



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

320 East Ripa Avenue
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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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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Vol. 2 | 2015



You're Invited
Please join us for our upcoming events!

150th Anniversary Concert
September 20, 2015

Our Lady of Good Counsel
in Mankato, Minn.

40th Annual
Craft Fair and Garage Sale
October 10, 2015

Our Lady of Good Counsel
in Mankato, Minn.



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Connect with us!



Look for invitations in the mail or email. Register online at ssndcentralpacific.org. Additional province activities can be found on our website and Facebook at facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific.



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.

Contact the mission advancement department at missionadv@ssndcp.org.

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God's blessings



FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEADER

Sister Mary Anne Owens, SSND



Our world is full of division. Sadly, we see it every day in our homes, at work and throughout the world. Yet we, as Christians, are called to unity. And the SSND mission calls us to direct “our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.”

Oneness.

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV) says, “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

One Body.

As you read this issue of the donor newsletter, you will see **Unity, Oneness** and **One Body** being lived out every day in support of the SSND mission.

- Read about the new provincial council, which will serve in **unity** and **oneness** through June 2019.
- Prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of SSND in Mankato, Minn. Thousands of SSNDs have served in the Catholic schools of the area over the last century and a half, promoting **unity** and transformative education that continues today.
- Remember the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. SSNDs showed the true meaning of **one body** by their actions in the aftermath of the storm.
- Discover more about our volunteers who exemplify **unity, oneness** and **one body** in all they do to support the mission.
- Celebrate our Jubilarians who have lived a life of commitment toward **oneness** for which Jesus Christ was sent.

Your prayers and support are the backbone of our **one body**. Without you, we would not be able to continue to transform the world as God has called us to do. Thank you for your loving support. 

ON THE COVER

The new provincial council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province: (front, from left) Sisters Christine Garcia, Laura Jean Spaeth, Marjorie Klein and Susan Jordan; (back, from left) Sisters Mary Anne Owens, Kathleen Bauer and Anna Marie Reha. PHOTO BY SISTER MARY KAY GOSCH



FEATURE STORY

WITH JOY IN OUR hearts

We present our new provincial council 



From left, Sisters Anna Marie Reha, Susan Jordan, Christine Garcia, Mary Anne Owens, Kathleen Bauer, Marjorie Klein and Laura Jean Spaeth

PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE BY SISTER MARY KAY GOSCH

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province installed its provincial council June 13, 2015, at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Miss. Sisters from across the province attended the installation and Mass, which was celebrated by Father James Dougherty of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill.

The provincial council provides leadership for the province. Sister Mary Anne Owens of St. Louis was installed as provincial leader. Six sisters were installed as provincial councilors: Sisters Kathleen Bauer of Bloomington, Minn.;

Christine Garcia of Douglas, Ariz.; Susan Jordan of St. Louis; Marjorie Klein of St. Louis; Anna Marie Reha of Gaylord, Minn.; and Laura Jean Spaeth of Jefferson City, Mo. All seven sisters will serve on the provincial council until June 2019.

“The mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is to proclaim the good news, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent,” said Sister Mary Anne. “The provincial council’s work flows from the shared life and mission of the sisters of the province, and it is an honor to serve in this way.”

SISTER MARY ANNE OWENS “*Mother Caroline Friess and Mother Georgianne Segner were both great women who responded to different times as leaders in the congregation — times that were no less challenging.*”

Sister Mary Anne Owens was born in New York City. She originally professed her religious vows with the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton, Penn. From 1973 to 1978, she served in elementary school administration in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. During that time, she transferred to the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Dallas.

Beginning in 1978, she served as diocesan program director in Lafayette, La. Returning to Dallas in 1985, Sister Mary Anne held a leadership role as provincial councilor for eight years in the former Dallas Province. She then served several social service agencies in Dallas and Rockville Center, N.Y. That era culminated with her position as executive director of Catholic Charities of Dallas from 1998 until June of 2011, when she was elected provincial leader of SSND's newly formed Central Pacific Province, a post she currently holds.

For 25 years, she was a physical therapist in various settings in Minnesota, including Mankato Public School District, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Ebenezer Caroline Center in Minneapolis, Golden Valley Health Center in Golden Valley, and Rehab Dynamics in Fridley and New Ulm. From 1999 to 2012, she was hired by Allina Health and managed various departments at New Ulm Medical Center in New Ulm. Most recently, she served as information services

from my sisters."

