



Stewardship Report 2018

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province

*We educate, advocate, and
act in collaboration with
others for the dignity of life
and the care of all creation.*



**185 Years,
185 Stories,**
page 2

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

A NOTE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL LEADER



Dear Friends,

In last year's Stewardship Report we told you about the 24th General Chapter of our congregation, a sacred meeting held every six years where we prayerfully set the direction for our congregation, considering the signs of the times in the world around us and within us. At this meeting, we created a Directional Statement — entitled *Love Gives Everything* — that serves as guidance for our congregational priorities.

Part of this Directional Statement declares that as a congregation, "We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation." This Stewardship Report will reflect on how the Atlantic-Midwest Province has been answering this challenging call during the past fiscal year.

The immense needs of this world cannot be met by our sisters alone. We have been challenged to nurture and channel the spirit and talents of our many valued collaborators — our associates, sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, Beyond Borders, our partner in Haiti, and you, our benefactors — to join us in advancing our mission. Our Mission and Ministry team, comprised primarily of lay people, assists in reaching out to and supporting our collaborators. They educate them in the heritage, spirituality and mission of SSND, offer opportunities for coming together in prayer and service, and support the effectiveness of our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries. They advocate on behalf of the sisters and their work and seek to make our vision of a united world more visible, educating and inviting others to be advocates and take action on behalf of women, children, the impoverished, immigrants, and all whose voices are silenced far too often.

Your support is crucial. These pages are full of stories about the beautiful actions that you — our generous supporters and partners in ministry — are taking on behalf of our global community. We continue to be awed by the ways in which God is working through you to further the mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. By choosing love over hate, compassion over condescension, and interculturality over tribalism, you are helping us to truly answer the call to "educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation."

We thank you for all that you do for others, and we pray for you with love and gratitude. In Notre Dame,

Charmaine Krohe, SSND

Provincial Leader, School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province

CONTENTS

2	185 Years, 185 Stories
4	Our Sponsored and Co-sponsored Ministries
8	Associating with the SSND Mission
10	Committing to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation
12	Equipping Ministries to Succeed into the Future
14	Celebrating Our Jubilarians
16	In Appreciation of Your Support



School Sisters of Notre Dame

The mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is to proclaim the Good News, directing their entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. The sisters make Christ visible through their very being and by their sharing of love, faith and hope. The sisters express their mission through ministry directed towards education.

Editor

Caelie Haines

Contributors

Suzy Blackburn, Arlene Flaherty,
Leslie Lopez, Yvonne DeBruin,
Sister Grace D'Amico

Design

www.scoustenis.com

Email

am-communications@amssnd.org

Website

amssnd.org

ATLANTIC-MIDWEST OFFICES

Villa Assumpta

6401 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
410-377-7774

Villa Notre Dame

345 Belden Hill Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897
203-762-3318

Notre Dame Convent

1921 Snake Road
Waterdown, Ontario L0R 2H0
905-689-6646

Chicago

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province
P.O. Box 60762
Chicago, Illinois 60660
773-867-0478

ON THE COVER: Sister Edmund

Cullen gathers with students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Roxbury, MA. S. Edmund worked at OLPH as a teacher from 1914–57, and she continued to live there after she retired, from 1957 until 1970.

Stewardship Report 2018

THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME STARTED IN BAVARIA IN 1833, when Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and two other young women began living a common religious life. In the 185 years since then, SSNDs have expanded across Europe, into North America, and to the far reaches of the globe, bringing learning opportunities to millions, many of whom might not otherwise have had a chance at an education.

Brave women have always led the congregation. Our congregation has always been a place where women aspired to make the most of their talents in service to God and others, even when belief systems or cultures do not normally extend such privileges to them. Generation after generation, the sisters educated others to follow in their footsteps, carrying on the tradition of the School Sisters to empower all persons to reach their highest potential. While this report takes a brief glance back at the past, most of it focuses on our current ministries and how our sisters are still making a difference through education in collaboration with others.

Although the number of sisters in active ministry is diminishing, they are no less enthusiastic about continuing the example of the SSNDs who went before them. **"We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation,"** they declare in the Directional Statement of the 24th General Chapter.

Collaborations with others grow more important as time goes by. There is a vibrant young generation that is also striving to preserve the dignity of life and assure the care of all creation. Through our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, associate relationship, and justice and peace activities, as well as our ongoing vocations outreach, we have had the opportunity to meet many of them. Yet we know there are still many new ways to connect with those who will carry our mission into the future. We encourage you to visit us on our website (amssnd.org) and on social media, to share with us your stories of the work you do in the name of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and to tell us how we can help.

We are looking to act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life. We hope our future collaborations will include you.



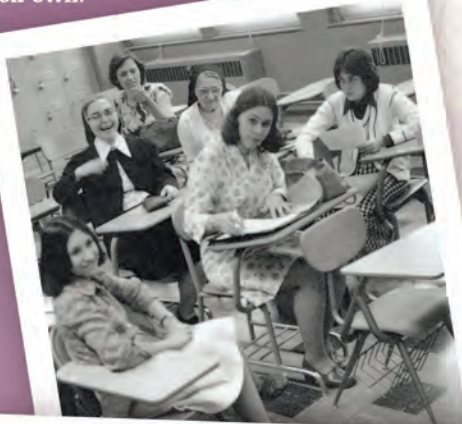
PHOTOGRAPHS:

Throughout their history, the School Sisters of Notre Dame have not shied away from being in some of the world's most challenging places. From the smallest villages to the biggest cities, they have educated, advocated and collaborated in areas with the greatest need, putting the concerns of others ahead of their own.

