



CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME

Éducation libératrice - Liberating Education
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Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND Sisters,

As the season of Autumn approached, there were many advertisements for school supplies, which began in July, as well as programs to enhance our education. In reading this edition of our newsletter, you will have the opportunity to read about our three schools in the City of New York: St. Jean Baptiste High School in Manhattan, Villa Maria Academy in the Bronx and Notre Dame Academy on Staten Island.

Our new logo highlights our main goal as CNDs: Liberating Education. In each of our schools, the charism of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys is alive. You will read how our students are educated in this charism and how the mystery of the Visitation is so much a part of each school. You will read about the students' participation in outreach to those in need. Our students also compete well in the academic world and 99% of our high school graduates go on to higher education. We are indeed proud of the students who graduate from these schools.

In this issue we also honor our Golden and Silver Jubilarians. These women have given a total of 125 years in service to God and the people they meet on a daily basis.

You, our benefactors, are very important to us and we have listed your names in this issue. You are prayed for each day at our offices here in Wilton and in our homes whenever we pray together. Starting in September, a Mass will be offered each month at Andrus for all your intentions. Please do not hesitate to call us whenever you have a special intention. Your concerns are ours to hold in prayer.

Enjoy reading all about the CND in this issue. Thank you for your generosity to our Sisters and their ministries.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND
Director of Mission Advancement



What is Villa Maria Academy and Where is it Located?

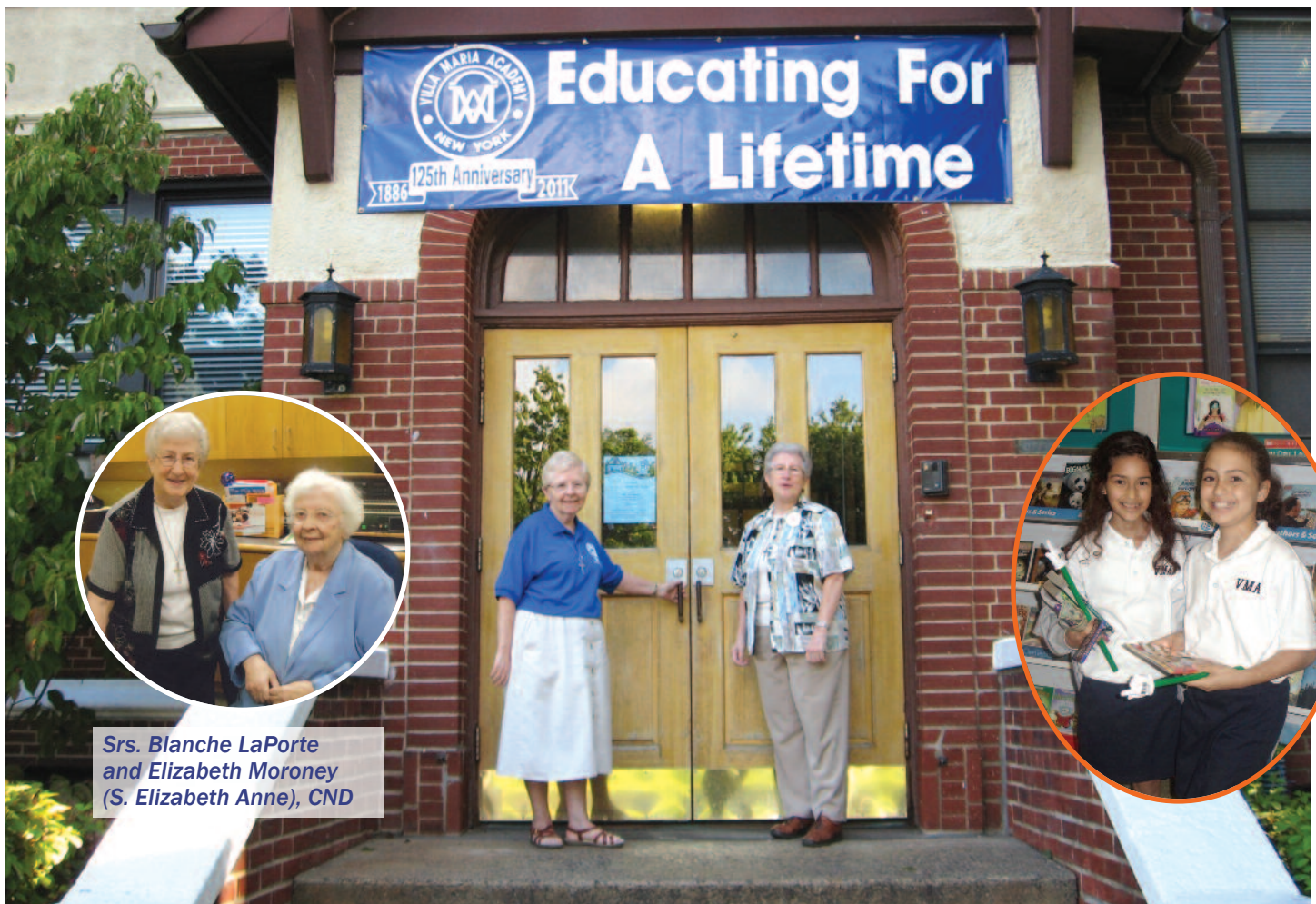
By: Teresa Barton, CND (S. William Maureen)

