



# School Sisters of Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION



*In service to all*

In this issue: Stewardship Report



## Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND

*"Trust in God and walk in God's ways; then God will also be with you - the infinitely good and merciful God."*

-Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, Letter #714, May 30, 1847

Dear Donors and Friends,

Happy New Year! A new year is a time for reflection, planning and action. As the congregation continues to evolve and unfold, we ask you - our family, friends and donors - to continue your prayerful support.

In the origins of our congregation, we read, "The Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame came to life when God's call found an answer in the hearts of people strong in faith, farseeing in vision, and courageous in action. The Congregation continues today in the mysterious interaction of divine call and human response."

We know that religious life and our Congregation are a work of God! God guides all we do when we are attentive and listen communally.

Over the past two years we, as sisters, have been meeting, talking and listening a lot. We are engaged in a long-term planning process to discern

the future of our ministries, properties and health care.

We have made no decisions - and won't for another couple of years - but we want you to know we are going through this process of eventual downsizing so you can join us in prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will keep you up-to-date on our progress so you can help us quell any rumors you may hear.

God is doing something new with us and through us, and our task is to pay attention and prepare.

As we plan for the future, we continue to live and serve in the present. One of the most pressing issues of our time is comprehensive immigration reform. For that reason, the Central Pacific Province has adopted a Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

It is rare for us to take a formal stance on an issue, but we believe

in the dignity of each human person - made in the image and likeness of God - and we stand in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers. Our founding sisters were immigrants. They came to the shores of Baltimore in 1847 to teach the children of immigrants. Although immigration reform has become politicized, we believe this is a human dignity issue, not a partisan issue. On page 5, you can read more about the Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform and how sisters are working with immigrants in their communities.

Your ongoing prayers and donations allow us to continue to meet the ever-changing needs of today while supporting our sisters who have served so faithfully over the years. Thank you. Please be assured the sisters pray for you daily. May your New Year be full of blessings, as you are a blessing to us! ●

### ON THE COVER:

Students from Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) spent time with School Sisters of Notre Dame in Arizona who minister on the U.S.-Mexico border. Pictured from left are Diana Ramirez, Lillian Doyle, Lorraine Ruiz, Rae Borsetti, and Sister Linda Stilling, SSND.

## School Sisters of Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province live and minister in 21 states, the U.S. territory of Guam, and the countries of Austria, Italy, Japan and Nepal.

Contact Resource Development or inquire about finding a sister at [missionadv@ssndcp.org](mailto:missionadv@ssndcp.org).

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

 [facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific](https://facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific)

 [instagram.com/ssnd\\_central\\_pacific](https://instagram.com/ssnd_central_pacific)

### NOTRE DAME OF DALLAS

2323 North Walton Walker Boulevard  
Dallas, TX 75212  
214-845-7410

### NOTRE DAME OF ELM GROVE

13105 Watertown Plank Road  
Elm Grove, WI 53122-2291  
262-787-1037

### *Connect with us!*

 Twitter: [twitter.com/ssnd\\_cp](https://twitter.com/ssnd_cp)

 Pinterest: [pinterest.com/ssndcp](https://pinterest.com/ssndcp)

### OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

170 Good Counsel Drive  
Mankato, MN 56001-3138  
507-389-4212

### SANCTA MARIA IN RIPA

320 East Ripa Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63125-2897  
314-633-7032



## Visit to detained student leads to new ministry

By Val Harlynn, Communications

*"In accord with church teaching and directives, we work actively, especially in our local situations to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love."*

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

About 60 miles northwest of Milwaukee, sits Juneau, Wis., a town of 2,700 people. The Dodge Detention Facility, part of the county jail in Juneau, is a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) center. The detainees at the Dodge Detention Facility are immigrants who are awaiting further steps in the legal process related to refugee status, immigration and deportation. Detainees at the Dodge Detention Facility come from all over the world.

There are more than 100 of these centers throughout the United States. According to a Chicago Tribune (March 24, 2017) article, "On an average day, about 1,055 people are in detention [centers] across Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky, according to preliminary 2016 ICE statistics. As of mid-February [2017], the national average length of stay for a detainee was about 36 days." However, some in the Dodge County facility have been detained for as long as two years.

In 2011, Sister Mariel Kreuziger and Sister Anton Marie Voissem, both then age 80, were retiring from full-time ministry but were not ready for full-time retirement. Both sisters professed vows in 1950 and served for over 60 years as educators in the classroom, adult education

programs, Diocesan offices and at a retreat center. They moved to Beaver Dam, Wis., and settled in a house provided by St. Katharine Drexel Parish, about 10 miles from Juneau. It was in the fall of 2015 that Sister Mariel received word that a former student had been jailed in the Juneau Dodge County Detention Center.

