



# School Sisters *of* Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province

Summer 2013



## Needle & Thread *Then & Now*

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## School Sisters of Notre Dame

of the Central Pacific Province live and minister from coast to coast as well as Guam, Nepal, Japan and beyond.

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# God's blessings



## FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEADER

Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND



*"United and content with little, we go out into the whole world, into the tiniest villages, into the poorest dwellings, wherever the Lord calls us, to bring poor children the good news of God's reign."*

Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, July 1839, #144

Our foundress, Blessed Theresa was keenly aware of the needs of her world in 1833. Today our sisters respond to the needs of our world. Meet Sisters Mary Swanson, Del Marie Rysavy and Sylvia Provost who are among our jubilarians celebrating 25, 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of God's faithful love in their lives. Their commitment to prayer, community and ministry around our globe over the years is evidence of Theresa's spirit and charism alive today.

Read about the ministry of Liturgical Fabric Arts where for more than 100 years sisters have shared their design and sewing skills as they collaborate with faith communities and create materials to enhance their worship spaces. Share in the closing of Notre Dame Preschool which for 39 years responded to the educational needs of very young children.

John Burns' reasons for financially contributing to the School Sisters go back to his elementary school days in Mississippi. Learn how three School Sisters made an impression in his life. See how you can join in making a living legacy to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

We are grateful to each of you for your prayerful and financial support, confident that together we will continue to respond knowing the needs are great, realizing "love cannot wait." And we assure you that we remember you and your intentions in our prayers each day, asking that God's abundant blessings be with you. 



## Celebrating 180 Years OF OUR CONGREGATION 1833-2013

### ON THE COVER

Sister Josephine Niemann, designer/artist in Liturgical Fabric Arts, pieces together an Easter banner for St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville, Mo. PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS  
Inset photos: funeral banner for St. Joseph Parish (left) and banner created for a forum at Fordham University on religious life after Vatican II.

# Celebrating

## CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS

*Transforming the world through education*



**Sister Katherine DuVal** received the St. Joseph Award in May from the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, Minn., where she was a principal.



The Orange County Funders Roundtable in California recently established the **Sister Regina Fox Quiet Achiever Award** to be presented at each Orange County Funders Roundtable Forum to one community member whose invaluable contributions as a “Quiet Achiever” makes Orange County a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community.



Each year the Diocese of Dallas holds their Diocesan Distinguished Educator Recognition Dinner. The Monsignor John Meyers Distinguished Principal Award was awarded to SSND Associate **Theresa Francis**, principal of Notre Dame School, which is a province sponsored ministry.



On June 23, **Novice Maria Gomez** celebrated her first profession of vows at her home parish in New Braunfels, Texas. We welcome Sister Maria as a School Sister of Notre Dame!



**Sister Aloyse Hessburg** was honored for her 50 years of dedication to the Mount Mary Fashion Program. She was instrumental in launching the nation’s first four-year fashion design program at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, which is a province sponsored ministry.



**Sister Josephine Niemann’s** kaleidoscope quilt titled, “Shouting God’s Glory,” won second place for the large quilt category at the Thimble and Thread Quilt Expo, sponsored by the Thimble and Thread Quilt Guild of Greater St. Louis. Sister Josephine pieced it and her sister, Barbara Reedy, hand quilted it. This is the quilt to be raffled for the SSND Province of Africa this year.



**Sister Mary Ann Osborne** from Mankato, Minn., received honorable mention for her carving “Offering” at a juried art show at St. Paul Benedictine Monastery. In September this piece, along with the piece in which Sister Mary Ann won third prize last year, “The Heart of the City,” will be in an

exhibit at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis along with the other eight winners from the two years of exhibitions at the St. Paul Monastery.



**Sister Maxine Pohlman**, the director of the Oblate Ecological Initiative in Godfrey, Ill., received the Leadership in Spirituality award from the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.



At Our Lady of The Prairie Retreat near Wheatland, Iowa, guests have been requesting recipes for the home-made meals served at the center. This prompted director **Sister Kathleen Storms** to create the cookbook, “Spirit of The Prairie, Catering to the Soul,” which provides lessons on healthy

living, stewardship of the earth and hospitality, along with 298 recipes and helpful hints for food preparation. Go to [www.chmiowa.org/ItemsOfInterest.htm](http://www.chmiowa.org/ItemsOfInterest.htm) for more information.

