



Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND,

Springtime always brings the hope of lovely flowers, trees and softer days. May this be your experience as we look to the liturgical season of Easter, a season during which we remember Christ's life, death and Resurrection.

It is with great pleasure that we present our Spring '10 newsletter. Our Sisters continue to be very involved in their various ministries and with this edition you will have another glimpse into our lives. Vocations to religious life have been of great concern to many. In our last issue, our Vocation program was described and in this issue our Candidacy and Novitiate programs round out the details of our initial formation programs.

Another way in which women and men continue their association with the CND in the spirit of St. Marguerite is through our Associate Relationship Program which began over 25 years ago and numbers over 900 Associates around the world. You will be brought up-to-date about the activities of our US Associates.

In this issue we are also honoring our Sisters who received awards for their outstanding service in ministry. You will also travel along the El Camino in Spain with another of our Sisters while on sabbatical. We continue to be quite involved in the preservation of our environment and we share some suggestions with you for your consideration.

Through your generosity, we have been able to enhance the lives of many women, men and children. Our Sisters continue to create programs which will allow many to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. On their behalf, we thank you.

Know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as we thank God for you each day.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND
Development Director



CNDs Honored For Their Contributions

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

During the Fall of 2009, four CNDs were honored for the contributions they have made in the fields of education and social services. Following is a synopsis of the great ministry for which they were each honored.



Sister Madeleine LaMarre, CND (S. Madeleine of Mary)

Sister Madeleine was inducted into the *Dorothy and Romy Hammes* Hall of Honor at Bishop McNamara High School, Kankakee, Illinois. When St. Joseph Seminary closed in 1964 and the girls went to Bishop McNamara, Sr. Madeleine began a long history of presence in the school. She taught Science, later became the Librarian and she also joined the Development Staff. She is largely responsible for the Irish Alumni Association. Sister Madeleine retired in 2006 after 42 years of devoted service to the Students and Alumni of Bishop McNamara.



Sister Rosemary Cianciolo, CND (S. Elaine Marie)

To speak of Sr. Rosemary is to speak of an educator par excellence from her days as an elementary school teacher through her years as Principal of Notre Dame Academy, Staten Is., NY and St. Jean's, NYC to Superintendent of Schools in Pensacola, FL. At present she is overseeing a building project for St. Jean's High School. Sr. Rosemary is a leader who invites participation from her co-workers; she has great intensity about any project and like St. Marguerite, she invites all with whom she works to new horizons that they might not have envisioned for themselves. The

Spirit of Marguerite Bourgeoys Award was given to Sr. Rosemary at Notre Dame Academy, Staten Island, NY.



Sister Kathleen Deignan, CND

In October, Sr. Kathleen received the *Sapientia et Doctrina* Award from Fordham University. This award is given in honor of those who have given service to the renewal of the Church. Sr. Kathleen is Professor of Theology at Iona College; she has written and lectured extensively on the life of Thomas Merton. Sr. Kathleen has composed an extensive collection of CDs and established Schola Ministries which promotes her music ministry. Her Irish Celtic roots take her back to Ireland where she has conducted journeys through the ancient Celtic history of Ireland. Sr. Kathleen has done all this and more in her service to the renewal of the Church.



Sister Margarita Castaneda, CND (S. Christine of Mary)

Each year *The Staten Island Advance* recognizes women who have given great service on Staten Island. *The Women of Achievement Award* recognized the contributions that Sr. Margarita has given in her ministry at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish where she is Director of Religious Education and so much more! Being of Hispanic background and fluent in Spanish, Sr. Margarita earns the trust of the immigrants who are struggling with poverty, addiction, and the threat of deportation. She coordinates the parish program that collects and distributes clothing, furniture and food to families in need. She speaks on behalf of her people, a voice for the voiceless. She helps women too frightened to report domestic violence finding them shelter and legal assistance. Sr. Margarita is well known and respected by the District Attorney's office as she reports drug dealers and houses of prostitution. Sr. Margarita is always ready to answer the door, a gift to the people of the parish and a woman who follows in the footsteps of St. Marguerite. ❁

Who Are Our CND Associates and What Have They Been Up To?

By: Betty King, CND

These are challenging questions to answer, for our associates are such a varied and vibrant group of women and men that it is difficult to keep up with them. What is central to all of their lives is a deep faith, a spirit of prayer, a love for Marguerite Bourgeys and her charism, and a desire to minister with and to others in a spirit of Visitation-Pentecost.

