



# Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND,

*"The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."*

JOHN MUIR

With these words of Autumn glory, we send you our Fall '09 newsletter with our appreciation for all your gifts that come tumbling to us as do the Autumn leaves.

Throughout this issue you will read about the variety of ministries through which our sisters reach out to God's people. Once again you will read how our "retired" Sisters continue to engage in active ministries using the skills they have learned over the years. It is striking to note how they have kept up with all the technological advances, as well as continuing to bring that personal contact so vital for each one's growth.

In June we celebrated our Young Golden Jubilarians! You will come to know these ten women who continue to minister in significant ways in our Church. You will also travel to Scranton, PA where two CNDs minister at the University of Scranton and in counseling services to the families of the area.

In the Catholic Church around the country and the world, there is a renewed impetus in inviting women and men to consider a vocation to religious life and the priesthood. We have 2 CNDs involved in vocation work and they have written an article about their work. In the next issue we will have an article by our Candidate Director and Director of Formation who accompany the women once they enter the CND.

And once again, your generosity to us is spelled out in the pages entitled "CND Partners Donor List". Our gratitude extends to each of you as you have enabled us to extend healing hands to so many in need. Vicki and I were so pleased to thank our benefactors in South Holland and Kankakee, Illinois.

The beauty of Autumn is unsurpassed; may it captured your imagination so that you hold God's creation in your mind and heart, giving thanks to God for all the gifts you receive.

May your goodness to us be returned to you in abundance.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND  
Development Director



# Retired? I Don't Think So PART 3

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

In reading about our Sisters who are of what others would call retirement age, you have been introduced to the many ways in which our Sisters minister to those who are in need of friendship, spiritual help, etc. Many of our Sisters will tell you that they are not bored and hope to continue ministering to God's people for as long as they can. One of our Sisters, Madeleine LaMarre, CND (S. Madeleine of Mary), had a phone ministry in the Kankakee area for many years and is well known for her charity to those in need.

Two of our Sisters in Warwick, RI explained that they were delayed in sending information for this article because they were quite busy doing the things they were writing about! Sr. Marie Cafferty, CND (S. Edward of Mary) and Sr. Rita McGetrick, CND (S. Rita Maureen) are Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. At the West Bay Manor, they conduct a Eucharistic Prayer Service; they also visit with homebound people, praying with them and bringing them Eucharist. Sr. Marie visits a friend who is in a nursing home and has no family. She does her laundry and brings her homemade goodies. Sr. Rita puts her business and computer skills to work in taking care of the business needs of several people. She follows and pays the bills and balances bank statements. These sisters also share in the household tasks and they are avid sports fans for the Red Sox and Patriots!



Left to right, Srs. Rita McGetrick, CND, Marie Cafferty, CND and Simonne Camire, CND.

Photo By: Mary Beth Hanley

Also living with Sr. Marie and Sr. Rita is Sr. Simonne Camire, CND (S. Bernadette Anne) who is busy working as a part-time administrative assistant for the Diocese of Providence in the Office for Religious. Sister is also involved in the parish activities of Sts. Clement and Rose serving as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister on a regular basis. Sr. Simonne has various responsibilities in overseeing the upkeep of our summer home in Rhode Island. She also meets graduates of St. Mary of the Visitation who express their gratitude for the fine education they received from the CNDs.



Left to right, Melanie, Joanne, Sr. Pat and Anchalee

The ministry of Spirituality has been a part of the life of Sr. Pat Jamison, CND (S. Mary Therese) for many years. Sister has been a part of many directed retreat teams, gives spiritual direction to many men and women religious as well as lay people of all denominations. In keeping with being “daughters of the parish”, as St. Marguerite calls us to be, Sr. Pat has conducted a week of directed prayer in different parishes and has led a mission in a parish. She meets monthly with women who are in search of healing and growth in spirituality. Two of these women visit the Sisters in Lourdes every month. Sr. Pat has also participated in a weekend for cancer survivors and members of a healing group.

