

# Partners in CND Mission



CONGRÉGATION DE  
NOTRE-DAME

Éducation libératrice - Liberating Education  
真の自由への教育 - Educación liberadora

The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame | Vol. 18 No. 2 Fall 2018

## Sr. Margaret Giroux, CND — an Eternal Optimist at 97!

“It’s hard to be optimistic,” Sr. Margaret Giroux admits, “but we have to be.” At 97, Sr. Margaret maintains a sunny but realistic outlook. Over the course of her long career, she taught countless students to make and love art. Sr. Margaret entered the Congregation of Notre Dame in 1939. After making her final vows in 1948, she taught art at Notre Dame Academy, a CND school in Staten Island, NY. She served there for 33 years.

During summer breaks, Sr. Margaret taught art to children in Appalachia. After nine summers she thought it time to move from Notre Dame Academy to a less

privileged location. The province leader asked her to try a school on the Red Cloud Lakota reservation in South Dakota. Sr. Margaret stayed for 32 years.

“People and their needs grow on you,” Sr. Margaret says. “At first the kids were bitter and didn’t trust white people. But as the kids get to know you they begin to trust you. You begin to love them more and more. I didn’t want to leave. I had my burial spot all picked out.”

When the other CND Sister working with her returned to the east coast, Sr. Margaret knew she would also leave. She moved to the Sisters’ residence at Notre Dame Academy.



Sr. Margaret Giroux, CND

(continued on page 3)

*“God is always changing. God is love and love can’t be static – if it’s static it gets stale and dies.”*

## Teaching Religion to the Youngest Among Us – Thanks to You!

Sr. Joan Brennan, CND, needs to apply all her 60+ years of experience as an educator when teaching religion to three and four-year olds. Yes, that’s three and four-year old preschoolers at Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island, NY. She begins her classes with a song many of us learned in school: *Rise and Shine and Give God Your Glory Glory*. She tells them the creation story. She employs artwork as well as songs to get her youngest pupils to think about where and how do we see God? How do we find God in our life every day?

A CND since 1957, Sr. Joan served as a teacher and administrator in Catholic schools and parishes in Illinois and Connecticut. She retired as pastoral associate at St. Mary



Sr. Joan Brennan, CND, with Eighth-Grade Pupils.

(continued on page 3)

# Following Jesus. Serving the poor.

## A Visitation Companion on Her Long-Standing Love for the CNDs



by Maura Melody

**M**y love for the CNDs started before I began first grade. Sr. Rose Daly, CND, let me visit a class at St. Jean Baptiste School in New York City. My next twelve years would be spent there. I was so impressed by the wonderful nuns who taught me that I asked to join them. I entered their novitiate in 1963. Although I never made it to profession, I always admired all the good work that the order does. My sponsor, Sr. Beth Davies, is still working in Appalachia with people who need her. My greatest connection in later years came from the CND Alumnae group. This group kept so many of us “former CNDs” in touch with each other. The order always gave a warm welcome to us at any gatherings. The Sisters continued to show their love and concern for us. I am grateful for all the CNDs gave me and will support them and pray for them daily.

Sr. Beth Davies, CND, is featured in a new book. *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America* came out this year.

The Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, VA exhibited portraits of people included in the book. This is the portrait of Sr. Beth. She directs the Addiction Education Center in Pennington Gap, VA. She receives no salary for her work. **Your generosity allows her to minister to the addicted and exploited of Appalachia. She’s been performing this ministry for 46 years.**



Associates providing a meal at Project Hospitality, Staten Island, NY: Ellen Boegel, Sr. Anne Seeley, Arcadia Ramirez, Sebastiana Leon, Evette Contreras, Baldomero Ahucacatitan

## Become a Visitation Companion Monthly Giver!

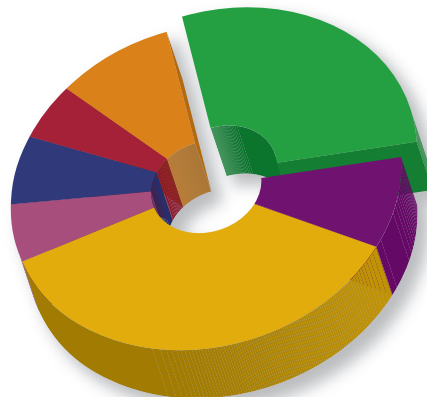
Your dependable monthly gifts help sustain the CNDs and our ministries. Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and easy on your budget. TO SIGN UP, email [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org) or call **203-762-4306**. OR click on the “recurring” or “monthly” gift options at [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org); *USA Office of Mission Advancement; Giving.*

Visitation Companions receive special mention in our Honor Roll and on our website.

*Thank you so much!*

## LAST FISCAL YEAR

*Thank you for caring!*



- 17-18 Annual Appeal
- 17-Christmas Card Appeal
- 17-Fall Newsletter
- 18-Spring Newsletter
- Honor/Memorial; Unsolicited
- Major Gifts
- Visitation Companions

# Comforting the sick. Because of you.

*Your Gifts Benefit All Sisters*

**The 2018-2019 Annual Appeal Has Launched!\***



Sr. Darleen Mayo with teachers Erin Monahan and Ashley Hendzell

**Last fiscal year's Annual Appeal was the largest ever – over \$105,000! Thank you for your tremendous generosity!**

Your gifts to the Annual Appeal sustain:

- Sisters who receive little or no pay as they share Christ's love with the poor and vulnerable. *Think of Sr. Darleen Mayo. Her ministry to Chicago Catholic schools was featured in our current Annual Appeal letter.*
- Elderly and infirm Sisters who continue to serve God through prayer.