During the visits to her student, Sister Mariel learned there were about 200 detained immigrants there. A priest was ministering to the men but the women had no access to ministry. Sister Mariel was connected with the Interfaith Committee for Detained

Immigrants (ICDI), an organization founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Chicago. The organization trains and coordinates volunteer visits to detainees held at ICE facilities. They also provide legal and transitional assistance to detainees. It took nearly a year, but on September 7, 2016, their ministry officially began.

Sister Mariel and Sister Anton Marie were able to find volunteers to be trained and establish regular Saturday morning visits to those being detained, both men and women. These trained volunteers are lay people and sisters who come from as far away



(L to R) Sisters Mariel Kreuziger and Anton Marie Voissem, associate LeVonne Wille and volunteer Sarah Hasbrouck visit detainees at the Dodge Detention Facility in Juneau, Wis.

as Milwaukee, Racine, Madison and Chicago, Wis. They offer five 30-minute sessions each week for detainees, providing a listening ear, guidance, and spiritual reading materials for all faith traditions. Each session ends with a prayer and the handshake of peace and big smiles and many words of gratitude. Two SSND associates, Jane Lord and LaVonne Wille, are among the volunteers who go once a month to serve.

Pam Shearman, a Lutheran Deacon from ICDI, oversees the training and sessions. Sister Mariel helps coordinate the work at the Dodge Detention Facility.

Detainees share their stories with the volunteers, such as the story of a young man from Africa who emigrated with his parents at a young age. When he was old enough, he went to join the Marines only to discover he was not documented. He's now waiting in Juneau for his deportation back to a country he never knew. Also, there is the story of a middle-aged father who owned his home and had raised his children in the United States but was not documented. He also waits for legal recourse.

Sister Mariel and Sister Anton Marie could tell hundreds of these vignettes. They spend their time listening

to frustrated and bored detainees, taking prayer requests or chatting about how the corn looks in

*A young man from Africa emigrated with his parents at a young age. When he was old enough, he went to join the Marines only to discover he was not documented. He's now waiting in Juneau for his deportation back to a country he never knew.*

that time-honored Midwestern tradition. The volunteers' ministry brings comfort to detainees whose families are often in other states or are afraid to visit because of their

own immigration status. The sisters say the most fulfilling time of their visits is extending the handshake of peace, a form of contact not permitted at any other time during the visit.

Sister Mariel says this ministry has been eye opening, "We work with people of many different religions and cultures. In the past, I worked in Catholic parishes, Catholic schools and Catholic dioceses. I have now come to appreciate people of all faiths and so many more cultures. It has given me a new vision for who God is. God is for all of us." ●



The Dodge Detention Facility is part of the Dodge County court and jail building. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, contracts with these local facilities to house detainees.



## SSND's Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

By School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province

*“The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*

- Leviticus 19:34

The history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States is inextricably connected to the immigrant experience. SSNDs initially came to the U.S. as immigrants to respond to the educational needs of German immigrants. For 170 years, we have served immigrant communities through education and other ministries.

Today, we have numerous sisters ministering in immigrant communities through formal education or ESL programs, outreach efforts and housing programs, social and mental health services, organizing and advocacy, and, pastoral care in parishes and detention centers.

We witness firsthand the effects of our country's inadequate and broken immigration system. We are dismayed by the negative rhetoric that has grown into deepening xenophobia.

The world is facing its most substantial migration and refugee crisis since World War II; the need to take action is more important

than ever. If we want to treat every person with dignity, assure the protection of families, fix the family visa backlog, uphold the rule of law, protect our borders and national security, and bring millions of hardworking people into the formal economy, we



**Sister Virginia Grumich chats with an immigrant from the Congo at the International Institute luncheon in St. Louis.**

need comprehensive immigration reform.

Based on this, the SSND Central Pacific Province has adopted a Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

*We, the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Central Pacific Province, who are committed to*

*transforming the world through education, believe in the dignity of each human person made in the image and likeness of God. We stand in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers. With the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops we support comprehensive immigration reform for the United States that includes a path to earned legalization, family reunification, worker protections, due process protections, and an effective humane border policy.*

Adoption of a Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform permits us to stand as one on this important and pressing issue of human dignity. It also

provides direction and structure for education, reflection and action on this critical concern. By its nature, a corporate stance is a public commitment to act, which will foster greater accountability to ourselves, our donors and friends, and ultimately, our immigrant sisters and brothers.

