



School Sisters *of* Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province

Summer 2014



working TOGETHER

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School Sisters of Notre Dame

of the Central Pacific Province live and minister from coast to coast as well as Guam, Nepal, Japan and beyond.

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God's blessings



FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEADER

Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND



"For years, several American bishops and missionaries have been pleading for Poor School Sisters to teach young girls in America - whose education is completely neglected - so that Catholic Christianity could take deeper root in families and grow stronger there."


Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger,
Letter #714, May 30, 1847.

King Louis I of Germany accepted this mission and Archbishop Carl August von Reisach of Munich approved it. It was then that Blessed Theresa with some of her sisters set out for America. This initial experience of being called, collaborating with partners, taking risks, responding to unmet needs is repeated over and over in our history, and even today.

Education of youth, women and those who are poor remains our primary ministerial focus. While we are educators at all levels, in a variety of settings and geographies, we remain faithful to Theresa's vision.

Meet sisters who are educators in all they say and do daily. For instance, Sister Gloria Cain is superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas, Texas. She oversees 37 Catholic schools (29 elementary schools, six secondary schools, one K-12 school, and one school for children with developmental disabilities ages 8-21) within the diocese.

Sister Jean Ellman and Associate Mary McIntosh have led the formation of Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee. Sister Dawn Achs is an associate superintendent of Catholic schools in Dallas, Texas. Meet some of our principals, Sister Michelle Emmerich and Associate Yoshiko Kurimoto, who share in educational leadership. These are among many sisters and partners who share Theresa's vision of *enabling persons to reach their potential...*

Today, we are called to new endeavors, to respond to current needs. You may be one of our former students or a colleague or the parents of those we taught. We ask you to financially contribute to our sisters who have retired, now in ministries of prayer and presence. We ask you to financially support our sisters who today teach, tutor and mentor those whose *education has been completely neglected* for a variety of reasons. 



Students from Notre Dame School of Dallas

ON THE COVER

Notre Dame Middle School fifth-grade students in Milwaukee playfully pose for the camera before entering Sister Judy Fleisner's classroom. PHOTO BY MARY CONARCHY



PHOTO BY LUCIA LOZANO

working TOGETHER



How the Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee are preparing students for success

By Mary Conarchy

This year, Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee, a new Catholic school system to advance education, spiritual and overall well-being of Latino children, was formalized in two schools sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province. The schools – Notre Dame Middle School and Notre Dame Primary School – are located on Milwaukee’s near south side.

Notre Dame Middle School (NDMS) was founded in 1996 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame to

provide a value-centered education in the Christian tradition, fostering respect, dignity and the integrity of each person in a faith community.

Because many students came to the middle school as 5th graders with inadequate language skills, and many were below grade level in math, reading and science, it was recognized these educational deficits needed to be addressed.

Following study and diligent work by Sister Jean Ellman, principal; SSND Associate Mary McIntosh, president; and the NDMS Board

of Directors, Notre Dame Primary School was established in 2012 with two K5 and two 1st grade classes, consisting of 20 students per class. The school is adding two additional classes each year so that it will have K5 through 4th grades by 2015-16.

The primary school will feed into Notre Dame Middle School and other outstanding schools. The current enrollment for the middle school is 154 girls in grades 5-8; while enrollment at the primary school is 112 boys and girls in K5, 1st and 2nd grades.

SERVING A HISPANIC POPULATION

Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee offers hope for better lives by providing quality education and opportunity.

In the surrounding community, more than half of the residents live below the poverty level. Over half of incoming students are performing below grade level. The high school dropout rate is higher for Hispanics than other ethnic groups. The community of the near south side suffers from unemployment and crime.



PHOTO BY LUCIA LOZANO

DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS

Integral to the mission of Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee is the development of leadership and service to the community.

Notre Dame Middle School makes an eight-year commitment to each graduate through its Graduate Support Program. This program provides academic resources and personal guidance as well as financial assistance so each student has the opportunity to succeed in high school and college.

Current statistics demonstrate Notre Dame Middle School's success:

- 99 percent of NDMS students graduate from high school – exceeding the national Hispanic graduation rate by 22 percent.
- 84 percent of NDMS graduates enroll in college – exceeding the national enrollment rate by 36 percent.

