

# Network

One Heart, One Hope, One Mission

Summer 2014



Sisters of Notre Dame  
Chardon Province

## Blessing House

God's Project  
of Hope

### ALSO INSIDE:

Little Flower Mission Circle #60

2014 Jubilarians Honored

Mission with a Sizzle  
SND BBQ & Boutique

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*COVER: Sister Mary Berigan, SND enjoys playing  
with a young boy at Blessing House.*



## A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! Poet Gerard Manley Hopkins declared that “the world is charged with the grandeur of God,” and we can live closest to the “dearest freshness deep down things” in summer. The summer is a time “to smell the flowers”, spend time with family and friends, and slow down our busy lives to enjoy all that surrounds us. While Cleveland weather might at times be somewhat unpredictable, one thing remains the same and that is our call to share God’s goodness with those in need. When we look at the world through faith filled eyes, we can see God’s grandeur in unexpected places.

In this issue of the Network we continue our journey to share with you the ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame that directly relate to the revitalization of our communities both locally and internationally. You will read a story about the Blessing House, a safe haven for children, as the Blessing House celebrates their 10th anniversary of keeping children safe for families in crisis; you will also catch

a glimpse of the Little Mission Circle #60 who for over 65 years has supported the India Mission program along with neighborhood needs; and you will see how making a planned gift to the SND community will give back for generations to come. We discover the goodness in all people and together share our resources with those in need. These stories give us hope to believe in God’s goodness and strength to make a difference. With the support and foresight of our committed SND friends we can change the lives of so many and bring promise that tomorrow will be better for all our brothers and sisters.

Thank you for partnering with us. May you and your family enjoy the peace and warmth of summer.

Gratefully,

*Sr. Margaret M. Gorman, SND*

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



# Blessing House

## God's Project of Hope



(l-r) Sister Mary Berigan, SND and  
Donna Humphrey, Blessing House founders

HUNDREDS OF TINY RED, BLUE,  
GREEN, YELLOW AND PURPLE  
HANDPRINTS AND FOOTPRINTS  
AFFECTIONATELY COVER THE  
FRONT ROOM, OR "PLAY ROOM,"  
WALLS OF BLESSING HOUSE,

located at 5440 Grove Avenue in Lorain, Ohio. Each unique print represents an infant, toddler or child who found a safe, loving home here while their family struggled with some crisis or emergency. Each print signifies a life impacted, a heart touched.

Celebrating Blessing House's 10th anniversary, founders Sister Mary Berigan, SND and Donna Humphrey give all the credit to God who they say "provided the resources, tools and opportunities."

"We first came up with the idea of providing a safe home for children whose families were in crisis while working as guardian ad litem in the children's advocacy program, Voices for Children. We kept running into families dealing with some crisis and their children were being lost in the shuffle," Sr. Mary recalls.

Unable to simply turn away, Sister Mary left her position as principal at St. Jude's Elementary School in Elyria, Ohio to begin Blessing House. Several years of planning and networking ensued. The women visited other crisis nurseries and researched similar programs throughout the country. A board of directors was developed, and Blessing House obtained non-profit status in 2003.

According to the mission statement, Blessing House serves as a safety net for children of families in crisis by providing a temporary, safe home for children and support for their families. More than 980 children from birth to age 12 have received shelter, food, clothing and love since opening its doors in 2005.

"We're quickly closing on 1,000 children," Humphrey states. "There is an ever-increasing need for temporary, safe housing for children. In fact, we often have a waiting list. Children receive food, clothing, help with homework, assistance in their personal care, and a safe place to lay their head at night. We love playing with the kids. We want to provide stability but, more importantly, show these children they are respected and loved."

When a child visits Blessing House for the first time, they leave their handprint or footprint with their first name and the date they were first here on the wall. "Some kids we'll see just once – in an emergency or crisis like their mom being hospitalized, but approximately 50 percent return," Sister Mary states. "The handprints and footprints help us visualize each child we have helped. It puts our work in perspective. There is a story that goes with every one of these prints."

A family crisis may involve a parental medical emergency, housing eviction, domestic violence, mental health concerns, incarceration, substance abuse, or stress. "We are seeing more and more grandparents being awarded temporary custody of their grandchildren. These caretakers commonly have their own health issues and often become overwhelmed caring for a grandchild or grandchildren. It is a sign of the times. We offer a temporary break when they become exhausted or near the breaking point," Sr. Mary notes. "We're pretty connected to most of the agencies, hospitals, and schools nearby, where we receive most of our referrals."



*Transitions are hard on children. Every child returns home and receives a bag with books, clothes, a stuffed animal, etc. to make it easier to go back home.*

"This is my passion – caring for children who may not be safe otherwise," describes Sister Mary. "Caring for kids who may not have some of the advantages of other children. I want to provide these children with a wonderful experience and not only a safe environment but an enriching atmosphere where they have opportunities to learn, try new things, and know they are loved."

The cheery, child-friendly, four-bedroom home proves welcoming to children in need of 24-hour care. A child may stay up to one month, perhaps longer, if needed. A handicap-accessible ramp provides access for children with physical disabilities. Blessing House is a non-denominational, faith-based program and is the first facility of its type to be licensed by the State of Ohio as a Children's Crisis Care Facility. The staff of 22 include full and part-time employees, volunteers and Sr. Mary and Humphrey.

"We provide a comfortable home setting with three meals a day; transportation to and from school, doctor's appointments and school events; help with homework; and often end the day with crafts and playtime," says Sr. Mary. "Most importantly, the children know they are safe."

**"You cannot  
be good at  
this work  
without  
becoming  
emotionally  
involved."**

- Donna Humphrey

*continued*

Summer 2014



**"We want  
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- Donna Humphrey

## Blessing House

continued from page 3

"From the beginning, Blessing House has been God's Project of Hope. We believe we have been led by God to provide a safe place for children. We are thankful for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us to make Blessing House possible," Sr. Mary exclaims.

Humphrey agrees, "It's hard to believe we've been doing this for 10 years. Some of the children we have helped are teenagers now. A few have come by to visit us. They recently received this email of thanks from a teenager who first stayed at Blessing House at age 6:

*"I don't know if you remember me. When I was about six or seven years old, my life was turned into your hands along with my sister's, who was just a baby... You fed me; you clothed me; you made me feel like it was my actual home. Those nights I cried, you helped me through a lot. Well now I am 14 about to be 15 and my sister is nine about to be 10, and we live with our aunt. Our mom never was able to get her life together. She moved to Tennessee seven years ago, and we never heard a word from her since we spoke to her under your care.*

*I just want to thank you for everything you gave me that my mom was unable to give – from the love to the care and the help. Can you believe I'm a freshman in high school already? I remember putting my hand print on the wall. You have changed my life completely, and you made me realize that family doesn't have to be the same genetics or the same blood, or skin. It's about who will be there for you in the end. You could have turned your back on my sister and I, but you didn't. You had faith, and you helped. Thanks."*

Many churches and individuals of faith support Blessing House in addition to the Sisters of Notre Dame. Funding sources include grants and an annual fundraising event, Rock-A-Bye Ball. Approximately

75 percent of their income is generated through contributions, gifts and grants. The remaining 25 percent is income they have raised, Humphrey explains. There are also many in-kind gifts. For instance, Christ Church in Strongsville provided backyard renovations and the handicap ramp.

Ethel Jones has worked on staff at Blessing House for seven years. She started working in child care and her duties have expanded to include office work and house manager. "We can care for up to 10 children at a time in Blessing House, as dictated by our state license. It's a great joy. We see children come and go, and it's wonderful to see the growth during their stay. I have seen an angry child turn into a child who can not only receive love but return it."

Amanda Cholodewitsch, 23, volunteers at Blessing House through the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. "I do everything here – desk work, data-base management, play with the children, cook, clean, manage donations and inventory, and even shovel the snow," she laughs. "This has been such a blessing to be here and serve."

"You cannot be good at this work without becoming emotionally involved," Humphrey insists. "Still, you have to be able to walk away and know you cannot fix everything. Once we've offered everything we are able, we have faith that God will take care of the rest. How God works is a mystery. We do what we can."

"We give them what we've been given," Sr. Mary concurs with a smile. "The majority of our children return to their parents and home but a few go into foster care. It's not always the best situation for a child to return to their home. Many families that come to Blessing House have caseworkers. We work collaboratively as a team to help. The hope is that we can give a child a positive experience while they are here. We may be that one person in their childhood that changed them for good – that changed their outlook on life for the better." T

(l-r) Sister Margaret Gorman  
and Mary Adelle Butler

## Sisters of Notre Dame Recognize Donors

More than 130 guests were on hand to celebrate the Eucharist and a delicious lunch on Sunday, May 4th at the Sisters of Notre Dame Donor Recognition Luncheon. This year, the Sisters paid special tribute to donors Mary Agnes Siemer and the Little Flower Mission Circle #60 for their generous financial gifts. These photos capture some of the fun enjoyed at this event.

