our Sisters, friends and associates on “pilgrimage” share with you how your support of our Missions internationally has helped the people and the land to flourish. Regina alumnae will find upcoming events, and we are pleased to introduce Thomas Kruczek, the new president of Notre Dame College, to the extended Notre Dame family.

Yes, the New Year is well underway! What a beautiful promise of hope the Lenten season brings. The Sisters of Notre Dame continue to pray for you and your family for the blessing you are.

Sincerely,

Sr. Margaret M. Gorman SND

Sr. Margaret M. Gorman, SND
Provincial Superior
Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon

Sisters of Notre Dame

GO GREEN



The “Go Green” initiative took flight with the 2010 General Chapter, which called for a focus on integrity of creation by Sisters of Notre Dame worldwide. At the heart of this initiative is the desire to be more aware of the oneness of creation, of humanity, of present and future, and to be ever mindful of the effects of our lifestyle on the global family.

“As an international congregation with Sisters located on five continents, we know first-hand the global impact of environmental degradation,” says Sister Margaret Gorman, Provincial Superior of the SND Chardon province. “Every place in the world where our Sisters serve is experiencing climate change and disruption in agricultural patterns.

“Concern for the environment is about concern for future generations. What kind of world will our students inherit? We hope they will bring a global perspective and Gospel values to whatever decisions they will have to face.”

The articles on pages 2 through 10 of this magazine describe how the Sisters of Notre Dame are embracing the Go Green mission.



SND Notre Dame Education Center A GREEN Oasis



(l-r) Mike Skutt, Sister Debra Doig, SND, Sister Eileen Skutt, SND, and Mike's fiancé Linda Wiegand.

Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal recycling containers are just part of the different visual landscapes located on

the property of the Sisters of Notre Dame on Auburn Road in Munson Township. These visual reminders are a small sampling of the many sound environmental practices and initiatives implemented over time on the campus, not only by the Sisters, but the school communities as well. Sister Debra Doig says such visuals and practices reflect the Sisters of Notre Dame call to good stewardship, care of the environment and creation and are in accord with our Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Initiatives.

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“We strive to use green-sealed-certified paper products where the manufacturer states, ‘All green-certified paper products are based on chlorine-free processing, energy and water efficiency and contain 100 percent recovered material with a minimum of 25% post-consumer material.’ At the Education Center, we use natural cleaning products. Vinegar, baking soda, ammonia, and HE laundry products are a few examples of cleaning products less harmful to the environment and to the user,” says Sister Debra.

Sister Debra serves as Director of Facilities, Grounds and Transportation at NDEC. She has carefully overseen the transition of incandescent lighting to replacement LED products in different applications in the Center. Funded by First Energy, a recent project included replacement of incandescent lamps with LED lamps in the main SND Provincial Center Chapel. LED lamps have been utilized in 24-hour wall lighting applications in the Sisters’ private resident halls. In addition, LED lighting in resident rooms in Bethany Retreat Center have been implemented, highlighting the Retreat Center as a sustainable building initiative. After much research, Sister Debra has purchased Cree LED lamps, a product manufactured in the USA.

“Automation of our heating and air conditioning systems has allowed reasonable comfort zones through the use of blended intake of natural outside air with indoor heated air. In between seasons, the outside natural air serves as a type of air conditioner.

“The NDEC staff is equally committed to good practices and care of our precious resources.”

*- Sister Debra Doig, SND,
Director of Facilities, Grounds
and Transportation*

We are very mindful of energy conservation and consumption as evidenced by some of our ‘on demand’ water-booster systems and heaters, variable speed control motors, sink, toilet and shower water savers, just to name a few.”

She continues to say that “the NDEC staff is equally committed to good practices and care of our precious resources. We have successfully reduced the amount of areas we mow where feasible. The Sisters designed appropriate buffers around our ponds creating cleaner water conditions and water life. Combining car trips wherever possible has helped in reducing the carbon footprint of emissions.”

“All of our efforts are designed to embrace our call to be good stewards of God’s gift to us—this beautiful world. It has been said



that ‘sustainability is all about promoting and encouraging sound environmental awareness to ensure we are all aware of our environmental responsibilities,’” says Sister Debra. “It is important to consider good sustainable practices in planning and managing our facilities, grounds and transportation efforts. We consistently search out and become informed about the environmental impacts of operational practices and products we purchase and use. Environmentally sustainable awareness, coupled with the need to protect our natural world, promotes our goal of retaining and maintaining good, sound, sustainable practices as a way to show our reverence and respect for God’s love for us through all creation.” †

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream



Front: Donna Mazzola
Row 2 (l-r): Nancy Tondy,
Sr. Mary Beth Gray,
Cathy Calamia
Back: Peg Downing

The *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream*

symposium was created by the Pachamama Alliance, an alliance formed between the indigenous Achuar people of Ecuador/Peru and a small group of U.S. citizens. Since its inception in 2009, the symposium has reached more than 80 countries. It has been translated into 18 languages, and is being led by 4,000+ trained volunteer facilitators.

Sister Mary Beth Gray, SND says she had been reading about social justice and sustainability with a passion before attending the symposium and becoming a facilitator. "What I learned so resonated with me that I had to get involved!"

Sister Mary Beth teamed up with friends Peg Downing and Cathy Calamia. Downing had taught first grade for seven years before changing careers, working as a Cleveland police

officer, teaching at the police academy, and retiring as Commander. Calamia had worked as a special education coordinator for the Rocky River School District. Both women were looking for fulfilling work in retirement when they attended *Awakening the Dreamer* (ATD).

"I had seen the destructive consequences of our lifestyle on our environment," adds Calamia. "I didn't want to leave this mess to the next generation. I went to the symposium and was hooked."

All three women have been working together for the past four years, presenting ATD to interested groups throughout northeast Ohio. Their shared interest also led all three women to Ecuador.

"We met the Achuar and Quichua peoples and gained a deeper understanding of their lives and the challenges they face," says Sister Mary Beth. "We experienced the pristine beauty of the Amazon Rainforest, a jewel of the planet. We saw how indigenous people use herbs for natural healing. We plowed a field, made flour from corn, studied their agricultural calendar, shared dreams and met with a Shaman. As we interacted with the Achuar and Quichua peoples, we felt deeply their connection with Earth and their reverence for creation. We began to understand more fully the dream of combining "first world" medical and technological advances with Indigenous spirituality and reverence for Earth."

