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The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congrégation de Notre Dame | Vol. 24 No. 2 Fall 2024

“There was a yearning in me for community...”

“**T**here was a yearning in me for community,” says Sr. Eileen Dorney, who has been a CND for 61 years. Her older sister, Kathleen, is also a CND. “We’re grateful to be in the same community. We get a laugh out of calling ourselves ‘sister Sisters!’”

Sr. Eileen’s ministry has centered on social work. After earning her LCSW, she spent 20 years with Catholic Family and Child Services of the Archdiocese of New York. She then worked as a social worker at Encore 49, a residence for formerly homeless seniors. “I loved it,” she says, “even when some clients were difficult. Many had mental health issues.” After retiring, she continued visiting clients in hospitals and nursing homes.

Recently, Sr. Eileen moved from St. Columba convent on Manhattan’s west side to the convent at St. Jean Baptiste Church on the east side. St. Jean Baptiste High School happens to be her alma mater, so she is not unfamiliar with the location! “Retirement is never boring,” she says. “I spend my days reading, deepening my prayer life, and helping people in whatever way I can.”

Thanks to your support, Sr. Eileen’s has been a life well lived.

Sr. Eileen and her sister, Kathleen Dorney, CND



Over 50 Years of Gratitude: SMAV Alumnae Celebrate and Support the CNDs

Since 1970, St. Mary Academy of the Visitation (SMAV) alumnae have gathered annually to reunite and support the CNDs. Although the Providence, RI, school closed in 1984, the tradition continues. “The Wheeler Sisters,” Roseanne and Betty, play a key role. Speaking for all alumnae, they said, “We are grateful for everything the CNDs have done. They were our teachers, advisors, and friends.”



The “Wheeler Sisters,” Betty and Roseanne, play a key role.

At the recent reunion on October 5, 2024, 110 alumnae attended and donated \$3,000 to the CNDs. Roseanne and Betty added, “**God bless our deceased Sisters, and may God continue to bless the Congregation! Thank you, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys!**”

Following Jesus. Spreading the Gospel.

“As long as I have God in my life that’s the important thing.”

Sr. Suzanne Poulin, CND is nearing her 90th birthday. For 70 of those years, she has served as a Sister of the Congrégation de Notre Dame (CND).

She first met the CND’s while attending a Vermont school where they taught. At 18, she joined the Congregation and began her ministry in education. After a number of years, she felt called to chaplaincy. She earned a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) certificate and served as a Pastoral Care Director at several facilities in New York and Connecticut, including residences for elderly CND Sisters.

Sr. Suzanne retired at 80 and was among the first to establish the new CND community at Executive House in Bridgeport, CT.* Never one to stay idle, she became a hospice volunteer at a nearby senior care facility. After a few falls, she now focuses on visiting other Executive House residents, often starting conversations in the elevators. “I still do that,” she says. “People hadn’t met many nuns before, so I had to explain why we don’t wear a habit. Now, people are very friendly.”

As she puts it, “Visitations can happen all the time in our lives. We meet so many people. You see Mary and Jesus in the people who are part of your life.”

Thanks to you, Sr. Suzanne continues her elevator apostolate, where she charms everyone she meets.

**Fifteen CND Sisters now live at Executive House.*



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*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 (p. 4: place phone camera on code to go to donate page)

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**

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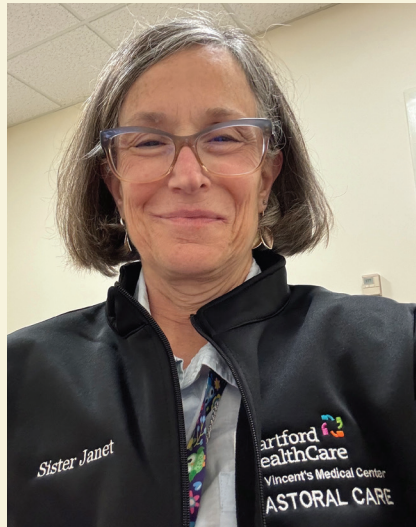
Instagram #cndsistersusa

Comforting the sorrowful. Because of you.

“God chooses us, and we can say yes or no.”

Sr. Janet Lawrence felt chosen. Raised Jewish, she was drawn to Catholicism and completed the RCIA program at St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield, CT. She was baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist there. In 2008, she began her journey with the CND, starting as a novice and ultimately making her final vows on Nov. 23, 2019.

