



**School Sisters of Notre Dame**  
*Atlantic-Midwest Province*

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION



Stewardship Report 2012

## A letter from the provincial leader



January 2013

Dear Friends,

With heartfelt gratitude I write to you as we all begin a new year in our journey of life. A new year is a time of both appreciating the gifts and struggles of the previous year and looking forward to future possibilities. This Stewardship Report is about schools that have continued providing education that transforms for up to 150 years or more. An annual Stewardship Report should also energize us to seek ways to continue to meet the needs of others for the good of all. We are one.

By our baptism we are called to be “open in a new way to the initiative of God in our lives” (*SSND Constitution, 2*). How is God calling you? How is God calling our world to reach out and be one in peace and love? You might be thinking, *that is such a dream!* And yes, it is. As people of faith, hope and love it is just such dreams we must have wherever we are — home, office, train, bus, or restaurant. Wherever we are, whatever we are doing, we are called to be Christ.

We have witnessed this call in the tragedy of Newtown, Connecticut. Throughout the world people are reaching out in love and prayer to those who have suffered a great loss that is hard to fathom. We are connected. We are one.

May this report energize you to partner with us in serving those in need through our ministry of education and to continue to meet the needs of our sisters who have served in these and other ministries. God’s mission is alive and well, and we are planning to continue to reach out with you as our partners — as leaders, as volunteers, as donors and as prayer partners.

Thank you, and many blessings to you and your families.  
Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Cornell SSND". The signature is written in a cursive style.



“Wherever we are,  
whatever we are doing,  
we are called  
to be Christ.”

Sister Kathleen Cornell, SSND  
Provincial Leader

# The mission is alive and well



Sister Rosalia Federici helps students organize a holiday food drive for the poor.

Philadelphia  
St. Peter the Apostle

**“As you walk through our school you can feel the loving spirit of Mother Caroline and all SSNDs who have gone before. This presence exudes God's love, grace and wisdom in order to build a strong faith community here.”**

## SSND spirit thrives in its earliest schools

When SSND founder Mother Theresa Gerhardinger came to North America, her focus was on the children of German immigrants, most of whom were poor and disenfranchised. Educating them, she believed, was essential to transforming their lives for the better and the lives of those they would touch. She and Mother Caroline Friess, with the help of sympathetic bishops, set about establishing schools across the United States. By the late 19th century they had started parish grade schools in many of the major, industrialized U.S. cities, including Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Milwaukee, Boston and New York.

Children were given an elementary education, but, with SSNDs, they received much more. The sisters' love for Jesus Christ and their striving for unity in God — the charism that defined their lives — flowed naturally to the children with whom they spent their days. They taught children to grow in communion with God and with

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Sister Elise Mary Saydah is on the administrative team at St. Mary's, Annapolis.



Sister Rosalia Federici, principal

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one another and to accept ultimate responsibility for the earth and its people. This spiritual heritage became the hallmark of an SSND education — education meant to transform individuals into people who would make a difference.

Today, more than 100 years after SSNDs opened their first schools, the education scene has changed. Still, SSND's mission of transformative education is alive and well. In some of the most challenging cities in North America the earliest parish schools begun by SSND have survived, even thrived, by adapting to the changing needs of the times.

In Philadelphia, **St. Peter the Apostle School** was opened by Mother Caroline in 1848 to serve mostly impoverished immigrant children. The school remains alive with SSND spirituality today, says Sister Rosalia Federici, who has been principal there for 23 years.

The school enrolls over 200 children, most from the surrounding Northern Liberties area and other neighborhoods of the inner city. As the children grow empowered, so do they assimilate the SSND spirit of being all God's children. They learn of their essential value as well as the value in those around them.



