

Partners in CND Mission



CONGRÉGATION DE
NOTRE-DAME

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The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame | Vol. 17 No. 1 Spring 2017

“We Want to Be United With Everybody - We Don’t Want to Be Separated.”



At 89, Sr. Mary MacIsaac, CND continues to break down barriers between cultures – with your help.

Sr. Mary MacIsaac was missioned in Guatemala for 37 years. She began many programs there to help people become self-sufficient. She brought that same energy to her ministries in the US when she returned in 2001.

Sr. Mary now serves in Kankakee, IL. She’s 89 years old but that doesn’t

stop her. She volunteers as a translator at a medical clinic.

She takes it one step further. “When people come to the clinic I get their name, address and phone number and then I visit them to see what the situation is in their homes. They’re glad to see me. They’re hesitant to come into a non-Hispanic atmosphere. They’re afraid they will not be received well. But now they know they can come to non-Hispanic people and non-Hispanic people can go to them.”

She has also invited some Hispanic women to become CND Associates. She plans to organize a

meeting of Hispanic and other Associates. “We want to be united with everybody – we don’t want to be separated.”

Sr. Mary has tremendous empathy with those who are new to this country. “I tell them when I was first in Guatemala I felt so alone – I didn’t know the culture, traditions, or language. I tell them, that’s why I’m visiting you. I know what you’re going through.”

Sr. Mary does not receive a salary for this labor of love. Thanks to you, she’ll continue her outreach to those who feel they don’t yet belong. Because of you, she’ll continue her efforts to unite us all.

A Legacy Society Member Thanks the CNDs

“One must know how to profit from the talent we have been given – whatever it is, it is our portion.” – ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

When Carolyn Brown Senier was fourteen, she entered Waterbury Catholic High School in Waterbury, CT. The school, staffed by CNDs, was not her first choice. “When I was asked, ‘How’s school?’ I would answer in the negative.” But then everything changed. “Through CND love and caring, I found my music. The CNDs helped me find ‘my portion.’”

Carolyn’s ‘portion’ turned out to be a beautiful singing voice and an aptitude for composition. She joined the Congregation and earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in music. Carolyn stayed in the Congregation for 16 years. She taught music in CND schools and composed music for the congregation and for diocesan services.

“The CNDs have bestowed their ‘portion’ upon the world through their lives and commitment to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Through their teaching and love they

gave us the tools to go forward with our lives. I have often thought back to high school and CND life to moments that strengthened and encouraged me.

The Sisters have worked hard in the field. Now many are retired and find their physical stature breaking down. I hope what little I, along with others, can ‘will’ to them will provide physical comfort and care in their later years.

My love to all the CNDs and a big thank you for the higher education you afforded me. And thank you for your love and friendship. You are the best!”

-Carolyn Brown Senier



Following Jesus. Serving the poor.

A CND Presence on Broadway – Thanks to You

Sr. Eileen Dorney, CND has her challenges. It's not always easy to offer Christ and St. Marguerite's love to the poorest among us. Sr. Eileen is a social worker at Encore 49, a residence in Manhattan for people over 62 years old who were formerly homeless. Many have mental illness.

Sr. Eileen says she's been called to this ministry. "Journeying is part of me, going to the unknown, like Marguerite. I didn't know why I was called to most of my ministries. I guess to see what the Lord will summon out of me. I'm over 50 years professed. The past has strengthened me for the present."

Working with the homeless and mentally ill can be emotionally draining and doesn't pay much. But Sr. Eileen says she is not alone. "The Lord and Mary and Marguerite are with me. I don't think I could do it if I didn't feel their presence."



Encore 49 is in the heart of the theater district just off of Times Square. A banner outside Encore proclaims, "Broadway's longest running act of love and care." ***Thanks to your support, Sr. Eileen is a big part of the act.***

One Family's Generosity

The Congregation of Notre Dame is blessed with wonderful friends. Among them is a family who came to know the CNDs through a Sister serving in their parish. This Sister introduced the family (they have requested anonymity) to CND spirituality and ministries to the poor and vulnerable. Last year the family made very generous donations and renewed them this year for a total of \$180,000. The family targeted their gifts to six Sisters who receive little or no pay, but whose work changes lives and saves souls.

Three of the Sisters are in active ministry: Srs. Beth

Davies and Jaculyn Hanrahan advocate for the poor and the ecology of Appalachia, and Sr. Margarita Castaneda serves Hispanic immigrants in North Carolina.

Three of the Sisters are officially "retired," but volunteer in vital ministries. Sr. Joan Brennan teaches religion at Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island, NY; Sr. Kathleen Dorney tutors middle school girls at Grace Academy in Hartford, CT; and Sr. Margaret Egan is a patient advocate on the oncology ward at St. Vincent Hospital in Bridgeport, CT.