***Religious Sisters receive no funding from the Vatican or local dioceses. That's why your support is crucial!***

Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope. You can also make your gift online at [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org), USA Office of Mission Advancement.

## **You Can Endow Your Annual Appeal Gift!**

Through a bequest in your will you can create a lasting Annual Appeal gift. A \$20,000 bequest can generate a \$1,000 Annual Appeal gift that is in place forever! **To learn more, call the Mission Advancement Office at (203) 762-4309.**

**Please know that the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame hold you and your loved ones in prayer every day.**

*\*Our Annual Appeal runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> every year.*

## **Sr. Margaret Giroux, CND...** *(continued from page 1)*

"I make myself as useful as I can here. I do some of the cooking. I crochet afghans which the school raffles off to raise money."

Sr. Margaret likes to apply the theory of evolution to spirituality. "God is evolving with the world. We think of God as unchanging, but in

evolution, God is always changing. God is love and love can't be static – if it's static it gets stale and dies."

Sr. Margaret says she is optimistic because she takes the long view of creation. "God works slowly. It took Him 14 billion years to create what

we have now. It may take 14 billion more to repair the damage we've done. It's our job to repair it. God puts a lot of trust in us."

**Your generosity helps support Sr. Margaret now that she is no longer teaching. Thank you!**

## **Teaching Religion to the Youngest...** *(continued from page 1)*

Parish in Ridgefield, CT four years ago. She now volunteers to teach religion at Notre Dame Academy from preschool to eighth grade.

She asks her older students, "Are we living today the way Jesus would? So much of what's happening today was happening in Jesus's time — the lack of respect and caring for each other. And look what happened to

Jesus! We have to be willing to stand up for what we believe."

How do we do that? "We can rally in solidarity with people suffering in floods, war, famine, etc. We need to ask, what can I do?"

She always encourages her pupils to see how God is working in their life. She reminds them to use the acronym "FROG" – Fully Rely On God.

The non-Catholics will ask her about the faith and wonder about it. She says a challenge is not to offend anyone. "There is one God and God loves every one. Follow your God – that's what's important."

**Sr. Joan receives no salary. She's able to bring her wealth of experience – over 60 years – to her pupils, thanks to you.**

# For all you do, thank you.

## Ways to Help the CNDs

### Donate Online

Visit [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org);  
USA Office of Mission Advancement;  
Have you thought about giving?

### “Like” the CNDs on Facebook

Check out our Facebook page at  
Congregation of Notre Dame/USA.

### Order Our Prayer Enrollment Cards

Visit [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org);  
USA Office of Mission Advancement;  
Prayer Enrollment Cards.

### Keep Sending Your Stamps

Your cancelled stamps benefit our  
missions in Central America and  
Cameroon.

### Check Out Our Website

Visit [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org);  
USA Office of Mission Advancement.

### Follow Us on Instagram

#cndsistersusa

*Thank you for  
your support!*

*Please join us in praying  
for our deceased Sisters.*

## IN MEMORY OF

### Elizabeth Scully, CND

(S. St. Laura of Mary)  
d. April 21, 2018

### Rita McGetrick, CND

(S. St. Rita Maureen)  
d. June 10, 2018

### Marylin Stack, CND

(S. St. Robert of Mary)  
d. July 2, 2018

### Mary Caplice, CND

(S. St. Mary Michael)  
d. July 4, 2018

*All I have ever desired is  
that the great precept of  
the love of God above all things  
and of the neighbor as oneself  
be written in every heart.*

– St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

*May their souls and the souls  
of all the faithful departed  
rest in peace.*

## Have You Included the CNDs In Your Will? Join the Legacy Society!

Just use this sentence with your financial planner:

I bequeath \_\_\_\_% of my estate or \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the  
Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, Inc.\*,  
30 Highfield Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.

In the last three years the Legacy Society has grown from 10 to 25 members. Legacy Society members receive special mention in our Honor Roll and on our website. They also receive a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin and invitations to special events. To find out more, contact Mission Advancement Director Katherine DiGiulio at **203-762-4309** or [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org).

\*Our legal name



*Thank you!*

## CND Orientation 2016-2021

Rooted in Jesus Christ, in love and compassion, we, CND Sisters and Associates, through contemplative dialogue, dare to:

- Live interculturality. Face our fears and vulnerabilities. Be open to and celebrate the diversity of generations, cultures, attitudes and structures.
- Go to the peripheries. In a spirit of mutuality and collaboration, respond in hope to the cries of our wounded world.
- Honor and respect our “common home.” Take concrete action, resist the forces of destruction and promote life in all its forms.

JESUS CHRIST CALLS US TO HUMANIZE ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE TODAY?



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Congregation of Notre Dame  
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Mission Advancement Office:  
203-762-4306 | Fax: 203-762-4319  
Email: [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org)

# Congregation of Notre Dame Blessed Sacrament Province

## Honor Roll 2017-2018

Thank you for your kindness and generosity during the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. We thank especially our Visitation Companions (monthly donors) **(VC)**; our Legacy Society members **(LS)**; and our St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Loyalty Society members **(\*)**, who have supported the CNDs for three or more consecutive years.

### **St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Circle (\$25,000 - \$50,000)** Anonymous (1)

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