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Snapshots: Sisters' Ministries



Natividad Aponte
Service and Hospitality
Villa Assumpta and Maria Health Care Center
Baltimore, Md.

I minister in hospitality. I make sure all the guest rooms are ready for guests and save food for them when I know they will be late arriving. I get the patients ready for their podiatrist visits. I also serve as companion to sisters on their medical appointments and am a Eucharistic minister to residents of Villa Assumpta and the health care center. I like to be busy.



Theodore Baccala
Community Service
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

I minister taking a turn on the switchboard. I bake and I design birthday posters to celebrate the birthdays of our residents. I also volunteer at St. Leo Parish events, helping to make raviolis, meatballs or pizzelles. I help wherever help is needed.



Margaret Bauer
Pastoral Care Minister
St. John the Evangelist Church
Frederick, Md.

I am responsible for getting parish volunteers and training them for the hospital, three nursing homes and three retirement centers. When I am not training or working with my volunteers, I do sacristy work. Volunteers help with taking care of the altars, candles and linens. We are a church-centered group reaching out to the sick and senior

citizens.



Caroleen Baummer
Community Service
Villa Assumpta, Maria Health Care Center
Baltimore, Md.

My current community service is an extension of my active ministry as a music teacher. From the time of my first profession in 1946 until my retirement in 2003 my full-time ministry was teaching music. Since 2003, I have served at Villa Assumpta as a minister of music. I play piano or organ for liturgical services or other events as needed. I am available to substitute for the current minister of music, S. Rita Bueche, when called upon. I prepare the Office programs for the sisters. I serve on the Liturgy Committee and keep the minutes of its meetings.



Marie Angela Bayne
Director of Parish Programs
St. Agnes Parish
Key Biscayne, Fla.

I have been working here in St. Agnes Parish since 1982 -- 28 years. My role as director of parish programs covers a variety of jobs: managing the Development and Building funds, annulments, being the Pastor's "secretary," counseling, interviewing new parents for the school, translating (I am the only Anglo), and other "odds and ends." I love it here, and the parishioners are very nice. However, I am 81 years old and, for the first time, thinking about retiring in a few years. I honestly do not expect to be replaced. So there will not be a job opening when I retire. There will be no SSNDs left in Miami, which is a shame. I hope more come. It is a great place to live.



Mary Ann Bazata
Counselor and Parent Educator
Hope House Ministries
Port Jefferson, N.Y.

The counseling center of Hope House offers short-term counseling. As a counselor I see individuals with many different concerns, such as anger management, loss, parenting difficulties, divorce, separation and marriage problems. I offer parenting workshops several times during the year in two categories -- Parenting of Teens and Discipline Is Not A Dirty Word -- to help parents of school-age children. As a representative for Active Parenting Publishers, I also offer training sessions to persons interested in conducting parenting workshops. As we work toward building a better world, I see my ministry, especially my work with parents, as a step in that direction.



Mary Clara Beall
Director of Hobby Shop
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

My mission is to reinforce a sense of community and self-worth through meaningful activities among the sisters of Villa Assumpta and Maria Health Care Center. The Hobby Shop supplies a place where sisters can share their talents in the presence of encouragement and create projects suited to their individual capabilities. We work together to create items that can be sold at the annual Christmas sale and the Villa Assumpta gift shop.



Julice Bots
Volunteer Tutor
San Miguel Schools, Gary Comer Campus
Chicago, Ill.

Among my many favorite ministries is "bumping into God" when meeting students who have done poorly at other schools or kids at risk, other teachers, aides and parents. Assisting in the Lasallian Teacher Immersion Program is awesome. I am thrilled that I am able, with God's help, to tutor agents for change in whatever community they choose to live in. Namaste! I get to model the God within me to the God within all when I "bump into God."



Virginia Brien
Sacristan, Seamstress
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

A couple years before I terminated my work in Nigeria, I was tempted to relieve Sisters Benigna and Lina in the sacristy. It so appealed to me that I asked to do that when I returned to the states. With God's blessing, I have done that since March 2001, with the able assistance of Sister Felipe. It is a great pleasure and honor to serve in this way. In addition, I also assist those sisters and others who have sewing or mending needs. This ability has given me many hours of peace, pleasure and fulfillment.



Sharon Brunier
Education Coordinator
MarianHouse
Baltimore, Md.

Founded in 1982, Marian House is a transitional residential housing program for women who are homeless and unemployed. SSND co-sponsors Marian House with the Sisters of Mercy. The program provides individual and group counseling as well as employment counseling and education services across all levels. As education coordinator, I work with each woman in the program to further her education, usually to get a high school diploma or to improve basic reading and math skills. Many women who come with a diploma and aspire to one day go to college still need to review basic skills, and I provide tutoring for them as well. In addition, I coordinate the volunteer tutors and oversee a Marian House alumnae scholarship program which awards \$5,000 annually to Marian House graduates who are furthering their education in college, trade schools or other vocational training programs.



Rita Bueche
Liturgy Coordinator, Villa Assumpta
Tutor, Marian House
Baltimore, Md.

My job is to provide all the needs for celebrating liturgy: scheduling presiders and all liturgical ministers (lectors, musicians, etc); planning music and assigning musicians; preparing programs for each liturgical celebration (Sunday and daily liturgies, funerals, etc); composing the Prayer of the Faithful. I also serve at Marian House, a safe haven for homeless women in transition in Baltimore. Usually, students are close to readiness to take the GED; we work one-on-one to help them move forward quickly. Other students need to improve basic skills to help them attain self-confidence. Usually this is also in a one-on-one session.



Jane Cayer
Teacher
Institute of Notre Dame
Baltimore, Md.

I am privileged to continue the tradition of SSND education at one of our original missions. As an English teacher at IND, I am inspired by the heritage of this sacred space and by the many women who have lived the spirit of our charism through the years. Together we strive to enable young women to reach the fullness of their potential and to make a positive difference in an increasingly complex world.



Carleen Cekal, Director
Mary Oliver Hudon, Volunteer
St. Ann Place
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Serving homeless women and men of the area, St. Ann Place is a daytime center that grew out of our work in outreach ministry at St. Ann Parish. With no overnight shelters in WPB, St. Ann Place opened in 2003 to provide a place for homeless women & men to get a shower and have their clothes washed. Last year over 22,000 people signed in for one or more of the six services we provide; 14,000 use our address to get mail. We are authorized to enroll/renew Food Stamp applications, and Sr. Katie Frank (ML) as Health Care Advocate helps people obtain health insurance. SSND Associate Marsha Burkhardt, a staff member, and Sr. Oliver, one of our 60+ volunteers, make this a unique SSND ministry response to the Call to Solidarity an expression of our commitment to reach out to the marginalized and forgotten.



Claire Marie Czerwiec
Pastoral Counselor and Spiritual Director
St. Alexander Catholic Parish
Palos Heights, Ill.

Although I am a state-licensed clinical professional counselor, I minister as a pastoral counselor. This allows me to integrate my graduate degrees in both counseling and theology as I serve people dealing with grief, transitions, relational conflicts and other life challenges. Persons from a variety of religious traditions are grateful to be able to incorporate their faith into their healing process – a reason they often choose pastoral counseling. The ever-growing hunger for a deeper relationship with God prompts many to seek spiritual direction. As I assist others “to reach the fullness of their potential” through these ministries, I continue to hope with Blessed Theresa “that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons.” (YAS C 22)



Maureen Clancy
Massage Therapist, Spiritual Director
La Grange Park, Ill.

Variety is the spice of life, and my ministry is spicy. My major ministry is massage therapy and spiritual direction. “Touch is the clay from which love is made.” Persons who experience good and appropriate touch have much better nonviolent problem-solving skills. I offer massage from home and the Y, and I have an office at Marian Village for residents, including our sisters. At Everest College, I teach the review class for the National Certification Exam, supervise the student clinic and sub for the other classes in the program. In my free time I photograph nature, and the pictures are sold in a suburban gallery.



Miriam Patrick Cummings
Associate Director, Vicar for Priests
Archdiocesan Office of Vicar for Priests
Chicago, Ill.

