



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

Blessings

Celebrating Our Tubilarians



June 2024

Transforming the World Through Education

Blessings

June 2024

is a annual publication for family, friends and benefactors
of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Created during the 25th General Chapter of the
School Sisters of Notre Dame in Rome, October 2024, the
new Directional Statement of the international congregation begins:

Compelled by the urgent crises of our times, we,
School Sisters of Notre Dame,
“longing for the oneness of all in God,”
commit to actions that deepen our relationships of communion,
wherever we are.

<https://atlanticmidwest.org/posts/call-and-acts-25th-general-chapter>

Some Milestones of the Past Year



Sister Teresia Spodnik
celebrates her 104th
birthday as well as her
85th Jubilee



Our new SSND General Council was
installed in January 2024 in Rome;
l-r: Sisters Christine Garcia,
M. Martina Radež, Dominica
Michalke, General Superior, Mary
Kerber, Vicar, and Carolyn Anyega.



Sister Dorothy Leising
celebrates her 100th birthday
at Ozanam Hall in
Queens, NY

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ON THE COVER:

Clockwise from Top:
Sisters Kathleen Fullerton, Carolyn Stoe, 60
Year Jubilarians, Jean Phelan, 75 Year Jubilarian.
Center photos: Mary Lennon and Sharon Kanis,
60 Year Jubilarians.

Welcome from Our Provincial Leader



Dear Friends,

As we journey together into a future we cannot predict, we seek hope but acknowledge that the landscape can seem stark.

Political upheaval, racism, war, extreme poverty, and more threaten all God's creation. We can find ourselves wondering if we can really make a difference!

Let's center ourselves in hope.

I experience hope as I read the quote from the great anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

I experience hope as I consider what Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger of Jesus did, as she started and nurtured the small group of women who would become an international congregation seeding the world with education and empowerment. Those women include our 2024 Jubilarians, Sisters who have given everything to bring Christ's light to all creation.

I experience hope when I think of you, as you join with us in ministry, in prayer, and in hope.

You make all the difference to us.

Thank you, from every School Sister of Notre Dame, for your support ... and for your gift of hope to us.

Blessings on you and yours,

Charmaine Krohe, SSND

Provincial Leader, Atlantic-Midwest Province

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Celebrating Our **2,490 Years of**

This year's Jubilarians
have contributed 40, 60,
70, 75, 80 and 85
years of service
to our congregation.
In total, 36 Sisters
have spent 2,490
years of service
to communities across
the world.

Marianne Roderick, SSND

60 Years - Maryland

"Giving students a chance to
learn makes
everything possible."



Catherine Manning, SSND

80 Years - Maryland

"It was a great privilege
and blessing to bring
Holy Communion to
people, both for me
and for them."



Carla McCarville, SSND

70 Years - Canada

"I always felt it was
important to help
others be
their best selves!"



Emily Wollschlager, SSND

60 Years - Illinois

"I have come to a place
at not a pinnacle of
heights, nor a grandiose
show of accomplishment,
or a limelight of giving,
but to a presence and
life that is true to who I am."



Mary Henrice Eckert, SSND

80 Years - New Jersey

"I taught my students a
wonderful little prayer:
I am good, I am beautiful
and a child of God who
loves me unconditionally.
They still come back and
repeat it to me
after all these years."



Our goal is God. For He alone is the reason for our existence.

-Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

Jubilarians

Service

2024 Jubilarian Celebrations

June 1 - Villa Assumpta,
Baltimore, MD

June 15 - Marian Village,
Homer Glen, IL

June 22 - Watermark,
Bridgeport, CT

July 6 - Waterdown,
Ontario, Canada

September 14 - Virtual Province
Wide Celebration



Sharon Kroetsch, SSND

70 Years - Canada

“I promised my First Vows exactly 10 years after watching my sisters receive their SSND habits. It was finally my turn!”

*Marie Elena McCormack,
SSND*

80 Years - New York

“I felt drawn to be an SSND. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching, and met many interesting people!”



*Norma Loraditch,
SSND*

70 Years - Maryland

“Sister Mary Leonore Wing was my teacher, and the best person I knew. I just watched her and decided I wanted to be like her.”