This past year the SND's National JPIC Committee asked each Sister of Notre Dame in the United States to participate in a symposium. "We were thrilled!" exclaims Sister Mary Beth. "The Sisters of Notre Dame bring so much dedication to any work they engage in, and we knew an SND involvement would greatly increase the span of the symposium's influence – through our SND dedication, and

through our many connections and collaborators. The wide sphere of participation also gives our SND community a shared degree of education in these issues, which we can use in conversations and decision-making.”

She continues, “The goal of ATD is auspicious: ‘to create an environmentally sustainable, socially just, spiritually fulfilling human presence on our planet.’ We are on fire with this message!”

The three-and-a-half to five-hour Awakening the Dreamer symposium leads participants through four questions:

1. *Where are we as a human family?*
2. *How did we get here?*
3. *What is possible now?*
4. *Where do we go from here?*

Downing states, “We are approaching the limits of a finite planet. It’s hard to recognize this unless you take a big view. We are approaching certain tipping points, in terms of the world’s ecosystem supporting life. In the symposium, we are talking about a spiritual awakening that prompts us to re-examine assumptions that have brought us to this point. A new way of living is evolving today. I believe it is possible to change the way we are doing things.”

“We arrived here largely through industrialization, made possible by harnessing the energy of fossil fuels,” explains Sister Mary Beth. “The human species has overcome many challenges over the years – civil rights in the U.S., Apartheid, Gandhi’s resistance against the British Empire – amazing things can happen. Through the symposium, we want to raise the consciousness of enough people so that change can occur.”



(l-r) Peg Downing, Cathy Calamia and Sister Mary Beth Gray, SND

“Awakening the Dreamer serves as a wakeup call,” adds Calamia. “After attending, most people want to know what they can do.”

“We do not give participants a list of what they should do at the conclusion of the symposium. Everyone has a role. We ask them to consider what they feel called to do, what their passions and interests are, once they are awakened,” Calamia says.

“We are the future. It really is not some president, some leader who will come to save us. It’s up to us,” exclaims Sister Mary Beth. “We need to be aware of what is happening globally. We are all busy, but there are these massively important issues to pay attention to, and solutions to work toward.”

To date, many SNDs and SND Associates across the U.S. have participated in the symposium and have joined the international cadre of persons dedicated to the ATD goals.

So far, most people have learned about Awakening the Dreamer

“The goal of ATD is auspicious: ‘to create an environmentally sustainable, socially just, spiritually fulfilling human presence on our planet.’”

- Sister Mary Beth Gray, SND

through word of mouth. The three women desire to further promote ATD. “Invite us in,” encourages Downing. “One of our favorite environments in which to present this symposium is where people have continuing relationships – like at church or at work.”

If you are interested in attending an *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream* symposium, or would like the team to present a symposium for your church community, school community, faculty or book club, please email Sister Mary Beth at mbelcanto@yahoo.com. †



Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin: A Sustainable School for a Sustainable World



“A sustainable school for a sustainable world,’ is a stretch goal for the Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin school community. It is rooted in one of the seven principles of Catholic social teaching, namely, care for creation,” remarks Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE, SND, President of Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. The high school’s journey toward the implementation of environmental and economic well-being is one of hard work reaping both successes and setbacks. NDCL’s Strategic Plan, *Transforming Lives ~ Changing the World, 2010 – 2015*, clearly identifies a strategy to build awareness of and provide a systematic approach to the school’s sustainability initiative. The good news is that NDCL has made progress; the challenging news is that NDCL has miles to go before it sleeps.

To begin the school’s “Go Green” efforts, the focus for NDCL’s Campus Conversation in 2009 was sustainability. After months of preparation, NDCL held the two-day summit using appreciative inquiry (AI) under the leadership of renowned Case Western Reserve University professor David L. Cooperrider, Ph.D., in partnership with Fairmount Santrol, formerly Fairmount Minerals. Approximately 800 students, faculty, staff and stakeholders learned that sustainable development is the practice of discovering paths to economic prosperity that will respect both the people of the world and the planet on which they live.

For most, this was their first voyage into the world of sustainable development and its impact on present and future generations. The

ideas presented issued a new call and challenge, but one consistent with NDCL’s mission and core values: justice, respect, integrity, community and excellence. According to Dr. Cooperrider, an event of this magnitude had never been undertaken by a high school in the United States. With the help of stakeholders from the Lake and Geauga County businesses and civic community, NDCL students and faculty learned how small steps can make a big difference for our environment, our society, and the global world.

Varied sustainable practices continue to be incorporated into the fabric of NDCL due to the leadership of several faculty members: Marcia Pecek, Adrienne Fox, and Nathan Smith. However, the present goal and hope for NDCL is that sustainable initiatives become a normal way of life in the school community.

To accomplish this, a comprehensive and organized plan for addressing environmental issues needs to be designed. The results would reinvigorate and direct NDCL’s efforts to reduce the environmental impact and the cost of operations and trash disposal.

Since 2009, small steps demonstrate the school’s commitment to “go green”:

- **EDUCATING THROUGH THE CURRICULUM:** As a school, this remains a top priority. NDCL utilizes its curriculum as a significant avenue for educating students on sustainability and its best practices. Target areas include theology, science, technology, business, literature and health.

- **ELIMINATING SOLID WASTE:**

NDCL examined ways the school generates waste on campus (in and outside the building) and set out to minimize this waste by embracing the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. One such step is maximizing the use of technology for all communications, thereby aiming to become a paperless school. Other projects included installing bat houses on campus, making biodiesel fuel in chemistry lab, and placing paper recycling boxes into each classroom. “We also participated in a recycling can contest, sponsored by Earth Day Coalition, and won the contest three years in a row,” says Marcia Pecek, math instructor. “We collected old gym shoes for the Nike Reuse a Shoe program, and cell phones for the March to the Million cell phone recycling campaign. We chose a different focus each year and made a presentation each year at the Student Environmental Congress, sponsored by Earth Day Coalition.”

- **CONSERVING WATER:** At evening and public events where receptions are held, water is served in water urns. Art students painted and decorated three rain barrels as part of the Geauga SWCD Rain Barrel Yard Art Contest. However, use of water bottles within the school community is still common and has not been resolved.

- **BUILDING SOLIDARITY AND PARTNERSHIPS:** The school continues to establish partnerships to raise student awareness of the global community. Partnerships, short term and long term, have



been established with SND Global Missions (Africa, India, and Nicaragua), Invisible Children (Uganda), The Refugee Response (TRR), International Partners for Mission (IPM), Appalachian Immersion Trips, and NDCL's Joseph of Arimathea Pallbearers, Karpos Ministries, and Geauga Hunger Task Force Initiatives serving Lake and Geauga counties.

