

SUMMER 2020



Blessings

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Prayer is true heavenly food and nourishment for the soul, which will starve without it.

It is a remedy for the sick who desire to recover again, joy for the afflicted, strength for the weak, medicine for the sinner, delight for the just, mutual support for the entire church."

—Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, SSND Foundress

ON THE COVER: Sister Bernice Volk, SSND, celebrated her 100th birthday in Waterdown, Ontario Canada on March 31, 2020. Certificates of congratulations from Queen Elizabeth; Governor General of Canada Julie Payette; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; and Karina Gould, Member of Parliament for Burlington were presented during the party, which included only Sister Bernice's community, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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PRAYING OUR WAY THROUGH A PANDEMIC

Prayer, patience, proper hand washing. Each has helped us deal with this unexpected challenge called COVID-19, a novel coronavirus that has spread fear and heartbreak around the world. All our Sisters have been touched by the virus in some way. Funerals now involve prayer rituals observed over loudspeakers with Sisters in their rooms to maintain social distance. The body is blessed when it is driven by, as we forego gathering in our chapels to pay respects to the beloved Sister we have lost. Associates have also died from the virus, but we can only pray for their families and reach out with a card or a phone call in support. Many of us, myself included, have

lost close family, but necessary restrictions have kept us from mourning in traditional ways.

Instead, our thoughts turn inward. With no eulogy from the lectern of a church, or even the comfort of our chapels, we remember the lost in our hearts, recalling memories of them to bring us some respite from grief. We use phone calls and connections such as Zoom meetings to offer each other solace. "May their memory be a blessing," Jewish friends have said to me during times of loss. These memories are indeed a blessing. We try to focus on the wonderful moments we shared rather than the loss we grieve, and to rejoice that our loved one is now with God, watching over us until the time comes for us, too, to have our heavenly reunion.

Grief is not the only way in which this virus has upended our lives. Stay-at-home orders mean we are unable to travel to all areas of the province to share the personal visitations with our Sisters that mean so much to us. We are challenged to be more creative in connecting with those whom we cannot be near and to find meaningful ways to hold each other in our hearts, minds and prayers.

The pandemic has also affected our leadership. Our province elections needed to be postponed when it became obvious that bringing a majority of the Sisters in the province together for days could pose a serious health risk to them and to other Sisters, as well. We knew the elections must be held in person per our constitution. After much discernment by the Sisters in our province – and with the blessing of our General Council in Rome – the term of our Provincial Council has been extended for one year to June 2021.

Amid this chaos, however, the forced shutdown of our normal lives has given us the opportunity to slow down personally. With no travel or commuting, we have more time for reflection and quiet contemplation. We have the opportunity to get reacquainted with our community members at a deeper level, one we may never have reached otherwise. We can also explore the outdoors and marvel at nature coming back to life. We have committed to reaching out to Sisters and Associates in the Province by phone or Zoom and to inviting, in our shared listening, new meaning and an openness to the transformative grace of the times.

Above all, we can take more time for prayer. We are holding each of you in these prayers, hoping the sick are healed; the mourning find solace; the essential workers stay safe in their heroic work; and that all of us in society come out of this painful time closer to each other, closer to the Earth, and closer to living for the Common Good.

We call this publication *Blessings*, because it celebrates the blessings that are our sisterhood and our traditions. More importantly, it celebrates the blessings that are you, our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries and our devoted support base. Thank you for your continued support, even when you are in the midst of your own pain. We greatly appreciate all that you do for us and lift you up in prayer as you navigate life during these challenging times.

In Notre Dame,
Charmaine Krohe, SSND
Provincial Leader



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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ATLANTIC-MIDWEST OFFICES

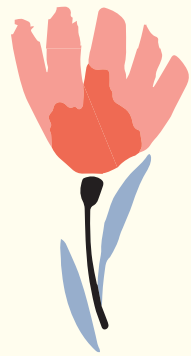
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1921 Snake Road
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The School Sisters of Notre Dame are part of an international congregation. They currently minister in 30 countries. "Our internationality challenges us to witness to unity in a divided 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*





Spring is usually a time of great jubilation and joy for our province. Each May, we gather at Villa Notre Dame in

Wilton to celebrate our Sisters who are reaching milestone anniversaries in their religious life, from 25 years to 85 years. Of course, this year there was no large gathering. An unexpected virus came to wreak havoc across the world. All large celebrations had to be canceled. And yet our Jubilarians were still celebrated. In small gatherings and especially in our hearts, we gave thanks to God for the thousands of years these women have given to Him and to the world.