Sister Christine Garcia was born in San Antonio, Texas. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1978 in Dallas, Texas. She served as a teacher for 14 years in Dallas, San Antonio and Rio Grande. She was principal at Immaculate Conception in Rio Grande from 1991 to 1997. She was in discernment and preparation for SSND ministry in Pakistan at the same time serving as transportation coordinator with the sisters in Chatawa, Miss., 1998 to 2000.

supervision from Boston College in Massachusetts in 1991.

SISTER SUSAN JORDAN
"In our congregation, we all share responsibility for the life and mission of the congregation. For those called by the community to the ministry of leadership, that call is to animate fidelity to the charism and unify and direct the fulfillment of our mission."

Sister Susan Jordan was born in St. Louis, Mo. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame

St. Louis Province, 2007 to 2011, and the Central Pacific Province, 2011 to present.

Sister Susan earned her bachelor's in Latin with a minor in French from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1965 and a master's in education with a concentration in French from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in 1973.

SISTER MARJORIE KLEIN
"My hope as we look ahead is our Gospel witness will be evident in the lives of those who reach the

the former Mankato Province. She was the provincial leader for the former Mankato Province, 2009 to 2011, and a provincial councilor for the Central Pacific Province, 2011 to present.

Sister Marjorie earned a bachelor's in elementary education from the College of St. Catherine in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn., in 1978 and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago in 1989.

SISTER ANNA MARIE REHA
"Perhaps most influential were my years in Guatemala where the



SISTER MARY ANNE OWENS



SISTER KATHLEEN BAUER



SISTER CHRISTINE GARCIA



SISTER SUSAN JORDAN



SISTER MARJORIE KLEIN



SISTER ANNA MARIE REHA



SISTER LAURA JEAN SPAETH

Sister Mary Anne earned a bachelor's in social studies education from Marywood College in Scranton in 1967 and a master's in geography from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., in 1974.

SISTER KATHLEEN BAUER
"My hope as we look ahead is we will continue to be about the mission we hold in common, that women will continue to engage with us as vowed members, and that our associates will be stronger than ever in promoting our charism and mission."

Sister Kathleen Bauer was born in Robinsdale, Minn. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1978 in Mankato, Minn.

site manager for Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis.

Sister Kathleen earned a bachelor's in open studies in 1980 and a bachelor's in physical therapy in 1982 from Mayo Clinic and Mankato State University, and a master's in business administration with a focus in healthcare management and finance from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1995.

SISTER CHRISTINE GARCIA
"Thirty-seven years of living as a SSND, personally experiencing the fidelity of God, celebrating life, and discerning and serving God's call in community and ministry are strengths that help me to trust and dare to say yes to this new call."

After returning from Pakistan in 2001, she served as vocation ministry director for the former Dallas Province, 2002 to 2007. She served as administrative assistant in the Office of Religious Education for Children in the Diocese of Laredo, 2007 to 2008. Responding to the diminishment needs of her parents, her ministry was focused on care for her parents in San Antonio while she served on province committees. Since 2010, she served the migrant community as volunteer with the SSND border ministry in Douglas, Ariz.

Sister Christine earned a bachelor's in elementary education from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1976 and a master's in Catholic school administration and

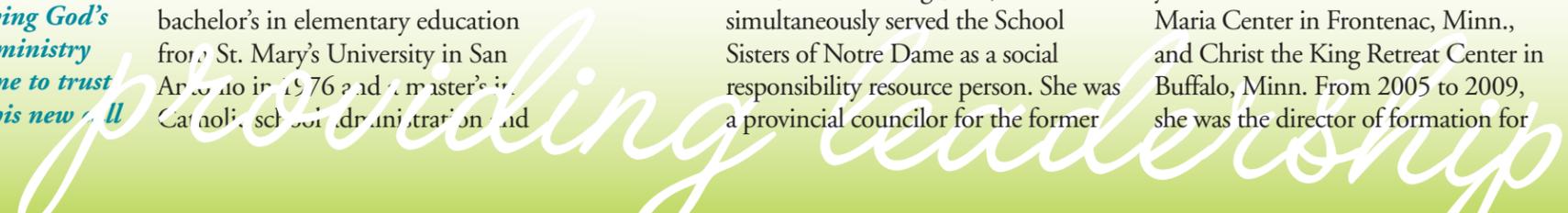
in 1963 in St. Louis. She served as a teacher for 15 years in St. Louis at Rosary, Labouré and Kennedy high schools. From 1981 to 2007, she was the coordinator for the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, a faith-based regional organization that collaborates with like groups and the national Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility to use the power of investments to influence corporate policies related to justice issues (such as human rights and supply chains, disarmament and nuclear power, genetically modified seeds, climate change, etc.). She simultaneously served the School Sisters of Notre Dame as a social responsibility resource person. She was a provincial councilor for the former

fullness of their potential and, in turn, reach out to others to transform our Church and world."