In March 2010, Sister Jacquelyn began a partnership with the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District to create a site for comingled recycling at the west end of the school property, near the Butternut entrance. The site serves not only Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin but all residents of Munson Township. In 2014, the program transitioned to a single-stream program that accepts fiber (paper, cardboard, etc.) along with comingled materials. The maintenance staff monitors this ongoing sustainable practice.

- **CARING FOR CAMPUS:** Two perennial gardens, The Holy Family Garden and the Reflection Garden, were designed and planted by students working for their Eagle Scout and Gold Awards.

This past September, students participated in a beach cleanup, under the supervision of NDCL science instructor Adrienne Fox. "I was monitoring the recycling habits of students and studying plastic pollution. I organized students into small groups to collect and analyze trash and water quality," says Fox. "The planned

vegetable garden on campus for spring 2015, is a collaborative effort between Nathan Smith, science teacher at NDCL, and me. We worked with Dorothy Van Poppel Ray and Marlene Napalo, Master Gardeners of Geauga County, to map out expenses and locations." The school was awarded two \$500 grants from Master Gardeners as seed money for the Reflection Garden and for the vegetable garden."

- **REMODELING AND BUILDING:** NDCL's recently remodeled spaces and new buildings (2008 – 2015) utilized the best practices in sustainable design. A remodeled cafeteria, the new Pat and Janet O'Brien Center for the Performing Arts, and the new Baker Gymnasium stand as eco-friendly examples of the school's commitment to "GO GREEN" with the use of T-5 energy-efficient lighting; greenguard® certified ceramic tile, rubber tile, laminate walls, countertops, chairs and fabric; low-emitting adhesives; and purchasing many of these materials through local manufacturers. NDCL's new athletic turf on Lozick Field at Lion Stadium is comprised of about 25,000 recycled tires that were destined for a landfill but instead were ground with sand and used in the field construction. The stone and asphalt from the old track was similarly ground and used to build a parking lot at the practice field.

In 2010, Sister Jacquelyn was selected as one of the 48 participants from the USA to participate in the Japan-U.S.

Teacher Exchange Program for ESD, administered by Fulbright Japan and jointly funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and the Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The vision for this educational program is to balance human and economic well-being with cultural traditions and respect for the earth's natural resources.

"More than anything," Sister Jacquelyn comments, "I learned that creating a sustainable world is a step-by-step (and slow) process. Yet, each small initiative can have a tremendous impact on our school community and families. The Integrity of Creation is a vital part of both NDCL's Vision Statement and the worldwide vision of the Sisters of Notre Dame. All of us are called to protect God's people and our earth, living our faith in relationship with all creation. Our fundamental conviction is that we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers and stewards of God's world. This mandate is for all humankind, especially those of us blessed with abundance," Sister Jacquelyn adds.

"Furthermore, education for sustainable development (ESD) is not just a transmission of knowledge. It's about changing attitudes, values, awareness and behaviors that will create a more sustainable future. This mandate syncs perfectly with NDCL's mission to educate leaders who will transform the world, as Jesus did, by living the truth in love," concludes Sister Jacquelyn. †

METRO CATHOLIC



A National Green Ribbon School

For years, Sister Mary Jane Vovk, SND, former Director of Religious Formation at Metro Catholic, immersed herself in material on sustainability and made efforts to awaken a desire to educate Metro Catholic's staff and its 565 students to sustainability and global environmental concerns. Sister Mary Jane spearheaded various "green" initiatives throughout the school's two campuses and three buildings – St. Boniface building for pre-K through 1st grade; St. Stephen and St. Michael buildings for grades 2 through 8. Metro Catholic continues to do so today. Her untiring efforts played a pivotal role in Metro Catholic School receiving a national Green Ribbon Award.

"We at Metro Catholic are excited to be named a National Green Ribbon School in 2014!" exclaims Sister Ruth Mary Powers, HM, grant writer

for Metro Catholic. "Over 25 years ago, our founders combined three struggling, urban parish schools to form what is now a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a member of *Schools That Can*, a national network of high-performing schools operating in urban neighborhoods. Grounded in the educational tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the development of the whole child is our goal – which includes educating our students to gain an environmental mindset. We are trying to build a culture of GREEN!"

This is quite a feat considering 90 percent of their students' families live below the federal poverty level and 95 percent receive some sort of financial aid — often causing environmental concerns to take a back seat to meeting more immediate needs.

"The Sisters of Notre Dame have been working for decades on what has just now become popular as 'green' ideas," notes Sister Ruth Mary. "Even though our families and our neighborhood struggle economically, our religious tradition of caring for the world and people has motivated us for years to teach our students to become socially aware, environmentally sensitive, spiritually connected to Earth, and educated in sustainable practices. It can be challenging as the children may not have these experiences in their homes. Our teachers work tirelessly to have students make such connections."

Despite the challenge of aging buildings, Metro Catholic leaders have worked hard on an environmental and sustainable "make-over."

“We have been urban gardening since 2002 with the opening of our Peace Garden, in memory of the events of September 11th and as an antidote to violence,” explains Sister Ruth Mary. In 2005, a “green classroom” was the next step toward environmental education. Students worked with Doty & Miller Architects to plan a renovated classroom using only environmentally friendly materials. This room serves as a model to demonstrate the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly materials. In 2008, a Hazardous Waste and Chemical Hygiene Plan/Policy was implemented throughout Metro Catholic. This resulted in the recycling of printer ink, using “green” cleaner on computers, and donating all old computers to a local recycler.

“Then in 2013, we opened the Sister Ann Michael School Garden and green space, which reclaimed several city lots given to us by the Cuyahoga Land Bank,” says Sister Ruth Mary.

Sister Ann Michael Martinka (1934-2013) who served as a teacher, administrator and volunteer at Metro Catholic for many years. Her nephew Don Rerko designed the space.

As a spiritual practice, students deepen their awareness of being attentive in the moment and appreciate the beauty of being in touch with the earth. Produce from the gardens is shared with our students’ families and local food pantry programs. Native plants and meadow grasses from this bio-region are included in the garden. Fourteen donated rain barrels hold up to 700 gallons of rainwater for watering gardens and reducing rainwater run-off, according to Sister Ruth Mary.