The needs of today's people are many and our sisters are using their creativity and experience to meet those needs. They hope and pray in Mary's words to St. Marguerite: “Go, I will not forsake you”; they bring this message to many who are in need of consoling words. ❁

# Three Centers of Mission

By: Stacy Hanrahan, CND

For over a century, Villa Maria Academy, in the Bronx, St. Jean Baptiste High School, in Manhattan, and Notre Dame Academy on Staten Island have proclaimed the Mission of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys and of the community she founded, the Congregation of Notre Dame. *Liberating Education* is the name we CNDs use to describe that mission. *Liberating Education* develops aptitudes needed for the transformation of our times: *inclusivity; openness to what is other/different; communion with the sacred; the practice of non-violence; solidarity with the oppressed, hope in the Gospel of love.*

We hope this sampling from the web sites of our NYC ~ CND Sponsored Schools and a preview of future opportunities the schools make possible will give you joy and hope in the future.

## St. Jean Baptiste High School

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

Rooted in the inclusive vision of Marguerite Bourgeoys, St. Jean's provides a liberating college preparatory education to young women of diverse strengths and backgrounds. SJB's Mission is boldly expressed in its Profile of the SJB Graduate – *she is: A Woman of Personal Strength and Courage; A Woman of Faith; A Woman of Academic Achievement; A Woman for Others; A Woman Oriented to the Future.*

To meet the challenges of the graduate profile SJB is conducting a significant renovation and expanding the school's facilities. The school's attention to the future led to its participation in a Title II D Grant Project: *Enhancing Education Through Technology*. SJB teachers and students will partner with two Manhattan public schools in creating model 21st century high schools. This inquiry based learning experience involves robotics, digital documentaries, and a research project focusing on water resources.

## Villa Maria Academy

[www.vma-ny.org](http://www.vma-ny.org)

The VMA Mission is to provide a foundation in *Liberating Education* within a nurturing Catholic Community. The mission permeates the VMA environment, programs and curriculum. It is as contagious as the children and faculty prayer, celebrations and rituals, e.g. Inter-

national Day of Peace, Advent Service Project to feed the hungry (*International Heifer Program*), the Annual Earth Day Parade. Given the devastating fire of 2000, the Villa's vitality is simply remarkable. Immediate and sustained support from every part of VMA's educational and extended family empowered the VMA to come back stronger than ever. The renovated main building and beautiful new additions of Mary's Way and Visitation Activities Center testify to the enduring strength and magnetism of the Mission.

## Notre Dame Academy

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

Notre Dame is one of the few Pre-K – 12th grade catholic schools for girls in the country. NDA's Mission is to excel at *Liberating Education* empowering each girl and young woman to become an agent of her own transformation and the transformation of society. To fulfill this mission promise in 2006, NDA embarked on an Expansion for Excellence Plan and Capital Campaign. The generosity of donors, CND support and the Academy's community has made the expansion a reality. A new Early Childhood Education Center, Pre K through 2nd grade, opened in the fall of 2008. The Arts, Humanities and Chapel building, for Grades 6-12 will open this fall. Less visible but no less palpable are the many new collaborators that have come to experience the hope and challenge of the vision and mission of Marguerite Bourgeoys.

## CND Centers for Mission

The revitalization of our CND sponsored schools provides us with new opportunities. The schools' geographic proximity has allowed for collaboration that can only grow. The schools can also become Centers for Mission Outreach. In these centers, CND Sisters, Associates, colleagues, and friends can dialogue about the implications of living the Mission in a global family. In the extended population of our NYC schools, we are referring to well over 8,000 dialogue partners. Couple this with our partners in the CND schools in Japan, Canada, and the Cameroon and it is breathtaking – what a power for transformation! What a time for refunding! ✨



# Golden Jubilee Celebration

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

On June 20th, 2009, 10 CND Sisters celebrated their Golden Jubilees. They are: Sr. Carmel Caputo (S. Mary Andrew), Sr. Elizabeth Kehoe (S. Regina of Jesus), Sr. Dorothy Collins (S. Austin), Sr. Joan Brennan (S. Margaret Joan), Sr. Marilyn Stack (S. Robert of Mary), Sr. Deanna Sabetta (S. Denise of the Eucharist), Sr. Rose Mary Galligan (S. Sean Joseph), Sr. Mary Ann Rossi (S. Barbara Christine), Sr. Ann Marie Levangie (S. Michael Raymond), Sr. Jane Ann Scanlon (S. Jane Ann).

