

UNITED IN MISSION

ATLANTIC-MIDWEST PROVINCE

Transforming the world through education

Summer 2024

Called & Sent:



Sharing in Christ's Mission to Proclaim the Good News! [YAS 1,2]

I am honored to feature in this late summer issue of UIM leaders in SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, who celebrate milestones of service with us, or are transitioning after years of dedicated servant leadership and innovative ministry.

Both, Marylou Yam, PhD., President of Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), and Melinda Hanlon, Ed.S., President of the Academy of the Holy Angels AHA, celebrated their 10th anniversary on July 1. (Continued Next Page)

Celebrating Their 10th Anniversary - A Decade of Service and Servant Leadership!



Marylou Yam, PhD.
President
Notre Dame of MD
University (NDMU)
Baltimore, MD

Looking back, what initially drew you to NDMU as a university and as a sponsored ministry of SSND? Why did you want to pursue this role? What were your professional and personal motivations?

The mission of Notre Dame of Maryland University and the SSND's educational vision drew me to the university. NDMU's mission, namely, to educate leaders to transform the world and the SSND's educational vision that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons continue to inspire me every day. [Click here to continue reading!](#)



Melinda Hanlon, Ed.S.
President
Academy of the Holy
Angels (AHA)
Demarest, NJ

Melinda, as you approached this 10th anniversary, this first decade, what was your initial reaction when you became mindful of it?

My first reaction was almost a shock of a decade of service. So much has gone on, and I still have so many things I'm thinking of doing for Holy Angels. But this is a good time to reflect, because sometimes when I am caught up in the day to day and the busyness of this role, I can forget and I don't allow myself that time to reflect on what I have accomplished, on how I have been changed by this role. [Click here to continue reading!](#)

Introduction, Continued

Also, from AHA, Joan Connelly, M.S. retired after 28 years of being a devoted Religious Studies teacher and mission leader. Danielle Holmes, the first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at AHA, and having recently received her PhD., transitioned in search of a new engagement. Lastly, Margaret (Peggy) Juskelis, SSND, left her position as third President of Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, MD, a co-sponsored, tuition-free middle school for boys and girls in underserved East-Baltimore to enjoy sabbatical time before discerning next steps.

Commemorating a total of 63 years of dedicated service, I interviewed each leader to celebrate their journey and lift up their achievements and contributions to their respective SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministry. Truly, the interviews showed they were 'Called and Sent' and they demonstrated that they are educators in all that they do. [YAS 23]. They showed staying power when they experienced the paschal mystery. [YAS 5] They also affirmed the opportunity to reflect on their experiences, growth and impact they made over the decade and tenure of service. I hope reading their reflections will inspire you personally, and in your ministry, to keep on transforming the world through education. [YAS 22]

The interviews were lengthy, for which reason they appear partially in this newsletter. To read the entire interview, please click on the 'Read more' link. The bolded print are my prompts, the regular print are the interviewees responses.

As you read and reflect on each interview, how do you see that the featured leaders lived the past Directional Statements of the 23rd and 24th General Chapters "Love Cannot Wait", and "Love Gives Everything"?

As we stand at the cusp of a new year of ministry, may our prayer impel us to love and inspire us to service!

Summer Blessings!



Yvonne DeBruin
Director, Mission Formation



“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another. This is how all will know, that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

Joan Connelly, M.S.
Past Director of Mission & Ministry
Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA)
Demarest, NJ

Having held positions as a full-time Religious Studies (RS) teacher at the Academy of the Holy Angels (AHA) and then part-time Mission Integration leader and part-time RS teacher, what made you accept the full-time position as Director of Mission and Ministry in 2019?

One day in 2014, S. Pat Murphy, interim president of AHA, called me into her office and offered me the role of mission integration coordinator, as the current person leading that position was about to retire. Initially, I was hesitant, as I enjoyed teaching RS and enjoyed the interaction with the students. I believed I was effective in the classroom; I could facilitate thought-provoking discussions and be present to the students. I was able to help them to grow intellectually as well as to grow in their own personal spirituality. [Read More](#)

**“...To act justly and
to love mercy and
to walk humbly
with your God.”**

Micah 6-8



**“All the works of God proceed
slowly and in pain, but then the
roots are the sturdier and their
flowering the lovelier.”**

Bl. Theresa Gerhardinger

Danielle Holmes, PhD.
Past Director
of Diversity, Equity
& Inclusion (DEI)
Academy of the
Holy Angels (AHA)
Demarest, NJ

What drew you to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, and particularly to do this at Holy Angels?

Most of my career I worked in higher education, and through my work at colleges and universities, I kept getting drawn to different aspects of DEI work, like doing assessments for the campus and working with institutional research to get data and information and make meaning of it. I kept wondering if in my next job search, I should perhaps focus solely on DEI work. I then saw the position for director of DEI at AHA posted on social media. The thought of returning to AHA gave me a good pulse and was inspiring to see what they were working on.

[Read More](#)

Click Logos Below to Learn More of Each Featured Leader



NOTRE DAME
OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY

1895

Margaret (Peggy) Juskelis, SSND
Past President
Mother Seton Academy (MSA)
Baltimore, MD

**How long have you been
at Mother Seton Academy
as president?**

“If the dear God wants to
call something into life, he
also gives the means
for that to happen.”

Bl. Theresa Gerhardinger



I've been president for 12 years and began at Mother Seton directly after serving on the Provincial Council. Sister Charmaine and I did a swap. She had been president at Mother Seton Academy, and I was on the Council. So, I would tell everybody I've chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from me.

It's been a blessing for the 12 years. We have been able as a school community grow in so many ways. The past four years, what was Covid, has really created extra strain and stress, but I think the Covid years are behind us. Now is a good time for the school to look for its next leader to carry on, because there are so many things that need to be done that someone else will have the vision and the ideas to do. [Read More](#)

“

“We are educators in all that we are and do. We continually choose ways of living and serving that call to growth. Responding to varying needs, we engage in a diversity of ministries, specific services through which we work for the enablement of persons.”

[YAS 23]

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Resources



From the 2024 Annual Leadership Meeting Keynote Presentation - *Ready for the Journey: The 25th General Chapter & Ministries*

Presenter - Teresa Maya, CCVI - Senior Director for Theology & Sponsorship, Catholic Association, USA:

- [Part I](#) [47:18 min.]
- [Part II](#) [42:02 min.]
- [Part III](#) [28:49 min.]

LCWR Assembly 2024:

Our Time is Holy: Who Shall We Be?

This assembly explored what is happening in the world today and in religious life in order to see the compelling call to religious life at this time. The content provided the impetus for leaders to bring forth the best inside of themselves and inside their institutes so that we are energized to respond to a world in need of what we have to bring.

Please find the keynote and related recordings and in print at the [LCWR Assembly Website](#).

Upcoming Ministry Formation Sessions Ministry Formation Program, (MFP)

Session I

November 15-16, 2024

Villa Assumpta, Baltimore

Claiming the Fire Within Retreat

June 23-26, 2025

Malvern Retreat Center, Malvern, PA

For Boards

2 BoardSource Resources:

- [18 Questions to Ask Your Board](#)
[About Culture](#)
- [Building Trust](#)



Shalom North-America Virtual Prayer Room

Every Friday from

10:00 am to 10:00 pm EST

we gather in this virtual space to pray for peace.

Please join us!

[Enter the Prayer Room](#)

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