

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. 1 Spring 2018

YOUR GENEROSITY Enables These Sisters to Keep Serving Others

They no longer earn salaries but
reach out through volunteering

At 92, Bringing the “Sacrament of Presence” to Caretakers – Thank You!

Sr. Jenny Ricci has been a CND for 52 years. She returned to her home city of Providence, RI after retiring from hospital ministry in Chicago. There she was a patient advocate. She visited pre-surgical patients and taught Clinical Pastoral Education to seminarians.

For the past 13 years Sr. Jenny has volunteered with Hope Hospice & Palliative Care in Providence. She used to visit with patients but now ministers to the staff. “We discuss a lot of things – personal problems, religious problems, and sometimes we just talk.”

Sr. Jenny says she has created two new sacraments: the “sacrament

of presence” and the “sacrament of the moment.” The sacrament of presence is “being present to someone, giving them time to express themselves, just being there.” The sacrament of the moment is “responding to whatever the need is at the moment, to whatever comes up.”

Sr. Jenny says the staff can be stressed and not just over everyday living, chores, or family. “Sometimes it’s the patients. They may not know how to approach a patient. If they need to talk, they know I’m available.”

Sr. Jenny loves meeting people, but she’s had to cut back her hours. She’s 92 and has physical limitations. She loves the sacrament of presence

best. “It’s invaluable. My favorite part of this ministry is just being present to people.”

Because of you, Sr. Jenny can continue to be present to hard-working caretakers. Thank you for your generosity!



Sr. Jenny Ricci, center, with fellow volunteers

“My favorite part of this ministry is just being present to people.”

Sharing Her Gifts with Inner-City Girls – Thanks to You!



Sr. Kathleen Dorney has been a CND for 60 years. Every week she tutors in math at Grace Academy, a school for inner-city girls grades five to eight in Hartford, CT. Grace Academy serves girls of many ethnic backgrounds on a tuition-free basis. The funds to run the school come from donations.

This is the first time Sr. Kathleen has worked with students at this grade level. Her previous ministries were as teacher and pastoral advisor at high schools and colleges. She served in campus ministry over 25 years. She holds master’s degrees in pastoral studies and math.

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Following Jesus. Serving the poor.

Sr. Eleanor Verrastro - Because of You, Bringing the Lord's Presence to Others for 65 Years

Sr. Eleanor Verrastro will celebrate her 65th anniversary as a CND this year. She ministered in education as a teacher and school principal in Chicago, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

For 13 years Sr. Eleanor has volunteered at Manson Youth Institution, a prison for male offenders in Cheshire, CT. She works with inmates individually, helping them develop their decision-making and problem-solving skills. She says the inmates are respectful and grateful for her time. "A bond happens, we laugh together. I'm asking difficult

questions, but they are responding, so something is happening."

She also serves as a patient advocate at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, CT. She visits patients, asking if they have any problems and comforting those who are anxious. She covers as many floors as she can, but will stay longer if a patient needs more time.

"We talk today about no religion or God in the world," Sr. Eleanor says, "but I see a strong faith in so many." Even patients who are not Catholic welcome a visit from a Sister. "They appreciate that you are

a person of God. I hope the Lord's presence is there through me."

Your generosity enables Sr. Eleanor to bring the presence of the Lord to the imprisoned and the sick. Thank you!



CND Associates

The CND Associates of North Carolina sponsored a Lenten Program addressing the CND focus of Caring for Our Common Home, a follow-up to our Laudato Si presentation.



Associates Sandy Jersey, Kathy Aparo, and Shirley Moran

Become a CND Associate!

Join the 130+ CND Associates, lay women and men who share CND spirituality.

CONTACT

Sr. Joan Mahoney, CND, at cndassociatesusa@msn.com or 203-762-4305.



Associate Pam Craig in a discussion with two participants

Sharing Her Gifts with Inner-City Girls

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She has volunteered at Grace Academy for four years. "They were excited to have someone with a master's in math." Still, she had to adjust to working with girls in middle school grades. "It was learning for me, too. I enjoy the girls' energy and sense of awe."

Sr. Kathleen says, "I'm retired but have a lot of life in me yet. I'm a qualified math teacher. Why not share my gifts with people who can use them but could not afford a math tutor?"

Sr. Kathleen loves learning and research. In May she'll be taking a one-week course on science and theology with renowned theologian Ilia Delio, OSF.

Your generosity will allow Sr. Kathleen to share her gifts and love of learning with inner-city girls as long as she can. She'll continue to be a great role model. It's a win-win - thank you!