Villa Maria is a Pre-K through Grade Eight Catholic school. It is located in the Bronx, New York City's poorest borough, where the 2011 census data reports that the median income is \$34,744 and 28.5% of the population live *below* the poverty level. The fact that the school's address is 3335 Country Club Road does not override the economic challenges that surround it and that confront the families it serves and the CNDs who administer the school.

The school has a history dating from 1926 in the Bronx, and it includes years when it was both an elementary school and a boarding high school. In earlier decades, it was staffed by more than 25 CNDs and was housed in more than one building. At present,

the Villa comprises three separate buildings that it could never afford to build were they not remnants from an old era: Villa Maria, the administration building; Hall Marguerite, the junior high building; and Visitation Center, the gym and activity center. Today, Sisters Elizabeth Moroney (S. Elizabeth Anne), Blanche Laporte (S. Rose Therese), and Teresa Barton, CND represent the CNDs. These three women carry on the mission of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys in collaboration with the daily efforts of a professional lay staff.

Today's reality is that hard financial times put stress on Catholic education everywhere. Tuition, though burdensome for all Villa families, no longer covers expenses; and the school is forced to find



Srs. Blanche LaPorte and Elizabeth Moroney (S. Elizabeth Anne), CND

Srs. Theresa Barton and Blanche LaPorte (S. Rose Therese), CND



“Let us be known by our works, by the sound education, the good instruction we give, and by our love for God’s word...”

—St. Marguerit Bourgeoys

additional income from sources such as alumni donations and fundraising events. Since the financial downturn in 2007, financial needs have continued to rise at a pace that is of great concern for the school’s future.

Nevertheless, we are looking forward to implementing new programs in the 2013-2014 school year: peace studies for eighth graders, beginning with *Pacem in Terris*; leadership training for seventh graders; and implementation of the common core curriculum throughout the grades. The school continues to receive praise for its accelerated math program that begins in Grade Five and prepares students for the Algebra Regents in Grade Eight.

Villa students have the advantage of daily religious instruction in their faith. The school benefits from the work of a campus minister who coordinates Masses in Visitation Center, helps students to develop prayer services, and provides instructional assistance to 14 classroom teachers. Having the advantage of using an updated and well-equipped science lab, Villa students earned top science prizes in the Bronx Catholic Schools Science Fair in 2012 and 2013. The faculty continues to make concerted efforts to integrate technology into instruction. For example, they use smart boards in all grades and iPads for social studies research. However, more extensive use of digital technology is limited by lack of funds to purchase additional devices.