"The SSNDs missioned at St. Peter have educated multicultural children since our beginning to read the signs of the times and seek to help those less fortunate than themselves," says Sister Rosalia. Today, St. Peter's students are involved in social ministry projects — preparing food baskets for the poor during the holidays, giving cards and treats to senior citizens, collecting toiletries and blankets for a homeless shelter.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Grammar School**, in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, opened in 1889. Today, SSND is present in the person of Sisters

Theresa Prior, Donna McHugh and Diane McHugh, whose combined service to the school totals more than 90 years. The student body has changed over time — evolving from children of German ancestry to a heavily Irish community to the mostly Hispanic families that the school serves today. What hasn't changed is the SSND mission of bringing all to oneness with the Father while educating in the areas of most urgent need. Mission Grammar's own motto — Unity in



**Sister Theresa Prior**



Sisters Diane McHugh (left) and Donna McHugh, reading specialists, work individually with advanced students.

*Boston*

OLPH Mission Grammar

**Mission Grammar's own motto — Unity in Diversity — reflects not only the diverse economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds of its students but also SSND's global vision.**

Diversity — reflects not only the diverse economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds of its students but also SSND's global vision.

Sister Theresa spent more than 25 years at Mission Grammar as a teacher, librarian and principal. Now 81, she remains devoted to the school, where she volunteers as a religion teacher three days a week. Sister Donna, a Mission Grammar teacher for 43 years, and her twin, Sister Diane, both 73, continue to serve the school in their semi-retirement as reading specialists who work individually with students.

SSND opened **Saint Margaret of Scotland School** in Chicago in 1874 to serve the less-advantaged children of the city. Today, its mostly African-American student body is reflective of the surrounding community of Longwood Manor. A parish active in the civil rights movement of the mid-20th century and a faculty of SSNDs determined to transform and

Sister Joellyn Grandchamp, who taught for 20 years at St. Margaret, returned in retirement to minister as a volunteer tutor of first-graders.



empower youngsters most in need have provided a safe, loving and spiritual environment in which to grow and learn over the decades.

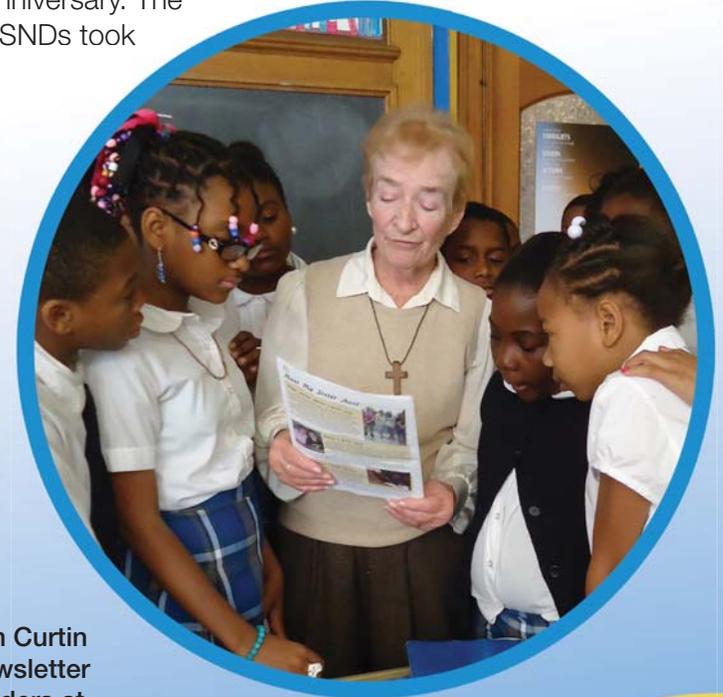
Sister Susan Curtin, herself a graduate of St. Margaret in 1950, returned to the parish school in 2008 to volunteer as a part-time music teacher. Today, she prepares the children to participate in liturgies as readers, altar servers and singers. She even engages the youngest children in simple songs about Jesus and mime presentations of his stories.

In a classroom nearby, Sister Joellyn Grandchamp, who taught primary grades at St. Margaret for 20 years, also ministers in retirement. As a volun-

teer tutor, she works one-on-one with kindergartners and first-graders, giving them the boost they need academically.