“For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth.”

The SSND presence and influence are tangible in the school system’s leaders, educators, board members, tutors and mentors.

There’s a large mural that welcomes visitors as they enter the middle school. Central to the mural is an image of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, surrounded by several students. When the 8th graders helped with the mural design, they knew the importance of including Blessed Theresa. The story of the congregation’s founding is retold each year, and her feast days are always commemorated by the school community with liturgy and special celebrations.

The SSND constitution states: “For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth.”

This belief is lived out each day in every activity at Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee!

For more information, visit our Partners in Mission page at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Partners-In-Mission. 

opportunity

Most of the students reside within a two-mile radius and are 98 percent Hispanic. For many, English is their second language. The middle school learners are educated in a bilingual setting for admittance to a college-preparatory high school.

The decision for a dual-immersion language program in the primary school came from studies showing that children who learn a second language in their childhood have higher intellectual abilities than children who do not. Speaking two languages in school also increases a child’s ability to complete complex patterns of thought.

Leaders chose a co-educational environment for the primary school based on research about the positive effects of socialization, cooperation and experiencing gender equality among children at an early age.



PHOTO BY MARY CONARCHY

Sister Gladys Marie Courtade



PHOTO BY LUCIA LOZANO



PHOTO BY TROY FREUND



PHOTO BY MARY CONARCHY

Sister Judy Fleisner



PHOTO BY MARY CONARCHY

Sister Jean Ellman



PHOTO BY LUCIA LOZANO



heart and soul

By Linda Behrens

How one superintendent of Catholic schools is helping to transform the world through education

“Everything I have done has prepared me for the next ministry,” said Sister Gloria Cain, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Dallas.

On her first day at a small school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sister Gloria walked into a classroom of 39



1st graders, of whom only three spoke English. Many of the children were crying. She asked those three students to be her helpers that day by leading a game. They went around the room touching

objects like desks and tables, then repeated the names of these objects. The students started having fun, not realizing they were learning.

By the end of the day, the students taught Sister Gloria how to sing “Ten Little Indians” in Spanish.

On July 1, 2014, Sister Gloria will begin her 30th year as a Catholic school superintendent. She remembers that first day in Albuquerque fondly.

“I have loved every one of my ministries,” she shared. “People who have loved me have prepared me to do for others. You put your heart and soul into what you are doing so you can do your best. I try to do that every day.”

Sister Gloria taught for 10 years in Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana. She was the principal at Our Lady Queen of Heaven in Lake Charles, Louisiana, before becoming the deputy superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles. She then served as the first superintendent for that diocese from 1985-96, followed by the Diocese of Victoria in Texas from 1996-2008 and the Diocese of Dallas from 2008 to present.

“People who have loved me have prepared me to do for others. You put your heart and soul into what you are doing so you can do your best. I try to do that every day.”

THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Recently, the Diocese of Dallas conducted a three-year study focusing on Catholic mission, identity, academic excellence, governance and leadership, and operational sustainability. Of those who replied, 85 percent responded that Catholic identity was tied to academic excellence.

“The general public wants faith-based education with academic rigor for their children,” Sister Gloria explained. She also noted that in Latin America, Catholic schools are perceived to be only for the elite. In

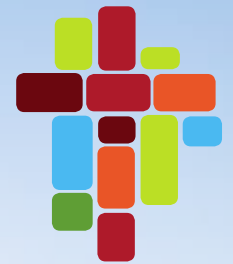
the United States, the Church strives to make Catholic schools available and accessible to all. Quality education is the way to a better life.

“We have special concern for schools with limited resources that serve the economically disadvantaged. These students deserve no less than the best education – academically, spiritually and morally,” Sister Gloria explained.

To help with the accessibility, almost \$3.1 million has been generated in the last three years from the diocese’s education endowment and the Bishop Kevin J. Farrell Invitational Golf Tournament to fund scholarships and tuition assistance.

“We have 15,000 students in 29 elementary schools and six secondary schools, one K-12 school, and one for children with developmental disabilities. More than 3,000 students apply each year for tuition assistance. This amount is a drop in the bucket compared to the total request of \$9 million needed to meet the full tuition need.”