Beginning as teachers in many of our schools, they continue to serve the People of God in a variety of ministries. These include: Religious Education in parishes, Vocation Ministry, School Administration, Financial ministry for religious communities and a high

school, Parish ministries, Counseling Services and as Vice Chancellor.

They minister in New York, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Illinois. Through the years these Sisters have continued their education which has allowed them to move into positions of leadership within the Church.

Each year our Golden Jubilarians from around the world gather in Montreal for a special week of celebration in our Motherhouse and in Old Montreal where our community began in 1653. This was followed by our celebration in Wilton, CT. Liturgy was celebrated at noon followed by a festive meal with family, friends and CND Sisters. We give gratitude to God for them and for all the ways that they serve the people of God. 🌻



Left to right Back row: CND Sisters Deanna Sabetta, Rose Mary Galligan, Mary Ann Rossi, Carmel Caputo, and Joan Brennan. Front Row: Ann Marie Levangie, Jane Ann Scanlon, Elizabeth Kehoe, and Dorothy Collins.



## Cancelled Stamps

Cancelled stamps, domestic and foreign, are a source of income for our ministries in Central America and Cameroon, Africa. They are sent to our Motherhouse in Montreal and from there submitted for a cash allowance. If you wish to participate in this ministry, please trim each stamp leaving a ¼ inch border. They can be sent to the Development Office in Wilton. Thank you very much.



## CND Partners Donor List Fall 2009 Special Insert

We, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, are deeply grateful to each of you, our “Partners”, for your friendship, prayers, interest and generous support of the efforts of our ministries. Your financial assistance continues to help us “...to follow Jesus in a preferential option for the poor and to live our mission of liberating education in fidelity to the prophetic charism of Marguerite Bourgeoys in today’s world”... (Mission Orientation, Chapters 1996, 2001, 2006 with additions)

With this issue of “Partners in CND Mission”, we would like to recognize your partnership with us from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our donors who are participating in our monthly giving program “Visitation Companions” (VC), instituted in January 2004.

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# A Journey to Scranton, PA

By: *Mary Anne Foley, CND/Ann Perrin, CND (S. Nadine Ann)*

In the heart of Northeast Pennsylvania, the city of Scranton nestles in a valley of the Endless Mountains. Rich in history and heritage—railroads, mining, and the silk industry—but economically depressed, the “Electric City” is home for two of our CND sisters. Sr. Mary Anne Foley, CND, has taught theology at the University of Scranton for 18 years, while Sr. Ann Perrin, CND, a family therapist and educator, has worked in a number of venues in Scranton for 8 years. They live in a University house surrounded by many students, part of a project to encourage students and faculty and staff to live in neighborhoods together. Having extra bedrooms was a bonus for Sr. Mary Anne and Sr. Ann because they wanted their home to be a place for visitation. CNDs, young women working for political candidates, a Visitation Volunteer, stranded travelers, etc. have stayed with the Sisters over the years. Their home has become a gathering place for meals, discussions, prayer and even board games!

In her time at the University, Sr. Mary Anne has created theology courses which have been enriching and thought-provoking for the students, including God & the Earth and 20th Century Peacemakers. In addition to teaching theology, a heroic feat in itself, she is also the Coordinator of Education for Justice for the University. Immigration was the theme for this past school year, and Sr. Mary Anne coordinated a many-faceted approach to the topic, including national and local speakers, an immigration mosaic of ancestors of students, faculty and staff, a day-long teach-in, etc. At the end of the year, no one looked at immigration in the same way they had in the beginning.

Last year, Sr. Mary Anne joined colleagues in an immersion experience in El Salvador (with a side trip to visit our Sisters in Guatemala), and this year she chaperoned a students’ service trip to Ecuador. She also has international experience right in Scranton as she teaches English to Sonia, a woman from Bulgaria, who is director of the Catholic Social Services Refugee Program and a recently naturalized citizen of the United States. In between these activities, she has completed a book on Visitation Spirituality which should be published in the next few months.

Sr. Ann is a licensed Marriage and Family therapist and educator. One of the reasons she felt called to Scranton was the fact that there were only two family therapists in this geographic area. Sr. Ann is an adjunct professor in the Graduate Counseling Department of the University of Scranton, teaching and supervising future community, rehab and school counselors. She looks forward to teaching in the new Marriage and Family therapy track that the Counseling Department is planning to add.