185 Years,

All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain; but then, their roots are the sturdier and their flowering the lovelier," our Foundress, Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, said. Indeed, the establishment of the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre came slowly and sometimes painfully, but the women who forged those roots created the unwavering foundation on which today's SSNDs stand.

In celebration of these amazing women and the work they have done and are still doing, the Atlantic-Midwest Province has embarked on an ambitious project to tell 185 stories about SSNDs throughout history in the days leading up to the 185th anniversary of the congregation on October 24, 2018. These stories are being told not only in a special section on the province website, but also through its social media. By highlighting stories of hope and love across a media that is often polarized and divisive, we endeavor to inspire, attract, and invite people to follow SSND and contribute to its mission of unity.



185 Stories —

Stories have been contributed by sisters in our congregation, as well as those in other provinces, including Central Pacific and Latin America. Alumni who have been taught by SSNDs have also been sharing how their lives have been influenced by that education. Anyone with any kind of SSND connection is invited to share a story. You can find all of the stories that have run so far here: <https://atlanticmidwest.org/celebrating-185-years>.

"The purpose of highlighting these stories is not to be boastful but to make the community at large more aware of what it means to be a School Sister of Notre Dame," said Provincial Leader Charmaine Krohe, SSND, in an announcement about the project she sent to the province earlier this year. "There are many young people today who are still interested in living a life close to God and who are dedicated to serving others. However, they might not be aware of what our community can do to support their calling or how we can work together as partners in mission. We hope that by shining a spotlight on our vibrant past, we can inspire a new generation to carry on our work well into the future."



Atlantic-Midwest Province Sponsored and Co-sponsored Ministries



SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministries across the province are diverse in their services, locations, and persons served, but all educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with the SSND mission to transform lives and enable persons to fulfill their potential.

We asked our ministries to share their successes in their own words this year. Join us in celebrating some of the success stories that have come out of their dedication and faithfulness to the mission.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Mother Seton Academy* Established 1993 Baltimore, Maryland



Some of the biggest success stories that Mother Seton Academy has are those of its graduates. With its model strongly focused on preparing and guiding students through high school and beyond, hearing how they have matured and the confidence they have gained during their time there shows the value of the work being done. Sydney, a 2018 graduate, who is moving on to Notre Dame Preparatory School had this to say about her time at Mother Seton Academy. "Mother Seton Academy has opened my eyes to the world and all it offers. I have learned how to become successful. I have grown spiritually and academically. I know I will use my gifts and

talents to create a better world for myself and others. All of this is because of your support and belief in the Mother Seton Academy community."

Sisters Academy of Baltimore* Established 2004 Baltimore, Maryland



Seventh grader Tahjae Young was one of only six young playwrights from across Maryland to be chosen to have their works produced at Baltimore's Center Stage. Her play *The Show* was performed in front of a live audience at the theater on May 18, with many of her fans from Sisters Academy in attendance.

In May 2018, all twelve graduates from the Class of 2014 graduated from high school. In August all of these young women started their freshman years at a variety of Maryland colleges, as well as universities in Pennsylvania and Florida.

Tyteyona Berry, Class of 2013, served as a teacher aide during "New Frontiers," Sister Academy's three-week summer program for incoming fifth grade students, and mentored during the eighth grade leadership workshop. Tyteyona currently attends Stevenson University. She reflected, "The school (Sisters Academy) motivated me to understand myself and to realize that my education would become the path to a future where I can mentor and guide children. I am in college because of the education, guidance, and support that Sisters Academy has continued to offer me."

**supported by SSND and other religious organizations*

"Deep faith and high courage urged Mother Theresa to risk already meager resources to satisfy needs where she was called. In her spirit, we respond to God's call expressed in our times. Like her, we educate in schools and other areas of urgent need; like her, we exclude no one from our concern, but are especially sensitive to youth and women and are impelled to prefer the poor." (YAS, C24)

COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Academy of the Holy Angels *Established 1879 Demarest, New Jersey*



Members of AHA's diverse student body are encouraged to excel in academics, athletics, and the arts as they serve the greater community. Angels grow produce for food pantries, perform concerts at assisted living facilities, become Eucharistic Ministers, and travel great distances to bring vaccines and health information to people around the world. Each year, AHA students get an in-depth look at the immigrant experience as they work with the SSNDs in Douglas, Arizona, who strive to improve lives on both sides of the border. This spring, when the School Sisters produced an educational video to increase awareness of slavery and human trafficking in the fishing industry, they recruited two AHA upperclassmen to conduct the on-camera interview with a human rights expert. Recently, the Angels

decided that sending a check to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico was not enough, and so they also paid a visit to the island to replant a farm and demolish damaged homes. The teacher who organized the trip established ties that will allow AHA to continue to aid Puerto Rico well into the future.