Jubilee in the Midst of a Pandemic



Canadian Jubilarians Sisters Chabanel Schumack, Kathleen Haley, Vivian Zoller (standing) and Gertrude Huber celebrated on July 5.



Jubilarians in Wilton were able to gather, because all of the Sisters in the residence have been quarantining together. While still respecting social distancing, they celebrated in the chapel on Blessed Theresa's Feast Day on May 9.

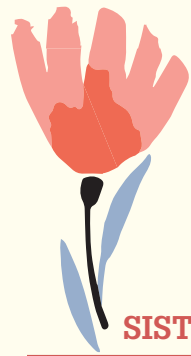


Sisters at Marian Village in Homer Glen, Illinois had a small gathering for Sisters Marlene Panko (top) and Jenny VandenBergh, who were celebrating their 60th and 70th Jubilees, respectively.



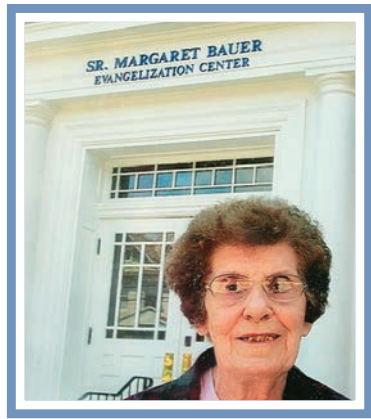
June 6 was a day of joyful celebration for our eight Jubilarians at Maria Health Care Center, Rosary Community and Villa Assumpta in Baltimore. Sisters Margaret Bauer (80 years); M. Trinitas Bochini, Margaret Mary Glick, Elizabeth Orr and Elizabeth Sokel (70 years); Elizabeth Marie Kelly, Iris Marie McGann (60 years); and M. Yvette Trentler (50 years) were honored at Mass and enjoyed a festive meal afterwards.





Even if we could not gather as a large group in person to celebrate these wonderful women, we can still tell the stories of 2020 Jubilarians from around the province. Here is a selection of them.

SISTER MARGARET BAUER, 80-Year Jubilee



I was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1919. That makes me 101 years old! I professed my first vows in Baltimore and have had 80 years of living as a School Sister of Notre Dame, ministering in various places in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. Most of this time was spent as a Catholic educator in elementary schools. I loved teaching, but it was challenging at times.

Trust in God and dare to do what is necessary to make God better known, loved and served in this world! It was while I was at St. John's in Frederick, Maryland as a seventh-grade teacher that I felt a strong call to respond to an opening in parish social ministry. I interviewed and was accepted. So for the next 60 years my ministering in this field was blessed in so many ways.

Initially, I worked by myself. Over time, though, the fast-growing area of Central Maryland needing our services grew, with a beautiful team of lay volunteers providing religious, food, social and medical services to our parishioners in need and to all surrounding rural parishes.

I give thanks and praise to God for the many years of my being a DOER of His work.

Now I am a retiree. Now I am a RECEIVER of other people's care and concern and help, as needed. For this I am deeply grateful. I am grateful for all that has been, is now and will be in the future.

SISTER CLARE FITZGERALD, 75-Year Jubilee

Sister Clare, who currently lives in Boston, reflected recently on religious life and reminisced about her childhood connection with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

I loved religious life from the moment I started. Even along the way, with other temptations, the thought of ever leaving never occurred to me. I grew up with the SSNDs in school in Cambridge (Mass.). That's how I met the community. That's where I met the Sisters. That's where my vocation was really fostered and nourished. The Sisters were lovely. The joy of religious life and the nuns and dear friends I've met, I'm so grateful.