As School Sisters of Notre



**Sister Jan Gregorcich (left) and Global Partners, Running Waters Founder, Dianne Henke (right), participate in an immigration rally.**

Dame of the Central Pacific Province we commit:

- to affirm the richness and life-giving potential of our multicultural reality;
- to educate ourselves in order to sift through the myths and facts about immigrants and refugees as well as the real causes of economic and social unrest that lead to migration;
- to oppose legislation and policies that deny basic human rights to immigrants and refugees, be they documented or undocumented;
- to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and for policies that address the root causes of forced migration involving economic, environmental, and social injustices;
- to challenge local policies and practices that promote or perpetuate racial bias; while also learning about and confronting our issues of racial bias and our complicity in supporting/maintaining racially discriminating practices;
- to find new and unsuspected ways of being in solidarity with our immigrant brothers

and sisters, such as supporting a refugee family, hosting an immigrant/refugee welcoming dinner, supporting rapid response teams;

- to help our local communities, churches, towns, and villages to be safe and welcoming places for immigrants and refugees by:

1. continuing our ministerial commitment to immigrants and refugees in our local areas and helping with such things as food, clothing, housing, and humanitarian aid;
2. providing education on comprehensive immigration reform and promoting advocacy;
3. praying for unity and justice in our rich diversity.



**(Left to Right) Sisters Lucia Oshiro, SSND; Thu Pham, Holy Queen of Mary from Hanoi, Vietnam; Hong Bui, Lovers of the Cross from Hanoi, Vietnam; and Helen Jane Jaeb, SSND. Sisters Thu and Hong, participate in the English language immersion program designed by SSNDs and are currently living in residence at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minn.**

We recognize some people may view immigrants as a threat to the economy and culture of the United States. There may be SSND supporters, donors, family or friends who are not in agreement



**Sister Judith Bourg (left) is a member of the Tucson Samaritans, which is one of four major humanitarian organizations in Tucson, Ariz., that places water and food in strategic spots all through the Sonoran desert for traveling migrants.**

with our corporate stance. We understand this, but feel called to adopt this stance as a show of solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters, and to work toward systemic change.

We are called to “work actively, especially in our local situations, to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love” (*You Are Sent* Constitution #17). Pope Francis also calls us to welcome and support our immigrant brothers and sisters, “With regard to migrants, displaced persons and refugees, a common commitment is needed, one focused on offering them a dignified welcome” (Address to the Diplomatic Corps 2017).

Together in unity, with this corporate stance, we affirm our commitment to welcome, stand with, support and love our immigrant sisters and brothers. We pray that you will join us in the journey. ●



## Preserving the legacy of SSND, Catholic education and the Church in North America

By Mary Kay Murray, Resource Development

The history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame reveals a legacy of courage, leadership and vision. Their belief that every person can make a difference also prompted them to preserve many unique records that would otherwise have been lost, forgotten or even destroyed. Historians can now study these documents and learn about their contributions to Catholic education, the church in North America and around the world.

For many years, the School Sisters of Notre Dame held their historical documents in eight different archives in the United States and Canada. After a long search for one place to preserve for future generations all of their records located in North America, they finally found a very suitable space at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives will hold records of their lives and ministries from the current Atlantic-Midwest and Central Pacific Provinces, as well as from eight former provinces: Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Mankato, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Wilton and Waterdown, Ontario. They opened missions in Guam, Puerto Rico, Japan, England, and various countries of Africa and Latin America, and records documenting the

development of these missions will also be contained in the new archives.

Since their ministries have always been directed toward education, their records help document the history of Catholic education in North America. For example, during their first 50 years in North America (1847-1897), they staffed or opened more than 260 schools. However, this number grew considerably during the following century. The records contained in their archives are unique and often cannot be found elsewhere.

The new archives is a costly initiative. However, \$250,000 is needed to help cover expenses for the renovation of the space at Mount Mary University. The funds will ensure that these precious documents can be preserved in a suitable environment and will help pay for the transport of the many archival collections to the new archives. You are invited to



**(Left to Right) Sisters Mary Ann Kuttner, Archivist Task Force; Joyce Nyakwama, provincial leader from the Province of Africa; and Zipporah Marigwa, a third year student at Mount Mary and SSND from the Province of Africa; look over items related to African sisters at the School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives.**

help preserve the legacy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame by giving a gift in honor or memory of a sister or a loved one who made a difference in your life. Your gift will be permanently displayed in a commemorative book and on our recognition wall in the new archives.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives is open to the public for research and tours, and will be dedicated in June of 2018. To learn more about how you can give, please contact Mary Kay Murray at [mmurray@ssndcp.org](mailto:mmurray@ssndcp.org) or call 262-787-1037. ●



## Changing lives. . . one woman at a time

By Heidi Sampson, Communications

This fall, Sister Richarde Marie Wolf, coordinator of the Refugee Outreach Program, spent a day at Minnesota State University, Mankato, for the annual Campus and Community Fair. At the event, students explore opportunities for part-time jobs, and volunteer opportunities within the community. For Sister Richarde Marie, the event magnified the spirit of youth and their willingness to create change, to bring out their gifts in service to the communities around them.