As Associate Director I provide support and assistance to the Vicars for Priests, working in collaboration with them in order to promote more effective and efficient ways of supporting the pastoral work of the office. I manage the office and supervise the staff, am a member of the Commission on the Life and Mission of the Diocesan Priest and the Health Advisory Committee and edit a newsletter. I oversee the planning and implementation of an annual Conference for Vicars in the United States. YAS states the “call of the Church” as one criterion for ministry. A woman religious is wanted here!



Dorothy Daiger
Librarian at Sisters Academy of Baltimore
Archivist at Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

My ministries are related in regard to both skills required and outcomes sought. The mission of Sisters Academy of Baltimore is to provide quality education for middle-school girls of Southwest Baltimore. A librarian has the opportunity to interact with each student and to provide appropriate reading and learning materials. The mission of the Baltimore Archives is to appreciate, preserve and make accessible the life and contribution of each sister of the past and present. As a librarian or an archivist witnesses the lives of those she knows and loves, the work of each reveals life moving toward the future.



Grace D'Amico
Sponsorship/ Educational Services
In transition

I have just completed five years as the SSND/NAMA Sponsorship Coordinator at the NAMA Coordinating Center in Milwaukee. While there I created online resources and conducted workshops for faculties, staffs and boards to educate them to the SSND charism, heritage and educational vision. It was a joy to see how lay colleagues have joined our sisters in “transforming the world through education.” I also consulted to SSND leaders about the future of sponsored ministries. In September, I will begin similar work as Associate Director of Educational Services of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Consortium of Schools in New Rochelle, N.Y.



Trinita DiGiacomo
Front Desk Receptionist
Villa Assumpta, Brighton Gardens
Baltimore, Md.

Before retiring from school in 2000, I began helping at the front desk at Villa Assumpta and assisting sisters who wanted help with the computer. After several weeks, we received a call from Brighton Gardens asking for a retired sister who could give part-time help at its home next door to Villa Assumpta. I accepted the part-time position and am now in my 10th year at both facilities. I enjoy working and talking with the elderly who have a need to share their feelings and memories with anyone with time to listen.



Rosemary Dilli
Volunteer in Archives
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

The archives in Baltimore is where the history and artifacts of the Baltimore Province are preserved – before it became a part of the Atlantic-Midwest Province in 2005. Baltimore was the second province to be established in the United States, and its history along with the letters and accomplishments of the leadership and SSNDs of the area are recorded and kept for posterity. As in a library, the work of the archivist is to ensure that these treasures are safeguarded, catalogued and made available to those interested in this history.



Rose Mary Dougherty
Spirituality
Silver Spring, Md.

I've chosen to call my ministry "Trust and Dare." Its expression is varied in form, flowing from my many years at Shalem Institute. These forms include writing, teaching, offering spiritual direction, retreats and workshops in the contemplative tradition, and companioning the dying and those who care for them. During these past few years, it is especially but not exclusively the latter that has engaged my energy and gifts. Through the confluence of experiences I developed a program called "Companioning the Dying: Opening Fully to Living." Sister Amy Hoey, RSM, and I co-direct the program. Other forms of ministry continue.



Joan Durkan
Office Assistant (part-time)
Nutri-West Mid Atlantic
Wilmington, Del.

Nutri-West Mid Atlantic is a nutrition company whose fundamental focus is patient well-being. As a part-time office assistant I answer the telephone with a real willingness to help the health-care professionals and patients who request nutritional products. I process the invoice, double check the shipment order, run the credit card and prepare for UPS delivery. Other sundry tasks are mine, too. On Friday afternoons I go to Oxford, Pa., to assist a CCD teacher. Together we minister to Mexican children in the post-Communion class. My main focus has been to use the Sunday's gospel for instruction. The children then do a skit re-enacting the Gospel.



Henrice Eckert
Vice Principal/Counselor
Holy Family Catholic Academy
Norwood, N.J.

My position involves several roles at present. I am in charge of school discipline, fill in when the principal is not here, am a liaison for faculty, prepare monthly liturgies with classes, teach Morality and Liturgical Prayer to the 7th and 8th grades respectively, counsel students and parents when the need arises (frequently), orchestrate ceremonies such as graduation and ring ceremony, prepare opening prayers for faculty meetings ... and whatever else is needed. I am in school at 6:45 a.m. daily and leave by 2:30 p.m. A full day!!!! At 87 years, I think I keep myself pretty busy.



Eileen Eppig
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

In my position at the college I teach a variety of religious studies courses, including Ecology and Theology; American Catholicism; Islamic Perspectives on Peace and Conflict; and Judaism, Christianity and Islam. I teach in both the Women's College (traditional-age students) and the Weekend College for working adults. My ministry also calls for publishing. I am currently writing a book with a Muslim colleague on Muslim-Christian dialogue. I also speak occasionally at conferences, and spoke this past year on the Turkish Sufi, Fethullah Gulen, and his view of creation as a means to nonviolence.



Rosalia Federici
Elementary Educational Leadership
St. Peter the Apostle School
Philadelphia, Pa.

In August 1848, Mother Caroline began St. Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia to teach immigrant children. The vision of our school has not changed; we still minister to the children of immigrants. Today the Redemptorists, SSND and lay ministers collaborate to educate children. We as the faith community of the school work together to build academic strengths and meet the needs of the times, realizing that all comes from God. Gratefully, as a school community we involve ourselves in service to the poor: collecting money once a month for Solidarity to the Poor; preparing Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter baskets for the poor; presenting our civic leaders with treats during Catholic Schools Week; making cards for the SSND and CSsR retirement homes; collecting blankets and toiletries for Sarnelli House in Philadelphia.... And so 162 years later, we at St. Peter the Apostle School continue to meet the needs of present-day society.



Therese Feeley
Archives
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

Mine is a most interesting ministry! When I came to Villa Assumpta in the summer of 2002, Sister Patricia Murphy asked me to write biographies of sisters, starting with the oldest. She wanted the bios for the Archives. Elaine Weber agreed to take each sister's picture. As preparation, each sister is given about 75 questions, starting with her birth date and earliest memories. I record the sister's voice as she describes her parents and childhood, recounts where she has served and talks about the assignments. I encourage her to deviate from my script if she'd like to recount a particular incident. Once the bio is written and reviewed by the sister, I put the tape and one copy in the Archives and the other in the Heritage Room. Why not visit the latter and read one? The large book is always open on the table.



Celine Marie Flynn
Director of Religious Education
St. Michael's Parish
Greenwich, Conn.

Our aim in conducting this program is to help each and every child to "discover" the God within, by planting the seeds and by sharing God's love, as we continue to cultivate faith-filled traditions for our children. Along with this, we are trying to "enrich" the role of religion in shaping and forming each child's social awareness; along with striving to obtain a level of social justice in creating an atmosphere where the child contacts and absorbs the message of God's love taught

to us by Jesus.

We are constantly being called to sow, nourish and foster the faith life of the children in our care. In so doing, we gently lead our children to know Jesus as their friend, and to know the church community that embraces them!



Mary Fitzgerald
Coordinator of Administration and Supervision Practicum
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

My work at CND is twofold: I teach Leadership I Seminar and Practicum I and II in the Administration and Supervision master-level program. I also supervise teaching and administrative interns. My work is personally fulfilling for me. I have the opportunity to collaborate with the persons who are serving as mentors of the interns and it is very gratifying to me to be serving at a sponsored institution where I am able to imbue my teaching and ministry with the charism of the community and the educational and leadership philosophy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.



Margaret Mary Forsyth
Teacher, GED Program
SSND Educational Center
Woodhaven, N.Y.

The SSND Educational Center is primarily a ministry to women in need of skills and knowledge that will enable them to achieve goals they long wished for but, for many reasons until now, had seemed unattainable. The center's heart is Mother Theresa's conviction that educating women to be forces for good for family and society is of the highest importance. The Center's mission has also become a ministry for many others -- our integral partners. For me, our ministry to and with all who come is a source of wonder and gratitude because it is a living embodiment of our Call to Solidarity. Our teaching is rooted in Mother Theresa's vision of education; our students' individual customs and languages mirror our internationality, and we as SSNDs know where to find our center and source of unity -- Christ in the Eucharist.



Elizabeth Mary Foster
Team Leader
Measurement Inc.
Catonsville, Md.