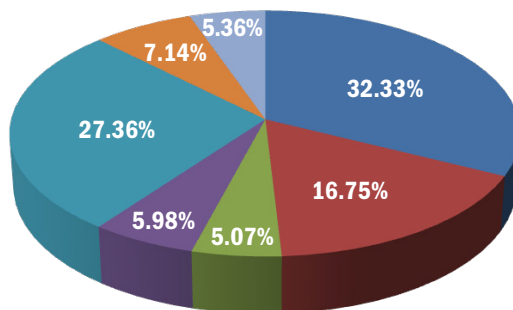
The family hopes their gift will inspire others to be generous (at any level their means permit) to CND Sisters and the Sisters' ministries to the least fortunate among us.

Become a Visitation Companion! Your Monthly Gifts Keep Us Going!

Dependable monthly gifts from our Visitation Companions help sustain us. **TO SIGN UP**, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org or call 203-762-4306. *Visitation Companions receive special mention in our Honor Roll, which appears in the Fall issue of Partners in CND Mission, and on our website.*

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DONATIONS PIE CHART

Thank you for caring!



- 16 17 Annual Appeal
- 16 Christmas Card
- 16 Fall Newsletter
- Honor/Memorial
- Major Gifts
- Unsolicited
- Visitation Companion

Comforting the sick. Because of you.

CND Associates Celebrate with Senior Citizens in Chicago

With Holy Cross-IHM Parish in Chicago, CND Associates hosted a senior citizen holiday party in January. Associates Blanca Saucedo, Juanita Reyes, Guadalupe Rodriguez and Maria Vazquez cooked, prayed, and played games with the seniors. They also gave the seniors small gifts. Accompanied by the parish marimba ensemble, both groups enjoyed dancing together. *Your generosity supports our Associates and their outreach to the poor and elderly – thank you!*



Your Gifts Benefit All Our Sisters Please Give to the Annual Appeal by June 30, 2017

Your Annual Appeal Gifts support

- our Sisters in active ministry who receive little or no pay as they share Christ's mission with the poor and vulnerable, and
- our retired and infirm Sisters as they continue to serve God through prayer.

Religious Sisters receive no funding from the Vatican or local dioceses. We alone are responsible for covering our costs. That's why we need your support!

If you haven't done so, please make an Annual Appeal gift by June 30, 2017. Send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit www.cnd-m.org, USA Office of Mission Advancement and Annual Appeal.

We hold you and your loved ones in prayer every day. **THANK YOU for your generosity and partnership with us!**



Sr. Maco Cassetta, CND sprucing up the new CND Formation House in White Plains, NY



Sr. Betty King, CND and her graduation students at Caroline House

For all you do, thank you.

Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters.

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Driscoll, CND

(Mother St. Miriam Louise)

d. October 11, 2016

Jean Dwyer, CND

(Mother St. David of Mary)

d. December 4, 2016

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.

Ways to Help the CNDs

Donate Online Visit www.cnd-m.org, USA Office of Mission Advancement and *Have you thought about giving?*

“Like” the CNDs on Facebook Check out our Facebook page at Congregation of Notre Dame/USA.

Order our Enrollment Cards Visit www.cnd-m.org, USA Office of Mission Advancement and *Prayer Enrollment Cards*.

Become a CND Associate Join the 127+ CND Associates, lay women and men who share CND spirituality. Contact Sr. Joan Mahoney, CND, at cndassociatesusa@msn.com or 203-762-4305.

Keep Sending Your Stamps Your cancelled stamps benefit our missions in Central America and Cameroon.

Check out our website Visit www.cnd-m.org for news about Blessed Sacrament Province and our provinces in Canada, Japan, Central America and Africa. We'd love to hear from you at missionadvancement@cnd-m.org.

CND Orientation 2016-2021

Rooted in Jesus Christ, in love and compassion, we, CND Sisters and Associates, through contemplative dialogue, dare to:

- Live interculturality. Face our fears and vulnerabilities. Be open to and celebrate the diversity of generations, cultures, attitudes and structures.
- Go to the peripheries. In a spirit of mutuality and collaboration, respond in hope to the cries of our wounded world.
- Honor and respect our “common home.” Take concrete action, resist the forces of destruction and promote life in all its forms.

JESUS CHRIST CALLS US TO HUMANIZE ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE TODAY?

Have you included the CNDs in your will? Become a Legacy Society member!

Simply share this sentence with your lawyer or financial planner: I bequeath ____ % of my estate or \$____ to the Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, Inc., 30 Highfield Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.

Legacy Society members receive special mention in our Honor Roll, which appears in the Fall issue of Partners in CND Mission, and on our website. In addition, all members receive a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin.

To find out more, contact our Mission Advancement Office at **203-762-4309** or missionadvancement@cnd-m.org.

Thank you!



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