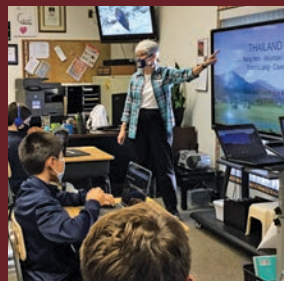




# Stewardship Report 2020

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



*The Year  
in Photos*

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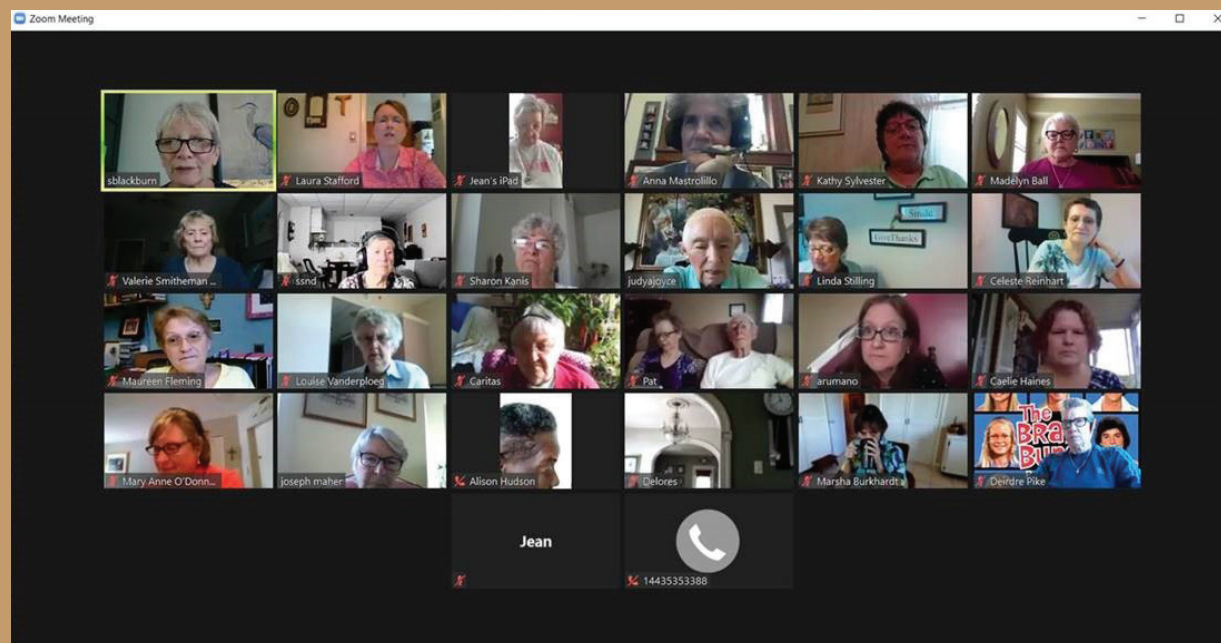


TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

# Snapshots of Hope and Healing



*All of our facilities created Thank You signs for the amazing caregivers — nursing staff, housekeepers, kitchen, dining staff, and facility maintenance — who continuously show their love and commitment to our Sisters during the pandemic. We pray daily for their safety and thank them for their loyal service.*



*Our Associates and Sisters gathered for the annual Associates meeting via Zoom this year because of COVID-19. Some had never been able to participate in the meeting because of their inability to travel, so they greatly appreciated the opportunity to connect. We have learned that we can successfully use new technology, and it does bring us together! Hybrid meetings (in-person and online both) for those who need to connect in different ways look like they may become our new future.*



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.*

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**ON THE COVER:** The Institute of Notre Dame always had a beautiful holiday display thanks to Sister Hildie and her helper elves. Both the school and Hildie are missed by many.



**A WELCOME FROM OUR PROVINCIAL LEADER**

This year, more than ever, hope and healing are integral to our well-being. Our ministries are hoping they can find new and innovative ways to continue and to help heal the devastating losses of jobs and loved ones among those persons with whom they work. One of our ministries could not keep going because of the pandemic. We had to say a painful goodbye to our beloved Institute of Notre Dame, the first School Sisters of Notre Dame school for girls in

the United States, which was established under the direction of our Foundress, Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, in 1847.