Since retiring in 1999 from providing occupational therapy services to developmentally challenged students within Baltimore City Public Schools, I have ministered within the parameters of education at Measurement Inc. in a variety of roles, including that of reader/evaluator, classroom observer for the Nexus Project and most recently as a team

leader. MI is a corporation that provides educational and professional examinations, program evaluations and related services to state and local governments, other testing companies and various professional organizations. Within the field of performance assessment scoring, the team leader facilitates maintenance of absolute confidentiality and security of materials, adhering to strict guidelines to ensure accuracy and quality control. I act as a liaison between the team members and the scoring director; handle personnel issues of team members; and provide retraining, support and evaluation of team members as is needed. This position is seasonal, full-time in nature.



Anne Marie Gardiner
Executive Director
Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (SEW)
Silver Spring, Md.

SEW starts small businesses for women in El Salvador. This sustainable, economic development makes it possible for impoverished rural women to have jobs and thereby care for their families. In addition, working as a group, the women share their stories, find their voice and gain the needed confidence and skills to become respected participants in the local communities of their home country. [See their stories at www.sewinc.org.] Together with a dynamic, creative board and committed, gifted volunteers, I coordinate business development with our three Salvadoran staff members and program director in that country; do fundraising and grant writing; produce newsletters and promotional and Web site materials; and manage the U.S. office.



Lucy Giacchetti
Tutor
Corazón a Corazón
Chicago, Ill.

Corazón a Corazón (Heart to Heart) is an SSND-sponsored institution founded to help Hispanic women and children at risk on Chicago's Far Southeast Side. Many of the women want to learn English so that they can help their children, be able to speak with their teachers and hopefully become U.S. citizens. I am happy that I can apply my skills as a teacher with experience working with other cultures and knowledge of the Spanish language. Our students appreciate our program of tutoring one-on-one. It allows us to adapt the time, method and pace to meet each person's needs. Mother Theresa saw the need for the education of women in order to transform society. At Corazón we try to help our families where parents struggle with irregular work schedules and long hours.



Nancy Gilchriest
Education Department Chairperson
St. Joseph's College
Brooklyn and Patchogue, N.Y.

I have the privilege of teaching and learning from college students who are pursuing careers as secondary school teachers of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, social studies and Spanish. I can think of no better ministry for me than to share with young people that which I love -- teaching. For me, this position invites me to have "... a Christian vision of what the human person is called to be and what the world is destined to become." (YAS, C 22)



Carol Gnau
Pastoral Associate
St. John the Beloved
Summerville, S.C.

I coordinate the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in collaboration with the pastor. I provide a variety of pastoral services to the parish as well as the larger community. These services include but are not limited to: coordinating bereavement ministry; assisting those preparing for marriage, convalidations and annulments; offering monthly prayer and communion services at Lieber Correctional Institution and ministry to death row inmates when required; coordination of visits to hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. I also help with some adult faith formation.



Joella Grandchamp
and Susan Curtin
St. Margaret of Scotland
Chicago, Ill.

St. Margaret of Scotland, founded by SSND in 1874 on Chicago's South Side, is the site of our shared part-time ministry. With expertise in classroom management and primary reading and math skills, Sister Joellyn tutors small groups of little ones who are struggling. Her supervision of fundraisers throughout the year also lends valuable support to the administration. Sister Susan finds her preparation of daily liturgies with song and saints' lives an easy avenue to Christian formation and growth in the middle and upper grades. With a long background in elementary administration, she offers a helping hand to the faculty when needed. The presence of SSND for more than 135 years at this inner-city Catholic school is truly a gift!



Catherine Green
Religious Studies Teacher
Academy of the Holy Angels
Demarest, N.J.

I have been teaching Religious Studies at the Academy of the Holy Angels for the past 28 years. It has been a truly rewarding experience. In other years I have taught morality, sacraments and the Old Testament, but I currently teach courses on prayer and the prophets. In prayer class I am privileged to enable young people to learn about a God who loves them very much and show them ways to communicate with God. Their sharing experiences are always enriching. I also teach a course on six of the Prophets. During the past eight years I have also been involved in teaching computer programs to faculty members. There is always a new program to learn since all students have a computer to use in class.



Kathleen Groves
Receptionist
Brighton Gardens of Towson
Baltimore, Md.

Since my sabbatical in 2002-2004, I have worked as a receptionist at Brighton Gardens of Towson, next door to Villa Assumpta. I work part time on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and help out at other times when someone is out. I volunteer at Villa Assumpta taking the sisters shopping each week. I help when and where I can. I try to go the extra mile. It has been a blessing for me, and the sisters are most grateful. I continue my therapy to enhance my life and to know "me" better. It has been a struggle in many ways. I have received many graces, and my life is clearer to me. The discernment weekend helped me very much. I found it to be one of the best meetings ever. It was an inspiration to me. The sharing and movement of the weekend were unbelievable. Thank you, provincial team; you did a great work.



Catherine (Missy) Gugerty
Director, Center for Community Service and Justice
Loyola University Maryland
Baltimore, Md.

What led me to my current ministry were the Loyola student volunteers I encountered when I was working in a shelter program for men experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City. The students came, they interacted with the men, they kept coming, but most of all, they asked critical questions regarding the existence and prevalence of so much poverty and homelessness in Baltimore. My work at Loyola continues to be about engaging and exploring a multitude of issues of injustice with students who are wide-eyed and eager to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally. Additionally, I work with faculty and administrators also interested in contributing to creating a better Baltimore and world community. There is a culture

of service and a very dedicated community of justice-seekers at Loyola that challenges and invigorates my every day.



Marie de Chantal Haigley
Coordinator of Special Programs for Development
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

Fundraising takes place in many different ways within and beyond the college campus. In keeping with the College's mission "to educate young women to transform the world," recipients of endowed scholarships write notes of thanks to their donors. With the influx of students, this process can take a semester to complete. The spirit of the college extends to keeping in touch with our alumnae as well as remembering them when they have died and recognizing the death of their family members. This requires constant reading of death notices and obituaries. When our college president visits our alumnae in retirement communities, luncheon arrangements are made through this office. We also conduct fundraising through the Montrose Society, which honors alumnae, parents and friends who support the College through wills, trusts or other deferred-giving methods. The wonder of this position is the extent of its scope.



Joan Hart
(Retired) Volunteer
Cockeysville, Md.

I am privileged to assist Anne Marie Gardiner, founder and director of Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, by writing acknowledgements for donations received. I assist the Transportation Office at Villa Assumpta by being on call to drive sisters to their doctor's appointments and serve as their companion during the visit. In the fall, I will begin regular visits with a sister at Villa Assumpta as part of Mary Lou Fish's volunteer team. I have just completed a five-year commitment to participate in the Osteoarthritis Initiative, a federally funded study to better understand how to treat and prevent knee osteoarthritis. Like so many volunteers, I receive much more than I give to the SSNDs I serve.



Elizabeth Hoffer
Volunteer, Prayer and Presence
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

I minister by helping wherever I can. I often assist Sister Clara Beall in the Villa Assumpta Hobby Shop, where sisters create projects suited to their individual talents. The items are then sold at the annual Christmas sale and the Villa Assumpta gift shop. I also like to share vases of flowers with our sisters in the on-site Maria Health Care Center and Wellness Center.



Ann Louise Impink
Staff Chaplain
Holy Redeemer Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.

I minister to the elderly in a facility of independent living (Redeemer Village). Most of these women and men in their elder years lose their self-worth. *You Are Sent* states that in our ministry, through education, we enable people to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God's image. This I do through my visits and presence. I visit those confronted with serious and incurable diseases. Other visits may be to calm fears they might have. The giving of time and presence is important for them at this time of their lives.



Ethel Howley
Social Responsibility Resource Person / SSND
Cooperative Investment Fund
Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

As the social responsibility resource person, I represent this Fund at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, whose membership includes 275 faith-based institutional investors. We question who picks the cocoa beans for our chocolate bars and the cotton for our clothing. Are they children? In conjunction with other investors, I co-file shareholder resolutions and participate in dialogues with executives of several corporations where SSNDs are shareholders. These dialogues focus on workers' rights, environmental issues, access to health care, human trafficking in hotels, and credit card policies.



Irene Hughes
Teacher
Caroline House
Bridgeport, Conn.