Sprinkled across the United States from Illinois to Massachusetts, from Wisconsin to Florida, these men and women seek to live the spirit of Marguerite in all aspects of their daily lives – in their families, in their places of work, in reaching out to needs around them, in working for justice . . . and the list goes on.

Associates recognize their need for ongoing formation in their faith, in awareness of world issues, in understanding and nurturing the CND charism, and in their vocation as associates in the Congregation. They recognize and treasure the importance of interaction with CND sisters and associates as witnessed by their participation in discussions, retreats, prayer experiences, and celebrations which provide opportunities for growth and mutuality.

Recently Sr. Marilyn Doucette and Yolande Cormier, co-Coordinator from the Central Office for Associates in Montreal, completed a visit with associates through-

out the United States. After Sr. Marilyn and Yolande shared with each group stories of how the CND associate commitment is being lived in other countries, our associates made known ways in which they are living out their commitment: ministering in the area of healthcare as volunteers in local projects and in rural areas where healthcare is lacking; taking advantage of “teachable moments” for educating both youth and adults, applying their newly gained knowledge of world issues to help bring about justice for all. What was most striking was the way in which each associate uses his/her unique gifts to live out the CND charism bringing help, hope, and love to all they encounter.

During the past year, CND associates around the world have been involved in a reflective process leading to the articulation of a Mission Statement. Through this process, they have come to recognize what is truly essential to associate relationship and to realize their unity with CND associates around the world. Affirmed in who they are as CND associates and realizing that they have both much to share as well as to learn from others, our U.S. associates have been participating in inter-congregational associate groups. We can only imagine the impact these additional contacts will have in making Marguerite more widely known. ❁

Left to right Yolande Cormier, CND Associate and co-coordinator of Central Office for Associate Relationship; Betty King, CND, Coordinator of Associates for Blessed Sacrament Province and Marilyn Doucette, CND, co-coordinator, Central Office for Associate Relationship



Associate gathering, Providence, Rhode Island

All photos By Betty King, CND

Associate gathering, Staten Island, New York



Formation in the CND

Candidacy: *By Regina DeVitto, CND*

What does it mean to be a candidate in today's world and in our CND history?

Candidacy is a graced time before the novitiate. (Formerly, we used the term postulant to denote the pre-novitiate.) It is a “come and see” time that invites a woman to deepen her prayer life, participate in meaningful work consistent with the mission of the Congregation, and to live a community life with the sisters with whom she desires membership.



Left to right, Candidate Patricia McAllister and Ann Moore, CND

We are fortunate to have a candidate, Patricia McAllister, living at Villa Maria in the Bronx. Patricia's typical day begins with Mass in the chapel at 6:45am with the sisters, travel to St. Jean's to work with the students there, and then returning home in time for community evening prayer and supper. Her Wednesdays are designated as integration days for reflection on all that she is learning and becoming. In addition, Patricia attends an inter-community candidate program in Convent Station, New Jersey, once a month, overnight. Candidates and their respective directors engage in a variety of topics designed to help transition the candidate's lived experience toward religious life. It is interesting to note that most of the women's congregations have their candidates living in a different place from the director. We are the exception.

As each candidate is a unique individual, so each candidate's time with us will be a little different, candidate to candidate. One of the goals of candidacy is to notice if the woman has the behavioral skills necessary to live in community. Another is to notice a deepening growth in prayer and spirituality. Another goal is the hope that she herself will claim her decisions and needs as necessary in her journey to personal integrity and wholeness. In this way she learns to “own” her formation that is both particular and communal.

In the spring we hope to take the opportunity to visit Montreal and get to know the two French candidates.

Novitiate: *By Darleen Mayo, CND*

“Our hearts have a God-shaped hole in them that only God can fill” (unknown)

This desire for God leads each of us on a life long journey. This year Janet Lawrence and Dianne Arsenault journey as novices with the Congregation of Notre Dame to discern if this is the place they can best love God, be themselves and serve others – if this is the place where God will fill this hole. Janet is a neo-natal nurse practitioner from CT, and Dianne is an accountant from New Brunswick.

Chicago, Illinois seems to be a center for formation for Religious Life. Many communities have moved their novices and theology students to the area. The CND formation house moved to Chicago in 2005 in order to take advantage of courses and presentations at Catholic Theological Union, and to participate in a large inter-community novitiate program.

Janet and Dianne meet weekly with over 40 novices from other communities who are from over 20 countries. This in itself is a wonderful experience that broadens their horizons, and helps them to understand other cultures. Presenters are often world renowned and cover topics on self knowledge, community living and the vows. Janet and Dianne are also getting a strong scriptural background with courses from Catholic Theological Union. An added advantage is that there are also opportunities for the two women to gather with small groups of novices in the area to share their experiences and to socialize together.