**School Sisters of Notre Dame** were honored by Holy Cross Academy in St. Louis at their Inaugural Legacy Gala to celebrate the rich traditions of their founding religious orders. The SSNDs received the Academic Excellence Award for their dedication to thousands of students over the years at St. Michael the Archangel School, one of the founding schools for Holy Cross Academy. 

Visit our Facebook page for more stories and photos that Celebrate Our Sisters!  
[www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific](http://www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific)



Banners created by Liturgical Fabric Arts were part of the Century on the Hill celebration at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn. The purple banner represents Sister Mary Margaret Johanning, general superior 1977-87, and the red one is Sister Mary Georgianne Segner, general superior 1968-77.

PHOTO BY SISTER MARY KAY GOSCH

# NEEDLE & THREAD

## Liturgical Fabric Arts with Tie to SSND Heritage

## *Then & Now*

By Linda Behrens

Since the founding of the School Sisters of Notre Dame 180 years ago, the art of needlework has had an important role in the education of women and girls. That foundation continues today in SSND schools and in the Liturgical Fabric Arts department in St. Louis.

When the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City in Missouri wanted each priest in the diocese to wear the same vestments, he called Liturgical Fabric Arts. Bishops in the dioceses of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri, New Ulm in Minnesota and Owensboro in Kentucky have also made that call.

When St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville, Mo., wanted new

outdoor banners to celebrate Easter, they called Liturgical Fabric Arts.

When Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Ferguson, Mo., was renovating their church, with input needed for designing the sanctuary, they called Liturgical Fabric Arts.

These are examples of just some of the recent project requests received through the Liturgical Fabric Arts department at the School Sisters of

Notre Dame campus in St. Louis.

In 1898, sisters at the then “new” St. Louis Province motherhouse began the Ecclesiastical Department, which became known as Liturgical Fabric Arts in 1983. For 115 years, sisters have been creating custom-made vestments, palls, chasubles, stoles, banners and hangings, altar cloths, and more, all used in liturgical worship and celebrations.

**In a report to the Department of Education, Mother Theresa wrote in 1855:**

*“Needlework instruction was given extensive care. The girls spent ten hours each week practicing all types of needlework—sewing, knitting, spinning, crocheting, and dressmaking...”*

“Each item, reflecting the talent God gave its maker, is made in a spirit of prayer to God whose worship it enhances,” said Sister Rita Maureen Deimeke, coordinator of Liturgical Fabric Arts since 1996. “Dignity and beauty in materials used, in design and form, in color and texture, are our concerns.”

Customers include priests, bishops, ministers, seminarians and interested laity, mostly from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the neighboring dioceses of Belleville and Springfield in Illinois, and Springfield-Cape Girardeau and Jefferson City in Missouri. Missionaries from many religious communities also use the service.

“We are proud that our work has reached out to missions in Guam, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Honduras,

the department full-time. Half are actively involved with a local quilting guild.

Sister Josephine Niemann was a teacher for 20+ years, including seven years in Sierra Leone in West Africa. Since 1985, she has served as the main designer/artist in Liturgical Fabric Arts. She also works as a liturgical art consultant for church renovations and designs church furnishings.

Sister Josephine co-authored the book, “Raise the Banners High: Making and Using Processional Banners,” (Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago) in 2002. She has written articles published in *Modern Liturgy* magazine and *American Quilter Society* magazine and has had her artwork published in *Environment and Art Letter*. She has won numerous awards



Visit [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Experience/Latest-News](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Experience/Latest-News) to see a photo gallery of items created by Liturgical Fabric Arts.

Historical references to needlework in this article were researched through the SSND archives by Sister Mary Ann Kuttner.

Development department for fundraising.

For more information about services provided by Liturgical Fabric Arts, contact Sister Rita Maureen at 314-633-7030 or Sister Josephine at [josephinessnd@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinessnd@yahoo.com). 



PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

From left, Sisters Marie Denice Houston, Francis Ann Eveler, Rita Maureen Deimeke, Josephine Niemann and Regina Kabayama. Inset: Sister Mildred Marie Glosemeyer

Madagascar, Africa and Japan,” Sister Rita Maureen shared.

Currently six sisters serve in Liturgical Fabric Arts. Some of the sisters in the department are semi-retired and this is a second or third “career” for them. Others work in

for her work. Her hobby is making quilts. She makes one bed-size quilt each year as a fundraiser for the SSND African missions.

Through the Liturgical Fabric Arts department, numerous quilts have been made for the Resource

# Rejoice *with* our Jubilarians

*The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province honor our Jubilarians, women of hope, and are grateful to God for their faithful lives.*

## **25 YEARS**

Mary Swanson

## **50 YEARS**

Joann Bauer  
Mary Hope Billing  
Rosemary Bonk  
Frances Buschell  
Mary Ellen Doherty  
Mary Jean Ellman  
Maura Endo  
Joyce Engle  
Carol Marie George  
Joanne Hanrahan  
Dana Marie Heffner  
Ruth Hinderer  
Gloria Hirai  
Rose Rita Huelsmann  
M. Canisia Hyodo  
M. Evangela Imamura  
Susan Jordan  
M. Nicolette Karcher  
Miriam Thomas Kessens  
Mary Lauretta Rose  
Koscielniak  
Dorothy Land  
Rosalyce Mercurio  
Sandra Peterson  
Reina Maria Quiroz  
Barbara Jean Rupp  
Del Marie Rysavy  
M. Natalie Saito

## **50 YEARS**

*continued*

Shannon Marie Scallon  
Lynne Schmidt  
Laura Jean Spaeth  
M. Loriann Stanton  
M. Karen Tachibana  
M. Anita Takagi  
Margie Ann Thole  
M. Jeanette Toyosato  
Jo Ann Volk  
Sharon Waldoch  
Jane Frances Wand  
Mary Jean Paul Zagorski  
Marcia Mary Zofkie

## **60 YEARS**

Joan Elizabeth Bakle  
Louise Marie Benecke  
Jean Marie Blake  
Catherine Marie Brandt  
Helen Bronner  
Evelyn Dangel  
Rose M. Feess  
Monica Grathwohl  
M. Paulanne Gruber  
Gertrude Marie Hagan  
Janis Haustein  
Mary Aloyse Hessburg  
Teresa Marie Hinrichs  
Arlene Hodapp  
Mary Paul Holdmeyer

## **60 YEARS**

*continued*

Joanna Illg  
Catherine Ann  
Kallhoff  
Irene Komor  
M. Agnes Claire  
Krogman  
Mary Alyce Lach  
M. Yolanda Latessa  
Dorothy MacIntyre  
Grace Marie Mueller  
Joyce Ploch  
Carol Marie Polczynski  
Doris Probst  
Sylvia Provost  
Connie Pytlik  
M. Alcuin Rottjakob  
M. Ancilla Sakaguchi  
Gladys Schmitz  
Rita Marie Schneider  
Ann Semel  
M. Petrann Sieben  
Dolores Marie  
Siebenmorgen  
Gabriel Mary Spaeth  
M. Bernelle Taube  
Annabelle Theis  
Valeria Theis  
Mary Adelyn Vokal  
M. Anastasia Wehner  
Cordula Wekenborg  
Marion Welter

**Celebrating  
180 Years**  
OF OUR CONGREGATION  
1833-2013

## **70 YEARS**

Mary Matthew  
Cannizzaro  
Mary Naomi Curtin  
Paul Marie Duck  
Mary Peter Eberhardy  
Mary Ella Francis Hirth  
Mary Virgene Pable  
Lucy Marie Rubenzer  
M. Valine Saumweber  
Marie Virginia Strubhart  
Anne Marie Tholkes  
M. Maurice Weyer

## **75 YEARS**

Mercita Batog  
M. Honora Elsen  
Rose M. Ernst  
Mary Lucida Hoskens  
M. Daniella Kuhn  
Dorothy Merth  
M. Salesia Muckensturm  
M. Yvonne Nohava  
Helen Siwicki  
M. Cecilius Sliger



Sculpture of Blessed  
Theresa Gerhardinger,  
our foundress, by  
Marie Henderson, RSM.