It is a blessing and a privilege to teach at Caroline House in Bridgeport. The women are so eager to learn English so that they can help themselves and their families. Our women come from many different countries, yet they bond and help one another daily. They form friendships and community. It is a blessing that the women are able to bring their children (2 years & up) with them to Caroline House, where they are cared for during class hours. Seeing these beautiful children also learning and speaking English is a delight and makes us grateful to be here.



Mary Irving
Spiritual Director
Cockeysville, Md.

I've been offering spiritual direction and retreats for more than 35 years. I love the ministries and the opportunity to help people seek God's presence and action in their lives. Presently I offer this ministry part time at my office/home in Cockeysville, Md., and at Villa Assumpta. I've been volunteering at YANA (You Are Never Alone), a drop-in center for women involved in drugs and prostitution, for about eight years. This has led me to become a member of the Maryland Task Force on Human Trafficking for the past three years. The subcommittee I belong to is filled with women and men committed to freeing victims of human trafficking. I see my presence there as part of the commitment SSND made about 10 years ago to become educated and active on this important local and international tragedy.



Pamela Jablon
Spiritual Director, Villa Assumpta
Associate Faculty, Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

Ten years ago, I pursued certification in spiritual direction after responding to a call to become more public with my spirituality. Three years ago, I transitioned from 30 years in the fast-paced world of adult education administration and advocacy to the slower-paced ministry of spiritual direction. I feel privileged to journey with the adults, who seek spiritual companionship. Together we experience the grandeur of God's actions in our lives. In addition, I have the opportunity to affect future teachers as I teach a graduate education course to adults seeking certification in teaching.



Kathy Jager
Coordinator for Mission Integration
Institute of Notre Dame
Baltimore, Md.

If one could really have a "dream job," this might be it, for I spend a good bit of my day promoting what I love so much -- our SSND mission. My role is to work with the entire NDP school community -- administration, faculty/staff, students, parents, alumnae and Board -- to continue finding ways of integrating the SSND mission and educational philosophy within the total school program. Examples of this would be orientation on the SSND mission for new teachers, students and Board members; celebrating Foundation Day and Mother Theresa's Feast Day; finding ways to insert SSND history, charism, issues and concerns into the curriculum. We invite SSND guest speakers for classes and assemblies wherever possible, and we try to "link SSND ministries" wherever we can. My ministry at NDP expands a bit this coming year to include teaching four religion classes.



Kathleen Jancuk
Reading Specialist
Bishop Walsh School
Cumberland, Md.

Bishop Walsh School is the only Catholic school in far Western Maryland. We service students in grades pre-k through 12, who come from three states. My ministry here is multifaceted. While I teach Catholic doctrine to our 8th-grade students, I see it more as sharing my faith and mentoring them in their developing relationship with God. In addition to this, I work with students who are dyslexic or have other reading disabilities. My purpose is to enable them not only to compensate for their disabilities, but also to see themselves in a positive light. My hope is that the students with whom I work will see themselves as gifted by God, and that they will be able to use those gifts in service to others.



Karen Kane
Dean of Students
Academy of the Holy Angels
Demarest, N.J.

The Dean works closely with the President and the Principal to ensure the smooth operation of the daily routine of the Academy. The primary responsibility of this position is to foster a climate that promotes the philosophy and mission of the Academy of the Holy Angels.



Michael Mary Kean
Volunteer
Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

I taught school, then got my RN and worked at Lourdes Health Care Center for several years. Now I am unable to continue these great works, but I would like to tell you about the "little things" that I am able to do. I am a Eucharistic minister; I deliver the daily newspapers to each community at the Villa; I order and sell candy (non-fattening!) to the Sisters and help some of them with the computer. I also write a personal note on the birthday card for each Sister during her birthday month, visit the sick and am with the dying Sister often. I do all my work with love and joy.



Rita Killoran, SSND
Teacher of religion and language arts
St. John the Evangelist School
Watertown, Conn.

As the only School Sister remaining in one of the early schools begun by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, I work to continue the SSND tradition of educational excellence and development of the whole child in a small New England town elementary school. In addition to overseeing 5th grade homeroom and teaching religion and language arts departmentally, I minister to the staff and faculty of the school as well as the parents of current and former students and other parishioners. Since I have been in the school for more than 25 years, I am regarded as a sign of continuity and a holder of the history and spirit of St. John School.



Mary Gracia Kloch
Volunteer, RCIA
St. John Vianney Parish
St. Pete Beach, Fla.

As a volunteer helping Sister Ruth for the past six years, I have been privileged to journey with those who are searching for a way to meet their spiritual needs and identify with a community of faith. The RCIA focuses on Christian initiation of adults through the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, celebrated at a single liturgy during the Easter Vigil. It is a joy to observe how the catechumens and candidates develop, deepen and enrich their relationship with God during this process.



Mary Ita Lashley
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

At this time of my life, I have the following ministries: As a member of Rosary Community at Villa Assumpta I take care of the Wellness Dining Room, keeping condiments and snacks available, and changing tablecloths, flowers and decorations in tune with the seasons and birthdays. I am a lector for Mass and I also take a turn on the switchboard at the receptionist's desk. I like it best when it's busy.



Maria Felipe Lopez
Assistant Sacristan
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

I am one of two sacristans for Villa Assumpta Chapel. Daily, I prepare the altar cloths, vestments and sanctuary. Monthly, I serve as Eucharistic minister to Brighton Gardens, our next-door neighbor. I distribute mail to the sisters on the third floor. I am also a member of the group that ministers to Faith House by taking surplus food and treats to the women

who are in recovery.



Mary Lynch
Director of Religious Education
The Parish of the Resurrection
Jersey City, N.J.

I am the director of an eighth-grade religious education program for public school students and sacramental preparation in our parish grammar school and high school. I am also the director of the parish youth group, the infant baptism program and the Spanish-speaking RCIA. I assist the parish social programs such as the food pantry that serves 300 families. I

am also available in the parish office to deal with people who walk in with a variety of needs and concerns. My ministry is eclectic, engaging and often fun.



Frederick Mary Maisel
Director of Special Archival and Research Projects
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

The Director of Special Archival and Research Projects handles special archival and research projects as assigned by the Vice President of Institutional Advancement. My responsibilities include maintaining the Institutional Advancement archives; sending other items to the college archives, as appropriate; updating and maintaining endowment records;

producing annual endowment reports for donors; maintaining profiles of all current and former trustees; and other projects as assigned by the vice president. I also work on research for campaigns and major projects as needed.



Peg Mattare
Wellness Coordinator
Atlantic-Midwest Province
Baltimore, Md.

I was appointed Wellness Coordinator of the Atlantic-Midwest Province as of Jan. 1, 2007. My responsibilities are mainly with the sisters who reside outside our continuum of care facilities. One of my major tasks is educating the sisters in wellness. I receive help from the Wellness Committee in planning workshops and programs as well as in providing literature and online materials on wellness for all the sisters of the province. I also serve as a resource for both the Council and the sisters in wellness/health matters. This entails giving assistance to individual sisters in times of crisis as well as transitioning sisters into the care facilities and, when feasible, back to their active ministries. SSND has provided for my training in both education and health care, and now to combine those ministries into direct service to my sisters makes this ministry as holistic as wellness itself.



Rea McDonnell

I serve in Maryland, Virginia and anywhere else that I am asked to teach, give retreats or conduct weekend or day-long workshops. I serve first by praying, reflecting, dialoguing and discerning. I am spiritual director for 28 people, and lead groups in Laurel, Jessup and Hyattsville in Maryland and Charlottesville in Virginia, as well as with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. I lead a communion service on Thursdays for the women of Patuxent Institution, a prison in Jessup, and teach Western Religions as part of the college degree the incarcerated men and women can earn while in prison. Every week I write reflections on the liturgical readings which are then posted on the Web pages of NAMA, the OSFs of Philadelphia, the Holy Union Sisters and the Holy Cross Sisters. Sporadically, when I am asked, I write a book or an article.



Peggy McGaffney
Campus Minister
Academy of the Holy Angels
Demarest, N.J.

Working in an SSND-sponsored high school, I assist our young women in the development of their faith life within a school community that reflects the spirit of our congregation. Our responsibilities within campus ministry include coordinating our liturgical celebrations, retreat program, community service, outreach and SSND Shalom Network activities. Our work involves developing the leadership skills of our students, such as training our campus minister volunteers as retreat team leaders and liturgical ministers. It is a tremendous blessing to

be part of a school community in which our SSND charism and mission is the driving force behind all we are and all we do.



