

Partners in CND Mission



CONGRÉGATION DE
NOTRE DAME
Éducation libératrice - Liberating Education
真の自由への教育 - Educación liberador

The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame | Vol. 23 No. 2 Fall 2023

Bridging Hearts and Cultures: CND Sisters' Legacy at Red Cloud Indian School

For several decades, three CND Sisters* devoted themselves to the Red Cloud Indian School on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Sr. Margaret Giroux (S. Patricia Marie) taught art and engaged in development work for 32 years. Sr. Mary Jane Hebert (S. David Maureen) instilled lessons in religion to fifth through eighth graders for 26 years. Meanwhile, Sr. Anne Seeley shared her love of music for 12 years.



Sr. Mary Jane Hebert (S. David Maureen), Sr. Margaret Giroux (S. Patricia Marie) and Sr. Anne Seeley.



Sr. Mary Jane Hebert (S. David Maureen)

Coming from the busy streets of New York City, the Sisters found themselves in an utterly unfamiliar setting: the stark but tranquil landscape of the nation's poorest reservation. Yet the vast prairies and profound quiet enthralled them. Sr. Mary Jane discovered a unique connection with God, saying, "I learned to pray in ways I never had before. The reservation is a place of prayer, and its people are deeply

spiritual. The stillness allowed God's voice to find me more easily."

Sr. Anne was moved by the Native Americans' religious tolerance, noting, "There is one God, but we

come to that God through different paths. The Native Americans were not judgmental. I felt wholeheartedly embraced in any place I chose to pray."

Sr. Margaret was inspired by the remarkable artistry of the reservation's people, calling it "a reflection of their souls, a vital aspect of their identity. That's the role of art anywhere – it's a beautiful part of the soul – we all need that."

Over time, a profound bond formed between the CND Sisters and the Native American community. Sr. Mary Jane reflected, "We may not have been Lakota, but we became one with them." In turn, the Red Cloud students learned that they were cherished and valued for simply being themselves.

Today, these Sisters have transitioned from life on the reservation to serving at Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island. Sr. Mary Jane contributes her wisdom and energy to the Finance and Mission Advancement offices. Sr. Margaret, at 102 years old (!), bakes bread for the Sisters and crochets afghans for school raffles. Sr. Anne serves as Campus Minister for the elementary and high schools.

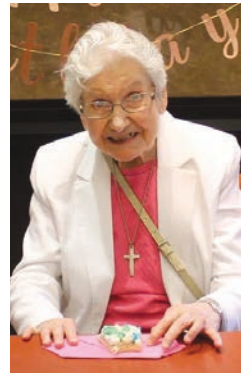
Their lives have changed, but the Sisters cherish the memories and lessons from their service at Red Cloud. As Sr. Mary Jane puts it, "It was a beautiful experience. I missed it for a long time."

Thanks to you, CND Sisters have shared the Visitation spirituality of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys wherever they've been missioned.

*A number of other CND Sisters also served at Red Cloud Indian School over the years.



Sr. Anne Seeley



Sr. Margaret Giroux (S. Patricia Marie)

Following Jesus. Spreading the Gospel.

Dedication and Preservation: a Visit with Sr. Joann Compagno, Province Archivist

Sr. Joann Compagno recently celebrated 60 years as a Congrégation de Notre Dame Sister. Technically, she's retired, although, as she notes, "Nuns never retire." One of her responsibilities has been to serve, since 2021, as the archivist for Blessed Sacrament (U.S.) province. She says that another role, helping elderly Sisters move into new quarters, prepared her: "I was called the closer and opener. In evaluating people's effects, I learned to view them as archival material and to take care deciding what to save and what to discard."

Sr. Joann also played a role in the closure of the province office at Wilton, CT in 2020. Almost everything from the large archive - written materials, pictures, and artifacts - was sent to the congregation's headquarters in Montreal. "It was like taking a deep dive into history and into beauty. I got a taste of the enjoyment that could come from doing this work."

Sr. Joann points out that an archivist is not at her desk all the time - she's engaged with people. An important part of her job is to listen. She says that just sitting down with the Sisters taught her more about CND ministries than she could have imagined.

Sr. Joann has embraced her new position. "Being able to put my hand on something that reflects a person, a Sister, a school, the powerhouse that we have as CNDs in our history and in our present ministries - that's what fills you as an archivist. You see the gifts over the years - the day-to-day life of Sisters and what they were able to achieve."

Because of your support, CND treasures and history are in good hands. Thank you!



Sr. Joann Compagno, CND

Grateful for the CND Presence in Their Lives

by Bernadette and Bill Langenstein

The Congrégation de Notre Dame's former motherhouse in Ridgefield, CT overlooked the lake where I live in South Salem, NY. An invitation in our church bulletin from a CND Sister to join in monthly prayer, readings and discussion came to my attention. I had just retired from teaching and welcomed the opportunity. I drove up the hill and entered the world of the CNDs.

A group emerged from those meetings who have become Associates and Friends. As a Friend of the Sisters, I am invited to share in their vocation in the spirit of their foundress, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. The Sisters come to our local Ridgefield meetings from the various places where they live and work. Their reflections on our readings and discussions are inspiring. Our conversations keep me focused on what is spiritual in my life. I share my thoughts with my husband and our conversations range far and wide.

The CND Sisters have been teachers for a very long time, educating generations of young people in primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities. They have carried their mission to many countries and continents. As society changes and the population ages, there are fewer of them. However, they still carry on as teachers, active participants in society, and caretakers for the elderly Sisters. Our prayers and blessings are with them.

