



# Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND,

Now that we have come through a very snowy and wintery season, we see hope that Spring is on its way and with it the promise of lovely days and beautiful gardens. It is our prayer that all is well with you and those you love.

In beginning this letter, we give thanks to each of you for your generous response to our appeals and newsletters. You have made a world of difference in the lives of so many-our Sisters and those children and families to whom we minister. Our gratitude is expressed daily in the prayers we offer for you and all your needs.

God has blessed us with many gifts, both on a personal level and in our ministries. With each newsletter, you are getting a glimpse of the great work that our Sisters are doing in many facets of life. Sr. Jaculyn Hanrahan, CND is thanking you for supporting her ministry in Appalachia; Sr. Marilyn Medinger, CND explains her ministry among the immigrants in Chicago; Sr. Kathleen Deignan, CND shares information about her ministry as a Professor of Theology at Iona College and her ministry of music and ecology.

It is always sad for us to see the schools in which we have ministered close but another article tells of the rebirth of St. Columba School in NYC.

And last but not least, we have the gift of a wonderful relationship with the women who were once a part of the CND-our CND Alumnae. These women truly inspire us with the way they have each brought the vision of St. Marguerite into their world as wives, mothers and single women.

It is our hope that you enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter and once again we thank you for all your support and prayers.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND  
Director, Office of Mission Advancement



# Working on Immigration Issues – Office for Immigrant Affairs – Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants

By: Marilyn Medinger, CND

For the past 11/2 years I have been working to help unravel the immigration issues in the US, and particularly in Illinois. On Mondays I spend the day at the **Office for Immigrant Affairs** of the Archdiocese of Chicago, where I work compiling and updating the data bases and writing thank you notes.

At least once a month I am on a Pastoral Care Team which visits the **McHenry County Detention Center, Woodstock, IL** where we pray with and listen to both women and men from all over the world who are waiting for immigration court dates. We sometimes call family members to let them know how the detainee is doing. There are many stories of spouses left to care for children while the bread winner of the family or people who have a “green card” or Permanent Residency are being deported. I have gone to **Court Watch** where almost everyone’s case is continued, sometimes there are 3 or 4 continuances. So people are just sitting in detention centers waiting for closure on their case.

So far I have seen women from the Philippines, Brazil, Mexico and Thailand. I have talked to men from Kazakhstan, Belize, South Africa, Liberia, Mexico, Kenya, Czech Republic, Egypt, Barbados, Eritrea and Sudan. We are allowed to give them religious magazines, Bibles or Korans. Sessions end with a group prayer and a handshake. The detainees are allowed to keep copies of the prayers used. They tell me they pray them daily in their cells. They often form Bible study groups.

Learnings:

- a. Detainees never go outside and many cells have no windows. One woman said she missed summer, the smell of the trees and flowers.
- b. Detainees must purchase toiletries and snacks from the Jail Commissary. Commissary items cost 2 to 3 times what things cost at regular stores.
- c. They are often hungry.
- d. Some work in the kitchen/ laundry where they get \$1.00 a day for their account.
- e. If they have a birthday coming they ask for prayers. I asked about celebrating, was there a cake? Yes, they make “Jail House Cake”. I asked what that was, they said they pile candy and snacks to look like a cake and put paper ‘candles’ on it.
- f. One man I met mid-April 2010 is still in custody and has been moved to six different detention centers.



Photo By: Sr. Theresa, SSC

Marilyn Medinger, CND

Fridays at 7:15 AM, rain or shine, a group of Sisters, Brothers and lay people gather outside the **Broadview, IL Detention Center**. This is the last stop before deportation, especially for Latinos. Here we keep vigil by praying the rosary. Sometimes we see the people who are leaving on the prison buses/vans that come out of the building. Those being deported are shackled into the bus and taken to the airport.

Because of the untiring work of Sisters JoAnn Persch and Patricia Murphy, RSM, there is a law in the state of Illinois mandating pastoral care. Some workers are able to go into this center very early - 4:30 AM - to pray with those being deported that day. The pastoral care workers also console family members who are there to say ‘goodbye’.

Example: A young woman exits the building, she is pregnant and has a toddler by the hand. She is sobbing. When questioned about who is leaving she says, her husband. What will happen to her? How will she pay the rent, doctor bills, buy food, etc.? She and the children are US citizens. Families are being torn apart.