Our Sisters are trying to heal after months of losses in which they have not been able to traditionally mourn the Sisters who have gone to God. Rather than gathering for sharing, they have prayed over their memories in solitude. They know that their departed Sisters are now experiencing Heavenly joy but the Sisters are still missing the community mourning that helps those left behind to move on. Many Sisters have lost family members and friends, too. And yet they find the hope to move on, being healed through the power of prayer, through the support of their communities, and through the loving cards, emails and other correspondence being sent to them from you, our caring donors and ministries. We thank you for reaching out and expressing your kindness and support.

This year's Stewardship Report would like to further that hope. We want to let you know that we are persevering. That, as our dear Foundress Blessed Theresa would say, "All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain. But then, their roots are the sturdier and their flowering the lovelier." We are building the roots of a new future. That may mean enduring the pain of loss of loved ones or of places that are dear to us. However, we are confident that the flowering of these difficult moments will lead to lovely futures for our ministries and our Sisters. We pray for God's blessings on you and those you love during these challenging times. We are grateful for your continued support.

In Notre Dame,

*Charmaine Krohe, SSND*

**Charmaine Krohe, SSND**

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



# Navigating the Pandemic

Stories from the Atlantic-Midwest Province's Sponsored and Co-sponsored Ministries

## TUITION-FREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### Mother Seton Academy, Baltimore, MD Co-sponsored ministry established in 1993



The pandemic forced many school closures, but Mother Seton Academy (MSA) is among the schools that has survived and continued to provide educational opportunities in the urban Baltimore community. Since 1993, SSND and five other congregations have responded to unmet needs for children who are academically capable but economically unable to afford a Catholic school education.

MSA is blessed with faculty who are both committed and mission-driven. Leah Benzing, who teaches sixth grade language arts, is committed to building community among students, faculty, staff and faculties. She is long familiar with the SSNDs, having attended the Institute of Notre Dame and the College of Notre Dame (now Notre Dame of Maryland University). Ms. Benzing is the students' number

one fan at events and basketball games.

The principal, Dr. Gregory Sucre, provides the daily leadership. Dr. Sucre's relational approach to discipline and integrated understanding of education strengthened Mother Seton Academy's retention of students and faculty. Since this summer, the faculty has continued to develop their skills so that they are better prepared for an integral approach to virtual schooling.

### Sisters Academy of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD Co-sponsored ministry established in 2008



Adjusting to the pandemic posed a series of new questions for Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Despite this, Sisters Academy still decided to have their summer program for new students, "New Frontiers." One young girl who attended, Alissandra, remarked, "I would like to attend Sisters Academy of Baltimore because I know that this school will make me smarter. I have learned lots of important things in art class, reading class, and math class. I have made lots of new friends even though we are social distancing."

After meeting Alissandra and other students who will become the Class of 2024, Sisters Academy knew it had made the best choice in deciding to re-open. The decision to re-open was based on the mission and vision of the school. Principles they are keeping at the forefront as they

re-open are involving the community and being prepared to adapt or change.

## COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

### Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, NJ Sponsored ministry established in 1879



**Sarah McGowan**

You are always so kind t

You always make people person and I cannot wait

Thank you for making ev up every room you walk sarah. Never forget that! sarbear. I love youu - Ga I'm going to keep this sh this with anyone else. R

Sarah: brightest, funniest, silliest, and best friend. I couldn't have done it without you. You make everyone around you so happy. - Nicole Tasca

Sarah!! You always light hearing you laugh and te met and I know people a much!! - chennie

SARAH im gonna miss s lighten up the atmospher

One of the brightest and - Truly the one of th

Sarah, thank you for being

The senior retreat is a hallmark event for the senior girls at Academy of the Holy Angels. Moving to online learning, an in-person retreat was not possible for the seniors. The campus ministry team turned to a virtual retreat as an opportunity for the senior class to still gather in appreciation of each other before their final goodbye at graduation.

One key element of the retreat is affirmations that the seniors write to one another. Unable to do that in person, they were still able to write messages of hope to one another through Google suites. This is a great example of maintaining community in light of *You are Sent*, "We are called to deepen communion with God and among people wherever we are — in every place, in every time, in every situation," (C9).

Jean Miller, principal, also invited the senior girls to create a class video in which they said, "We are not letting COVID take away our last victory."