Institute of Notre Dame *Established 1847 Baltimore, Maryland*



Campus Ministry at IND is all about encouraging and enabling our students to become strong, active leaders in their communities. Through our service program, students can work with many different people including younger students in local schools, refugee children, and people experiencing homelessness. Through our mission trip program this past year we visited the community of Rutland, VT, and participated in service activities for a week, getting to know ourselves and our community better. Our retreat program allows every student to be involved in reflection on service and on who they are as a member of the IND community, as well as to enrich their spirituality. Lastly, our spiritual life at IND is based in the SSND mission, and in the knowledge that we do all things through Christ.

Notre Dame Preparatory School *Established 1873 Towson, Maryland*



Forty years ago, Notre Dame Preparatory School placed a proverbial stake in the ground by creating the area's first curriculum-based service program. Today, NDP proudly sponsors the area's longest-running service program, which is based on the action-reflection model and is rooted in the SSND mission of transformation. NDP's ongoing commitments to organizations such as Refugee Youth Project, Camp Umoja, and Club Umoja; newer initiatives, such as our Rafiki Club, which works with women with developmental disabilities; and unexpected needs, such as support for hurricane victims, proves there is no time limit on the need for and importance of direct service.

NDP Holy Week Service Delegations, a hallmark of the program, found students and faculty/staff traveling to Mississippi to

work for Habitat for Humanity and Costa Rica to intern at a sanctuary for endangered species. Two new outreach trips took NDP volunteers to the Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil to work with the Rostro de Cristo organization and Douglas, Arizona, to participate in the SSND Mission Awareness Program (MAP) at the Mexican border. On Good Friday morning, the Arizona Delegation journeyed on a five-mile Stations of the Cross walk along the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) Established 1895 Baltimore, Maryland



Every year, Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) works hand-in-hand with Operation TEACH (Teachers Enlisted to Advance Catholic Heritage) in partnership with the Archdiocese of Baltimore. As a two-year post-graduate program, Operation TEACH is dedicated to fulfilling the educational needs of children in Baltimore's Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Those involved, referred to as TEACHers, manage dual involvement in their graduate classes at NDMU and their full-time teaching jobs. Upon completion, graduates receive a Masters of Art (MA) in Education and go on to share the core, innovative values they have learned

with their future students. Angela Simmons, director of Operation TEACH says, "To be able to support them [the TEACHers] and guide them in their professional life and share in their continued spiritual growth is so special and life giving. We are all impacting and strengthening Catholic Education, and that is incredibly powerful."

LEARNING AND CAREER CENTERS

Caroline Friess Center Established 1996 Baltimore, Maryland



Caroline Center graduate Jamire McElveen Merrick's story reminds us all that life's journey rarely forms a straight line, but often its complex paths of discovery, opportunity, and choice can lead one directly to the place of one's passion.

Jamire had Caroline Center and the desire to study pharmacy tech clearly in her mind when she was just 16 years old and a student at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. So it was no surprise that Jamire graduated at the top of her class from Caroline Center as a nationally certified pharmacy technician (CPhT) in 2012. At the time, she says, "I had just one goal — training for a good career, so that I could support myself and my son."

As a recent alumna, Jamire has continued to stay connected with Caroline Center. We have watched proudly as she graduated from Coppin State University in 2017 with her bachelor's degree in social work (BSW), as a member of the Theta Rho Chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, and from Morgan State University in 2018, where she earned her master's degree in social work (MSW).

Jamire credits Caroline Center for impressing upon her that "your current situation does not have to determine how the rest of your life will be." Caroline Center inspired me "to pursue my journey in social work, because by helping others I could have a huge impact on their well-being as well as on their overall quality of life."

Caroline House Established 1995 Bridgeport, Connecticut



Luz is 27 years old. Five years ago, Luz emigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States. She said that when she moved to the U.S., "I stayed in the house. I was afraid to go out by myself because I didn't understand English."

In 2016, Luz enrolled in the English as a Second Language and Life Skills Program at Caroline House. For the past two years, Luz has continued to increase her English speaking, reading, and writing skills. She has a community of support with other women students. Luz and her classmates share a determination to learn English and life skills to create meaningful and lasting change for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Today, Luz attends daytime classes at Caroline House during the week. She also works two evenings during the week and all day on Saturday. Luz has obtained her driver's license and can drive herself to her classes and her job. Luz recently said, "If someone speaks to me in English and I don't understand them right away, I am now more confident to say, 'Can you repeat that, please?' I always try to speak with them in English. I am not scared anymore. I want to learn English well to have a better job and a better life."

Corazón a Corazón Established 2002 Chicago, Illinois



Enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential is a vital mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. At Corazón a Corazón, a volunteer-based program, we realize that without our wonderful volunteers, lots of potential would go untapped.

Our volunteers are the best! There is Mary K., a polio victim from age eight and still on crutches, who manages to keep her weekly sessions no matter the weather. If it's icy, her husband brings her, making this a family affair. Mary G, who is battling cancer and wants to know if her students can come to her, since she still "wants to give back," challenges all of us. Sandra V. discovers ways of keeping her student alert after his nine or so hours of work, walking the corridors reading with him and pointing out artifacts along the way.

Sister Lucy, our veteran tutor, shares her expertise four hours a day, twice a week. Perhaps most amazing is Sister Lupita, sight impaired, who comes with her service dog, Kimble, and shares from her remarkable memory, enabling others in the process. These are the ones, along with 35 others, who know that "Love gives everything" in order to enable others to reach the fullness of their potential, while striving to reach their own.

