SSND Ministries
In this issue: Honoring our Jubilarians
Dear Donors and Friends,

On June 9, I was installed as Provincial Leader of the Central Pacific Province at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. I am humbled and honored to serve the congregation in this way, and to follow so many blessed women who have gone before me throughout our history. I am inspired by their outstanding servant leadership, which will be my guide. I look forward to working with the provincial council, our sisters, associates and colleagues across the province, and meeting all of you! You can learn more about our new leadership in the Sister Spotlight (pages 5-6).

I also look forward to working with our many and varied sponsored, co-sponsored and affiliated ministries. Our cover story about the School Sisters of Notre Dame ministries (pages 3-4) is timely because sisters and ministry leaders have been working on a plan that will carry on the mission and charism of the SSND long into the future. Many exciting things are on the horizon.

The Donor Spotlight (page 8) features two amazing donors – Hardy Reyerson and Marilyn Devine – who share how SSND has influenced them, why they give and how they are sharing the SSND spirit in their own lives.

This is a busy time for the province. Don’t miss Around the Province (page 9) to learn more about our recent Women’s Leadership Luncheons and Signature Events. You can catch up on the sisters’ activities in Awards and Honors (page 9).

Join me in celebrating our 2019 Jubilarians (pages 10-11). Jubilee is a special time to rejoice with our sisters as they celebrate 25, 50, 60, 70, 75 or 80 years of faithful love and service to God through their vowed commitment. This year’s theme is “Celebrating the Dance of Divine Love.” To view all of the Jubilarian profiles, please go to www.ssndcp.org/jubilee19.

You, our prayer partners, friends and supporters, make all of this possible. Without you and your support, we could not continue to transform the world through education, respond to urgent needs and help people reach their fullest potential. In the spirit of our foundresses, Theresa and Caroline, may God bless you and your loved ones always.

ON THE COVER:
Sister Georgiann Wildhaber shares a book with students from the intermediate blue team at the Notre Dame School of Dallas. (L to R) Vivi Sellers, Christina Smith, Victoria Stevens, Sister Georgiann Wildhaber.

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Dear Donors and Friends,

Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND

“God, in his wisdom and mercy, can and will direct all for our best.”
~Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger
Letter #4884, 1873
SSND ministries: Carrying the mission and charism into the future

By Kaitlyn Holdmeyer, Communications

“Love is the sign through which the world should be convinced that we believe in Jesus.”
~Blessed Theresa Gerhardinginger
Letter #949, 1850

In the spirit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame’s (SSND) mission, sisters have responded to urgent needs in their communities for more than 185 years. These needs have evolved into a variety of ministries centered on educating women, children and communities. As stated in the SSND Constitution, You Are Sent, “Urged by the love of Christ, we choose to express our mission through ministry directed toward education. Responding to varying needs, we engage in a diversity of ministries, specific services through which we work for the enablement of [the] person.” This calling has led SSND to establish, partner with and provide support for the current 13 sponsored, co-sponsored and affiliated ministries of SSND. These ministries have a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship with the congregation. They adhere to specific legal and budgetary guidelines, however, the number one requirement for an organization to be considered an SSND ministry is to share the SSND charism and vision for the future.

One sponsored ministry that embodies SSND charism and vision is the Notre Dame School of Dallas. The school was established in 1963 through the support of the former Dallas provincial council. The school started with a principal and one teacher, Sister Suzanne Pescay. As a teacher, Sister Suzanne was excited to educate children with intellectual disabilities. When the school started, there were two classrooms with a total of 24 students. By the second year, they had doubled in size to four classrooms and 60 students. Sister Suzanne spent six years helping establish the school. She said, “It was a great time, full of laughter and joy. We provided something to the community that no one else had before. The school was the first Catholic school for special needs students in the area. We also had before and after care, where

Notre Dame School of Dallas student Casey O’Brien enjoys holding a baby chick. Students have been learning about the life cycle of the chicken and watched as the eggs hatched these beautiful new spring chicks!