In 2013, the renovation of the men’s lavatory included low-flush toilets, sensor lighting, and environmentally friendly wall tiles and flooring.

Additional Metro Catholic Green activities initiated through the years include the following:

- Supporting a student-led “Drink Local, Drink Tap” campaign to end the use of bottled water in school and at school-sponsored events.
- Training all teachers in the internationally known environmental program, *Awakening the Dreamer – Changing the Dream*.
- Providing transportation for 20+ students, thereby eliminating at least 15 individual cars bringing children to school; “no idling” policy now in place.
- Training two teachers in project-based restoration and sustainability through Earth Partnership in Schools; currently training other teachers as well.

- Encouraging outdoor recess for all students as often as possible.
- Developing multiple partnerships with local businesses, schools and civic organizations, particularly the Detroit/Shoreway Community Development Corporation to promote sustainability principles for an Eco-Village Neighborhood.

Sister Ruth Mary says more green activities are on the way. “Future improvements will include lighting upgrades for energy efficiency, continued restroom renovations, window upgrades for energy efficiency and to prevent leakage, implementation of the EPA-Sun-Wise program, and, hopefully, reclaiming two additional city lots for a Community Nature Center from the City of Cleveland. We need more green space because many parents will not send their children out to play in this neighborhood out of fear. Kids learn better if they are using their bodies. We want to use this green space for play as well as for gardens and additional parking.”

“Metro Catholic collaborates with our neighborhood, including Eco Village, which supports Metro Catholic’s projects and helps to integrate the goals with the school. Part of our Go Green initiative is for our buildings and grounds committee to make our old buildings more energy efficient and environmentally safe,” explains Sister Mary Jane. “We also use local vendors and visit neighborhood restaurants in support of this community. If we treat the earth with kindness, we will treat each other with kindness. Our students and their families are poor in many ways, but they get it. The more we demonstrate ways to go green, the more they practice it.” †

“It’s part of the dream for our school – to grow food, grow children, grow spirits and beautify our neighborhood.”

- Sister Mary Jane Vovk, SND

Students learn through frequent outdoor classes and hands-on activities such as working together, growing plants organically, maintaining the soil and naming and recognizing beneficial insects.

“It’s part of the dream for our school – to grow food, grow children, grow spirits and beautify our neighborhood,” says Sister Mary Jane. Compostable foods are now used to make compost for the 3,400-square-foot gardens. The space is named in honor of

ECO-INSPIRATION

Each week Earth Alive selects an Eco-inspiration, an Eco-tip, and an invitation for reflection/discussion for local communities of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Earth Alive is sent to the Sisters of the Chardon SND province via email as a collaborative communication by the Toledo SND EcoGroup.

This form of sharing began in 2009 with an invitation from the Toledo Sisters to join ranks with SND Chardon province to participate in Earth Hour sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The reflection/ discussion read: "We the SND EcoGroup invite each and every sister to participate in Earth Hour. ... Plan now to creatively spend this time with candlelight! Consider a holy hour by candlelight, a game of UNO or pinocle by candlelight, or saving Saturday evening dinner for a later hour. Even better, have a pen and paper handy and during the hour, by candlelight, write to your city, state, and national officials urging them to put selfish interests aside and work for a cleaner Earth."

While participation in Earth Hour was initiated as a single sharing from Earth Alive, in 2010 Sister Sally Huston contacted Toledo's SND EcoGroup and the weekly publication became a reality for our Chardon province. We invite you to join us in celebrating Earth Alive by participating in this year's Earth Hour, Saturday, March 28th, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. local time. For information, go to www.earthhour.org.

WATER FOR LIFE

A critical element of the SND Go Green initiative is Water for Life, a corporate stance unanimously taken by the SND Chardon province beginning in 2005 and concluding this year in conjunction with the U.N. Millennial Goals. Water for Life is an expression of Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC), a movement which flows from the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and involves all Notre Dame Sisters globally. Through Water for Life, the community commits to employ and teach principles of sustainability at every level of water use. "Caring for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith," states Sister Alice Dugar, SND, Water for Life committee member.

Over the decade of its expression, students of our SND schools have been educated to reverence water and join in conservation actions. The Sisters as a community have engaged in postcard and letter-writing campaigns urging bottling companies to protect the depleted waters of arid regions of India and Africa where our Sisters serve in mission.

This year, steps are underway to restore and protect water quality and water use at all Chardon SND facilities. At the Bethany Retreat Center, guests are served pitchers of water during meals in place of bottled water. Bins are available for recycling aluminum, glass and plastic. Some locally grown foods are now served at meals, and low-flow shower heads cut down on excessive use of water by guests. Guests also enjoy the attractive flower gardens and bird bath at the front entrance as well as blue bird birdhouses in the back of Bethany.



(l-r) Sister Nancy MacDermott, SND (a member of the Water for Life committee); Sister Alice Dugar, SND; Sister Alice's niece Kara Hall and Kara's daughter Lexi Hall.

"Our desire is to make Bethany Retreat Center a model of sustainability."

- Sister Alice Dugar, SND

"Meadow grasses have replaced formerly low-mowed areas directly behind Bethany," adds Sister Alice.

"Plans are underway to fully adopt LED lighting which achieves greater efficiency of energy use than standard bulbs. Electricity production requires vast amounts of fresh water. When light bulbs of greater efficiency are used, water is better protected."

"Our desire is to make Bethany Retreat Center a model of sustainability," Sister Alice says. "The Water of Life committee, working with Sister Jennifer Kramer, Director of Bethany and Sister Debra Doig, Facilities/Grounds Director, has taken significant first steps toward this goal. At the heart of our Go Green initiative is a burning desire to make others aware of the oneness of creation and of humanity, and includes the question, 'How will this affect the poor of our global family in the present and future?' Water for Life is involved in not only educating our Sisters, but those with whom we come in contact and with whom we minister." †

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE: A JOYFUL CELEBRATION

Fifty years ago the Second Vatican Council invited religious congregations to renew their lives. That journey of renewal has borne fruit in the lives of thousands of men and women consecrated to the Lord by vows and in the life of the Church.

Now 50 years later, His Holiness Pope Francis has proclaimed another call for religious to “Wake Up The World!” as witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, and of living for the good of our Church and all of God’s people. In announcing a Year of Consecrated Life, from November 2014 to February 2016, Pope Francis invites us all to remember with gratitude the past, embrace the future with hope, and live the present with passion.