During the canonical year which is a time of theology, prayer, and reflection there are many readings on Marguerite, religious life, the vows and the history

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Entrance Ceremony at St. Margaret Mary Convent, Chicago, Illinois. Left to right, Maco Cassetta, CND; Darleen Mayo, CND; Dianne Arsenault (Novice); Marilyn Medinger, CND and Janet Lawrence (Novice).

Journey along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela

By: Ona Bessette, CND

During the spring of 2009, I had the great privilege to make a pilgrimage in the north of Spain to the City of Santiago de Compostela. This was a memorable journey that continues to make in-roads into my heart and soul. The Camino pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela is an ancient journey to the tomb of the Apostle James the Great. One of the routes stretches for nearly 500 miles (800 kilometers) from St. Jean-Pied-du-Port near Biarritz in France to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain. As I followed this route, my journey passed through the rolling hills of the Basque country, the hot, flat, empty central section of the “meseta”, and the green hills of Galicia. The route included the major cities of Pamplona, Burgos and León, the large towns of Logroño in Rioja, Astorga, and Ponferrada, and a host of interesting small villages and towns along the way.

As I traveled I meet people from all around the globe - including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Poland and a few fellow pilgrims from the United States. While we spoke many different languages, I became part of a growing community as we traveled the roadway together and found shelter at night in a local refugio. A typical day on the Camino began at 5AM as I awakened to greet a new day. In the dark and noise of still snoring pilgrims I quickly and quietly dressed and packed my backpack (monchilla) for the day. I ate a simple breakfast of bread, fruit and cheese and departed from the refugio by 6AM. Mornings in Spain are quiet, chilly and still a bit dark. After an hour of walking, I turned to face the eastern sky and greeted the new day breaking across the horizon – a prayer of gratitude and petition for guidance was offered as the sun rose. After two hours I took a break in a village to refresh my energy and rest my feet before another couple of hours of walking. Most days I would arrive at the refugio at about 2PM and wait for the doors to open to receive pilgrims. There I presented my credentials for registration and paid the fee of 4 - 8 Euros. The beauty of the land and the welcome of the people

amazed me as I traveled. Companionship on the journey with fellow pilgrims was a precious gift. I walked for the last two weeks with a wonderful Dutch woman who helped me enjoy the gift of each day. We planned our “tea stops” and took time to rest along the way. This was good for my “inner energizer bunny” that just wanted to keep going and going. In her company I noticed the flowers and the landscape more. Walking to Santiago was truly an invitation to greater solitude and contemplation of the beauty all around me. I arrived in Santiago after 33 days of walking. On the last day I began walking at 6AM so I had a few hours of

quiet to get my heart ready for Santiago. As I rounded the corner to the square in front of the cathedral, tears filled my eyes and my heart leapt for joy! In Santiago, I saw people that I had not seen in weeks waiting in the plaza for the arrival of new pilgrims. A Japanese woman I had not seen in three weeks was looking for me and would not leave for her bus until we had time to greet one another. I spent one and a half days in Santiago - reconnecting to companions and sharing

stories of the journey. I attended the Pilgrim Mass at noon. The cathedral was filled with pilgrims. At the end of mass we were blessed with incense from the large thurible swinging over our heads. This was a sacred moment to offer thanks for the many graces of the journey.

It has been more than six months since I completed the pilgrimage, yet the energy and inspiration from my time on the Camino continues to grow. The heart of the human experience is intimately connected to the call to journey with God – each journey invites us to deeper faith and greater hope. As my pilgrimage of life continues, I pray that the lessons learned on the Camino – lessons of trust in the ever-present grace of God – will guide my steps and open my heart to the mystery of Love in our world. ¡Buen Camino to fellow pilgrims! 🌸

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As I traveled I kept a journal and wrote a blog and later added pictures. The blog can be viewed at www.onacamino.blogspot.com.

Give Thanks to the Lord...

By: Theresa Galvan, CND, Helen Kavanaugh, CND

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever.” Psalm 107:1

We give thanks to the Lord for you, our donors, who responded so generously to our Spring Appeal to support our CND efforts in ministry in the Kankakee, Bourbonnais and St. Anne areas of Illinois. The needs are many; your assistance is a great help in meeting these needs.