Sister Georgiann Wildhaber with students of Notre Dame School of Dallas. (Top row left to right) Joslyn Lang, Matthew Salinas, Zoe Howard. (Bottom row left to right) Aidan Navejas, Miguel Zertuche, Sister Georgiann Wildhaber, James Saliga, Andreas Correa.
the kids prayed with us. It was a wonderful time.”

Currently, Notre Dame School of Dallas serves 150 students ages 8 to 24. While sisters worked very hard over the past 50 years to establish the school and help the community, they have passed the torch on to lay staff. This has led staff to carry on the SSND mission, and many of the current administration members and teachers have become SSND associates. When asked about handing off Notre Dame School of Dallas to lay staff, Sister Suzanne says, “Marvelous for lay people to continue the school with our charism. I think the school is in excellent shape to continue."

While ministries continue to evolve, a ministry work group has been established to plan for the future. Two former provincial council members, Sisters Margie Klein and Susan Jordan worked as liaisons to this group.

“There aren’t the numbers of sisters who are in ministry anymore, but the spirit, the vision and the values that we promote among our ministries can be carried on,” said Sister Susan. “Finding those lay partners in our current ministries, they can bring the vision to their faculties and continue to develop the mission into the future,” said Sister Margie. “The spirit, vision and values SSND share with our ministries will continue into the future.”

Global Partners: Running Waters is a SSND affiliated ministry. Sisters and community members celebrate a recently completed water project in the community of Quiejel, Chichicastenango, Guatemala, with Global Partners: Running Waters travelers.

Learn more about our SSND ministries at: https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/who-we-are/ministries

Marian Middle School is a SSND co-sponsored ministry. Marian Middle School in St. Louis offers enrichment courses daily, like culinary arts and STEM Club, to help students broaden their horizons and explore college and career paths to build bright economic futures.
Meet our new provincial council

By Kelly Grant Moore, Communications

The election assembly of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province called seven sisters to serve on the provincial council. They are Sisters Debra Marie Sciano, provincial leader, Anna Marie Reha, vicar, Dawn Achs, Mary Kay Brooks, Christine Garcia, Helen Jane Jaeb and Lynne Schmidt. The selection process, a prayerful and spiritual event, took place at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. The sisters serve a four-year term, providing governance, planning, leadership and spiritual guidance for the province.

The new council members were asked to reflect on one ministry that particularly inspired, challenged and shaped them as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

**Sister Debra Marie Sciano, provincial leader**

Since 2013, Sister Debra was inspired by serving as a family mediator in Milwaukee. She met with clients who have children and were going through divorce, separation or other legal procedures in the family court system. Her role was to help people communicate with one another, focus on the needs of their children and come to an agreement about issues that concern them, all within a mediation session. Sister Debra stated, “I have been blessed to meet and interact with people from many diverse backgrounds, cultures, religions and unique family situations.”

**Sister Anna Marie Reha, vicar**

Sister Anna Marie enjoyed being the parish administrator for a parish in San Marcos, Guatemala, from 1992-2002. This ministry granted her the opportunity to use her pastoral skills to build a parish that was nurturing and inclusive, offering emotional and spiritual support to parishioners. She found the administrative challenges of creating a new parish to be energizing. As an educator, she loved preparing and mentoring the catechetical leaders for the parish’s 11 villages. Sister Anna Marie reflected, “I was transformed over and over again through the many pastoral experiences, from celebrating life-giving sacraments to accompanying grieving families during their time of loss.”

**Sister Helen Jane Jaeb**

Sister Helen Jane’s favorite ministry was teaching. She was inspired to become a teacher through the outstanding example set by her first and second grade teacher, a SSND. Sister Helen Jane has taught in diverse
situations, including formal and informal classroom settings, school buildings and a prison. While she taught in the United States and other countries, she has founded educational programs and continued established programs. Sister Helen Jane has taught children, teenagers and adults. She said, “In all my teaching experiences I found myself becoming a better learner. Each one was and is a gift to me.”

Sister Mary Kay Brooks
Sister Mary Kay spent 10 years teaching at De La Salle High School in Minneapolis, and she considers this one of her favorite ministries. She knew she was making a difference in the lives of her students every single day. Many of her students arrived below grade level in mathematics and she worked tirelessly to get them to be the master of their own learning. She never wanted math class to determine their future. Sister Mary Kay said, “To see the young women and men graduate with life skills they could take to college, the military, trade schools or any place of employment was thrilling.”