The Refugee Outreach Program is an extension of the Good Counsel Learning Center in Mankato, Minn. In 1967, the Good Counsel Learning Center was established by the School Sisters of Notre Dame to address the unmet educational needs of children, youth and adults.

In 2012, when the Mankato area saw a significant rise in enrollment of refugee women requesting tutoring services – to address their educational and employment needs – the Good Counsel Learning Center responded to the need. For refugee women, a particular difficulty has been in obtaining access to education while lacking a support system to assist in caring for young children. In many cases, transportation is also an issue, so a tutoring service that went into the homes of students would be essential to the program's success.

"We've worked primarily with Sudanese and Somali women,"



Sister Richarde Marie Wolf (back row; right) poses with two of the Refugee Outreach Program's students Zahra (front left of Sister Richarde Marie) and her mother, Adday (front right of Sister Richarde Marie), and their family.

said Sister Richarde Marie. "Many of these women are raising their children alone. So this program makes a difference in the lives of the women we serve."

Sister Richarde Marie came to the Good Counsel Learning Center in November of 2015, after teaching elementary school students for 20 years and serving as principal for 27 years. In July 2016, Sister Richarde Marie accepted the role as the refugee outreach coordinator.

Currently, the Refugee Outreach Program has eight tutors and ten women receiving services. Sister Richarde Marie makes connections between those seeking education and matching those possible students with tutors, who volunteer to go into the home to teach one hour a day, twice a week.

"We get to know our students," says Sister Richarde Marie. "We are able to witness the beauty of their culture while empowering them to reach their goals. I believe the future of this program will be the youth of refugees and immigrants. Like SSNDs, the youth of the immigrants we help, are in a unique position to assist in teaching, empowering and creating change for their own cultures." ●

### Please remember SSND in your will.

Those who remember SSND in their estate plans are recognized as Blessed Theresa Society members, honoring these donors' extraordinary generosity.

We invite you to share your story with SSND or make a planned gift to the sisters.

Please contact Mary Kay Murray, 262-787-1037 or [mmurray@ssndcp.org](mailto:mmurray@ssndcp.org).



## From the director of resource development

By Mary Kay Murray, Resource Development

One of Pope Francis' new Beatitudes, which he proposed at Mass on the Feast of All Saints in November of 2016, speaks directly to the focus of the School Sisters of Notre Dame:

*"Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness."*

Pope Francis is speaking about all of you, our faithful supporters. You are blessed and without you, we could not serve the thousands of people each year, nor the millions we have served during the history of our congregation.

From its inception, SSND's have lived life through ministries that center on those who have been left out and those who have been made to feel unimportant, especially women and children. The School Sisters of Notre Dame have made it their mission to educate those who are marginalized, so that all may feel valued, so all will be able to contribute to society and so all will know Jesus Christ.

If you were educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, you know that they instilled in you the desire to learn and become the best possible person you can be, to achieve your highest potential as a human and to use those gifts to give back to others.

Your financial support not only helps us in our active ministries, but also allows us to care for our sisters as they move from full-

time active ministry into a time of prayer and presence at their retirement facilities. But, the sisters never retire.

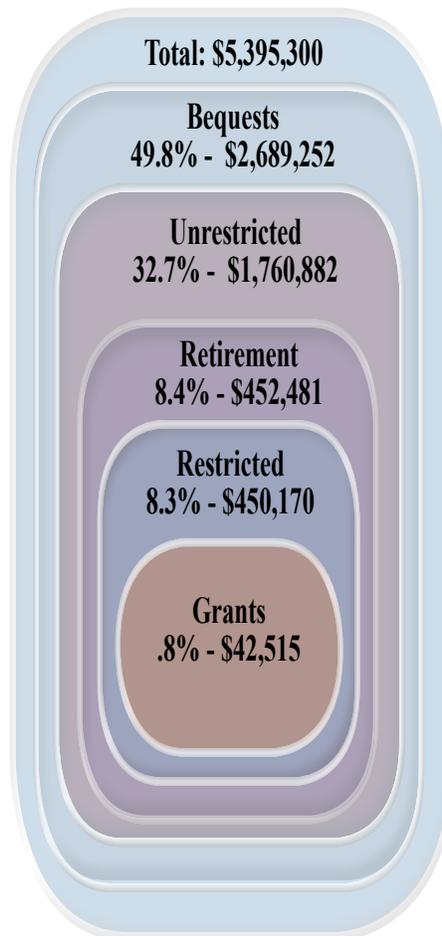
Let me share with you only a few of the ways they continue to reach out in service to others well into their 90s. They continue to tutor students at our learning centers and schools, they visit those in prisons, they offer spiritual direction, and conduct parish visits to the elderly, they feed the poor

and keep watch at our women's shelters ensuring women and children are safe. Most importantly, they offer up their ministry of prayer.