On any given day, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has the capacity to house 33,400 immigrant detainees. On any given day 1,100 people are deported from the US. In 2009 approximately 400,000 women and men were deported. Pray for families torn apart. Pray and work that more comprehensive and compassionate laws are passed. The Catholic Bishops of the US support reforming the present laws. ❁

Follow our activities on:

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

# Still Singing The Magnificat

By: Kathleen Deignan, CND

How could I have imagined on crossing the threshold of the Congregation of Notre Dame that early day in early September, 1966, what these past 45 years would bring? I marvel at the grace, the challenge, the inspiring companions and worthy mission that have become the story of nearly a half-century of my life! Since 1980, I have been engaged in the CND mission of liberating education at Iona College where I am Professor of Religious Studies and founding director of the Iona Spirituality Institute, a project for the celebration and study of the spiritual life. The ISI has sponsored my work in interfaith dialogue, peace, justice studies, and spiritual animation in the United States and abroad, particularly in Ireland where I am working with friends to foster the wisdom legacy of Thomas Merton. In October 2009, I received Fordham University's *Doctrina et Sapientia* award for work in spirituality and church renewal. Now, with a recently completed GreenFaith Fellows, an inter-faith training program for religious environmental leaders, I hope to contribute The Great Work of our time, healing the human soul that we might heal the Earth.

Last but not least of the joy of these years is the particular joy of generative associations with CND Associates, the wider mission alliance of Marguerite's charism in service to the emergence of a new world.

Please visit my website, a rich internet platform for all these multiple ministries at [www.ScholaMinistries.org](http://www.ScholaMinistries.org) where music is available for sale and announcements are posted regularly. ❁



*Kathleen Deignan, CND*

*I marvel at the grace, the challenge, the inspiring companions and worthy mission that have become the story of nearly a half-century of my life!*

## Our Honor and Memorial Cards

are 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.

*4 Ways to Order!*

**MAIL:** Congregation of Notre Dame, 30 Highfield Rd., Wilton, CT 06897-3802

**CALL:** 203-762-4306


**FAX:** 203-762-4319 or

**EMAIL:** [cnddev@juno.com](mailto:cnddev@juno.com)



# St. Columba School/The McCarton School

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND



In Chinese, Egyptian, Arabian and Greek mythologies, the phoenix is symbolic of immortality. The phoenix, a large mythological bird, dies and then rises from the ashes to rebirth. What follows is the story of a school that was closed in 2006 and rose in December, 2009 to new birth.

St. Columba School on West 25<sup>th</sup> Street in NYC opened its doors in 1856 to serve the families of the Chelsea area, largely an Irish immigrant population. The parish had begun in 1845, one of the oldest in New York City. The Sisters of Charity of NY administered and taught in the school until 1945 when the Sisters of the CND were invited to take over the school.

Great changes took place in that section of NY as Black and Hispanic families moved into the “projects” built between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The tenements were torn down all around the parish and new Co-op buildings were built by the Garment Workers Union for their members in the early sixties.

The graduates of St. Columba have gone on to be successful women and men but, as with many Catholic Schools, enrollment decreased and the Archdiocese of NY made the difficult decision to close the school after 150 years of serving the children and families of St. Columba.

Several years ago, Dr. Cecelia McCarton, MD, Pediatrician, immersed herself in the study and treatment of Autism. In the course of that time, she began the



McCarton Foundation for the specific purpose of educating autistic children in every area of their lives-physical, educational, emotional, social. Dr. McCarton approached the Archdiocese of New York asking to rent a building for this purpose. She was shown several schools and chose St. Columba. Dr. McCarton is a 1961 graduate of St. Jean’s High School so it was very appropriate for her to choose St. Columba, a school with a CND history.

I had the great joy and privilege of touring the school last October. Many CNDs ministered at St. Columba and we are deeply touched to see the school being used for such a sacred ministry. Each child has his/her own teacher, each of whom is specially trained to work with autistic children. The environment is alive with color, photographs of each child, materials to enhance their education, equipment for their physical development; parents are provided with extensive information about their child’s development. It is a place of great hope for the future of these children.

So once, from seeming ashes, arises yet another symbol of rebirth. 🌸

# News from the Office of Mission Advancement

## Name Change

You may have noticed that we have changed the name of our office.

**“MISSION ADVANCEMENT”** reflects more clearly the purpose of our office which is to support our retired and infirmed Sisters and the different ministries of our Sisters throughout the US.



Sr. Kathleen Murphy, CND and Vicki Remson

## LEGACY SOCIETY

At this time in our history, we are starting a **LEGACY SOCIETY**. This is a list of benefactors who have informed us that the CND is in their will. At present, there are 8 benefactors in this society. At a later date, with their permission, we will publish their names.

*Have you considered including the CND in your will?*

It is always beneficial to evaluate and improve the work of our office. In January, **Sr. Georgette Lehmuth, OSF, President and CEO of the National Catholic Development Conference**, spent 3 days with us. Sister reviewed our



goal, objectives, and job descriptions, complimented us on the work we are doing and gave us very useful ideas for future growth.