We were a small group when I professed first vows, but we were very close. We were of the war years in 1945 – there were only 20 of us. The classes after us were 40-50 in size. It was very hard, very hard. I had friends in the military. We prayed for the boys. My brother was in the Marines and my sister followed him to war, eventually serving as an air traffic controller guiding pilots and planes in over the Pacific.

Religious life can be a very broadening experience. Mine has been full of surprises. God provided me with so many unexpected occurrences, places and people. My life has been filled with movement. Religious life has that unexpected hand of God. You think you're going to be a fifth-grade teacher for 50 years, and all of a sudden it all changes. I thought the door would close when I became a nun. I said yes, and God gave me everything. I gave God a little and have been rewarded a hundred-fold.



SISTER KATHLEEN HALEY, 70-Year Jubilee



When my formal teaching days ended in Ontario, Canada I was assigned to teach catechism to our children in the public schools in the Northwest Territories. This was certainly a challenge for Sister Rosalie Reitzel and myself, who were assigned to this ministry. Our cautious approach was to continue the program as it had been administered.

At the end of the first year, which left us frustrated with a feeling of being on the outside, we met with our parish board to evaluate and to present an alternate approach. After meeting the criteria set by the parish board, we were free to start a pilot project. Our main objective the first year of this project was to involve the parents. An explanatory letter sent to parents invited them to choose an evening of the week on which they and their children involved would attend. This worked out quite well, as some evenings we had eight families, others six and so on. There was always room for more to join if they became motivated.

We started with a Gospel ritual, which involved the children and adults. Then we divided into groups according to grade, with our parish priest taking the adults. We followed the catechesis of the Sunday Gospel for each level. When instructions were over, we gathered again as one group; the children were encouraged to share their new learnings with their parents. This sharing along with goodies and drinks ended our evening.

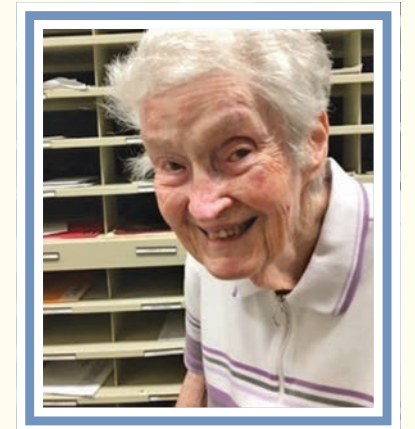
As all the problems were gradually being ironed out, we noticed a new spirit of quiet excitement. The children were happy to come with their parents, and the parents were beginning to feel that they were needed. In addition, the parents were being catechized and coming to realize their place as the first teachers for their children. Special events held during the year were very well attended. We could not have been more pleased with the result, and at the end of the year we knew this method was the way forward.

SISTER MARIE DENISE MURPHY, 70-Year Jubilee

Sister Marie Denise currently lives at Ozanam Hall in Bayside, New York.

It hardly seems possible that 70 years have passed since my profession in 1950. In memory, I travel back to being assigned to open a new mission on Long Island.

We were two newly professed sisters, Sister Marie Edwin Sokel and me, and a new superior assigned to St. Joseph, Lake Ronkonkoma. Sister Mary Daniel Sullivan was the Superior. We told her that neither of us played the organ and we also didn't know how to cook. I think she was a bit overwhelmed when we unlocked the school door and saw class-rooms crowded with desks and chairs. The three of us had double grades with class sizes in the seventies. The Holy Spirit was exhausted at the end of the first week but God provides! We tried to remember all the excellent SSND teachers who had taught us and imitated them. The school grew and God provided. To this day, Marie Edwin and I reminisce about our first year professed and the help God gave us each and every day.



SISTER MARY BANN, 60-Year Jubilee



Our beloved Sister Mary Bann went home to God on Saturday, March 28, 2020. May Mary rest in peace and may we all pray for her welcome into God's loving arms. The reflection below was written by Sister Mary as an autobiographical writing upon entering the congregation. She updated it in the early 2000s.

I attended St. James School in Belvidere, Illinois, which was staffed by SSNDs. There were some great women there, and that's where the seed to enter Notre Dame was first planted. My best friend decided to enter the community and that seed, planted years ago, began to grow. After graduating from Belvidere High School in 1958, I entered SSND in Milwaukee. Our class was the last to enter at the old motherhouse.