### Institute of Notre Dame (IND), Baltimore, MD Sponsored ministry established in 1847 and closed in 2020



Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger came to North America with four other Sisters and one novice in 1847, including Mother Caroline. The Sisters started teaching orphan girls and the daughters of German immigrants at the request of Redemptorists priests in Baltimore. The school on Aisquith Street that became IND soon thrived, Blessed Theresa returned to Europe, and the other Sisters who had come to America with her started expanding the SSND mission all over North America. Unfortunately, the combination of dwindling enrollment and COVID-19 financial challenges forced the school to close its doors after 174 years in June.

The school never strayed from its educational mission, to be a place "Where Girls with Potential Become Women of Purpose." These women have given back to the community around the world, becoming politicians, healthcare workers, social justice advocates, and, of course, generations of School Sisters of Notre Dame. Many Sisters first started their journey with the School Sisters of Notre Dame when students at IND or when they came to live there during their formation when IND served as a SSND motherhouse. The IND legacy will live on through its alumnae, displaced students, faculty, the Sisters who had their formation there and the thousands of lives that they have touched. The school will be greatly missed.

**Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson, MD** *Sponsored ministry established in 1873*



Students at Notre Dame Preparatory School began virtual instruction on Monday, September 8, coinciding with the Feast of Mary, the patroness of NDP. The NDP faculty worked hard in preparation for this new school year, adjusting to virtual learning while maintaining social distancing when bringing new and transferring students in for their orientations.

In the midst of social distancing, this year's school theme, "United in Faith," instilled in all that NDP is a community moving forward united together, purposefully and confidently in faith. All are united in the Gospel message to be one with Christ and each other. Just as the School Sisters of Notre Dame embraced faith and unity amidst uncertainty when establishing schools

across the world, NDP is strengthened by God's love and a mission to transform the world.

**UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), Baltimore, MD** *Sponsored ministry established in 1895*



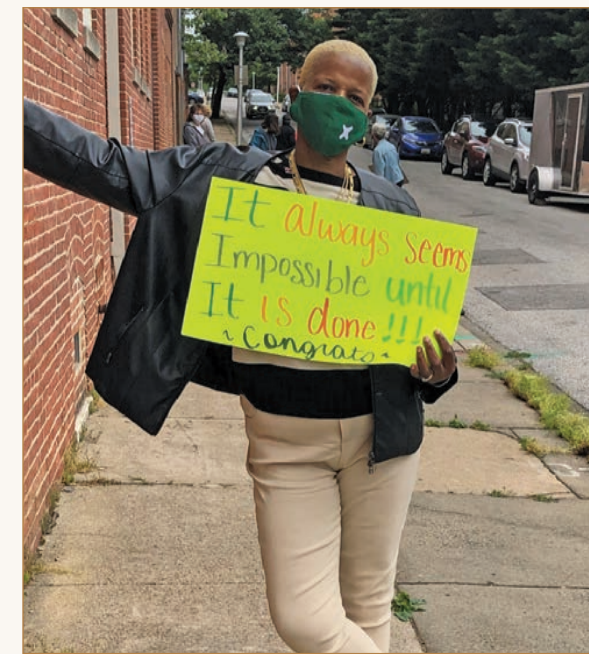
The new reality of "Zooming" has impacted both students and faculty at Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU). This provided a great platform for students to see one another and dialogue on issues raised during class. The joy in seeing one another and dialoguing has been an outgrowth of the charism of Blessed Theresa and the wonderful community culture that exists at NDMU.

Sister Mary Fitzgerald, Associate Professor in the School of Education, coordinates the Administration and Supervision Practicum. She remarked that conducting a few classes on Zoom has allowed her to get a feel for the resources available for remote learning. She is reminded of the passage in *You are Sent*: "We are educators in

all that we do. We continually choose ways of living and serving that call to growth." Sister Mary notes that these times call all of us to grow and we have the privilege of answering, "Yes."

**LEARNING AND CAREER CENTERS**

**Caroline Friess Center, Baltimore, MD** *Sponsored ministry established in 1996*



In the midst of the pandemic, twenty-seven women graduated from two training programs offered at Caroline Center in Baltimore. Graduate class #75 experienced dangerous and unique challenges during the pandemic. With the commitment of the Provincial Council, the Caroline Center Board of Trustees and the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, women were provided tablets with which they could attend remote classes and complete their clinical studies. They also had a drive-by graduation on May 21, 2020 fueled by love, faith and Caroline Center's leadership team. Midpoint in the graduation, two fighter jets appeared in the sky over Caroline Center. "Holy mackerel," Lisa Benson, Board Chair at Caroline Center, said to Sister Debbie Liesen, SSND, "That's amazing! Where did they come from?"

