



# CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME

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

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## Partners in CND Mission

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Dear Friends of the CND Sisters,

Your friendship and generosity to us over the years have been a precious gift to us. You have helped so many people improve their lives and you have provided much appreciated funds for our retired and infirmed Sisters. Our gratitude is expressed in our prayer for you each day.

In this issue, we continue to highlight Sisters in different ministries. One is the Director of the Catechetical Office for the Archdiocese of New York. Another is our NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) representative at the United Nations. The third Sister is the Pastoral Associate at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, CT. As St. Marguerite's daughters, we continue the ministry of liberating education for all with whom we come in contact.

You will also see photos of Alumnae Classes from St. Mary of the Visitation Academy and St. Louis Academy. You are encouraged to send us photos of any gatherings that you may have and we will feature them in our newsletter. Even though these schools have closed, graduates gather and share memories of their years with the CNDs.

As you look forward to Spring weather and all the joy of new flowers and greenery, may you be blessed in this Easter Season with the peace that Jesus promises us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy, CND  
Director, Office of Mission Advancement



# Catechetical Office, Archdiocese of New York

By: Joan Curtin, CND, Director

As I write from the Catechetical Office early in this new year, I am very conscious of the many special events that we as Church are celebrating during the 2012-13 year. Among them are the 50th anniversary of Vatican Council II, the recent Synod on the New Evangelization, and the *Year of Faith*. Each of these, indeed, all of these truly provide us with the opportunity to stop, to reflect, and to refocus on the person of Jesus.

This, in essence, is also the heart of the mission of the Catechetical Office in the Archdiocese of New York. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us so clearly that the aim of all catechesis, whether it be for children, youth or adults of any age, is to put the person in deeper communion with the person of Jesus. What a mission; what a challenge!

Here in the Archdiocese, we in the Catechetical Office have the responsibility and privilege to help form the catechetical leaders and catechists in their sacred mission. The Archdiocese is large and comprises 10 counties: Staten Island, the Bronx, Manhattan and Westchester, along with Rockland, Putnam, and Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess and Ulster counties. Our 368 parishes are spread out in urban, inner city, suburban and rural areas. In fact, the Archdiocese of New York has one of the highest numbers of rural Catholics in the United States. We have onion fields, wineries, apple orchards, dairy farms, and Wall Street amidst the diversity. Throughout the year, the Mass is celebrated in more than 37 languages. We have some very wealthy parishes as well as some of the poorest in the State of New York.

All of this presents both great opportunities and great challenges for assisting families in the handing on of the faith. As an office, we collaborate closely with the parish catechetical leaders who work tirelessly to lead and administer the 350 elementary catechetical programs. We provide basic training, advanced leadership formation, a supervision process, and certification for them as well as for the leaders of the Rite of Christian Initiation and their parish teams, and for adult faith formation leaders and their teams.

The catechetical leaders of the children's programs are joined by approximately 10,000 parish catechists throughout the Archdiocese. The catechists teach almost 100,000 children each week. The size of each program varies according to parish; several programs have more than 2,000 children, other programs under 50. Because of this diversity some parishes have catechetical sessions every day of the week, others only on one day. These programs are offered in many languages, including English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Sign.



Photo By: Maureen Mckew

**Sr. Joan and Oscar Cruz, member of her staff.**

In order to help the catechists become well prepared and grounded in their faith, free courses leading to two levels of certification are available online and on site in English and Spanish. These courses aim not only to give catechists an adult understanding of their own faith, but also to assist them to continue to grow spiritually, to grow into closer communion with Jesus to whom they witness as they teach each week.

The Catechetical Office also offers training in family catechesis to help parish teams assist parents in their role as primary teachers of the faith to their children. This is not easy! Many parents tell us how much they appreciate this help because they themselves are not well grounded in their own faith.

We offer formation for catechists in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which is a catechetical process based on Montessori and offered to children as young as three years old. This is a beautiful experience, which truly leads even the very young children closer to Jesus.