Mark and Barbara Titus



Three members of Little Flower Mission Circle #60 bring offertory gifts during Mass



Mary Agnes Siemer (third from right)  
surrounded by family and friends



(l-r) Sister Margaret Gorman  
and Mary Agnes Siemer





# SISTER MARGARET HARTMAN

*From Classroom, To Courtroom,  
To Classroom Again!*

*"I've had wonderful opportunities and have met so many dedicated individuals in education and the legal profession."*

- Sister Margaret Hartman

Sister Margaret Hartman's amazing life has come full circle. Upon making her final vows as a Sister of Notre Dame in 1975, she first served as a teacher and then as an elementary school principal. Years later, she earned her Juris Doctor degree and passionately worked as a juvenile court public defender for Cuyahoga County. This July, she returns to education as principal of St. Helen's Elementary School in Newbury, Ohio. *Welcome home, Sister!*

Reflecting on her rewarding journey, Sister Margaret smiles warmly and gazes around her legal office, located high above the cityscape at the Cleveland Juvenile Court building on Quincy Avenue. "It will be hard to leave the legal profession," she states simply. She has served as a public defender in the Juvenile Court for the past 10 years.

"I've had wonderful opportunities and have met so many dedicated individuals in education and the legal profession," the compassionate attorney and educator describes. "When I first became a teacher, I was surrounded by dynamic Sisters. I was blessed."

"I graduated from St. Stephen's High School. While I considered becoming a Sister of Notre Dame in high school, upon graduating I went to work as a secretary for a year and a half before entering the order," recalls Sister Margaret.

Sister Margaret would continue her education, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in Social Studies from Notre Dame College in 1973.

Her first assignment? Teaching first graders at St. Paschal Baylon's in Richmond Heights. She taught various grades before becoming principal of St. Jude Elementary School in Elyria, where she led the school to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education. She then served as principal of Notre Dame Elementary School in Chardon. "I loved teaching children," she says. The passionate educator describes her love of children and the personal reward she received through teaching.

"The Sisters of Notre Dame are educators by tradition. Our heritage inspires us to uphold the dignity of each person and ensure religious education as a priority," Sister Margaret continues.

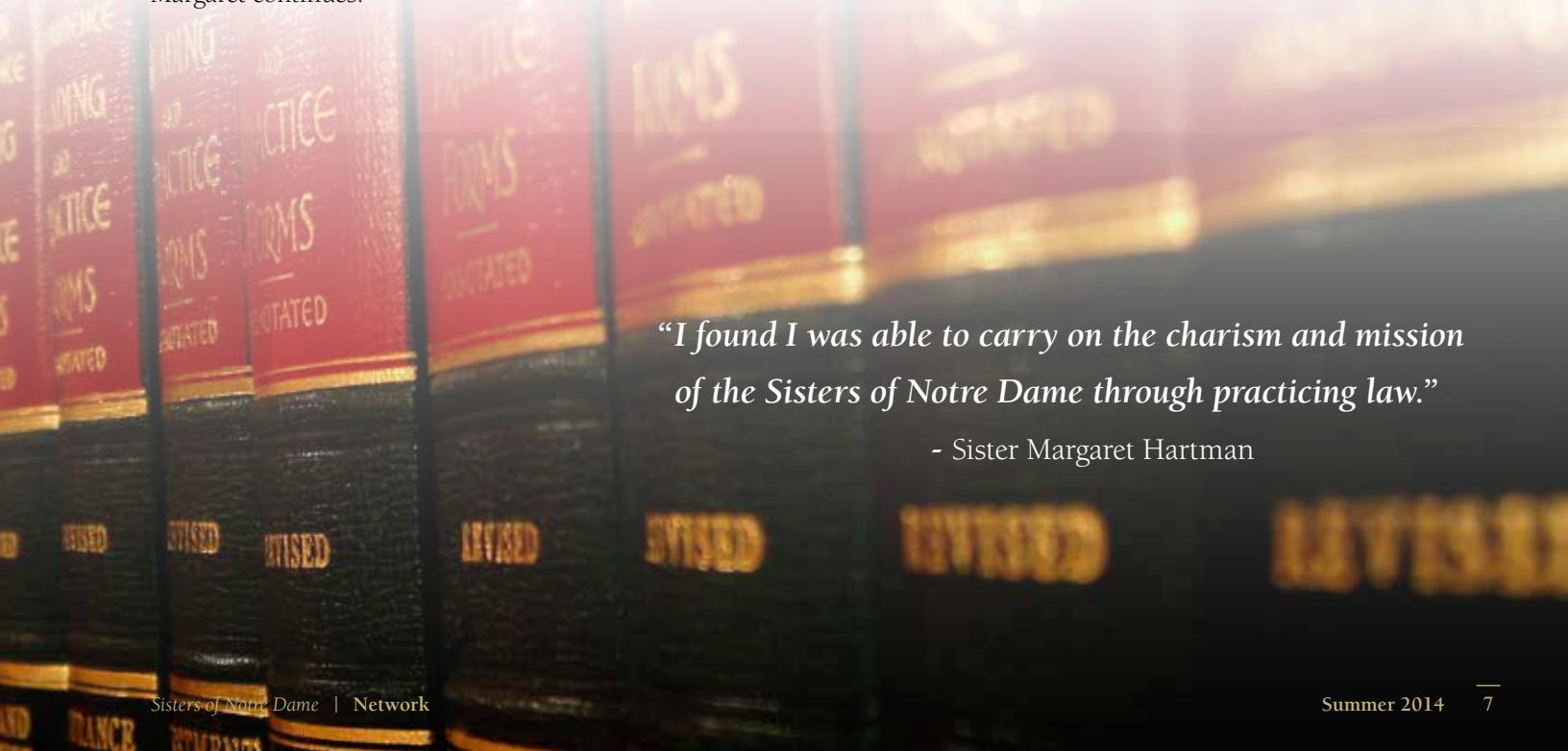
Over the years, Sr. Margaret recognized another avenue by which she could help children and the poor. She was awarded the Matthew 25 Scholarship, given to religious who desire to work with the poor. This award enabled her to attend Akron Law School, tuition free. She is one of only two Sisters of Notre Dame throughout the globe to earn a J.D. and practice law. The other, Sister Sudha, practices in India.

"I found I was able to carry on the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame through practicing law – particularly working to maintain the dignity of every person."

The tireless crusader typically worked with troubled, abused and neglected children and their parents, many of whom were drug addicts or suffered from mental health issues. Serving beyond the courtroom, Sister Margaret and her law colleagues started a tutoring program in the Juvenile Detention Center. She remains involved in the Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries that responds to unmet needs of families and individuals in the Collinwood area in collaboration with various churches, social service agencies, neighborhood groups, and others.

Through the years, Sister Margaret also earned a Master's degree in Sacramental Theology and maintains a certificate in pastoral ministry. When asked how education, law and social justice relates, Sister matter-of-factly replies, "It is all a call to service."

"I am grateful for the Sisters of Notre Dame community. As a Sister of Notre Dame, I have enjoyed many wonderful opportunities and met countless dedicated individuals. I am looking forward to working at St. Helen's. I commend Sr. Sandy Nativio who has done a great job this past year, serving as interim principal. I'm grateful she will stay on as Assistant to the Principal. I'm also glad to be back with a parish – one that totally supports its school. I know St. Helen's is a prayerful community, under the dynamic leadership of their pastor, Father Jay. My goal is to continue the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame, which is to proclaim God's Goodness and Provident Care. As the children at St. Helen's School say, "God is Good all the time. All the time, God is Good!" 