The parents are committed to providing a Catholic education for their children, and they make substantial sacrifices in sending their children to the school. They are active volunteers in supporting the school’s initiatives. The racially and ethnically diverse student body of over 350 students enjoys the advantage of small class sizes that allow for a productive and personal student-teacher ratio. Against all odds, and with extraordinary hard work and commitment from dedicated lay teachers, parents and CNDs, the school continues to excel in all academic areas.

For an up close and personal look, please visit us at www.vma-ny.org. 



Photos By: Ann Eduardo



Sr. Blanche with Villa students

Saint Jean Baptiste High School—Visitation in Action

By: Daniel Linehan-Chairperson, Religion Department

The work of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and the charism of its foundress, Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, are alive and well and continue to inspire the efforts of our little school community on Manhattan's Upper East Side. For nearly 85 years, Saint Jean Baptiste High School has committed itself to the education of young women. Although much may have changed over the years, what is most remarkable is the spirit of Visitation that pervades the history and mission of the Sisters' work at SJB as well as that of the dedicated lay staff. SJB continues to be a place where people's lives are changed, where new vistas are opened up, and possibilities are seized.

I often reflect with my students on the great similarities in circumstance that they share with the young brave Marguerite who answering God's call set off on a tremendous voyage, a voyage marked by her spirit of Visitation. For many of our students, a new world of discovery awaits. New York City provides the great cultural and historical backdrop for their education. We often see the City as the extension of our classroom where great works of art or inspired performances are only a walk or subway ride away. Much of the incoming 9th grade class participates in our University Bound Program. Along with providing the necessary study skills and enrichment needed to succeed in high school, the UB program takes daily field trips to discover all that NYC has to offer.

However, for all the richness NYC provides, our students still must contend with the many harsh demands of urban life. One of SJB's great challenges, despite all of its successes, is to continue to provide a

high quality yet affordable education for families seeking a safe and nurturing environment. Jeanites often remark about the safe, caring, and concerned community they encounter on 75th Street where an English teacher waits to go over an essay, a math teacher is holding a Regents review, or a guidance counselor is there with an open ear to hear students' concerns. We believe that along with providing a solid educational program, our students deserve a safe and nurturing home away from home.

Our student body is a reflection of New York's great strength, its diversity. As an educator, I am often astounded by the diversity of the students sitting in front of me, and the wellspring of experiences they bring to the classroom. Their lives, their dreams to carve out a better future for their children, their faith, are an unending source of hope. Our community is one rooted in the Catholic tradition, yet the willingness to dialogue and learn from that which is different, to encounter the unique and beautiful in cultures and religions that are foreign to our own, to give back to our community through service are hallmarks of an SJB education whose inspiration to visit with the other and be changed by that experience no doubt comes from Marguerite herself.

Saint Jean Baptiste High School is at an exciting point and it continues to grow in the programs and services it provides to its students. A generous gift from the CND allowed for a beautiful renovation of the existing building where state of the art science labs and a new art room allow for further learning and spiritual growth. A new addition, which houses the library



Science Lab



Computer Class

with increased technology, and chapel has become the hub of our school. Along with these changes, the strengthening of the curriculum through additional Advanced Placement courses, the partnering with colleges so students can receive college credit, and providing for on-line learning experiences all form the SJB experience and become a way of preparing our students for future success. We hope that SJB continues to be a place of Visitation, a place where the encounter with others transforms, and we welcome all who wish to become partners in Visitation to pay us a visit and see the great work that Marguerite still inspires today. ✿



Freshman Class



Summer Program



Senior Jeanites

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, 2011 with additions)

With this issue of “Partners in CND Mission”, we would like to recognize your partnership with us from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. 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, and those participating in our Legacy Society (LS).

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As Much Good as God Allows and We can Do

By: Patricia Corley, CND (S. Patrick of the Eucharist)

To celebrate the Centenary of Notre Dame Academy in 2003 a group of students, teachers, alumnae, researchers and artists worked diligently for nine months to produce a compelling history of the Academy. A quote from the archives of the opening day of school in September 1903 became the title for that narrative and set the stage for all the years to come. The annalist recorded the day's events and wrote: "We had no doubt that this great act, (Mass) celebrated on this feast would attract from heaven to our little corner of the earth, the graces which would permit us to do "As Much Good as God Allows". For 110 years we at Notre Dame Academy have attempted to make that a daily reality: As Much Good as God Allows, and as Much Good as We Can Do.