"Well," she replied, without missing a beat, "there are two of them so I'd have to say that it's Blessed Theresa and Mother Caroline!"

**Caroline House, Bridgeport, CT** *Sponsored ministry established in 1996*



The pandemic forced teachers to move towards online education. With 70 students normally enrolled, only 30 students enrolled at this time. Caroline House was able to provide beyond educational needs, raising \$20,000 in resiliency funds after hiring a new grant writer. They were able to assist twenty families by providing financial assistance to cover utilities and aid in the purchase of food and medication.

Lucy Freeman, Executive Director, in getting to know the women, learned that the women are forthcoming about their needs. However, when it

comes to the needs in the community, the women do not take more than what they need and give the rest back. Lucy remarked that in her thirty years in social services, she has never seen this level of honesty. She sees her role as fostering the common good, making connections and planting seeds in the community.

**Corazón a Corazón, Blue Island, IL** *Sponsored ministry established in 2002*



The sight of an empty classroom took some getting used to. Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings, SSND, Executive Director, remarked that with her and the staff working from home, “How do I lead with no one to follow?” As a leader during these challenging times, she saw her role as a continuing to make one, even from a distance. She said, “My role is to make sure each person: staff board, volunteer, adult and child learners, and donors know how important he or she is to the family we call Corazón.”

Various means were used to maintain contact with one another: staff and board meetings on Zoom, email blasts to donors and volunteers, and phone calls, emails and text messages to school students and parents – all to let them know they care. The most significant connection was being able to join in a Livestream Mass together as a blessing was offered for the Corazón family.

**Notre Dame Learning Center, Rochester, NY** *Sponsored ministry established in 2004*



Notre Dame Learning Center (NDLC) officially closed on March 12th, after the Rochester City School District announced its closing due to COVID-19. NDLC knew that they would have to think outside the box to respond to the needs of the time and continue the charism of Mother Theresa Gerhardinger. After a meeting among the center’s program director, business administrator, tutors and Board of Trustees, they decided to have a summer enrichment program. The summer enrichment program took a very different approach due to COVID, as staff, tutors and trustees created various, fun programs that were delivered to the children’s’ homes. Until the center can welcome the children and tutors back to the center, they will continue to Zoom, phone and email with everybody! One way or another, they will be ready to meet the needs of our children. “When nothing is sure, everything is possible!”

**SSND Educational Center, Woodhaven, NY** *Sponsored ministry established in 2004*



The Directional Statement, *Love Gives Everything*, took on new meaning when 85 students from the educational center left on March 12th due to the pandemic. “Risking innovative responses in a rapidly changing world impacted by globalization and technology,” (YAS, Prologue, C 22-24, 26). Staff Zoom conferences and daily communication with the center’s Consortium for Worker Education partners for the ESL program allowed for 23 ESL students to participant in distance learning four times a week. Kathy Locher, the master teacher, received proper training to train the students virtually. Students were able to join from all over; from Indiana and even

from Colombia – one student visiting family who could not fly out of the country. Partners in ministry and donors to the center have been tremendously supportive during this time. The center has received many encouraging phone calls and emails of support.

**TEMPORARY HOMES FOR WOMEN IN RECOVERY**

**Marian House, Baltimore, MD** *Co-sponsored ministry established in 1982*



Marian House has a pandemic team in place which includes Psalms Rojas, Grants and Community Relations Manager; Novlette Haughton, Board Member and Volunteer; Katie Alston, Executive Director; and Sharon Kennedy, House Manager (pictured here left to right).

The stay-at-home orders proved difficult for the women admitted at Marian House, many of whom were formerly incarcerated. Katie and the staff have made it their priority to make Marian House feel like home again. Marian House has resumed admissions and are using technology to provide support groups and therapy. They realize however that though technology is important, it cannot replace human interaction. Marian House’s vision impels the staff to help women unlock the potential within themselves — to feel whole, safe and loved. It’s been an honor for the staff to help remind these women of their self-worth. Numerous individuals associated with the Marian House community have reached out to share their love and prayers..