Since 1990 the Catholic population of the Diocese of Dallas has grown from about 400,000 to 1.2 million. The number of Catholic schools has remained stable as has the enrollment but there is a need to open schools in areas where the Catholic population is growing. She also shared that in the Diocese of Dallas, 99 percent of the Catholic high school students graduate and 95 percent of graduates go on to college.



Catholic Schools
DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Christian education is intended to make one's faith become living, conscious and active through the light of instruction.

~ statement from Vatican II document on Christian education

A SUCCESS STORY

Trinity River divides north and south Dallas, with the southern part of the city being more economically disadvantaged. "The key is to help schools in these areas of the city to be stable, be sustainable and increase enrollment," Sister Gloria explained.

She loves to share the story of one school group the Friends of St. Philip, located in south Dallas. "These alumni and interested

rewiring the school for technology," Sister Gloria said. "Every school needs a group like this one at St. Philip! Enrollment has increased 22 percent since the Friends of St. Philip have become involved with the school."

As a superintendent of Catholic schools, one of Sister Gloria's roles is to make the needs of schools known, to articulate vision and possibilities.

"We need to let the community

and Mother Caroline Friess, North American leader during the late 19th century. They wanted the sisters to "transform the world through education."

"As teachers, we start with the little ones. We are called to give hope to those we serve, and to cultivate the wealth of creativity in the minds and hearts of people. We strive to infuse the SSND charism in all aspects of our life and



Students on Ash Wednesday



Bishop Kevin J. Farrell and Sister Gloria at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



Sister Gloria at Bishop Lynch High School

"As teachers, we start with the little ones. We are called to give hope to those we serve, and to cultivate the wealth of creativity in the minds and hearts of people."

citizens, all volunteers, explained that since they received their early education at St. Philip, they want to make sure the school thrives."

The alumni have helped the school obtain many of the physical things needed to improve the sustainability of the school. "Sometimes it's just by being involved or donating resources or by getting people together to fix a problem, like

know what is needed so all schools can provide excellent education. It is possible if people want it," said Sister Gloria.

LEGACY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Sister Gloria often shares the stories of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame,

ministry. We believe that education transforms society and calls forth the full potential of every person."

Sister Gloria's personal mission is to engage everybody with whom she has contact in such a way they realize they can do so many things, if they have hope and a willingness to work hard.

And that is something Sister Gloria personally demonstrates every day – with her heart and soul!

To learn more about Catholic Schools Diocese of Dallas, visit

www.csodallas.org 



CONNECTIONS MADE ACROSS CONTINENTS, CULTURES

By Sister Michelle Emmerich, SSND

Students from Notre Dame High School in St. Louis and Notre Dame Jogakuin High School in Kyoto, Japan

PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

Nine students from Notre Dame Jogakuin High School in Kyoto, Japan, visited Missouri in March to spend time at their sister school – Notre Dame High School in St. Louis.

about her experiences and her current international studies in Boston. Her family has endowed a scholarship for Notre Dame St. Louis.

The Japanese students spent the night at host family homes and went

During that time, she reconnected with the visiting group from March 2012 and with former exchange students who had spent a year attending school at Notre Dame St. Louis. She also met the exchange students' mothers.

One of the mothers of a former exchange student reflected her gratitude for the international exchange with Notre Dame St. Louis because, "their family sent their girl to St. Louis not knowing what to expect and we returned to them a confident young woman with a sense of mission for life," Sister Michelle shared.


Two teachers and nine students from St. Louis are planning to visit Notre Dame Kyoto in June 2015. 



PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

Sister Jan Berberich with two students before the procession of international flags at the assembly to welcome the students from Japan. The students are (left) Sari Nakanishi, the 2013-14 exchange student from Notre Dame Kyoto, and Allison Moser, from Notre Dame St. Louis.

The Japanese students spent a day at the high school, observing a typical day for the American students. The school day ended with an assembly in the gym to welcome the visitors and celebrate the St. Louis school's 80th birthday. Students from both schools performed, school songs were sung in two languages and all joined in singing "Happy Birthday."

Hiromi Arai, assistant principal at Notre Dame Kyoto, presented an \$800 donation to the St. Louis school, a donation from the families of former exchange students.