Of course much has changed over the century, but the essentials have remained as a thread that runs through each day. NDA is not just a building, not just a school, but it is an environment where a consistent, continuous effort to provide a very specific educational experience for our girls and young women challenges them to learn to their full capacities. What does that look like after 110 years?

Notre Dame Academy is a beautiful school. Any visitor to the Academy will say essentially the same thing: "Wow! This is a beautiful campus!" It takes a great deal of love and care over the course of 100+ years to preserve, to expand, to maintain this 13 acre campus which we believe is in itself a classroom. The addition of new buildings has allowed us to expand the use of the facilities for Summer Enrichment programs, alumnae celebrations, academic enrichment and many other things.



NDA Chapel

Notre Dame Academy is an academically excellent school. Consider just these last graduating classes: 99% of the 96 high school graduates went on to continue their education in community colleges, state colleges, private colleges and Ivy League colleges. This one class amassed almost \$18 million in scholarship and aide. The 29 graduates from the elementary school went to private high schools (including NDA) or specialty public schools. They were awarded \$88,250 in scholarships to continue their education. Visitors continue to be amazed at how well the 4 and 5 year olds can read and write. College presidents comment on how well prepared our graduates are. This is all possible because of the continued dedication and commitment of administrators, faculties and staff.

Notre Dame Academy is a relatively small school with a big school attitude. From Pre-K to grade 12 NDA girls are involved in the arts and sports. Since each girl has different gifts they have an opportunity to pursue chess and soccer, knitting and basketball, robotics and newspaper, drama and chorus, etc., etc.

Notre Dame Academy does in many ways have an "island" mentality, but when it comes to social justice issues the vision expands. From supporting local food pantries and shelters to building houses with Habitat, from Pennies for Patients to helping Sandy victims, from Glamour Gals to toy collections, all students are involved at some level in helping others.

Many things will continue to change. Our hope is that we can preserve that pioneer spirit that marked the beginning of Notre Dame and continued throughout the previous century and into this one. While just three CND Sisters remain at the Academy there is a strong sense that the founding spirit remains. The



High School graduates in their College Sweatshirts

Thank you to our donors continued from page 7

Phyllis A. Litwinka
 Bunny Torras Loader
 Maureen Bender Lombardo
 Elaine Waitkus Longino
 Sharon Longtin
 Joanne Loughran
 Marie MacPherson Lowney
 Ann Guerrera Lucas
 Mary Lucchese
 Marylou Lyons, CND
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 Glenna Jacobs Wolko
 Lea Raimondi Woodrum
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 Constance Perruccio Young
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zandri
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ziolkowski
 Stephen A. Zoccoli

Photo By: Jackie DeLucia



Elementary School soccer

principals of the Elementary and High Schools are alumnae of the Academy. Several faculty members in both schools are alums. Each teacher is immersed in our philosophy of Liberating Education. And so 110 years later we still have “No doubt that our great efforts will attract from heaven to our little corner of the earth, the graces which would permit us to do ‘As Much Good as God Allows’”. 🌸

L-R Rebecca Signorelli, ES Principal; Patricia Corley, CND, President; and Kate Jaenicke, HS Principal

News from the Office of Mission Advancement

A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors who gave to the 2013 Spring Appeal for the work of Sr. Mary MacIsaac, CND and to the 2013 Summer Appeal for the Ministry Works of the CND. We are most grateful!

You can make donations on line by accessing our site www.cnd-m.org click **Works and Ministries**, then **Office of Mission Advancement**, then **Have You thought about Giving**.

Check out our Facebook Page at [Congregation of Notre Dame/USA](http://www.facebook.com/CongregationofNotreDameUSA)



ENROLLMENT CARDS

You can view our Enrollment cards on our website, www.cnd-m.org click **Works and Ministries**, then **Office of Mission Advancement** and click **more** on **A Card for Every Occasion**. *Ordering information is also on that page.*

YOUR STAMPS HELP TOO

We continue to be grateful for the cancelled stamps that you send to us which benefit our foreign missions in Central America and Cameroon.