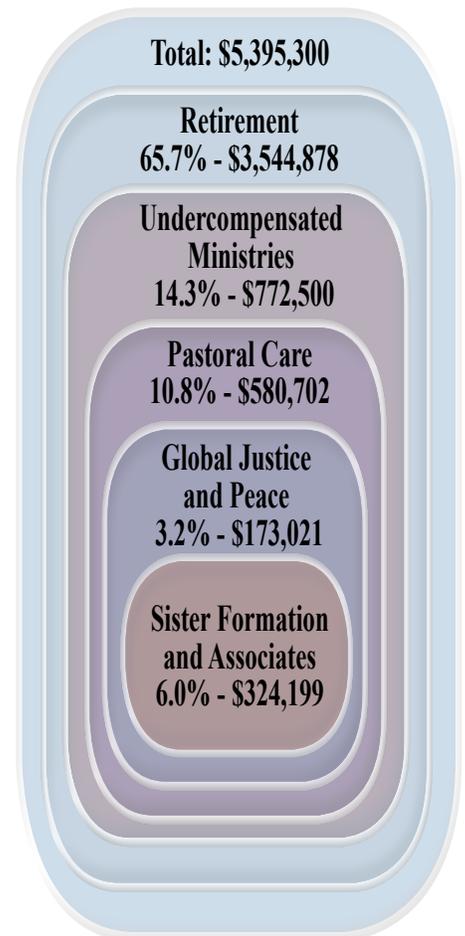
At this time of the year, we want to share with you our financial picture to help you understand where your gifts are making a difference.

We thank you with our words, with our prayers and with our love! ●

### GIFTS RECEIVED



### GIFT DESIGNATION





## Nurturing gifts builds stronger faith

By Lauren Huffman, Communications

**M**eeting a special person can have an impact on someone's entire life.

For donors Ann Kampeter, Cheryl Kaufman and John Folse, the School Sisters of Notre Dame were those people. The inspiration sisters provided has moved these three to continue giving back in their own unique ways.

### ANN KAMPETER

Ann Kampeter's relationship with the School Sisters of Notre Dame dates back to when she met a sister who inspired her to become the person she is today. Ann's current position is parish secretary for St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Jefferson City, Mo. This sister helped lead her to develop a strong faith.

"I met Sister Willibald Verling at 10 years old," she said. "We spent many hours together working in the church at St. Thomas the Apostle where I grew up and had many long talks about her calling to be a sister. She was so passionate about her vocation and was focused on serving God and everyone she could."

Ann translated Sister Willibald's passion into her everyday life not only by taking care of St. Stanislaus' day-to-day needs, but also by serving on the board of the Samaritan Center. This organization provides food, clothing and medical and legal help to underprivileged people who are in Jefferson City and surrounding



**Ann Kampeter works as a parish secretary for St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Jefferson City, Mo.**

counties.

Although Sister Willibald has passed, Ann has found active SSNDs who continue to inspire her. Sister Jean Dietrich was at Helias High School in Jefferson City when Ann was a student there, and still serves there as principal.

"Sister Jean was one of the people in my life who taught me to keep my faith in the center of my life," she said. "Helias is very blessed to still have Sister Jean as part of their community."

As parish secretary, Ann regularly works with Sister Kathleen Wegman, the chancellor of the Jefferson City Diocese.

"Sister Kathleen's selfless giving is a true inspiration to me. She is so compassionate in her

work and how she ministers to all of the people in the Jefferson City Diocese."

Ann believes the sisters have inspired her to have a charitable heart and to give selflessly.

"I have been very lucky to have the sisters as part of my life and I will always be grateful for their influence on me. The [sisters] gave so much to me that I just want to give back," she said. "I want to thank them for all they do. They are truly a blessing."

