

# Partners in CND Mission



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The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame | Vol. 21 No. 1 Spring 2021

## Serving as a Hospital Chaplain during the Pandemic

- by Sr. Maryann Calabrese, CND

We are all familiar with the small receptacle of blessed water just inside the entrance to a Catholic church. Perhaps now more out of habit than symbolic gesture, we dip our fingers into the blessed water and make the Sign of the Cross, a symbol of our baptism and a mark of our discipleship in Christ. You may have noticed that this receptacle has been absent in these Covid-19 days.

I work as an on-call chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, CT. Habitual at the hospital is the hand cleansing “in/out practice” when we enter and leave a patient’s room. One day recently, a nurse suggested I visit Mr. C., a gentle and sometimes ‘confused’ fellow. I cleansed my hands before going into his room and slowly approached his bed. He appeared to be asleep, the blanket covering almost all of his face, but when I softly called his name, he was immediately present. I was not prepared for what happened next. As soon as I introduced myself as a chaplain, his hands literally “flew

out” from under the covers and he grasped both of my ungloved hands. He then proceeded to pray aloud for the sick, their caregivers, for peace, for himself, for me and much more. At the “Amen” he released my hands.

I was momentarily speechless; moved by Mr. C’s simple yet profound faith. Who was the spiritual caregiver here? I confess that I also was distracted by his grasp of my hands. At that point, and in the weeks since March 13, 2020, I hadn’t touched or been touched by anyone, not shaken any hands, given any reassuring hugs. And now this stranger held my unprotected hands. What had transpired in the months since March 13, 2020? How was it that this “new normal” had me rethinking even the most ordinary and frequently used spiritual-care gesture of holding a patient’s hand? Considering it in a whole new light, that of “communicable” disease rather than “communion” of care? But there it was.

When I left him, I went to the hand-sanitizing station and thought, “I’m leaving a sacred space, a sanctu-



Sr. Maryann Calabrese, CND

ary.” My own prayer in that moment became “Give me the grace to let it be,” and it was answered; my “cleanse out” gesture transformed as I instinctively made the Sign of the Cross. I had been blessed.

**The CNDs pray daily for the health and well-being of our friends. Thank you for your generosity and kindness to us.**

### Have You Included the CNDs In Your Will? Become a Legacy Society Member!

Through a gift in your will, you can make a big difference in the lives of CND Sisters and those they serve. If you already have a will, a simple phone call is all it takes to add the Sisters. Just use this sentence with your financial planner:

I bequeath \_\_\_\_ % of my estate or \$\_\_\_ to the Mission Advancement, Congregation de Notre Dame, Sacred Heart University, 3135 Easton Tpke, Fairfield, CT 06825.

Legacy Society members are listed in our Honor Roll and on our website (unless you prefer to be anonymous). They receive invitations to events and a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin. To learn more, email [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org) or call the Mission Advancement Office at 203-365-4306.



\*Our legal name

# Following Jesus. Serving the poor.

## Easter Dinner and More at the CND House of Formation – Thanks to You!

- by Srs. Peggy Doyle and Maco Cassetta, CND

In nun-movies, isn't there always a convent refectory scene with a long row of Sisters seated double-sided at a dinner table? All is calm and tranquil, right?

Well, Easter Sunday this year at the CND House of Formation told another story. It took one Novice and two Sisters six hours to prepare dinner for just five people! The dinner preparations were replete with laughter and silliness. It was clear there wasn't a "cook" present.

The House of Formation is located in the former rectory of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains, NY. Current members are Srs. Catherine Molloy, Peggy Doyle, Maco Cassetta from Blessed Sacrament (U.S.) Province, and Sr. Donna Kelly from English-Canada's Visitation Province. The House also includes a Novice, who entered the novitiate in September 2020.



*Sr. Maco Cassetta, CND*

All House members participate in the life of the parish and help out in parish ministries. In the fall the Sisters, led by the Novice, organized a prayer service of peace that took place at the time of the elections. House members are also addressing the needs of the local community by praying for those affected by the pandemic and by distributing food for an Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry.



*Sr. Peggy Doyle, CND*

Please pray for our Novice and other like-minded women who seek to know God's plan by committing to two years of discernment in a formation house.

**Your generosity supports our formation program – thank you!**

## A Visitation Companions Family!

- by Karen Stack, Chicago, IL\*

CND sisters are role models for our family. By putting their faith into action, they inspire each of us to do the same. Whether it means helping an elderly neighbor in need, writing notes of gratitude, or just texting a fellow student experiencing quarantine—it is all done in the spirit of the Visitation!

