



## CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME

*Blessed Sacrament Province • Development Office*

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Dear Friend of the CND,

Seeing a child learn something new or feel accepted for the first time is such a great gift. It's like watching the petals of a spring flower unfold one by one to reveal the magnificent blossom it was always meant to be.

Children and education have always been at the heart of the CND mission, from our earliest days in 1860 when three CND Sisters were sent to Bourbonnais, Illinois, and established a school for the children of fur trappers who had settled the area. Then, as now, people could see the tremendous influence the Sisters had not only on the children they taught but on their families and the surrounding community as well.

Following in the footsteps of our Foundress, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, those first mission Sisters educated children in all subjects with a special emphasis on religious education. It wasn't long before their work expanded and Notre Dame Academy was established. By 1867, the number of CND Sisters serving in Illinois had increased, leading to a school in Kankakee and eventually to their work at St. Anne's. Since then the Sisters have provided outstanding education at St. Joseph's Seminary, Maternity of the Blessed Virgin, Bishop McNamara High School, St. Rose and St. Martin's, all in Illinois.

The continued presence of the CNDs in the region for almost 150 years is a reminder that even though times may change, one thing remains constant: the need to serve immigrant children and their families. Today that need is just as great as it was when our Sisters first arrived here.



*Statue of our Foundress,  
St. Marguerite Bourgeoys,  
Garden of Maternity of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Bourbonnais, IL*

*The CND Sisters are collaborating with the Viatorian Priests to bring much-needed ministries to four parishes: St. Anne's Church, St. Anne; St. Teresa's Church, Kankakee; St. Patrick's Church, Kankakee; and Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bourbonnais.*



St. Anne's Church, St. Anne, IL



St. Teresa's Church, Kankakee, IL



St. Patrick's Church, Kankakee, IL



Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bourbonnais, IL



*Lenten reflection groups not only nourish the faith of individual parishioners but the life of the larger community as well.*



*Adult formation at St. Teresa's Church in Kankakee is a family affair.*

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*In the early days, our Sisters served immigrants from Quebec. Today the immigrant community is largely Hispanic, with different but just as urgent needs as the generations of immigrants who came before them. The CNDs recently established a new collaborative effort with the Viatorian Priests to serve this immigrant community, and we are hoping you will join us.*

Our efforts are focused on four parishes: Maternity of the Blessed Virgin in Bourbonnais, which next year will celebrate 150 years of CND presence; St. Patrick's and St. Teresa's in Kankakee, and St. Anne's in St. Anne. Three CND Sisters are involved in this new collaborative approach: Sister Dolores McKinney, CND; Sister Theresa Galvan, CND; and Sister Helen Kavanaugh, CND.

**Sister Dolores** speaks Spanish and works in St. Teresa's Parish ministering directly to the Hispanic population through RCIA instruction, adult faith formation, religious education of parents and children, and more. The parish also has a clinic — Lisieux Pastoral Outreach Center — that provides for the physical and psychological needs of families and works with the Mexican Consulate to help parishioners acquire proper documentation.

**Sister Theresa**, who is also Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, works with Sister Helen at St. Patrick's, Maternity, and St. Anne's parishes, providing adult faith formation, Advent and Lenten reflection series, Bible study, spiritual direction, at-home retreats, catechist formation, faith and action, and social awareness programs.

**Sister Helen**, who works with Sister Theresa in the three parishes, also does home and hospital visitation for Maternity Parish, as well as Advent and Lenten programs, and parish community outreach that includes a monthly soup lunch at the parish and a food collection for the poor at Christmas and Easter.



*Sister Madeleine La Marre, CND, (seated) who celebrated her 85th birthday recently, is seen here with, from left, Sisters Dolores McKinney, CND; Helen Kavanaugh, CND, and Theresa Galvan, CND, who are heading up the new collaborative ministry.*

Our Sisters have joined forces with three Viatorian priests and one diocesan priest. Their goal is to work with these pastors and their parish communities not only to provide education and meet pastoral needs but also to take the next step toward promoting social justice and outreach efforts to the poorest families in the region.

*This new collaborative ministry is just one more example of our long tradition of joint ministerial work with the Viatorian Priests, who have focused, like the CNDs, on the training and education of children and adults. Today we invite you to join them and become part of a ministry that will influence families and communities for years to come.*

It is never easy to start over in a new country. Our earliest Sisters knew that first-hand, and they saw the dramatic impact they could have on the lives of immigrants through something as basic but as critical as education. We must continue their work today, adapting and expanding our ministries to serve those who are longing to reach their full potential.

God bless you for your support of our mission and our Sisters. May the beauty and wonder of spring renew your spirit and fill your heart with joy.

Gratefully,

*Kathleen Murphy, CND*

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Development Director



*P.S. We would like to remember you and your loved ones close in prayer.  
Please write your Special Intentions on the enclosed slip and return it to us.*