## YOUR STAMPS HELP TOO

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

The CND has a *new* website which is in the process of being completed: [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org)

OUR OFFICE has a webpage on the site which will be added to from time to time. On the opening page of the website, on the left, click on **“Works and Ministries”** and then **Office of Mission Advancement/ USA** and you have found us!!! You will be able to read our newsletters and appeals as well as order our cards and make donations. We will also feature Sisters in their ministries.



# At Home in the Web of Life

By: Jaculyn Hanrahan, CND

“We make the way by walking it.” Our CND presence in Appalachia puts us front and center in the midst of the devastating practices and effects of Mountain Top Removal mining. Your very generous response to the Spring appeal is already making a difference. You are very much a part of the small “circles of hope” responding to the impact of “strip mining on steroids” as it is called in the popular media.

As you know Mountaintop removal is a form of extracting coal that uses heavy explosives to remove hundreds of vertical feet of a mountain to access thin seams of coal underneath. This “overburden” is then dumped directly into adjacent valleys, burying headwater streams. To date, over 500 mountains have been leveled, and nearly 2,000 miles of precious Appalachian headwater streams have been buried and polluted by mountaintop removal.

The Appalachian Faith & Ecology Center is now up and running, staffed by GreenFaith Fellow and Ecological Educator, Susan Hedge and Sr. Jaculyn Hanrahan, CND. The Appalachian Faith & Ecology Center is the local network for those groups and individuals of faith who are working on sustainability in Central Appalachia. The Center also makes partnerships with regional, national and international groups who are responding with courage to

*To Dwell in These Mountains  
is to Experience  
in their height, God’s majesty  
in their weight, God’s strength  
in their hollow, God’s embrace  
in their waters, God’s cleansing  
in their haze, God’s mystery*

the ecological crisis and economic battles over coal fired electric plants and ash landfills. What is so much a part of life here in Southwest Virginia is now seen within the global context. Through the eyes of faith, and in gratitude for your support, we can all proclaim that, “**What We Do to the Mountains, We Do to Ourselves.**” We cannot do it without you. ❁

## Community Happenings

Photos By: Kathleen Murphy, CND



*The Villa Maria Convent Chapel with CND Sisters (top row) Lucille Cormier, Marion Andreykovic, Elizabeth Moroney, (middle row) Mary Elizabeth Fox, Marion Delmer, Clare Kearney, Blanche LaPorte, (bottom row) Teresa Barton, Stacy Hanrahan*



*Sr. Sally Norcross, CND, Mrs. Fahey with Kindergarten students at All Saints School, Norwalk, CT*



*Christmas at the Wilton Offices: Sr. Pat McCarthy, CND/Santa Claus*

# CND Alumnae/Part of Our Family

*Kathleen Murphy, CND*

In 1975, Eileen Hunt O'Sullivan fulfilled a dream, one of reconnecting our former Sisters into a group that would come together to celebrate the time they had as members of the CND community, and a time to continue the friendships that had formed over the years. We are so blessed in the CND to have such a positive relationship with the women who were once part of our community.

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, St. Marguerite's birthday, many former CNDs gathered at Andrus for such a reunion and to celebrate the first reunion in Ridgefield in 1975. After we moved from Ridgefield, these women were invited to continue the tradition at Andrus. They come before lunch, share a meal with the Sisters, visit with them and have collation for old times' sake! They are invited to stay for Mass. And as they say their goodbyes, there are always promises to stay in touch.

Our former members share the many wonderful careers they have embraced over the years and there are always words of gratitude for all the CND gave them when they were members: the values, the education, the commitment to the Church and society. Many teach and administer schools and religious education programs, administer social service agencies; they are business leaders and have involvement in the judicial system.



Photo By: Maura Danaher Melody

**CND Sisters and Former CNDs together at Andrus on April 17, 2010.**

We are grateful for their continued support of the CND, for their thoughtfulness, their presence at our celebrations and funerals, times of great joy and times of sorrow. And we are grateful that they continue to hold us in their thoughts and prayers. They are a blessing to us. 🌸



**Sr. Betty Kehoe, CND with a client at the Sanctuary Center, Oklahoma City, OK**



**Sr. Alyn Larson, CND advising a Senior at Mother Cabrini High School, NYC**



**Sr. Anne Landry, CND with children at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford, CT**



**Sr. Eileen Dorney, CND, Social Worker at Encore Residence, NYC**

 IN GRATITUDE 

The Congregation of Notre Dame received donations for the CND Retirement Fund in memory of Sisters Barbara Nyegaard, Kaye Morrison and Rosemary Duffy, CND.

*The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful!*

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

**Sr. Barbara Nyegaard, CND** (Mother St. Barbara Miriam) d. October 20, 2010

**Sr. Rosemary Duffy, CND** (Mother St. Mary Auxiliatrix) d. January 12, 2011

*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)

**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.

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**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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