

## **Fall 2025 Video Message to SSND Ministry Boards**

### **Making Way**

My name is Sister Charmaine Krohe, and I am the Provincial Leader of the SSND Atlantic-Midwest Province. I bring you special greetings and much gratitude to you as Board of Trustee Members.

In the month of September, the province began a new year. September symbolizes transition, harvest and new beginnings, bringing the end of summer and the arrival of autumn. It invites introspection, the setting of new intentions, and looking ahead to the work for the rest of the calendar year. Spiritually, this can mean “letting go” of what no longer serves us, cultivating peace and embracing change. The days begin to shorten, and the air turns crisp. The Fall months whisper the gentle reminder that growth comes from releases.

As the Atlantic-Midwest province journeys through these months, embracing change, celebrating growth, and looking ahead, may we “see all things new.” Recalling how the world looks after a storm, everything fresh and sparkling, washed clean and full of possibility. When we see all things new, we peel back the awed habits of restraint and cynicism to expose the fresh uncompromising hope that reveals the face of God in our world and in one another.

After 13 ½ years of leadership for the Atlantic-Midwest Province, I will be ending my term of office as Provincial leader to make way for our council-elect. Early September, 44 delegates gathered to elect our province leadership for the next 4 years. We had the privilege of having Sister Dominica Michalke, our General Superior and Mary Kerber, our General Councilor from Rome to preside over our elections. I am pleased to announce the election of Sister Nancy Gilchrist as our provincial-elect and our council-elect, Sisters Paul Dukehart, Vicar, Celeste Reinhart, Delia Dowling and Mary Roy Weiss. We are grateful for their ‘yes’ to the province and their faithful commitment to the congregation.

As the outgoing Provincial, I want to thank you, leaders, Board chairs and board members for your commitment over the years I have served in leadership for the province. Your generosity of time, energy, and expertise has indeed been an inspiration to all of us. Over these past years, especially when the pandemic was at its worst, our province has seen how you have met the challenges that have arisen in each of your ministries. We have seen how you continued to serve one another, struggled to keep your boards involved and the committees working, continued to offer quality services and education, struggled to keep everyone safe on your campuses, adjusted to virtual gatherings and found ways to

financially keep your ministries viable. The Provincial Council witnessed how each of you rose above the challenges of COVID 19 and found creative ways to reach those you serve. We are proud of all that you have accomplished through these challenging times.

Each of your ministries is important to the life and mission of our province. What you do and how you do it reflects the charism of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was: “Living into a prophetic witness of universal communion.” This theme is of significant importance in the context of our times. Leadership in today’s world calls for a deepening of communion and unity. In our SSND Constitution, *You Are Sent*, we state: “We are called and sent to deepen communion with God and among people wherever we are—in every place, in every time, in every situation.”

With the polarization and divisions in the world, deepening communion is a call for all of us to go beyond our comfort zones and to cross borders of all kinds: geographical, international, cultural. When hearts are authentically open to universal communion, nothing and no one is excluded.

Our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries are meant to model a new way of being community. They are about how we treat our neighbor, deal with the less fortunate, and how we treat the stranger in our midst. Our ministries are about being the prophetic voice for the voiceless, standing up to the establishment in the name of God and in the name of justice. Our SSND ministries do not stand alone, in silos, or in isolation. We stand together. I have been convinced over my 13 ½ years of leadership that we need to continue to strive for that unity of which our foundress, Blessed Theresa spoke in her writings: “Unity alone makes us strong within and without; unity makes us indestructible.” Unity lightens the hardship and enables us to be prophetic witnesses of universal communion. I ask you to join hands with the council-elect as they lead us through the next four years and to celebrate the continuing call of Mother Theresa to “make one.”

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to have this first-hand knowledge of all the good that you do as a sponsored and co-sponsored ministry for the Atlantic-Midwest Province. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Provincial leader and to experience you in action. Let us continue to pray for each other and work to make a difference in our world. May God bless you!