



A New Springtime: The SSND Charism Growing Within



Seasons are a time of growth and renewal. Days with more sun. Seedlings starting to sprout. Birds greeting us in the early morning. Our lives are a season of grace as we dance to new rhythms and continue growing, being made anew as the SSND charism grows within us.

One initiative that imparts the charism to new employees is the New Employee Orientation (NEO). Supported by the Provincial Council and implemented by our department in collaboration with the sponsored ministries, the NEO has born much fruit. The NEO doesn't take the place of orientations specific to ministries, province departments and continuum of care centers. Rather, it complements them with province and congregational perspectives.

The NEO allows new employees to come together to learn more about SSND – its foundresses, sponsored ministries, spirituality and culture. In this issue, we



"Triune Dance" by Mike Moyers. MikeMoyersFineArt.com

share the testimonies of those who participated in the NEO, showcasing how they have settled into their roles and how the SSND charism of "making one" challenged them to grow and hone their gifts to advance the

SSND mission. As you go through this newsletter, we invite you to pick one of the provided quotes that speaks to you and contemplate on it during the Lenten Season.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey,

Patrick Laorden Associate Director Ministry Services
Yvonne DeBruin Director Ministry Services

"Our charism continues to develop in the living community, which, enriched by the past, enables the congregation to unfold in the present and to be challenged by the future."

– YAS, Prologue

Kim Beckett

*LEAD Assistant
Notre Dame Convent
Waterdown, Ontario*



As I reflect on this holiday "Family Day," a Canadian holiday, working for the School Sisters of Notre Dame has been more than wonderful. I was hired in March 2019 and I attended the New Employee Orientation in November

2020. I feel I have settled well in my role as a LEAD assistant. "LEAD" stands for: Life Enrichment Activation Department. As a LEAD assistant, I provide life enrichment and activities for the Sisters living at Notre Dame Convent.

Life enrichment programs are the plans and activities offered to the Sisters that support their physical, social, emotional and cognitive well-being. The staff and Sisters have welcomed me and made me feel very comfortable. The Sisters are caring and friendly to all staff. They are always willing to help.

I am a very passionate, caring, honest and friendly person,

so I am definitely utilizing my gifts here at SSND. The Sisters are all very thoughtful. They always ask how I am and how my family is and are always offering prayers! I feel the Sisters' mission of faith, hope and love is apparent and resonates with the staff, making us feel like family!

"Since love grows within you, so beauty grows. For love is the beauty of the soul."

– St. Augustine

Jennifer Chrysadakis

*Database Administrator
AMSSND Development
Wilton, CT*



The very first thing I wrote on my pad of paper at the New Employee Orientation was "love is the heart of the mission". It's been almost a year since I accepted the position of Database Administrator and I've learned that these words ring true. I wasn't just handed a job; I was invited to be a

part of something bigger than myself. I was invited to continue in Jesus' mission that ALL may be one.

During the New Employee Orientation, Sr. Patricia McLaughlin, SSND said, "It was no accident you were hired for our organization, there is a spiritual connection between you and our foundress". I feel this spiritual connection everyday through different avenues – reading a story from an alumnus telling of how they owe all their success in life to a Sister and listening to a Sister re-live her work in Africa.

Firsthand, I witness the generosity of the donors and their ongoing support of the SSND mission. Since starting, I have become more patient with myself. I am more

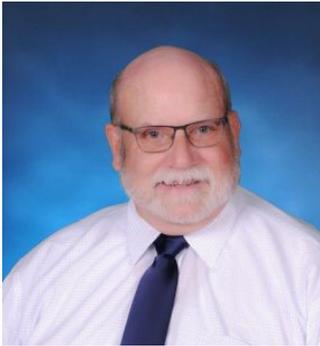
attuned in my ability to listen, to absorb my surroundings in a positive way. And to let go of the negative things, to forgive. I feel not as rushed in my daily life. I am training myself to stop, breathe and take in the kindness and love that surrounds me. I know I am exactly where I am meant to be. Jobs fill your pocket, but love fills your heart.

"Have patience with yourself concerning the growth of the reign of God within you ... and go ahead step by step - not all at once."

– Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, no.2

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Jerry Potter
Instructional Assistant
Notre Dame Preparatory School
Towson, MD



My previous position as the technology manager at a nursing home for 25 years concluded at the end of 2020. I was looking for my next adventure. My wife has been working at NDP since 2007. She is also a graduate of NDP. Several years ago, she became an SSND Associate. She told me

NDP needed an Instructional Assistant. So, I joined the ranks in January 2021.

My job entails monitoring groups of students in the dining hall. These students may be on a free period or part of a teacher’s class when coverage is needed when teachers are absent. I have enjoyed watching the 9th through 12th graders as they work together with their peers on papers and/or projects. On occasion I have been asked to proctor tests. At NDP, I find the faculty and staff to be very friendly and helpful. They care about their students and each other.

During the New Employee Orientation, it was interesting to learn about the global reach of the SSND. It is not only the

teaching of girls, but also their work to end human trafficking and helping to solve the clean water crisis in various areas around the world. My gift of being organized has helped me in my work at NDP. Whether it’s monitoring the girls during free periods or working on data entry in the Advancement office, being organized helps make the work go smoothly.

“A charism needs to be “lived according to the place, times and people. The charism is not a bottle of distilled water. It needs to be lived with energy, rereading it culturally, too.”
– Pope Francis

AnnMarie Race
Business Administrator
Notre Dame Learning Center
Rochester, NY



I don’t believe you should ever settle into any role, there is always room to grow. I attended the New Employee Orientation in May 2021. Since that time, I have viewed my role at Notre Dame Learning Center in that larger context. I realized part of my responsibility is to convey and actively promote the SSND mission. After seeing faces and hearing voices connected to the other ministries, I was able

to see and feel a connection to the larger community. This is the essence of “making one”.

Whenever possible, we try to share the five commitments in our program. We use water as an ongoing theme with our children through books and activities. Our center serves the students most affected by racism. Students in the Rochester City School district are primarily children of color. They recurringly experience violence and poverty – byproducts of systemic racism. Our program sets an example for our students that everyone deserves to be treated and given an opportunity. On a personal level, I volunteer for a non-profit that focuses on human trafficking victims and challenge myself to learn more about the sustainable development in Haiti and justice for immigrants.

The SSND continue to do good work in so many ways. The lives they touch through their ministries is a sign that the congregation is not “settling” into their role either. Change is constant. Adaptation is necessary. Sometimes when one tree is cut down, we only see the bareness of the space. God takes that space and allows light and change to come in. There is an opportunity for growth in that newly created space. I see that growth and opportunity in the ministries of SSND. I am proud to be part of the SSND family.

“[Ecological conversion] entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works.”
– Laudato Si’, no. 220

Winter 2022 Address to SSND Ministry Boards: Tenderness, Hope and Call

Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND, Provincial Leader, delivers a message to the boards of the sponsored and co-sponsored ministries. Sr. Charmaine focuses on the hope found in new beginnings and in that hope, a calling. Like Blessed Theresa, we are called to embrace that call with tenderness and hope. What newness awaits your board this year in 2022?



Listen to the message here: [Winter 2022 Address](#)
A script of the address can be accessed here: [Winter 2022 Address Script](#)
Reflection Questions can be found here: [Questions for Reflection/Discussion/Sharing](#)

Upcoming Events

New Employee Orientation (Virtual)

April 6 (12:30-5:00pm) and April 7 (8:30-1:00pm)

Proclaiming the Fire Within Retreat (In-Person)

June 28-30, Cranaleith – Philadelphia, PA

*Pre-requisite: previously attended a Claiming the Fire Within retreat between 2009-2019

Ministry Formation Session I

Oct. 21-22 (Virtual/On-Site TBD)

Resources

Resources

[New Council Greeting](#)

[AMSSND Values for Ministry](#)

[Ecological Conversion \(Eco-Catholic\)](#)

[Season of Lent \(Catholic Climate Covenant\)](#)

Articles

[How Nonprofits Can Truly Advance Change \(Nonprofit Quarterly\)](#)

[It's Time to Heal \(BoardSource\)](#)

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UNITED IN MISSION 

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