Each Lent, we gather at St. Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion for adults seeking The Sacrament of Baptism and/or full initiation into the Church. These rites are celebrated in English, Spanish and Chinese. What moving events these are. We are always so touched by the eagerness, the yearning, and the desire of these adults to come into close communion with Jesus.

Throughout the year, the Catechetical Office, in close collaboration with our catechetical leaders, sponsors several

## We are united in our firm belief that at the heart of all catechesis is the person of Jesus.

major events to enable catechists and other interested adults to continue growing in the faith and in their competency, so they can to share it with young and old alike. The annual Catechetical Forums are held each Fall in two different sites and draw close to 2,000 participants. Separate days of prayer and reflection, as well as liturgies followed by communion breakfasts, enrich catechists, catechetical leaders and Catholic teachers in public schools. In June, our annual New York Catholic Bible Summit, jointly sponsored by the Catechetical Office and the American Bible Society, brings major Scripture scholars from around the U.S., as well as some international ones, to the Catholic Center. The many workshops and a vibrant liturgy draw over 400 participants from the tri-state area.

A superb staff of religious and laity form our Catechetical Office team, which is located both in the Catholic Center

in Manhattan and in seven regional offices spread throughout the 10 counties. We are united in our firm belief that at the heart of all catechesis is the person of Jesus. We have much to rejoice in when we see the efforts and the good effects of thousands of our colleagues, who so faithfully give of themselves in the ministry of catechesis. We also have great concerns because many of the parish programs are understaffed, underfunded, and lacking in basic necessities vital for effective catechesis. We are, without a doubt, passionate about doing everything possible to ensure that whatever we do truly brings the child, the youth, the adult, the family, closer to Jesus.

Your prayerful support is of inestimable value. We count on you! May this *Year of Faith* be a time for you to deepen your relationship with Jesus. ❁

## St. Mary's Academy of the Visitation, Providence, RI

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND



Photo By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

St. Mary's Academy Class of 1962

For the past several years I have attended the Alumnae Reunion for St. Mary's Academy and each year the numbers attending have grown substantially. This is through the efforts of Betty Farrell, Class of '61. Betty has tracked down large numbers of graduates and this year they almost outgrew the room where they gathered. A delicious meal is served, prizes are won, as well as a 50/50! You can imagine all the memories shared and the interest each one has in catching up with friends. There is lots of chatter and laughs throughout the room and Betty always appears in her St. Mary's uniform to the delight of everyone.

The Alumnae have also been very generous in remembering the CND Sisters. We are most grateful to them for their thoughtfulness and care for the CND Sisters. These women have a very special place in our hearts. ❁

# Why is the CND at the UN?



By: Stacy Hanrahan, CND

When I was asked to become the CND NGO representative at the UN, I reflected on the question posed in the title. I continue to do so frequently. The best and simplest answer for me continues to be: we are the heirs of Marguerite Bourgeoys! Research indicates that Marguerite founded the Congregation of Notre Dame in international waters on the boat bringing her back from France with young women who wanted to join her mission in the colony of Ville Marie. That mission was to make a community in the new world based on the Gospel Call of love. Today, the same vision impels us, to respond to the perils and opportunities of our new world:

- earth and all her creatures are in jeopardy
- the need to learn to “live well” (simply), so others can simply LIVE.
- the urgency of listening to voices too long excluded from forums of decision and planning: the poor, women, the world’s indigenous peoples and the earth itself
- the almost instinctual sense that the human species has a shrinking window to answer three crucial questions ~

**Who Are We?**  
**Why Are We Here?**  
**What Must We Do?**



Photo By: Morgan Jue

Stacy Hanrahan, CND

## CONVERGING VOICES

*The most remarkable feature of this historical moment on Earth is not that we are on the way to destroying the world – we’ve actually been on the way for quite a while. It is that we are beginning to wake up, as from a millennia-long sleep, to a whole new relationship to our world, to ourselves and each other.*

JOANNA MACY

*No problem can be solved from the same consciousness that created it. We must learn to see the world anew.”*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

*. . . in fidelity to the prophetic charism of Marguerite Bourgeoys in today’s world, we commit ourselves to live closer to the reality of the impoverished, the excluded and the oppressed. In solidarity with them, we commit ourselves to protect our planet and to participate actively in the transformation of Church and society for a more just world.*

CND MISSION ORIENTATION

## CONTINUING THE CND MINISTRY AT THE UN

There is long line of CNDs living the mission among the UN community dating back to the 1970s. At that time the Congregation joined the even longer line of dedicated women and men who have participated at the United Nations since its beginning in 1945. In UN language this is the community of the Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs. The numbers of NGOs have grown rapidly from an initial 55 to over 3,500 today.