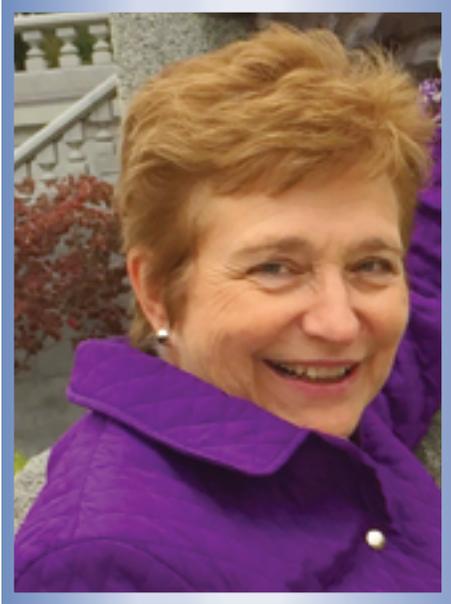
### CHERYL KAUFMAN

Cheryl Kaufman has been connected with the School Sisters of Notre Dame for most of her life. As someone who has greatly benefitted from the sisters, she wants to continue to give back.

"Part of why I give annually is to pay the sisters back for the exceptional education they gave me," she said. "I had entered the SSND candidature, but did not continue, so the other part of why I give is to help support my former classmates in their current ministries."

One of these ministries is the Mission Awareness Process (MAP), which offers participants the opportunity to learn more about migrant concerns on the U.S.-Mexico border. Sister Lucy Nigh is one of the founders of this ministry, and one of Cheryl's former classmates. Cheryl gives directly to MAP, but helps other classmates, too, by giving more generally.

Two classmates, Sisters



**Cheryl Kaufman worked in sales management for 35 years.**

Marianne Kempa and Susan Clark, both work with sisters serving in prayer and presence, and Cheryl's gifts benefit their pastoral ministries directly. She believes her continued relationship with her classmates inspires her to continue giving.

The education Cheryl received from the sisters has helped her in her career in sales management for World Book, where she worked for 35 years. As an educational company, they had the values and integrity her teachers had instilled in her during her days at St. Mary's in Galena, Ill., Caroline Academy in Mequon, Wis., and Mount Mary University in Milwaukee.

"I think the teachers I've had are women who have been way ahead of their times," she said. "I wasn't intimidated to speak out or say my values because the Notre Dame-style of education builds a

strong, confident woman."

### **JOHN FOLSE**

John Folse's experience with the School Sisters of Notre Dame began when he was called to visit with two sisters from St. Michael Special School in New Orleans. A fellow co-worker, Chef Warren LeRuth, had started an event entitled "Chefs' Charity for Children," with all proceeds benefitting St. Michael. As Chef LeRuth's health began to fail, he entrusted John with the task of making sure the event continued. After John met with the SSNDs who taught at the school, he knew he had met a special group of people.

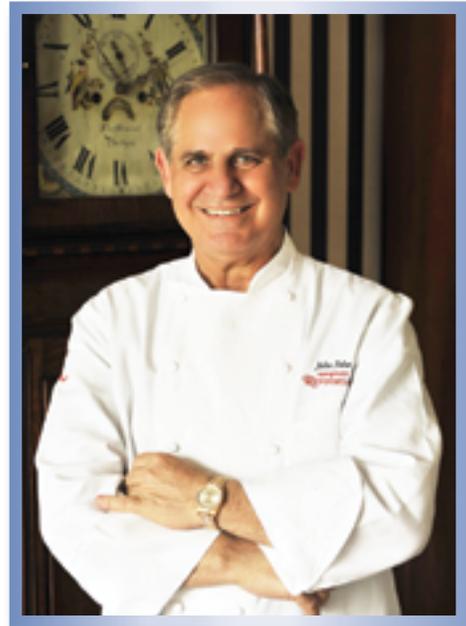
"I came to realize that the School Sisters of Notre Dame devote their entire lives to the Church and to the special causes that they choose," he said. "Once you experience what happens in these exceptional places, you cannot help but continue to be a part of it."

John has prepared meals for important events at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Miss., for the last several years. He and his team from White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge, La., drive to Chatawa for Jubilee and the Mass of Appreciation, making and serving delicious gourmet meals for sisters and donors. For John, it's the sisters' mission that resonates with him.

"Their mission to educate in a Catholic environment while nourishing students' faith lives is so necessary, not just to our immediate communities but to the world," he explained. "The sisters are so content having so little and offering their entire lives to the Lord and

educating His children."

The mission of education speaks to John, who opened the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. He has also released many cookbooks as part of Chef John Folse & Company Publishing, and has won numerous awards as part of his culinary research team. He credits his success with the gifts that God has bestowed upon him, and feels the



**Chef John Folse opened the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La.**

sisters help bring those gifts to the forefront.