Sister Marjorie Klein was born in Willmar, Minn. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1978 in Mankato. She served as a teacher for nine years in Minnesota at Corpus Christi in St. Paul, Holy Rosary in North Mankato, St. Mary in Tracy and St. Mary in New Ulm. From 1988 to 2000, she served in administrative roles at the Center for Spiritual Development in Bird Island, Minn., followed by several years as a staff member for the Villa Maria Center in Frontenac, Minn., and Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minn. From 2005 to 2009, she was the director of formation for

sacred responsibility of creating a parish honed my organizational and long-term planning skills. More importantly, ministry in another culture and with a new language called me to listen carefully and learn from the other — beginning from a place of deep vulnerability."

Sister Anna Marie Reha was born in Iowa City, Iowa. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in Mankato, in 1983. She served as a teacher at St. Matthew in St. Paul, Minn., 1984 to 1991. From 1992 to 2002, she was in pastoral ministry at San Sebastian in San Marcos, Guatemala, and she was the director of vocations in Guatemala for the former Mankato Province, 1994 to 1998.





Since 2005, she has been the director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of New Ulm in Minnesota.

Sister Anna Marie earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Mankato State University in Minnesota in 1984 and a master's of divinity from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, in 2005.

SISTER LAURA JEAN SPAETH

“For me, St. Francis and Pope Francis are two models of Christian leadership, because they led others not so much by words as by walking their talk through their amazing witness to the Gospel way of life — through their

humble service to the neglected in our world, and by living simply, honestly and with integrity and no pretense.”

Sister Laura Jean Spaeth was born in West Bend, Wis. She professed first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1963 in Mequon, Wis. She served as a teacher at St. John Baptist in Cook's Valley (Bloomer), Wis., 1965 to 1966; and St. Leo in Milwaukee, Wis., 1966 to 1969. She was principal and teacher at St. Francis Xavier in Superior, Wis., 1969 to 1976. She worked in the justice and peace office for the former Milwaukee Province, 1976 to 1979. She was the parish RENEW program coordinator at St. Anne in Milwaukee, 1980 to 1982;

a resource staff person to further our mission for justice and peace for the SSND Generalate in Rome, Italy, 1982 to 1985; and founding director and administrator of Wellspring Renewal Program for men and women religious in Glen Falls, N.Y., 1986 to 1991. For the former Milwaukee Province, she served as provincial leader, 1991 to 1997, and was elected for two five-year terms to the General Council, 1998 to 2008, in Rome, Italy. She was a campus minister with the Newman Center in Rolla, Mo., 2009 to 2012. Most recently, she has served as spiritual director, leader of various retreats and facilitator within the Diocese of Jefferson City in Missouri.

Sister Laura Jean earned a bachelor's in sociology from Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1969; a master's in theology, concentration in scripture, from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., in 1980; and a second master's in spiritual studies and spirituality from Regis College in Ontario, Canada, in 1980.

Connect with us!

More information about the sisters of the provincial council is posted on our website: ssndcentralpacific.org

Photos from the installation celebration are posted on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/media/set/?set&type=3=&a.824643887590164.1073741913.179424628778763](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set&type=3=&a.824643887590164.1073741913.179424628778763)



CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS, ASSOCIATES

Transforming the World Through Education

celebrating



Associate John Balsler from McComb, Miss., was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal for his service during the Battle of the Bulge more than 70 years ago. His wife, Virginia, is also an associate.



Sister Rosel Marie Feder was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Performing and Visual Arts for Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, Mo.



Sisters Regina Kabayama and Josephine Niemann, who minister in Liturgical Fabric Arts at Sancta Maria in Ripa, won awards at the Quilt Expo at Queeny Park, sponsored by the Thimble and Thread Quilt Guild of Greater St. Louis.



Sister Mary Brian Bole from Dallas received a Bishop's Award for Service to the Church because of her volunteer work for the 125th anniversary of the Diocese of Dallas.