Sister Dawn Achs
Sister Dawn had the opportunity to experience a variety of ministries over the years, many in formal education. However, Sister Dawn particularly enjoyed living at the Generalate in Rome from 1997-2000. Through this experience, she realized, in a deep way, what a gift it was to be a part of the SSND international congregation. She learned German and found ways to communicate even when people did not speak the same language. SSND values were shared, despite the differences in how they were expressed. Sister Dawn stated, “I treasure the varied experiences of celebrating the cultural realities of our sisters.”

Sister Lynne Schmidt
Sister Lynne enjoyed her ministry serving as a pastoral associate in a parish community dedicated to social justice. The experience provided a chance for growing and flourishing. Sister Lynne explained, “The opportunity for lay preaching and presiding, the commitment to inclusivity and the many ways faith is expressed through justice activities deepens the faith of the whole community. The line, ‘My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn,’ from ‘The Canticle of the Turning,’ has become for me a reminder of our commitment and embodies the hope of our parish community.”

Sister Christine Garcia
The process of discernment and then serving and living in the SSND community on the Arizona-Mexico border was one of Sister Christine’s favorite ministries. She considered it a gift to be able to explore in community God’s call to be in solidarity with the marginalized. Working with women and men of different faith traditions to address the unmet needs of the migrant community was a grace, despite struggles for unity. She was inspired meeting the many women, children and men dedicated to their families and hopes for a better life. Sister Christine said, “They are all always near to my heart and prayers.”

Learn more about our new Provincial Council at: www.ssndcp.org/council-2019
So much rhetoric today, whether it is in conversations or heard on the news, is negative and hateful. It can make you feel depressed. Then you read an inspiring story about an 11-year-old boy who started a fundraiser to help mistreated animals and raised more than $30 million dollars; a middle-class woman who paid for hotel rooms for homeless people in Chicago during the sub-freezing, lethal temperatures this past winter, and two women in New York who started a fundraiser that relieved $1.5 million in medical debt for more than 1,200 people are inspiring to me.

I feel blessed to be able to talk with people who have memories of being taught by a sister. I hear how grateful they are for their education within a sister’s classroom, as well as their experiences with a sister whose influence altered the course of their life.

Common stories often include how a sister instilled a love of learning. One donor who has a minor in archeology told me that even in his retirement, he continues to learn new things in the field. Another donor will never be able to give the sister who taught his son enough thanks. Doctors told him that because of his son’s medical condition, his son would never be able to read. That sister worked with his son daily, one on one, and never gave up until his son not only learned to read, but also to write. This father is forever grateful.

A third donor told me how he went from being a juvenile delinquent to a straight-A student because of his SSND teacher. As a result of a sister’s influence, he was the first male in his family to graduate from college.

An 82-year-old woman said she didn’t want to go to Good Counsel Academy in Mankato, Minnesota, but her parents insisted she attend. Today, she realizes her time at Good Counsel Academy taught her to be a leader, which ultimately led to other leadership roles throughout her life. She also recalls being the editor of the school newspaper and the valuable life lessons she learned from her experience.

These are the positive stories that give us hope and are good for the soul, mind and body. Our donors share with us the impact the sisters have had on their lives. Share your story so that we can be lifted up, inspired and have hope that we do not live in a world of negativity and evil at missionadv@ssndcp.org.

If you are wondering where God is when you see and hear all the hatefulness and crimes against humanity, reflect on the good works of people around you. You can read additional inspirational stories by visiting our website at www.ssndcp.org.