My husband and I are grateful for their presence in our lives and will continue to support them.



*Ways
to
Help
the
CNDs*

Donate online www.cnd-m.org/en/usa *Have You Thought About Giving?*

Donate by phone at 203-365-4306

Donate by QR Code *Go to page 4*

Gifts of stocks and securities www.cnd-m.org/en/usa *Several Ways to Make Donations*

Prayer enrollment cards www.cnd-m.org/en/usa *Several Ways to Make Donations*

Canceled stamps (*keep at least 1/4" of envelope around all four sides*)

Comforting the sorrowful. Because of you.

Sr. Nancy Roach, CND - Is a New Form of Religious Life Emerging?

In 1979, Sr. Nancy Roach (S. *Daniel-des-Anges*), CND had a wonderful idea: why not create an Associate Relationship for the Congrégation de Notre Dame? The plan was to invite lay women and men to embrace the spiritual teachings of CND foundress St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. The CND General Council approved this innovative concept, and in 1981, the very first Associate, hailing from French Canada, made her First Commitment.

Little did they know that this humble beginning would grow into a worldwide movement. As Sr. Nancy puts it, "We started with just two Associates, and now it's a one-to-one partnership with a CND Sister." Sr. Nancy sees the success of the Associate Relationship as a sign of new life in the Church.

A Sister since 1953, Sr. Nancy has dedicated 70 years to CND service, with 33 of those spent in Central America and Canada. Her journey included training as a spiritual director, teaching in Central America, and contributing to the CND General Council. Now, she resides at Holy Cross convent in Waterbury, CT, where her infectious laugh charms everyone she meets.

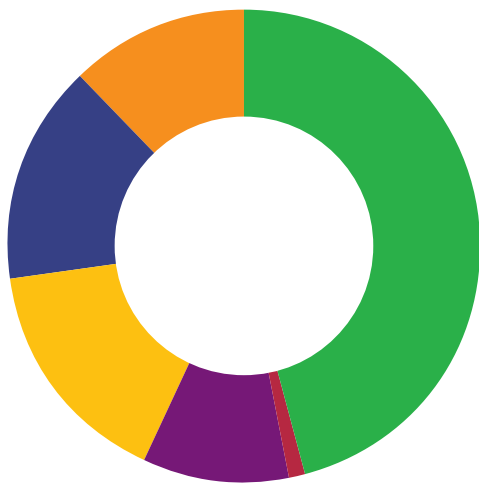
In her reflections on the future of religious life, Sr. Nancy envisions a blend of consecrated individuals and lay partners working hand in hand to address the needs of the world. It's a vision of unity, where laypeople make promises and consecrated individuals make vows, and it's a future she prays for daily.

Because of you, Sr. Nancy continues to befriend and inspire all who cross her path. Thank you!



*Sr. Nancy Roach
(S. Daniel-des-Anges), CND*

2023 Year To Date Pie Chart



- 46.00% 2023 Annual Appeal
- 1.00% Bequests
- 10.00% 2023 Spring Newsletter
- 16.00% Honor/Memorial/Impact Statement
- 15.00% Major Gifts
- 12.00% Visitation Companions

Thank you for your kind and generous support!

VISIT
THE
CND
ON:



FACEBOOK
Congregation de Notre Dame/USA



INSTAGRAM
#cndsistersusa

Thank you, Visitation Companions! Your Monthly Gifts Help Sustain Us!

Your reliable monthly gifts allow CND Sisters to minister to the least fortunate among us. They also support the needs of elderly and infirm CNDs.

Become a Visitation Companion! Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and easy on your budget.

TO SIGN UP, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org or call 203-365-4306. OR click on the monthly gift option at www.cnd-m.org/en/usa *Have You thought About Giving?*

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

Many, many thanks!

For all you do, thank you.

Consider Joining the CND Legacy Society!

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, just use this sentence with your financial planner: I bequeath ____ % of my estate or \$____ to the Congrégation de Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, Inc.*, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06825.

To learn more, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org or call the Mission Advancement Office at 203-365-4306.



*Our legal name

Legacy Society lapel pin

Extending St. Marguerite's Compassionate Spirit to the Homeless

Associate Guadalupe Mendez with a group of confirmation students making blankets for a homeless shelter in Kankakee, IL.



Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters.

IN MEMORY OF

Sr. Rita Rompre, CND
(S. Marie-Joseph)
d. May 17, 2023

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 the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Have You Made Your Annual Appeal Gift?*

Your Annual Appeal Gifts Support All the CND Sisters

Your gifts to the 2023 Annual Appeal sustain our

- Elderly Sisters as they continue to serve God's people through volunteer ministries and through prayer. *Think of Sr. Marylou Lyons, 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 send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit www.cnd-m.org/en/usa
Have You thought About Giving?

Make a Forever Gift to the Annual Appeal!

Through a bequest in your will, you can create an Annual Appeal gift that lasts indefinitely. A \$20,000 bequest, for example, can generate a \$1,000 Annual Appeal gift that remains 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 fiscal year has changed! Our fiscal year now runs from January 1st through December 30th.*



Sr. Marylou Lyons, CND
(S. Suzanne of the Blessed Sacrament)



CONGRÉGATION DE
NOTRE DAME

Éducation libératrice - Liberating Educatio
真の自由への教育 - Educación liberador

Mission Advancement Office
Congrégation de Notre Dame
3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06825
Call: (203) 365-4305 or 4306
Email: missionadvancement@cnd-m.org

Scan QR Code
to go directly
to the CND
Donate Page