"Each of us is born with special skills that ultimately become our trade, our business or our vocation," he said. "If successful, we immerse ourselves completely into our work without the purpose of money or prestige. The sisters devote their total lives to serving others and, ultimately, God. These sisters are awe-inspiring, and they will inspire you, too." ●

## Masses of Appreciation

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province hosted their annual Masses of Appreciation and brunches this past fall. Each year, donor gatherings are planned by the province's Resource Development staff to thank donors for their generosity and being their partners in ministry.

The 2017 celebrations were held at:

- Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wis., on Sept. 10.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn., on Sept. 17.
- Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis, on Oct. 1.

Celebration to come:

- St. Mary of the Pines in Osyka, Miss., on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018. ●



Guests at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wis., enjoy brunch with sisters and friends.



Sister Joanne Hanrahan and volunteer Kathy Rohrich caught up before Mass at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis.

## NoFest Octoberfest Winner

During the month of October, NoFest Octoberfest raffle ticket winners were announced at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn. ●



NoFest Octoberfest's grand prize winner of \$2,017 was Harold Thibault!

## Golf Tournament

The 13th Annual Golf Tournament & Card Party was held at Daytona Golf Club, in Dayton, Minn., on June 27, 2017. The golf tournament featured four-person golf teams and an 18-hole scramble with special events. Inside, participants took part in the card party. ●



Golfers prepare for a beautiful day of sun and fun.

Upcoming event information is posted at: [ssndcp.org/events18](http://ssndcp.org/events18)



## Check out our refreshed SSNDCP website!

By Lauren Huffman, Communications and Diane Maidl, IT

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province is excited to share the refreshed SSNDCP website with you. Their new website features an improved and easy-to-use menu that works well on your computer, smart phone and tablet. For quick reference, the website can be found at:

[www.ssndcp.org/redesign](http://www.ssndcp.org/redesign)

Here are a few highlights from their refreshed site:

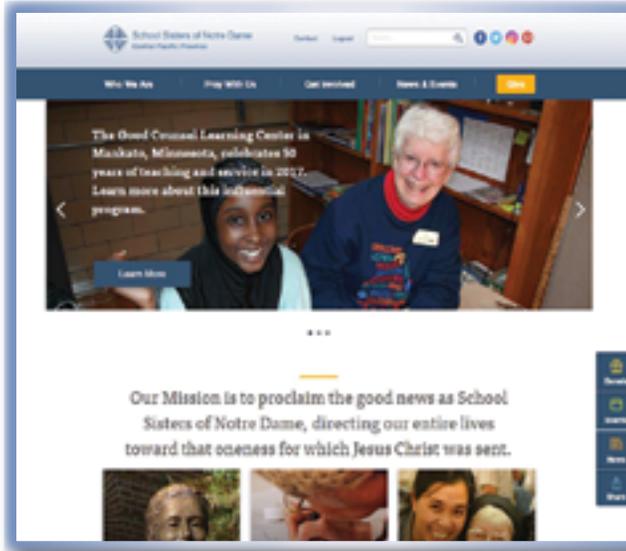
- New pages and sections highlighting our mission, history, leadership and ministries.
- Updated homepage featuring large photos and stories about sisters and ministries.
- New layout on the obituary pages to honor sisters.
- Advocacy pages that share how we bring about social

justice and peace in our communities and how you can get involved.

- New opportunities to learn about sisters' prayer lives and to submit a prayer request.
- Easy ways to give to the School

Sisters of Notre Dame by establishing a recurring gift or giving in honor of someone special.

We hope you enjoy exploring this updated website. We look forward to sharing more sister stories with you! ●



## Craft Fair & Garage Sale

The SSND Craft Fair & Garage Sale was held on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn. Over 900 individuals attended. ●



**Left Photo (Left to Right):**  
Sisters Donna Walerius and Judith Bakula display cookies for sale.



**Right Photo (Left to Right):**  
Sisters Therese Marie Merth and M. Paulette Pass assist individuals with items from Africa.



Sister Vicki Chambers was featured as a panelist on vocations as part of a workshop series entitled, “What We Have Seen and Heard,” sponsored by the Black Catholic Ministry Commission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



Sister Celly Ann Amparano was featured in the Catholic Missourian, the newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City regarding her role as a medical interpreter at El-Puente-Hispanic Ministry.



Sister Ann Christine Pendleton passed her State Exams for the renewal of her Certified Nursing Assistant license (CNA). After 25 years in full-time ministry in home health care, she will now work part-time as a CNA.



Sister Mary Donald Miller was honored for her part in the creation of the Good Counsel Learning Center during their 50th Anniversary program and ice cream social on August 20, 2017. She was also honored during Shrimpin' on the Hill, at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minn., in late October.



