



Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND,

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter! It is our hope that each of you has had a restful summer and that the lovely Autumn days will bring you refreshment.

“There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who works in them all” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

In our fall newsletters, we honor all of you, our benefactors, who have given so generously to the CND. Each of you is a gift to us as you partner with us in serving the people we minister to each day. Know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

In each of our previous newsletters, we have attempted to give you a brief picture of the ministries of our Sisters and this issue is no different. Over the years, God’s call has taken us to many places accompanied by many of God’s people. In this issue you will learn about the work of our Sisters in college ministries as Campus Ministers.

As many of you know, Montreal is the home of our General Administration which is located in our Motherhouse. Several years ago, it was the decision of our General Administration to form an International Community at the Motherhouse which would have a cross-section of Sisters of our community. An article written by our American Sisters will give you an idea of life in an international community!

And last but certainly not least, we honor our six American Golden Jubilarians and one Silver Jubilarian! Each one is a blessing to the CND and to the people to whom they minister.

Your support is deeply appreciated as you partner with us in bringing the message of Christ to so many women, children and men throughout the US.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND
Development Director



Golden/Silver Jubilee Celebration 2010

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

On June 19th, 2010, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the following Sisters:

Margarita Castañeda (S. Christine Marie) CND,
Marilyn Cullina (S. Ellen of the Sacred Heart), CND,
Marilyn Doucette (S. Michael Joseph), CND,
Patricia Jamele (S. Patricia Marion), CND,
Julia Ryan (S. Gerard Maureen), CND,
Anne Walsh (S. Mary Brendan), CND.

We also celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sister **Maryann Calabrese, CND.**

This celebration began with Liturgy at the Villa Notre Dame Chapel in Wilton, CT. Many Sisters, family members and friends joined in the celebration after which we all shared a delicious meal.

Our Sisters represent a variety of ministries as each one shares the gifts she has been given by God. They serve in the ministries of Parish Religious Education and services to a Hispanic population, Parish Pastoral Staff member, co-coordinator of our Associate Relationship, High School Guidance Counselor, Ministry in Central America, High School

Teacher and Pastoral Care Staff member in a nursing home.

Over the years these Sisters have ministered in a wide variety of ministries. Like St. Marguerite, they have responded to God's call to answer the needs of many women, children and men who are grateful to them for all the services they have provided and continue to provide. It is a joy to celebrate with them and we promise them our prayers for many more years of service to God's people. 🌸



Left to right, CND Sisters Marilyn Doucette, Marilyn Cullina, Patricia Jamele, Maryann Calabrese, Julia Ryan, Margarita Castañeda and Anne Walsh.

Photo by: Mary Anne Powers, CND



St. Louis Academy Class of 1955

The St. Louis Academy Class of 1955 celebrated its 55th reunion. A reunion is held every 5 years. A wonderful time was had by all.

Photo supplied by: Joan Romanus

Campus Ministry/St. Joseph's College, West Hartford, CT

By: Kathleen Dorney, CND
(S. Kathleen of Mary)

Recently I attended a week long symposium at the University of Notre Dame entitled "Stewards of the Treasures of our Faith." After some 20 plus years in campus ministry it "warmed my heart" to experience young campus ministers who were "on fire with their love for God" and their desire to share this love of God and Church with college/university students. Most had been active in campus ministry as undergraduates. Meeting such "on fire" young adults renewed my own love for young adults, my desire to minister to them and affirmed my gifts as a campus minister.

In a pastoral letter on campus ministry published by the conference of Catholic Bishops in 1985, six aspects important for campus ministry were set forth: forming the faith community, appropriating the faith, forming the Christian conscience, educating for justice, facilitating personal development and developing leaders of the future. Campus ministry is seen as essential for continuing the vitality and strength of our Church. How one carries out these goals varies greatly with the college/university (private or public, religious or secular, residential or commuter, large or small). Each college/university has its own riches to offer as well as its own challenges.

The greatest challenge for the campus minister, I believe, is being in touch with the young adult of 2010. Knowing who they are, their gifts and talents, their hopes and fears; what has shaped their generation, their hungers, their constant use of the technological world, is a must for anyone working with this age group. This generation has its own gifts and its own challenges. They are no less good, no less generous, no less called than any other generation.