Notre Dame Learning Center Established 2004 Rochester, New York



Susan Anderson, Tutor: "I began tutoring at Notre Dame Learning Center in 2009 and have tutored 14-year old Jacob since then; he was six when we met. Jacob is an only child with parents very involved with their son's education. Jacob is always engaged, polite, and friendly. I like to think I'm another adult who cares about him and whom he can trust.

When we first worked together, it was primarily on the math lessons prepared by Sister Mary Smith, math program supervisor at NDLC. As Jacob grew older, I tried to incorporate those lessons, along with what he is working on in school, into more real life situations.

We "built" a doghouse one week, using the concepts of measurement, area, perimeter, and angles. He appears to really enjoy science and social studies, so I try to incorporate math concepts there, too. Circumference and diameter are more real when talking about the earth.

The game of Monopoly is a great tool for learning and reinforcing math and financial concepts — making change, buying and selling real estate, rents, mortgages, charitable contributions, bankruptcy — as well as "going to jail." We had an on-going game most of last semester.

Most likely, Jacob will never be an A student in math, but over the years his confidence and maturity levels have clearly improved. Last year I overheard him asked why he came to NDLC when his school offered afternoon tutoring. His response: "because I like it here." That's a feel-good moment, for sure!

SSND Educational Center Established 2004 Woodhaven, New York



"For people who have a lot, this piece of paper (High School Equivalency Diploma) doesn't mean very much, but to me it's everything." Maria, a single mother, spoke these words to our staff when she returned to the Center a few months ago to proudly display her diploma. She is now an aid at a school for children with special needs.

Education is a priority for the women who make time in their busy lives to come to the Center. Besides the High School

Equivalency Program, the Center offers five levels of English as a Second Language. Our women come from more than fifteen different countries, and their first language is in seven different tongues. "I want to help my children with their homework" is the main incentive for our women who want to learn English.

Desmy, an alum, is now "passing it forward" as a member of our Board of Trustees. She is also pursuing her Master's Degree in social work. More than 120 women were able to move toward reaching their full potential at the SSND Educational Center last year. Why do they come? What encourages them to stay? In Aswane's words, "Women lift each other up in this place."

TEMPORARY HOMES FOR WOMEN IN RECOVERY

Marian House* Established 1982 Baltimore, Maryland



In many ways Marian House is like the women she serves. She is a vision that through hard work, dedication and love has grown into something beautiful. She has overcome difficult times and persevered because of a staff that loves her, a Board that believes in her and donors who have invested in her. She has adapted to society and over time has made changes within in order to address the needs of the women who come to her. Marian House is no longer just a safe home for women and children. She is a teacher. She is a mother who listens. She is a shoulder to cry on. She is an anchor in our community. She is hope to women who are still out there fighting the battles of addiction, mental illness, trauma, incarceration and homelessness.

SisterHouse Established 1982 Chicago, Illinois



Natalia started her journey with SisterHouse in 2007 and completed the program in May 2008. During her time at Sister House, Natalia was referred to The Cara Program (a SisterHouse partner) to learn job readiness skills. Natalia was then placed with Cleanslate Chicago, a social enterprise of The Cara Program, as an intern. Although she earned a number of promotions because of her hard work, she was laid off during the recession. She decided to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. After completing her Associates degree in 2013 and earning a Bachelor's of Science from Rush University in 2015, Natalia was accepted into the Rush College of Nursing graduate program.

On April 28, 2018, Natalia received her Masters of Science in Nursing degree. She is currently giving back to SisterHouse by volunteering as a bookkeeper, and her future career trajectory includes earning her Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree, with a focus on mental health and substance misuse disorder within the next five years.

**supported by SSND and other religious organizations*



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE?

SSND associates are women and men who feel called to live gospel values in the spirit and vision of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, to struggle for unity and to build community in their own unique life situations.

Drawn to opportunities for spiritual growth and service in a community of like-minded individuals, an associate makes a yearly formal commitment with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. New Associate Lucy Freeman (pictured) describes the call of associates to participate in the mission of SSND: "I have been captivated by the heritage and mission of SSND. That mission can be embraced by anyone with a heart for the disenfranchised. I need to be here."

If you would like more information about the SSND associate relationship, speak to a sister or associate, or contact Suzanne Blackburn, Director of Associates, sblackburn@amssnd.org.



Associating with the SSND Mission

In 1964, when I began my journey with SSND as a student at St. Pius X in Baltimore, little did I know that my association would still be so strong 58 years later. As I reflected on the theme for this year's Stewardship Report, **to educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation**, I was particularly struck by the many conventional and unconventional ways in which I have been educated by School Sisters of Notre Dame over these past 58 years, and how this foundation has led me to a life of service and education. As I have grown in my ministry, I have also come to see the importance of advocating for the removal or change of unjust structures and systems, as well as working to create new ones that benefit all people.