*"I found I was able to carry on the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame through practicing law."*

- Sister Margaret Hartman



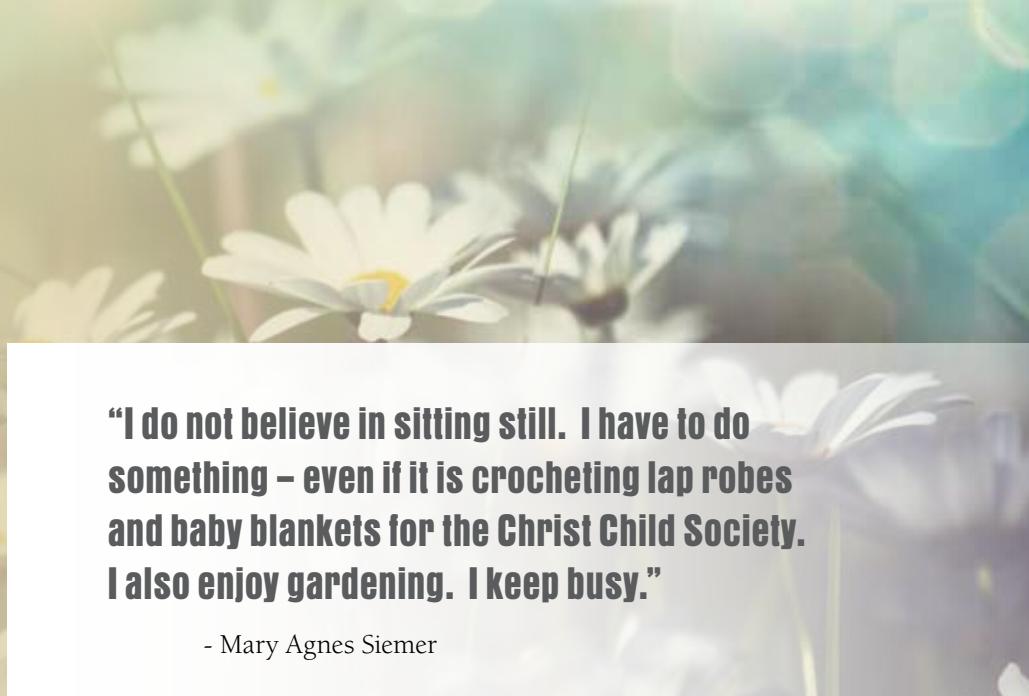
*Mary Agnes Siemer*

# Planned Gift a Blessing to Sisters of Notre Dame

“The Sisters of Notre Dame have played a treasured role in my life,” exclaims Mary Agnes Siemer, 84, of South Euclid. Recently, the generous woman, through an inheritance from her sister, Rose Ann, and her father, August Siemer, remembered the Sisters of Notre Dame in her estate through a planned gift that left the congregation exceedingly blessed.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Mary Agnes grew up on the SND farm in South Euclid where her father cared for the farm that included an apple orchard, chickens, vineyard, vegetables and a barn. The family was not rich but hard working and assiduous.

“Dad harvested apples in the fall. During the winter, he would paint classrooms at Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road. Dad was very handy and helped with maintenance projects, too,” recalls the friendly senior from her quaint South Euclid home. She says that during the spring and summer her father planted a vegetable garden and sprayed the orchard along with general upkeep on the land.



The Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Gregory's Elementary School educated Mary Agnes, her sister Rose Ann and brother Joe. Upon graduation from grade school, Mary Agnes and her sister attended Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road, graduating from the classes of 1948 and 1950 respectively. Joe graduated from Cathedral Latin in 1946.

"The Sisters of Notre Dame opened Regina High School two years after Rose Ann graduated from Notre Dame Academy," considers Mary Agnes with a laugh. "If it had opened earlier, we could have gone to school there and skipped the long bus ride to Ansel Road."

"I received an excellent education from the Sisters of Notre Dame," says the gregarious woman with a delightful smile. "My education by the Sisters of Notre Dame has always been very important to me. My mom and dad were active Catholics, and it was important to them that their children receive a Catholic education – which is a privilege. I was privileged to attend Notre Dame Academy. Thanks to that upbringing, my faith continues to be most important in my life."

After graduating from high school, the energetic, young woman went to work for a local paint company for two years before a friend suggested she apply at General Electric at Nela Park. "I worked in the Finance Department then Engineering for 38 years before retiring in 1988," Mary Agnes reflects. "GE was an excellent employer. They provided us with a wonderful pension, too. I still get together with a group of women who worked with me at Nela Park on holidays, for tea and twice a month to play bridge."

**"I do not believe in sitting still. I have to do something – even if it is crocheting lap robes and baby blankets for the Christ Child Society. I also enjoy gardening. I keep busy."**

- Mary Agnes Siemer

Retirement did not signify a time of rest for Mary Agnes. She continues to remain active, taking communion to homebound parishioners as well as to others in nursing homes each week. She prays the rosary every day. "I do not believe in sitting still. I have to do something – even if it is crocheting lap robes and baby blankets for the Christ Child Society. I also enjoy gardening. I keep busy."

She continues, "I try to visit the Sisters of Notre Dame once a month. It's such a joy to go out there to their property in Chardon, Ohio. I particularly enjoy attending their annual Chicken BBQ on one of the last two Sundays in September."

Mary Agnes says remembering the Sisters of Notre Dame through a planned gift seemed only natural. "My mother passed away in 1981, my father in 1983, my sister in 1994, and my brother in 2009. I inherited money from my father and sister, and I always felt that they would be thrilled to help the Sisters after all the time the Sisters helped our family. Upon discussing my investments with my financial advisor, he suggested this is the place my money would be used according to my sister and dad's requests. My dad

and sister had over 100 years of service to the Sisters of Notre Dame, my dad as the grounds keeper and my sister working in the library.."

"My dad lived and worked on the Sisters of Notre Dame Green Road property his entire life. To this day, most of my friends are good Catholics, as well as my neighbors and the women I play bridge with. I guess our faith seems to draw us together.

"As for the Sisters of Notre Dame – I grew up with the Sisters, and I was always with them. I hear so often people crediting the Sisters of Notre Dame for the excellent education they received. I saw the Women of Spirit exhibit at the Maltz Museum a few years back, and I was so proud and excited. I knew the Sisters of Notre Dame would be a good place to give money. The missionaries in India, Nicaragua, and Africa are so courageous. The Sisters of Notre Dame can stretch a dollar until Washington cries," she laughs.

"Nowadays, at my age, I pray before I get up each morning, 'Hi God. We're going to do it all again today.' Our faith sees us through life. With the time I have left, I plan to make myself available to help others." †

# An Unbroken Circle of Friendship, Love & Service

# LITTLE FLOWER MISSION CIRCLE #60



Little Flower Mission Circle #60: Front row: Dolly Kocik, Helene Novak, Joann Kadlec  
Back row: Mary Joan Adkins, Dolores Roshetko, Dolores Kozlowski, Sr. Felicia Mann

**S**even, energetic, fun-loving women – all but one in their 80s – gather around a cluttered, oblong table in Sr. Felicia Mann's apartment in Garfield Heights this warm spring afternoon in April. The mood in the former convent on Granger Road is festive and joyful. The women are abuzz with stories about children, grandchildren, current events and upcoming summer plans as their hands busily create Mother's Day cards for unwed pregnant women living at Maggie's Place, in Parma, Ohio. Laughter erupts as Sr. Felicia, SSJ, TOSF, encourages the ladies to quiet down a bit and remain focused on the task at hand. As they work, they eagerly reflect on the first meeting of Little Flower Mission Circle #60 more than six decades ago.

"Little Flower Mission Circle #60 dates back to Marymount High School's Class of 1949. There were 12 of us girls who decided to set aside a few hours each month to do something worthwhile for others. We were all single back then and liked to think we represented the apostles," recalls Mary Joan Adkins, 83, of North Royalton, with a grin, as she skillfully uses a tiny pair of scissors to cut an illustration to glue on her card.

She continues, "Our first meeting was held at my parents' house in January of 1950. My mother was a member of Little Flower Mission Circle #18, so we decided to form our own Little Flower Mission Circle."

"They were all close friends who wanted to stick together after graduating from high school. They also wanted to do something besides sit around and gossip," admits Dolores Roshetko, 82, of North Ridgeville, with a wink. She joined the group in 1975.

The group meet for two and a half hours each month, generally in the evenings, to work on a project to either raise money, sew or do some craft for charity. Early on in Little Flower Mission Circle #60's formation, the women were asked to support a Sister of Notre Dame who was a missionary in India, Sr. Felicia explains. The group happily agreed.

"Sister Mary Kieran Seubert, SND, became very close to us. We felt like she was part of our group," describes Joann Kadlec, 82, of Bedford, a founding member. "She kept us informed about everything going on in India – from snake bites to inventions they came up with in order to survive. She was a joy and close to our hearts."

Little Flower Mission Circle #60 provided Sister Kieran with financial support. The group also enjoyed sending her care packages. "We'd send hard candy for the Indians but chocolate to Sister Kieran. She loved chocolate," recalls Helene Novak, 78, of Parma, with a laugh. "The Mission Circle also donated class supplies, clothing, and even contributed money to have a room in India named in memory of Sr. Kieran."