**SisterHouse, Oak Park, IL** *Sponsored ministry since 1982*

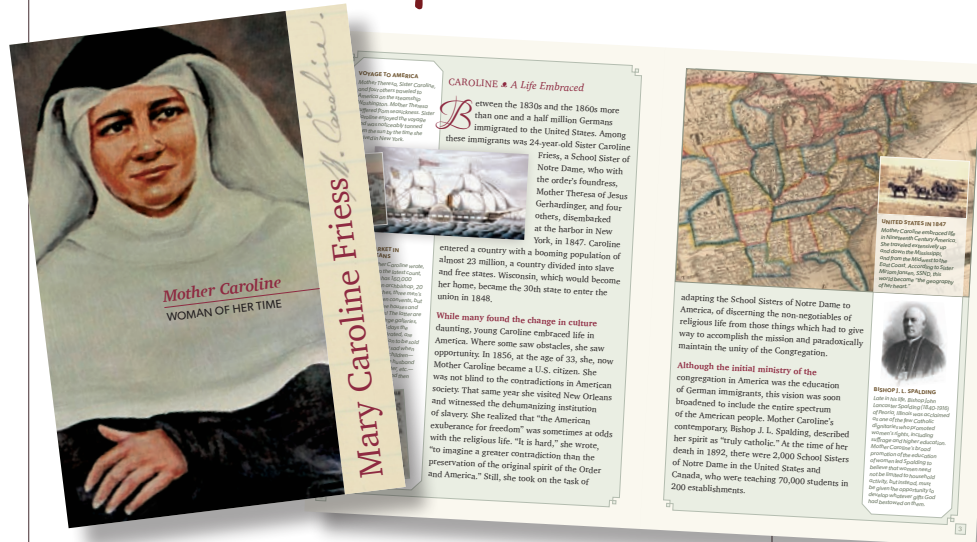


For 38 years, SisterHouse has served as a place of hope and healing, with an emphasis on building a community among the residents and staff. The ladies of SisterHouse help one another and often build relationships that last a lifetime. Within the house, residents are a support to their sisters when challenging situations arise.

These relationships have helped us deal with the disruption caused by the global pandemic. Ladies who were working were laid off. The job-training program ladies attended was closed. NA and AA groups stopped meeting in person. Social outings ceased to take place. There were no opportunities for community service. We turned to Zoom for everything from Morning Motivations to Inspirational Spiritual Project (ISP) sessions to our Graduation Ceremony. One of our residents who had just started a new job was able to “work from home” at SisterHouse. By providing on-site mental health care, case management services, a structured life-skill program and additional supportive housing units, we have kept our clients safely housed, in treatment and working towards their goal of being self-sufficient.

# Hope Through Collaboration

By Yvonne DeBruin, Director of Ministry Services



I became aware of the immense network of which I am part. I turned to my colleague Suzy Blackburn, Director of Associates, who I knew to be well-versed on Mother Caroline, if she would be willing to draft a script. There were invaluable additional experts among the SSNDs who could verify the facts and supplement old video transcripts, suitable poetry and other little details, most notably Sisters Mary Luke Baldwin, Barbara Brunleve and Sister Miriam Jansen. Several other SSNDs proofread for grammar and the “SSND feel.” Our

archivists in Baltimore, Milwaukee and a province staff member were generous with their time to search for suitable images.

Announcing and sharing the finished resource with the intended audience was both a privilege and an experience of immense joy and uplifted many hearts in this time of pandemic. All, of course was interspersed with prayer, following Mother Caroline’s advice: “God who has given you the desire will also give you the perseverance. Pray for it.”

I never could have done this project on my own. It was a project of ‘laboring together.’ I am now blessed with a deepened understanding of how each one is important — not only for the tangible project but for mission — and that each one contributes something different that makes up the whole. New connections have been made, relationships strengthened, friendships forged, networks built. And in the end, we share in the joy of shared labor and gratitude for harvesting delightful fruit together. Mother Caroline was right: “God will provide.”

Copies of this new Mother Caroline booklet, as well as the existing Blessed Theresa of Gerhardinger booklet sharing about the lives and legacies of these SSND Foundresses can be ordered through the Province Department of Ministry Services. **Please email [ydebruin@amssnd.org](mailto:ydebruin@amssnd.org) for more information.**

Collaboration is a deeply ingrained aspect of the lived SSND culture. *You are Sent*, the SSND constitution, outlines how the Sisters collaboratively strive through prayer and dialogue to reach consensus in making and implementing decisions; how they collaborate in the common search to know and to do God’s will; and how the Provincial Leader and the Councilors work collaboratively together in the care of the Sisters and the advancing of the mission and the ministry. Perhaps the roots of collaboration can be traced back to the Triune God, desiring us into this world and endowing us with a purpose, for humanity to collaborate with God in mission.