Among the oldest SSND-staffed institutions is **St. Mary's School** in Annapolis, Md., which in 2012 celebrated its 150th anniversary. The SSNDs took

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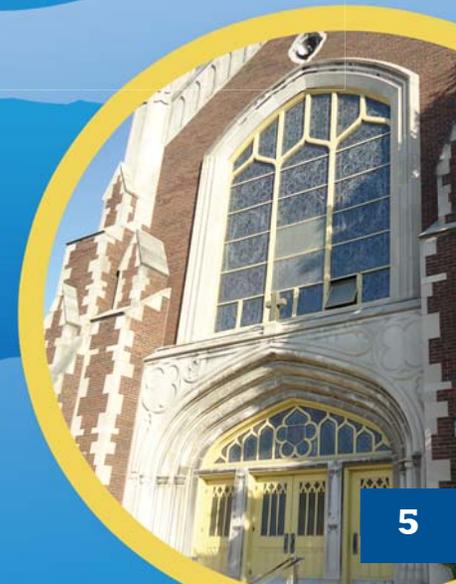
Sister Susan Curtin shares a newsletter with 5th-graders at St. Margaret of Scotland.

# Chicago

## St. Margaret of Scotland

**"I feel the student's relationship with Jesus comes first in our Catholic school."**

Sister Susan Curtin



(Continued from Page 5)

charge of the school in 1867 and have been there as teachers or administrators ever since. They staffed St. Mary's when it enrolled its first African-American students at a mission school established by the Redemptorists, then, in the mid-1950s, shepherded the student body through integration of the two schools into the successful institution it is today.

Sister Suanne Flanigan serves the lower school's student body as coordinator of the spirituality program, enhancing the spiritual development of students, faculty and staff with masses and prayer services. Her presence, like that of the sisters at the parish schools in Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, serves as a daily reminder of the SSND values and spirit that built the schools. ■

## Annapolis St. Mary's

**"I help the children reach the fullness of their potential as individuals who will transform the world into a better place, more reflective of God's image."**

Sister Suanne Flanigan

Sister Suanne Flanigan shares a story with the youngest pupils at St. Mary's during a visit to the school library.

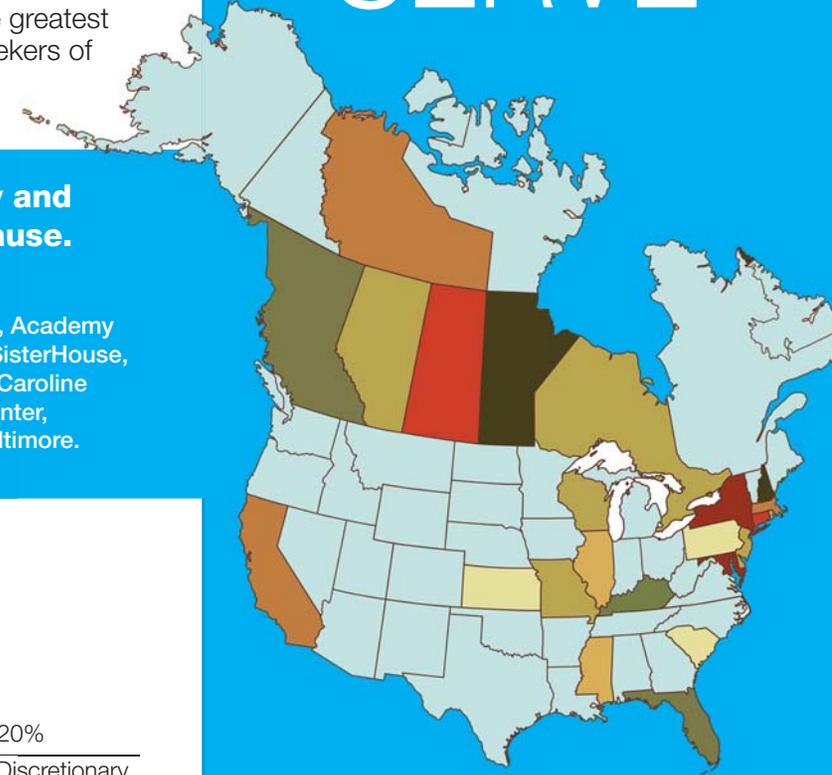
# “God’s cause is the only concern of our hearts...”

