



Network

Fall 2014

SPECIAL EDITION

One Heart, One Hope, One Mission

Answering the Call to Serve in Prison Ministry

ALSO INSIDE:

Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Wrapping the Suffering
in Comfort & Prayer

60th Anniversary
of Julie Billiard School

65th Anniversary of
the Missions in India

*"I was in prison
and you visited me..."*

(Matt 25:36)

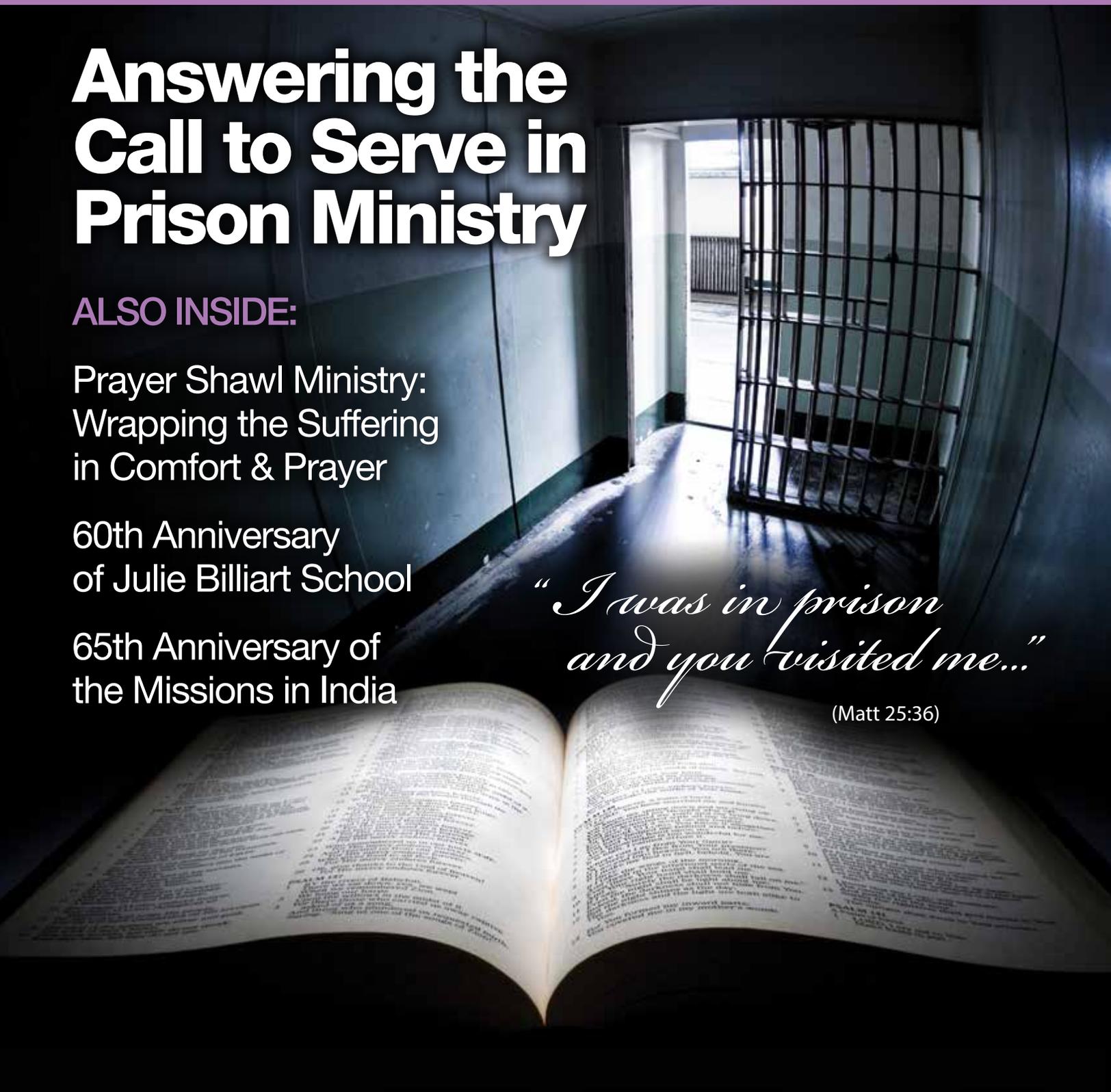


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Network

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A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Dear Friends,

Summer has come to an end, and we celebrate the change in season that the fall leaves bring. Cooler temperatures mark our days and nights, a new school year is underway, and we host our many friends and families at the Barbecue & Boutique on our Munson Township campus! This wonderful tradition, “Mission with a Sizzle”, has kicked off our fall season for the last 52 years! Last year we welcomed over 9,000 friends, students, associates, relatives and co-workers over two fun-filled Sundays in September for camaraderie and good food! Our mission “sizzles” through the partnerships we share with our friends and donors—we are grateful for your continued friendship!

This past summer more than 240 sisters of the Chardon province gathered formally in Chapter to reflect together on our current realities and set a direction for the next six years. The purpose of a Chapter is to examine and re-orient our life and mission in light of the needs of the times. We had been preparing for one year, through small and large gatherings and individual reflection and prayer. Although the largest number of our sisters minister in education, we find that the needs of those we serve are changing. Like sisters in many religious communities, our ministries are less institutional and less parish-centered—and therefore less visible—than in the past. One outcome of our Chapter was the following directional statement:

In response to the needs of the world

We pledge to take the next step

To live the Gospel with joy

Wherever the Spirit calls us to be.