"We remained Sister Kieran's sponsor until her death. Then, we supported Sister Valerie Sweeney, SND, who was the Mission Coordinator at the time but now we have Sr. Marie Manning, SND." Dolores Kozlowski, 83, of Garfield Heights, pipes in. "We feel very, very close to the Sisters of Notre Dame and the wonderful work they are doing in global missions. We are glad we can help support their missions."

The feeling is mutual with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Marie Manning, SND, Global Missions Coordinator with the Sisters of Notre Dame, says, "Little Flower Mission Circle #60 is a group of delightful women who have prayed for, and financially supported, our missions for almost 65 years. In addition, they have taken the time to develop relationships with our missionaries and mission staff during many an enjoyable luncheon gathering. We are so grateful to them for their enthusiasm and generosity, and pray that God will continue to bless them – and us – with this very special partnership in mission."

Sister Marie estimates that Little Flower Mission Circle #60 has donated almost \$12,500 to the Sisters on Notre Dame's India missionaries since 1963. She did not know the amount of their contributions prior to that date. "Sr. Kieran was one of the first six Sisters who began the India mission in 1949. Sr. Valerie was my predecessor in the Mission Office, and served as Mission Director for 15 years," Sr. Marie explains.

But, their generosity does not end there. Little Flower Mission Circle #60 also supports many other charities such as the Westside Catholic Center, St. Augustine food centers, Maggie's Place, Ronald McDonald House, U.S. Marine Corp, and rape crisis centers.

"We are involved everywhere," Helene says with a smile.

Through the years, the resourceful women organized a host of events and activities to raise money for their various charities including card parties, raffles, bake sales, and bus trips.

"Fundraising was multifaceted. We even sold Watkin's Vanilla, Tower Candies, Tupperware, and Entertainment Books," Dolly Kocik, 82, of Sagamore Hills, describes, shaking her head in wonder as she completes another Mother's Day card.

Despite marriages, the birth of children, and moves, the women of Little Flower Mission Circle #60 remained committed to each other and their goal of serving others.

"It's amazing how this group has stuck together through the years," exclaims Roshetko. "And there have been no murders. We still love each other just the same." The women look around the table, smiling at each other in agreement.

Roshetko says there are three original members in the group: Joann Kadlec,

Dolores Kozlowski and Mary Joan Adkins. Little Flower Mission Circle #60 founding members now deceased include: Bernice Henderson, Arlene Matousek and Millie Wojtila. They were replaced through the decades by new friends.

"Nowadays, we get together during the day and don't meet in January and February because of our age. We don't like to drive on wintry roads," explains Sr. Felicia as she gathers the finished cards and stacks them on the kitchen counter.

Sr. Felicia jokes, "Our goal now is to stay alive!"

Dolly agrees, "Yes. We simply hope to wake up tomorrow."

Laughter again fills the room as Sr. Felicia stands and begins to clear the table of paper clippings, scissors, and glue. The camaraderie makes it hard to part. Thankfully, there is next month when Little Flower Mission Circle #60 will again meet to spread hope and cheer to others through their unbroken circle of friendship, love and service. T



# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS *2014*

## SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

*Jubilee of GRACE*  
**70 years**

### **Sister Mary Patricia Gannon**

(formerly Sister Mary Vaune)



For 19 memorable years, Sister Mary Patricia served in India as a teacher, high school principal and director of teacher training colleges. From

riding elephants to running schools, she immersed herself wholeheartedly in her Indian ministry. Later, as the district superior in Kettering, England, Sister ran two schools and was instrumental in opening a new school near London. Before her international ministry assignments, Sister Mary Patricia spent twenty years as a primary grade teacher and/or principal in the Cleveland Diocese. She now resides at the Provincial Center and devotes her time to community service by writing for the archives and through prayer, praise and presence.

"No matter what I'm doing, it's important somehow in the life of our community and in the life of our church—all for the greater honor and glory of God," says Sister Mary Patricia. "I can't imagine any life that would've given me greater opportunity to serve people, to know people in so many different countries, and to appreciate the cultures of so many countries. I just can't imagine what life would've been without this opportunity."

### **Sister Mary Neil Kardian**



From teaching to nursing and back again, Sister Mary Neil followed God's call to serve others. She taught intermediate grades in the Cleveland Diocese

before becoming a nurse. Twenty years of Sister's life were spent at the Generalate in Rome, Italy, where she served as local coordinator, a registered nurse, and secretary at the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. When she returned to the U.S., Sister delved back into teaching and was assigned to schools in Elyria, Youngstown, and Warren, Ohio; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Sarasota, Florida. She was principal of Elyria Catholic High School.

"I have had a tremendously blessed life," says Sister Mary Neil. Today, she devotes her time to prayer, presence, and praise in Chardon.

"I always say that I've had a checkered background," jokes Sister Mary Neil. "I've been a nurse, a secretary, high school and elementary teacher, and a high school principal. I've done a lot of things in my life and I thank the good God for all the blessings I have had."

### **Sister Mary Jane Olatta**

(formerly Sister Mary Joanette)



Sister Mary Jane taught primary, intermediate and high school grades throughout the Cleveland Diocese and in Canton, Youngstown, Warren,

Washington, DC and Florida. She received 12 grants to study at different colleges, including a Fulbright Scholarship to study in India. She worked in Rome in the Motherhouse library. Sister spent 18 years at Regina High School, first as a teacher, then as an assistant librarian and archivist. She held positions as teacher and principal at several schools, including St. Mary, Avon, and St. Thomas, Sheffield Lake. For five years, she served as director of curriculum for the Diocese of Cleveland. Sister was assistant librarian at Cardinal Mooney High School, Sarasota, and pastoral minister at Incarnation Parish.

"I've had a lot of experiences," Sister Mary Jane says. "If I'd have stayed out in the world, I don't know if I would've had them."

Seventy years went by quickly, adds Sister, who is now an assistant in the Provincial Center archives and is active in the prayer, presence and praise ministry. "I can hardly believe it! God blessed me with this vocation and this congregation which has afforded me so many opportunities and educated me. I don't see how I could ever repay all the Sisters of Notre Dame for what has been done for me."

## Sister Mary Charlita Slough



Sister Mary Charlita's desire to be of service to others and lead them closer to God led her to the Sisters of Notre Dame.

A pioneer in the order, Sister was the first SND to branch out of classroom education into pastoral ministry. This was quite a feat at the time.

"We were just beginning to go out into other ministries," says Sister Mary Gail Sako, director of Pastoral Care, Health Care Center. "Sister Mary Charlita was the trailblazer for pastoral ministry."

Sister Mary Charlita spent about 20 years in the Cleveland Diocese teaching intermediate grades and junior high. She was director of religious education at St. Justin Martyr, Eastlake, and resource consultant for RCIA and instructor of children's catechumenate at St. Helen, Newbury. She was principal of three schools in Florida and director of religious education at Immaculate Heart, Youngstown.

"Sister Mary Charlita is known for her deep love of her SND community and her sense of humor," adds Sister Mary Gail. "She has an indomitable smile that touches your heart." Sister Mary Charlita has a favorite prayer that hangs in her room at the Chardon Health Care Center: "My God, I love you and I know you love me."

## 65 IRON Jubilee

### Sister Marie Clarice Bates

(formerly Sister Mary Nathaniel)



Sister Marie Clarice always knew that she wanted to be a sister and teacher. She recognized a kindness in her grade school teacher, who was an SND. After she joined the order, Sister taught at several schools in Ohio and California. In 1960 she joined her fellow Sisters ministering with the Jesuit missionaries in India. Sister spent eight years in Jamalpur, Bihar, India.

"We decided we should have someone with experience ministering in India to be in charge of the mission office in the U.S.—publishing newsletters, informing everyone, fundraising—and that it should be one of us. We all agreed on this but none of us wanted to leave India. We wanted to be there with the people. I thought to myself, if I really mean to benefit people and share what we have in our Catholic blessings, I should be willing to do whatever is needed. I got the job and I liked it."

Sister Marie Clarice spearheaded the development of the India Mission Office in Chardon. Sister devoted 28 years as its procurator (director). She returned to India every three years to visit, meet with sisters, and witness the advancement and growth of the mission.

Reflecting on the roles of church and mission, Sister says, "Mission came before church. Our thinking should be that mission has a church, rather than church having a mission."

## Sister Mary Margaret Hess

(formerly Sister Mary Nathan)



Like many Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Margaret was inspired by her SND teachers. "My teachers in high school were such an example of religious women," she says.

"They were dedicated to their call in life."

During her 35-year ministry as treasurer, she planned and oversaw more than 25 building projects at Notre Dame Education Center in Chardon and at various Notre Dame schools. A consultant for the National Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes, Sister advised her own community and religious communities throughout the United States. She also served on numerous boards including the Notre Dame College Board of Trustees, the Cleveland Diocesan Finance Council, and the board of Huntington Bank of Geauga County.

"I filled this ministry from 1965 to 2000 and retired somewhat after this time. I keep my brain active doing small, part-time work in the treasurer's office," she says.

At the time of this writing, Sister Mary Margaret was celebrating the season of Easter joy and living the theme of the liturgy readings: "He is risen." Sister resides at the Provincial Center where she dedicates her time as financial/legal consultant for the Province and to prayer, presence and praise.

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# SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2014

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## Sister Jeanne Mary Nieminen

(formerly Sister Mary Jane Frances)



As a young girl at Mother of Sorrows parish in Ashtabula, Sister Jeanne Mary was drawn to the Sisters of Notre Dame. “They would stay after Mass after

Holy Communion,” she says. “I always wanted to do that—I thought it was wonderful. I thought if I could join them I could stay and pray.”

Sister taught primary and intermediate grades at schools throughout the Cleveland Diocese, including St. Gabriel, St. Michael and Notre Dame Elementary. She later tutored for 15 years at the Notre Dame Skills Lab. In addition, she taught in Washington, DC, at three schools in Florida, Canton, Ohio, and Virginia. She dedicated several years to the SND elementary school religion textbook committee.

Sister Jeanne Mary says that being a Sister of Notre Dame gave her a chance to grow close to God and praise Him the way she wanted to. “It is always a great blessing that we have time for prayer. It’s wonderful to be in a community because you feel like a family. I think this is a great life for anyone who wants to get closer to God and have community.”

Sister Jeanne Mary strives to love like Jesus. “No one can be like Jesus, but we can love like He loved.”

## Sister Mary Catherine Romancik

(formerly Sister Mary Roy)



God’s call for Sister Mary Catherine Romancik came on the day of her First Holy Communion, which led to her meeting the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Stephen High School. “Their loving kindness won my heart and admiration, and after graduation I wanted to share their lives,” she says.

Sister taught at several high schools throughout the Cleveland area, especially at St. Peter, Elyria Catholic and Regina. She was chaplain at Community Health Partners Regional Medical Centers, Lorain, and pastoral minister at St. Michael, Canton. At Notre Dame Education Center, Sister Mary Catherine dedicated six years to the high school religion text committee.

God’s provident care has guided Sister’s life to ministries of teaching, pastoral ministry, hospital chaplaincy, and finally, at age 80, to Chardon, where she’s been guiding the SND inclusive language prayer book, *Notre Dame Prays*, from idea to reality.

Sister Mary Catherine looks to the prophet Micah for inspiration: “Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly before your God.” It’s a work in progress, she says.

## Sister Mary Doreen Strahler



Following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sister Merita SND, Sister Mary Doreen became the second of three daughters to become a sister. Her younger sister, Sister Sylvia, is a Medical Mission Sister.

“At the end of eighth grade, when a Sister of Notre Dame approached me and asked if I ever thought I’d like to be a Sister, I thought ‘Yes, I’ve thought of that often,’ ” she says. “I came to Notre Dame Academy as an aspirant.”

Sister taught primary and intermediate grades throughout the Cleveland Diocese, including 14 years at St. Joseph Franciscan, where she was principal for six of those years. She was assigned to schools in Youngstown and Virginia, including St. Ann, Arlington and was principal of St. Benedict in Cleveland for six years and at St. Gabriel in Mentor for six years. Later, she served at the Provincial Center as local coordinator and transportation coordinator.

Today, she is the weekend transportation assistant and part of the prayer phone line and craft ministries. She remembers the words of Micah for inspiration: “To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.”

## Sister Mary Jeanne Swindell

(formerly Sister Mary Lauramay)



For 65 years, Sister Mary Jeanne has led a life of service to others. The majority of her ministry assignments were in the

Cleveland Diocese in the food service ministry. She spent seven years at Regina High School and nine years at Julie Billiart. She also served at St. Ann in Arlington, Virginia. At St. Francis, Cleveland, she devoted 11 years as a tutor and teacher aide. Later, Sister Mary Jeanne volunteered at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center, for a total of 15 years.

For the past 14 years, she has been volunteering at the Geauga Senior Center, Chardon. When not at the senior center, she devotes herself to the prayer, presence and praise ministry.

## Sister Mary Rosalind Vilics

(formerly Sister Janicemarie)



For Sister Mary Rosalind, being a Sister of Notre Dame means thinking about and helping other people. "I try to think of other people instead of worrying about myself," she says.

Sister's life as a teacher allowed her to do just that. She taught primary grades at several schools in the Cleveland Diocese, including St. Gregory the Great, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (East), St. Joseph (Amherst), and St. Vitus. Most of her teaching years were devoted to first graders.

"I loved teaching first graders because they were so receptive," says Sister Mary Rosalind.

For 16 years, Sister was a primary aide at St. Peter, Lorain. She spent 14 years at the Provincial Center as a Health Care Center activities assistant. Sister Mary Rosalind currently resides at the Provincial Center where she is involved in the prayer, presence and praise ministry.

## DIAMOND Jubilee 60 years

## Sister Madeline Mary Columbro

(formerly Sister Mary Electa)



Sister Madeline began her vocation teaching in Our Lady of Lourdes and other schools in the area. She devoted more than 25 years of her life to higher education, both as a professor and academic dean at Notre Dame College and academic dean at St. Mary College, Orchard Lake, MI.

"What impressed me within the community was that sisters could combine education with spirituality, regardless of what level they're teaching or praying," she says. "The reputation of the SNDs in the church is held very highly. I found it always something to strive for."

At the Provincial Center, Sister held a variety of posts, including director and associate director of the Development Office, assistant director of the Advancement Office, and grant writer. At the SND Generalate in Rome, Sister Madeline devoted three years as a researcher and nearly two years to music/liturgy. She was director of adult development at Bergamo Center of Life Long Learning, Dayton. Today, she is an archives assistant at the Provincial Center.

"I have led a very satisfying educational career," says Sister Madeline. "For me, joining the community provided an organized approach. Everybody is focused on the same thing, so our efforts are not dissipated...We want to be spiritual women in a contemporary world."

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# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2014

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## Sister Mary Anne Glaser

(formerly Sister Mary Ann Paul)



As a young grade school student, Sister Mary Anne says she loved her SND teachers and wanted to be just like them. "I spent so much time at the school

helping the sisters that my mom said one day, 'Why don't you just go and live with them?' So that's what I did! And I've loved every minute of my SND life."

And what a full life it's been. Sister Mary Anne was a devoted teacher and principal for many years. In the Cleveland Diocese, she taught primary through junior high school grades in several schools, and was principal at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph schools. She was principal at SS. Phillip & James, Canal Fulton; St. Agnes, Arlington, VA; and All Saints, Manasses, VA. She was the assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Cambden, NJ, and director of school planning process and accreditation for the Diocese of Cleveland.

Presently, Sister Mary Anne is an assistant at University Hospitals Human Resource Department, a volunteer at Hospice of the Western Reserve, and she is active in the prayer, presence and praise ministry.

"My life is inspired by prayer, especially by prayer of the heart, where I try to keep still and let God speak and do the work in me," says Sister Mary Anne.

## Sister Mary Margaret Harig

(formerly Sister Mary Laboure)



"I was drawn to the Sisters of Notre Dame having been educated by them for 12 years at St. Mary's in Massillon and St. Michael's in

Cleveland," she says. "The Sisters were inspiring teachers as well as fun and caring persons."

Sister Mary Margaret's initial ministry was teaching high school business, English and religion in Catholic high schools in Cleveland, Youngstown and Elyria. She was an instructor and then professor in the English and Communications Departments of Notre Dame College, her alma mater, for 23 years. Her next ministry, which spanned 21 years, was that of campus minister at the College of Wooster in OH (where she also served as adjunct professor); the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and the University of Florida, Gainesville.

"In 1959 as we prepared for making our final vows, our Junior Professed Directress gave us a reflection on the scripture passage from Ezekiel 11:18: 'And I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them.' These words have remained my mantra for my entire vowed life."

At present, Sister Mary Margaret is involved in volunteer ministries at St. Michael Church in Clearwater, FL, and she accompanies Florida SND Associates.

## Sister Mary Margaret Kerr

(formerly Sister Mary St. Maurus)



Growing up in a devout Catholic household and having a Marianist priest as a brother were important influences along the path to Sister Mary Margaret's

calling. Witnessing her brother's ordination and his first Mass were highlights of her childhood, she says.

