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

The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congrégation de Notre Dame

Vol. 25 No. 1 Spring 2025

Sr. Ellen Gorman, CND: A Life of Compassion and Creativity - Thanks to You!



Solution Forman, CND found the support and encouragement she needed in the Congrégation de Notre Dame. Diagnosed with dyslexia as a child, she was in fourth grade when the CND Sisters began teaching at her school in New Haven, CT. Their gentle guidance helped her grow in confidence—and faith.

Sr. Ellen Gorman, CND

After high school, Sr. Ellen entered the Congrégation. Teaching wasn't on her radar because of her learning challenges, so she chose a different path—joining a program in Ottawa that trained young Sisters to cook for large convents. She loved every minute of it. Her creative flair soon brightened kitchens in Staten Island and Schenectady, where she designed festive buffets and added warmth and style to dining spacessomething she still enjoys

today at Holy Cross Convent in Waterbury, CT.

A new chapter began when she was invited to teach religious education in Manchester, CT. With encouragement from those around her, Sr. Ellen pursued a college degree and eventually earned a master's in social work from Fordham University. Her ministry as a social worker

took her to Illinois, New York, and Connecticut, where she supported infants, teens, and women healing from trauma. Her final ministry was one of quiet presence visiting the elderly and sick in Oxford, CT.

Sr. Ellen's creativity also finds expression in art and gardening—especially at the CND's summer home in Charlestown, RI. She draws deep inspiration from St. Marguerite Bourgeoys.

"I have a strong sense of her always walking with me," she says. "I love the image of the Visitation. It's about compassion—and that's the spirit I hope to live."

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



Srs. Melba Vasquez and Ellen Gorman, CND

Following Jesus. Spreading the Gospel.

Sr. Mary Ann McPartland, CND - 60 Years of Dedication and Joy - With Your Help!

Ann McPartland with a smile. She spent nine formative years at the CND's Villa Maria Academy in the Bronx—from grammar school through high school. Three years after graduating, she followed a deeper calling and entered the Congrégation de Notre Dame. Over the years, she earned a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees—laying the groundwork for a long and meaningful ministry.



Sr. Mary Ann McPartland, CND

Her early teaching took her to Vermont, Illinois, Connecticut, and New Jersey. She taught academic subjects and religious education to students from both Catholic and public schools. "I loved teaching—especially middle school," she says. "Every day was something new."

But her heart found a permanent home at St. Philip Parish in Norwalk, CT, where she ministered for 40 years—15 as Director of Religious Education and 25 as Pastoral Associate. A trusted presence in the parish, Sr. Mary Ann often led wake services, helped families plan funerals, and prepared young couples for their children's baptisms. "I was truly the pastor's associate," she reflects.



Sr. Mary Ann McPartland, CND

Now 83 and retired in Bridgeport, CT, she still finds joy in creativity—dabbling in pastels and playing piano for herself. In 2024, she celebrated 60 years of religious profession. "St. Marguerite's courage inspires me," she says. "Nothing stopped her."

Your generosity helps sustain our Sisters who have retired after decades of loving service - many, many thanks!

"Gifts of Strong Women": A Legacy Society Member's Lifelong Gratitude

atricia McDonnell, a proud graduate of St. Louis Academy's Class of 1955, fondly recalls the school's high standards—academic and personal—and the "loving help and guidance" she and her classmates received from their "mothers," as the CND Sisters were then called.

She remembers the Sisters as strong, curious, and deeply committed to learning. A favorite memory: being chosen to ride with Santa on his sleigh through Chicago in 1954.

After graduation, Pat earned a Ph.D. in reading comprehension from Indiana University. She sees donations to the CNDs as gifts of love and gratitude to the Sisters—because, as she puts it, "we were given the gifts of strong women—women who guided us and prepared us to take our place in society." Pat and her husband Gerald are members of the CND Legacy Society and have included the CNDs in their will.



Legacy Society members
Patricia and Gerald McDonnell

Ways to Help the CNDs DONATE online www.cnd-m.org/USA Office of Mission Advancement/Have You Thought About Giving? By phone 203-365-4306

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

Stocks and Securities www.cnd-m.org/USA Office of Mission Advancement/Several Ways to Make Donations

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Comforting the sorrowful. Because of you.