We had a unique postulancy. Much of it was spent dismantling the place. I'm glad I had the chance to spend some time in a place that held so many memories of our SSND early history. Our class was also the first to be received at Mequon. I have been teaching for more years than I care to admit. All of my teaching experience has been in Chicago.

My years at Our Lady of the Westside were some of the most challenging as well as the most rewarding of my teaching career. Westside is located in the North Lawndale area of Chicago. It is one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of the city. It is also home to many of the most hopeful and faith-filled people I ever knew. It was while living and working there that I came to fully appreciate my very normal, ordinary childhood!

One summer I participated in a House of Prayer. This six-week experience was held in Youngstown, Ohio, and is a very special moment in my life. It was during this time that God finally got through to me. I was not just part of God's vast creation, part of the crowd, a number. God loved me. God called me by name.

SISTER REGINE MARIE BRUDER, 60-Year Jubilee

For 60 years of my professed life, I have proudly stood for our international congregation of women who literally journeyed with me at my side and in my heart. Gifted with multi-disciplinary skills through my educational opportunities, I often found myself ministering in unique roles in schools, shelters, hospitals, at home or abroad in hovels of Africa and poorest dwellings in USA cities, and at Lourdes Health Care Center and Villa Notre Dame. I feel graced on my journey to have recognized that I represented thousands of faithful SSNDs in whatever servant role was mine.

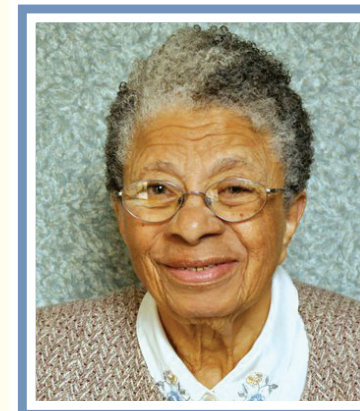
Loving support, encouragement, companionship, multi-cultural and inter-community life experiences always strengthened by daily spiritual nurturing have truly been the special gifts of my community life.

Now I rejoice in the happy memories of my life with the poor and most vulnerable, the young and not so young, along with the struggles I survived in the past. I trust in the many challenges of the present and live in vibrant hope for a peaceable, loving and just world of tomorrow.

I consider my life as an SSND a treasure beyond words to describe adequately! My spirit is truly alive and cries out, "For all that has been, Thanks. For all that shall be, Yes!" —Dag Hammarskjöld



SISTER ELIZABETH ROSSER, 60-Year Jubilee



Our dear sister Elizabeth (Betty) Rosser passed away on March 15, 2020 at Maria Health Care Center in Baltimore, MD. We commend her to the loving arms of God as we mourn her passing. The reflection below was written by Sister Betty, an autobiographical writing upon entering the congregation and updated in the 1990s.

My mother's remarriage to a Catholic and her decision to become Catholic was an answer to my search for stronger ties in my faith life. The next years were a time of discovery and fulfillment as I became involved in parish activities and taught religious education. I realized that God was calling me not only to the Catholic faith, but also to religious life. What a shock I received in my search for a religious congregation. The Sisters of my parish did not invite me to become part of their congregation, and others refused me on the basis of race. My mother's words, "Where is your faith?" gave me courage, and I finally applied to the Corpus Christi Carmelites and was welcomed to their formation house in Rhode Island.

Vatican II had a devastating effect on my congregation, and after an apostolic investigation was ordered I knew I must leave. I had no intention of giving up my vows, which I had taken for life. It became evident that God was leading me on this journey. As I was working with a School Sister of Notre Dame in the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Religious Education office, I requested to live with the SSND community at St. Peter the Apostle parish. The Sisters were wonderful and supportive as I tried to find a new home.

My mother's comment, "Sometimes we fail to see what is right in front of us" opened my eyes to what God had in mind for me. I was able to transfer, and I became a School Sister of Notre Dame on May 22, 1976. My life's journey continued when a prediction of my father was realized. At the age of five or six, he had told me, "Someday, my little African princess, you will go to Africa." In 1995, I was missioned to Ikot Etuk Udo, Nigeria!