Associates are men and women who make a formal commitment to embodying the spirit of SSND through deepening personal and communal prayer, by participating in SSND social justice actions, by living the spirit of SSND in their respective lifestyles, and by extending the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus. For the past 36 years, I have worked alongside Head Start families who are experiencing many of the challenges associated with material poverty such as trauma, inequality and lack of opportunity. Every day I have countless opportunities to extend the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus by simply being present to our children and parents, listening and affirming their hopes, desires and dreams, educating in all that I do, and advocating to change the structures and systems that help to perpetuate poverty. As an employee of Catholic Charities, I am guided by and live out the values that undergird the agency's mission "To love, to serve, to teach, to work for justice," and I see these values intersecting in many ways with the Directional Statement and Acts of the 24th General Chapter.

Another way I live out my associate covenant is by joining SSND social justice focused committees and boards. For the past eight years, I have been a member of the board of Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (SEW). This organization, founded by Anne Marie Gardiner, SSND, "empowers women in rural El Salvador to work their way out of poverty through small business development." My work with SEW taught me that the simple act of providing start-up funds for a business can help a woman claim her dignity, change the trajectory of her life, and at the same time strengthen her family and even transform her community.



In 2012, I was invited to become actively involved in one of the province's four commitments by joining the Haiti Committee. I have had the privilege of travelling to Haiti two times as our province discerned where and how to collaborate. I have witnessed firsthand the resilience, creativity, faith and hope of the Haitian people in the face of what appears to be insurmountable obstacles such as devastating environmental issues and economic and political instability.

Our committee works very closely with Beyond Borders, a non-profit agency that has worked in Haiti for over 20 years, engaging the very poorest on the Haitian island of Lagonav. The work we do is rooted in a new model of collaborative partnership that does not involve having SSNDs ministering full-time in Haiti but instead leverages the sisters' and associates' skills, experience and resources to help fund and support initiatives and priorities that have been identified by the Haitian people.

To date, the AMSSND province has initiated two Model Community Initiatives (MCIs), which engage families in rural Haiti, giving them the skills and resources to move towards self-sufficiency, while enabling them to improve their children's welfare. One project is providing the island's water-stressed families with water catchment systems that help harvest rainwater to use in watering crops, as well as for household needs. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to partner with the Water Committee to raise funds for 100 water catchment systems.

I am grateful for the many opportunities I have been given to "live out the SSND charism by striving to live the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus and extending that spirit into service for God's people." —by Associate Mary Gunning

COMMITTING to JUSTICE, PEACE and the INTEGRITY OF CREATION

*We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others
for the dignity of life and the care of all creation. (YAS, C 9, 17; GD 19)*

Over the past year, the **Four Commitments of the province to Water, justice for Immigrants, ending Human Trafficking, and Haiti** actualized goals and promoted activities in response to the Gospel's call to advance justice, peace and the integrity of creation. We have done this through providing workshops and educational resources, as well as creating opportunities for the SSND network to advocate for effective policies in each of these critical areas of concern.

Our department has been intentional about weaving the concept of integral ecology into all of our work. Using *Laudato Si* as a reflective lens, SSNDs in Canada have held bi-weekly theological reflections on such topics as violence against women, gender equality, global poverty and hunger, education for girls, and the egregious mining practices of some Canadian companies. Through webinar presentations and discussions, we have grown awareness and understanding of *Laudato Si*'s significance among our province members, associates, staff and others.

WATER: SSND residences have begun decreasing the use of plastics, particularly in dining services and the housekeeping departments, and continued discussions and collaboration with these residences concerning how to further the reduction of plastics will continue in the coming year. Similarly, the province's Blue Communities campaign has generated large scale participation of sisters and associates, who have agreed to eliminate their use of bottled water as they promote the use of tap water, recognize and uphold the human right to water, and educate others to avoid bottled water when tap water is available.

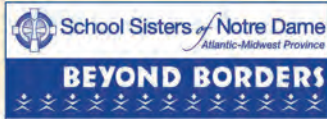
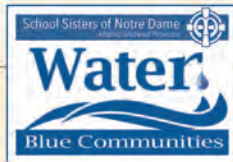
This year, the Water Committee and the Haiti Committee have collaborated with our partner Beyond Borders, as well as the province Haiti Committee, to provide over 70 water catchment systems for water-stressed families on Lagonav, Haiti. Other collaborative work is evident in the efforts of the sisters and staff in Canada who, along with the Council of Canadians, have lobbied the Federal Government to cease making contracts with the Nestle Corporation, whose extraction of ground water has been seriously undermining the health and sustainability of water in some parts of Canada.

IMMIGRATION: Multiple forces have converged to create the reality of the 244 million people who are migrating across the world today. Approximately 44,400 people flee their homes each day due to war, conflict, and persecution; others flee natural or human-made disasters. In the United States, as many as 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the shadows of the society and on the margins of the largest economy in the world. Many of them are fleeing countries that can no longer guarantee their safety or livelihood.

Although our vision and hope is that the U.S. will pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill, to date Congress has failed to do so. Therefore, our work this year has focused on advocating to our legislators for a policy that will provide legal status to immigrant youth, DREAMERS, who arrived in the United States as children with their undocumented parents. These bright, extraordinary young people can be restricted from school and employment opportunities, even deported, unless Congress passes legislation that will provide them with legal standing and the opportunity to pursue their future.