Joan McGovern
Retired
Marian Village
Homer Glen, Ill.

The basis of my ministry is the Meal Prayer written by the NAMA Eucharistic Committee. "Just as Jesus offered himself to be food for others," ... I offer myself as food for the residents and associates at Marian Village. As I listen, watch and reflect, the residents and associates become nourishment for me. For I am touched, inspired, enriched by them and I grow!



Miriam McGuire
Part-time Pastoral Ministry
St. Francis of Assisi Church
New Britain, Conn.

For more than 30 years, we taught at St. Francis Middle School. In June 2006, three Catholic schools in New Britain merged. Our pastor asked if we would be willing to work part-time in the parish. We are enjoying every minute of this new apostolate. A vital part of our ministry is praying for all our parishioners. We visit them in the hospital, nursing homes and their own homes. Ours is also a ministry of sending get-well cards and greetings at various holidays, and making phone calls to parishioners who live alone. One aspect of our ministry seems to reflect God's special approval in an envelope ever filled with money donated to be used for taking widows to breakfast.



Diane McHugh and Donna McHugh
Reading Specialists
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
(Mission Grammar)
Boston, Mass.

We begin each day by joining the students for morning prayer, helping them to be attentive and prayerful. We serve students in grades 1 through 5, helping them to become more fluent readers and have a love for reading. During our periods with the children we explain many points about our religion. During the seasons of Advent and Lent we do special projects with the students. Our duties also have us help during the lunch hour. We try to give the students good examples of Christian living by word and example. When time allows, we attend the midday Mass at the church. At that time we pray for all our students. It is a privilege to be able to help students learn about their faith.



Jean McLoughlin
Teacher of Basic Education
SSND Educational Center
Woodhaven, N.Y.

"Do what you love ..." The two ministries that I am presently engaged in fulfill this quote for me. As a teacher of immigrant women learning basic English, I marvel at their perseverance in the midst of life's challenges.

One of the great gifts of working in the Center is being able to observe how in time, as their self-confidence grows, the women empower one another. As a member of a team of spiritual directors at Fairfield University, I travel to Connecticut two days a week to offer spiritual direction to students, faculty and staff. Both ministries remind me daily that God is doing infinitely more than we can dream or imagine."



Ruth Loretta McPherson
RCIA Director
St. John Vianney Catholic Church
St. Pete Beach, Fla.

As director of the parish RCIA program, I minister to adults and children. This is both a responsibility and a blessing. I walk with the unbaptized, people from other faiths and Catholics who need instruction in Eucharist and Confirmation. New life in Christ is a gradual journey of many steps and stages. The four steps of the RCIA process are pre-catechumenate, catechumenate (during Advent), purification (during Lent) and mystagogia (after Easter). The rites are acceptance (beginning of the catechumenate step), election (meeting with the Bishop at the Cathedral) and initiation (receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil).



Francis Mensik
Office of Mission Advancement
Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

As a member of the Mission Advancement Office, I enter information into the database from memorial donations, prepare the return thank-you notes to the donors, and open and code other returned appeal envelopes. It is heart-moving to read the intentions -- not just death notices, but also requests for healing, jobs needed, peace in families, even a plea for a family member involved in a murder. I am touched by the many notes from the donors themselves, notes of thanksgiving and blessings for all the good that our sisters have done for families and friends. This ministry has made me even more grateful and proud of our SSNDs who have helped so many, and for the trust our donors have in our prayers.



Mary Ilona Mensik
Volunteer, Mission Advancement Office
Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

I volunteer doing secretarial work – recording amounts of money and check numbers of donations received, Xeroxing letters, stuffing envelopes, writing thank you notes on receipts, filing and shredding. By working at the Mission Advancement Office, I know I am helping SSND by acknowledging our thanks to our donors more quickly. I am also bringing the intentions of the donors to prayer.



Cora Lee Middleton
Clinic Coordinator
Tutwiler Clinic
Tutwiler, Miss.

The Tutwiler Clinic is a sponsored ministry of SNJM US-Ontario Province. The Clinic provides holistic health care to patients regardless of ability to pay. Tutwiler is located in the northwest corner of Mississippi, known as the Mississippi Delta. This region has some of the richest soil in the nation and the greatest economic poverty. The history of segregation and racism has left a legacy of poverty. The staff of 30 includes five women religious from four different congregations. Intercongregational ministry and intercommunity living are characteristic in such a rural area. The population in the Delta is predominantly Africa-American, with a growing Hispanic population. Two excerpts from YAS express what the Clinic ministry captures: The belief that “the world can be changed through the transformation of persons” (YAS, C22) and the challenge “to discover unsuspected ways of sharing what we have, especially with the poor and marginalized” (YAS, C26).



Ann Moles
Volunteer
Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

After a good number of years in different ministries -- teaching in Puerto Rico and the United States, being a jail chaplain, director of religious education, pastoral minister and everything else in between -- I just finished five years as director of Caroline House in Bridgeport, Conn. At the Villa I am learning the switchboard, driving and all the other little things that are asked of us. This is a very busy house.



Josefina Morales
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
New Jersey

I have been working as a clinical counselor since 1999. I have a private office in Rochelle Park, and I am a part-time independent contractor at a private mental health clinic in Jersey City. There is a limited amount of Spanish-speaking clinicians in Rochelle Park. Therefore, I receive a great number of referrals of people for whom Spanish is their first language, most of them new immigrants, including children. The population of Jersey City is diverse. There, I work with people from several ethnic, religious and socio-cultural backgrounds. Through my experience working in inner-city neighborhoods where crime is high I have gained knowledge and experience treating individuals who have experienced traumatic events. About three years ago, I began volunteering on "Rachel Vineyard" retreats, specially designed for people who have lost children through miscarriage and/or abortion. I witness God's love and healing power every day.



Mary Corda Mullenix
Volunteer
St. Mary Convent
Hagerstown, Md.

I have been at St. Mary Convent for 23 years. Three years ago, I retired from active duties at St. Mary School and began volunteering in the school library two days a week and at a local shelter for the homeless two days a week. During the summer, when the cold-weather shelter is closed, guests may come to the shelter in the mornings to do their laundry and take a shower. At the shelter I do various tasks such as registering guests when they arrive, answering the phone, monitoring the phone schedule, sorting and delivering the guests' mail, and filing. Recently, I took a course on teaching reading, and I am now tutoring a young girl who quit school at the end of 8th grade. I thank God every day for all the blessings He has bestowed on me and allowing me to serve some of the less fortunate.



Joanne Maura Muñoz
Interpreter and Translator
Wilton, Conn., and wherever needed

The purpose of interpreting/translating is to facilitate the communication between people of different languages. I work primarily with international religious congregations, enabling their members from Spanish-speaking countries to be active participants at congregational meetings such as chapters, assemblies and leadership team meetings. The translation enables them to claim their voice and to sit at the decision-making table as equals. A common byproduct of this ongoing translation is growth in the understanding and appreciation of the different cultures. My ministry takes place in various locations within the United States and other countries. More recently, it has extended to new settings and venues. I have been interpreting at diocesan events that include Latino participants, and also at meetings held via conference calls, webinars and Skype.



Marie Denise Murphy
Part-time Pastoral Ministry

**St. Francis of Assisi Church
New Britain, Conn.**

For more than 30 years, we taught at St. Francis Middle School. In June 2006, three Catholic schools in New Britain merged. Our pastor asked if we would be willing to work part-time in the parish. We are enjoying every minute of this new apostolate. A vital part of our ministry is praying for all our parishioners. We visit them in the hospital, nursing homes and their own homes. Ours is also a ministry of sending get-well cards and greetings at various holidays, and making phone calls to parishioners who live alone. One aspect of our ministry seems to reflect God's special approval in an envelope ever filled with money donated to be used for taking widows to breakfast.



Patricia Murphy
Director of NAMA Coordinating Center
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Elm Grove, Wis.