A recent, successful collaborative effort was completed among the department of Ministry Services, the Director of Associates, Sisters from both the AM and CP Provinces, a variety of province staff, and outside vendors. A long-existing printed resource on Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger needed to be complemented with a resource on Mother Caroline Friess, who helped established hundreds of SSND Schools in North America. Mother Caroline’s story from childhood into religious life, her passion for education and missionary zeal, her faithful servant leadership, and her refusal to give up hope in the mission, even in the most strenuous of circumstances, needed to be told.

# Associates Live Hope and Healing in the Age of COVID 19

By Associate Victoria Cofield-Aber

Associates are women and men who make a yearly covenant to live the mission and values of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in their work and personal lives. In these days of COVID-19, Associates have been challenged to find new ways of connecting among themselves and with those they serve. In spite of the challenges, they have recently welcomed new members in Chicago, Ontario, and Baltimore. Associate Victoria Cofield-Aber, a clinical social worker and educational consultant in Ellicott City, Maryland, describes living the SSND mission under current circumstances.

My current work involves caring for individuals across the age span who suffer from anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress. Prior to COVID-19, I visited homes of older persons or those with mobility differences to provide mental health and other case management services. However, since COVID-19, I have only provided services virtually. With COVID-19, I have had an increase in referrals from insurance companies and local hospitals for individuals needing virtual appointments to deal with anxiety, grief and loss, as well as depression. I also provide psychotherapy.

Due to the nature of issues that come to me, I have an active prayer life along with the practice of mindfulness based activities. I listen to healing music, read scripture, journal, and practice breath work. In order to teach others how to navigate, I practice calming techniques. I also stay abreast of therapeutic models so that I maintain a variety of tools in my chest for helping others. This year I completed a one-year training in a model of therapy that promotes insight into personality formation



and integrative healing. During COVID-19, I have utilized Nature Therapy and I have taught this conceptual model to those with whom I work.

As an Associate, prior to COVID-19, I assisted with planning and outreach to other Associates. Sometimes, as appropriate, I will share some of the spiritual teachings of the SSNDs with young women I encounter in my practice. I strongly encourage learning and often share the inspiring words of Mother Caroline as a model for cognitive reframing for anxiety and depression. Mother Caroline reminded us, “Look not forward with anxious care, but upward in a spirit of faith and hope.” I believe that as I enter into psychotherapy sessions, listen to the pain that people bring to me, I include in my countenance the words that Mother Caroline shared with the SSND, hope and faith.

Yes, the work is different but the charism is a presence that is truly necessary in these difficult times. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work with the women of Baltimore, to pray with the SSNDs, and to expand my presence to those in the suburban areas who also suffer. Virtually, I have joined a prayer group for healing the wounds of our nation and to support peace and justice. Being present in prayer, understanding the oneness of humankind, caring for the earth, and seeking justice, are attributes that reflect the charism of the SSNDs. Each day I am grateful for my association and for all that I have learned from the Sisters.

**If you wish to learn more about the SSND Associate relationship, contact Director of Associates, Suzy Blackburn ([sblackburn@amssnd.org](mailto:sblackburn@amssnd.org)).**

## Department of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

**A**dvancing the Gospel message of Hope and Healing in the context of SSND commitments to Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation this past year has been unusually challenging.

Individually and collectively we continue to absorb the psychological impact of a global pandemic while navigating the widening crevices of divisions, disparities, and deep injustices being revealed in our societies. Across Canada and the United States, we are witnessing how misguided mindsets seed and perpetuate violence, health risk, exclusion, and economic insecurity. Violations of indigenous people's lives and rights, immigrant children being held in detention, the exploitation and abuse of creation, and the destructive power of unresolved, systemic racism have extended notions of what is meant by "pandemic."

These daunting realities are forcing us to reimagine hope and what we must do to nurture and release its transforming power in our lives and through our actions. In our work to extend hope and healing this past year, Sisters, Associates and staff collaborated to address and advance justice for the marginalized members of our societies and for the earth.