Ai Nakasaku, a former Japanese exchange student at Notre Dame St. Louis, also spoke to the students

sightseeing in St. Louis. They also visited New York City, which included a tour of the United Nations, before returning to Kyoto.

VISITING JAPAN

This connection between the two high schools has been growing for many years with the visits by groups of Japanese students and hosting exchange students in St. Louis.

In October 2012, Sister Michelle Emmerich, principal at Notre Dame St. Louis, was invited to visit Kyoto, Japan, for the 60th anniversary of Notre Dame Jogakuin High School. SSND Associate Yoshiko Kurimoto is principal of the Kyoto school.



SSND Associate Yoshiko Kurimoto, principal of Notre Dame Kyoto, and Sister Michelle Emmerich, principal at Notre Dame St. Louis, in front of Notre Dame Jogakuin High School in Kyoto, Japan



CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS

transforming the world through education

celebrating



Sister Ellen Lorenz, SSND, Ed.D., delivered the 2014 commencement keynote address and received an honorary degree of doctor of humane letters from Mount Mary University

in Milwaukee. Sister Ellen's service to Mount Mary spans more than four decades and includes eight years as president and nearly 30 years as a professor of education. She was also responsible for developing the essence of the university's core curriculum, which is still fundamental to academic requirements at MMU today.



Sisters Jan Gregorcich and Jean Schmid and Associate Janice England were featured in "Faces of Mission," a bi-weekly blog series produced by the United States Catholic Mission Association highlighting membership and all their work in and for mission. Sister Jan's article is "Making God's Love Visible." Sister Jean's story is "Building Bridges: A Life of Mission in India and Japan." Janice's profile is "Searching for More and Finding Mission." www.uscatholicmission.wordpress.com

of Notre Dame came to Guam in 1949 to teach in Catholic schools; how they fostered vocations and expanded their ministries; and how today, along with SSND associates, they continue to share the mission of Jesus. www.umatuna.org/school-sisters-of-notre-dame-touch-lives-build-faith-globally



Sisters Denay (Cleo) Ulrich (class of '59) and **Ann Carol Kaufenberg** (class of '64) received the 2014 Good Counsel Alumnae Award at the annual Homecoming in Mankato, Minnesota, on April 27.



After more than eight decades of combined service to Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Chalmette, Louisiana, **Sisters Mary Lester deBlanc and Dorothy Maniscalco** were honored with a Mass and reception on Jan. 16.



Sisters Rosemarie Nassif and Paulette Pass were included in a feature article in the National Catholic Reporter about National Catholic Sisters Week and a gathering of sisters and college students held at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. www.ncronline.org/news/sisters-stories/sisters-stories-abundance-national-catholic-sisters-week-event



Sister Jean Ellman received the Rutilio Grande Award from the Casa Romero Renewal Center in Milwaukee on March 22 at the center's annual benefit, "A Taste of Latin America."

Casa Romero provides programs and retreats, offering formation and renewal for youth and adults in order to strengthen families and build community in the Ignatian tradition.



An article by **Sister Susan Hetebrueg** was published in U Matuna Si Yu'os newspaper. Her article focused on how the School Sisters



"Love Cannot Wait" Art Exhibition by **Sister Mary Ann Osborne** connected an imagined diary of 40 entries that Sister Mary Ann wrote about Caroline

Gerhardinger, as a young woman, prior to Caroline founding the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1833. The exhibit ran from March 5 to May 30 at St. Paul's Monastery in Maplewood, Minnesota. Visit her website at www.sistermaryannosborne.com.

Visit our Facebook page for more stories and photos that Celebrate Our Sisters! www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific
Find out more on our website's Latest News page at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Experience/Latest-News



EVENT UPDATES By Leah Pockrandt

This spring brought many occasions for us to connect with our friends throughout the province.

In March, more than 400 people attended the Women's Leadership Luncheons hosted in Elm Grove, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri; and Dallas, Texas. Guests were treated to inspirational messages, wonderful food and engaging conversation. This year's speakers were:

- Tracy Loken Weber, president and executive director of Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services in Elm Grove
- Lynne M. Jackson, president and founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation and great-great-granddaughter of Harriet and Dred Scott in St. Louis
- Jennifer Staubach Gates, council member for the City of Dallas.