For seven years, Sr. Ann worked at Catholic Social Services, where she counseled families of the working poor and provided supervision for counseling interns. In the fall of 2009, she will be able once again to counsel families suffering in this poor economic climate, this time on a part-time basis from an office space in the downtown area of Scranton. In addition, she has offered to provide counseling for one family at the University’s Leahy Family Center, which provides free medical and emotional help to the community of the Scranton area who do not have health insurance.

While working at a local Catholic school, Sr. Ann created a Peace Makers program for elementary school students and college mentors. It is a 6-week program which incorporates peace with the body, the earth, one another and the world. University students have participated as part of their service learning. The program, which is housed in the Leahy Family Center, is now part of the University curriculum for the Graduate School Counseling Practicum, and children from the Center’s multicultural families have begun to take part. Begun with grant money from the CND community, Peace Makers has taken on a life of its own. It has been used in Kankakee, Providence, New Jersey and New York; in summer camps, CCD and parish programs. Sr. Ann is in the process of having the program published so it can be used even more widely.

Once a month, Sr. Ann facilitates a group focused on the relationships and healthy communication for women who are a part of the Women and Infants Residential Program run by the IHM Sisters. This past year, she taught the Enneagram to 40 faculty, staff and maintenance persons as part of the Wellness Program at the University. Everyone is looking

Photo By Muhammed Dalgin



*Left to right, Ann Perrin, CND and Mary Anne Foley, CND (S. Natalie Ann)*

*cont. on page 12*

# Vocation Ministry in the CND - “Come and See”

By: Sr. Peggy Doyle, CND

In the past year, at least one hundred thirty-one women made inquiries about entrance to the Congregation of Notre Dame. These women, with their questions, come from all over the United States and Canada. By using a “vocation-match” service, available to all religious communities through *Vision* vocation magazine, the seekers arrive via the internet!

Sr. Lucille Cormier (S. Jeanne of the Redeemer) and Sr. Peggy Doyle, vocation directors in Blessed Sacrament province, are particularly fond of this internet component of their responsibilities. “It’s the surprise element,” says Sr. Lucille, “You never know on what day you’ll open your email and find a beautiful profile of someone who is asking for help in discerning God’s direction in her life. The profiles usually reveal that the person is quite serious in her search.” The survey then functions as the beginning of a conversation about religious life in the CND.

Although vast in scope, the internet, of course, is not the only path to religious life today. Technology-savvy women also inquire in more traditional ways, a letter, a phone call, direct contact with a sister. By far, the traditional path is the one preferred by recent Blessed Sacrament Province new members. Once an initial connection is made with the vocation office, Sr. Peggy and Sr. Lucille are eager to be of help.

Photo below By Maureen Baldwin, CND



Left to right, Peggy Doyle, CND, Marie de Lovinfosse, CND (Marguerite Bourgeoys Province, Canada), Clara Marina Martinez, CND (Latin American Region) and Lucille Cormier, CND, at the annual International Vocation Committee meeting in Montreal, June 2009.

In this first decade of the 21st century, a significant part of being helpful CND vocation directors involves introducing a candidate to the international character of the Congregation. The CND has always been glad for the breadth of its reach in ministry beyond North America. But in the last few years, the Congregation’s Vocation Committee has worked deliberately to “name and claim our internationality.” (*Visitation Beyond Borders*, Chapter document 2006-2011, p.5) for new members. The committee comprises members from Central America, Japan, Cameroon, France, United States and Canada. When the group gets together, there is the joy of multi-lingual sisterhood and all members are challenged to work hard at learning one or two new languages.

Languages are a challenge for Vocation Committee members, but their enthusiasm about preparing new members to own the community’s “international collective voice for justice, peace, and the protection of creation” is unbounded. Vocation committee meetings mean lots of sharing of materials and ideas that can be used throughout the Congregation. The international bonding is amazing.