Blessed Mother Theresa Gerhardinger

The Atlantic-Midwest Province came into existence in 2005 when the Eastern, Northeastern and Chicago provinces of the School Sisters of Notre Dame became one. On July 14, 2012, the province grew again as more than 100 sisters of the Canadian Province were integrated into it. This new international provincial faith community includes more than 640 SSNDs serving in nearly 40 dioceses. Their ministries take them to six countries — United

States, Canada, England, Southern Sudan, Switzerland and Italy. The sisters remain dedicated to the belief that the world can be transformed through education. In addition to the classroom, SSNDs serve in parish ministry, health care settings, job training centers and facilities for the homeless — wherever the greatest need calls them. In all cases, they are seekers of social justice and women of prayer.

## Where we SERVE



SisterHouse, Chicago

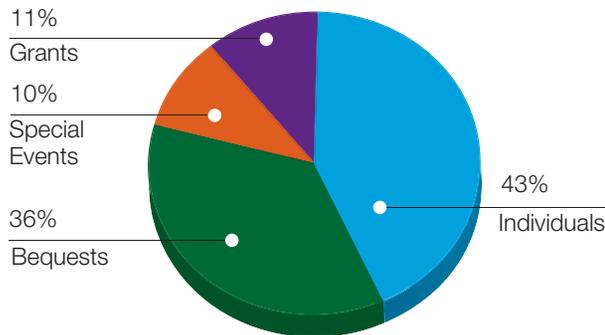
**You, our generous benefactors, family and friends, are our partners in God’s cause.**

**The province sponsors 13 organizations:**

Institute of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Academy of the Holy Angels, Notre Dame of Maryland University, SisterHouse, Marian House, Mother Seton Academy, Caroline House, Caroline Friess Center, Corazón a Corazón, SSND Educational Center, Notre Dame Learning Center and Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

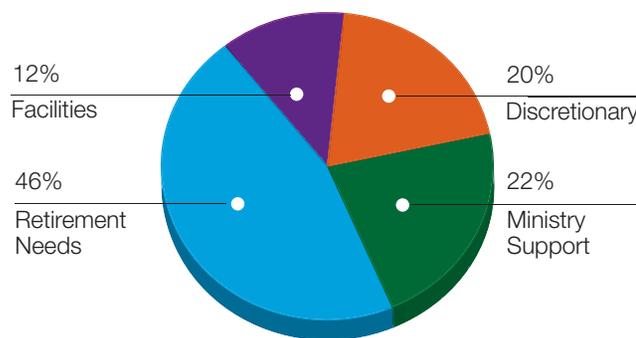
### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### Sources of Gift Income



Individuals	\$634,152
Bequests	\$542,805
Grants	\$167,850
Special Events	\$146,248
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,491,055</b>

#### How Gifts Were Used



Retirement Needs	\$683,983
Ministry Support	\$332,867
Discretionary	\$299,496
Facilities	\$174,709
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,491,055</b>



Office of Mission Advancement  
800-993-7763  
www.amssnd.org



# School Sisters of Notre Dame

*Atlantic-Midwest Province*

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Dear Friends,

This year marks 180 years since the School Sisters of Notre Dame began their mission. Convinced that the problems of the 19th century could be overcome by the education of women, 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, excellent education in a safe and loving environment.

Through the decades, School Sisters have persevered in their efforts to transform the world through education, steadfast in their mission to affect society by searching for effective, practicable ways of serving people in need. Today, in our rapidly changing times, it is more important than ever to continue to model, instruct and encourage

young people to respect themselves and others, to develop their talents and use them responsibly for their own sake and that of all God's children.

The schools highlighted in this issue of our Stewardship Report are from among those which have been serving youth in America for well over 120 years and continue to be associated with our sisters. They exemplify the steadfast community of faith which our world craves.

Thank you for partnering with us. Your support is essential because our sisters cannot do it alone. Let us pray that our common giving will bless future generations. The mission continues.

With sincere gratitude,

Leslie A. Lopez, JD  
Director of Mission Advancement

**Sister's Easter Catechism**

**Will My Bunny Go to Heaven?**

For info: [www.amssnd.org](http://www.amssnd.org)

**Sunday, March 3, 2013**  
Villa Notre Dame - Wilton, CT  
(800) 993-7763

Brand New Show!