SISTER MARY JAMES BRIAN SCHAMMEL, 50-Year Jubilee

My favorite memory is my profession of final vows at Villa Assumpta on August 26, 1978. All the Sisters in the house and from the Baltimore area celebrated this sacred occasion with me. My Mom, Dad, grandparents and aunts and uncles who were all still living were able to celebrate with me. During the liturgy, I remember the steeple bell ringing – we received word that a new Pope, John Paul I, had been elected. After the Mass my family and many of the Sisters headed down to St. Jane Frances in Riviera Beach, where I ministered, to continue the celebration with the parish.

My ministry at St. Jane Frances was my favorite and where I served for nearly 30 years. The parish covered a large beach community in Anne Arundel County near the Baltimore City line, where the SSNDs began serving in 1948. Nine of us lived in the convent in 1971 when I started my ministry teaching grades four and five. I loved the area and the people because it was so much like the area I grew up in Middle River, making it easy for me to fit in. I could talk fishing, crabbing and boats with parishioners and children.

I spent my 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s growing along with the parish and school. When computers started to show up in schools, I found my real passion. Working with a local family business in the area, I was able to acquire 30 Apple II computers to start computer classes for the entire school, kindergarten through eighth grade! Having gone to St. Michael's Business School, my first contact with SSNDs, I knew how to type and therefore implemented it into my classes.

As computers became more advanced into the 90s, the school began an afterschool newspaper program. We had reporters for every grade. The junior high editors would meet with the reporters each week during the school day and gather interesting happenings in their classes. The editors and teachers would meet with me after school to go over the articles. Copywriters, eighth graders, would type and prepare the paper to be printed. In my 50s, when I left St. Jane Frances to go on sabbatical, I felt confident that I had helped guide them into a future that would continue to flourish.



How Our Sisters Have Been Handling the COVID-19 Pandemic

We are living through unprecedented times. As a virus with no cure spread around the world, targeting older patients in an especially fatal way, travel was discouraged, even to our Election Assembly, and our Sisters and Associates had to retreat into their communities for safety. Staying in place has been difficult, but it has also given our Sisters some much-appreciated time for prayer and contemplation. Some of them have shared their resulting reflections or other ways they have been coping with the virus. Here are their stories:

Associate Karen Didier, Chicago



A New Normal – that is the term going around since the Pandemic.

Things have changed for everyone since the middle of March when coronavirus forced us to “Stay at Home.” With this happening, the Chicago area Sisters and some Associates have been gathering via Zoom since the first of April because of Sister Maureen Clancy’s initiative to have a Zoom gathering every Wednesday evening at 5:00.

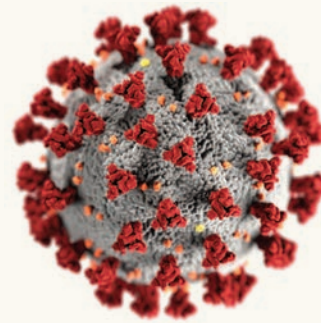
It has been a blessing to all as we share the positives and negatives going on in our lives during this time. We meet for one hour, and each person is invited to share what things they have been able to do and what

things they miss during this time. Some share amazing reflections on an incredibly positive note to say “we are not alone” in this pandemic. It is so refreshing to know we are here to support one another in whatever possible way we can.

I enjoy hearing the stories from the Sisters and Associates as to how they are handling this time. It gives me the confidence that we will get through this. I know it is hard for everyone, but just being able to spend an hour a week helps, knowing that all are doing the best we can and feel we are there for one another.

Everyone shares positive things they are seeing in the world around us, like people helping those less fortunate in their area or viewing Masses online. Soon we hope to see one another face-to-face, and have a meal together or a glass of wine. Just to be able to look someone in the eye and share what is or was going on in their lives during this time would be wonderful.

I remember someone telling me that Anne Frank was in her room for 762 days, so I guess to me these days are nothing compared to what she went through. Prayers to all, and soon we will see the NEW NORMAL, whatever that may be.