Because of your generosity, we look forward to providing assistance in the areas of education, outreach to

the poor, faith formation of our youth. Your contribution will help support the important area of Catholic education. Kankakee has one of the higher unemployment rates in the state of Illinois; your contribution means that those who need help can receive emergency assistance with food and other necessities. An essential element in the program of our youth group is formation in service to others; your contribution means that that program can go forward. These are some of the needs that can be met with your gracious response.

We thank you and continue to pray that the Lord bless you and keep you in his loving embrace. ❁

St. Louis Academy Class of 1959

By: Patt Pearl

On October 17, 2009, the Class of 1959 of St. Louis Academy (SLA) in Chicago, Illinois, held its 50th Reunion. This was not only the largest class at SLA (124 young women) but also the last class to graduate from that school. Forty-eight graduates and 22 guests, plus one teacher, Mrs. Noreen Kennedy Tierney, attended the reunion, sang the school

song, and had a wonderful evening reminiscing about the “good old days” and renewing friendships. With sad hearts the 21 deceased members of the class were remembered. Especially enjoyed were the messages received from Sister Rosemary Duffy (Mother St. Mary Auxiliatrix) and Sister Madeleine LaMarre (Mother St. Madeleine of Mary). ❁



IN GRATITUDE

The Congregation of Notre Dame received donations for the CND Retirement Fund in memory of **Richard Thomas Lyons**, brother of Sr. Mary Lou Lyons, CND.

The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful!

Developing Habits of Ecology

Choose one, two or more of the following for the sake of creation:

1. If you usually take a bath, commit to taking a shower instead for 3 of the days. Saves about 30% on water. (Set a timer for 5 minutes)
2. If you usually take a shower, continue to do so. (Set a timer for 5 minutes)
3. Request to be removed from junk mail lists, which needlessly contribute to waste.
4. Do not buy bottled water unless absolutely necessary. Bottling water produces more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.
5. Eat one vegetarian meal a week. For each day your household eats a vegetarian meal, it equals a reduction of 700 pounds of CO₂.
6. Cut down on your use of appliances such as hair dryers, electric tooth brushes and electric knives. Turn off lights when leaving a room. Switch off all electrical equipment—televisions, stereos, fans, computers— when not in use. Unplug your microwave when not in use.
7. Consciously consolidate your errands so you will use your car less.
8. Take your own cloth shopping bags to the grocery store.
9. Watch “The Story of Stuff,” www.storyofstuff.com.
10. Purchase: Cloth napkins to be used at every meal instead of paper napkins; a power strip with an on-off switch to plug in your appliances such as television, CD players, DVD players, computers. That way you can completely turn off the power to these appliances when not in use. These appliances typically use 50 watts of electricity 24 hours a day even when shut off; a timer to use when showering. If you are flying anywhere in the near future, purchase carbon offsets to compensate of the emissions associated with air travel.
11. See www.flyneutral.org or www.Betterworldclub.com
12. EcoExamen for developing habits of ecology. Each Monday ask yourself two questions: Am I doing what I determined to do for the sake of creation? Is there something additional we will do?

Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters: IN MEMORY OF
Sr. Claire Hevey, CND (Mother St. Arthur-Miriam) d. December 8, 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.

Formation in the CND *cont. frm page 4*

of the Congregation. Occasionally, other CND Sisters visit and share their gifts with the novices. This year Mary Anne Foley came to present her book on Visitation Spirituality, and Rose Mary Sullivan will present Catholic Social Teachings this semester.

The CND Sisters in the Illinois area gather each month for prayer and reflection, and Janet and Dianne with their enthusiasm, warmth and love have reenergized all of us.

The year has a strong emphasis on reflection, and an awareness of God’s love and generosity always leads

us to share our gifts. Janet, whose love for children is so evident, volunteers as an aide in the Kindergarten at the parish school on Thursdays. Dianne shares her gifts by working with Jr. High students to prepare prayer services for the school. Her calm presence has accomplished wonders. Both women volunteer frequently at a food pantry in the parish where Sr. Mary MacIsaac, CND works.

The novices share community life with Marilyn Medinger, CND, Maco Cassetta, CND and me. Dianne and Janet’s openness, sincerity, and generosity call us to faithfulness. We give thanks for their presence among us. 🌸

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.

VISITATION COMPANIONS

Did you know that you could make a special monthly commitment to the CND Sisters?

This is a program of monthly giving that is simple, convenient and one that stretches your donation by cutting our costs. Monies raised will benefit the ministry works of our Sisters or the retirement and their health needs of our Sisters.

Your donation can be deducted from your checking account or you can charge it to your credit card.

**Think about it!
Contact Vicki Remson at 203-762-4306
to find out more information.**

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