The NAMA Coordinating Center (NCC) is the administrative center for the Leadership Conference (LC) and Executive Committee (EC) whose operational procedures reflect the SSND spirit as envisioned in our Constitution and General Directory. It serves as the locus for the common efforts of the major area. The responsibility for carrying out the work of the NAMA Coordinating Center rests with the director of the center. The director provides leadership within the NAMA Coordinating Center and among staff members.



Aloysius Norman
Math and Reading Resource Coordinator, K-3
St. Mary Convent
Hagerstown, Md.

After teaching kindergarten for 30 years I decided that a change would be good. The principal suggested that with my experience teaching reading and math to the primary grades I should become a resource person in those areas. Each day is a challenge since I teach a variety of students. In addition, I teach Religion to the first grade, which I really enjoy. The little ones are so interested in learning about Jesus that it invigorates my life. During Lent they make a station booklet, and on the Wednesday before Easter, I take them to the convent chapel and they pray their stations. The quality of my life has been enhanced by this change.



Justine Nutz
Spiritual Companionship, Villa Notre Dame
Wilton, Conn.

**ESL Teacher, Caroline House
Bridgeport, Conn.**

My two loves have always been our sisters and the poor. At Villa Notre Dame I continue monthly individual Spiritual Companionship with 17 of our sisters. At Caroline House, along with five SSNDs, an SSND Associate and a CND, I will begin teaching Level 4 English and seasonal crafts to immigrant women. It is a joy to minister among my sisters and poor women in ways which draw on my experience and creativity. I welcome our SSND daily challenge to integrate prayer, community and ministry while also ministering to myself by honoring my needs for solitude, socializing and beauty.



Mona O'Connell
Director of Residential Operations
Good Counsel Inc.
Spring Valley, N.Y.

I oversee four maternity homes for homeless, pregnant women and their children. Our homes run on a 24/7 basis and are located in the New York localities of Bronx, Spring Valley, Harrison and Staten Island. I supervise training of all the residential staff in each home, including house managers, residential advisers, child care workers and maintenance workers. I update and train staff to teach our Life Skills Programs in chastity, spirituality, health, nutrition, parenting and social skills, and compile the data and reports associated with the classes. I also oversee the safety and cleanliness of all buildings and conduct routine building inspections. In general, I oversee every aspect of the homes from daily menus and meal planning to staff scheduling and reviews of residential staff performance plans and yearly evaluations. Volunteers in each home fall under my umbrella. I network regularly with Good Counsel's case management, intake and exodus staff.



Marie de Sales O'Dowd
Physician Assistant & Spiritual Direction
Associates in Oncology/Hematology Inc.
Bethesda and Rockville, Md.

With a long background in Internal Medicine, I minister to cancer patients. My role consists of health education, medical monitoring, administration of chemotherapy and supportive care. With my background in spiritual direction, I am available, for those who choose, to assist patients with the faith dimension of their lives during initial diagnosis and treatment. When their disease is terminal, I support them and their families in their final illness.



Daniella Marie O'Sullivan
Receptionist, Database Secretary

**St. Patrick Parish
Bridgeport, Conn.**

St. Patrick Parish was to be an afternoon position to keep me in touch with reality for a few hours a day. At first it meant learning my way around computer programs and happenings at the parish. Soon it also meant caring for the needs of many people from diverse cultures. I have become godmother to many adults and children who have no family here in the states. I gather information for marriage preparation for couples who are so excited and in love, and help those who want to have their marriage validated and need a witness. We assist people from Haiti, Africa, Columbia and many Spanish-speaking countries. It is interesting how we communicate though I do not speak Spanish. No two days are ever the same! I thank God for the many graces I have received during this my Golden Jubilee year and all the years during the journey of my life.



**Marlene Panko
Chaplain
Alma Via of Camarillo
Camarillo, Calif.**

For me, being a chaplain means proclaiming "incarnational theology." I help people draw on their faith to become more aware of the simple and practical ways of recognizing God's presence in their life. As a chaplain in an Assisted Living and Memory Care facility this often means helping people see how God walks with them in their suffering and how that awareness can bring them comfort and inner strength. As SSNDs our whole life leads us to recognize this ultimate call from God. In ministry with the elderly I pass on the same realization that our final journey on earth "reaches its culmination in death and entrance into the fullness of life." (YAS, GD 124) My faith, my peace, my acceptance about the cycle of life is strengthened as I "share in Christ's mission" (YAS, GD 32) to the elderly.



**Jean Phelan
Community Service
Marian Village
Homer Glen, Ill.**

Marian Village is a community for clergy, religious and laity who are able to live independently. The 40 religious and 170 laity, along with the entire staff (who are known as associates), have a goal to work together toward unity. Since this is so much part of our SSND charism, my ministry is primarily service to our Sisters here but also to the rest of the Marian Village Community. We join together in prayer, in varied activities, in service to one another, in support of the sick or the bereaved, and in fun times.



Theresa Prior
Librarian
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (Mission Grammar)
Boston, Mass.

I begin each school day by leading students and staff in morning prayer. At that time I give them a message or some facts from the readings of the day. As librarian, I see classes each week. During part of the class, I often tell the students about the saint we are honoring that day. Many times during the week teachers send students to me in the library for a break or for some counseling. Each month the whole school attends Mass together. It is often on the first Friday of the month or one of the holy days. I prepare students to do the readings and petitions for the Mass. It is a privilege to be able to help students learn more about their faith.



Peg Regan
Executive Director
Caroline House
Bridgeport, Conn.

For the past 15 years Caroline House has been offering opportunities for immigrant women and their children to help one another in their acculturation to life in the United States. We teach ESL, computer skills and life skills to the women and provide a preschool for their children, all in a supportive and compassionate atmosphere. The children learn English even faster than their mothers, which helps them to avoid being relegated to bilingual classes in the public schools. We also offer after-school tutoring and a three-week summer school program for the neighborhood kids. There are five SSNDs ministering here now, following in the footsteps of many others who have laid a powerful foundation and built a strong reputation in the Bridgeport area. We are aided by volunteer tutors and many generous benefactors.

Mary Judith Ring
Bookkeeper (part-time)
St. Frances Academy
Baltimore, Md.

As part-time bookkeeper, I record all financial data for the academy -- cash receipts, check registers, bills and payments. I input all pertinent data concerning the students into Quick Books, including tuition invoices, book bills, class fees and Family Partnership Program data. I record all development donations and prepare data for the yearly audit.

Gabriel Roeder
Retired/Volunteer
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

I have retired from active ministry and now live at Villa Assumpta. My major ministry now seems to be taking care of my body! -- physical therapy, exercises, doctors appointments, tests etc. After that, I try to be an active member of the Villa community. I help sort mail and am a backup for the switchboard. I attend Shalom meetings, regular Gospel Sharing and try to be active in my small community. I am studying Spanish with the idea that I might help teach English to Spanish-speaking folks one day. I have a scripture group with some lay friends that meets monthly. I organized a seven-week series of discussions on Voluntary Simplicity during Lent and hope to be part of another discussion in the fall.



Marianne Roderick
Teacher
Mother Seton Academy
Baltimore, Md.

I am fully committed to Mother Seton Academy, its mission and its values. I teach two sections of sixth-grade religion (Old Testament), mathematics and science; foster an environment of learning and respect; create dynamic lesson plans according to outlined curricula; integrate technology into lessons; supervise homework two or more evenings per week; assist students in mastering weak or missed skills before classes begin in the morning; supervise lunch and recess; and collaborate with a partner teacher and all colleagues. I also teach math during the summer program, drive the school bus on field trips, and mow and trim the lawn. It is a chance to make a difference with students at risk and their families, transforming lives through middle -school education.



Judith Schaum
Director of Mission Effectiveness
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

The purpose of this office is to foster the animation of SSND vision and mission in the sponsored organizations of the AM Province. This goal is accomplished in several ways, including the following examples: A formal program has been created to assist in forming new leaders. A retreat is offered every two years for people associated with these organizations. This experience provides time for reflection, prayer and input on the SSND spirit and charism. For further educational purposes, a quarterly newsletter is electronically published with topics on SSND ministry and mission. It is indeed a privilege and joy for me to support our sponsored organizations in this way.



Mary Ann Schroeder
High School Teacher
St. Mark's High School
Wilmington, Del.

I have been teaching for 55 years. I currently teach sophomores, and although I have spent most of my career at St. Mark's High School, I have seen many changes take place and have been a part of many challenging events which have greatly improved education.