**School Sisters of Notre Dame**  
**Central Pacific Province**

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Visit our website to catch a glimpse of each jubilarian [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Experience-Together](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Experience-Together)  
Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific](http://www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific)



# Celebrate Jubilate Deo!

By Mary Conarchy

**W**e thank God for the 105 sisters from the Central Pacific Province celebrating Jubilees as women religious. With great joy, we recognize these sisters for 25, 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of service to God, the Church and the world.

Throughout the summer, jubilees were celebrated with the SSND community, family members and friends at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Miss.; Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wis.; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minn.; Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, Mo.; Honbu Convent, Kyoto, Japan; and various parishes.

“Jubilees are cause for special celebration and provide opportunity for renewal and recommitment... They call us to express gratitude to God and the Jubilarians for their faithful love.” – *You Are Sent*, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Each Jubilarian is encouraged to reflect on the experiences in her life, the blessings she has received and the wisdom she has gleaned. Jubilee is a time to renew the spirit and the soul.

Sisters in the Central Pacific Province live and minister in 57 dioceses, in 22 states, as well as in Ghana, Guam, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Following are reflections from three Jubilarians who share the blessings of their life and ministry. Meet more 2013 Jubilarians and read their stories at [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Jubilee](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Jubilee)

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

### *Sister Mary Swanson*



*has served as campus minister at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee; staff member at Theresa Living Center, a homeless shelter for women*

*and children in St. Paul, Minnesota; and case manager at Supportive Community Services, Inc. in Milwaukee, where she currently assists elderly, developmentally disabled, physically and mentally ill people. This year, in addition to case management work, she became a member of the North American Interprovincial Vocation Team.*

Over the last 25 years, it has been a deepening of knowing God’s faithfulness and my ability to return that faithfulness. God keeps calling me to love and out of that love I am able to love and serve others. I have grown in a loving appreciation for creation and how it expresses God’s faithfulness and constant presence to me.

Community life has been a blessing for me. It has helped me to develop as a whole person. Coming from prayer, I go out into the world and do my best to reflect Christ’s presence to others.

I come today to ministry, with a sense of being gifted. I gain from the people I serve as they gain from my service to them. They keep showing me the many faces of God. Each day I am looking for the gifts that God blesses us with.

I have become a lifelong learner as the result of being an SSND. I keep changing and growing with the many

different experiences I have been offered.

We are missionary and are called to be in the world and with those in need. The need is great and, as SSNDs, we are empowering others to join us in our mission to make Christ visible and making community where we are in our ministries and through our SSND volunteer program. In this most divided time in our country’s history, the world really needs our gift of community and presence. SSNDs are responding wherever we have been called by God, because love cannot wait.

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

### *Sister Del Marie Rysavy*



*moved to Rome after nine years as a secondary school teacher. She served there as treasurer at the SSND Generalate for eight years. Following studies and work as writer*

*for the White Fathers’ Generalate, she spent two years as an instructor at the College of Notre Dame in Maryland. After doing further studies and working as a research assistant at the University of Minnesota, Sister Del Marie became an assistant professor at St. Cloud State University (SCS) in St. Cloud, Minn. She returned to Rome, working for two more years at the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See. Since 2009, Sister Del Marie has been a computer networking and applications programmer with full professorship at SCS.*

*continued on page 8*

## Jubilate Deo! *continued from page 7*

A blessing of these years is that I have been called and led to do many things that I, myself, would never have thought to do. Being part of an international congregation has provided countless opportunities. These experiences have enriched my life in numerous ways and made me very aware of God's presence in my life.

Before I was asked to go to the Generalate in Rome in the early 1970s, I had never been east of Chicago, so it was a big event for me. My world broadened hundreds of times over. Learning the Italian language during those years (1974-82) enabled me to experience and minister in other special ways since then: writing "Manual for General Treasurers" in Italy in 1983-84; working at the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See from 1992-94, where I directed the development of a program to create their consolidated budgets and financial reports; and doing Italian interpretation for international finance board meetings of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother (1997-present).

God speaks to us in many ways, including through thoughts and ideas that come to us. We can depend on

God's faithfulness when we are open to His voice and respond positively to it.

### CELEBRATING 60 YEARS *Sister Sylvia Provost*



*has ministered at every level of elementary education as a primary and intermediate teacher as well as in administration. She also was an educator in secondary schools. From formal classroom education, Sister Sylvia moved into parish ministry where she served as pastoral associate and program director for 25 years. Her ministry took her to Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas and Ghana, West Africa. Currently Sister Sylvia serves as community bursar at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Miss.*

My fortunate encounter with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at age 10 was a life-changing experience. It was and is today a continued blessing in my life. I am grateful for the education I received and for the ministry opportunities I have had. I have learned that I only have to live one day at a time and in the present

moment that God has given me.

Working in the African-American community for many years was such a blessing for me. In 1984, I went to St. Augustine Parish in North Little Rock, Ark., with Sister Carol Nishke. We were asked to lead the parish ministry. We began by visiting homes to get to know the people and their needs.

Rides were found for people who couldn't otherwise get to church. Homebound parishioners were assisted through delivery of groceries and hot meals. Students were given tutoring help with the after school learning club. Other ministries included overseeing the parish's liturgy, maintenance, finances and a day care. Singing was a great joy, and we joined our voices with others in a Gospel choir. Our parish served as a refuge in a neighborhood dealing with deserted and boarded-up houses.

You could not come to our church and not be greeted or known. When you walked in the door, you were home. We were a family at St. Augustine. It was a privilege to live and minister there for 25 years.

*Visit our website for more Jubilee profiles!*  
[www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT *By John Burns*

Like so many before and after me, I have fond memories and lasting friendships from my elementary school days at St. Francis of Assisi School in Brookhaven, Miss. The devotion, attention and quality of teaching by the sisters and the lay teachers provided a solid foundation for further education and for life itself.

As is so often the case, the lasting lessons did not come from any book or even inside the classroom. This is particularly true as my wife recently



informed me that my attaining "Aqua" status in the SRA reading lab in first grade was nothing to brag about. However, I do rely upon Sister Paula Blouin's economic and fashion advice: "You only need three outfits: One to wear, one in the laundry and one in the closet."

I have refined her advice and

have travelled around the world using "Sister Paula's Packing Principles." It also helps to explain my affinity for gray pants and blue shirts, the St. Francis uniform.

As a lawyer, I am often reminded of Sister Regina Hoer's dispute resolution mechanism. To resolve one particularly dicey playground dilemma over team names, she simply decreed that the second grade boys would always be Notre Dame, and the first grade boys would be whomever Notre

# Grateful



## LEAVING A LEGACY

By Roy Rehme

*In and with God, everything is possible; this is my consolation, my comfort, my joy, and my hope.*

**Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, SSND, Foundress of School Sisters of Notre Dame**



**D**uring the last 180 years, School Sisters of Notre Dame has touched the lives of countless people like **YOU**, ministering as a positive force and making a real difference in the world!

As I travel throughout the Central Pacific Province, meeting with benefactors, visiting each one of our campuses, and seeing sponsored, co-sponsored and supported ministries, the mission of School Sisters of Notre Dame is alive. These ministries are thriving today because of a partnership among sisters, associates, staff members, volunteers and benefactors. The sacred work of Blessed Theresa, transforming the world through education, giving special emphasis to women, young people and those who are poor is carried out on a daily basis. I promise you!

I invite you to join the sisters to carry on their legacy with a contribution through time, talent and/or treasure.

There are many ways to continue the School Sisters' legacy. We are most grateful for all you do to support School Sisters of Notre Dame. Your financial contributions, prayers, interest and encouragement are a testament to your

commitment and partnership. *Together, we are changed as we transform the world through education of all types.*

Here are some ways that you can assure the School Sisters' mission is responsive to the needs of the world today:

- Bequests – leaving School Sisters of Notre Dame in your will or estate plan
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- A gift of cash, securities and/or life insurance
- A gift in kind
- An online donation

**For your convenience, our full, legal name is School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province, Inc. and our Federal Tax ID Number is 45-1296033.**

Please contact your financial or legal advisor for assistance with making an estate plan.