Kathleen Feeley, SSND

75 Years - Maryland

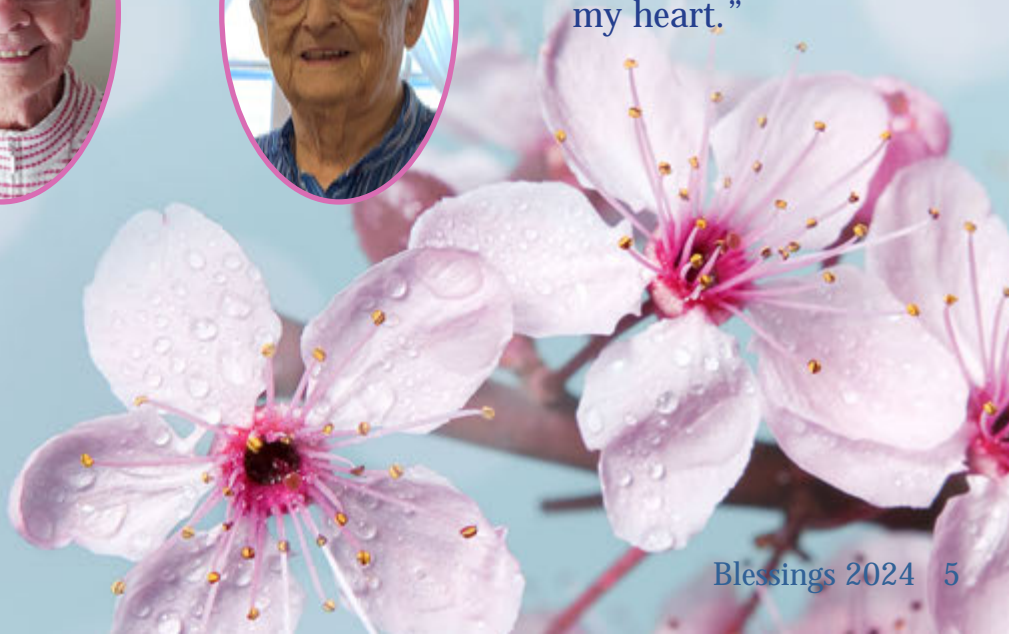
“I wanted to go to far-away places, so I decided to join the Maryknoll Sisters. Instead, I followed the call to SSND, like my teachers, and have had a life full of adventures and joy.”



Valentia Leibel, SSND

70 Years - Canada

“Teaching touched my heart.”





Mary Teresa Spodnik, SSND

85 Years - New York

"I think listening is something we need to do for each other."

Mary Ellen Ryan, SSND

70 Years - New York

"My life has been enriched by the great women I lived with, taught with, and met in SSND."



Marie Jeannette Blatz, SSND

70 Years - New York

"The bit of wisdom I wish to share is: Adapt to the needs and situations.
Do great things with little."

Mary Earle Doohan, SSND

75 Years - New York

"Being a Sister gives me time to pray and remember that God knows everything."



Patricia Carson, SSND

60 Years - Canada

"I always knew I loved my Sisters, but I really didn't know how much I loved them until now. They are aging so graciously and are so grateful for any little adventure. I truly feel God's presence."

Helen Reilly, SSND

60 Years - Maryland

"I arrived at Villa Assumpta with 50 other young women 60-some years ago, becoming Marie Cornell. I now have come full circle, living again at Villa Assumpta, now as Helen Reilly."



Mary Peter Colantuoni, SSND

70 Years - New York

"The one thing that I would share is that no matter what happens, God is always there. In good times and hard times, there is always something to learn."