***In our work to extend hope and healing this past year, Sisters, Associates and staff collaborated to address and advance justice for the marginalized members of our societies and for the earth.***

## Brings *Hope and Healing* Through Education

As the pandemic placed most school-age children in virtual classrooms and in front of computer screens for hours on end, the SSNDs have led a campaign launched by U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, advocating for greater government response to the uptick in online trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. Similarly, SSNDs in Canada and the United States have joined with other collaborators to investigate the cases of the many indigenous women who have 'disappeared' and are feared to be victims of human trafficking.

We have appealed to U.S. legislators for justice on behalf of immigrants, refugees, asylees, and detainees advocating for the end of family separation, a DREAM Act to secure a future for DACA recipients, and a renewal of our commitment to welcome persons eligible for asylum and refugee protections.

The clarion call to dismantle racism in the United States has animated the province to engage in thoughtful conversations around a resource entitled, *I Can't Breathe*. Province Sisters and Associates have attended Black Lives Matter rallies, and we anticipate engaging in ongoing work to address white privilege and systemic racism in the days, months and years ahead. Climate-related events continue to intensify as carbon induced global warming reaches a tipping point.

In addition to our ongoing work to preserve the health and availability of our planet's water systems, SSND Sisters, Associates and staff collaborated this past year



to launch a Green Habits Campaign to bring attention to how plastic grocery bags contribute to global warming. Sisters in SSND residences sewed cloth shopping bags, tagged them with information regarding the negative impact of plastic bags on the environment and worked with other Sisters, staff and some students from SSND-sponsored high schools to distribute them outside of local grocery stores. Our province has also launched a number of initiatives to commemorate the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'* and collaborated with the Central Pacific Province to present a webinar on the climate crisis led by Yale University Professor, Mary Evelyn Tucker.

The province partnership on the island of Lagonav, Haiti has been a consistent reminder to all of us that hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to work for it, and to fight for it.

We hope that in this snapshot of the SSND work to advance Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, you will see the unmistakable reflection of hope and healing that is still alive in our world today. It is an image of people not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be.



## Fostering Communion in Mission

Ministry Services coordinated two virtual gatherings for the current and past participants of the Ministry Formation Program, one in April and the other in June. The virtual gatherings have been great opportunities to check in with the participants and provide an opportunity to pray and reflect together. The prayers offered particular themes to engage the experience of the participants in

the light of the pandemic and to be of mutual support. The participants found consolation in praying with one another and sharing experiences, knowing that they are not going through this pandemic alone. Ministry Services has also been developing resources for the ministry boards, sharing most recently a new resource on dismantling racism and Catholic Social Teaching.



## Strengthening Community within Mission and Ministry

Since the province staff transitioned to working remotely in March, Ministry Services created an opportunity for staff in the department of Mission and Ministry to gather weekly on Zoom for prayer and reflection. Staff take turns each week leading the gathering. This initiative cultivates stewardship among the staff to strengthen

the relationships that have been formed both in-person and in the office, while providing an opportunity to grow in deeper relationship with God. Special attention is given to holidays, feast days, and days special to SSND. It has been inspiring to see each persons' creativity and approach to prayer.

## CARING FOR OUR AGING SISTERS *How You Can Help*



As the average age of our Sisters continues to rise, so does the cost of their care. The province is currently looking to divest of our large living and care facilities that have become too cumbersome to maintain and to find alternative facilities in which to provide for retirement, assisted living and skilled care that would accommodate the smaller number of Sisters we have now and going into the future.

Even with this restructuring, though, we still ask for your support in offering the best care to our Sisters. We know that many of you are grateful to an SSND who made a difference in your lives. Planned giving is one way in which you can give back to these women.

More and more friends of the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame are choosing to leave a lasting legacy by making a gift through their will or estate.

### *If You Don't Have a Will, Now Is the Time*

Without a valid will in place, you leave it up to the courts to decide how to distribute your assets. You have worked hard to achieve what you have, whether it's a little or a lot, and you deserve the right to say what happens to it. Writing a will isn't difficult and is well worth the time. It's also a great opportunity to leave a legacy gift to the organizations that you care about, like the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

### *What Counts as a Bequest?*

You can give ("bequeath") many different kinds of assets — in whole or in part — in your will, including:

- A paid-in-full life insurance policy
- Cash
- Securities
- Real estate
- CDs
- U.S. Savings Bonds
- A percentage of your estate's value
- The "leftovers" after all debts are paid and your loved ones are cared for

### *Don't Be Shy*

Please let us know if you decide to make a bequest to the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. We realize many donors wish to remain anonymous, and if this is your wish, we will absolutely guard your privacy. However, knowing your wishes helps us plan better for the future. It also enables us to thank you in the way you deserve. It's especially important to contact us in advance:

- If you'd like to make a bequest of something other than cash or appreciated marketable securities.
- If you wish to designate your bequest to a specific purpose.