These luncheons were offered to further the understanding of leadership, bringing women leaders and colleagues together to reflect on the integration of the spiritual and professional dimensions of life.

Nearly 300 people delighted in the Celebrate St. Louis Signature Event and the Wine and Chocolate Soiree in Mankato, Minnesota. Great conversation and laughter filled the rooms along with outstanding musical performances. Attendees enjoyed fine fare, decadent desserts, flavorful wine, robust beers and, of course, satisfying conversation. Guests were treated to the music of Avenue B, featuring Jed Moss, Leslie Mauldin and John Mauldin, in St. Louis; while in Mankato, guests enjoyed the music of the Mary Guentzel Quintet.

As we were finalizing this newsletter, we also sponsored an Ice Cream Social at Sancta Maria in Ripa; a Wine and Chocolate Soiree at Notre Dame in Elm Grove; and the 10th Annual Golf Tournament and Card Party at Daytona Golf Club, Dayton, Minnesota.

We are so grateful to each of you who supported these events by your attendance or through donations. Of course, events like these are not

possible without our guests, the generosity of our many donors and our stellar sponsors.


Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the countless ways you share in our ministries by your investment of time, talent and treasures. Thank you for your partnership with School Sisters of Notre Dame. 



PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

Jed Moss, Leslie Mauldin and John Mauldin of Avenue B performed at the Celebrating St. Louis event at Sancta Maria in Ripa and will perform for the Wine & Chocolate Soiree at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in late June.

Thanks to our lead sponsors:

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Dr. Philip G. Mannhard, DDS
The Schola Foundation
Wells Fargo
Eugene and Rose
Marie Werner

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.ssndcentralpacific.org/events

July 13 – Ice Cream Social at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato.

NoFest Octoberfest is a popular calendar raffle offered in Minnesota. Sales will begin in August.

October 11 – Craft Fair and Garage Sale at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato.

January 10 and 11 Holiday Open House at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis.

For more information about these events, call 314-633-7032
visit our website www.ssndcentralpacific.org
or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific



ADVANCING THE MISSION

By Leah Pockrandt

In and with God, everything is possible; this is my consolation, my comfort, my joy, and my hope.

- BLESSED THERESA GERHARDINGER, SSND, FOUNDESS OF SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME LETTER #2501, NOVEMBER 5, 1857

More than 180 years ago, Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger founded the School Sisters of Notre Dame, trusting that God would make it possible to risk all for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ. During those early years, she turned to generous friends and family for financial support while she served those in need. Since then, generations of faithful donors have helped carry forward the mission, which the School Sisters of Notre Dame express through ministries directed toward education.

“...to proclaim the Good News as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.”

We are very grateful for all the gifts we have received over the years and for the continued support that we are blessed to receive from you, our partners in ministry. Your prayers, financial contributions and encouragement are deeply appreciated.


Countless friends and stakeholders share in our mission and support it in a number of ways. Some donors make monthly or annual cash gifts. Others choose to provide contributions of stock and appreciated assets. Still others

provide for future gifts by making a legacy gift for their family and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

A legacy gift assures the preservation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame mission and the work of the sisters. Like other gifts, a legacy gift can be used to support our sisters in retirement and in active ministry. Legacy gifts include bequests, life insurance and retirement plan gifts, charitable gift annuities and trusts of various kinds.

The ministries of our sisters and the mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame are thriving today because of the partnerships with sisters, associates, staff members, volunteers and benefactors. Blessed Theresa’s legacy is our mission, “to proclaim the Good News as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.” This legacy is expressed through their ministry of education, giving special emphasis to women, young people and those who are poor.

We are most grateful for all you do to support the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Your financial contributions, prayers, interest and encouragement are a testament to your commitment and partnership. If you have any questions about making a gift or would like additional information, please visit our website or contact Leah Pockrandt at lpockrandt@ssndcp.org or **507.389.4212**.

Your prayerful support, financial gifts and encouragement help us carry forward the mission and ministries of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Together, we can make a difference. 

Consider a Gift

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province is grateful to our many donors, friends and partners. If you are interested in making a gift or would like additional information regarding how to leave a legacy impact, please visit our website at www.ssndcentralpacific.org.