SSND have been the hands and feet of Jesus for over 185 years. We are grateful we can count on your loving, caring support through treasured gifts given to the School Sisters of Notre Dame. With your help, we can continue to share the good news of Jesus through the lives and dedicated service of the sisters.
Volunteering leads to lifelong connection

By Heidi Sampson, Communications

**Hardy Reyerson**

Hardy Reyerson’s early influence of having SSND as teachers led him to become a teacher himself. Hardy’s first contact with SSND happened at St. John the Baptist Parish in Mankato, Minnesota. Next, came Holy Rosary for seventh and eighth grades and finally, Loyola High School, all in Mankato. When Hardy recalls a particular sister, he thinks of Sister Antonella Gardner. He thought she embodied spirituality, which for him, was reflective of every sister he came to know at Our Lady of Good Counsel. “I adored all of the sisters,” said Hardy. “In fact, I would pick up their shoes and take them to the cobbler on Saturdays. I also ran general errands for them as well. I loved being around them.”

After high school, Hardy went on to college. Currently, he’s celebrating 53 years as a math teacher – 52 of those 53 years have been at a Jesuit high school.

“I started donating to the sisters around 20 years ago,” said Hardy. “I was in a position where I could give, but I’m not rich. I just felt the need to give back. I started by sending some money to the convent. Over the years, I became a Blessed Theresa Society member.”

**Marilyn Devine**

As a kindergartner in 1940, Marilyn Devine first met SSND at St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee. She continued to have access to SSND throughout her years of schooling. As a young child, Marilyn recalls stopping by the motherhouse before school, eager to carry books for sisters. She even volunteered to stay after school to clean chalkboards and erasers. “I never had a biological sister,” said Marilyn. “I only had brothers. I guess I was drawn to their kindness and spirituality. I felt comfortable with the sisters. They were easy to talk to.”

As a young adult, Marilyn joined the School Sisters of Notre Dame. However, health circumstances stopped her from completing the process and taking final vows. “I married a good Irish man,” said Marilyn. “We were married for 62 years. We had five sons. I have 14 grandchildren. Life is a boomerang. Whatever you do comes back to you 100 fold. I never felt short-changed because I didn’t become a sister. I’ve had a good life. The sisters have remained an important part of my life and will continue to do so.”
Awards and Honors

Sister Jan Gregorcich and SSND associate Dianne Henke were awarded the Frances Cunningham Bridge Builder Award during the Women in Mission event held at St. Mary Catholic Faith Community in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. The award, presented by the Office for World Mission, honors women missionaries who see each encounter as an opportunity to connect while sharing the gospel of Christ.

Sister Alice Zachmann was recognized by the National Women’s History Project and the National Women’s History Alliance. This year’s theme was “Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence.” To learn more visit: www.ssndcp.org/alice.

Sister Maria I. Gomez’s Perpetual Profession took place during Mass on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at St. Rita Catholic Church in Dallas.
Meet our Jubilarians
By Kaitlyn Holdmeyer, Communications

We honor and celebrate our sister Jubilarians each year. Jubilee is a special time to rejoice with our sisters as they celebrate 25, 50, 60, 70, 75 or 80 years of faithful love and service to God through their vowed commitment. Below are two of our Jubilarians.

60 years – Carla Rose Scheider – Rising Stars
Sister Carla Rose Scheider hails from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. She made her first profession in Mequon, Wisconsin, in 1959, and devoted several decades of ministry as a teacher and reading specialist across the Diocese of Green Bay in Wisconsin. Those assignments included: one year at St. Mary in De Pere; seven years at St. Nicholas in Freedom; eight years at St. Francis Xavier in Green Bay; five years at Green Bay Catholic Central; three years at St. Bernard in Green Bay; and one year at St. John the Baptist in Howard, Wisconsin. From 1986-1996, Sister Carla Rose served as a reading specialist at Holy Cross in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Following additional studies and an interim ministry in Chicago, she moved to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. During the 2000s, she devoted her time to teaching at Providence Catholic in Union Grove, Wisconsin. Since 2010, she has volunteered in the enrichment center and tutors for Rising Stars, both located in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Carla Rose earned a bachelor’s degree in English from the former Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee. In 1975 and 1998, she earned her masters’ degrees in reading education and pastoral studies, the first from Milwaukee’s Cardinal Stritch University and the latter from Loyola University of Chicago.

A memory I have to share... Our God is an awesome God, never to be outdone in love, generosity and joy. I look to the past with gratitude, I stand in the present ready and look to the future with anticipation and peace.