With gratitude we remember the strong women on whose shoulders we stand today, and the many whose lives have been touched by them. They have handed on to us a legacy of prayerfulness, care for one another in community, and a sense of mission that impels us to share God’s goodness and provident care with others, especially the poor and marginalized.

In hope, we walk into the future. Part of our heritage as Sisters of Notre Dame is that of trusting God’s care for us. That trust enables us to walk into the future, confident that God’s Spirit will guide us and give us all that we need to take the next step and the one after that until we have made the “good God known and loved.” (St. Julie Billiart)

Living the present with passion, whether it is serving a meal, teaching a class, offering spiritual direction to young adults, or praying for the needs of the world as we accept the limitations

of aging and illness, we’re called to do it wholeheartedly. The same passion impels us to recognize new ways that God may be calling us to serve: ministering to the imprisoned, caring for immigrants and refugees, or helping a woman find safety after years of abuse.

In the Diocese of Cleveland, the Sisters of Notre Dame are collaborating with over 15 men’s and women’s religious congregations and many dioceses where our Sisters serve to improve communications and cultivate new relationships among religious and lay. A website of the Vocation Office (www.churchvocations.com) links discerners and supporters to the many diverse congregations serving our Diocese, and a video (available in March 2015) will use personal testimony to convey the “heart” of religious life: vows, community life, prayer, and ministry.

Later in the spring, men and women religious will introduce religious life and inspire dialogue with all who are interested at different parishes. In summer, sisters and brothers will open the doors of their motherhouses, residences, and ministries to all who are interested. At these “pilgrimages,” they can learn how different orders and charisms support what Pope Francis calls the “prophetic voice” of the Church.

As Sisters of Notre Dame worldwide, we extend an invitation to our associates, our collaborators, our benefactors and our volunteers to join us as we highlight consecrated life, past, present and future. Many dioceses where our sisters serve have brought people together to open the Year of Consecrated Life with Mass. Periodic prayer services are also on the calendar. Prayer cards reminding us

to pray for vocations to consecrated life are also available. We welcome all opportunities to share our experience of community, ways of prayer, and diverse expressions of mission.

It is our hope that the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life will be a source of renewed commitment for those of us who have already embraced the call to religious life. For those being called to join us now and in the future, we take this opportunity to walk with you as you discern God’s call in your life. And finally, we pray that this Year will help all of us to deepen our faith through the gift of religious life to our Church and to our world.

For more information, visit www.churchvocations.com. To learn more about the Sisters of Notre Dame, go to www.sndchardon.org or visit our international website, www.SNDI.org. †





NICARAGUA

A MISSION OF LOVE

by Sr. Marie Manning, Global Mission Coordinator



Re-run, or renewal? This was the question in the minds of Notre Dame Associates Gardenia Witherspoon and Carm Worley as they prepared to return to Nicaragua as participants in the second “Partnership Pilgrimage.”

Renewal, even rejuvenation, was how Carm and Gardenia described this second pilgrimage, when Sister Marie Manning, Global Missions Coordinator interviewed them soon after their return on January 13. When the “pilgrims” arrived in Nicaragua, their van driver, David, welcomed Carm with “I know you like Nicaragua because you came back.” That was when Carm began to realize how important it was to the Nicaraguan people that some of the pilgrims had returned. “It was different this time, a good different,” said Carm. “I felt part of it; I was not an observer.” Gardenia added, “What if I went every year? It would be good for me, good for the people.”

Carm and Gardenia also entered more deeply into the experience of “partnership” on their second pilgrimage. Seven Sisters of Notre Dame and five ND Associates had enjoyed the January 2014 pilgrimage together. Three SNDs and three Associates made up the January 2015 pilgrim group. Carm and Gardenia felt there was more closeness and getting to know the other participants and the missionaries because the group was smaller. Their sense of partnership with the people of Nicaragua was also intensified because the small group enabled them to visit homes,



experience how the people raised crops, cooked, and washed their clothes. The pilgrims sensed that the Nicaraguan people wanted to teach the Americans something and to learn from them. Making breakfast, kites, and jewelry together were some of the ways they did this. The pilgrims and missionaries also experienced solidarity with the people of Jinotega when they lost electrical power and water for several days. During the past year, a new barrio with lots of houses has sprung up in Jinotega; that has lessened the availability of water.

In addition to getting feedback from the returnees, I wanted to gather impressions from the neophyte pilgrims; they were happy to provide me with their impressions.

Associate Carole Iseli exclaimed, "Our missionaries – Hermanas Roseanna, Char, and Dolly – are truly gifts of God to the beautiful people they serve."

Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE was equally enthusiastic. "Our experiences have been unbelievable! Today, kite-flying with 80 children, and then a piñata. Later, we walked to the barrio to visit families. Also had a ride in the back of an open truck. However, the finale tonight, no lights and no water in the convent. We are now in candlelight and LED flashlights."

Sister Kathleen Tobin provided vivid descriptions of various experiences.

Going up and down the hill, over stones and rocks, were motorcycles, bicycles, loaded mules, children, cows and horses, cars, buses and yes, our van, waiting or giving a honk."

The children came early and waited until it was time to play. They were happy with simple joys, including puzzles and board games, making rubber-band bracelets, and jewelry.

In Matagalpa we visited the Recycling Center, where the physically-challenged work. We gathered in a circle to hear from them about their work; then we

prayed over them and they over us.

Sister Carol Dikovitsky, the group's "fearless leader," summed up the pilgrimage, "The trip was amazing!"

One of the new experiences in the 2015 pilgrimage was a visit to "Selva Negra" (Black Forest), a totally sustainable coffee farm that is more than 100 years old. As one Associate put it, this experience "blew them away." Everything needed, from food to water to electricity, is produced in Selva Negra. The farmers, who live in Selva Negra with their families, engage in sustainable practices such as purifying and recycling toilet water, generating their own electricity and cultivating worm farms, while using their 1,500 acres for coffee, cattle, and tourists. "And I thought I did a lot of recycling!" marveled one Associate, as she learned of Selva Negra's myriad environmental practices.

As I reflected on what the Pilgrimage participants had shared with me, I recalled the questions recently posed by Pope Francis: "Do you let yourself be evangelized by those you serve? Or do you feel self-sufficient or I'm only going to offer something and think that you have no need of anything?" These women experienced the meaning behind Pope Francis' words. Their pilgrimage provided renewal, and the opportunity to not only observe life in Nicaragua, but to fully participate with the people and share experiences together. Through their shared experiences, they are truly becoming "partners" with each other, with our missionaries, and with the Nicaraguan people. †

"OUR MISSIONARIES – HERMANAS ROSEANNA, CHAR, AND DOLLY – ARE TRULY GIFTS OF GOD TO THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE THEY SERVE."

