

# Partners in CND Mission



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The Newsletter for Supporters of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame | Vol. 19 No. 1 Spring 2019

## A CND Sister from Central America Ministers in NYC

**S**r. Melba Rosa Vásquez Rodríguez, CND, is serving as Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education at St. Aloysius Parish in Harlem. A CND for 27 years, Sr. Melba is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Region, based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Sr. Melba asked to serve in Blessed Sacrament Province (U.S.) in order to experience the multicultural character and internationality of the CND. She also wanted to share the mission and life of the province's sisters and associates. She lives with eight sisters at St. Columba Convent in lower Manhattan.

St. Aloysius Parish is an international community unto itself, made up of English-speaking, Spanish-speaking and French-speaking parishioners. "To live our faith," Sr. Melba says, "language doesn't matter. To develop a community, to be aware of social issues and the many nationalities here in the parish – that is the challenge.

We have to live the faith in our work and environment. To live the Visitation is a challenge, but also a joy."

*Bienvenido, Sr. Melba!*

**Your generosity helps this intercultural exchange take place – thank you!**



Sr. Melba Rosa Vasquez Rodriguez, CND, with parishioner Margarita De la Cruz

## Long-Time CND Friends and Visitation Companions

**T**he CND sisters have been an integral part of our family life for over 35 years, beginning in 1983 while we were living in Ridgefield, CT.

Sr. Joan Brennan, assisted by her sister Sr. Margaret Brennan, led the St. Mary's Parish Religious Education program and provided each of our five



Linda and Douglas King

children with a strong foundation for their faith formation.

As our children matured into high school and beyond, several of them found weekend employment working at the CND "mother house" in Ridgefield. Our son Andy helped out in the kitchen washing dishes. Our daughter Jenny, who was attending the Culinary Institute of America pastry chef program, worked weekends in the kitchen assisting with meal preparation. Sons Geoff and Adam worked as weekend receptionists, greeting visitors and answering the phone. Adam also completed his Eagle Scout project by restoring an overgrown garden area and patio.

We frequently attended Sunday mass celebrated by Fr. Joseph McCarthy with the sisters in the CND chapel.

Our family received many blessings through our long association with the CND sisters, and we became CND Visitation Companions (monthly donors) in 2004 as a meaningful way to show our gratitude and to provide financial support for their ongoing ministries.

We will continue to support the CND sisters as they actively share their love of Christ in a constantly changing and challenging world. Their kindness and generosity as they reach out to others is a beacon of light to us all. How blessed we are to be able to support their endeavors. And we encourage you to do the same.

# Following Jesus. Serving the poor.

## Still Serving and Inspiring at 90 – THANKS TO YOU!

**IN 2019 SIX CNDS TURN 90.** These sisters still minister in schools and parishes, although they no longer receive salaries. Their passion for conveying the love of Christ remains strong. Because of you, they continue to deepen the spirituality of those around them. For that we are most grateful.

**Sr. Rosemary Cianciolo, CND,** celebrating her birthday at St. Jean Baptiste Convent, New York, NY. Sr. Rosemary has served in many leadership roles, from principal and superintendent of schools to Province Leader and member of the Congregation Leadership Team. She continues to mentor many within and outside the Congregation.



*"I am grateful to God for giving me so many years of life, and I am grateful for the good health that God continues to give me. I wish the same for all of our sisters."*



**Sr. Louise Finn, CND,** with Matthew McGrath, an eighth-grader at Villa Maria Academy, Bronx, NY

Sr. Louise has published two books on St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. *"Marguerite was so accepting of whatever God wanted and whatever came into her life."*

*Doing God's will was Marguerite's deepest desire. I think of this more as living God's dream for me. His dream must be beautiful, judging by all the gifts he has given me, from my first breath up to now. I hope that when I meet God face-to-face, I will have lived his dream as well as I could."*



**Sr. Thérèse Martin, CND,** at her 90th birthday celebration in Hayesville, NC

Sr. Terry has ministered in Appalachia for over 40 years. She is Far Western North Carolina Outreach Worker for the Diocese of Charlotte, a fancy way of saying she does a bit of everything for the residents of this impoverished region. *"How privileged and blessed I am to be a daughter of St. Marguerite and to share her sincere desire to love God and neighbor in Appalachia."* Her favorite expression is, *"All is a gift, from where we are born to the air we breathe. A gift is not to keep but to share – that's what God is doing for us every single second of our lives."*



**Sr. Jewel Renna, CND,** teaching Scripture at Mary Mother of the Church Parish, Waterbury, CT

Sr. Jewel taught math and theology for many years. In 1995 she established the Archdiocesan Catholic Biblical School through the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education. This four-year program of Scripture study for adults continues today. Sister

especially loves teaching Scripture to adults and loves sharing their lives. *"I enjoyed all my years of teaching, but God saved the best for last. I'm happy as long as I can continue teaching Scripture."*