Sister Mary Kay Ash was honored by Loyola Catholic School’s SCHOLA Foundation. The SCHOLA Foundation announced its 2017 Loyola Hall of Fame inductees, honoring individuals who have dedicated their careers to Loyola’s Intermediate School. Sister Mary Kay was honored for her work as an intermediate school teacher and coordinator of the media center computer lab in Mankato, Minn.



Sister Patricia Delaney had an award named after her, in recognition of her service as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Belleville Diocese of Ill. The “Sister Patricia Delaney Principal Leadership Award” will be awarded to one principal per year, for their dedication to implementing a vision of Catholic education that engages the whole student and ensures the ongoing formation of faith.



Sister Gladys Schmitz received a Community Peace Maker Award from the Kessel Peace Institute at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The award honors those who strive to make the Mankato area a just and peaceful place.



**"Precious and blessed is the death of the faithful before God. . . for they die in union with their dear Jesus, in the grace of God, in peace."**

*Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame  
- Letter 11 | Sept. 10, 1831*

## January

**Joan Bellew**  
*Bridgeton, Missouri*

**Mary Rose Helene Miller**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Helen Fick**  
*Bridgeton, Missouri*

**Mary Lucita Allen**  
*Greenfield, Wisconsin*

**Mary Jean Louise Rechner**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Vincent Marie Teuber**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Mary Fidelis Sudo**  
*Greenfield, Wisconsin*

## February

**DelRey Richard**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**LaVerne Kaemmerer**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

**Melvina Pausina**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

## March

**Mary Lester deBlanc**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

**Mary Louis Pihaly**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Valeria Theis**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Kara Ryan**  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

**Mary Grace Cieminski**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

## April

**Patricia McCusker**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Paul Therese Saiko**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

## May

**Imelda Marie Mulloy**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Mary Leonelle Schiferl**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Mary Karen Anderson**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Elizabeth Klutho**  
*Bridgeton, Missouri*

**Maureen Murray**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

## June

**Mary Louise Van Straten**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Marlena Janis**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

## July

**Lenore Feider**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Beverly Reck**  
*Bridgeton, Missouri*

## August

**Mary Elsa Metternich**  
*Greenfield, Wisconsin*

**Monica Jean Welniak**  
*Greenfield, Wisconsin*

**Irene Marie Schmitz**  
*Bridgeton, Missouri*

**Lois Gilbert**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Maris Stella Morimoto**  
*Kyoto, Japan*

## September

**Audrey Herr**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

**Mary Roman Adam**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Margaret Karas**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

## October

**Mary Elsa Bren**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Constance Pytlik**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Mary Andrea Ikeda**  
*Kyoto, Japan*

**Dorothy Merth**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**Mary Denis O'Reilly**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

## November

**Richard Marie Burke**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

**Carla Marie Candella**  
*Chatawa, Mississippi*

**Rose M. Ernst**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**Christian Marie Ehrhardt**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

## December

**Mary Naomi Curtin**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

**M. Carmelita Erdman**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

**Brenda Penning**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

**M. Honora Elsen**  
*Mankato, Minnesota*

[www.ssndcp.org/obit](http://www.ssndcp.org/obit)



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

320 East Ripa Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63125-2897

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 5347

## 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 as a reflection of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's commitment "to live more simply, responsibly, and sustainably with one another and with all of creation."

Love Cannot Wait, Directional Statement of the 23rd General Chapter, 2012

# Join us for our upcoming events!

## Women's Leadership Luncheons

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Notre Dame of Dallas

Dallas, Texas

Speaker: Theresa Francis,  
Principal at Notre Dame School of  
Dallas and SSND Associate

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Notre Dame of Elm Grove

Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Speaker: Peggy Troy, President  
and CEO of Children's Hospital of  
Wisconsin

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Sancta Maria in Ripa

St. Louis, Missouri

Speaker: Susan Block, Family  
Lawyer, Retired Circuit Judge and  
founder of Caring for Kids, Inc.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Mankato, Minnesota

Speaker: Minnesota Supreme  
Court Justice Anne K. McKeig

*Look for information  
in the mail or email.  
Register online at  
[ssndcentralpacific.org/18a](http://ssndcentralpacific.org/18a).  
Additional province  
activities may be found  
on our website and  
Facebook at  
[facebook.com/  
ssnd.centralpacific](https://www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific).*

CONNECT WITH US!



## Wine & Chocolate Soirees

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Notre Dame of Elm Grove  
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Sancta Maria in Ripa  
St. Louis, Missouri

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Mankato, Minnesota

## Golf Tournament & Card Party

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Dayton Golf Club  
Dayton, Minnesota