One sister described the statement as “deceptively simple.” We agreed that in ministry our focus will continue to shift toward new needs that take us into new situations, one step at a time.

A good example is the article on prison ministry in this issue of *Network*. The organizing initiative came from the diocesan level, but the sisters’ personal involvement takes many forms and the new relationships formed open the doors to new possibilities.

In this issue you will read about Julie Billiart School, celebrating sixty years of providing a Catholic education to children with learning differences. Just as St. Julie Billiart empowered young women to journey with her in teaching poor children, so has Julie Billiart School dedicated its existence to empowering children to embrace God’s goodness and be the best they can be. This anniversary illustrates the success of an institutional ministry that is now sustained by the dedicated efforts of volunteers and professional staff who share the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame at Julie Billiart School.

We also highlight the 65th anniversary of the India Mission, which has grown from the efforts of a few Chardon province missionaries into two flourishing provinces of more than 300 Indian sisters. Closer to home, the prayer shawl ministry quietly provides comfort to the sick, and somehow reaches people far beyond the group’s location and expectations.

Yes, fall is a time to celebrate change. After an energizing summer we have renewed focus on our mission and the many ways God’s message of compassionate care can be shared with others. Thank you for your friendship. May you also celebrate change and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us during this fall season.

Gratefully,

Sr. Margaret M. Gorman SND

Sr. Margaret M. Gorman, SND
Provincial Superior
Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon



ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE IN PRISON MINISTRY



Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND

“I was in prison and you visited me...”

(Matt 25:36)

This scripture demonstrates Jesus’ mandate to care for those in prison. Today, with an ever-rising crime rate and overflowing jails and prisons, the need to minister to men, women and youth incarcerated in our state, county and municipal jails continues to grow. Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, works on the front line in prison ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland in the Secretariat for Parish Life and Development.

“I was invited by Bishop (A. James) Quinn to an informational meeting on how the Catholic Diocese might better minister to individuals convicted of crimes and serving time in prison. I was the only woman in attendance. I walked out of the meeting and thought how interesting such work would be but how did it connect with my role in Parish Life,” recalls Sr. Rita Mary. “Bishop Quinn questioned me, ‘Well, where do you think the people come from?’ I told him I didn’t know anything about prison ministry, but he laughed and said, ‘That hasn’t stopped you before.’”

Emboldened by his words, the passionate Sister of Notre Dame immediately volunteered to organize with the Diocese of Cleveland’s Ministry to the Incarcerated. The idea of helping convicts hit home. Her brother Bill was murdered at the age of 23, six months after returning from Vietnam, in a random shooting near St. John Hospital on Cleveland’s near west side.

“I was 28 at the time of Bill’s murder and a Sister of Notre Dame. My father was already deceased, and I was the only girl with three brothers. It was just horrible,” recalls Sr. Rita Mary with tears in her eyes. “My brother, Bill, was a great guy with a good sense of humor. He was a very kind, sensitive person. For many years, I could not even talk about his death. And here I am doing prison ministry; the healing power of God!”

After talking with Bishop Quinn, Sr. Rita Mary began educating herself on the needs of convicted criminals – particularly for rehabilitation and restoration as individuals. She met with a group of representatives from the Catholic Diocese, the legal system, wardens, social service agencies, and even family members of those incarcerated. After consulting with different groups and identifying the needs, the group developed a strategic plan that would be incrementally implemented.

She realized the most important task was recruiting good volunteers, educating them and providing them with training. “Our prison ministry is rooted in volunteers,” Sr. Rita Mary emphatically states.

The Sisters of Charity generously provided the group with a grant for the education and development of individuals who would serve in the prison ministry. The first volunteer team totaled 140, each receiving more than 25 hours of training from 1989-1990. “Bishop (Anthony) Pilla was very helpful in meeting with wardens and convincing them to allow us into the prisons and jails, and since his appointment as the Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese, Bishop Richard Lennon has taken a very active interest in prison ministry, visiting the jails and prisons and encouraging the ongoing development of programs,” adds the petite, soft-spoken Sister.

Sr. Mary Dion Horrigan, SND has also taken a very active role in the Prison Ministry. She has ministered to women in the Cuyahoga City jail for five years. Sr. Dion facilitates a group in jail called “The First Step” which is an introduction to the power of the 12-Step AA Program. Besides this she spends time in one-on-one visits with inmates. Sr. Dion says, “My time with these women confirms in my heart these words of Greg Boyle in his book, *Tattoos On the Heart*.” He

writes, “How do we get the world to change anyway?...All Jesus asks is ‘Where are you standing?’ And after chilling defeat and soul-numbing failure, He again asks, ‘Are you still standing there?’” Sr. Dion explains “I feel privileged and humbled to stand with women in incarceration.”

Today, the Diocese of Cleveland’s Ministry to the Imprisoned includes 350 well-trained, dedicated volunteers who meet with inmates of Ohio’s three state institutions, eight county institutions and five juvenile facilities in addition to community-based correctional facilities that offer transitional services. They have expanded their services as outlined in their strategic plan over the years. Still, they continue to face a daunting task.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 15,000 PEOPLE INCARCERATED WITHIN THE CLEVELAND DIOCESE.