I encourage each of you to look at our website for more information about the Living Legacy program. You can access the website at [www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org) and click on Partner Together link in the top right hand corner. If you have any questions or would like to talk to me personally, please feel free to contact me direct at **314-633-7042** or via email at [rrahme@ssndcp.org](mailto:rrahme@ssndcp.org).

Thank you for considering these opportunities to support the mission and ministries of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Daily, the sisters remember you with gratitude and prayer. 

Dame had beaten the week before. There you have it – law school in a nutshell – justice swift, succinct and perfectly designed to fit the issue. No judge has ever done it better.

I am frequently reminded of, and occasionally employ, Sister Lester deBlanc's humor and "bend it, but don't break it" approach. Her admonition that it was perfectly acceptable to break in line during a fire drill recently won for me a Starbucks gift card for being the first from my office to make it down 14 flights of stairs during a

recent building evacuation.

More than anything else, however, it was the calm demeanor of the sisters, their devotion to their profession, dedication to the Church and egalitarian approach to all which provided the lasting lessons and model for living. I know firsthand their influence on me, and I have seen their positive influence on others, both here and abroad.

Without a doubt, the School Sisters of Notre Dame provided me with the best educational experience that I had at any level, and to ensure

that others have that same experience, I support the sisters through the Central Pacific Province.

*School Sisters of Notre Dame is blessed with the generosity and support of benefactors like John for partnering with us. The School Sisters of Notre Dame have educated, inspired, mentored and motivated people of all ages, races and backgrounds. Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers who provide time, talent and treasure to advance the mission of School Sisters of Notre Dame.* 



# Chocolate

# Music

# Wine



## WITH OUR THANKS

By Sister Regina Fox

Spring was bustling with many occasions for friends to connect and celebrate.

In March more than 300 people attended the Women's Leadership Luncheons held in Milwaukee, Dallas and St. Louis. At each site, participants were treated to inspirational presentations:

- Danae D. Davis, chief executive officer of PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc., in Milwaukee
- Dr. Susan Hanssen, associate professor of history at the University of Dallas and author, in Dallas
- Bridget McDermott Flood, executive director of the Incarnate Word Foundation and Notre Dame High School Class of '74, in St. Louis.

These luncheons offer the opportunity for women leaders and colleagues to reflect on the integration of the spiritual and professional dimensions of life.

Nearly 450 people delighted in the Wine & Chocolate Soirees held in Milwaukee, St. Louis and Mankato. Picture fine fare, decadent chocolate,

flavorful wine, conversations with new and old friends! Can you hear the music?

In Milwaukee, *Frogwater* provided music for attendees. *Pianist Jed Moss* and *Mezzo-Contralto Doris Brunatti* performed a program of musical pieces for guests in St. Louis. Mankato's event featured music by *Metro Retro* and *vocalist Charmin Michelle*.

Thanks to each of you who supported these events by your attendance or through donations. The Wine & Chocolate Soirees grossed more than \$155,000, benefitting the ministries of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. We are grateful to the lead sponsors, particularly Elizabeth Ahlers; Ernesto's Winebar; James J. Weir Insurance Agency, Inc.; J.P. Morgan; Ann Kampeter; Dr. Philip G. Mannhard, DDS; Elizabeth Pfaff, NDHS '56; Clement and Anastasia Scheurer Trust; Wells Fargo; and Eugene and Rose Marie Werner.

Planning is underway for Women's Leadership Luncheons and signature events next spring! 

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.ssndcentralpacific.org/events](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/events)

- *NoFest Octoberfest* is a popular calendar raffle offered in Minnesota.
- *Craft Fair and Garage Sale* takes place at Our Lady of Good Council campus in Mankato, Minn., on Oct. 12.
- *SSND Quilt Auction* will be held Oct. 26 in Bloomington, Minn., with opportunity for bidding from anywhere through the live online auction. See page 12 for more information.

We are grateful for the countless ways you share in our ministries by your interest, involvement and investment. Thank you for partnering with School Sisters of Notre Dame.

For more information about these events, call 314-633-7032, visit our website [www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org) or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific](http://www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific).

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY SISTER MARY KAY ASH, LINDA BEHRENS, MARY CONARCHY AND DEBBIE ROHRICH-TYLER.