Here are some ways that you can help us respond to the needs of the world today:

- Bequests – leaving School Sisters of Notre Dame in your will or estate plan
- Charitable gift annuity
- Gift of cash
- Gift of stock or securities
- In-kind gift
- Insurance policy – naming School Sisters of Notre Dame as a beneficiary

Please contact your financial or legal advisor for assistance with making an estate plan.

If you have any questions about making a gift or would like additional information, please visit our website or contact Leah Pockrandt, Resource Development Director, at lpockrandt@ssndcp.org or **507.389.4212**.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Kay Murray

friendship

A strong relationship starts with trust, compassion and a friendship. That is how Mark Cameli began his association with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Mark grew up in Chicago, Illinois, receiving 19 years of Catholic education. He attended St. Agnes Grade School and Marian Catholic High School in Chicago

presented during the evening.

Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND, was the provincial leader for the former Milwaukee Province; previously she had been a practicing lawyer. Voted unanimously by the members of the Justinian Society, Sister Deb was awarded the Italian Lawyer of the Year in 2008 and Mark, as president of the chapter, was asked to introduce Sister Deb. Before this presentation, Mark learned all he could about Sister Deb by

When asked about Mark, Sister Deb said, “He has been an extremely supportive and generous friend of SSND with his time, talent and financial contributions. His presence at various events and his participation in committee work has been a gift for us. In addition, Mark’s wife, Sharon, and three daughters have endeared themselves to the community. I am forever grateful for our ongoing friendship and collaboration.”

Mark continues to volunteer by serving on the SSND Finance



PHOTO BY REN DAVIS

The Cameli family (from left) Nicole Cameli, Sharon Cameli, Alexandra Cameli Carley, Blake Carley, Mark Cameli and Mariana Cameli

Heights. Then he went on to do his undergraduate and the graduate program in Law at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While Mark went on to higher education in the private sector, his older brother became a priest in the Chicago area.

While working in the Milwaukee area, he was on the board and served as president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, Wisconsin chapter. Milwaukee hosted an annual chapter event where three awards were to be


Through that process, he became very familiar with the School Sisters of Notre Dame and was moved by the mission, the formation and the continuing ministries where the sisters are engaged. After the awards night, he remained good friends with Sister Deb, who asked Mark to join the Advisory Board for SSND. Mark served as a consultant for SSND leadership during the reconfiguration of the four former provinces into the Central Pacific Province.

“He has been an extremely supportive and generous friend of SSND with his time, talent and financial contributions. I am forever grateful for our ongoing friendship and collaboration.”

spending a fair amount of time talking with her, with people who knew her and those who worked with her.

Committee. He has a strong desire to help the sisters continue their mission and sees the biggest priority is to keep the organization viable as sisters are aging. He finds it remarkable that since inception 180 years ago, they haven’t lost their focus on educating the world, their sense of duty and their mission.

Sharon Cameli, Mark’s wife of 32 years, is also a strong supporter. Together, they have co-sponsored the Women’s Leadership Luncheon for the past five years and have attended Elm Grove’s annual signature event.

As a member of the Advisory Board, consultant, donor and friend, we are blessed to have Mark supporting the School Sisters of Notre Dame. 



SSND ENDORSES CRISTO REY DALLAS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Earlier this year, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province endorsed a new Cristo Rey Network school, scheduled to open in Dallas Fall 2015.

As part of the endorsement of the school, Sister Dawn Achs, associate superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas, will serve on the Cristo Rey Dallas College Preparatory School board to ensure the religious



Sister Dawn Achs

dimension and to help infuse the charism of the SSND congregation into the school.

The Cristo Rey Network empowers students from underserved lower-income communities to develop

their minds and become lifelong contributors to society. By providing students an extraordinary college preparatory education and a unique four-year, integrated corporate work study experience, they seek to “transform urban America one student at a time.”

The Cristo Rey Network has 26 schools in 17 states and the District of Columbia. It demonstrates measurable impact


in the crucial national imperative of launching low-income youth to and through college and into lives of productivity, meaning and consequence.

Cristo Rey schools are located in areas where students come from families that would not be able to afford a Catholic college prep education for their children.