### *Get in Touch!*

We would be pleased to work with you and your advisor(s) to determine the gift that best suits your situation and interests.

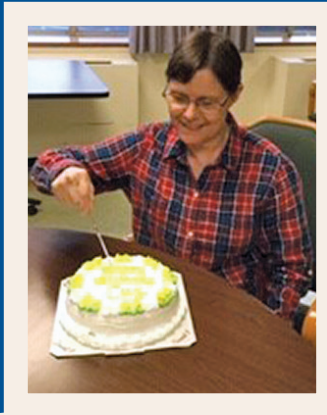
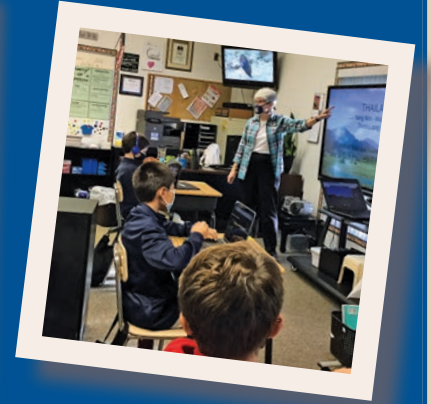
**Contact:** Cathy Schoonover, Development Office, Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, 6401 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21212, 410-377-7774 x 1108, cschoonover@amssnd.org.

Our website includes detailed information about giving wisely through planned gifts:

<https://atlanticmidwest.plannedgiving.org>



# The Year in Photos



# Join Us in Mission

In fidelity to our charism, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province, direct our resources and ministries toward transformative education. Your support enables us to continue our mission to help women, children, and their families receive a Catholic education, job training, growth in self-esteem and spiritual maturity in safe, secure environments of respect, order, and peace. **You enable hope.**

## 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 public 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.

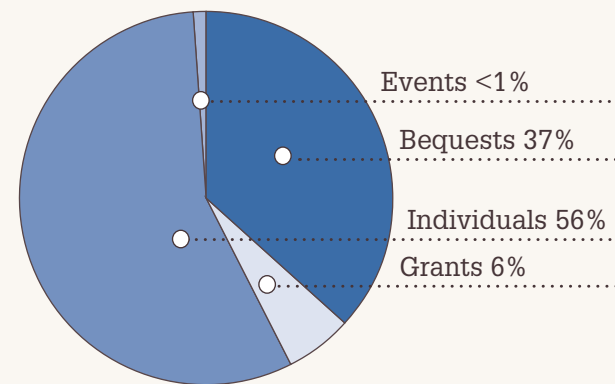
However, both the above-the-line deduction for those who take the standard deduction and the suspension of the percentage limitation in 2020 only apply to cash contributions and are not available for contributions to donor advised funds.

As always, please consult your financial advisor or accountant for details.

We ask for your continued support because you are a vital collaborator in our ministries. Please join us in our mission. If you would like to personally discuss your gift, please contact our Development Director, Laura Lang, 410-377-7774 x1154. Thank you.

## GIVING SUMMARY

	July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020	Number of Gifts
Bequests		20
Unrestricted	\$394,572	
Restricted	\$230,651	
Memorials & Tributes	\$95,521	2,118
Foundations	\$105,000	4
Events*	\$10,880	
Oktoberfest	\$113,438	3,122
Direct Mail Appeals	\$305,620	2,585
Retirement	\$359,755	909
Haiti	\$47,127	142
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,662,564</b>	<b>8,900</b>



Overall fundraising saw an 8.3% increase in giving over 2018–19. Fundraising expenses were below budget for FY20 at 80.48%.

*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. Our fiscal year is July 1–June 30. A financial audit is conducted annually by an independent auditor.*

\*Due to the pandemic, several events had to be canceled. We hope to resume these events in 2021.

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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  
6401 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21212



### Search for a Sister

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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](https://ssnd.org/search-for-a-sister)

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