"I was always very proud to walk down the street with him on our way to Mass when he visited," Sister Mary Margaret recalls. "These events always stayed with me and bore fruit when at NDA. I was impressed with the friendliness and kindness of the Sisters. By then, serving God and the church became the most important thing to do."

Most of Sister's 60 years were spent teaching primary grades through junior high. Her ministry assignments led her to several schools, including St. Peter, Lorain; St. Francis; St. Mary, Massillon; and Christ Our King, Warren. She spent 22 years at St. Agnes in Arlington, Virginia, 18 as a computer instructor. She now assists in the Notre Dame Skills Lab, Euclid, and volunteers at Hillcrest Hospital, Mayfield Heights.

"I have always been impressed with the story of the Woman at the Well," adds Sister Mary Margaret. "Jesus asked her, a Samaritan, for a drink and told her that she had water to drink that would not last but that He had 'living water.' She was so impressed with his knowledge of her life, she returned to town and told everyone about Jesus. Sometime in life, we

just do not know when, the moment of enlightenment will arrive. Hopefully, we will be ready to respond to the fullest."

### Sister Mary Laurette Kramer



Sister Mary Laurette answered God's call to the Sisters of Notre Dame when she was 21 years old.

"I did not have the SNDs until high school at Notre Dame Academy," she says. "I thought they were special. I did not enter the community right away. I worked as a dental assistant until I was 21. That's when I entered the community."

During her first few years as an SND, Sister Mary Laurette taught intermediate grades at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Lorain, St. Francis in Cleveland, and St. Peter in Canton. Soon, Sister answered another call—she volunteered in 1960 to join her Sister missionaries in India. She taught elementary and intermediate grades at several schools there and was principal at Notre Dame Academy, Patna, and Campus School, Pant Nagar. At Notre Dame Education Center in Patna, Sister Mary Laurette spent 11 years in teacher education and as education coordinator. Thirty of Sister's 60 years as an SND were spent in India. She returned to the U.S. to minister as a director of religious education in Virginia and Akron. Eventually, she retired to Chardon, where she is now active in the prayer, presence and praise ministry.

Of her missionary work, Sister says, "I have been happy, but I will always miss India. India was a very special country to me." She looks to Psalm 23:1 as part of her daily prayer: "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures..."

"And he's led me through many green pastures—they've always been green!" Sister Mary Laurette says. "I'm glad God called me to be a Sister."

### Sister Evelyn Mary Satanek

(formerly Sister Mary Clareanne)



From childhood, Sister Evelyn Mary had a deep sense that being a Sister of Notre Dame was what she was meant for.

"I experienced a powerful attraction to Notre Dame during my teen years," she says. "Now, whatever happens I see as a continuation of God's initial call."

With the exception of her two years at Boston University earning her master's degree, Sister Evelyn Mary ministered in the Cleveland Diocese for her entire life. She taught junior high and intermediate grades at Gesu, Julie Billiart, and St. Francis of Assisi. She was a professor at St. John College and Notre Dame College. At the Provincial Center, she held a variety of posts over the past several years, including positions in Health Care Center pastoral care, crafts, and as an office secretary. She now focuses her time on the recycling of metals at the Provincial Center.

"Unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it remains but a single grain." I consider this the great 'unless' in my life!"

### Sister Mary Francismarie Seiler



Inspired to follow the call to be a Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Francismarie was immediately drawn to their missionary spirit.

"This outreach spirit has been life-giving to me all these years," she says. "I have a love for the beauty of nature and art and have let them be a source of inspiration to me."

Sister, who says she always loved being with children, was a primary and intermediate level teacher for more than 30 years. Assigned mainly to the Cleveland area, she taught at St. Wendelin, St. Anselm, St. Helen, and St. Margaret Mary schools, as well as several schools in Warren, Ohio. Sister Mary Francismarie loved to teach art and physical education. At the Provincial Center, Sister was committed to community service for 21 years. Currently, she is a driver, Health Care activities instructor, and she ministers to the homebound.

"Being a Sister of Notre Dame means everything," adds Sister Mary Francismarie. "I am so grateful that I felt the call."

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# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2014

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SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

## Sister Mary Alice Slowey

(formerly Sister Mary Immaculae)



Sister Mary Alice joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in September after graduating from Notre Dame Academy.

"I admired the sisters and was drawn to join them," she says. "My senior retreat was a turning point in my life as I felt that God was calling me to a vocation in religious life. I have never regretted my decision."

Sister taught primary and junior high grades at many Cleveland-area schools. She was principal at St. Francis, St. Paschal Baylon, and St. Joseph (Amherst). In addition, she was principal at St. Mary, Warren, and St. Mary, Massillon. At Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, she was an administrative assistant for 11 years as well as a receptionist. Today, Sister Mary Alice is an assistant in the Finance Office and Mission Effectiveness Office at the Provincial Center.

"During my life, I have been inspired by Mother Julie's words, 'Oh how good is the dear good God,'" she says, "I have always been guided by the thought of how God's providence has worked in my life so that I could be of service to others and draw them closer to God."

## Sister Mary Rochelle Walter



Sister Rochelle taught primary, intermediate and junior high grades at several Cleveland-area schools, including St. Gregory the

Great, St. Jude in Elyria, St. Margaret Mary, and St. Francis. In addition, Sister taught at Cleveland Central Catholic High School. She spent several years teaching in Washington, DC and Virginia. While acting as a caregiver for extreme Alzheimer's and stroke clients at Senior Friendship Center in Sarasota, she led water exercise and crafts for seniors at the YMCA, also in Sarasota.

Sister transitioned into higher education and devoted four years as an elementary education instructor at Notre Dame College. While there, she served another 14 years as conference and campus programs coordinator and swimming/water exercise instructor. At the present, Sister Rochelle ministers at the Provincial Center as a Health Care Center assistant, driver, and water exercise instructor. Also, she is involved in the crafts ministry.

**GOLDEN Jubilee**  
50 years

## Sister Mary Virginia Andes

(formerly Sister Mary Cathlyn)



Sister Mary Virginia says she entered the Notre Dame order because God was so good to her; she believed this was one way she could thank

Him. "I was also very impressed by the example of love of God and others I experienced in the lives of the Sisters of Notre Dame, whose community I met for the first time at St. Peter High School, Cleveland."

All of Sister's 50 years have been spent in the Cleveland area. For 17 years, she taught at Notre Dame Academy. Later, she taught at Regina and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. Sister Mary Virginia dedicated 14 years to the Provincial Center archives as a special projects assistant, and five years as a tutor in the Notre Dame Skills Lab.

Sister currently resides in Chardon and continues to assist with the archives. She tries to live her life by being thankful every day. She cites the text, "Be grateful for each new day as a gift from God," as one of her favorites.

## **Sister Mary Catherine Caine**

(formerly Sister Mary St. Myles)



On becoming an SND, Sister Mary Catherine says she was drawn to her vocation. "I felt drawn to a truth, and eventually to a relationship, that

did not always have words but always felt right on a very deep level. Time has only shown this to be more true."

Sister Mary Catherine taught at Notre Dame Academy for 14 years and was the school's assistant principal for two years. She taught at Regina High School for five years. At the Provincial Center, Sister devoted seventeen years to fulfilling her duties as directress of temporary professed, regional superior, and director of pre-novitiate.

"God has always been very good to me and has led me to a life of service: assisting others to a freedom for life, for love and for God," says Sister. "In return, I have received from all with whom I ministered more than I have given and have been supported throughout my life by the Sisters of my community who share this journey with me."

For the past decade, Sister Mary Catherine has been a professional clinical counselor at the Cleveland Clinic's Department of Psychiatry.

"Looking back on 50 years, I ask myself what do I most want to remember?" she says. "What do I take with me as I move forward? God at the heart of

who I am, in a loving community of sisters, with people who need what I can be and do, and helping to bring about God's kind of world is worth my life. All is grace."

## **Sister Mary Antoinette Dershaw**

(formerly Sister Mary Marquette)



The influence of the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. James School, Warren, had a lasting impact on Sister Mary Antoinette. "The sisters seemed to help people and be happy in doing that—especially in teaching," she recalls.

Sister taught high school at Notre Dame Academy, St. Michael, and Our Lady of Lourdes. She ministered in the community office and interned as province treasurer. She was a finance assistant at the Generalate in Rome, Italy. For 23 years, Sister Mary Antoinette was vice president of finance at Notre Dame College; she devoted more than 12 years to the Finance Office at Gilmour Academy. Currently, she serves as associate in the school's Business Office and as a staff accountant.

"Be still and know that I am God" is a scripture that Sister Antoinette holds close. "I have certainly felt the hands of the Lord, even in times when I thought that things weren't going well or wrong or not the way I would've wanted them to happen," she says. "I saw that, yes, it was better that I didn't get my way."