- Carole Iseli, Notre Dame Associate





Notre Dame College Introduces Thomas Kruczek 14th President

The Board of Trustees of Notre Dame College (NDC) voted unanimously to appoint Thomas Kruczek, M.B.A., as the 14th president of the College, succeeding Dr. Andrew P. Roth who retired on June 30.

"I am delighted that after a diligent and thoughtful national search, we have come up with the best choice for our institution's next president," says Mac Donley, chairman of the Notre Dame College Board of Trustees. "The fact that we have been able to attract an individual of Kruczek's caliber is testimony to the achievements of Dr. Roth during his tenure as president. The bar was set high due to the astounding progress made by Dr. Roth in the last 11 years. The talent that came forward was impressive and was a testament to the College's growing national reputation. I am confident we have been able to attract the finest person to be our next president, and I look forward to working with him, as I am sure we all do."

Thomas Kruczek most recently served as Dean of the College of Business and Management at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, from 2011 until his acceptance at Notre Dame College. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship at the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. He received his Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in 1979.

Kruczek's accomplishments at the College of Business and Management at Lynn University include:

- Developing a new undergraduate curriculum including the addition of three new majors – one of which is now the second most popular major at the University – and a series of courses starting in the freshman year that assist students in planning for life after college
- Leading the fundraising and design of a new three-story, 35,000-square-foot College of Business building, opened in August 2014
- Launching a Career Preparation and Internship Center which has cultivated more than 90 new corporate partnerships from the regional and national business community
- Completing a strategic plan for the College, reorganizing the College's structure and re-accrediting the College with the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education
- Initiating a series of College-focused faculty committees to discuss and propose solutions for challenges including majors, rubrics and faculty development
- Creating marketing and social media programs to drive enrollment for the M.B.A. and Sports Management programs, which have increased 11 percent and 62 percent since 2011, respectively
- Commencing a strong Board of Advisors for the College to ensure future success and direction.

While Kruczek was serving as Executive Director of the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship at the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, the Center rose in national rankings and during his tenure was listed as the third best entrepreneurship program in the country by Bloomberg Businessweek, fourth by The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur Magazine and ninth by U.S. News and World Report.

Kruczek has lectured on several subject areas including entrepreneurship, innovations and start-up ventures, and assisting and teaching disabled and women military veterans through the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities and Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Programs.

In addition to his academic achievements, Kruczek has a record of successful business leadership as the CEO and Owner of Sun-Tek Industries, a privately held manufacturing business, and a founding partner of Steve Baker and Associates, a consulting firm.

"Notre Dame College has continued to amaze me. There is such a sense of purpose and dedication on this campus."

- Thomas Kruczek, M.B.A.
President of Notre Dame College

Kruczek also held a variety of positions with The Walt Disney Company in both the financial planning and marketing areas.

"Notre Dame College has continued to amaze me. There is such a sense of purpose

and dedication on this campus," Kruczek states.

President Kruczek officially took up his duties on July 1, and the College celebrated his inauguration on November 14. "It was so inspiring to be surrounded by the extended Notre Dame community," the new president reflected, "and to feel the bond of a group gathered for the common good, dedicated to the noble mission of our college. It already feels like home." †

BLUE RIBBON OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized Notre Dame Elementary School (NDES) as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2014 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November. Only 337 schools across the U.S. received this prestigious award, which identified 289 schools as Exemplary High Performing Schools and 48 schools as Exemplary Gap Closing Schools. NDES was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School based on the school's overall academics. "High Performing" means that the school's students placed in the top 15 percent in the nation in reading and mathematics as measured by a nationally named test or in the top 15 percent of its state as measured by a state test. If a non-public school administers both state tests and nationally named tests, the school must place in the top 15 percent in both.

Each year, 0.1 percent or less of the nearly 31,000 chartered private/Catholic schools in the U.S. receive the National Blue Ribbon Award. In 32 years, less than 3 percent of all private/Catholic schools in the country have received this prestigious award.

Celebrating its 57th year, NDES was the first Catholic elementary school founded in Geauga County. Rigorous academics, leadership, spirituality, service and development of individual gifts and talents truly define Notre Dame. "Engagement in reading and writing across the content areas, hands-on learning, and tiered instruction are essential aspects of the NDES program," explains NDES Principal Barbara Doering. "With a focus on critical thinking and problem solving, our students learn to communicate with a depth of understanding." The school's progressive technology program is also integrated into all subject areas.

**"WITH A FOCUS ON
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- Barbara Doering, NDES Principal

"Notre Dame Elementary's community spirit can be attributed to its committed partnership with the Board of Directors, parents, staff and students, as well as its deep relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame," adds the devoted principal. The school's dedication to respecting the dignity of the human person is evident in its many outreach programs. Its faith-based curriculum encourages students to become productive, responsible and exemplary members of society.

"As a Sisters of Notre Dame-sponsored school, we are blessed with the rich traditions of the Sisters and committed to our mission of educating children according to their educational vision and principles. We are truly honored to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. We are shining proudly!" Doering concludes. "Notre Dame Elementary School always imagines possibilities and opportunities. The school empowers students by providing a strong foundation to pursue their dreams, achieve academic excellence, realize their full potential, and succeed in making a positive difference in today's world." †



(L-R) Dena Adler, Director of Advancement for the Sisters of Notre Dame, and Sister Margaret Gorman, Provincial Superior for the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon Province, receive the national Graphic Design USA's American Graphic Design Award for *Network* magazine.

Sisters of Notre Dame & Write 2 the Point Win National Award

The Sisters of Notre Dame and Write 2 the Point, a full-service marketing and public relations firm based in Geauga County, won a 2014 American Graphic Design Award through Graphic Design USA recently for *Network*, a magazine produced by the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon Province.

“We’re delighted that the magazine highlights the ministries of our Sisters so effectively.”

- Sister Margaret Gorman, SND

For five decades, Graphic Design USA has sponsored design competitions that spotlight areas of excellence and opportunity for creative professionals. GDUSA's American Graphic Design Award is the biggest and broadest of these, open to everyone in the community: advertising

agencies, graphic design firms, corporations, associations, universities, government, publishers and more. It honors outstanding work of all kinds and across all media.