*"I look forward to growing into a deeper relationship with the Lord, that's the whole thrust of my life."*

*I want every day to be a preparation for that total union. I trace the continuity of God's grace and love and presence in my life from my first decade to the present day – yes, You've been with me all these years."*



**Sr. Catherine McDermott, CND,** with parishioners (l-r) Ann Gargamelli, Georgia Catenza, and Mary Ellen Abbagnaro, St. John XXIII Parish, West Haven, CT. A veteran pastoral minister, Sr. Catherine continues to lead parish groups of prayer and reflection, like the one pictured here.



**Sr. Rita Rompre, CND,** with associate Marilyn Liggins and Eva Cestari, parishioner, St. John XXIII Parish, West Haven, CT

Sr. Rita served in Guatemala for 20 years and feels at home in a parish with as many Spanish as English masses. She and parishioners pray the rosary before the 7:00 am mass. After mass they pray the liturgy of the hours and take part in the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. *"I thank God for all my 90 years. Now I take it a day at a time. I love this parish – we're like a family."*

# Comforting the sick. Because of you.

## A CND Associate Ministers at the Border

**P**ictured here is Associate Judy Laffey from Rhode Island (third from left) with other volunteers at Annunciation House in El Paso, TX, on the border with Mexico. The quote on the mural behind them is from St. Oscar Romero: "If they kill me, I will rise again in my people."

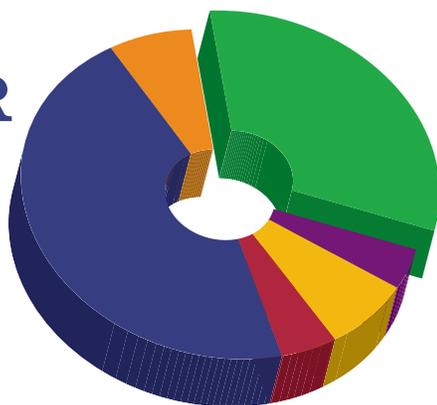
Annunciation House is a non-profit shelter for asylum seekers. Volunteers serve some of the hundreds of people crossing the border daily, looking for food and housing.

Judy says, "I feel the sacredness of this journey. I go as a CND Associate, in the footsteps of St. Marguerite and Mary, representing many others and, in gratitude, I bring them with me."

Your generosity supports our associates and their outreach to the poor and vulnerable – *thank you!*



## CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DONATIONS PIE CHART



- 2018-19 Annual Appeal
- 2018 Christmas Card Appeal
- 2018 Fall Newsletter
- Honor/Memorial; Unsolicited
- Major Gifts
- Visitation Companions

*Thank you for caring!*

## Your Gifts Benefit All Our Sisters Please Give to Our 2018-2019 Annual Appeal!\*

### Your gifts to the Annual Appeal

- Allow sisters who receive little or no pay to share Christ's love with the poor and vulnerable. *Think of Sr. Darlene Mayo's ministry to inner-city Catholic schools, featured in our current Annual Appeal letter.*
- Sustain our elderly and ailing sisters as they continue to serve God through prayer.

*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, 2019.** Send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit [www.cnd-m.org](http://www.cnd-m.org), USA Office of Mission Advancement.

### You Can Endow Your Annual Appeal Gift

By making 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 Mission Advancement Office 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 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> every year.*

# For all you do, thank you.

## THANK YOU, VISITATION COMPANIONS! Your monthly gifts help sustain us!

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

### BECOME A VISITATION COMPANION!

Monthly giving is simple, convenient, and easy on your budget.

Email [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org); call 203-762-4306; or click on **monthly gift option** at [cnd-m.org/USA](http://cnd-m.org/USA) **Office of Mission Advancement.**

Visitation Companions are recognized in our Honor Roll and on our website.

*Many, many thanks!*

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

## IN MEMORY OF

**Patricia Jamison, CND**  
(Sr. St. Mary Therese)  
d. February 16, 2019

**Mary Elizabeth Fox, CND**  
(Sr. St. Miriam Emmanuel)  
d. March 7, 2019

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

### “Like” the CNDs on Facebook

Visit 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!*

## Have you included the CNDs in your will? Become a Legacy Society member!

Through a simple 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 simple phone call is all it takes to add the sisters.

Just use this sentence:

I bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate or \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Congregation de 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. They also receive invitations to events and a St. Marguerite Bourgeoys lapel pin.

To learn more, email [missionadvancement@cnd-m.org](mailto:missionadvancement@cnd-m.org) or call 203-762-4309.

\*Our legal name



*Thank you!*



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