25 years – Stephanie Spandl – formerly of MORE
Sister Stephanie Spandl grew up in El Cajon, California. She entered the Mankato, Minnesota, province in 1991. After initial years teaching, she has spent her ministry years in the field of social services across Minnesota. Beginning in 1994, she ministered to families through the Head Start program with the Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council in Worthington, Minnesota. From 1997-2003, Sister Stephanie was director of Theresa Living Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, an SSND supported ministry. Following schooling to obtain her master’s degree, she ministered 10 years at MORE, another SSND supported ministry in St. Paul, Minnesota, serving at various times as a social worker, mental health program manager and co-director. Since 2016, she has served the congregation as a member of the North American Vocation Team, traveling across the two North American provinces in her ministry. She also teaches as an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. Sister Stephanie holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and Spanish from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She earned dual masters’ degrees in social work and theology from the College of St. Catherine and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2006.

A memory I have to share... In my ministry with refugees/immigrants, I have been moved by their welcoming of me into their homes and hearts. It was my special joy and honor to be asked to accompany my refugee colleague and stand in for her mother at the birth of her first child.

Meet more 2019 Jubilarians at: www.sssndcp.org/jubilee19
Rejoice with our Jubilarians

80 Years
Mary Frederick Keller
† M. Mercita Reinbold

75 Years
Margaret Berghold
Teresa Martin Caronia
Mary Regine Collins
Beth Haltiner
Mary Josephe Misevicz
† Clara Mary Ruesch
Thelma Vetsch
Madeleine Sophie Witt

70 Years
Maureen Brinker
Dorothy (Mary Roy) Cherrier
Mary Benilda Dix
† Eleanor Francis Frankenberg
† Agnes Therese Hastreiter
William Ann Heidenfelder
M. Claudette Hudalla
Arlene Jaeger
Anthony Marie Kasper
Dora Kipp
Mary Dominic Klaseus
Mary Brigid O'Reilly
† Mary Brian Overfield
Mary Alexius Portz
Marie Vianney Pottebaum
Rita (Marie Jerome) Reisch
Rose Emilia Schwab
Herman Marie Siebenmorgen
Rosalyce Tinglof
Mary Elva Wiesner
Alice Zachmann
Mary Eucharita Cruz
Rose Daily
Michaelina Dunne
Therese Marie Everts
Eleanor Ewertz
Annette Fernholz
Jean Ford
Gloria Marie Foret
Joan Frey
M. Lynette Friesen
Mary Impellizzeri
Mary Caroline
Jakubowski
Miriam Jansen
Kathryn Ann
Kobelinski
† Jane Marie Kulczak
Patricia Marie Lange
Mary Jean Arthur
Laubach
Francette Malecha
Lois (Marie Ruth) Martens
M. Celine Matsumoto
Carole Frances Miller
Josephine Niemann
Suzanne Pescay
Phyllis Ann Price
Clare Marie Quichocho
Carla Rose Scheider
Josetta Marie Spencer
Shirley Steines
Frances Wessel
Georgiann Wildhaber
Richelle Williams
Rita Wollschlager
M. Marietta Yamada

50 Years
Barbara Bacak
Anastacia Baltazar
Jan Gregorcich
Theresa Marie Hayakawa
Annette Marie Johnson
Rita Anne Kipka
Colette Kraus
M. Dorothy Takushi

25 Years
Stephanie Spandl
† Deceased

View Jubilarian profiles at:
www.ssndcp.org/jubilee19
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 Resource Development Events!

Masses of Appreciation

Sunday, September 15, 2019
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Sunday, September 29, 2019
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mankato, Minnesota

Sunday, October 6, 2019
Sancta Maria in Ripa
St. Louis, Missouri

Saturday, October 19, 2019
St. Mary of the Pines
Chatawa, Mississippi

Craft Fair & Garage Sale

Saturday, October 12, 2019
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mankato, Minnesota

Learn more at [www.ssndcp.org/19a](http://www.ssndcp.org/19a).

Check out additional province activities on our website and Facebook at: [facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific](http://facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific).

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