I still very much enjoy teaching even though it has changed so much over the years. Nowadays, teachers must give even more individual attention, while attending to youths with ADD, ADHD and other learning difficulties. It is a challenge, no doubt about it, but one which I see as an opportunity to meet each child where he/she is at this time. The rewards may take longer, but they are no less (and may even be more) gratifying.

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers/sisters that you do unto me.”



Carole Shinnick
Coordinator
Emmaus Leadership Services
Silver Spring, Md.

Perhaps there has never been a more challenging time to lead communities of women religious than right now. With that awareness, and with the permission of the provincial council, I created Emmaus Leadership Services in February 2010. Through it, I offer leadership teams opportunities for focused, facilitated conversations on aspects of leadership and contemporary religious life. I believe that such experiences contribute to a team's ongoing development, deepen members' sense of solidarity with one another and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the group. More information is available at www.emmausleadershipservices.org.



Linda Stilling
Coordinator of Pastoral Spanish Program
College of Notre Dame
Baltimore, Md.

The Spanish Language and Culture for Pastoral Settings program began in 2005. This program prepares persons who work, volunteer or interface with the Latino community to grow in their understanding of the many faces of Hispanic culture and to learn conversational Spanish. This sensitivity and knowledge help persons to be a more welcoming presence to our Hispanic brothers and sisters. The Latino community has been sheer gift and blessing in my life over the past 35 years; and for my ministry and the opportunity to share the wealth that has so enriched my life, I say “gracias, gracias, gracias.” I also do some work in spirituality and spiritual direction.



Barbara Sutorius
Freelance artist
Baltimore, Md.

I must admit that sitting on a curb and drawing a picture is hardly as demanding as adjusting to an African society or counseling someone in dire straits, but it's my task in life right now. I'm not very good at the business end of being an artist, so there's a lot of down time. This allows for prayer and reflection time, which is a great gift. Creating art is akin to God's activity. It gives me an insight into the love God has for His creation. Being conscious and respectful of beauty is a path to God and a great aid to faith.



Carole Tabano
Spanish Teacher
Academy of the Holy Angels
Demarest, N.J. 07627

I have been teaching Spanish at Holy Angels, my alma mater, for 21 years. As a young sister I learned Spanish while volunteering in Puerto Rico and taking college courses during the summers. I fell in love with all of it, even when it was difficult to communicate. I can appreciate what students feel as they venture into the newness of another language. As a final exam, my students write and illustrate their own children's stories. For many, the bound volume is their first publication, and how proud they are of the finished product.

Over the years, I have produced and directed plays and musicals in Spanish, my students have been awarded commendations for good work on national exams, and I have received the AP Teacher of the Year Award. Being the only woman and religious gave me GREAT joy!



Yvette Trentler
Volunteer accompanying sisters to medical appointments
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

It is not unusual that we wait in waiting rooms for long periods and that a sister apologizes for taking up so much of our time. But I assure her that this is my ministry. ... And I quote to her from *You Are Sent (GD,6)*. It says, "We provide care for our sick, convalescing, and aged sisters and show them special love and concern." Then I say to the sister, "I hope you feel my 'love and concern.'" I usually get a smile and response that says, "I do." That is my ministry, and I do show "love and concern" for each sister entrusted to my care.



Doris Mary Turek
Multicultural Specialist
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

I assist the Secretariat of Divine Worship in fulfilling its objectives, concentrating on cultural/liturgical matters. I develop vernacular- typical editions of the liturgical books of particular ethnic/cultural groups; responses to liturgical inquiries from bishops, liturgy directors and organizations; educational materials for publication; and documentation/research for the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship meetings, subcommittees and task groups. I serve as Secretariat staff member to committees, staff liaison to the Subcommittee on Hispanics and the Liturgy, and staff representative to the North American Consultation on Common Texts and other bodies. I also assist in liturgical preparation for USCCB meetings; oversight of publication of liturgical books by publishers/assisting Director in granting *concordat cum originali*, authorization to publish; and preparing copy for the BCDW newsletter. I review liturgical materials of USCCB special appeals/projects for publication. In addition, I negotiate and review contracts with other Conferences of Bishops.



Maureen Ulatowski
Assistant Teacher
St. Catherine Academy
Fairfield, Conn.

For the past six years I have been teaching at St. Catherine Academy, a school for children with special needs. Our students range in age from 7 to 21 and have varying disabilities. I teach five levels of reading, and it is wonderful to see how these children have progressed over the years. Periodically, I prepare prayer services in which our entire student body and staff participate. It's so beautiful to see our children pray. I'm also involved in social studies, health care, physical education and art classes. I love going to work every day and seeing the children. They bring me such joy, and for this I am most grateful.



Barbara Valuckas
Director, Pilgrim Ministries Inc.
Watertown, Conn.

Pilgrim Ministries Inc. is an international facilitation ministry inspired by the charism of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Facilitation involves walking with persons and groups that have a desire to work toward one mind and heart about critical decisions they face. In recent years, the focus of the facilitation has been with religious congregations, their leadership teams, assemblies and chapters. The primary methods employed include communal discernment, consensus building, futuring and planning, conflict management, and nonviolent communication.



JoAnn Villademoros
Lay Ecclesial Minister
St. Mary's Church
Shelby, Miss.

As Lay Ecclesial Minister, I administer the parish and tend to all the spiritual and sometimes physical needs of parishioners. In addition, I am the contact for all of the Hispanic community in the county, not only serving as a translator and adviser on immigration issues but also ministering to them spiritually.



Veronica Visceglia
Principal
St. Patrick Catholic School
Largo, Fla.

Catholic education provides a ray of hope for the future of our young people. As principal of St. Patrick Catholic School (a pre-K-8 elementary school), I have the joy and privilege of creating community which is at the heart of a Catholic education. Our team consists of a dedicated pastor, dynamic faculty, marvelous parents and a wonderful student body -- all playing to their strengths, united in the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons, and all of one mind, one heart and one spirit.



Stephania Walczak
Part-time Campus Minister
Bishop Kearney High School
Rochester, N.Y.

After 58 years in formal education -- the last 40 teaching English and theology at Bishop Kearney High School -- I am now privileged to be part-time campus minister, which gives me an opportunity to share and counsel one-on-one with students and faculty. I am available to students who wish to receive Communion, report their service hours or just chat. I also assist with Masses and prayer services and collect donations for our SSND missions and those of the Christian Brothers, who co-founded the school with SSND in 1962. Last summer we sent some students and faculty to Sarah's Place in Kentucky, where they worked with Srs. Sarah Neale and Maritia Smith to help an elderly woman repair her home. As the only SSND at the school, I have had the opportunity to carry our SSND charism to many parents, faculty and students over the years. I am also on the Board of our sponsored ministry, the Notre Dame Learning Center, where I tutor in reading/English during the school year and the summer.



Bernadette Walsh
Assistant Local Leader, Maria Health Care Center
Facilitator of Pet Therapy, MHCC and Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

Each day of my ministry is different. I wear many hats at Maria Health Care Center. Primarily my ministry is one of presence to the sisters and care for them in their daily needs, whatever that may entail. I coordinate medical appointments and sisters' personal belongings and arrange community meetings and social gatherings. Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of my ministry is the "Newey experience." Each day my Labrador retriever and I visit sisters in Physical Therapy, Hobby Shop and other activities and accompany them to the hospital and medical appointments. Along the way, we interact with sisters and staff throughout the Villa. My favorite quote from *Trust and Dare* says it all: "Love gives everything gladly, everything again and again, daily." I am grateful for this wonderful way to serve my sisters.



Marie Michelle Walsh
Professor of English
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

This May I completed 45 years at Notre Dame, currently the third-longest stay of SSNDs here. Although I started out as Dean of Students, most of my career has been spent in the English Department, where I have taught in fields ranging from expository writing with first-year students to graduate courses. My profession is one in which work and recreation often overlap. Literature may be more fun to teach, but there is a deep satisfaction in watching students, especially freshmen, recognize that writing is a path to learning and that sharing their own ideas is more stimulating than scary. As the college expands toward university status, we continue to treasure the younger generation.



Marie Sulpice Walsh
Volunteer, Heritage Office
Villa Assumpta
Baltimore, Md.