## CURRENT ROLE DESCRIPTION ~ AREAS OF ATTENTION:

As CND NGO Representative I work in collaboration with other NGOs particularly in educating and advocating on the following areas: climate change and its impact on the poorest peoples, developing a future that is sustainable, respectful of human rights, and the integrity of earth, and abolishing nuclear weapons, the most imminent threat to all of the others.

Actually this is the work that we are all called to today. For further information know that I would welcome any requests for information, particularly on the areas described above. Let us pray to create the Future We Hope For! 🌱

## Ministry in Hartford, CT

By: Kathleen Murphy, CND

As you travel towards Hartford on 84 East, you see, on your left, a cross atop a large stone structure and, as you draw nearer, you realize that this is the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The Cathedral is situated on the edge of the poorest and wealthiest neighborhoods in Hartford. Within these neighborhoods there is a very diverse population: Burmese, Hispanic, Black, Filipino, Irish and Hungarian, just to name a few.

Sr. Ann Marie Strileckis, CND has been the Pastoral Associate at the Cathedral since 2005. Her ministry is to oversee the various parish committees offering them encouragement, suggestions and support. Among those committees is the Food Pantry which distributes food to over 100 people every Thursday morning. It is serviced by volunteers, parishioners, and clients. On the day I was there, they were also taking orders for Thanksgiving turkeys all of which will be donated! There is also a Sandwich Ministry. Volunteers are asked to make sandwiches from 2-3 loaves of bread, which are available everyday at the rectory.

The Senior citizens, many of whom are longtime parishioners, are also invited to a Senior luncheon every month. It is a chance for them to socialize together.

The Cathedral does not have a school so the Religious Education Ministry is very important. The children meet with their teachers, who are volunteers, every Sunday morning in the lower level. Sr. Ann Marie leads the opening prayer and is present to support the work being done by the teachers and to make any announcements. There is also an RCIA program in the parish instructing people who are interested in becoming Catholic.

When the Burmese refugees arrived in the neighborhood, interested parishioners were asked to help with teaching English. This is known as the Karen Ministry and along with the Burmese refugees, families from several African countries, Asia, Europe, South America and the Islands also are a part of this group. Many other services available in the neighborhood are provided, such as housing, employment, medical needs, food, counseling etc.



Ann Marie Strileckis, CND

Sr. Ann Marie literally runs from one ministry to another and I was only there on a Sunday morning! She is full of energy, love and support for all the people of the parish. It was easy to see that she is well loved and appreciated by all the people with whom she comes in contact.

I would like to close with a quote from Sr. Ann Marie: “I have been enriched and was able to exclaim during my first month in Hartford that this was the fulfillment of my other missions, whether as an elementary school teacher, or as a pastoral minister, whether in inner city or rural mission areas. Everything I have done prepared me for the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford including coming home to minister in my home diocese.” ❁

*“Everything I have done prepared me for the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, including coming home to minister in my home diocese.”*

# News from the Office of Mission Advancement

*A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors who gave to the 2012 Spring Appeal for the Monti Ministry Fund; the 2012 Summer Appeal in honor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys; and the 2012 Christmas Appeal for our Sisters' health and retirement needs. We are most grateful!*

You can make donations on line by accessing our site [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org) click **Works and Ministries**, then **Office of Mission Advancement**, then **Have You thought about Giving**.