Sister Mary Fitzgerald, Baltimore

When I see pictures of the coronavirus, especially the one which looks like a sphere with bouquets of red carnations breaking out of it, I am amazed that something that looks so beautiful can be so insidious. My other initial reaction is total gratitude for being so healthy when so many of my human family are so sick. The self-quarantine has made our lives quieter and simpler. Perhaps, now, we can take time to hear the birds singing and smell the new life springing from the earth. The TV reports of so many people who are going out of their way to help their neighbors have inspired me. It is so encouraging to hear them after having heard of so much divisiveness, uncivil discourse, and mean-spirited tweets. I read somewhere that the two Chinese characters for the word crisis are figures which represent danger and opportunity. While I pray that we will see a quick end to this pandemic, I also pray that we will seize this goodness and refund sense of humanity that we are witnessing and it will endure in our hearts and minds.



Sister Maureen Clancy, Chicago

The New Abnormal.

I never want this to be the new normal, that when we are in the greatest need we need the greatest distance.

I attended the burial of one of my Sisters and friend. This is when we as community are at our best. We come together to celebrate the life, ministry and

mission of someone who has touched so many lives, who has woven the fabric of community.

In this abnormal we are called to a higher calling, one of saving lives over celebrating a life. It is a hard time that in some ways postpones the ritual of closure. What must the women have felt when they were completing the ritual of

death and Jesus was missing? We are missing all of us who would celebrate together. This is Lent... much suffering, death.

But there is Easter.

Can we find Easter in this time of distancing?



Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon, Ontario, Canada

Sisters Miriam Conroy, Maureen Sweeney, and myself, masked and distancing, represented all the SSNDs in Ontario living in isolation who could not attend the recent burials of Sisters Michaeline Straus, Joseph Marie Gartner, and Joyce Lorentz.

Two St. Joseph Sisters came for the burial of Sister Michaeline,

to represent her CSJ biological sisters. At Joyce Lorentz’s burial, her five biological sisters joined Sisters Miriam, Maureen and me. The graveside services, limited by COVID-19 regulations, still concluded each time in the full SSND spirit with the singing of “This Is Holy Ground.”

Sister Justine Nutz, Villa Notre Dame, Wilton

Sister Adria Turrill, 96, is shown in the midst of a beauty treatment given by Sisters Connie Carrigan and Justine Nutz at the CJ Salon on VND’s Wellness Floor.

Almost 50 shampoos, trims, settings and styling have been offered since the end of March, lifting spirits during the pandemic. Behind the masks are smiles, laughter, and offers of grateful prayers. Connie and Justine hope to continue VND Beautification as long as it is needed (and safe to do so).