Although initially trained as a neonatal nurse practitioner, Sr. Janet found a different calling. She pursued a master's degree in pastoral studies, earned board certification as a chaplain, and now ministers at St. Vincent Hospital in Bridgeport, CT.

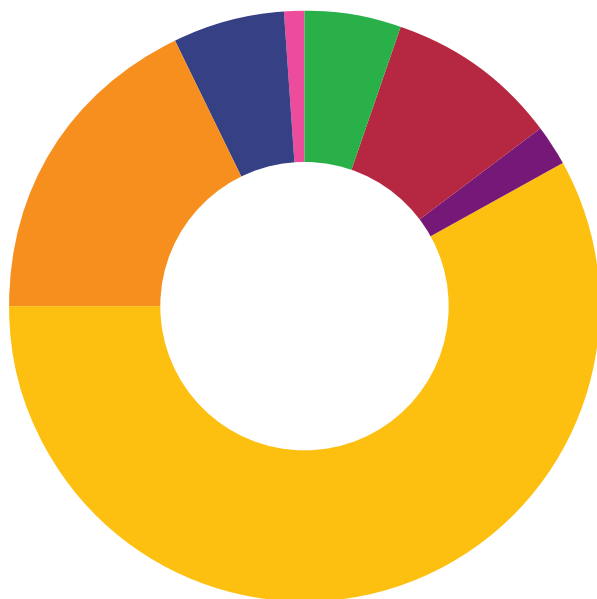


Sr. Janet spends her days connecting with as many patients as possible. In the CND spirit of visitation, she extends Christ's love to all, no matter their background. “I see many people, including those struggling with addiction, and even prisoners in restraints. I don't judge them. I talk to each one as a person, saying, ‘We are sister and brother to each other. Because Jesus loves you, I love you.’ They often reply, ‘I love you, too.’”

“The hospital is my church,” she says. “It's where I come to be with God's vulnerable, His beloved children who need to know they are loved.”

Your generosity supports all our Sisters, whether they are in active ministry or retired. Thank you!

2024 Year To Date Pie Chart



Thank you for your kind and generous support!

5.50%	Visitation Companion
9.40%	Honor/Memorial
2.1%	Spring Newsletter
58%	Bequests
18%	Annual Appeal
6%	Major Gifts
1%	'24 Impact Statement

For all you do, thank you.

Have You Included the Sisters in Your Will? Join the CND Legacy Society!

If you already have a will, adding the CNDs is easy—it's just a quick call to your financial planner. Use this wording: ***"I bequeath ___% of my estate or \$ to the Congrégation de Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, Inc. *, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06825.*** Our Tax ID is 060-883-706.

Legacy Society members are recognized on our Honor Roll and website (unless they choose to remain anonymous). They also receive event invitations and a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin. For more information, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org or call **203-365-4306**.

**Our legal name*



St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
Legacy Society Pin

Have You Made Your 2024 Annual Appeal Gift?

Your gift to the 2024 Annual Appeal supports all CND Sisters, including:

- Elderly Sisters who continue serving through volunteer work and prayer
- Sisters who receive little or no pay as they share Christ's love with those in need. Think of Sr. Mary Mazza, CND, featured in our appeal letter.

Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit www.cnd-m.org/en/usa

Make a Forever Gift!

A bequest in your will can create a lasting Annual Appeal gift. For example, a \$20,000 bequest can generate a \$1,000 gift every year. To learn more, contact the Mission Advancement Office at (203) 365-4306.

We keep you and your loved ones in our prayers always.
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



Sr. Mary Mazza, CND
and Fr. Jim Borstelmann.
St. Joseph Church,
Somers, NY

Please join us in praying
for our deceased Sisters.



Therese Martin, CND
(SS.S. Marie Therese d'Alencon)
d. August 9, 2024

Margaret Giroux, CND
(S.S. Patricia-Marie)
d. October 15, 2024

*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.*

Support CND Sisters with Your Monthly Gifts!

Your reliable monthly gifts help CND Sisters minister to those in need. They also support our elderly and infirm Sisters.

Become a Visitation Companion! Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and budget-friendly. **To sign up, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org, call 203-365-4306, or choose the monthly gift option at www.cnd-m.org/en/usa.** Visitation Companions are honored in our Honor Roll and on our website. ***Thank you for your support!***



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