This year, Graphic Design USA received more than 8,000 entries from across the country. A highly select 15 percent were recognized with a Certificate of Excellence.

Margie Wilber, president of Write 2 the Point, says she is thrilled to receive recognition on the national platform.

“The writing, design and production of *Network* is truly a collaborative effort, starting with Sister Margaret Gorman, SND, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon. Dena Adler, Director of Advancement for the Sisters of Notre Dame, serves as editor of *Network* and provides excellent direction and creative input throughout the production process,” Wilber says.

“We’re delighted that the magazine highlights the ministries of our Sisters so effectively,” Sister Margaret Gorman adds.

Network is written and designed by Write 2 the Point, and printed by POV Print Communications of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. *Network* is published three times a year and distributed to a mailing list that exceeds 14,000. The attractive, four-color magazine reports on the many diverse missions of the Sisters of Notre Dame locally as well as throughout the globe.

For more information on Write 2 the Point, visit www.write2thepoint.com. †



write 2 the point marketing communications firm

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers the following Sisters of Notre Dame who have recently passed away.



SISTER MARY DEANNA

(Mary Anne LUTCH) passed away on November 13, 2014 at the SND Health Care Center. She was born on August 10, 1922 in Lakewood, Ohio. Sister Mary Deanna made her profession on August 17, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mary Anne was the oldest of the three children born to Andrew and Anna (Kandrach) Lutch. Theirs was a happy, devout Slovak family, members of St. Wendelin Parish, Cleveland, where Mary Anne received her First Holy Communion – “One of the most important days of my life.” After graduating from elementary school, Mary Anne attended Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, as an aspirant and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame on February 2, 1941.

After profession, Sister Mary Deanna began her ministry in elementary education teaching primary and intermediate grades while continuing her college studies. She received a bachelor's degree from St. John College, Cleveland, and then was missioned to California where she spent the next 28 years teaching intermediate and junior high students. Again while teaching, she studied for and received a master's degree from Mount St. Mary College, Los Angeles, California. One former student, now a lawyer, wrote to Sister, “I would like to ‘go on the record’ as

saying one thing to you, thank you very much for your dedication and generous contribution of your time and efforts to myself and the other students during the seventh grade. Your hard work and sincerity laid the groundwork for a wonderful educational foundation.”

When Sister Mary Deanna retired from teaching, she entered into a second career of service to her Sisters at the Provincial Center. Whether involved in housekeeping at the retreat center, assisting in the Health Care Center kitchen, answering the Prayer Line phone, helping Sisters move into different bedrooms or her treasured ministry of sacristan, Sister was organized, hard-working and dedicated. In her most recent ministry of serving as an accomplished seamstress, she welcomed each sister and each sewing project with great love. Every stitch was a prayer! Sister enjoyed listening to classical music and loved to dance; her quick-step was sometimes hard to keep up with!

Sister Mary Deanna's whole life—her prayer, presence, praise and service—was a wonderful reflection of the love of God within as she trusted in the goodness of her Heavenly Father. She had a very special, life-long devotion to Mary. “Our Lady, my Patron Saint for life, was my dearest friend who watched over me and led me to desire a close union with God as a Sister of Notre Dame.” The quotation chosen for her memorial card, “One only soul to one only God,” captures her essence—simple, unassuming, and prayerful. May Sister Mary Deanna now enjoy the eternal union with her Beloved that she so longed for during life. May she rest, peacefully, in His loving embrace.



SISTER JOSEPHMARIE

(Dorothy Ann BUNOSKY) passed away on November 5, 2014 at the Provincial Center, Chardon. She was born on December 4, 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio where she also made her profession on August 16, 1950.

Dorothy was the oldest of nine children born to Paul and Anne (Vintza) Bunosky. Dorothy's parents had loving, joy-filled hearts and a deep faith, even as four of their children died shortly after birth. These were happy years where love and concern for one another was nurtured and blossomed. Dorothy attended St. Wendelin Elementary School and then requested admittance to Notre Dame Academy as an aspirant. As a senior, Dorothy entered the Sisters of Notre Dame and at investment received the name Sister Mary Josephmarie.

Sister Josephmarie initially wanted to become a nurse but because of the shortage of teachers was asked to enter the field of education. Her innate sense of nurturing, protective love and caring, fostered in her family life, would be extended toward children in her care. Sister received a bachelor's degree from St. John College, Cleveland, and a master's degree from St. Mary College, Xavier, Kansas. She was dedicated to excellence in Catholic education in her ministry as teacher and/or principal in elementary schools for 55 years. For her, education was about faith and family

and fostering values that enabled children to grow into compassionate, Christ-like adults. As principal for 39 years, her morning greeting to the children was, "Let the Christ in you reach out and touch the Christ in others. Our mission is to be Christ every day, everywhere."

In 2006, when it was time to transition from her ministry in elementary schools, Sister Josephmarie participated in a renewal at the Disney Institute in Florida. Courses focused on a unique way that hospitality and communication made one's organization exceptional. Sister's mantra and lived experience continued, "Treat every person who comes into your presence as a guest." Respect for herself and others was paramount.

Sister Josephmarie joined the Advancement Office at the Provincial Center and assumed the roles of coordinator of constituent relations and assistant on the hospitality team. She was a gentle, welcoming presence and the epitome of graciousness whether meeting visitors, organizing the booth at the Geauga County Fair or serving at the retreat center – where she worked tirelessly to ensure the Sisters had a special week. This quiet, unassuming, prayerful woman, with a twinkle in her eye and a smile for all, reflected the presence of God within. Sister Josephmarie died very unexpectedly, very peacefully, giving testament to her favorite saying, "The One who dreamed you and formed you still surrounds you with his love." May she be welcomed into new life and rest now, peacefully, in God's loving embrace.



SISTER MARY DE ANGELIS

(*Magdalena Eleanor BOTHWELL*)

passed away on October 3, 2014 at the SND Health Care Center, Chardon. She was born on October 18, 1914 in Carrick, Pennsylvania and made her Profession on August 17, 1936 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Four years after her birth, Eleanor's mother Magdalene (nee Weber) died during the influenza epidemic and left her father James with two young children. They were welcomed, loved and cared for by their extended family. After several moves, the family made their home in Cleveland, Ohio, where Eleanor attended St. Thomas Aquinas School for the middle grades. Before he died in 1929, her father arranged for his sister to care for the children and enrolled Eleanor at Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, for grade eight. She graduated from the Academy and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame on September 8, 1933. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary de Angelis.