Speaker after speaker at the symposium, confirming my own experience, emphasized the need to be with students and take them where they are at. Jesus responded to peo-



Photo By: Mary Anne Powers, CND

Left to right, Sabrina, a student ('10) and Kathleen Dorney, CND

ple where they were at. The ministry of Presence is a very important part of campus ministry. Meeting the students where they are sends stronger messages than we realize. Partaking in activities with them when possible, hanging out with them is an important part of campus ministry. Invitations to go deeper can be extended, encouraging them to lead and to attend programs, prayers, etc. sponsored by campus ministry. Authenticity and honesty as well as a deep love of God are strong characteristics of a campus minister. Hopefully we offer a witness to these young adults as they spark new energy in us.

Many young adults are very generous in giving service to others. This is one of their gifts. The challenge is to assist them in realizing that prayer balances out the gift of service. Some few spend time in prayer and need to be challenged to also go out to their neighbor in service. Religion is not high in their priorities. Assisting them in asking deeper questions hopefully will lead them to a sense of wonder and awe at the Creator of all. We know that the Spirit is at work in each of their lives and we trust the goodness and desire of each person to grow. What a privilege to journey with these young people!

OUR CHRISTMAS ENROLLMENT CARD

is a wonderful way to let the special people in your life know that you are thinking of them. Our Sisters throughout the US will pray for friends and family that you name.

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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 Bourgeous 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, 2009 through June 30, 2010. 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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From Campus Ministry to Coordinator of Associate Relationship

By: Joan Mahoney, CND

Since 1979, with the exception of five years in community service, I have been engaged in campus ministry at four different institutions of higher education. The ministry takes on different nuances at different institutions but the basic elements remain the same. I have served at the University of Rhode Island, a state institution, Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, a private women's college, Boston College, a Jesuit University and St. John's University, Staten Island Campus, a Vincentian institution. I am now leaving St. John's to be the Coordinator of the Associate Relationship for our CND Province. Of the various sisters who have served in campus ministry, Sister Kathleen Dorney who is currently the Director of Campus Ministry at St. Joseph's College, a Sisters of Mercy institution in West Hartford, CT will be the only CND in this important ministry for the Church and Society.

At St. John's University, I was the Director of Campus Ministry with two young campus ministers, a secretary, two graduate assistants, and about ten Campus Ministry Student Assistants (CMSA's) composing our staff. This made for a rich pool of talents and personalities to reach out to all on our campus. Being a Vincentian University, involving the students in direct service to the disadvantaged is a major priority. Midnight Runs is our most popular service opportunity. Assigned by the Midnight Run Organization, students would go by van into Manhattan to bring brown bag sandwiches and snacks that they had assembled, warm clothing and toiletries to about four stops. What we stressed with the students was that, even more important than the food and material things we distributed, was having conversations with the homeless, mostly men, and coming to know them. On the ride back to Staten Island, each student reflected on and shared where they had seen the face of God in their experience. Other sponsored service activities are soup kitchens, childcare while Latino parents are learning English and the many outreach

I hope to bring much of what I have learned to my new position as Coordinator of Associate Relationship.

Joan Mahoney, CND



programs of the very active student St. Vincent de Paul Society. Staten Island students join Queen's campus students for service trips to Panama, Lourdes shrine, New Orleans and Philadelphia at a center for Vincentian sponsored multi-service organizations.

Of course, faith formation and liturgies are the other strong thrust of campus ministry. Every Sunday, there is an evening mass with a lively student choir. The academic year is sprinkled with several campus-wide liturgies and prayer services for September 11, Women's Month, Aids Awareness, peace and non-violence, memorial services and other occasions. A community dinner follows the Sunday liturgy to nourish the faith and social development of the students. A four-year leadership program called V.I.T.A.L. (Vincentian Initiative to Advance Leadership) enables students to grow in understanding of the Vincentian charism in its integration of spirituality, service and leadership. I have led the Junior and Senior years of this program. For faculty and professional staff, I have offered meditation, faith and justice programs as well as support in times of bereavement. Two years ago, I began a student group called Spirit Quest since so many students of this generation are searching for their spiritual homes.

Ministry to young adults and the college community has been a great blessing to me. I hope to bring much of what I have learned to my new position as Coordinator of Associate Relationship. ❁

Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters: IN MEMORY OF

Sr. Gilberte Dufresne, CND (Mother St. Gilberte-Marguerite) d. April 7, 2010

Sr. Madeleine LaMarre, CND (Mother St. Madeleine of Mary) d. July 11, 2010

Sr. Catherine (Kaye) Morrison, CND (Mother St. Anita-Miriam) d. September 2, 2010

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.

At the Heart of the CND

By: *Jeanne Bonneau, CND*
Marilyn Doucette, CND (S. Michael Joseph)
Natalie Gannon, CND (S. Natalie Frances)

Three members of Blessed Sacrament Province, Jeanne Bonneau, Marilyn Doucette and Natalie Gannon, live in Montreal at our CND Mother House. Ordinarily, Sisters missioned in Canada would become members of one of the Canadian provinces; however the Mother House is the home of every CND, and one purpose of the local Community there is to provide a welcoming atmosphere for all CNDs, Associates and others who come to visit for whatever reason. Therefore the 15 Sisters who currently live in the Mother House belong to three CND Provinces: Marguerite Bourgeois Province, composed of French speaking Canadian Sisters, Visitation Province, in which the Sisters are English speaking Canadians and Blessed Sacrament Province. While hospitality is an important part of their ministry, they are also engaged in other work as well. Until 2005, the Mother House of the CND was always a very large building housing many Sisters, and in earlier times even a large infirmary. It was at one time the place where the novices were trained, and to which the sick and elderly returned after their active life was done. The Mother House has always been the home of the ashes of the heart of our Foundress, Marguerite Bourgeois. (At the time of the death of our Foundress, it was customary to remove the heart of someone renowned for holiness and to enshrine them in a reliquary.) In 2005 the building which had housed the Generalate, where the administrative work of the Congregation is carried on, became the Mother House as well. At that time it was decided to have a local community there composed of Sisters from several provinces who could provide a feeling of home for all CNDs.

Because Natalie made her novitiate in Montreal and often came to back to visit CND friends, for her there is a feeling of having come home for a time. For Jeanne and Marilyn, who both made their novitiate in the U. S., it is a return to the roots of the Congregation which was founded in Ville Marie, now Montreal, in the 1600s. Living in a multicultural and bilingual group is both challenging and



Photo By: Murielle Boisvert, CND

Left to right, *Marilyn Doucette, CND; Natalie Gannon, CND and Jeanne Bonneau, CND*

enriching, as we try to understand the cultures, accents and languages we encounter every day. Meeting and getting to know so many of our Sisters is a great experience of internationality, and gives us hope for the future as we meet our Sisters from Japan, France, Central America and Cameroon in whom the spirit of Marguerite Bourgeois and the charism of the Congregation are so deeply rooted.

A great deal of information goes out from here to the Sisters in every part of our world. Jeanne and Natalie both have as part of their ministries the editing of texts which have been translated into English from French, Japanese or Spanish. We know how important it is that the same message reach everyone, and find it fascinating to try to find just the word or phrase which will convey the meaning succinctly.

Marilyn and an Associate from New Brunswick, Yolande Cormier, are Co-coordinators of the CND Central Office of Associate Relationship, maintaining contact with our near 900 lay Associates throughout the world. Associates share our CND mission through their prayer life, their family life, and their work and ministry while living out their own personal vocation. Our work with Associates is a means to live in the fullness of the life of Marguerite Bourgeois who in her early life was an extern member of a congregation of sisters. It also gives us the opportunity to promote one of the new movements which emerged from Vatican II and is a gift for the Congregation, the Church and the world as well as for individual associates.

For each of us, an important part of our ministry is simply our presence to each other and to all who come to this house. The grace of God is in just being here and “wasting time” or celebrating with our visitors and with each other.

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Partners in CND Mission

Congregation of Notre Dame
Blessed Sacrament Province
30 Highfield Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897-3802

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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)

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 with any comments or suggestions.

Ways of Giving: Planned Giving

When you leave a share of your estate to the Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, you leave a living legacy to further advance the mission of the Congregation. The Congregation of Notre Dame relies on gifts from generous friends to partner with us in supporting the presence of a CND in our varied ministries. Your bequest of stocks, bonds, cash, trust funds (by naming the Congregation of Notre Dame as beneficiary of a trust), the proceeds from life insurance policies or other property will help assure our life and work in the future. Please contact us for our current literature.

IN GRATITUDE

The Congregation of Notre Dame received
donations for CND Ministry Works
in memory of
Sr. Madeleine LaMarre, CND.
The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful!