Ending Human Trafficking
Starting with prayer
In this issue: Stewardship Report
Dear Donors and Friends,

It seems we barely recovered from the busyness of the holidays and January is almost gone. I pray we all take time to enjoy each day and work for what we believe is important in 2019.

This year will be a busy one for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In addition to implementing recommendations from our Assembly of the Whole, we are preparing to discern a new leadership council this spring, along with planning wonderful events for the community.

During the Assembly of the Whole, we discerned Urgent Needs we are called to address for this time. We committed ourselves personally, communally and provincially to the Care of Creation, to Embrace Diversity and to Struggle for Unity.

You’ll see many articles related to the Urgent Needs in this issue of the newsletter, including Sister Janet Crane who works with those affected by human trafficking on page 4. This is such an important topic that all of our Women’s Leadership Luncheons will focus on it. Please plan to attend a luncheon near you.

This issue also contains: a Sister Spotlight on Sister Rosemary Bonk on page 3; our yearly Stewardship Report on pages 6 and 7; Donor Spotlights on Sharon Stutes and Doctor Leroy and Mary Ortmeier, on page 10; recognition of our deceased sisters on page 11; and information on all of our upcoming events.

None of this important work could be accomplished without you, our partners and donors. Please know how much you are appreciated. We pray God will bless you and your families in this New Year and always.

FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEADER

Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND

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

~Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger
Letter #2501, November 25, 1857

ON THE COVER:
Sister Ann Giese, SSND, started praying the rosary for human trafficking victims a few years ago. She first learned about human trafficking when a friend sent her the book, “The Slave Next Door,” by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalte. Recently, she added a prayer for the men and/or perpetrators of human trafficking. Sister Ann states, “it was very difficult for me to pray for the men (perpetrators). I realized that I needed to forgive them and they needed the prayers to get them out of the business.”

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ssndcentralpacific.org

Twitter: twitter.com/ssnd_cp
Pinterest: pinterest.com/ssndcp

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

Contact Resource Development or inquire about finding a sister at missionadv@ssndcp.org.

NOTRE DAME OF DALLAS
1421 West Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, Texas 75247
214-845-7410

NOTRE DAME OF ELM GROVE
13105 Watertown Plank Road
Elm Grove, WI 53122-291
262-787-1037

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
Sister Rosemary Bonk has always had an interest in helping people see their goodness and potential. She has dedicated her life to showing people, particularly women, that their lives and contributions are valuable.

In her ministry, Sister Rosemary had the opportunity to meet with a group of former victims of human trafficking at a Milwaukee missionary house. During the day, these women were given money to go shopping at a local mall. In the evening, Sister Rosemary spent time with the women in prayer. She recalls, “For years and years, [the women] never had money to buy gifts for other people. The money they would ever make was taken away by those who controlled them. Their excitement was touching.” The women would also share their favorite scripture stories. Sister Rosemary says, “I don’t remember what the scripture stories were, but I just remember being in tears. These women were coming with scripture. There was a spiritual side to them. It was really eye-opening for me.”

Sister Rosemary is currently serving on the Benedict Center Sisters Program South Spirituality Committee. Sisters Program South is an outreach, case management and skill-building program for women in prostitution and sex trafficking. Currently in its initial formation stages, the spirituality committee will provide holistic, spiritual and creative programs to help women heal from their experiences and become whole in mind, body and spirit. Sister Rosemary and some committee members believe they need to talk with the women to fully understand how to best meet their needs. Once they complete this process, the committee will be able to develop effective programs to help women transition from their former lives.

Sister Rosemary also attends the monthly meetings of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee. The task force addresses four areas of concern: public awareness, service provision, education and legislation. Sister Rosemary says, “I have learned so much. It’s not just women who are trafficked. It’s men. It’s young boys. It’s people with disabilities. These meetings open your eyes.”

Human trafficking is a more widespread problem than most people realize. “People who are caught in prostitution or sex trafficking are human beings who deserve a chance at life. So often, we think of them as people we don’t want to have anything to do with. Hopefully, as people become more aware of trafficking, many more victims will have opportunities to move out of it. The awareness is what’s so important,” states Sister Rosemary.

Sister Rosemary also advises, “Young people need to be educated about not being lured by someone who tells them, ‘I’m going to give you a good time. I’m going to buy you nice things. I really like you.’ Educate, nurture and support the young people in your life.”

Human trafficking - two words many of us have heard, but few understand. Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry in communities all over the world. Human trafficking happens to people from all walks of life and all types of communities.

According to the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, an average of 40.3 million people on average are trapped in trafficking situations annually. Human trafficking includes domestic work, construction, agriculture, sexual exploitation and forced marriages. There are 5.4 victims of human trafficking for every 1,000 people in the world. One in four victims of human trafficking is a child. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor, accounting for 99 percent of victims in the commercial sex industry. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage and other manipulative tactics to trap victims in human trafficking. (International Labour Organization: https://bit.ly/MHIXB2)

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province have been working to address human trafficking for decades through their ministries to transform the world through education, with special emphasis on women, young people and those who are poor.

Sister Janet Crane first became aware of human trafficking in the 1990s when she was working as a chaplain in a St. Louis hospital. Many of her patients were HIV positive. She said, “I had my eyes opened working with HIV patients. I began to realize many of them became HIV positive as a result of being trafficked.”

Her work extended beyond the hospital walls to the streets where patients lived and worked. “Someone who looks like me, someone who is a sister, might not be the kind of person you’d expect to see in the streets,” she said. “At first people were taken aback, but they accepted me for who I was and what I was trying to do. Many had never met or talked to a sister before they met me.”

Sister Janet focused on providing education on how HIV is transmitted, how to use medications and overall wellness. “You might expect that commercial sex workers would know everything, but you would be surprised,” she said. “There is a lot of misinformation.”

In 2000, Sister Janet went to Nairobi, Africa. While in Africa, she worked with many women who were trafficked. Many sold fruit during the day and were prostitutes at night. Some women were ‘given’ by their fathers as payment for a debt. “This is very difficult for

“These people are our neighbors,” said Sister Janet. “People are trafficked in our neighborhoods. This isn’t something happening somewhere else. It affects wealthy and poor alike. People from all different walks of life are trafficked.”

“I am not for sale” wood carving by Sister Mary Ann Osborne.
people to understand,” said Sister Janet.

Returning to St. Louis, Sister Janet resumed her hospital chaplaincy work. Today, she works in a hospital in an affluent part of the county, but she sees trafficking issues on a regular basis. “The thing people don’t realize is that it’s all over,” she said. “We need to change our attitude about people who are trapped in human trafficking; it may be a pregnant woman or a worker who is injured while on the job who show up in the emergency room.”

“One woman I helped was 69,” said Sister Janet. “She was a married woman with children. She was a professional woman. Her family was doing well. She was tricked into human trafficking and trapped before she realized it. She contracted HIV. She kept asking, ‘How did I get into this?’”

Sister Janet says everyone can do something to stop human trafficking, “You don’t have to do it all. Find something, anything, you can do. Nothing is too small or too large.”

“Don’t be afraid,” said Sister Janet. “Act out of courage. You don’t have to work the streets. It may be as simple as learning more about human trafficking or finding an organization you can support by donating money, clothes or time.”

The School Sisters of Notre Dame’s Women’s Leadership Luncheons will be held in St. Louis, Dallas, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Milwaukee this spring. The luncheons are focused on human trafficking including: the causes, who is targeted and what is being done to eradicate it. Attendees will gain an understanding of SSND’s stance on human trafficking and what sisters are doing to remedy the problem. The luncheon is free. To register for a luncheon near you go to https://www.ssndcp.org/wll-19.

Do you know the signs of human trafficking?

**Signs of human trafficking include:**

- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- [Typically] under 18, providing commercial sex acts
- In the commercial sex industry; has a pimp/manager
- Unpaid, paid very little or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Not allowed breaks or has unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense or nervous/paranoid
- Unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact
- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Not in control of his/her own money, no financial records or bank account
- Not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)
- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733).

Learn more at [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/)

(Source: [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs))
The School Sisters of Notre Dame have always lived their charism by helping people, especially women and children, reach the fullness of their potential.

Many sisters continue to teach in formal classrooms, while others have expanded their ministries to social justice. The sisters work with immigrants, provide aid to the homeless, educate on the horrors of human trafficking, teach those incarcerated how to transition back into society, lead workshops looking at the root causes of racism, commemorate the International Day of Peace with prayer services, and actively work for the care of creation everywhere in the world. These are only a few examples.

As the sisters identify, support and advocate for those marginalized in our society, they shed the light of knowledge into the darkness cast by stereotypes and misconceptions, while striving to see our common humanity. Social issues tend to impact the marginalized in a large way, and the sisters have always worked to lessen, and whenever possible, eliminate this impact on individuals and their communities.

Sisters embrace courage over fear as a characteristic of social justice. This past year when the sisters published their Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform, they knew that there may be some who might not agree, but the sisters had the courage to publish it anyway. The sisters are committed to the Gospel call to serve those on the margins and to speak boldly for systemic change for justice. View the Corporate Stance on Comprehensive Immigration Reform at: www.ssndcp.org/corp-stance.

You can also think of yourself as an agent of social change when you partner with the sisters and provide financial support. We are grateful for your generosity, which provides the means for the sisters to continue their mission through a variety of ministries.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and we thank you!

The financial picture outlining how we used your gifts this past year is provided. If you have any questions, please contact:

Mary Kay Murray
(262) 787-1037
mmurray@ssndcp.org.

Stewardship Report 2017-2018

**Sources of Income**

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Bequests</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$2,427,572</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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From the director of resource development

By Mary Kay Murray, Director of Resource Development

[Image of Mary Kay Murray]
**HOW GIFTS WERE USED**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Retirement Needs/Facilities</td>
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<td>Support of Sponsored &amp; Affiliated Ministries</td>
<td>$1,519,591</td>
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<td>$1,268,655</td>
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<td>Pastoral Care</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,809,089</strong></td>
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**SISTER JUDY BOURG** was mentioned in an August article in the National Catholic Reporter about her mission to save the lives of people trekking the Sonoran Desert to reach the U.S. The full article is located at https://www.ncronline.org/news/parish/parish-roundup-march-migrants-prayers-nicaragua. She was also featured in an article within the Catholic San Francisco. Read the full at article: https://www.catholic-sf.org/news/daughter-of-bracero-ministers-to-suffering-migrants-at-border.

**SISTER CLARA ESKER** was recognized by Executive Publishing for her expertise in the field of education. The full article can be found at: http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/3974917.

**SISTER JANICE MUNIER** was recently named parish life coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and is the first woman and the first woman religious to hold this position. Read about Sister Janice at: https://www.archstl.org/sister-janiece-munier-becomes-first-woman-to-be-named-parish-life-coordinator-3066.

**SISTER ADDIE LORRAINE WALKER** was featured in a San Antonio Express-News article about the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership at the Oblate School of Theology. Sister Addie Lorraine created and serves as the Institute’s director, and the Institute recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. The article can be found at: https://www.expressnews.com/news/religion/article/Protestants-make-a-home-at-Oblate-13290270.php.

**SISTER CAROL MARIE HEMISH** has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Association of Contemplative Sisters. The international organization was originally founded by members of contemplative religious congregations.

**SISTER PAMELA MOEHRING** was among those honored at the 2018 SSM Health Employee Recognition Evening on Monday, October 29, 2018. She has served as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin, for 20 years.

**SISTER FRANCES CABRINI POGLAJEN** was one of seven finalists in the Case Management section for the 2018 Nurse of the Year award from Missouri and metro east Illinois. The award is sponsored by the March of Dimes.

**SISTERS MARY KAY ASH AND LUCILLE MATOUSEK** were featured in a story about Our Lady of Good Counsel’s 142-year-old organ that was broadcast Saturday, December 2, 2018, on WCCO-TV. Watch the video on WCCO.

**Required Minimum Distributions**

Are you 70 ½ and looking for a place to give money from your IRA? Consider a tax-free transfer to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.
Golf Tournament & Card Party

The 14th Annual Golf Tournament & Card Party was held at Daytona Golf Club, in Dayton, Minnesota, on June 26, 2018. The golf tournament featured four-person golf teams and an 18-hole scramble with special events and a card party. Please join us on June 25, 2019.

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 recognize and thank donors for their generosity and partnership in ministry.

The fall celebrations were held at:
- Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota Sunday, September 9, 2018
- Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wisconsin Sunday, September 16, 2018
- Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis Sunday, September 30, 2018
NoFest Octoberfest Winner

During the month of October, NoFest Octoberfest raffle ticket winners were announced at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota. This year’s winner of $2,018 was Sylvia Hewett Hoehn of Mankato, Minnesota. Winners of the quilt drawings were Mark & Roz Swanson of Woodbury, Minnesota, and Mary Flynn of Mankato, Minnesota.

Craft Fair & Garage Sale

The SSND Craft Fair & Garage Sale was held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota. More than 900 individuals attended. Please join us on October 12, 2019.

Upcoming event information is posted at: www.ssndcp.org/events19.
SHARON STUTES
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School in Lake Charles, Louisiana, offers education for children from six weeks to eighth grade. It has been a cornerstone of Sharon and the late Russell Stutes’ lives. Our Lady Queen of Heaven has been the school for Sharon’s four children, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren for 50 consecutive years.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven was also where the Stutes first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In particular, the couple developed a close relationship with Sister Gloria Cain.

Sharon’s favorite memory of her family’s time at Our Lady Queen of Heaven and their experiences with Sister Gloria happened when her son was in the sixth or seventh grade. Her son was trying to continue his record of no absences for an entire grade school career when he woke up ill one morning. Sharon tried to talk him into staying home but was unsuccessful. He was determined not to break his goal. At school, Sister Gloria realized the boy was running a fever and needed to go home, but she also could not convince him.

“Sister Gloria called me that morning and said, ‘I won’t count him absent, if you come get him,’” said Sharon with a chuckle. “I picked him up and he made it through the school year without missing a day of school. Ultimately, our experiences with the sisters led us to becoming donors. The sisters had been such an integral part of our children’s lives. This is our way of assisting them in retirement.”

Alphonsella Switalla was Dr. Ortmeyer’s homeroom teacher. She was also the most influential in his future career. Sister Alphonsella had a brother, Father Switalla, who was Dean of the St. Louis University Medical School, a place she felt Dr. Ortmeyer should strongly consider. Upon graduation from high school, Dr. Ortmeyer went to St. Louis University, St. Louis University Medical School and then the Air Force from 1959-1961. After leaving the Air Force, Dr. Ortmeyer started seeing SSNDs in his office.

From the mid 1960s until his retirement in 1994, Dr. Ortmeyer visited Sancta Maria in Ripa on Tuesdays as the house physician. Throughout the years, Dr. Ortmeyer and Sister Alphonsella Switalla remained in close contact until her passing. After retiring from active practice, Dr. Ortmeyer became a medical director at United Health Care until he was 70. He then worked part time at St. Anthony’s Medical Center in quality control. Following that, he was an employee health physician working with medical records until he was 84, when he retired again.

“I would tell all donors that if they want to contribute to an organization that came over here to educate women, I can’t think of anything better,” said Dr. Ortmeyer.
"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 Gerhardinger,
Letter #11, September 10, 1831

January
M. Yvonne Nohava
Mankato, Minnesota
Dorothy Ann Balser
Chatawa, Mississippi
M. Margareta Bertrand
Mankato, Minnesota
Clare Marie Cato
Chatawa, Mississippi

February
Elizabeth Nabholz
Chatawa, Mississippi
Miriam Louise Dufour
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Rose Mary Ryan
Bridgeton, Missouri
Mary Ernest Gibson
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
M. Ellene Gross
Mankato, Minnesota

March
Mary Jo Hofmeier
Chatawa, Mississippi
Rose Marie Flamm
Bridgeton, Missouri
Esther Smith
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Mary Immaculata Zoelle
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
M. Karen Lay
Mankato, Minnesota

April
Marie Inez Bocklage
St. Louis, Missouri

May
M. Laura Schmitt
Mankato, Minnesota
M. Janice Koziolek
Mankato, Minnesota

June
Doris Probst
Bridgeton, Missouri

July
Lorraine Mosso
Mankato, Minnesota
M. Antonice Backes
Bridgeton, Missouri
Mary Butzer
St. Paul, Minnesota
M. Fides Bourgeois
Chatawa, Mississippi

August
Jean Marie Blake
St. Louis, Missouri
Veronica De Cleene
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Mary Hope Tritz
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Mary Jo Trombley
Mankato, Minnesota
Jeanette Marie Wieland
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Mary Peter Eberhardt
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

September
Leonida Speh
Bridgeton, Missouri
M. Rosalind Santos
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Philip Marie Link
Bridgeton, Missouri
Joan Kettler
Mankato, Minnesota
Ann Semel
Chatawa, Mississippi

October
Evelyn Cartmell
Los Angeles, California
Mary Cecilius Sliger
Elm Grove, Wisconsin
Donna Fischer
St. Louis, Missouri
Eymard Marie Singletary
Chatawa, Mississippi
Maria Cordis Schmitt
Bridgeton, Missouri

November
Theresa Duerfahr
Bridgeton, Missouri
Mary Ann Sadowski
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

December
Joann Bauer
St. Louis, Missouri
Irene Feltz
Mankato, Minnesota
M. Lucia Aschenbrener
Mankato, Minnesota

www.ssndcp.org/obit
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

Love Gives Everything, Directional Statement of the 24th General Chapter, 2017

Join us for our upcoming events!

Women's Leadership Luncheons

**Thursday, March 7, 2019**
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Mount Mary University
Alumnae Dining Room – Bergstrom Hall
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Speaker: Rachel Monaco-Wilcox
Title: “From the Mud, We Bloom: Finding Freedom from Exploitation”

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Brookhaven Country Club
Dallas, Texas
Speaker: Anne Simmons-Benton
Title: “The Hidden Crime of Human Trafficking: How to Become a Leader in Your Community”

**Friday, March 29, 2019**
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
University of St. Thomas
James B. Wolfe Alumni Hall
Anderson Student Center
St. Paul, Minnesota
Speaker: Suzanne Koepplinger
Title: “The Moon is Always Full: Phases of Leadership in the Fight against Human Trafficking”

**Monday, March 25, 2019**
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
River City Casino Event Center
St. Louis, Missouri
Speaker: Kimberly A. Ritter
Title: “Sex Trafficking: Now That I Know, What Can I Do?”

Signature Events

(Previously Wine & Chocolate Soiree)

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**
**German Feast**
Sancta Maria in Ripa
St. Louis, Missouri

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**
**Polish Celebration**
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**
**Red Barn Festival**
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mankato, Minnesota

Golf Tournament & Card Party

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019**
Daytona Golf Club
Dayton, Minnesota

Look for information in the mail or email.

Learn more at: www.ssndcp.org/events19.

Additional province activities may be found on our website and Facebook at: facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific.