

SUMMER 2022



Blessings

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Our Jubilarians have dedicated a combined total of 3,390 years to religious life!



This issue celebrates “Women of Impact” within the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Our province often hears from people who still remember the SSNDs who taught them 30, 40 or 50 years ago, as well as from those in our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries who are still being taught in a variety of ways by our Sisters today. Those working on the front lines of social justice also appreciate the many School Sisters who have fought by their side for better lives for the marginalized.

You will also be introduced in this issue to our new Provincial Council — the women who will have a lasting impact on our province as they lead us through the next four years. They were appointed by our General Council in November 2021. I am remaining as Provincial Leader for this Council, while the other members of the previous Council are enjoying much-deserved sabbaticals after their extended leadership tenure.

As always, our *Blessings* magazine also honors our Jubilarians, who have contributed 25, 40, 50, 60, 70, 75 and even 80 years of service to our congregation. What an impact they have had on the world! We are forever grateful for their “Yes,” and we hope you will enjoy hearing some of their stories.

Of course, it would be difficult for any of us to make an impact without the support of those who give their time, talent and treasure to assist us in doing what we do. Let us together — Sisters, Associates, staff, donors and others — continue the impact of our Foundress Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and of Mother Caroline, the pioneering leader who helped the School Sisters of Notre Dame flourish in America. Let us dare to keep reaching out to have an impact, to pursue justice, to transform the world through education and to dare to offer to the world a love that gives everything.

Thank you for being such an integral part of maximizing our impact. May God continue to bless you and bring you joy!

Yours in Notre Dame,

Charmaine Krohe, SSND
Provincial Leader, Atlantic-Midwest Province

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School Sisters of Notre Dame

Blessings is a publication for family, friends and benefactors of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

SSNDs in the Atlantic-Midwest Province express their mission of unity through education, which enables persons to reach the fullness of their potential. “Urged by the love of Christ, we choose to express our mission through ministry directed toward education. For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth.” (You Are Sent, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, C22)

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The School Sisters of Notre Dame are part of an international congregation. They currently minister in 30 countries. “Our internationality challenges us to witness to unity in a divided world; to discover unsuspected ways of sharing what we have, especially with the poor and marginalized; and to search for new channels of service in the international church.” *YAS, C26*



Sister Martina Radež of the General Council visited our Sisters and ministries in Chicago, where she caught up with Sister Barbara Bowers, the local leader at Marian Village in Homer Glen, Illinois.



NDP Headmistress Sister Patricia McCarron (second from left) welcomed Sister Carolyn Anyega of the General Council (third from right) to the school in April 2022. Sister Carolyn, who is based in Rome, joined the other members of the General Council for a month-long visit in March and April to the various areas of the province and the ministries they serve.

Meet Our New Provincial Council

The Provincial Leader is the major superior of the province. She is assisted by her Councilors, and together they form the Provincial Council, itself a community of faith."

(You Are Sent, GD66)



Our in-person provincial election was scheduled for March 2020 in Chicago. Although the pandemic was just beginning, it was decided that it was too dangerous to bring a majority of our Sisters together in one place because of COVID-19. Instead, the previous Council agreed to stay on until an Election Assembly — which our Constitution *You Are Sent* proclaims has to be held in-person — could be rescheduled. The thought was their extended term might last six months. However, after gathering in person was still not deemed safe after a year, the congregation appealed to CICLSAL (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life) to instead do virtual elections or have the General Council in Rome appoint a leadership team. Since the latter option could happen in a more timely manner, the General Council — based on recommendations from the Sisters in the province — appointed the following Sisters, who were installed as the new Atlantic-Midwest Provincial Council on December 8.

Sister Charmaine Krohe

Provincial Leader Sister Charmaine Krohe has been reappointed to that position, which she has held since 2016. During that time, she has overseen the relocation of many of the Sisters in the province before the closing and potential sale of multiple properties that the province currently owns, including two nursing centers in Baltimore and Connecticut, a large residence for Sisters in Wilton, Connecticut, and Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown, Ontario Canada, where the Sisters will lease back part of the property as a residence, while the rest will be used for an international school. Sister Charmaine had previously served as President of Mother Seton Academy, and for 34 years she lived and served the African-American community at St. Ambrose Parish in Northwest Baltimore as teacher, pastoral associate, hospital chaplain, and founder of the St. Ambrose Outreach Center.

Sister Mary Roy Weiss

Sister Mary Roy Weiss has been appointed Provincial Councilor and Vicar. She has been a religion teacher and campus minister at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson, MD since 2017. Although much of her career has been spent as an educator in religion and music, and as a music therapist in school settings, Sister Mary Roy has also worked in Vocation Ministry and as a Province Minister of Liturgy and Music.

Sister Paula Dukehart

Sister Paula Dukehart has been appointed as a Provincial Councilor. She previously served in the same role from 2008–2016 (and was Vicar from 2012–2016). Sister Paula started out as a teacher and later moved into pastoral counseling, Vocation and Formation ministry, and hospice chaplaincy. Most recently she had been Assistant Local Leader for the Villa Assumpta and Stella Maris communities of Sisters in Baltimore.

Sister Mary Fitzgerald

Sister Mary Fitzgerald has been appointed a member of the Provincial Council for the first time. Sister Mary has spent her career working in education from the grade school to university levels. On and off for 27 years, she worked at the Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore, the first SSND school in the United States, where she was teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal and President throughout her time there. Since 2007 she has been at Notre Dame of Maryland University, which was also founded by the SSNDs as the first Catholic college for women in the U.S. Sister Mary was an Associate Professor.

Sister Nancy Gilchrist

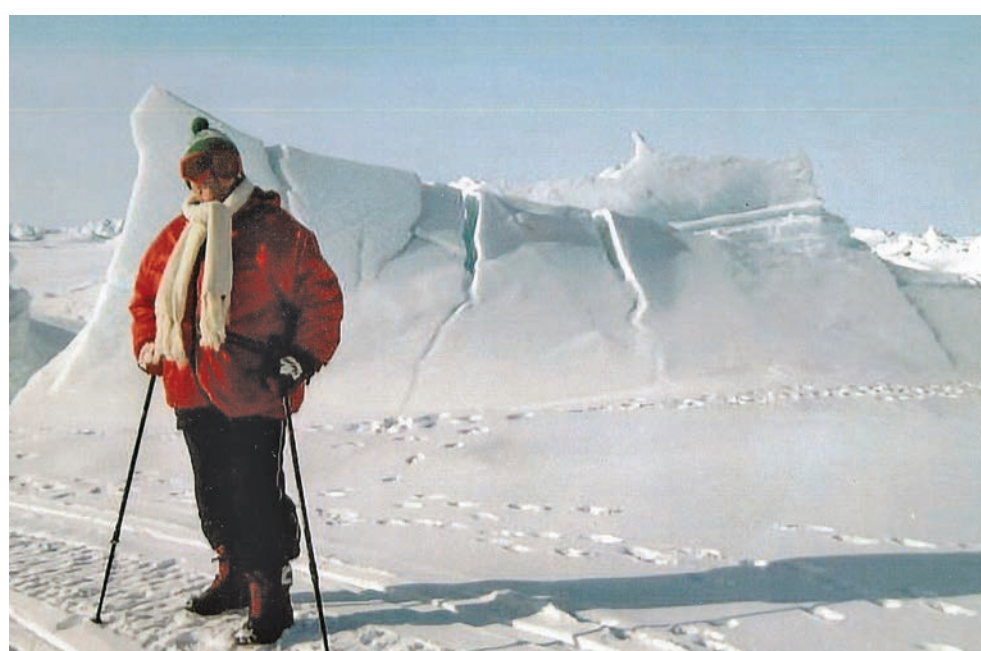
Sister Nancy Gilchrist has also been appointed as a Provincial Councilor for the first time. She taught high school in Boston, MA and Rochester and Brooklyn, NY early in her career and then progressed into higher education. After teaching at Notre Dame of Maryland University for five years, she had been an Associate Professor and Chair of the Education Department at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY since 2006. She had also served as Director of the North America Vocation Team since 2016.

Sister Margaret Malone

Sister Margaret Malone has been appointed as a Provincial Councilor for the first time, although she previously served in leadership as District Councilor in the District of Africa, which would go on to become the Province of Africa in 2011. Sister Margaret taught elementary and junior high grades in Maryland, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina throughout her early years as a Sister, before answering the call to go to Africa in 1994. She worked as a teacher, principal, and administrator in schools in Nigeria, Kenya, and South Sudan until 2019, when she returned to Baltimore.

Women of Impact

Grateful Friends of SSND Share How the Sisters Touched Their Lives



I have been an Associate of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the past 25 years, and what a journey it has been! In 2001, I was asked by the leadership team to keep Sister Joan Liss company for the month of February in Fort Resolution on the eastern coast of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories of Canada. I felt the "Call of the North" very strongly and fell in love with God's people who live there. Later, Sister Joan phoned and asked me if I would be on the Board of On Eagles Wings (OEW), a non-profit organization that ministers to the people of the North.

Grise Fiord, the northernmost community in Canada, but I kept quiet and went where I was sent. God rewarded my patience, and in June of 2017 the directress phoned me and asked if I was interested in going to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. I did not hesitate! I was overjoyed! What valuable lessons I learned from my experience to the far, far North!

Virg Burant-Plosz
Fort Qu' Appelle Saskatchewan

Part of their mandate was the call to teach Summer Bible Camp and "walk with" the people, encouraging them to be leaders in their own faith culture and community. Every year a multi-denominational group of Christians from Canada and the United States volunteer to travel to the North to do this.

During all my trips North, I secretly hoped that I would be assigned to



Everything I ever learned, I learned from SSNDs," is my mantra. What it really means is that I learned HOW to learn from SSNDs — from Sisters Alaquo and Louis Bertand at Immaculate Conception School in Malden, MA; Sisters Andrew, Cuthbert, DeLourdes, Dorothy, Ambrosine and Mother Vitalia at Holy Name School in Providence, RI; and Sisters Frances Therese, Regina, Cecelia, Helene (pictured), Girard, Ignatius, another Louis Bertrand and my pal Sister Aidan, who ran the cafeteria at the Academy of the Holy Angels in Ft. Lee, NJ. As the Nelson family moved from state to state, only one criteria mattered: was there an SSND school nearby? My mother and all her siblings treasured their education at Immaculate Conception School in Malden, which led many of them to college, a rarity in the early 1900s. My life has been blessed by experiencing travel to Chile and Peru visiting Sister Helenann Nelson, who has spent most of her life in mission. Her presence in my life has truly been a blessing.

Claire Nelson Dale, AHA 1948
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

My mother graduated from Holy Angels in 1942 and then from College of Notre Dame (now Notre Dame of Maryland University) in 1946. She was close to many of the Sisters, but especially Sister Ignatius and Sister Maura Eichner (pictured), for whom I was named. They were both a huge part of my life growing up. I loved my four years at Holy Angels in Demarest and have so many fond memories of the Sisters. I feel incredibly blessed to have had such amazing role models who helped shape the person I am. Thank you.



Maura Gidez Kilner, AHA 1984
Potomac, Maryland

I AM GRATEFUL TO THE SISTERS AT THE INSTITUTE OF NOTRE DAME (IND):

Sister Carola, who intimidated me into doing my best (only when I was ready) a few years after graduating from IND. I have a subscription to the daily New York Times — must have come from her influence and my dad.

Sister Jacqueline, who taught me Algebra when I was 14 and was convinced that I would never understand it. I learned enough math to get an education that allowed me to use what I learned from her to take care of others as a nurse practitioner.

Sister Benedicta, who understood in her German soul that individual rights and civil rights really did matter. More than once, I was able to say, "That's just not right."

(continued, next page)

Sister Eleanora, who demonstrated great courage and stamina in the announcement of JFK's death. We were all on our knees at St. James that very afternoon.

The Sisters who tended the rose gardens at IND in the 60s.

All of the Sisters who thought it mattered that we showed up every day ready to work and to respect ourselves and the work we did.

Pat Balassone, IND 1965
Westerville, Ohio



I graduated from St. Alphonsus in 1949 and have always been grateful for the outstanding education and training I received from the wonderful School Sisters of Notre Dame. They were wonderful teachers and disciplinarians. During my eight years at St. Alphonsus, we only had nuns as teachers,

even for music. They were the "good old days." After St. Alphonsus, I went to Bishop Loughlin High School, earned a Bachelor's degree from St. John's University and a Master's degree from New York University."

Thomas O'Brien
St. Alphonsus School (Chicago)



I am so grateful to the SSND community for their love and support over the past 15 years. I am honored to lead an SSND sponsored ministry (Marian House) and truly believe that it is the prayers and support of the Sisters that help me and the ministry to not only succeed but THRIVE! Every SSND I have

met has been an inspiration to continue in this ministry, and witnessing the transformative power of education in my daily work is a blessing. God bless you all!

Katie Allston
Executive Director, Marian House
Baltimore, Maryland



I appreciate the wonderful works of the great congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and in particular Rev. Sister Margaret Malone for impacting so much in my life at Notre Dame Secondary School Mkar, Benue State. May God continue to bless and keep you.

Elizabeth Iorapuu
Benue State, Nigeria

Thank you, Rev. Sister Margaret (Peg) Malone, for the endless amount of motivation you gave to me as a growing child while at NDSS Mkar. Helping me to believe in myself is worth to me more than gold. May God in His infinite mercy continue to guide, bless and protect you. Amen.

Boikyaa Mngusughun Patience
Benue State, Nigeria

Jubilararians 2022

80 YEARS

S. Mary S. Juarez
S. Marie Anna Moltz
S. Eileen Pautler

S. Mary Michaela Durkin

S. Edna Hood
S. Lori Keen †

S. Mary Regis Krusniewski

S. Dorothy Kunze †

S. Donita Mathis

S. Eileen Marie Morrissey

S. Mary Margaret Murphy

S. Marian Frances Sullivan

S. Beatrice Zinger

70 YEARS

S. Mary Frances Angermaier

S. Lorraine Burns

S. Miriam Patrick Cummings

60 YEARS

S. Marcianne Bzdon

S. Delia Calis

S. Constance Mary Carrigan

S. Carleen Marie Cekal

S. Marie Kathleen Dunham

S. Marilyn Fedy

S. Catherine Feeney

S. Patricia Anne Ferrick

S. Eugenia Marie Forbeck

S. Jacqueline Glessner

S. Marie Rose Gustatus

S. Patricia Josephine Hogan

S. Joan Liss

S. Brenda Mary Lynch

S. Margaret Ellen Mahoney

S. Mary Rosanne Mensik

S. Cora Elizabeth Middleton

S. Barbara Paleczny

S. Carole Shinnick

S. Beatrice Ste. Marie

S. Linda M. Stilling

S. Celeste Swan

S. Angelita Trentin

S. Lorrita Marie Verhey

S. Veronica Visceglia

S. Patricia Ann Wachter

50 YEARS

S. Mary Maher

40 YEARS

S. Rosalia M. Federici

S. Josefina Morales

25 YEARS

S. Kim Trong Nguyen

† ETERNAL LIFE

Jubilarian Reflections

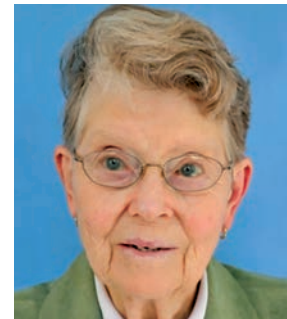
Sister Mary S. Juarez, SSND, 80-Year Jubilee



"My litany of experiences as a School Sister of Notre Dame can fill volumes — memories of living in Colombia, serving as director of a newly created English department at the Javeriana University and having to classify 5,000

students was a biggie. Imagine a high school teacher taking on that challenge! But when, 'You are sent', you manage! The poverty of more than a hundred displaced victims roaming acres of abandoned desert land outside of Asunción, Paraguay, paralyzed me. But there was no time to waste! Our team of priests and Sisters met the challenge to assist these homeless people.

Sister Mary Ann Wood, SSND, 75-Year Jubilee



Seventy-five years of hope, love, and joy have been brought to the world through my ministries ranging from Baltimore, MD to Bolivia, South America.

Living among the people in Bolivia brought much joy,

training young Aymara women to be teachers, fluent in the Aymara language. My fluency in the Spanish language brought me to Baltimore, Maryland, where I served as a staff interpreter for families at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

In all my ministries, I tried to live the Gospel to its fullest among God's people.

Sister Cathy Feeney, SSND, 60-Year Jubilee



I have been blessed for 60 years of being called and sent. I received more than I ever gave from the people with whom I ministered and formed community in Connecticut, New

Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York.

Each time that I made a choice and responded to God's call, I was drawn ever deeper into friendship with my Beloved. I treasure the multitude of people with whom I have shared life and who changed me.

My prayer is that in love I will give everything and continue to trust and dare.

Sister Rosalia Federici, SSND, 40-Year Jubilee



God has blessed me abundantly throughout my life as a School Sister of Notre Dame. For most of my life, I ministered in elementary schools in Baltimore and Philadelphia in the role of teacher and principal. It was a ministry

I loved. Wherever I was sent we built a faith

community of hope, love, and peace. In June of 2021, I retired as principal of St. Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia, trusting that God had another plan for me.

In January of 2022, I began a new and exciting ministry as part of the Community Leadership Team among our Sisters at Stella Maris nursing home in Timonium, MD. Our Sisters at Stella Maris are women of deep peace, joy, and love who continue to be a prayerful loving presence among us.

Sister Kim Nguyen, SSND, 25-Year Jubilee

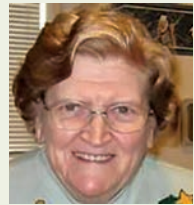


I was born in Vietnam, came to the United States with family in 1975, and resettled in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1976. I entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Chicago, Illinois in 1993

and made first profession in 1997.

My Silver Jubilee celebration of my religious life gives me an opportunity to reflect on what religious life means to me and how good the Lord is! God has shaped my life through His word, through the people I meet. God's grace always showers upon me. My Lord, you have been extremely good to me.

In Memoriam April 2021 – May 2022



Elizabeth Marie Kelly
4/13/2021



Jean McLoughlin
7/22/2021



Mary Louise Brien
8/29/2021



Genevieve Marie Kelleher
10/24/2021



Rita White
12/2/2021



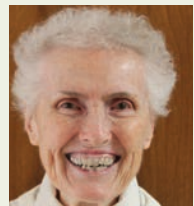
Marylita Friia
2/11/2022



Margaret Mary Glick
4/20/2022



Janice Nadeau
5/6/2022



Mary Raymunda Smith
4/14/2021



Mary Jane Buhrman
7/29/2021



Joan McGovern
10/3/2021



Bernice Volk
10/29/2021



Doreen Lackenbauer
12/21/2021



Dorothy Kunze
3/2/2022



Cor Marie Cielocha
6/1/2021



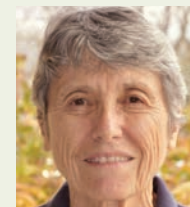
Anne Rektor
8/2/2021



Grace Marian Messarge
10/4/2021



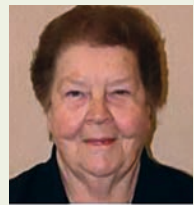
Marie Angela Bayne
10/31/2021



Catherine Arata
12/21/2021



Marie McFadden
3/12/2022



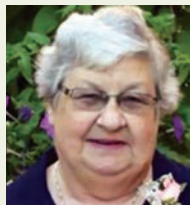
Eileen M. Eden
6/23/2021



Lorraine Quinn
8/11/2021



Theresa Torsone
10/14/2021



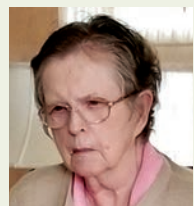
Jude Marie Sweeney
11/18/2021



Mary Aveline Smith
12/31/2021



Mildred Straus
4/6/2022



Doreen Swift
7/5/2021



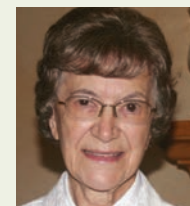
Beatrice Pavlica
8/15/2021



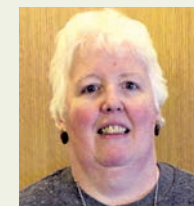
George Marie Geiger
10/23/2021



Lori Keen
11/23/2021



Gemma Golino
1/14/2022



Suanne Flanigan
4/12/2022



God, thank you for giving me your love and grace and for helping me to be faithful living my vows in religious life and serving your people. And yet, *“O Lord, you are my Father; I am as clay in the hands of God. You are the Potter.” (Isaiah 64: 8-9)*

PARTNERING IN MISSION

Updates from Your Development Office

The mission and goal of the Development Office is to ensure that the School Sisters of Notre Dame's life-changing ministries will continue for decades to come. Locally and globally, our Sisters work to serve as examples of lives lived to make Christ visible in a troubled world; to advance the vision of a more unified world by offering peace, hope, and love to all; and to inspire others to transform lives through education.



SSND SPECIAL FUND FOR EASTERN EUROPE

Thank you to everyone who supported The Atlantic-Midwest and Central Pacific Provinces' efforts to raise funds that directly support our Sisters in Poland and Eastern Europe supporting the needs of refugees from Ukraine.

MONTHLY GIVING

Many of you choose to support AMSSND through our monthly giving (or recurring giving) program. This form of giving has been around for some time, but it's never been more important than now. That's because it fits perfectly with how people pay for things today — from utility and car payments to streaming platforms and other subscription-based services. It is convenient for you and provides a dependable financial stream that supports the vital work of AMSSND.

Signing up is easy! For more information, please contact **Jennifer Chrysadakis**, jchrysadakis@amssnd.org or **203-761-9732**. Thank you!

PROVINCE JOURNEYS

Did you receive the latest installment? *Journeys* is emailed bi-monthly. If you did not and would like to, please email **Jamie Shannon**, jshannon@amssnd.org.

OKTOBERFEST 2022!



Oktoberfest booklets will be in the mail in July. This is the Sisters' #1 fundraiser! Tickets are \$10 each. Purchase one or a booklet of ten! Extras can also be ordered by contacting **Jamie Shannon**, jshannon@amssnd.org. Drawings will be held every day in October.

We ask for your continued support because you are a vital collaborator in our ministries. Please continue to partner with us in our mission.

If you would like to personally discuss your gift options, please contact our **Development Director, Laura Lang**, **410-377-7774 x1154** or llang@amssnd.org.

Thank you.

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Blessings magazine is printed on recycled paper to reflect the School Sisters of Notre Dame's commitment "educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation." *Love Gives Everything*, Directional Statement of the 24th General Chapter, 2017



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Atlantic-Midwest Province

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Wondering what happened to the wonderful SSNDs who were such a big part of your early education? We may have an answer. The

North American SSND Archives invite you to search for Sisters at ssnd.org/search-for-a-sister

Send your SSND-related news to communications@amssnd.org

 www.amssnd.org 