We also cut stamps from the donations that you send so you gift us twice! Please remember that 1/4" is needed around the stamp for it to be of value.

Please be mindful of that when you are placing your stamp on the envelope.

POSTAGE

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.

ORDERING INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS:

Mail to: Congregation of Notre Dame,
30 Highfield Rd., Wilton, CT 06897-3802
Call: 203-762-4306
Fax: 203-762-4319
Email: cnddev@juno.com



OUR 2013 JUBILARIANS

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

Our Silver and Golden Jubilarians were honored on June 29th at a celebratory Liturgy followed by a delicious meal at Wilton, CT. Pictured are our Jubilarians for 2013. They were joined by many CND Sisters, family and friends.

Sister Joann Compagno, CND celebrating 50 years of profession in the CND, is the Local Leader for our Sisters in Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton. Sister Joann has been ministering to our sisters for several years. This facility is administered by the SSNDs and we have been blessed to be a part of this endeavor since 2000. It is a skilled care facility and presently we have 5 Sisters in residence. In her capacity of Local Leader, Sr. Joann is on call when sisters are taken to the hospital; she prepares prayer experiences for all the Sisters living in this 40 bed facility as well as taking care of day-to-day needs of the Sisters.

Sister Eileen Dorney, CND also celebrated her 50 years of profession. Sister Eileen is a Social Worker at the Encore 49 Residence in the heart of the theater district in New York City. The mission of Encore is to provide care and service to the elderly, to assist those who are vulnerable and frail, poor and homeless, those most often ignored. Sister Eileen helps them with their daily needs that they might live as independently as possible with dignity and decency in a safe and caring environment. 89 homeless elderly men and women with special needs live in this caring environment and Sr. Eileen is a vital part of the staff in providing the care and services they need.

Sister Immacolata- Maco- Cassetta, CND celebrated 25 years of profession in the CND. Sister Maco is originally from Canada and recently became a member of Blessed Sacrament Province, USA. Sister Maco ministers at the Rockhaven Ecozoic Center in House Springs, MO. The mission of this center is to create an environment and model a way of living that models our connection with Earth. Their intention is to promote eco-spiritual awareness in ourselves and in those who experience the center. The environment and programs support and nourish the mutual transformation of Earth and the Human Spirit. Sister Maco is a vital part of the staff in promoting the ideals of the center.

Each of these women embody the Mission Orientation of the CND as it is expressed on the last page of this newsletter. We congratulate them for the witness and service they provide for so many. 🌸



Photo By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

L-R Srs. Joann Compagno, Maco Cassetta, and Eileen Dorney, CND

Liberating Education in Chicago

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND and Darleen Mayo, CND



Sr. Darleen and student teachers

Another way in which the charism of “Liberating Education” is carried out is through the mentoring program at Loyola University of Chicago—Opportunities in Catholic Education. Sr. Darleen Mayo, CND works with women and men in a two year service-based teaching training program.

The program has three pillars - professionalism, community and spirituality. These students study, live together and pray together. They will receive their Masters in Education and work in Catholic Schools in Chicago - usually in under-resourced or poorer areas.

Sr. Darleen goes into their classrooms to observe, mentor and supervise; she also provides seminars to discuss educational topics that will help them with their teaching. 🌸

 IN GRATITUDE 

The Congregation of Notre Dame received donations to the CND Retirement Fund in memory of Sisters Anne Scappini and Marguerite Brenneis, CND; in memory of William Moore, brother of Sr. Ann Moore, CND; and in memory of Mary Sucich, former resident of Andrus on Hudson Retirement Community.

The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful!

Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters

IN MEMORY OF

Anne Scappini, CND (Mother St. Lucy Anne) d. June 3, 2013

Marguerite Brenneis, CND (Mother St. Mary John) d. June 11, 2013

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, 2011 with additions)

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.

**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.**