Sr. Patricia Graham, CND: Organized, Joyful, and Grace-Filled – Because of You!

r. Patricia Graham, CND (S. Anne Patrice), has always brought energy and compassion to her ministry. She entered the Congrégation de Notre Dame in 1961 after graduating from St. Jean Baptiste High School and Marymount Manhattan College in New York. Her teaching journey began with first graders at Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island and continued through primary classrooms in New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. She also served as Assistant Principal at both Villa Maria Academy in the Bronx and St. Columba School in Manhattan—always focused on creating joyful, welcoming classrooms.



Sr. Patricia Graham, CND

Sr. Pat's talents extended far beyond teaching. Known for her strong organizational skills, she took on leadership roles including Finance Minister at Villa Maria Retreat Center in Stamford, CT. Even after a serious accident left her temporarily in a wheelchair, she didn't slow down—coordinating the move of elderly Sisters from Ridgefield, CT, to Andrus on Hudson in New York, and overseeing the

relocation of the U.S. province archives. She also helped her beloved brother, Rev. Msgr. Neil Graham, through several moves before his passing.



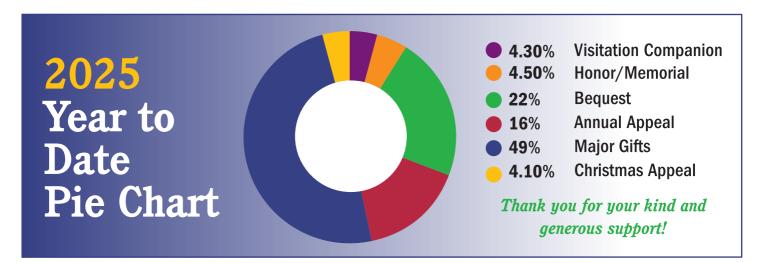
Sr. Patricia Graham, CND

and Rev. Msgr. Neil Graham

Sr. Patricia Graham, CND

Before retiring in 2020, Sr. Pat served as Administrative Assistant for the Permanent Diaconate Program at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, NY. Now living at Villa Maria Convent in the Bronx, she reflects on her life of service: "At every mission I served, I felt truly graced."

Your generosity supports all our Sisters whether they're retired or serving in active ministry. Thank you!



www.cnd-m.org

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 listed in our Honor Roll and on our website (unless you'd like to be anonymous). You'll also receive a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin as a token of our heartfelt gratitude.

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

*Our legal name



St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Legacy Society pin



Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters.

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

Sr. Lucille Cormier, CND (S.S. Jeanne du Rédempteur) d. November 15, 2024

Sr. Anne Elizabeth Seeley, CND d. December 23, 2024

Sr. Joan Theresa Brennan, CND
(S.S. Margaret Joan)
d. April 17, 2025

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

With Every Month, You Make a Difference: Become a Visitation Companion!

Your steady, reliable support helps CND Sisters serve those in need—and care for our elderly and infirm Sisters with dignity and love.

Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and budget-friendly. You'll be making a lasting difference, one month at a time.

To get started, just:

- Email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org
- Call (203) 365-4306
- Or select the monthly gift option at www.cnd-m.org/USA Office of Mission Advancement/Have You Thought About Giving?

Visitation Companions are recognized in our Honor Roll and on our website (unless you'd like to be anonymous). *Thank you for your faithful support!*

PLEASE NOTE: We're returning to our former Annual Appeal mailing schedule of September through June. **You'll receive your Annual Appeal letter in early September**—and the Appeal will run through June 30, just like it used to. In the meantime, if you'd like to make a gift, your support is always welcome— and always deeply appreciated.



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Congrégation de Notre Dame
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Call: (203) 365-4305 or 4306
Email: missionadvancement@cnd-m.org

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Blessed Sacrament Province Honor Roll 2024

Thank you for your kindness and generosity during the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, 2024. We thank especially our Visitation Companions (monthly donors) (VC); our Legacy Society Members (LS); and our St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Loyalty Society Members (*), who have supported the CNDs for three or more consecutive years.

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In Kind

Meg Domino, Charlestown, RI

+ Deceased