Sister Mary de Angelis completed her college education by attending summer and Saturday classes. She received a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in administration, both from St. John College, Cleveland. For over 30 years, Sister ministered as teacher, principal and community supervisor in elementary schools in Ohio, Tennessee, Florida and Washington,

D.C. For 10 of those years, she worked at Campus School of The Catholic University of America, a demonstration school for teacher training in Washington. Sister Mary de Angelis also had the unique experience of preparing children for First Communion at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

In 1971 Sister was missioned to begin the project of producing a new religion textbook series, *Christ Our Life*, published by Loyola Press, for elementary grades. While working with a team of sisters, Sister Mary de Angelis served as editor for 14 years and provided her writing skills, leadership, vision and the encouragement necessary for this tremendous undertaking. She was resolute and totally dedicated to the initial publication and subsequent revisions of this much-needed series. Today, these textbooks are used worldwide in print and electronic formats.

During a 30-day retreat, Sister recognized God's call to become an adoration sister in Rome. Due to health conditions, she was not able to answer that call to Rome but was missioned to Prayer Ministry here at home. Since 1993, Sister has ministered to Sisters in the Health Care Center with daily visits, kindness, compassion and prayer. Through her Prayer Ministry, Sister has reached out in remembrance and love to family, friends and all she has encountered through her various ministries. She has prayed for those places in the world she would never go and those people she would never know. We are grateful for the gift of her life as she reflected God's goodness and provident care to all. We rejoice as Sister Mary de Angelis now rests in the heart of God.

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IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 19



SISTER MARY FRANCOIS

(Antoinette ZAPPONE) passed away on December 4, 2014 at the SND Health Care Center, Chardon. She was born on May 2, 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio where she made her Profession on August 16, 1946.

Antoinette was the second of four daughters born to Eugenio and Assunta (Bucciarelli) Zappone, Italian immigrants who arrived in New York, New York in 1919. Records show the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1923. These were happy years where her parents nurtured love and concern for one another despite cultural barriers, the Great Depression and World War II. The family became members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish where Antoinette and her sisters first met the Sisters of Notre Dame. After graduating from South High School and completing two years of work experience, Antoinette entered the Sisters of Notre Dame. At investment, she felt privileged to receive the name Sister Mary Francois, honoring St. Julie's best friend.

Sister Mary Francois received a bachelor's degree from St. John College, Cleveland, and a certificate in special education and ministered as a classroom teacher to primary grade children in parish schools for 10 years before being assigned to

Julie Billiard School, begun by the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1954 as an alternative elementary school for children with special learning needs. Although apprehensive at first, Sister later commented, "This was the kind of work God meant me to have. I am convinced this was my journey."

For 53 consecutive years, Sister Mary Francois worked tirelessly to strengthen the educational experience of children with special learning needs. She took a personal interest in each of her students, helping to provide them with a foundation for happy, productive lives, and endeared herself to parents, teachers and students. The essence of her love and dedication was her unconditional acceptance of all children. Sister was a woman of conviction, gentleness, serenity and wisdom – all wrapped in a loving smile. She was grateful for the close relationship she had with St. Julie and her work with children and was often called the "walking St. Julie." Sister Mary Francois was enriched by the many families and dedicated teachers she touched over the years: "They have also helped me see how beautiful God's family really is. They are very dear to me, and I love them all. They are my heart."

In 2008, after many tears and grateful hugs from students, parents and teachers, Sister Mary Francois retired from her ministry at Julie Billiard School. She transitioned into more quiet days of prayer and assisting with hospitality at the Provincial Center. Even as Sister's physical condition changed, her warm, welcoming smile and the twinkle in her eye seemed to be ever-present! May Sister Mary Francois now be embraced by the limitless love of our good and gracious God. †

*"This was the
kind of work
God meant me
to have. I am
convinced this
was my journey."*

- Sister Mary Francois

REUNION 2014

Members of the Classes of '69, '74 and '79 had a combined reunion at Pizzazz in November. The class of '69 is already in the planning stages for their 50th reunion in 2019! It was a great evening for renewing friendships, telling tales and having fun.



Class of '69



(l-r): Nellie Hainrihar Vitale,
Linda Halas Papajcik,
Carol Stevenson Blee,
Connie Byrne Bruce
Class of '69



Class of '79

The following reunions are planned and will take place in 2015.

REUNIONS 2015

CLASS OF 1960

The Class of 1960 will hold its 55th Reunion on Sunday, June 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Alfredo's at the Holiday Inn on Beta Drive, off Wilson Mills and I-271. We'll have an extensive menu for our Sunday Brunch. Husbands/significant others encouraged and most welcome.

Checks for \$30.00 should be made out to Sandy Gecsi and sent to 5267 Harper Rd., Solon, Ohio 44139 by May 18. Please contact Sandy at 440-248-0328 with questions or for more information.

REGINA ALUMNAE CROSS-COUNTRY REUNION

Place: Euclid Creek Park (Where Regina usually trained)

Date: November 29

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Coach Chuck at xccoachchuck@aol.com

The following classes have women willing to coordinate your reunion but would like to know if there is an interest in having one and will welcome your input.

CLASS OF 1965

Contact: Janet Buzzelli Carey at janet.carey@aol.com or 440-236-5587. If you have an interest in a 50th reunion and/or ideas, please contact her.

CLASS OF 1975

Contact: Claudia Wahl Lund at lclund@aol.com. If you have an interest in a 40th reunion and/or ideas, please contact her.

CLASS OF 1980

Contacts: Mary Beth Anselmo | 440-668-3241

Pat Bell Beattie | 216-548-2261

Lisa Di Palma Oriti | 440-823-0808

If you have an interest in a 35th reunion and/or ideas, please contact any one of them.

CLASS OF 1995

Contact: Andrea Cancilia Struhar at writetoandrea@hotmail.com or 216-513-1259. If you have an interest in a 25th reunion and/or ideas, please contact her.

CLASS OF 2005

Contact: Tara Quinn at tara2212@msn.com. If you have an interest in a 10th reunion and/or ideas, please contact her.

ALUMNAE RETREATS

February 20-22, 2015

Contact: Sr. Kay

February 19-21, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

To get in touch with the Alumnae Office, please email rhsalum@reginahigh.com or call 216-905-4851.

For high school transcripts, please contact the Registrar at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School at 440-286-6226.

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