Check out our Facebook Page at Congregation of Notre Dame/USA



## ENROLLMENT CARDS

You can view our Enrollment cards on our website, [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org) click **Works and Ministries**, then **Office of Mission Advancement** and click **more** on **A Card for Every Occasion**. *Ordering information is also on that page.*

## YOUR STAMPS HELP TOO

We continue to be grateful for the cancelled stamps that you send to us which benefit our foreign missions in Central America and Cameroon. We also cut stamps from the donations that you send so you gift us twice! Please remember that 1/4" is needed around the stamp for it to be of value. Please be mindful of that when you are placing your stamp on the envelope.

POSTAGE

During the June 2012 General Conference, a final version of our new logo was approved.

Back in the 17th century, Marguerite Bourgeoys sent her Sisters on mission "two by two": she believed in teamwork, collaboration and collegiality. The richness and diversity of our CND identity are better expressed when we speak "together as one". One mission drives us. This is the basis of our message.



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## Saint Louis Academy 60th Reunion

By: Virginia Schassburger

On June 9, 1952, there were 59 members in the graduating class at Saint Louis Academy in Chicago (Roseland).

On September 9, 2012, ten members of that class attended a reunion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of that occasion. It was held at Popolano's Restaurant in Lansing, Illinois. 🌸



Left to right: Beverly (Blatt) Nylen; Shirley (Kremen) Schmidt; Barbara (Hopkins) Ganz; Marilyn (Girardi) Bertolini; Rita (Bernier) Stoffle; Virginia (Migas) Schlegel; Carol (Cowperthwait) Cunningham; Helen Marie Altieri; Virginia (Draus) Schassburger; Donna (Sodetz) Thorp

## Congratulations to Associates Sharon and Patrick Terry:

**H**onorary Professorship from Hebei United University. Sharon Terry (left in picture) received an honorary professorship on November 15, 2012, from Hebei United University, Tangshan, China. Patrick Terry (Sharon's husband) and Dr. Jouni Uitto also received an honorary professorship. Ms. Terry received



the honor because of her work on behalf of individuals, families, and communities around the globe, who long for treatments for genetic conditions. Sharon, Patrick along with their fellow American gave lectures in Tangshan, Xi'an, and Shuzou. These lectures described the state of disease advocacy in the US and Europe and recommended ways to move forward in China. Researchers, clinicians, and patients showed great enthusiasm for collaboration. *Sharon Terry graduated from Waterbury Catholic High School and she, her husband and children are members of the New Rochelle Associate Community.* 🌸

 IN GRATITUDE 

The Congregation of Notre Dame received donations to the CND Retirement Fund in memory of Sister Anne Nolan and to CND Ministry Works in memory of Eilene Kelly, sister of Rose Marie Kelly, CND.

*The Sisters of the Congregation are most grateful!*

*Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters*

IN MEMORY OF

Anne Nolan, CND (Mother St. Austin Marie) d. November 8, 2012

Rita Pinault, CND (Mother St. Francis of the Sacred Heart) d. January 29, 2013

*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 all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Mission Orientation of the Congregation of Notre Dame**

To follow Jesus in a preferential option for the poor and to live our mission of liberating education in fidelity to the prophetic charism of Marguerite Bourgeoys in today's world, we commit ourselves to live closer to the reality of the impoverished, the excluded and the oppressed. In solidarity with them, we commit ourselves to protect our planet and to participate actively in the transformation of Church and society for a more just world.

(Mission Orientation, Chapters 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 with additions)

**Ways of Giving: Planned Giving**

When you leave a share of your estate to the Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province, you leave a living legacy to further advance the mission of the Congregation. The Congregation of Notre Dame relies on gifts from generous friends to partner with us in supporting the presence of a CND in our varied ministries. Your bequest of stocks, bonds, cash, trust funds (by naming the Congregation of Notre Dame as beneficiary of a trust), the proceeds from life insurance policies or other property will help assure our life and work in the future. Please contact us for our current literature.

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For more information feel free to call (203) 762-4306 or fax us at (203) 762-4319.  
Please e-mail us at [cnddev@juno.com](mailto:cnddev@juno.com) with any comments or suggestions.

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