## **Sister Mary Alice Dugar**

(formerly Sister Mary St. Benedict)



Reflecting on her reasons for joining the SND community, Sister Mary Alice says, "God was so real to me; I wondered why more people

didn't seem to be paying attention. So, the drawing power of religious life was a great match, even from my fifth grade perspective. Of course there were hurdles. Life makes sure of that."

For 16 years, Sister taught at Notre Dame Academy. She also taught at Regina, Notre Dame Academy, Middleburg, Virginia, and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. At Cuyahoga Community College West/Notre Dame College, she was a tutor and at Notre Dame College a chemistry lab manager. She continues her tutoring ministry at CCC West and is chairperson of the province's Water for Life committee.

On what it means to her to be a Sister of Notre Dame, Sister says, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We are all within an unfolding wholeness...a sacred event. All is grace."

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# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2014

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## Sister Mary Anne Philomena Grady

(formerly Sister Mary Eamon)



Sister Mary Anne Philomena taught primary grades in Virginia, Washington, DC, Warren, and a number of other schools throughout Ohio,

including St. Aloysius, East Liverpool. For 18 years, she taught and tutored at Metro Catholic School in Cleveland. Currently, Sister tutors at Notre Dame Elementary and is devoted to the prayer, presence, and praise ministry.

## Sister Mary Barbara Knuff

(formerly Sister Mary Bernadel)



Even though her high school training was geared toward a future office job, God had other plans for Sister Mary Barbara. "It was during my

junior year at St. Francis that I realized a future in living for the Lord 24 hours a day/seven days a week was a far better path to follow than the way of the business world."

Sister taught junior high for most of her 50 years as an SND. She taught at St. Margaret Mary, St. Helen, Gesu, and others. For the past 30 years, she has taught junior high at Notre Dame Elementary School.

"One life lesson for me has been the assurance that the Lord is always with

us each and every moment," says Sister Mary Barbara. "As St. Julie said often, take each step as it comes and do not try to move faster than the good God. He will carry you through."

## Sister Mary Cecilia Liberatore

(formerly Sister Mary Ranata)



Sister Cecilia spent 29 years as a teacher and principal in Florida and Virginia. She taught high school at Clearwater

Central Catholic, and was a teacher, principal, and head of school at Notre Dame Academy, Middleburg, VA.

While serving in the Cleveland Diocese, Sister taught at Regina and Notre Dame Academy. At the Provincial Center, she was a devoted Director of Novitiate and Pre-novitiate before becoming Provincial Superior, a post she held for six years.

"What compelled me to become a religious is the same scripture and life call that I am compelled by to this day in everything I am and do: 'As is written of me in the book, I have come to do your will, O God.' (Hebrews 10:7) To do your will, O God, is my delight, and your law (of love) is written in my heart.' (Psalm 40:7).

At this time, Sister Cecelia dedicates herself to outreach and survivor support at Renee Jones Empowerment Center, a Northeast Ohio agency that provides life coaching and aftercare services to those able to break free of the human trafficking system. Sister contributes her time to education programs and

services at the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking; and Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries. Both organizations are located in Cleveland.

## Sister Mary Judith Anne Sabau

(formerly Sister Mary Nathalie)



Born and raised in Warren, Ohio, the future Sister Mary Judith Anne always admired the Sisters of Notre Dame who taught at St. Mary

School (grade and high school).

"At times, I wondered if I could ever be a nun," she says. "I was a tomboy and far from being 'holy,' thus I thought I could never be an SND. Obviously, God had other plans as I prepare to celebrate my Golden Jubilee. I have had many graced experiences throughout these many years."

Sister Mary Judith Anne taught intermediate grades at St. Justin Martyr, Notre Dame Elementary, and Julie Billiart School. She taught at schools in Virginia and Warren, Ohio. She was principal of St. Mary Middle School, Warren, and director of Notre Dame School, Warren. She now ministers in the Provincial Center Finance Office and at Notre Dame College's Academic Support Center.

"We have the opportunity to support students with diagnosed learning disabilities in a variety of ways, providing them the gift of higher education." Sister Judith Anne also enjoys working in pastoral care. She says "Most Monday mornings I have the privilege

of ministering at Geauga Hospital in a pastoral ministry capacity. This has truly been a life giving experience for me to share prayer and presence with the patients." One of Sister's favorite scripture texts is, "This is what God asks of you: to act justly, to love tenderly, and walk humbly with God."

### Sister Mary Theresa Sharp

(formerly Sister Mary Conan)



Sister Mary Theresa taught high school in North Carolina and Virginia. In the Cleveland Diocese, she taught at Notre Dame Academy

and Regina High School (13 years) before transitioning to higher education. She was coordinator of institutional research at Notre Dame College, instructor and lecturer at Kent State University, and a computer teacher for the South Euclid/Lyndhurst community. For more than nine years, Sister was assigned to internal community positions at the Provincial Center. At this time, she is a lecturer in the Mathematical Science Department at Kent State University.

Sister Mary Theresa relies on the following scripture to keep her close to the Lord: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

### Sister Mary Frances Taymans

(formerly Sister Mary Bernette)



Two scripture passages that frame Sister Mary Frances' vocation and ministry vision and connect with the SND charism come from Micah and 1Corinthians: "...This is what God asks of you: To act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" (from Micah 6:8) and

"...There are three things that last—faith, hope and love—and the greatest of these is love" (from 1Corinthians 13:4-11).

Armed with these scripture texts, Sister embraced her vocation as a teacher and administrator in Ohio, Virginia and North Carolina. At Clearwater Central Catholic (FL) and Cardinal Gibbons High (NC), she served as principal. She was assistant superintendent, secondary schools, for the Diocesan Education Office, Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

Sister Mary Frances presently resides in Bethesda, MD, where she is the director of the SND National Education Office. Before accepting this position, she served in Washington, DC, at the National Catholic Education Association, Secondary School Department, as assistant executive, associate executive, and executive director for a combined 17 years. In addition to her role at the SND National Education Office, Sister is a senior consultant at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Washington, DC.

### Sister Marilyn Zgong

(formerly Sister Mary Alaine)



Sister Marilyn has fond memories of her grade school and junior high years at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Lorain. She and other girls spent time on Saturdays helping the Sisters of Notre Dame with simple tasks like cleaning the church and replacing vigil lights. "The sisters were very kind, pleasant and happy people," she says.

Sister taught primary and intermediate grades, mainly in Cleveland-area schools. Most of her time was spent at St. Vitus, St. Margaret Mary, St. Anselm in Chesterland, and St. Michael in Independence. For 11 years, she served in adult literacy for Project Learn. At St. Mary, Elyria, she served as a pastoral minister to the elderly. Today, Sister Marilyn is a pastoral minister at St. Ladislas Parish, Westlake, and a pastoral visitor at Mercy Regional Medical Center, Lorain.

"You are called by the Lord to this vocation," says Sister of her call to the SNDs. "You give your life to the Lord. What has kept me going for so many years is that we can minister to many different kinds of people, not just Catholics but people of all faiths and beliefs...No matter who the people are we're ministering to, I think we can make a difference in their lives."

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# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

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## RUBY Jubilee 40 years

### Sister Mary Rose Falorio

(formerly Sister Mary Lorica)



As a high school student during the turbulent 1960s, Sister Rose was drawn to the Sisters of Notre Dame who taught her at Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

"The Sisters who taught me exhibited such joy and happiness in what I perceived to be a very bleak world," she says. "That spirit of joy not only caught my attention but attracted me to this community. As I prayed and discerned, I came to believe that God was calling me to the Sisters of Notre Dame."

Sister spent most of her 40 years in high school education, including seven years at Notre Dame Academy and 25 years at Regina High. Outside of the Cleveland Diocese, she taught at Cardinal Mooney, Sarasota, and Cardinal Gibbons, Raleigh, high schools. She tutored at Cleveland Central Catholic High and now devotes her time as a tutor at the Notre Dame Skills Lab, Euclid.

"As a result of reflecting and praying about the Incarnation, I know that my God is with me in every single aspect of my life, walks every step with me, shares every moment with me—and even more, that my God knows firsthand what I am experiencing because in Jesus he is human and has

already fully embraced everything (except sin) that is part of the human condition," she says. "I find great comfort in this fact, and the courage and strength to face each day."

### Sister Mary Margaret Kozlowski

(formerly Sister Catherine Mary)



Sister Mary Margaret taught at Notre Dame Academy and Regina High, where she also worked in the business office.