The schools generate interest and support from the business community and students spend five days each month in a corporate work study program. The corporation contracts with the school for the jobs, and the income from these corporations helps pay the students’ tuition. Families pay a minimal amount in tuition on a monthly basis.

“As an endorsing congregation,” Sister Dawn explained, “besides providing a member to serve on the Board, we have also indicated that if or when we have any members interested and qualified to serve as teachers or in some other capacity, we will contribute to the school in that way.

“It is exciting for me and our province to be involved in the beginning stages of this new school. The mission and vision of Cristo Rey and the Schools Sisters of Notre Dame are closely aligned.”

Sister Dawn Achs has served as the associate superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas since 2008. 

“It is exciting for me and our province to be involved in the beginning stages of this new school.”

NEW REMEMBRANCE CARD PROGRAM

The Resource Development department is launching a new Remembrance Card Program. This program may be familiar to friends from the former St. Louis Province, which had a similar program for many years.

This program features four beautiful cards that individuals can request to use to recognize friends and family on significant times in their lives through a gift to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province.

The four cards include: birthday, joyous occasion, recovery and memorial.

Cards can be requested by contacting one of the province campuses:

- **Sancta Maria in Ripa**
314.633.7036
srenner@ssndcp.org
- **Notre Dame of Elm Grove**
262.787.1036
wkohloff@ssndcp.org
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel**
507.389.4231
mlwagner@ssndcp.org
- **Notre Dame of Dallas**
214.845.7410
mdweisensel@ssndcp.org





Celebrate *jubilee*

Rejoicing in God's Endless Love

We thank God, for the 121 sisters from the Central Pacific Province celebrating Jubilees as women religious. With great joy, we recognize these sisters for 25, 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of service to God, the Church and the world.

Throughout the summer, jubilees are celebrated with the SSND community, family members and friends at our campuses and various parishes.

Each Jubilarian is encouraged to reflect on the experiences in her life, the blessings she has received and the wisdom she has gleaned.

Following are reflections from two Jubilarians who share the blessings of their life and ministry.

Meet more 2014 Jubilarians and read their stories at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Jubilee

Celebrating 75 Years



Sister Jean Louise Rechner

ministered for 39 years in Catholic education, teaching in Wisconsin in Milwaukee, West Bend, West Allis, and Washington; and Logansport, Indiana. She served in school administration at St. Anne

in Escanaba, Michigan. Sister Jean was a community leader at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Convent in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin, where she served for eight years. She returned to Milwaukee to serve three years of volunteer ministry, followed by eight years of ministry to elderly. Sister Jean is a member of the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, where she continues to minister through her prayer and presence.

There have been blessings of these years – especially the wonderful friendships. I am so grateful for the people who have blessed my life in so many ways! I'm thankful for the love and the spiritual guidance that I've had in my life.

An important element for my spiritual journey has taken form in path imagery. I have collected pictures of paths through the years and have displayed some favorites in my room. I use them in my daily prayer, asking Jesus what path I should take this day. I know that Jesus is with me on any path I take. Jesus says: "I'll be there for you."

The wisdom that I've learned is not to talk too much and to keep life simple and loving.

Celebrating 25 Years



Sister Raquel Ortez

entered the Novitiate for the School Sisters of Notre Dame in El Progreso, Honduras. She taught at Instituto Notre Dame in El Progreso for five years. She moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to study. She worked for five years as a social worker for Catholic Community Services in St.

Louis and for seven years as a pastoral assistant at St. Charles Borromeo in St. Charles, Missouri. She currently serves on the North American Vocation/Affiliate Team for the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

God's presence has been so evident in my life. God touched and continues to touch my life through people and events that come into my life. When I see myself from 25 years ago, I have to smile and say "Gracias Dios." I am a better person, I am realized, I am happy... I am blessed!

There is a call from God to all of us. We must listen carefully, we must pay attention and we must follow. We will not feel fulfilled and complete until we follow God's call.

I was drawn to SSND because of their happiness and their commitment to serve others. I saw in the sisters their willingness to go where God was calling them to go. The sisters had a special and unique way to become part of all of us even though we were from another country, another culture, another language, etc.

I want people to know that School Sisters of Notre Dame love God so much that we want to bring God in all we do. We educate for the future. We are enthusiastic and Spirit-filled women religious. We are international. Within our community, there are many cultures and languages represented.