Sisters Kay and Annette Fernholz, co-directors of Earthrise Farm in Madison, Minn., were recipients of the RiverKeeper Award for their work to focus public awareness on the Minnesota River Basin.



Sister Marianne Kempa, who serves as a member on the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation Commission in Milwaukee, was one of two religious women appointed by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI to the commission.



Sister Linda Marie Bos, Ph.D., associate professor and department chair of history at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wis., was elected national president of Delta Epsilon Sigma, a national scholastic honor society.



Sister Anne Francioni, executive director of Whole Kids Outreach in Ellington, Mo., received the Citizenship Award from the 17th annual Women's Justice Awards from Missouri Lawyers Media.



Sister Theresa Markus, director of religious education at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville, Ill., was awarded the Bronze Pelican Award by the Belleville Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting.



Sister Mary Kay Brooks received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mathematics Teachers' Association of Chicago on March 23.



Sisters M. Evangela Imamura and Miriam Therese Kanaya from Japan were honored by the major officials of Bandipur, Nepal, for their 30 years of service.



Sister Mary Warner, Ph.D., director of English Credential Program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at San Jose State University in California, received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the university's College of Humanities.



Sister Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, Ph.D., theology professor at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wis., was appointed to a three-year term on the Professional Conduct Committee for the Society of Christian Ethics.



Sister Cathy Doherty, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Ferguson, Mo., was appointed as a member of the newly created Peace and Justice Commission for the Archdiocese of St. Louis.



Sister Leonette Juengst was one of 80 nominees honored as exceptional caregivers at the VOYCE 20th anniversary celebration in St. Louis.

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PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

A decade later... New Orleans: Ripple of challenges and blessings continue in Katrina's wake

By Mary Lou Frank

The governor of Louisiana declared a state of emergency. Evacuation orders became widespread. The weather reports sounded ominous. And yet,



Sisters Dot Maniscalco and Mary Lester deBlanc
PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS

on that Friday in August of 2005, School Sisters of Notre Dame teaching around the area took it in stride.

At Archbishop Hannan High School in Meraux, La., and Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Chalmette, La., Sisters Mary Lester

deBlanc and Dot Maniscalco recalled bidding a usual farewell to their fellow faculty members, punctuating their sentiment with a wink and a smile: "We'll see you Monday."

As in: "We've been through this many times before. Nothing too bad has ever materialized. We're not worried."

For safety, 17 sisters who served in the Archdiocese of New Orleans trekked 100 miles north to Chatawa, Miss., to the SSND St. Mary of the Pines retirement and retreat center.

The doors also were opened to as many evacuees as they could take. "It seemed as if half the world went to Chatawa!" noted Sister Marie Jo Lazzeri, assistant principal at St. Dominic School in New Orleans.

But no one would make it back on Monday as planned. The record-breaking hurricane Katrina crashed ashore that day. Its 27-foot storm surge washed inland up to six miles,

claiming the lives of more than 1,800 residents and causing more than \$100 billion in damages.

There was shock and horror of untold magnitude as the news unfolded.

"We didn't know anyone's fate," Sister Mary Lester recalled. "We didn't have phone numbers or know how to get in touch with school families. That was hard. It wasn't until almost a year later that we had a Mass and there were many tearful reunions because we didn't know who had survived. We learned our librarian had drowned and one of the mothers in our school. She'd told her sons she was going upstairs to retrieve a few things, and the storm surge came up before she could get out. All those boys could do was look on from outside."

Sister Mary Lester remembered seeing the initial news reports and realizing immediately that "Chalmette was history."

She continued, "While that really tore us up completely, support came pouring in from all over the country. One school in Highland, Ill., collected toiletries evacuees needed to exist and sent a man to deliver them. He was on his way to McComb, Miss., where he was going to help establish funds for evacuee families, and he stopped at Chatawa. He gave us some of the collection, along with some money."

Many of the families who evacuated to St. Mary of the Pines stayed at the retreat center until October.

"One central challenge for us," added Sister Marie Jo, "has been how to overcome the true emptiness and total loss we all experienced. It called us to look deep within; to really put our trust in God."

The sisters say that in the

to a religious community and that community really came to our assistance. They helped us secure what we needed: housing, cooking utensils, whatever it was."

"One central challenge for us has been how to overcome the true emptiness and total loss we all experienced. It called us to look deep within; to really put our trust in God."