“Human trafficking, homicide, domestic violence, theft, drug dealing and addiction, you name it; the individuals we visit cover the gamut of crime,” acknowledges Sr. Rita Mary. Called by the Holy Spirit, the volunteers extend the hope of reconciling love in their relationships with the offender, the victim and their families. The ministry is implemented in a way that is ecumenically sensitive and respectful of the diverse population: men, women, youth, mentally and physically challenged, from various cultures, language groups, and races.

“God is never outdone in generosity. So many of the volunteers tell me that they receive so much more from the incarcerated than they are able to give. One recently commented, ‘When I walk out of the jail, I feel like I am walking on top of the world.’ Prison Ministry is a special calling. It is a gift,” says Sister Rita Mary with a broad smile.

“OUR PRESENCE SPEAKS OF GOD’S LOVE FOR THEM AND ASSURES THEM THAT THEY ARE NOT ABANDONED.”

Sr. Rita Mary Harwood

At the initial meeting, volunteers acquaint each prisoner with pastoral services available, such as the sacraments, bible studies, and spiritual counseling. They give interested inmates a bible, Catholic literature and other materials to read. “For indigent prisoners, we also provide personal supply items such as toothpaste, underwear, deodorant, and socks as well as writing paper, cards, stamps and even reading glasses. There are many ways people can help in this ministry. Some volunteers, including Sisters of Notre Dame residing at the Provincial Center, write letters to inmates and offer prayer support,” describes the compassionate Sister.

She says other volunteers provide tutoring and classes on self-esteem, anger management, and parenting skills; offer legal aid and vocational training; lead Alcoholic Anonymous and drug rehabilitation support groups; and even give assistance with developing a parole plan. Others make Christmas boxes and Easter baskets that prisoners can give their children during home or on-site visits.

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**“WE OFFER SOCIAL, PHYSICAL
AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IN
ADDITION TO SPIRITUAL AND
PASTORAL CARE.”**

Sr. Rita Mary Harwood

ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE IN PRISON MINISTRY

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Sister Joan Piovarcy, SND coordinates the involvement of Sisters of Notre Dame in the Diocesan Prison Ministry. Sister Joan meets with Sister Rita Mary at least every other month to update her on projects underway through the Sisters of Notre Dame, including a prayer ministry, pen pal ministry and the Christmas boxes and Easter baskets. “A group of Sisters of Notre Dame serve as pen pals to former inmates at the Reintegration Center on East 30th Street. A few Sisters of Notre Dame visit the male and female inmates while 20 to 30 SNDs at the Provincial Center pray for the inmates, their families, and the prison workers,” explains Sister Joan.

“Prison Ministry is part of the Sisters of Notre Dame’s mission for social justice,” Sr. Joan states. “Our justice system needs a great overhaul. There is such a lack of Christianity in the treatment of inmates. In some cases, our visits and letters are the only outside human contact inmates have because their families have written them off.”

Sister Rita Mary explains, “After imprisonment we are working with other agencies and groups, support continues: assistance with housing, employment, job training, financial assistance, legal aid, especially in child custody cases, emotional and transitional support in re-establishing family, and much more. Many people in jail are homeless and leave prison with exactly what they had going in. We decided to make backpacks for indigent persons when they leave with personal items like a wash cloth and soap, a toothbrush, bus ticket, lotion, wipes, etc. The need was so great that we ran out of funding after only a few months! It is a ministry I hope we will be able to provide again one day.”