Tubilarians 2024

85 Years

S. Mary Teresia Spodnik

80 Years

S. Mary Henrice Eckert

S. Catherine J. Manning

S. Marie Elena McCormack

75 Years

S. Leona Dentinger

S. Mary Earle Doohan

S. Kathleen Feeley

S. Jean Phelan

S. Marguerite Weiler

70 Years

S. Marie Jeannette Blatz

S. Mary Peter Colantuoni

S. Anna Mae Frenzick

S. Sharon Kroetsch

S. Valentia Leibel

S. Rose Sylvia Lindner

S. Norma Loraditch

S. Geraldine Majerowicz

S. Carla Marie McCarville

S. Barbara Meinzing

S. Mary Carmel Rogers

S. Ellen E. Ryan

60 Years

S. Marguerite Mary Bunter

S. Patricia Carson

S. Kathleen Fullerton

S. Sharon Kanis

S. Mary Lennon

S. Raymond Marie Lorenzen

S. Ruth Loretta McPherson

S. Margaret Regan

S. Helen Reilly

S. Marianne E. Roderick

S. Carolyn Mary Stoe

S. Paulette Tomlinson

S. Marie Seton Walsh

S. Emily Wollschlager

40 Years

S. Margaret McPhee

Trust in God and walk in His ways; then He will also be with you -
the infinitely good and merciful God.

-Blessed Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger



In Memoriam

June 2023 - May 2024



Thomasine Ryan, SSND
July 19, 2023



Kathleen Haley, SSND
August 1, 2023



Ellen Fitzsimmons, SSND
August 6, 2023



*Mary Henry Gadsby,
SSND*
August 11, 2023



*Christina Murphy,
SSND*
August 16, 2023



*Mariella McMillan,
SSND*
August 25, 2023



*Gail Marie Johnson,
SSND*
October 14, 2023



*Doreen Norman,
SSND*
December 11, 2023



*Magdalen Marie Buehler,
SSND*
December 16, 2023

Precious and blessed is the death of the faithful before God...
for they die in union with their dear Jesus, in the grace of God, in peace.

-Blessed Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger



Claire Marie Czerwec, SSND
December 23, 2023



*Lillian Corriveau,
SSND*
December 29, 2023



*Mary Louise Kvech,
SSND*
February 1, 2024



*Miriam McGuire,
SSND*
February 3, 2024



*Frances Josef Flach,
SSND*
February 19, 2024



*Margaret Bauer,
SSND*
March 9, 2024



*Mary Jane Scanlan,
SSND*
April 15, 2024



Liliette Onellette, SSND
May 16, 2024



An Afternoon to Remember **SSND Alumni and Friends Event held in Stratford, CT**

Over 200 alumni, benefactors, and friends, including 33 SSNDs, attended "An Afternoon to Remember" held recently in Connecticut. A good time was had by all! Many attendees were reunited with former teachers and classmates. Terry Sheehan and Nancy DiNardo spoke about their fond memories of being students of SSNDs and Judy Smelke talked about the current positive impact the Sisters have on their community at The Watermark in Bridgeport. Please visit our website to see more photos of the event at:

<https://atlanticmidwest.org/gallery/afternoon-remember-part-1> and
<https://atlanticmidwest.org/gallery/afternoon-remember-part-2>



Donor Spotlight Bernie and Mary Winker

Alumni of St. Alphonsus and St. Michael HS, Chicago, IL

Bernie and Mary Winker, of Huntley, IL, have been supporters of SSND for many years and have remembered SSND in their estate planning. Bernie proudly tells the story that he entered Kindergarten speaking only German. He credits Sister Imelda Mangold with teaching him to speak English and this began a lifelong love of learning at St. Alphonsus in Chicago. Mary also attended St. Alphonsus and then St. Michael's high school. Bernie explains their commitment to the Sisters:

"The dedication of the Sisters gave us a start to succeed. Our parents' religious beliefs in a dedicated group of sisters giving their children a fundamental basis in faith and education proved wise indeed. I went on from St Al's to a technical high school and graduated with a BSME from an engineering college. Mary followed grade school with 4 years at St. Michael Central high school, also with SSND teachers, graduating with high honors. Our 3 children have all earned bachelor and master degrees, and our two eldest grandchildren have earned their bachelor degrees, as well. Interestingly, of our four parents, the most formally educated among them went through the 10th grade-also taught by the SSND."

If you would like to learn more about remembering SSND in your will, please visit our website at <https://atlanticmidwest.plannedgiving.org/>



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Development Volunteer



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SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

October Fest

Tickets will be mailed in August!

31 Chances to Win!

\$5,000 Grand Prize!!!