



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,

While we appreciate summer days, there is a beauty to Autumn that is unparalleled-beautiful leaves, fresh aromas, the possibility of treks through wooded areas. All of these are proclaiming the imagination of God's creation.

In this newsletter we honor each of you, our donors, by listing your names and the range of your donations from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

This edition of our newsletter speaks of the imagination of our Sisters in the great ministries in which they are involved. Our CND Associate Relationship is flourishing and the enclosed article describes the great work that our Associates are doing. Their relationship with us is life-giving and encouraging.

As CND Sisters, we continue to be involved with children and the struggles they encounter in their lives. One of our Sisters is a lawyer for Covenant House in NYC and deals with the legal issues directly affecting these children.

Nine CND Sisters celebrate their Golden Jubilees this year and all are in active ministries in different parts of the US and Canada. They came together on June 28th to celebrate with all of us in Wilton, CT. Their ministries are highlighted in an article in this issue.

Throughout our Province there have been many changes involving ministries and residences; one of these is highlighted in another article. While our numbers have decreased, we are still a very vibrant community in ministry, prayer and community life.

We are grateful to all of you, our Partners in CND Mission, and pray in thanksgiving for you each day and during our First Friday Liturgy at Andrus. Your generosity and support allows us to continue Christ's work on earth. Please remember us in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND
Director of Mission Advancement



Celebrating our 9 Golden Jubilarians!

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

On June 28th, at noon, CNDs, families and friends gathered in Wilton, CT to celebrate our 9 Sisters who are celebrating their Golden Jubilees. As you read, you can see that these Sisters contribute much to the growth of the Kingdom.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: *Srs. Catherine, Elizabeth, Jeanne, and Maria.* Back row, left to right: *Srs. MaryAnn, Monica, Joan, Patricia and Mary*

Photo By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

Catherine Ann Crowley, CND - Director of Pastoral Care
Bon Secours Community Hospital, Port Jervis, NY

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St. Jean Baptiste High School, New York, NY

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Joan Mahoney, CND - Coordinator of Associate Relationship
Wilton, CT

Patricia McCarthy, CND - Province Leader
Wilton, CT

Mary Mazza, CND - Parish Administrator
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Monica Leonard, CND - Director of Religious Education
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Fairfield, CT

We praise God and thank each Sister for the wonderful ways they bring God's love to all to whom they minister. 🌸

News from Pine Ridge, South Dakota

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

In 1972, the CND answered the call for Sisters to minister in underserved areas in the US. As a result, Sr. Louise Finn (S. Christine Marie) went to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in S. Dakota and taught in the Red Cloud High School and Sr. Beth Davies (S. Catherine of the Angels) went to St. Charles, VA to minister to the people of this region deep in poverty and with multiple problems. Over the years several Sisters have ministered in both places.

In these later years, 2 Sisters have remained in Pine Ridge: Sr. Margaret Giroux (S. Patricia Marie) and Sr. Mary Jane Hebert (S. David Maureen). Sr. Margaret taught Art for many years in the high school and then worked in the Development office

answering personal letters from donors for 32 years. Sr. Mary Jane taught Religion, grades 5-8 for 26 years.



Photo By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

In June of this year, our Sisters left Pine Ridge thus ending our time with the Lakota Sioux Native Americans. We and the people of Pine Ridge are deeply grateful for these Sisters and all CNDs who ministered among the families of the reservation. Their contribution has been invaluable. Both Sisters will be ministering at Notre Dame Academy, Staten Island, NY. 🌸

Left to right, *Srs. Mary Jane Hebert and Margaret Giroux, CND*

Visitation Moments

By: Donna M. Wuhrer, CND Associate

My relationship with and love of Marguerite Bourgeoys and the Congregation of Notre Dame began approximately 40 years ago. I was a student attending Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Sr. Kathleen Deignan was Campus Minister at that time. She stopped me after Mass one day to talk. This unexpected meeting and conversation prompted Sr. Kathleen to ask me, “Have you ever considered becoming a nun?” When I said “yes”, she invited me to meet with other Sisters in her Congregation. I was in the CND contact program for approximately two years. It was a very joyous time for me. However, in my discernment and journey, God’s plan became clear. I was called to be a wife and mother.

Fast forward to 2007. While attending my son’s high school lacrosse game, I spotted a friend I had not seen in a long time—Gina Sader-Rubenstein. Ah...another unexpected meeting...which prompted a question....which led to an invitation for lunch. That “yes” to lunch ultimately led to my “yes” in becoming an Associate in the CND. It is clear when I look back at that moment, the Holy Spirit was calling to me again—inviting me, directing me back to Marguerite and her Congregation. And the Holy Spirit wasn’t done! Little did I know that the next meeting, question and invitation regarding the CND was coming....via Sr. Joan Mahoney.

I met Sr. Joan Mahoney when she became Coordinator for the Associate Relationship in our Province. Through several meetings and conversations, I came to know Sr. Joan. One day she called and asked if I would like to become a member of the Provincial Associate Council. Another meeting, question and invitation that ultimately led to my becoming Sr. Joan’s assistant for the past 1-1/2 years. I am not only blessed to work with Sr. Joan as her assistant but in this position, I am also blessed to meet so many Associates—in person, by phone, by email or blog. I have especially enjoyed coming to know our new Candidates and Associates and hear their stories. They inspire me and challenge me to deepen my faith and grow in love and service of others. With their permission, I share some inspiring words from three Candidates who will become Associates in the Fall....