Sister Marie Jo summarized the sentiment: "There was no greater gift than the gift of the SSNDs during those days."

The schools where these four sisters served (Archbishop Hannan High School, St. Dominic and Our

is largely renovated and in many instances improved from pre-storm conditions, Sister Marie Jo laments that the poor continue to suffer the greatest fallout.

"Many of their homes have never been redone. The streets around their neighborhoods are still god-awful, terrible! I hate to say it, but often they've been shortchanged. We're educated – we know how to go about handling getting things done. But many poor people who lost everything had no one and nothing to fall back on. It's very sad to see. We do what we can to help," Sister Marie Jo added.

Today, nine School Sisters of Notre Dame serve in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The grace of time and the support of their New Orleans and



Sister Marie Jo Lazzeri and Jean Marie Blake
PHOTO BY SISTER MARY KAY GOSCH

immediate aftermath, New Orleans residents came together as one. Trickling back into their homes weeks and months later to behold massive devastation, barely-acquainted neighbors became immediate friends. Race had no place. Everyone helped someone in any way they could.

"That was the silver lining," said Sister Jean Marie Blake from St. Dominic School in New Orleans. "For us, an even more consoling blessing was the fact that we belonged



Evacuees in 2005. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARCHIVES

Lady of Prompt Succor) eventually reopened or relocated. St. Dominic School's enrollment is back near pre-Katrina levels.

"Many of the younger generation are just now beginning to come back. Our area is really growing, and that's great to see," said Sister Marie Jo.

And while the area's infrastructure

SSND communities have helped the sisters heal. Today, they've reached a place where looking back on the devastation and challenges has given them a clearer vision of the richness of the experience and suffering, thanks to the many hidden blessings that poured forth amidst the waters of Katrina.

loss of loved ones



Sister Mary Beth Schraml, principal of Loyola Primary Unit, Loyola Catholic School in Mankato, Minn.

School Sisters OF NOTRE DAME Celebrate 150 Years in Mankato, Minnesota

By Sister Mary Ann Kuttner

It was Sunday evening, Sept. 3, 1865. The streets of Mankato were trimmed with branches and flags. At last the joyful cry arose, "They're coming!" Then the patient crowd, who had been waiting since morning, saw for the first time the three sisters and a candidate whom Mother Caroline Friess, the SSND North American foundress, had promised would come and teach their children in the parish school.

Sister Ambrosia, 27, had professed her vows in Baltimore in 1860 and taught in schools and orphanages in the East before coming to a town that had recently been surrounded by wilderness. Sister Johanna, 21, a music and

English teacher, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Sister Rebecca, 30, who would be in charge of the household and garden, was born in Prussia. Both sisters professed their vows in Milwaukee on Aug. 28, 1865, two days before setting out on the long journey to Mankato. Candidate Mary Helling, 16, was from Fort Madison, Iowa. She wrote later, "Our little community had to put up with many hardships. The pastor had charge of 25 stations; hence the sisters had Holy Mass and Communion about twice a month."

According to the chronicle kept by the sisters, "It was between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of August 30, 1865, when the mission sisters, accompanied by best wishes

and blessing, left their beloved motherhouse. Their journey lasted from Wednesday evening until the following Sunday."

From Milwaukee, the sisters went by train to La Crosse, Wis., and from there, by steamboat to St. Paul, where Father Valentine Sommereisen, the pastor in Mankato, was waiting for them. Together they called on Bishop Thomas L. Grace, who gave them his encouragement, promise of prayer and blessing.

The chronicle continued: "Then the hardships of the journey really began, for the sisters were obliged to take the stage coach. The roads were so bad that the travelers had to endure hard bumps, which were



This was the combination church, school and convent in Mankato, Minn., in 1865. The parish was named SS. Peter and Paul only when a new church was dedicated in the 1870s.

repeated much too often during the three days. The weather was favorable, but because of a lack of rain, the roads were so dusty that neither the horses nor the driver nor the passengers could see each other." For the well-being of both travelers and horses, frequent stops were necessary.

When the sisters arrived in Mankato, they proceeded to the stone building that would be their home.

The request for sisters

This journey to Mankato actually began in 1864 when the first request for teachers was made, as had happened with many of the schools started by Mother Caroline and staffed with School Sisters of Notre Dame.