At the Provincial Center, Sister was assigned to the Finance Office and Archives; she spent an additional 11 years working in the Development Office. Sister went on to teach junior high at Julie Billiart School before working in Computer Systems at Notre Dame College. Currently, Sister is involved in ministry to the homebound and is a student at Notre Dame College.

### Sister Mary Jennifer Kramer



Sister Mary Jennifer first encountered the SNDs when she was in fifth grade at St. Peter School, Lorain. She says she was attracted to their joy and kindness and found herself spending time with them after school and at the convent on Saturdays.

"I loved being around the Sisters...and I wanted to be both a teacher and a Sister,

too," she says. "It seems so simple, but that is how God called me!"

Sister taught intermediate grades and was a pastoral associate at St. Jude, Elyria. She was a junior high teacher at St. Mary, Chardon, and a principal at St. Michael, Independence, and Holy Redeemer, Cleveland. She spent five years teaching in Fairfax, VA, and five more as pastoral minister at St. Agnes, Elyria. At this time, Sister Mary Jennifer is director of Bethany Retreat Center, Chardon.

Reflecting back on her 40 years, Sister says, "In light of all the wonderful and varied experiences in my life and ministry as a Sister of Notre Dame—people, places, prayer—the words of King David often come to my heart: 'Who am I, Lord, that you have led me as far as this; yet in your sight, it is still not far enough...' 2Samuel 7:18-19. With God, there is always more!"

### Sister Mary Catherine O'Malley

(formerly Sister Mary Patrick Brigid)



Sister Mary Catherine ("Kay") spent the past 40 years as a high school teacher, first at Regina High School (23 years), then at Notre Dame Academy and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. While at Regina, she also served as alumnae director. She works with the Regina Alumnae Association—though the school closed, it still boasts 7000 alumnae. Sister Kay is a substitute teacher at St. John School, Ashtabula, and St. Francis, Cleveland.

In the summers, she helps at Camp Christopher. "There couldn't be a nicer place to spend the summer," she says.

Inspired by the scripture text, "I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy for all of you" (Philippians 1:3), Sister Kay has much gratitude for those who supported her over the past four decades.

"I am so thankful to God for my family, my religious community, friends, the various staffs I've worked with at Notre Dame Academy, Regina High School, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, and Camp Christopher over the years. I have been blessed to have been able to work with thousands of young women and men through the years. Hopefully, I have made a difference in their lives as they have in mine."

### **Sister Mary Nancy Petruccelli** *(formerly Sister Maureen Therese)*



Sister Nancy recalls being very impressed with her high school teachers, the Sisters of Notre Dame. "I was very impressed with

their educational ministry and how they dealt with the girls," she says. "I had two favorite teachers. When they thought someone was having a problem, they would work with her individually. They always had time for us and they were always there."

Having positive role models as teachers and Sisters influenced Sister Nancy as she committed to her

vocation as an SND and a teacher. She taught for seven years both at Regina High School and Cleveland Central Catholic. She went on to teach for 24 years at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. At present, Sister Nancy is a tutor at NDCL. She looks to Psalm 23:1 for strength and inspiration: "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

"Working with my students has been life enriching," adds Sister Nancy.

### **Sister Kathleen Ruddy** *(formerly Sister Mary Kevin)*



As a Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Kathleen has been blessed with four decades of community and friendship.

"I had Sisters of Notre Dame in grade school and always wanted to be one," says Sister Kathleen. "As a teenager, I would drive through the Chardon property and see sisters out walking and enjoying being with each other; this gave me an appreciation of community and friendship."

Sister taught at Notre Dame Academy, Regina High, and Clearwater Central High, Florida. At Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, she taught for one year before spending 10 years as assistant principal and three years as admissions director. For the past 12 years, she has been the director of the SND Legacy Project. She also serves on the Ministry Team at the Provincial Center. Sister shares one of her favorite scripture texts: "Be still and know that I am God."

"God can draw good out of the difficult spots in my life if I let God lead me," she says. †

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

# Regina

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

## CLASS REUNIONS

### CLASS OF 1959

August 31, 2014

Brunch at Pine Ridge Country Club.  
More information will be sent, or  
contact Pat Hocevar Suster at  
[patricia.suster@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.suster@gmail.com).

### CLASS OF 1964

July 19, 2014

That's all the information available  
at our office. Contact Sue Wright:  
[skwrigt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skwrigt@sbcglobal.net).

### CLASS OF 1974

October 17, 2014 at Pizzazz

More information to follow  
Contact Mary Staiger Murphy:  
[mcookie7788@yahoo.com](mailto:mcookie7788@yahoo.com).

### CLASS OF 1979

**Plans are underway for a reunion.**  
If you are interested in attending or  
helping, contact Cathy DuhiggNych  
at [cmtdn@att.net](mailto:cmtdn@att.net) or Kim Mangino  
Berlin at [jkjn@hotmai.com](mailto:jkjn@hotmai.com).

### CLASS OF 1984

July 11, 2014

*American/Croatian Lodge*  
34900 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake  
Open bar, family style dinner, dj,  
dancing, door prizes  
Tickets: \$60/alumnae | \$40/guest  
More information:  
[rhs1984.30th.reunion@gmail.com](mailto:rhs1984.30th.reunion@gmail.com)

### CLASS OF 2009

June 21, 2014

*North Chagrin Reservation Metro Park*  
(Forest Picnic Area)  
12:00 – 5:00  
For more details, contact:  
Nicole Palermo:  
[npalermo48@gmail.com](mailto:npalermo48@gmail.com)

August 2, 2014

Plans are in the works for time and  
place. Contact Monica Benites Galvez  
at [mbenitesgalvez@gmail.com](mailto:mbenitesgalvez@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR 2014-15

### GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT PIZZAZZ

October 17, 2014 | 7-10 p.m. (or longer)  
\$18.00 – 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](mailto:rhsalum@reginahigh.com)

### GRADE TRANSCRIPTS

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

To contact Regina Alumnae Office:  
[rhsalum@reginahigh.com](mailto:rhsalum@reginahigh.com) or  
call 216-905-4851.

## HAMPTON POSEY, JR.

November 2, 2030 - April 19, 2014



In 1953, Hampton and his young bride Murlee arrived in Cleveland from South Carolina. After working in a paper stock company and construction, he came to Regina High School in 1963 as an assistant in the Maintenance Department and later as head of Maintenance. In 1994 he retired, but it didn't last long and he soon returned on a part-time basis until the school closed.

Mr. Posey's love for everything in and around Regina always showed! He considered the building his home and made sure it was always spotless, things fixed immediately and nothing was too much when asked to help with something! Not only did he love the building, but he loved all of us. The faculty, staff and students (as he called them "my girls") were part of his family, and his love for us always showed. His smile and greeting each day seemed to give us that lift we needed to get us through the day.

He was patient, kind and gentle; had a deep faith and devotion to the Catholic Church; and was a man of strong moral convictions! What a wonderful example he has been to all of us. On Holy Saturday, God's greeting had to have been "well done, good and faithful servant."

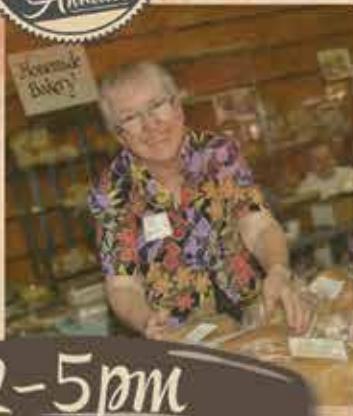
Mr. Posey leaves behind his wife of 61 years Murlee, daughter Debbie Preston '75, and grandchildren Raford and Keiyana Odom '05.

# Mission ★ Sizzle



Sisters of  
Notre Dame

## Barbecue & Boutique



12-5pm

Rain or Shine  
Sunday, September 21&28

raffles ★ country store ★ ice-cream & balloons

### Menu

Barbecue Chicken or Ribs, Coleslaw or Applesauce,  
Chips, Roll, and Butter, Beverage and Apple Pie  
Chicken \$10 Ribs \$13



### GET IT TO GO

Notre Dame Educational Center at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin Campus  
13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH. Handicapped Accessible

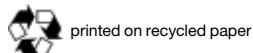


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#### HELP DISCOURAGE WASTE:

If you received duplicate mailings,  
want to be removed from our  
mailing list or want to change an  
address, contact (440) 279-1178.



## WAYS TO CONNECT

Follow us on



by searching  
“SND Chardon”

Website: [sndchardon.org](http://www.sndchardon.org)

Blogs:

<http://www.kathleenglavich.org>  
<http://www.melanniesvobodasnd.org>  
<http://www.livingjustly.org>  
<http://www.catholicwebsolutions.com>  
<http://www.gracetopaint.com>