Left to right, Donna Wuhrer and Joan Mahoney, CND

Photo By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

One of the things that speaks to me very clearly is the “littleness” of Marguerite’s charism. I love that she calls us in this way because it reminds me that all actions matter, not just grandiose actions, but rather every encounter is an opportunity to see Christ in another person. -SUZANNE FANDEL

The CND charism inspires me to live my baptismal call because it reflects a community in motion, responsive and ever-evolving yet true to purpose in our common call to live the Magnificat. The heritage is rooted in Mary and Marguerite—women who lived their lives radically—and in doing so inspired generations and generations of women and men to live a life of greater discipleship in their calling to carry forward the Gospel message as Sisters or Associates. -JENNIFER HOLLIS

If I am able to emulate any of Marguerite Bourgeoys’ charism and behavior, my baptismal call will be fulfilled and fulfilling. Striving to live life grounded in simplicity, generosity, dignity and joy, open to the direction of God and His gifts, and moved to action. What could be better? -RONNIE GILLIGAN-WHITE

These women are becoming Associates because they were first SEEN by a Sister or another Associate. The seeing then led to a MEETING. Out of this meeting—which we now know is a Visitation—came a QUESTION and then an INVITATION. It was my experience in my CND journey. Isn’t that true for all Associates? The Sisters in the CND have carried out Marguerite’s wish—that the Confraternity

that she began in Montreal continue after her death. I am grateful to all of the Sisters for carrying on Marguerite’s legacy in the Associate Relationship—by seeing us, reaching out to meet us, asking the question and offering an invitation. We, as Associates, are encouraged by Marguerite and her daughters to do the same! ❁

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, 2013 through June 30, 2014. 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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Serving God's Most Vulnerable Children in New York City

By: Nancy Downing, CND

On any given night, over 3800 young people are homeless and largely invisible on the streets of New York City. For the past 7 years Sr. Nancy Downing, CND has been serving the “suffering children of the street” through her ministry as Director of Advocacy and Legal Services at Covenant House New York. As an Attorney, Sr. Nancy helps youth negotiate and resolve the myriad of legal issues they face often due to being homeless, impoverished and alone trying to survive on the streets of New York. As an Advocate, Sr. Nancy talks to City, State and Federal legislators advocating for laws to protect homeless, trafficked and at-risk youth and advocating for changes in laws that negatively impact them. As a Sister in the Congregation of Notre Dame and as a follower of Christ, Sr. Nancy shares daily the love of God with and for these children who have been abused, neglected, and tossed out on the streets like yesterday’s trash.

Sr. Nancy made her first profession in the Congregation of Notre Dame 15 years ago. She has served in ministries in Connecticut and New York combating housing discrimination and working to help survivors of domestic violence, chronically ill patients, and immigrant women and their families. When the opportunity arose to serve as an attorney for homeless youth at Covenant House New York in 2007, she felt compelled by the mission of Covenant House New York to serve the “suffering children of the street” with “unconditional love and absolute respect” and to be a “visible sign of God’s presence...working through the Holy Spirit among ourselves and our kids.”

Every night at Covenant House New York, more than 300 young people find a safe place to sleep, get a hot meal, take a shower and get some clean clothes. They also have access to Covenant House’s Health Clinic, Education and



Sr. Nancy advocating for youth in Albany, NY

Employment services, Mental Health services, loving and caring staff, and Legal Services. Sr. Nancy provides direct legal services to over 325 youth each year. She and her colleague attorney also provide training to the youth on how to advocate for themselves and on behalf of other homeless youth. Each year several youth travel to the New York State capital in Albany and to New York City Hall with Sr. Nancy to talk with legislators about the experience of being homeless and to let the legislators know what they can do to help. It’s an empowering experience for the youth and a wonderful opportunity to participate in and learn about our government.

“God has blessed me with the opportunity to know and serve these beautiful children who are so filled with hope despite the many abuses they have suffered,” says Sr. Nancy. “I am grateful to our community, the Congregation of Notre Dame, and to the many generous supporters of the CND, who enable me to serve the vulnerable children of the streets and share God’s saving love with them.” ❁

St. Louis Academy Class Of 1953 Reunion

By: Shirley Dyrek Bednarke



TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Betty Soosh-Isreal;
Mickey Fife Castner (Marguerite);
Dolores Szczecina-Krusenoski;
Marie Colosso; Mary Ann Hayden Vanderwarf;
Winifred Stoffey; Joan Crawford-David;
Rosalyn Dalle-Zoplatosch;
Shirley Dyrek-Bednarke;
Audrey Danahy-Fischer; Louise Panozzo

SITTING:

Carol Diaguardi-Bitoski;
Ann Marie Lupo-Donahue

St. Joseph Seminary 50th Reunion

By: Julie Anderson

Members of the 1964 graduating class from Saint Joseph Seminary in Kankakee celebrated their 50th Class Reunion at the home of MaryAnn O'Reilly Anderson on Saturday, June 14th. They were the last graduating class before the school was closed and girls attended Bishop McNamara High School. 🌸



BACK ROW LEFT: Carolyn Moore, Kankakee; Jan Walling, Bradley, Emma Feller, Manteno, Pam Gean, New Lenox; Amy Stearns, Naperville; Lou Ann Dawkins, Joliet; Joan Giroux, Bourbonnais

SECOND ROW LEFT: Mary Ann Dionne-Groff, Arlington, Texas; Mary Westover, Kankakee; Cheryl Dandurand-Heldt, Kankakee; Pat Neveau-Dressler, Kankakee; Rianna Sweet, Milwaukee, WI; Arlene Kirchner, Ashkum

SEATED LEFT: Jackie LaRoche, Kankakee; MaryAnn Anderson, Kankakee; Sandy Cromwell, Kankakee; Barbara Jepson, St. Anne, and Ruth Ann Chinski, Kankakee

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A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our donors who gave to the 2014 Spring Appeal for the Monti Ministry Fund to benefit women and children and the 2014 Summer General Appeal for CND Ministry Works. *We are most grateful!*

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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, 2011 with additions)

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