More recently, the Immigration Committee has engaged the province in education, prayer and advocacy to end the heinous practice instituted by the U.S. Administration of separating children from their families at the U.S. border. A recent immigrant justice concern for the sisters in Canada is advocating for an end to "The Safe Third Country Agreement" that Canada has with United States. STCA allows the Canada Border Services Agency to return refugee claimants to the U.S. under the premise that refugees should make their claim in the first "safe" country in which they arrive. As U.S. border officials continue to separate migrant children from their families, however, there is much reason to believe that the U.S. is no longer safe.

Sisters in Canada also continue to walk the path of truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous First Nations of Canada while educating themselves about the injustices of colonialization.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Of the 40 million people who are victims of human trafficking worldwide, women and girls remain the majority. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor are the dominant forms of modern day slavery. While there has been a marked increase in public awareness regarding the existence of modern day slavery, there is still much work to be done to eradicate this global scourge and grave human rights violation. As a province, we have been working to educate and advocate for more effective global and national strategies to prevent, prosecute, and eliminate human trafficking both for sexual exploitation and for forced labor.

This year the Human Trafficking Committee of the province based in the U.S. has worked to raise awareness and to promote legislative advocacy to end forced labor in the supply chains of our everyday products. The Human Trafficking Committee based in Canada continued to grow their longstanding commitment to end human trafficking for sexual exploitation. The Canadian Human Trafficking Committee also continued to offer workshops and presentation to high school, university and parish groups throughout the year.

We have also engaged our SSND network and our congressional representatives in efforts to advance the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, which will help consumers to obtain information on products that are free of child labor, forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking.



HAITI: Through the leadership of the province's Haiti Committee and our province partnership with Beyond Borders on the island of Lagonav, Haiti, "*educating, advocating, and acting in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation*" has taken on very special meaning. Sister Sharon Slear, SSND, and her NDMU colleagues — along with Beyond Borders partners on Lagonav — have been conducting teacher-training workshops in Haiti, so as to strengthen teachers' skills, as well as introduce simple diagnostic tools to help teachers identify and address the special learning needs of students. In addition, our partnership work has stocked textbook banks in eight schools and fostered greater engagement of parents in their children's education.

Child protection on Lagonav is a critical concern, since economically vulnerable families often unknowingly send their children into dangerous domestic work situations on the mainland, where there is no oversight. Sadly, the children are often victims of physical, emotional and sexual exploitation. This year, our partnership work has included child rights education for over 200 residents of Lagonav and the formation of child protection brigades, as well as child safe communities. In addition to this work to end child domestic servitude in Haiti, two new support groups for 200 adult survivors of child domestic slavery have been formed. These adults are also being trained in a microfinance

strategy called the Village Savings and Loan methodology, which will bring improvement to their standard of living.

This year, the Water Catchment System project has enabled these families to form family gardens. In addition, eight school gardens have been established, and agro literacy classes have been conducted. In Haiti, the people say that 'water is life.' It is our privilege to help provide access to this critical source of life through the SSND-Beyond Borders Haiti partnership.

Among the many sources of wisdom offered to us by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, is his advice that **in order to transform our world we must collaborate with others in creating a global 'culture of peace.'** Although there are many indicators that forecast a dim future for our planet and her community of life, our faith tells us that our collaboration with God in the work of restoring right-relationship among humankind, among societies, and with our planet is possible and sustainable.

The work of the Atlantic-Midwest Province's Department of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is not only inspired, but also energized and directed by God's dream and our desire that "all may be one." We are grateful for the support we receive and the many collaborators who join with us in building a culture of peace every day throughout our province and our world.

EQUIPPING MINISTRIES TO *Succeed into the Future*

It was 1847 when Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and a small group of young sisters, including a very young Sister Caroline Friess, came to America and settled in Baltimore.

Soon after, with the assistance of Father John Neumann, a Redemptorist priest, they began teaching in the school we today know as the Institute of Notre Dame (IND). This first foundation quickly experienced a growth spurt, as Mother Caroline Friess and other School Sisters established many more schools across North America.

Today, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province sponsors ten schools and outreach ministries and co-sponsors three others. Most of these schools and ministries are situated in areas of urgent need, where the sisters and their lay collaborators "educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons." (YAS, C22) As always, the needs of youth and women in poverty are their main concern.

Today, religious schools and outreach ministries find themselves in an increasingly competitive environment for both students and funding, while maintaining the unique identity and quality of a SSND ministry. The goal of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is to equip these ministries to remain at the vanguard of offering transformative education in a mission-based context. Therefore, it is important to attract funding to support the cost of tuition and thus increase enrollment among diverse



socio-economic constituencies. In addition, the SSND relationship with their sponsored and co-sponsored ministries is critical to ensure their present viability and future sustainability.

To accomplish this goal of providing transformative education, the sisters use the following approach:

First, a comprehensive formation program for all lay leaders (CEOs and board chairs) is in place. The program shares the SSND charism, history, educational vision and Catholic identity with the participants to ensure that the SSND spirit in those institutions continues into the future.

Second, the School Sisters engage the school and ministry boards in a framework for viability and sustainability. This framework (*see sidebar*) details four dimensions that spell out expectations and raise critical questions. In addition, they aid the corporate members, schools/ministries, and the Department of Ministry Services in exercising their particular responsibilities, role and function. Thus, the framework assists all involved in focusing dialogue and animating creative thinking. This will ensure advancing the SSND mission through the ministries into the future.

Third, the boards of trustees (or directors) are guided and resourced with a new edition of *Board Guidelines*. They are meant to support trustees, including the Chairs, in their service on behalf of their school or outreach ministry. The guidelines integrate best practices of non-profit organizations with the SSND spirit and Catholic identity.

Do great work. Share the spirit of SSND! Keep the board and administration, staffing, business aspects and fund development working well. Be ready to adapt and change.



Through the formation program, this framework and the updated *Board Guidelines*, the SSNDs of the Atlantic-Midwest province foster a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between SSND and the institution. This allows the SSND spirit to influence the spirit of the ministries and schools. They also contribute — through their specific purpose — to fulfilling a commitment in the directional statement of the 2017 General Chapter to educate, advocate and act as follows:

EDUCATE the schools and ministries on critical topics around viability, sustainability and service on boards;

ADVOCATE among the schools and ministries for always using best practices in all levels of operations and all sectors of leadership;

ACT through schools and ministries that are viable and sustainable to contribute to positive systemic change in society.

In addition, the framework and board guidelines promote unity in **COLLABORATION** with others, as they offer a common reference in exercising distinct roles: the provincial council offering leadership, the ministry services department offering support, and the schools and ministries implementing the mission.

Being intentional about pursuing the viability and sustainability of its sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, the School Sisters of Notre Dame continue to live their own mission of being “called and sent,” to “trust and dare,” and to love with a “love that gives everything.” By sponsoring viable and sustainable ministries, SSND is a visible sign of Christ sharing love, faith and hope with a world that is hungering for good news. SSND is committed to carrying out Christ’s mission to create unity among God’s people through the ministry of education. This ministry, they believe, changes the world through the transformation of persons. Collectively, through its sponsored ministries, the School Sisters of Notre Dame create social impact beyond measure.

The SSND framework for viability and sustainability details four dimensions:

Do great work: A key factor in the viability and sustainability of non-profit schools and organizations is the ability to make a positive impact on the individuals it serves and on the wider community.

Share the SSND spirit: All SSND sponsored ministries are expected to operate out of the educational vision as articulated in the SSND constitution *You Are Sent*.

Keep the business side of the ministry working well: Although our sponsored and co-sponsored schools and organizations are religious ministries, they are also, in fact, non-profit organizations, subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws. In order to continue to do good work in the SSND spirit these ministries have to function well as businesses, remain solvent, and comply with the law. Best practices must be employed, and risks must be managed. The Atlantic-Midwest Province provides training and resources to support effective Boards of Trustees/Directors, administration, faculty and staff management, and fund development.

Adapt and change: In order to survive and thrive, ministries have to be ready to adapt and change. To do this effectively, they have to constantly be aware of their external and internal environments, and like Mother Caroline, “perceptively read the signs of the times, and risk innovative responses.” In light of the mission, the goal for the ministry is to remain fresh, vital, relevant, and healthy.



Jubilee 2018



**"Sisters, sound the loud trumpet! We have before us
3,175 cumulative years of service to God!
Sister Jubilarians' years of profession range from
1933 to 1968. What a witness to commitment and fidelity!"**

*This was Sister Charmaine's welcome as the province celebrated
this year's Jubilarians at the provincial ceremony in Wilton.*





OUR JUBILARIANS

85 YEARS — first vows professed in 1933

Sister Rita Kittel, SSND

80 YEARS — first vows professed in 1938

Sister Bernice Volk, SSND

Sister Evelyn Volk, SSND

75 YEARS — first vows professed in 1943

Sister Jeanne McGue, SSND

Sister Colette Ryan, SSND

Sister Gloria Rosales, SSND

Sister Marie Taylor, SSND

70 YEARS — first vows professed in 1948

Sister Phyllis Bradtke, SSND

Sister Mary Julianna Poole, SSND

Sister Margaret Ann Curtin, SSND

Sister Emmanuella Raine, SSND

Sister Margaret Mary Forsyth, SSND

Sister Mary Charia Ripple, SSND

Sister Doreen Lackenbauer, SSND

Sister Mary Bernadetta Staab, SSND

Sister Audrey Marie Mittelholtz, SSND

Sister Mary Ann Tantalo, SSND

Sister Mary Georganne Pearson, SSND

Sister Marie Michelle Walsh, SSND

60 YEARS — first vows professed in 1958

Sister Virginia Marie Brune, SSND

Sister Dorothy Malone, SSND

Sister Rita Ann Bueche, SSND

Sister Mary Mendum, SSND

Sister Mary Edna Cole, SSND

Sister Mary Ilona Mensik, SSND

Sister Claire Marie Czerwicz, SSND

Sister Catherine O'Connell, SSND

Sister Helen Mary Dolan, SSND

Sister Mary Gabriel Roeder, SSND

Sister Mary Dooley, SSND

Sister Jane Mary Shields, SSND

Sister Mary Ellen Dougherty, SSND

Sister Joyce Smith, SSND

Sister Joan Doyle, SSND

Sister Barbara Valuckas, SSND

Sister Maureen Francis Fleming, SSND

Sister Julia Mary Van Rossem, SSND

Sister Patricia Flynn, SSND

Sister Caritas Wehrman, SSND

Sister Ethel Howley, SSND

Sister Anna Marie Zeitner, SSND

Sister Dorothy Mary Kosarko, SSND

Sister Louis Zettler, SSND

50 YEARS — first vows professed in 1968

Sister Jeanne Mary Barasha, SSND

Sister Pamela Jablon, SSND

Sister Cathy Bonfield, SSND

Sister Elizabeth Marie Koehn, SSND

Sister Mary Foley, SSND

Sister Margaret A. Malone, SSND

Sister Stacy Gunnip, SSND

Sister Mary Roy Weiss, SSND



THANK YOU!