Amazing too is the overall ministry of Vocation Director. It is the opportunity to accompany a woman who wants to “come and see” (John 1:39) if God is calling her to a new way of following Jesus in religious life. Young seekers are often looking for community life, shared prayer, service to the poor, and relationship to the Church. They want to be active in the world, to

*cont. on page 11*



CND Candidate, Janet Lawrence, (left) and Stacy Hanrahan, CND. Janet, originally from St. Mary’s Parish in Ridgefield, CT, is completing her candidacy (postulancy) year at Villa Maria Convent, Bronx, NY, and will soon be a member of the CND North American interprovincial novitiate in Chicago in the fall of 2009

# Gratitude Receptions

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

On May 14th, Vicki and I traveled to South Holland, Illinois to finalize our plans for the Gratitude Receptions that were held that weekend. On Saturday and Sunday we welcomed benefactors and their families at St. Jude's in South Holland and at Bishop McNamara HS in Kankakee. We were very happy to welcome our friends and have time to thank them for their generosity to the CND. A powerpoint presentation was given which highlighted the works of our Sisters throughout the US; refreshments were served giving us all a chance to know each other better.

We are grateful to our Sisters for joining us; they had the pleasure of renewing friendships with former students and parents.

We are planning to visit other areas where benefactors are living to thank you in person and to fill you in on what the CNDs are doing. 🌻

Photos By Mary Anne Powers, CND



Left to right, Mary Lou Lyons, CND (S. Suzanne of the Bl. Sacramento) and John Angelini, a former student.



Left to right, Ron and Sue Bordenaro with Mary MacIsaac, CND (S. Laura Marie).

## Vocation Ministry in the CND - "Come and See" *cont. from page 10*

be part of something larger than themselves. Older applicants are often responding to the movement of God in their lives, a compelling movement that turns their lives in a direction different from what they had previously known. For some, it is the result of listening to their life experiences and to God's unique invitation

to cast their nets out into the deep.

Vocation ministry leads Sr. Lucille and Sr. Peggy to the realization that they too are daily casting nets on a wide sea; however, they are not alone in this ministry. They count on the prayers, suggestions, and support of their CND Sisters, Associates, and friends. 🌻

*Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters:*

### IN MEMORY OF

**Sr. Agnes Arsenault, CND** (Mother St. Agnes of Peace) d. March 22, 2009

**Sr. Anne Keily, CND** (Mother St. Anne of Jesus) d. April 13, 2009

**Sr. Madeline Geary, CND** (Mother St. Helen of the Passion) d. April 30, 2009

**Sr. Patricia Ann Dwyer, CND** (Mother St. Theresa Eileen) d. July 16, 2009

*All I have ever desired is that the great precept of the love of God above all things and of the neighbor as oneself be written in every heart.*

ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

*May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

### Mission Orientation of the Congregation of Notre Dame

To follow Jesus in a preferential option for the poor and to live our mission of liberating education in fidelity to the prophetic charism of Marguerite Bourgeoys in today's world, we commit ourselves to live closer to the reality of the impoverished, the excluded and the oppressed. In solidarity with them, we commit ourselves to protect our planet and to participate actively in the transformation of Church and society for a more just world.

(Mission Orientation, Chapters 1996, 2001, 2006 with additions)

### IN GRATITUDE

The Congregation of Notre Dame received donations in memory of Antoinette M. Swenson, Sr. Madeline Geary, CND and Sr. Anne Keily, CND. The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful.

#### A Journey to Scranton, PA *cont. from page 9*

forward to Part Two in the fall semester. Along with Sr. Mary Anne, she has served as a director in Busy Persons' Retreats on the University campus and in their local parish, a very life-giving community of Anglo, Latino and Portuguese families.

As you can see, the CND is very much alive in Scranton. There is always something going on, but Sr. Ann and Sr. Mary Anne are always happy to welcome visitors to what the tourist guides now call "Upper Pennsylvania." 🌸

**CORRECTION:** In our 2009 Fall Newsletter, Page 3, "Touching Lives, Rendering Service, Living the Charism of Marguerite," by Betty King, CND, the correct caption for the photo, bottom right is: Left to right, A parishioner from St. Jude the Apostle Parish and Susan Morris, CND Associate.

For more information feel free to call (203) 762-4306 or fax us at (203) 762-4319  
Please e-mail us at [cnddev@juno.com](mailto:cnddev@juno.com) with any comments or suggestions.

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