In March 1864, Leo Lamm, a member of the newly formed school board in Mankato, had traveled to Milwaukee to ask Mother Caroline for sisters to teach in their school, but no sisters were available. A year later, Father Sommereisen made the same journey, and Mother Caroline promised to send sisters before the start of the school year.

The parishioners had been

concerned about the education and religious formation of their children and, with great sacrifice, had built a new church with rooms for a school and convent on the ground floor.

On the first day of classes,

"Then the hardships of the journey really began, for the sisters were obliged to take the stage coach. The roads were so bad that the travelers had to endure hard bumps, which were repeated much too often during the three days. The weather was favorable, but because of a lack of rain, the roads were so dusty that neither the horses nor the driver nor the passengers could see each other."

250 children and young people came. For two months, the sisters taught religion and many students were prepared for their first holy Communion.

In November, 87 children registered for classes taught in German and English. At the end of the first year, *The Mankato Weekly Record* reported on Aug. 4, 1866, that the great success of this school was due to "the interest manifested by the teachers in the welfare of the scholars placed under them."

SS. Peter and Paul School grew rapidly, and by September 1876

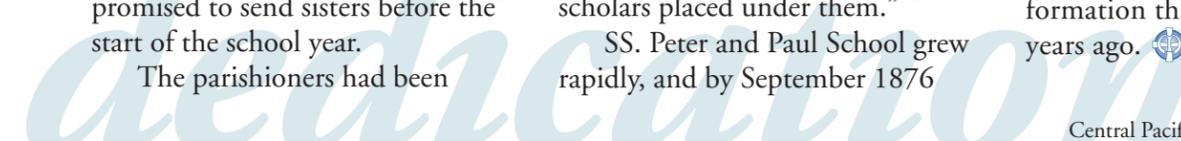
a new brick building was ready to accommodate more than 200 students. In 1885, Sister Mary Isidore, 21, came to teach the older boys. Mankato was to be her home for almost 50 years. High school classes were offered in 1908, marking the beginning of Loyola High School.

By 1910, 25 new missions in Minnesota and northern Iowa had been opened, and plans were made for a new motherhouse in Mankato. Mother Isidore's "boys" supported their beloved teacher in word and deed, and the Provincial House and Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel opened its doors on Sept. 10, 1912.

When SS. Peter and Paul Parish celebrated a "Century of Service" by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in early 1966, more than 1,100 students were attending

the parish schools. An additional 1,550 students attended four other Catholic schools in Mankato and North Mankato. Today, Loyola Catholic School continues to provide a Catholic education for children and young people of the Mankato area.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are grateful to God for having been called to Mankato and are grateful to all who continue the ministry of education and religious formation that began there 150 years ago.





Leadership Chocolate Generosity



AROUND THE PROVINCE

Event Updates
By Leah Pockrandt

Throughout the year we are fortunate to share fellowship and connect with our longtime friends ... and make new friends ... throughout the province at various events. We have had the pleasure of hosting several events this spring and summer.

In March, 700 people attended the **Women's Leadership Luncheons** hosted in Elm Grove, Wis., St. Louis, Mo., Dallas, Texas and St. Paul, Minn. Guests were treated to inspirational messages, wonderful food and engaging fellowship. This year's speakers were:

- Susan Dreyfus, president and CEO of the national organization, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities in Elm Grove;
- Patricia Martens Balke, Ph.D., educator, author, psychotherapist, volunteer and alumna of Notre Dame High School-St. Louis, class of 1961, in St. Louis;

- Sheila Madigan Levatino, marriage and family therapist and spiritual director and author in Dallas;

- Ann Reed, singer and songwriter, in St. Paul.

These luncheons are 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.

More than 500 people delighted in the **Wine & Chocolate Soirees** held in April and May. Great conversation and laughter filled the rooms along with outstanding musical performances. Attendees enjoyed fine fare, decadent desserts, flavorful wine and robust beers. At Notre Dame of Elm Grove, guests were treated to three musical groups: the Chris Koszuta Duo on piano and saxophone, plus a capella groups the Meladies and Gold 'n Blues from Marquette University. The Erin Bode Group performed for guests in

Maria Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa while at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn., guests were entertained by Ben Marti, classical and jazz pianist.

In June we were joined by a record 110 golfers and 44 card players for the **11th Annual Golf Tournament and Card Party** at Dayton, Minn. In addition to a dinner, attendees heard engaging success stories from those benefiting from ministries, Theresa Living Center and Caroline Family Services.