The energy, compassion and determination of the CND Sisters to serve is so admirable. Even well into their 90's, Sisters are praying for us and reaching out to others - often from their hospital

beds! **We signed up as Visitation Companions as a means to acknowledge and support them in all they do. They are always there for us – in their prayers, guidance and support! They never stop working to make the world better!**

In our busy lifestyle, providing some monetary aid allows us to feel more connected. We set up an automatic monthly debit arrangement which makes it very easy.

We are grateful for all the CND Sisters do. And St. Marguerite has



*Karen, Andrew, Kate and Kevin Stack*

answered so many of our prayers! By their example, the CND's instill awe in each of us. They live their beliefs and are truly amazing!

*\* Karen is also a CND Associate.*

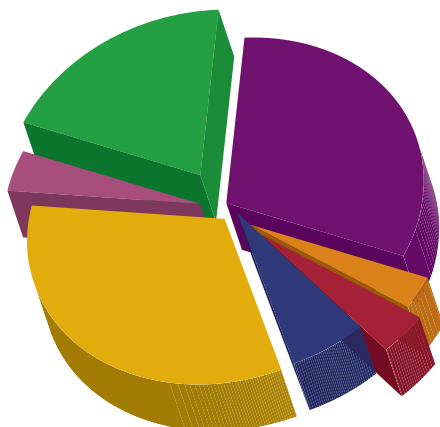


# Comforting the sick. Because of you.

## Chicago Associates Help Local Food Pantries During the Pandemic



## Current Fiscal Year Donations



- 2020-21 Annual Appeal
- 2020 Christmas Card Appeal
- 2020 Fall Newsletter
- Honor/Memorial; Unsolicited
- Major Gifts
- Visitation Companions
- Bequests

*Thank you for caring!*

## THANK YOU, Visitation Companions! Your Monthly Gifts Help Sustain Us!

Your reliable monthly gifts enable our Sisters to minister to the least fortunate among us. They also support the needs of our elderly and ailing Sisters.

**Become a Visitation Companion!** Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and easy on your budget. **TO SIGN UP**, email [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org) or call 203-365-4305. **OR click on the monthly gift option at [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org); USA Office of Mission Advancement.**

Visitation Companions are recognized in our Honor Roll and on our website.

*Many, many thanks!*

## WE'VE MOVED!

Mission Advancement Office  
Congregation de Notre Dame  
Sacred Heart University  
3135 Easton Turnpike  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
203-365-4305 or 4306

# For all you do, thank you.

*Please join us in praying for our deceased sisters.*

## *In Memory Of*

**Mary Frances MacIsaac, CND**  
(S. St. Laura Marie)  
d. May 1, 2020

**Edith Laflamme, CND**  
(S. St. Marie Pauline)  
d. January 30, 2021

**Monica Leonard, CND**  
d. January 7, 2021

**Ann Moore, CND**  
(S. St. Margaret Catherine)  
d. February 8, 2021

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

*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*

## *Ways to Help the CNDs*

Donate Online

[www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org);

USA Office of Mission Advancement

Follow the CNDs on Facebook

Congregation of Notre Dame/USA

Order Our Prayer Enrollment Cards

[www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org); USA Office of Mission Advancement; Prayer Enrollment Cards

Keep Sending Your Canceled Stamps

Your stamps benefit CND missions in Central America and Cameroon.

**They must be actual stamps and have 1/4" of envelope around all four sides of the stamp.**

Check Out Our Website

[www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org); USA Office of Mission Advancement

Follow Us on Instagram

#cndsistersusa

## *Your Annual Appeal Gifts Benefit All Our Sisters*

**Please make your gift before June 30, 2021!\***



Sr. Lucille Cormier, CND  
(S. St. Jeanne of the Redemption)

**Your gifts to the 2020-2021 Annual Appeal sustain our**

- Elderly Sisters as they continue to serve God's people through volunteer ministries and through prayer. *Think of Sr. Lucille Cormier, CND. Her story was featured in our current Annual Appeal letter.*
- Sisters who receive little or no pay as they share Christ's love with the poor and vulnerable.

**Please donate before the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2021.**

Send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org), USA Office of Mission Advancement.

**You can endow your Annual Appeal gift!**

By making a bequest in your will you can create an Annual Appeal gift that lasts indefinitely. For instance, a \$20,000 bequest can generate a \$1,000 Annual Appeal gift that is in place forever! To learn more, contact the Mission Advancement Office at (203) 365-4306.

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

*\*Our Annual Appeal runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> every year.*



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