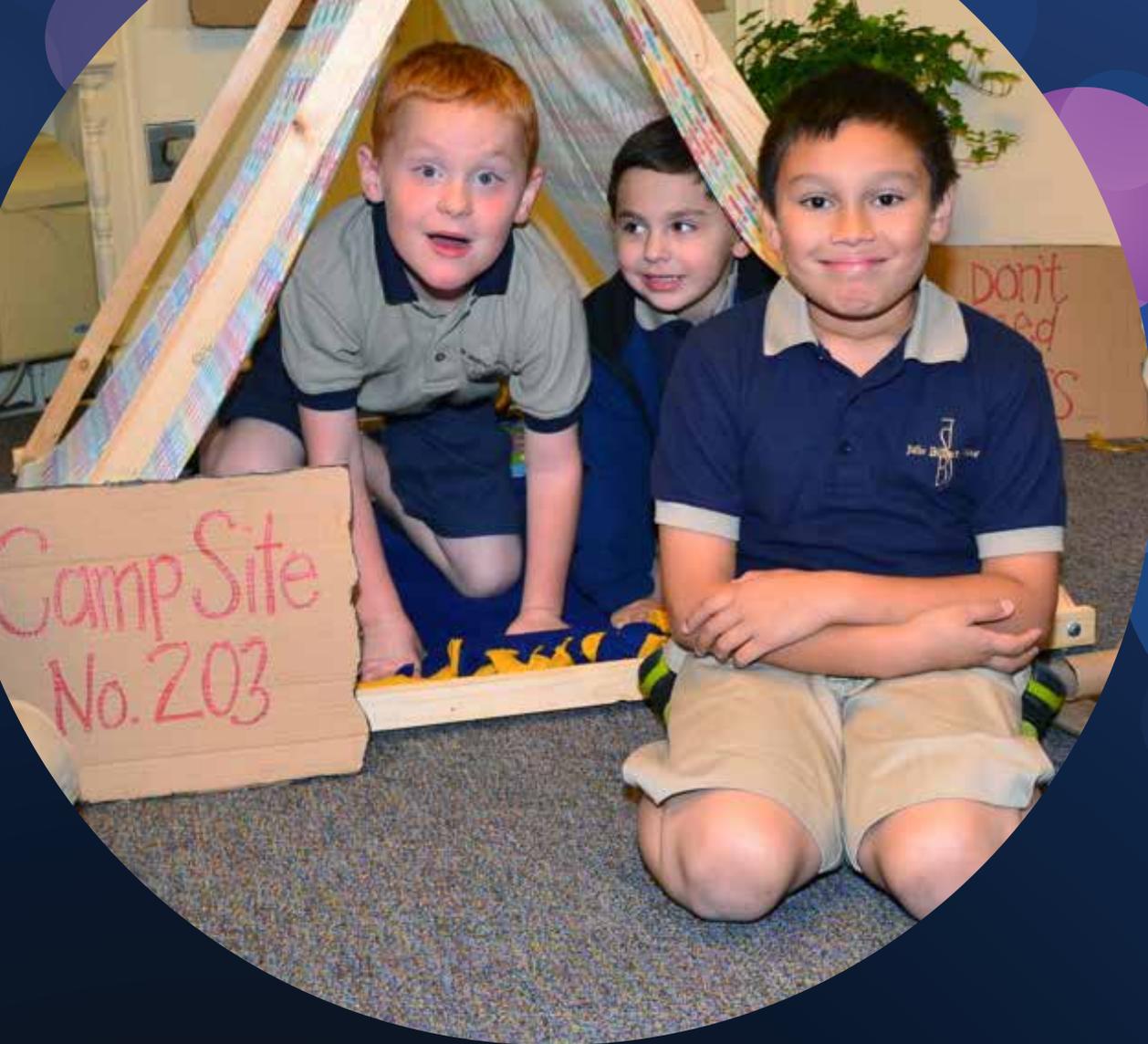
The Diocese of Cleveland’s Prison Ministry continues to grow. They are just beginning support groups for families who have an incarcerated loved one. On Friday evening, August 8, the first group of this new ministry met at Holy Angels Parish in Bainbridge. Those who participated were so grateful for the opportunity to be with others who know so well the impact of incarceration on families. St. Ladislav Parish, Westlake and Sacred Heart Chapel, Lorain are planning a bi-lingual (English-Spanish) group and St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima in Cleveland will organize a group in the Hough area. Both will begin these groups in the fall. “Our hope is to provide a supportive and compassionate presence for families who often feel so alone. These groups are the first in the greater Cleveland area. We hope to be able to expand!” explains Sister Rita Mary.

Sister sums up, “We offer social, physical and emotional support in addition to spiritual and pastoral care through our Prison Ministry. There is a need for respect and protecting the rights of the offender as a human being as well as a need for safety in the community, respect for the victims, and support for their families.”

The outspoken advocate encourages “restorative justice” – accountability for offenders in terms of taking responsibility for actions and taking action to repair the harm caused to the victim and the community. She joins her other Sisters of Notre Dame in advocating for a model of reconciliation and restoration instead of the present emphasis on vengeance and punishment.

“In Matthew’s Gospel the message is so clear, ‘When I was in prison, you visited me.’ The Sisters of Notre Dame and other volunteers of the Ministry to the Incarcerated are bringing the presence and message of God’s love to inmates of our jails and prisons. Our presence speaks of God’s love for them and assures them that they are not abandoned. They are loved, and there are people who care about them. This ministry for me has been God’s way of healing the pain and anguish of my brother’s murder. I’ve come to know people who have done horrible things but who are still people – so much more than the crime they committed. Who am I to judge? When we read Scripture, we realize God calls us to love. Nowhere in Scripture are we called to judge.”

If you are interested in volunteering, donating supplies, or making a financial contribution to the Diocesan Prison Ministry, please contact Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, at 216.696.6525, ext. 2200, or 800.869.6525. †



Julie Billiard School Celebrates 60th Anniversary

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Julie Billiard School – a first-of-its-kind Catholic elementary school in the area, dedicated to serving children with learning differences. Today, there are 129 students enrolled at “JB”, representing 38 different school districts from Lorain to Ashtabula Counties. Julie Billiard’s history is one of changing lives.

When the school first opened its doors in the Music House on Notre Dame Academy’s Ansel Road property, there were 16 junior high students enrolled; 11 boys and five girls – all with severe learning disabilities and physical handicaps. The school quickly outgrew its original space, relocating to the Arter Mansion on Clubside Road

in Lyndhurst, Ohio in 1958. The first major improvement was the construction of a gymnasium in 1970.

Enrollment continued to increase through the years. In 1979, four rooms were added to the school. With continued enrollment growth, program offerings and support services, the school soon outgrew its space again. In 2006, a 16,000-square-foot addition to the mansion occurred, creating four spacious classrooms, adjacent resource rooms, an art room and music/all-purpose room. Intermediate and junior-high students and the art therapy program filled the new space. The lower level of the mansion was converted into Advancement offices.

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"The uniqueness of Julie Billiard School is our ability to meet the individual needs of each child."

- Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto, SND

Julie Billiard School Celebrates 60th Anniversary continued from page 5

Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto, SND, president of Julie Billiard, says the student population has changed along with the physical building. Today, Julie Billiard School serves only mid- to high-functioning students with learning disorders. In fact, approximately 85 of the 129 students are autistic. She clarifies, "We help children with all learning disabilities, such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). While our population has changed, our mission remains constant. Julie Billiard School nurtures and empowers students with special learning needs. It is a Catholic, K through 8th grade school rooted in the educational principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame, and we welcome students of diverse faith traditions."

Julie Billiard employs two full-time speech therapists, one full-time occupational therapist, 18 certified special education teachers in addition to support staff. "There are no teacher aides; everyone is certified,"

she says. Many JB students receive tuition assistance thanks to generous donations as well as the Autism Scholarship and the Jon Peterson Scholarship, from the State of Ohio.

Sister Agnesmarie served as principal of Julie Billiard for 24 years and as president for the past six years. Her deep love for the children at JB is obvious. "Julie Billiard School strives to build self-confidence, inspire Christian values and empower students with skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for life-long learning," she states. "All of our students go on to attend high school. And our parents have options; we try to direct them to the high school where we feel their child will be most successful."

Over the past eight years, Sr. Agnesmarie and the 27-member volunteer board continued to invest in technology and in their educators while developing "The JB Way." In addition to staffing each grade level with two licensed teachers, Julie Billiard School offers art therapy;

music therapy; behavior, speech and occupational therapies; and the Wilson reading method. Students learn in small classes with a maximum enrollment of 12 children in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2; 15 children in grades 3 through 8. Each classroom is equipped with state-of-the-art educational technology including Wi-Fi, ACTIVboards, iPads, MacBooks and sound systems. The library has more than 5,000 fiction and non-fiction books and has incorporated the world of E-reading and audio books with iPods and iPads.

Julie Billiard actively pursues community relationships which benefit JB students as well as others in the community. Current partnerships include the Cleveland Clinic and JB's Behavioral Therapy program, after-school programs like After-Care, Young Rembrandts, Girl Scouts and the American Independent Music Association who perform during lunch, describes Sister Agnesmarie.

“Students from area colleges also learn from us. We are a lab school for observations and case studies for Notre Dame College, John Carroll University, Ursuline College, Cleveland State University and the University of Akron. Many high school students fulfill their senior independent study and service projects at JB from Beaumont School, Brush High School, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin and Trinity High School.”

Still, Sister Agnesmarie insists their greatest achievement over the past 60 years is the lives changed and hope delivered to thousands of children and their families.

“One thing our students will tell us is, ‘I have friends here.’ Our students are not singled out or bullied. Rather, they meet new friends and discover teachers who love and nurture them,” Sister Agnesmarie says. “Parents tell us, ‘Our child was never invited to a birthday party at their other school.’ They have hope for their children here. Our primary goal is to help our students succeed and be happy. When the child is happy, the whole family is happy.”

Many appreciative JB alumni return to the school to visit. “They always say, ‘I am home, and I am with family.’ It doesn’t matter if they are from the first class to graduate from Julie Billiart School or the last one,” says Sister Agnesmarie with a smile. “Our school building is beautiful, but it is all about the children. I have fabulous teachers who will do everything for their students. We are very blessed.”

“The uniqueness of Julie Billiart School is our ability to meet the individual needs of each child,” continues Sister. “In other schools – no matter how much you wanted to – you could not reach every student. At Julie Billiart, we can really make a difference in each child’s life.

“I have learned more from our students than they have from me. I have learned perseverance, determination, resilience, acceptance, and to never give up,” adds Sister Agnesmarie. “When I first came here, I had to beg the public high schools to take our children. Today, I don’t.

“We are so grateful for the families and friends of JB who support us with their time,

talent and treasure,” says Sister Agnesmarie. She says the Parent Action Committee not only serves as a support network for current families but sponsors fun activities for students like the annual Boo Breakfast, Holiday Shoppe, Movie Night, Catholic Schools Week and End-of-the-Year Picnic, attended by nearly 300 people this June.

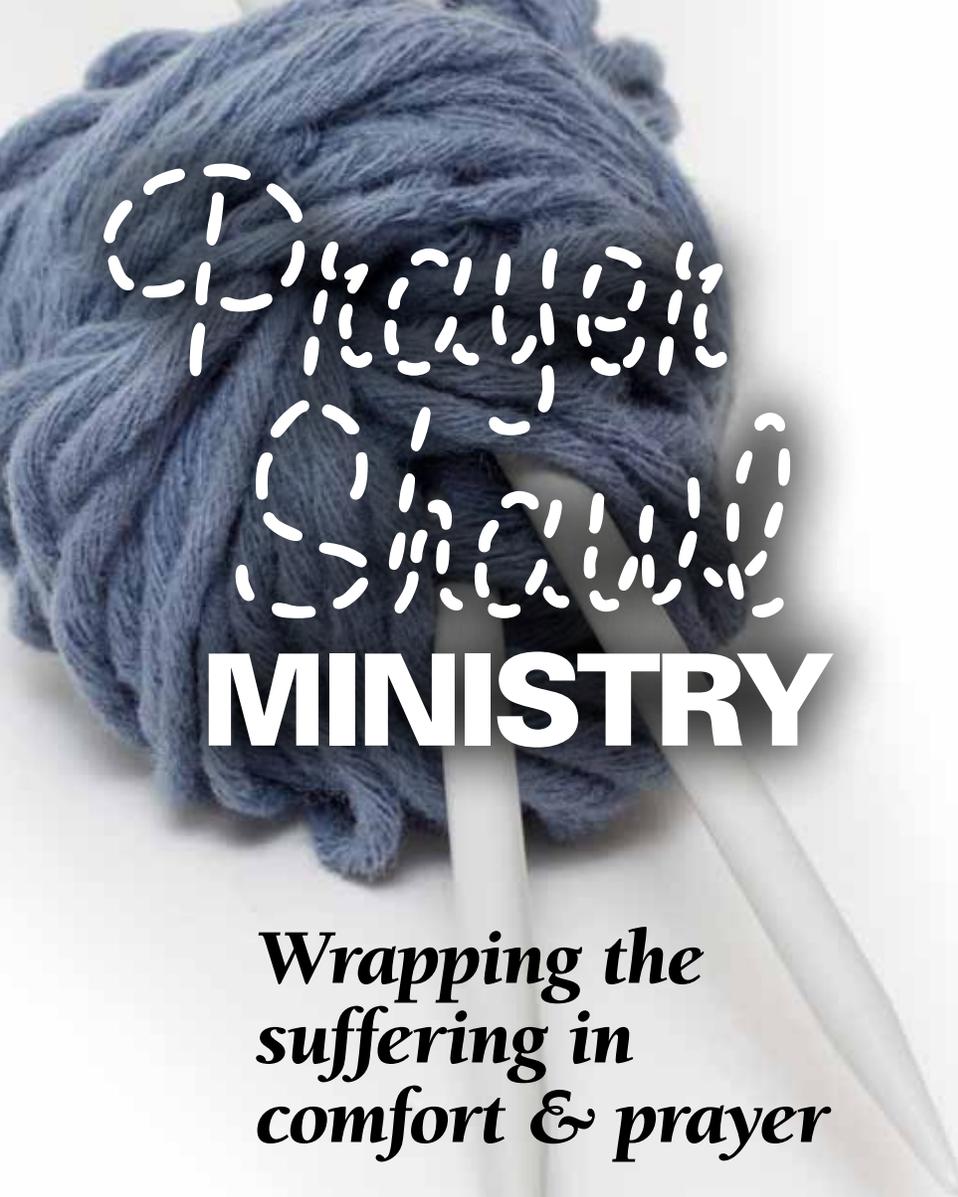
“Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors and countless generous donors, we are certain our mission to empower students who learn differently will live on into the future,” Sister Agnesmarie concludes. “The two problems we had when I first started working here were money and space. I have the same problems today. We cannot expand on this property. We are landlocked. We currently have a task force studying the feasibility of opening a second school. The need is great. We are having to turn children away.”

The consummate educator plans to retire at the end of a year and take on the mantle of “Ambassador” – continuing to share the mission and vision of Julie Billiart School. †



Sister Sharon Kovalcik, SND

Julie Billiart School nurtures and empowers students with special learning needs.



MINISTRY

Wrapping the suffering in comfort & prayer

Ethel Pikus knows pain. The loving mother of three and grandmother of nine buried one of her daughters, Chris Blatnik, on March 18, 2007 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Ethel's eyes pool as she recalls the overwhelming feeling of sorrow and helplessness she experienced watching Chris physically wither under excruciating pain, and eventually slip away.

Yet, it was this raw pain that motivated the grieving mother to look beyond for purpose in her tremendous loss. "During my daughter's struggle, Christine received a prayer shawl from a friend of mine living in Florida. It meant so much to her," Ethel describes. "I decided to use my talent for crocheting and knitting, along with

my strong Catholic faith in the power of prayer, to help others experiencing similar health battles or loss."

Ethel and a handful of like-minded women attended the first meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Helen Catholic Church, in Newbury, Ohio on October 5, 2007, armed with skeins of red, gold, light blue, turquoise and other colored yarn, wood and metal crochet hooks and knitting needles, and diverse patterns. All had their own story of heartache and pain, "We all have our own cross to bear," Ethel acknowledges.

Today, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet each Monday from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the teacher's lounge of St. Helen School

on Kinsman Road in Newbury. The 25 or so ladies in the group range in age from mid 30s to early 80s. Most attend St. Helen Catholic Church. Together, they have distributed more than 2,000 handmade prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets and afghans to individuals in need of comfort and healing. Distribution circles the globe with local donations to Maggie's Place, a home for unwed mothers, and WIC recipients, among others. Additional recipients include Sister M. Dolores Mikula, SND, and her mission team in Nicaragua who work with women and children in need, and an enlisted nurse working in a field hospital near a combat zone in Afghanistan.

"Most of our knitted and crocheted items are distributed locally," Ethel explains, "But, we will gladly provide a prayer shawl, baby blanket or afghan to anyone who needs comfort and prayer. Each item is blessed by Father Jay McPhillips and comes in a bag with a prayer card, scapular and handmade rosary. This is not about any one person. We all work together.

Denver Sallee and the H.E.L.P. group give us a gift card to buy yarn each month. The Knights of Columbus provide the scapulars. Betty Kroft and her mother make the rosaries. John Weber gives us bags for the items. The Parish Giving Tree helps us at Christmas time."

Ethel is quick to note that the group is "no pressure. You come when you can. A group of 12 to 15 generally attend each meeting, and we welcome new members as well as donations of yarn, materials, money, or even gift cards to Joanne Fabrics," Ethel says with a smile. "Members share their patterns freely and have a lot of fun. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, come. We will be happy to teach you. We find a lot of peace just being together in prayer.



“When we hear about any one in need of hope or healing, we try to send a prayer shawl or other item.”

- Sister Lenette Marcello, SND

(L-R) Ethel Pikus and Sr. Lenette Marcello, SND

Special outreach projects this year were inspired by articles Ethel shared from the Sisters of Notre Dame Network magazine. Sister Lenette Marcello, SND, a Prayer Shawl Ministry member, says that God’s goodness and provident care are very evident. “We read about the House of Champions in the winter 2014 issue of Network and immediately decided to make eight throws for the eight children being cared for there,” Ethel describes. “In this same issue, we read about the tremendous work being done by Sister Cecilia (Liberatore, SND) and Renee Jones with the victims of human trafficking. We donated several dozen prayer shawls to these women.”

“Of course, we continue to provide items to both places as well as to the Nicaragua Mission,” Sister Lenette

says. “There is an energy in this group. It is an enriching experience to be together. Some of the ladies haven’t crocheted or knitted in years, but they are like a ball of fire once they come. Every baby baptized at St. Helen, St. Lucy and St. Edward Catholic Churches receives one of our baby blankets. We discovered many women in the WIC program were wrapping their babies in sweatshirts because they did not own a baby blanket. We believe every child should have a blanket.”

Sister Lenette says their group also gave prayer shawls to the mothers of the Chardon School shooting victims, the three women held captive by Ariel Castro in Tremont, and a student paralyzed in a sledding accident. “When we hear about any one in need of hope or healing, we

try to send a prayer shawl or other item. We’ve convinced Ethel to keep sets of completed items in her car because she often meets people in the craft store, at church, or at other events, and responds to them immediately. Many are people she will never see again. Her experiences are amazing!”

Ethel concurs, “God puts people in your path. It was a high price for me to pay – to lose my daughter – but I can understand the pain of others in similar circumstances. God wants us to care for each other, to pray for each other.”

To contact Ethel Pikus at St. Helen Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry, located at 12060 Kinsman Road, Newbury, OH 44065, please call 440-564-5805. †



Sister Marie Manning, SND,
Missions Coordinator

CELEBRATE INDIA MISSION'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY!

Much can be accomplished in sixty-five years!
And much has been – here are just a few
examples from our Notre Dame India Mission:

- More than 300 native Indian SNDs minister in almost 50 locations throughout the country, teaching approximately 30,000 children: 5,000 Christians; the rest: Hindus or those of other faith traditions.
- A clinic was established in 1950, known as the AMERICAN HOSPITAL. SND doctors and nurses currently serve 200-300 impoverished patients there daily. There are 14 of these SND healthcare centers throughout India.
- SND professional social workers have established as many as 50-60 women's empowerment self-help groups in each parish while doing outreach to surrounding villages.





Our Good News began in 1949, when six visionary Cleveland Sisters of Notre Dame sailed to India to begin a mission in the very poor state of Bihar, a flourishing area of evangelization in North India. The Notre Dame Sisters were the first women's religious community in the Cleveland Diocese to begin a foreign mission. Motivated by their "deep experience of God's goodness and provident care" (the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame), these Sisters were impelled by their love of the impoverished and neglected—especially children and women.

For the first 11 years, Jamalpur remained the only house of the Sisters in India. However, there were signs of remarkable rooting and growth taking place at this time. Notre Dame Academy, Jamalpur, grew into a fully accredited school. A branch of Notre Dame Academy was also begun in Munger, not far from Jamalpur. These first schools in India focused on the corner stones of SND educational tradition: dignity of the teacher, worth of each student, thoroughness of instruction, and centrality of religious/values education. The early schools served Anglo-Indian children of the railway workers and government officials who wanted an English education, as well as very poor children of the area, who were taught in Hindi.

In 1972, the history of the medical ministry in the India Mission took a quantum leap forward when Indian Sisters Ajaya and Prema Devaraj obtained degrees in medicine after

Many of the sick come from far-away places because they know that they will get the proper medicine and care they need at ND Health Centers.

studying in the United States and in Rome. Both sisters began by serving in the Jamalpur and Sasaram clinics, where patients were diagnosed, treated, and given medicine. In contrast to the abundant population in India, there is a significant lack of doctors and other healthcare professionals, especially those who want to serve in rural areas among the poor. To address this issue, men and women religious have answered God's call to care for the poor. Many of the sick come from far-away places because they know that they will get the proper medicine and care they need at ND Health Centers.

Also, during the 1970s the Church in India began focusing its attention on the oppressed classes, who form the bulk of people living in the rural villages of India. Ministry in rural mission stations was begun. Sisters were sent for studies in Social Work, and some experiments began, with Sisters living in the villages in order to better understand the needs of the people. SND social workers began to establish women's self-help groups, which not only support women emotionally, but also educate and empower women to become literate and to support their families through income-generation projects. These micro-businesses are created in response to the needs of the people, e.g. stitching leaves together to make plates, bottling herbal remedies to promote health, making strong rope. Another response to the needs of the people, especially women who are Dalits, i.e. lowest caste Hindus, is the advocacy of Notre Dame Sister



Sudha, a lawyer who has lived for many years in a mud hut among the people. She helps women to claim their rights and to stand up against unjust treatment by those of higher castes. India's "caste system" has been the most basic factor leading to oppression, injustice, and other social evils.

In 1992, the Patna Province responded to Pope John Paul II's encouragement that congregations send missionaries to Africa. Three Indian Sisters, Aruna, Shobha, and Thara were missioned to Arusha, Tanzania to teach in a girls' secondary school. This marked the beginning of fruitful missionary work in Tanzania and Kenya, Africa.

Much has been accomplished in the last 65 years, and there is more work to be done! We rejoice with our amazing American and Indian missionaries on the 65th Anniversary of our India mission, October 31, 2014. We thank God for these missionaries and for the wonderful works that have taken place, through them, in India and in Africa. We also thank our "Partners in Mission," generous donors and volunteers who have helped us respond to Jesus' command, "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News!"

If anyone would like the complete, eleven-page history of our India Mission, prepared specially for this 65th anniversary, contact Sr. Marie Manning, SND, mmanning@ndec.org, 440-279-1160. †



CALENDAR 2014-15

GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT PIZZAZZ IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

October 17, 2014 | 7-10 p.m.
(or longer) \$20 – food, gratuity,
soft drinks. Cash Bar.

REGINA ALUMNAE RETREAT

February 20 to 22

*Bethany Retreat House at
Notre Dame Educational Center*
For more information, contact:

rhsalum@reginahigh.com

For Girls Night Out and Class
Reunions, please make check payable
to Regina Alumnae Association and
send to 9918 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060. *Reservations are
due by October 10.*

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1969

October 17, 2014

Let's celebrate our 45th at Pizzazz.
We can catch up and talk about a
gathering next summer to mark 50
years since we began at Regina!
Contact: equinlan@ndc.org.

CLASS OF 1974

October 17, 2014

Let's celebrate at Pizzazz on
October 17. Contact Mary Murphy
at mcookie7788@yahoo.com.

CLASS OF 1979

October 17, 2014

Also celebrating at Pizzazz. Contact
Cathy Nych at cmtdn@att.net or
Kim Berlin at jkjnj@hotmail.com.

REGINA ALUMNAE CROSS-COUNTRY

Place: Euclid Creek Park

(Where Regina usually trained)

Date: November 29

Time: 11:00 am

Contact: Coach Chuck at
xccoachchuck@aol.com

REGINA ANNUAL RETREAT

Place: Bethany Retreat Center at NDEC

Date: February 20 – 22

Contact: Sr. Kay at
rhsalum@reginahigh.com
or 216-905-4851

GRADE TRANSCRIPTS

Contact NDCL at 440-286-6226
or 440-496-3314.

To contact Regina Alumnae Office:
rhsalum@reginahigh.com or 216-905-4851.

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SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Many blessings to our sisters who reached milestones in the call to faith and service.

70 *years*

Sister Mary Patricia Gannon
(formerly Sister Mary Vaune)

Sister Mary Neil Kardian

Sister Mary Jane Olatta
(formerly Sister Mary Joannette)

Sister Mary Charlita Slough

65 *years*

Sister Marie Clarice Bates
(formerly Sister Mary Nathaniel)

Sister Mary Margaret Hess
(formerly Sister Mary Nathan)

Sister Jeanne Mary Nieminen
(formerly Sister Mary Jane Frances)

Sister Mary Catherine Romancik
(formerly Sister Mary Roy)

Sister Mary Doreen Strahler

Sister Mary Jeanne Swindell
(formerly Sister Mary Lauramay)

Sister Mary Rosalind Vilics
(formerly Sister Janicemarie)

60 *years*

Sister Madeline Mary Columbro
(formerly Sister Mary Electa)

Sister Mary Anne Glaser
(formerly Sister Mary Ann Paul)

Sister Mary Margaret Harig
(formerly Sister Mary Laboure)

Sister Mary Margaret Kerr
(formerly Sister Mary St. Maurus)

Sister Mary Laurette Kramer

Sister Evelyn Mary Satanek
(formerly Sister Mary Clareanne)

Sister Mary Francismarie Seiler

Sister Mary Alice Slowey
(formerly Sister Mary Immaculae)

Sister Mary Rochelle Walter

50 *years*

Sister Mary Virginia Andes
(formerly Sister Mary Cathlyn)

Sister Mary Catherine Caine
(formerly Sister Mary St. Myles)

Sister Mary Antoinette Dershaw
(formerly Sister Mary Marquette)

Sister Mary Alice Dugar
(formerly Sister Mary St. Benedict)

Sister Mary Anne Philomena Grady
(formerly Sister Mary Eamon)

Sister Mary Barbara Knuff
(formerly Sister Mary Bernadel)

Sister Mary Cecilia Liberatore
(formerly Sister Mary Ranata)

Sister Mary Judith Anne Sabau
(formerly Sister Mary Nathalie)

Sister Mary Theresa Sharp
(formerly Sister Mary Conan)

Sister Mary Frances Taymans
(formerly Sister Mary Bernette)

Sister Marilyn Zgonc
(formerly Sister Mary Elaine)

40 *years*

Sister Mary Rose Falorio
(formerly Sister Mary Lorica)

Sister Mary Margaret Kozlowski
(formerly Sister Catherine Mary)

Sister Mary Jennifer Kramer

Sister Mary Catherine O'Malley
(formerly Sister Mary Patrick Brigid)

Sister Mary Nancy Petruccelli
(formerly Sister Maureen Therese)

Sister Kathleen Ruddy
(formerly Sister Mary Kevin)

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