We are so grateful to each of you who supported these events by your attendance, through sponsorships or by gifts of products and services. Events like these are not possible without the generosity of our many donors and sponsors. Through your support we are able to continue the ministries of our sisters and provide for their care in retirement.

Thank you for your partnership with the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province. 

community



For more information about these events, visit our website ssndcentralpacific.org or follow us on Facebook facebook.com/ssnd.centralpacific.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers Find a Community in Their Work for SSND Ministries

By Michael Lagerquist

Gloria Zenk is one of many retired women whose hours volunteered at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis, Mo., guarantee that the mailings go out. She praises those she works with for making the atmosphere a pleasant one that has kept her coming back for more than 10 years. Especially, she thanks all volunteers—including SSND—and Debbie Rohrich-Tyler and Sister Susan Renner, the women who coordinate activities.

that work will be done on certain days during certain times, and she can choose her schedule. She gets credit for those hours to use toward her Daughters of the American Revolution membership as well.

“Our volunteers are a blessing to us.”

Debbie, the senior development coordinator, notes that these volunteers and the sisters who help have formed a strong emotional bond through the years.

“They are very committed and

Sister Monica Wagner, sister donor representative, says they couldn't do what they do without lay volunteers. Those activities include serving on SSND committees and boards, assisting in events such as the annual Craft Fair/Garage Sale held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, and creating or continuing events whose proceeds benefit SSND. “The annual golf tournament and card party was initiated by two donors and has continued for 11 years through the

dedicated time and efforts of our generous SSND volunteers,” says Sister Monica. “Eight to 10 volunteers have served on this committee to plan this event since its inception.”

Through this generous sharing of skill, enthusiasm and



Volunteers at Sancta Maria in Ripa help with stuffing envelopes, attaching labels and stamping many of the mailings that go out from Resource Development. PHOTO BY LINDA BEHRENS



Matt Fitch helped organize the annual Golf Tournament & Card Party in Dayton, Minn. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAGERQUIST

“They pray for us, and we appreciate the prayers when we have weddings [and] babies born,” says Gloria, who at 91 keeps herself busy not only with volunteering up to 10 hours a month but has been a Mary Kay consultant for more than 40 years. “I'm not even Catholic, but it's so nice that they treat me like one of theirs.”

Gloria says she enjoys the atmosphere and wonderful social interactions within “a stone's throw” of her home. She also likes that she's not committed to so many hours on a set schedule. Instead, she gets a call

dependable,” she says. “They have been there for each other through family members' births, weddings, illnesses and deaths. They have also grieved several members' passings over the last two years. They came looking to volunteer and found a community.”

Primarily, this group of volunteers helps by stuffing envelopes, attaching labels and attaching stamps to the many mailings that go out from the staff in Resource Development. They are far from the only volunteers on whom SSND rely to help with their ministries.

time, many others also have a venue through which they can support the Central Pacific ministries while enjoying the fellowship of a social event.

“Our volunteers are a blessing to us.”

That sentiment is echoed by Mary Kay Murray, development coordinator. “The Golf Tournament and Card Party could not happen without the support of the committee. They are key to obtaining the sponsors and recruiting the golfers and card players.” 



Celebrate *jubilee*

Rejoicing in God's Endless Love

We thank God for the 104 sisters from the Central Pacific Province celebrating Jubilees as women religious. With great joy, we recognize these sisters for 25, 50, 60, 70, 75 and 80 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.

Celebrating 80 Years



Sister Mary Elsa Metternich served during her early years as a Catholic grade school teacher in Blue Island, Ill.; Milwaukee, Wis.; and the Michigan towns of Grand Rapids and Harbor Springs. She followed her call to Guam in 1956, beginning a decade

of teaching and administration in the communities of Yona and Agat. She returned to the classroom from 1966 to 71 in the Wisconsin cities of Prairie du Chien and Sheboygan. Returning to missionary service once more, she taught in Barrigada, Guam, and in the western Pacific Caroline-Marshall Islands, until 1988. Returning to Milwaukee, she undertook various roles in congregational and community service. She retired to Notre Dame of Elm Grove in 2008. Since 2011, Sister Mary Elsa has resided at Our Lady of the Angels nursing home in Greenfield, Wis., where she anticipates celebrating her 100th birthday later this year.

The greatest blessing of my life has been a grateful heart for all of God's love and gifts from the first day of my life as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

Throughout my 80 years, I have learned that by being open to and responding to the calls of my community leaders, wherever they took me, I was doing the will of God.