Our Hearts Are Filled with Gratitude

Show You Care by Helping with Their Care

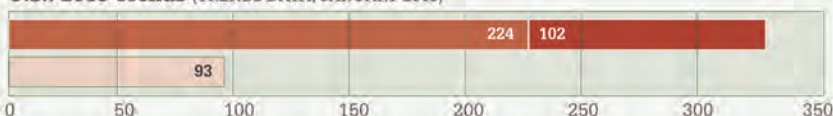
The Atlantic-Midwest Province generates revenue through sisters' salaries and social security payments, stipends, investment interest, donations, grants and bequests. The sisters plan for the future by being good stewards of their resources, but their income is not enough to meet these financial needs. As the sisters of the province age and are working fewer hours, their salary remittances decrease. At the same time, healthcare expenses for sisters' care are increasing, as is the need to form and collaborate with partners, lay staff, and associates eager to be carriers of the SSND mission and ministries.

Currently, earnings from the ministries of younger religious cover a portion of elder-care expenses. However, the number of younger religious able to serve in compensated ministry is rapidly diminishing. In fact, the median age of our religious is 80 years old. By 2019, it is projected that religious past age 70 will outnumber those under age 70 by nearly four to one.

Active Sister Projections

Active sisters
Retired, independent and with services
Assisted and skilled care

U.S.: 2018 Trends (TRENDS DATA, JANUARY 2018)



U.S.: 2023 Trends (TRENDS PROJECTION)



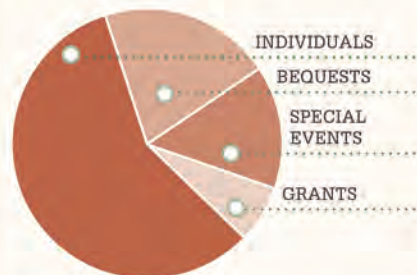
Your SSND Support Helps Transform the World

The IRA rollover offers Americans 70½ years or older the opportunity to give back to nonprofit causes they support, like SSND! Taxpayers who meet the criteria for making direct charitable distributions from IRAs may realize a tax benefit by making a contribution before year's end.

- ◆ You must be 70½ years or older at the time the distribution is made.
- ◆ You must make the donation directly from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity, like SSND!
- ◆ Your total IRA gifts to charity can be up to \$100,000 per individual taxpayer.
- ◆ The provision applies only to IRAs.

Please contact your IRA administrator to make a qualifying transfer. Transfers must be made by December 31, 2018 to be counted for 2018.

Your IRA rollover can grow peace, love, and mercy.



Sources of Income

Individuals	\$957,981
Bequests	\$871,266
Special Events	\$189,727
Grants	\$89,616
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,108,590



How Gifts Were Used

Retired Sisters/Facilities	\$1,042,090
Mission & Ministries	\$776,833
Administration	\$223,867
Development	\$65,800

The Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Inc. is a self-funded, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. A financial audit is conducted annually by an independent auditor, Handwerker, Cardagna, Funkhauser & Luman, P.A.

from the Development Director

Dear Friends,

This year marks 185 years since our School Sisters of Notre Dame began their mission. Convinced that the problems of the 19th century could be overcome by quality education, our sisters took on the daunting task of providing opportunities for girls and young women, from all strata of the population. They provided a holistic and excellent education in a safe and loving environment.

Through the years, our School Sisters have persevered in their efforts to transform the world through education, steadfast in their mission to affect society by searching for effective, practical ways of serving people in need locally and globally. Today, it is more important than ever to continue to model, instruct and encourage individuals to respect themselves and others, to develop their talents and use them responsibly for the dignity of life and the care of humanity and all creation.

The SSND mission and charism continues today with our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, which you have read about throughout this publication. We asked them to share the stories that make them the most proud, so you can truly see the impact your generosity has had on the lives of those they serve. Thank you for partnering with us.

Over the past nine years, it has been an extraordinary opportunity getting to know the many benefactors, ministering with our School Sisters. While I am moving on, I encourage you to continue to support our School Sisters' educational ministries and care for the aging sisters. Your prayers and support are very important, because our sisters and colleagues cannot do it alone. Let us pray that our common giving will bless future generations.

With sincere gratitude,

Leslie A. Lopez, JD, CFRE
Director of Development



Printed on recycled paper to reflect the School Sisters of Notre Dame's commitment to 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*



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

Development Office
345 Belden Hill Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

*SSND Education
Calling Us
Back Together*



Join us May 7, 2019
at the Columbus Gardens in
Nottingham, Maryland to reminisce,
renew friendships with sisters and
classmates, and hear what SSND
is doing today as we celebrate our
185th SSND anniversary.

For more information:
Sister Pat Glinka at
410-377-7774, ext. 1297
or pglinka@amssnd.org

***SAVE THE DATE: MAY 7, 2019**