In Memoriam

May 2019 – May 2020



Mary Ann Tantalo
5/8/2019



Dorothy Rachuba
6/29/2019



Julia Mary Van Rossem
8/10/2019



Mary Elizabeth Sharp
12/18/2019



Estelle Malleck
3/7/2020



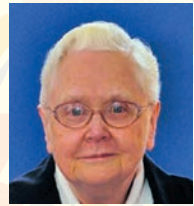
Mona O'Connell
3/25/202



Clara Hounsell
5/4/2020



Joyce Lorentz
5/22/2020



Mary Gladys Murphy
5/12/2019



Mary Magdalita Wyczalek
7/19/2019



Patricia Huesman
9/4/2019



Marie Irene Scarola
1/13/2020



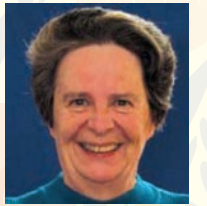
Elizabeth Rosser
3/15/2020



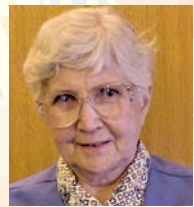
Mary Bann
3/28/2020



Michaeline Strauss
5/15/2020



Joyce Whittman
6/29/2020



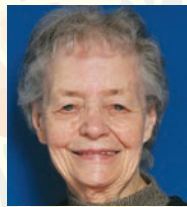
Marie Michelle Walsh
5/18/2019



Petra Klotz
7/24/2019



Mary Elizabeth Burke
9/11/2019



Margaret Mary Forsyth
1/20/2020



Stephania Walczak
3/22/2020



Marie Dolores Schneggenburger
4/7/2020



Bernadette Walsh
5/15/2020



Margaret Van Rossem
6/4/2019



Dorothy Daiger
7/27/2019



Joan Ann Durkan
9/28/2019



Doris Ann Turek
2/4/2020



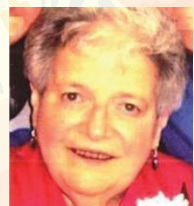
Carmen Marie D'Adamio
3/22/2020



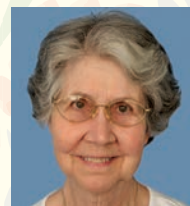
Mary Martin Colbert
4/8/2020



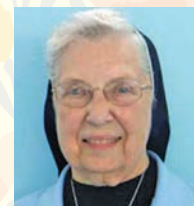
Emmanuella Rainer
5/16/2020



Lucy Caporaso
6/13/2019



Gabriel Roeder
8/8/2019



Martin Therese Gensler
12/13/2019



Marie Patrick McDermott
2/23/2020



Margaret Ann Curtin
3/22/2020



Georgeanna Pearson
4/14/2020



Joseph Marie Gartner
5/20/2020

In death we say our ultimate human yes to God. Trusting in God's power to bring us to the fullness of life, we conclude our earthly life with an act of worship: in the action of death we proclaim God as God, and ourselves as God's creatures. We are called by God and sent by the community; we go in joy!"

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

UPDATES FROM THE 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.

LENTEN APPEAL SUCCESS

Thank you to the more than six hundred donors who supported our recent Lenten Appeal with more than \$70,000 in gifts. Your support tells us that you greatly value SSND's charism and commitment to transformative education. We are grateful for you and your support.

CARES ACT BENEFITS DONORS

Among the many provisions contained in the \$2 trillion aid package signed into law on March 27, 2020, is the expansion of certain tax deductions for 2020, including a new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for individuals making cash donations to the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who do not itemize and will take the standard deduction on their 2020 tax returns.

For those who will itemize, the incentive to give is even greater. The Act removes the 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for most cash gifts to charities for 2020. That means you can offset up to 100% of your income in 2020 with charitable contributions. Contributions in excess of this amount can be carried forward for five years subject to the 60% of AGI limit in those years.

However, both the above-the-line deduction for those who take the standard deduction and the suspension of the percentage limitation in 2020 only apply to cash contributions and are not available for contributions to donor advised funds.

As always, please consult your financial advisor or accountant for information specific to your individual situation.

PROVINCE JOURNEYS

Did you receive the latest installment of our email newsletter? If you did not and would like to, please email Development Coordinator Jamie Shannon: jshannon@amssnd.org.

CONNECT WITH OUR SISTERS



Our Sisters love to hear from friends and families, especially during trying times when they may not be able to see you in person. Would you like to connect with one or more Sisters? Please go to <https://atlanticmidwest.org/webform/send-sister-message> to send your personal messages.

OKTOBERFEST 2020!

Keep an eye out this summer for information about our annual Oktoberfest raffle. Visit our website (amssnd.org) for more information.

We are asking 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.



Leave a Legacy

Joining the Blessed Theresa of Jesus Bequest Society

is a way of deepening your partnership with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The Bequest Society is an opportunity for our School Sisters to thank those who have remembered SSND in their estate planning. Bequest Society members are remembered in the Sisters' daily prayers, receive a special blessing during our annual donor appreciation celebration and are invited to SSND special events.

Through careful planning, you can leave a lasting legacy that will help sustain the ministries and mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. A planned gift can include gifts stipulated in a will or trust and beneficiary designations of stocks, IRAs, life insurance policies or other assets. Your gift

will help the School Sisters continue to serve God's people and to care for our elderly Sisters who have dedicated their lives to transforming the world.

Your legacy gift will help SSND move into the future with confidence that the School Sisters will continue to bring God's loving care to those experiencing poverty and injustice.

For further information on becoming a member of the Blessed Theresa of Jesus Bequest Society or to learn how you can give a gift, please contact:

Cathy Schoonover
Associate Director of Development
School Sisters of Notre Dame
410-377-7774 or cschoonover@amssnd.org.

Or visit our website:

atlanticmidwest.plannedgiving.org



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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Search for a Sister

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 