Rejoice *with* our Jubilarians

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province honor our Jubilarians, women of hope, and are grateful to God for their faithful lives.

25 YEARS

Raquél Ortez

50 YEARS

Susan Ann Adrians
Joelle Marie Aflague
Joanne Armatowski
Joan Backes
Vincent Marie Balajadia
Mary Beckman
Paula Marie Blouin
Mary Juan Camacho
Mary Patricia Dalton
Jean-Andrew Dickmann
Miriam Louise Dufour
Pauline Eischens
Clara Esker
Patricia Evinrude
Nancy Flamm
Margaret Mary Friesenhahn
Judith Ann Herold
Barbara Kraus
Barbara Linke
Pamela Moehring
Laura Northcraft
Joanne O'Connor
Louise Margaret O'Connor
Rose Miriam Phair
Joelyce Marie Popowich
Helen Robeck
Jeanne Rusch
Marilyn Scheibel
Maria Cordis Schmitt
Marie Celine Schumacher
Rita Schwalbe
Mary Elise Silvestri
Mary Ann Srnka
Mary Helen Stokes

Elizabeth Anne Swartz
Monica Wagner
Mary Dannel Wedemeyer
Marie Juanita Will
Dorothy Zeller

60 YEARS

Janet Marie Abbacchi
Mary André Aubuchon
Rose Bast
Anne Becker
Valeria Beuke
Marie Cecilia Brenneisen
John Marie Budde
Mary Butzer
Joan Cook
Lucille Dehen
Vonnie [Veronica]
De Cleene
Marguerite De Mott
Janet Druffel
Dorothy Eggering
Donna Fischer
Patricia Frost
Mary Ancele Gloudeman
Jean Hasenberg
Sylvia Hecht
Jolene Heiden
Veronica Horvat
Rosemarita Huebner
M. Paulissa Jirik
Rose Elaine Kessler

Kay Kolb
Anita Kolles
M. Rosaleen Krebs
Edna Lanners
Mary Edwin Lanners
Marie Jo Lazzeri
Mildred Loddeke
Virginia Meyer
Pat Miller
Mary Gen Olin
Bernice Orscheln
Marie Ambrose Peters
Therese Rekowski
M. Francis Rose Rivers
Paul Therese Saiko
Joan Schaefer
Jean Schmid
Cecile Schueller
Rita Schweitzer
Dolores Shea
M. Ann Vincent Siemer
Harriet Stellern
M. Fidelis Sudo
Rita Clare Swenarski
Vincent Marie Teuber
Evelyn Ulmen
Marie de Lourdes
Unterreiner
Mary Grace Wada
Doris Welter
Luetta Wolf
Lucille Zerr
Elvira Maria Zozaya

70 YEARS

Margaret Berghold
Richard Marie Burke
Teresa Martin Caronia
Mary Regine Collins
Beth Haltiner
Audrey Herr
Mary Jo Hofmeier
M. Susanne Hornung
Joan Kettler
Mary Josephe Misevicz
Dorothy Olinger
Clara Ruesch
Ruth Saddler
Dolores Schmitz
M. Leonida Spoh
Thelma Vetsch
Madeleine Sophie Witt

75 YEARS

Mary Frederick Keller
Rita Knittel
Mary Regina Miller
Mary De Paul Olszewski
Mary Denis O'Reilly
M. Clarita Rathgeb
Mary Jean Louise Rechner
M. Mercita Reinbold



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

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School Sisters of Notre Dame

Central Pacific Province

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Our Mission

is to proclaim the Good News as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

You Are Sent, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

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 This newsletter is printed on
recycled paper with soy ink.

You're Invited

Please join us for our upcoming events!

July 13, 2014

Ice Cream Social at Our Lady
of Good Counsel in Mankato

October 11, 2014

Craft Fair and Garage Sale at Our Lady
of Good Counsel in Mankato

January 10 and 11, 2015

Holiday Open House at Sancta Maria
in Ripa in St. Louis

Look for invitations in the mail or email. Register online at
www.ssndcentralpacific.org. Additional province activities
can be found on our website and Facebook pages.

Connect with us!