Comforting the sick. Because of you.

A CND Associate on Why She's a Legacy Society Member

by Mary Jo Hoag



If you've ever wondered if someone "gets" you, you're not alone. I've sometimes felt like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole. But as an Associate of the CND Sisters, I know that no matter how different I feel, the Sisters listen. Since childhood I've known CND Sisters as teachers and spiritual mentors.

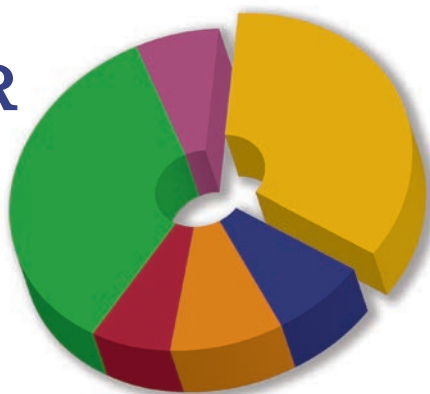
"I want others to know that someone 'gets' them."

Isn't it wonderful to enter a room of Sisters and Associates and know you're welcome?

Even more than the personal, CND Sisters and Associates think and act globally. We're an international community bound in love for our common home and for those who live on the peripheries. I want to see this life-giving charism of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys continue into the future. I want others to know that someone "gets" them. This is why I support the Sisters and Associates with my love, time and treasure.

Your generosity supports our Associate Relationship program – many thanks!

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DONATIONS PIE CHART



- 2017-18 Annual Appeal
- 2017 Christmas Card Appeal
- 2017 Fall Newsletter
- Honor/Memorial; Unsolicited
- Major Gifts
- Visitation Companions

Thank you for caring!

Your Gifts Benefit All Our Sisters Please Give to Our 2017-2018 Annual Appeal!*

Your Annual Appeal gifts

- allow our Sisters who receive little or no pay to share Christ's love with the poor and vulnerable. *Think of Sr. Terry Martin and her Appalachia ministry, featured in our current Annual Appeal letter.*
- sustain our retired and infirm Sisters as they continue to serve God through prayer.

Orders of religious Sisters receive no funding from the Vatican or local dioceses. We alone are responsible for covering our costs. That's why we need your support!

Please donate before the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2018. Send your gift in the enclosed envelope **or** visit www.cnd-m.org, USA Office of Mission Advancement.



You Can Endow Your Annual Appeal Gift!

By establishing a bequest in your will you can create an Annual Appeal gift that lasts indefinitely. For instance, a \$20,000 bequest can generate a \$1,000 Annual Appeal gift that is in place forever! To learn more, contact the Office of Mission Advancement at **(203) 762-4309**.

We hold you and your loved ones in prayer every day. **THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity!**

**Our Annual Appeal runs from July 1st to June 30th every year.*

For all you do, thank you.

Monthly Gifts from Our Visitation Companions Help Sustain Us – Many Thanks!

Your reliable monthly gifts enable our Sisters to minister to the least fortunate among us. They also support the needs of our elderly and infirm Sisters.

Become a Visitation Companion! Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and easy on your budget. **TO SIGN UP, email missionadvancement@cnd-m.org or call 203-762-4306 or 4309.**

Visitation Companions are recognized in our Honor Roll and on our website. *Thank you!*

Please join us in praying for our deceased Sisters.

IN MEMORY OF

Dorothy O'Brien, CND

(S. Dorothy of Mary)
d. October 13, 2017

Marie Buckley, CND

(S. Agnes Teresa)
d. October 30, 2017

Denise Conway, CND

(S. Catherine Denise)
d. December 22, 2107

Mary Gillespie, CND

(S. Agnes of the Sacred Heart)
d. January 21, 2018

Marie Cafferty, CND

(S. Edward of Mary)
d. February 12, 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.

Ways to Help the CNDs

Donate Online

Visit 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; 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; USA Office of Mission Advancement.
We'd love to hear from you at missionadvancement@cnd-m.org.

Make a Difference – Become a Legacy Society Member!

Through a bequest in your will, you can make a big difference in the lives of CND Sisters and those they serve. If you already have a will, a phone call is all it takes to add the CNDs.

Just use this sentence:

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

Legacy Society members receive special mention in the Fall issue of *Partners in CND Mission* and on our website. Members also receive a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin.

To find out more, contact our Mission Advancement Office at **203-762-4309** or missionadvancement@cnd-m.org.

**Our legal name*



Thank you!



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