# Leadership

# Women

# Networking



# Excellence

## Notre Dame Preschool Closed May 17

By Linda Behrens



The Ministry Corporation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province announced this past January that Notre Dame Preschool, located at 320 E. Ripa Ave. on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus in St. Louis, would close at the end of the 2012-13 academic year.



Notre Dame Preschool Directors: Sisters Ann Marie Bonvie, Phyllis Ann Price, Kathryn Hoener and Louise O'Connor. Inset: Sister Caroline Markway.

Notre Dame Preschool began in 1974 in response to an unmet need in early childhood education. Over the years, the enrollment steadily increased from the first group of 25 children until it reached its peak of 237 children in the 1994-95 school year. It is estimated that more than 5,000 children have been served by the preschool in its 39 years.

The preschool, however, had experienced continuous decline in enrollment since 2000. During this time, other early childhood programs, including several parish preschools, began and are serving many of the families that formerly were served by Notre Dame Preschool. In an effort to keep the school open, an analysis of

the preschool was conducted, several changes in the program had been implemented and fundraising increased.

Sister Ann Marie Bonvie, SSND, director, worked closely with the parents to find appropriate preschool settings for their children for next year.

"As we moved through this transition time, we celebrated with each other the work that God has done through Notre Dame Preschool these past 39 years," Sister Ann Marie said.

A public open house and a Liturgy of Thanksgiving followed by dinner for the staff were held in May. There were five SSND directors of the preschool during the school's history. Four of the five former directors were present at the liturgy.

The Provincial Council for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province acknowledges that Notre Dame Preschool has provided excellence in Catholic preschool education since its inception.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Sister Ann Marie Bonvie for her dedication to the children and their families, for her leadership among the teachers and staff, and for her commitment to the mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame," said Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND, provincial leader.

"The success of Notre Dame Preschool would not have been possible these past 39 years without the support of the 30 School Sisters of Notre Dame who served there, and the lay teachers and staff, parents and donors who supported the program," Sister Mary Anne said. 



PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

From a dad who attended Notre Dame Preschool as a child: *"A great sorrow overcame me this morning as I learned of the pending closure of Notre Dame Preschool. This sadness is a tribute to the passing of a wonderful thing: a school that Sister Louise built, sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and that Sister Ann Marie preserved, for the benefit of so many grateful parents and students. My parents and siblings benefited from the love and labors of Sister Louise; Rachel and I joyfully sent three of our children under the care of Sister Ann Marie. Alas, our fourth child will not be so fortunate."*

From a mom whose email subject line was "A very sad day": *"It is with a very heavy heart and tearful eyes that I write to you today to express our thanks to you and your terrific staff at Notre Dame Preschool. Please know that you have made a difference to us and to all the other families at Notre Dame Preschool. We are very thankful for the opportunity to have our son in your very caring and giving hands for the last two years. You make a difference."*



# School Sisters of Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province

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## Our Mission

is to proclaim the Good News as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

*You Are Sent, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame*



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

# Women hanging by a thread Quilt Auction

In Minnesota and Online from Anywhere!

**School Sisters of Notre Dame  
2013 Quilt Auction  
"Women Hanging by a Thread"**

**Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013**

St. Edward's Church  
9401 Nesbitt Ave.  
Bloomington, MN

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Review  
1 p.m. Live Auction  
(in person and online)

Proceeds of the auction benefit "women hanging by a thread," struggling with poverty, violence, homelessness or illiteracy.

For more information, contact Leah Pockrandt, **507-389-4212**, [lpockrandt@ssndcp.org](mailto:lpockrandt@ssndcp.org) or [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/events](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/events).

Details for accessing the online auction will be available in the event listing on the website.



**Make a quilt  
and change a life**

Please donate a quilt for this special auction. Quilts should be machine quilted, hand quilted, hand applied or hand embroidered.

## Upcoming Events

### CRAFT FAIR AND GARAGE SALE

October 12, 2013 • 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus  
Mankato, MN

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

January 4, 2014 • 6 p.m.  
January 5, 2014 • 2 p.m.  
Sancta Maria in Ripa Campus  
St. Louis, MO

Look for invitations in the mail or email. Register online at [www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org). Additional province activities can be found on our website and Facebook page.