As a volunteer secretary, I serve by responding to "Searching for a Sister" requests, updating 12 volumes of Deceased Files and updating Cemetery Files of the Atlantic-Midwest Province's Baltimore area. Handling "Searching for a Sister" requests is my favorite. People write asking how they can locate a sister who taught them, and they explain how Sister has influenced their lives. I try to contact the Sister to let her know how much she is appreciated.



Barbara Zurine
Youth Minister
St. Vincent Group Homes
Philadelphia, Pa.

The purpose of the Department of Youth Ministry is to "walk with" our high-risk teenage girls, pregnant teens, and single moms and their babies. Our residents are very vulnerable, having suffered many losses in their lives, and they need individual attention. Many have been neglected or subjected to physical, emotional or sexual abuse and are court-ordered to live with us at one of five homes in the Philadelphia area. We strive to provide them with listening hearts, ecumenical services, one-on-one visits, Bible study, classes on human sexuality, and personal and communal prayer. Our greatest goal is to let each one know that she is loved by God. Building on each one's innate spirituality, we nurture "the seed" which God has already implanted in their heart. I feel blessed and privileged to know and to work with these saints in the making.

Web Sites of Our Ministries

Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, N.J. 07627

www.holyangels.org

Sisters Virginia Bobrowski, Karen Kane, Eileen Casey, Margaret McGaffney, Mary Foley, Catherine Green, Carole Tabano and Genevieve Kelleher (volunteer).

Associates in Oncology & Hematology

Rockville and Bethesda, Md.

www.aohmd.com

Sister Marie de Sales O'Dowd

Bishop Walsh School

Cumberland, Md.

www.bishopwalsh.org

Sisters Kathleen Frances Jancuk, Phyllis McNally and Francita Hobbs

Caroline Center,

Baltimore, Md.

www.caroline-center.org

Sisters Patricia McLaughlin, Marta Adams, Marie McFadden, James Brian Schammel and Constance Baker (volunteer)

Caroline House

Bridgeport, Conn.

www.thecarolinehouse.org

Sisters Peg Regan, Connie Carrigan, Irene Hughes, Justine Nutz and Lorraine Quinn.
Associate Jean Fredricks

Center for Community Service and Justice, Loyola University, Baltimore, Md.

www.loyola.edu/ccsj

Sister Catherine Gugerty

Christine Center

Willard, Wis.

www.christinecenter.org

Sister Henrita Frost

Claret Center, Resources for the Human Journey, Chicago, Ill.

www.claretcenter.org

Sister Lorrita Verhey

Corazon a Corazon, Chicago, Ill.

www.corazon-chicago.com

Sisters Loretta Rosendale, Lupita Cordero, Virginia Bieren (MK), Rose Cecile Espinos, Lucy Giacchetti, Gail Johnson, Joan O'Connell, Marie Regine Redig (ML), Jean-Marie Smith (DA) and Miriam Patrick Cummings (Board)

Good Counsel Homes Ministry to Homeless Pregnant Women, Spring Valley, N.Y.

www.goodcounselhomes.org

Sister Mona O'Connell, SSND

Hope House Ministries, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

www.hhm.org

Sister Mary Ann Bazata

Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Md.

www.indofmd.org

Sisters Kathleen Feeley, Jane Cayer and Hilda Marie Sutherland. Volunteers known as SSND/IND Partners: Sisters Elizabeth Bain, Noreen Brown, Rosemary Dilli, Therese Feeley, Jeanne Hildenbrand, Marilene Hudson, Pamela Jablon, Kathy Jager, Regis Krusniewski, Mary Louise Kvech, Theresa Mary Linz, Xavier Linz, Norma Loraditch, Kitty Malstrom, Peg Mattare, Joan Minella, Ann Vogel and Marguerite Weiler.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry, St. Mary's Parish, Shelby, Miss.

Hispanic Ministry, Bolivar County, Miss.; and

Prison Ministry, Tutwiler, Miss.

Sister Jo Ann Villademoros

No Web sites exist for any of her ministries, but Sister Jo Ann welcomes emails from anyone who would like to know more about her service. Her email address is: jovilla@wildblue.net

Law Office of Deborah M. Cerullo, SSND

www.cerullossndlaw.com

Marian House

Baltimore, Md.

www.marianhouse.org

Sister Sharon Brunier

Mother Seton Academy, Baltimore, Md.

www.mothersetonacademy.org

Sisters Peggy Juskelis , Marianne Roderick, Mary Ann Hartnett and Patricia Warnick (volunteer)

Notre Dame Learning Center, Rochester, N.Y.

www.ndlcenter.org

Sisters Evelyn Breslin, Mary Lou Brien and Mary Smith. Weekly volunteers: Sisters Blanche Leising, Miriam Therese Roncinske, Alma Statt and Stephania Walczak

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Baltimore, Md.

www.ndm.edu

Sisters Mary Fitzgerald, Francis Regis Carton, Kathleen M. Engers, Marie Michelle Walsh, Marie Vincent Brothers, Trinitas Bochini, Marie de Chantel Haigley and Gerold Mobley (SL);

Also Eileen O'Dea; Paulette Doyas, Frederick Mary Maisel, Kara Ryan, Therese M. Dougherty, Miriam Jansen, Linda Stilling, Theresa Lamy, Margaret E. Mahoney and Carmen D'Adamio;

Also Sharon Slear, Sharon Kanis, Eileen Eppig, Mary Roy Weiss, Marie Danielle Amspacher, Jane Forni, Alvita Maguire, Pamela Jablon, Catherine Sarther, Limeteze Pierre-Gilles and Elizabeth Krzempek (PO).

Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson, Md.

www.notredameprep.com

Sisters Patricia McCarron, Raymond Lorenzen, Mary Michael Tashiro and Patricia Shea. Volunteers: Sisters Jean Mulch, Marie Carl Horn, Kathleen Malstrom and Dot Malone

Our Lady of Hope / St. Luke School, Baltimore, Md.

www.olhsl.com

Sisters Irene Pryle and Patricia Maxa

Path to Relaxation

La Grange Park, Ill.

www.pathtorelaxation.com

Sister Maureen Clancy

Pregnancy Center West Medical Clinic, Catonsville, Md.

www.pregnancycenterwest.org

Sister Elizabeth Mary Foster

SSND NAMA Coordinating Center, Elm Grove, Wis.

www.ssnd.org

Sisters Pat Murphy and Arlene Gibson

Sacred Heart Interparochial School

Pinellas Park, Fla.

www.shsaints.org

Sister Mary Ann Urch

St. Aloysius Elementary School, New Canaan, Conn.

www.staloyssiusschool.net

Sister Margaret Mary O' Brien

St. Anne Elementary School, Dixon, Ill.

www.stanneschooldixon.org

Sisters Marcianne Bzdon and Lorraine Pratt

St. Edward Catholic School

Chicago, Ill.

www.stedwardschool.com

Sister Shirley Stockus

St. Joseph's College New York, Brooklyn and Long Island, N.Y.

www.sjcny.edu

Sister Nancy Gilchriest

St. Martha Catholic School

Sarasota, Fla.

www.stmarthaschool.net

Sister Cathy Bonfield

St. Patrick Catholic School

Largo, Fla.

www.stpatrick-largo.org

Sister Veronica Visceglia

St. Peter the Apostle School/Shrine of St. John Neumann, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister Rosalia Federici and Sister Ann Louise Impink (volunteer)

www.stpetertheapostleschool.org

Salvadoran Enterprises for Women

Silver Spring, Md., and El Salvador

www.sewinc.org

Sister Anne Marie Gardiner

Sarah's Place Women's Resource Center

Sandy Hook, Ky.

www.sarahsplace.com

Sisters Maritia Smith and Sarah (Sally) Neale

School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center

Woodhaven, N.Y.

www.ssndecwomens.com

Sisters Catherine Feeney, Janice Algie, Jean McLoughlin, Carlann Buscemi and Margaret Forsyth

Sisters Academy of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.

www.sistersacademy.org

Sisters Delia Dowling, Debbie Liesen, Virginia Brune, Dorothy Daiger and Rita Dorn

Stillpoint Studio Creating Art, Venice, Fla.

www.stillpointstudiocreatingart.com

Sister Maureen Michael Byrne