Every ministry, in many places in the U.S. or Guam, and the outer Islands of Guam, taught me the beauty of God in my life and the life of the people whom I served.

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 2015 Jubilarians and read their stories at ssndcentralpacific.org/Jubilee.

Celebrating 25 Years



Sister Mary Tokunaga was an elementary school teacher for three years after which she continued her education. She then returned to the elementary classroom and also served as a member of the last regional council in Japan. At the present time, Sister Mary is principal of the Ume no Hoshi

Kindergarten in Okinawa, Japan.

Three experiences come to my mind as blessings of these years: relationships with children, missionary experiences in Nepal and opportunities of living SSND internationally. I was called to serve at Notre Dame Elementary School. It was a great joy to find God within the children and to nurture their hearts. After my final vows, I was sent to Nepal as a missionary. Now I realize that God has used my poverty in serving children. I participated in SSND international programs held in Rome: the Bonding Program in 1995 and the International Program in 2007. Those experiences changed my way of living, my values and my thinking patterns.

At my final vows, I experienced the full acceptance by the SSND Community. My heart was filled with God's peace. I have learned the beauty of living in a faith community, the preciousness of loving and accepting others. Our lives are blessings from God. Only because God has forgiven me and wanted me to live, I am here. In the same way, each death of various kinds is also from God's providence in deep love.



Rejoice *with* our Jubilarians

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

25 YEARS

Vicki Jean Chambers
Brenda TeVogt
Mary Tokunaga

50 YEARS

Joan Bartosh
Elleen Marie Beelman
Barbara Bitter
Mary Brian Bole
Susan Bunde
Rosel Marie Feder
Claret Feldhake
Jeannette Fennwald
Charlotte Flarlong
Mary Kay Gosch
Phyllis Marie Grzeczka
Jacqueline Jost
Mary Monica Katsuragawa
Virginia Klesner
Marie Francine Koehler
Barbara Masch
Nancy McNemar
Karen Moore
Mary Loretta Murakami
Marilyn Orchard
Mary Anne Owens
Joan Penzenstadler
Joseph Ann Quinene
Mary Anne Schaezner
Katherine Scheurer
Barbara Simek
Jean Marie Smith
André Maureen Soeté
Mary Jane Tanaka
Paulette Marie Tiefenbrunn
Donna Walerius
Mary Ruth Wand

60 YEARS

Marie Esther Becker
Susan Birk
Anne Boessen
Cynthia Brinkman
Carla Marie Candella
Patricia Caswell
Eileen Daudlin
Monica Marie Eilers
Lenore Feider
Angelee Fuchs
Mary Benedette Fujimori
Linda Marie Hellebusch
Jane Marie Hotze
Mary Jane Jansen
Ellen Jean Klein
Doris Jean LeBrun
Laurine Anne Luft
M. Carmelle Malerich
Barbara Marie McInturff
Marie Andre Miszewski
Maris Stella
Morimoto Marie
Therese Nowakowski
Roger Marie Postl
Mary Joseph Quichocho
M. Jonelle Rein
Mary Alice Reitz
Sharon Roedl
Miriam Cecile Ross
Mary Elizabeth Runde
Marie Russell
Kara Ryan
Kieran Sawyer
Helen Settersten
Patricia Thies
Domenica Tocco
Nadine Touhey

Nancy Carol Traeger
Marylene Venvertloh
Mary Ricardo Wolf
Theresa Ann Zanmiller
Mary Elise Zettel

70 YEARS

Mary Eugene Braun
Clare Marie Cato
Miriam Therese Gill
Marie Grellinger
M. Ellene Gross
Mary Willene Grossaint
Ingrid Hamm
Ruth Hollenbach
Mary Helen Hotze
Margaret Cortona Hurst
Maureen Murray
Mary Ann Sadowski
Miriam Saumweber
Francis Clare Schares
Mary Gilda Sturino
Mary Tacheny
Mary Alice Wald
M. Paula Young

75 YEARS

M. Margareta Bertrand
Mary Elsa Bren
Irene Kalapinski
M. René Lorentz
M. Carmen Madigan
Mary Regina Meyer
M. Laura Schmitt

80 YEARS

Sheila McCall
Mary Elsa Metternich



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

View Jubilarian profiles at ssndcentralpacific.org/jubilee
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