



# NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE

## Network Notes



*From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl*

Greetings in this beautiful month of May -- a special month for many reasons and especially because it is dedicated to our SND patroness Mary! A line from the beautiful mission prayer written for NDA KY by Sr. Marla Monahan offers

"May we like Mary grow in the spirit of the gospel,  
in love and service to one another...."

As you read these pages of our spring newsletter you will find so many examples of love and service for others. We celebrate the recipients of the SND USA Network Awards who witness the gospel to others in their daily actions, serve as teachers of teachers exponentially spreading God's goodness, and are leaders who lovingly transform lives and communities for a better world.

The award recipients and so many others in the stories we share here follow the example of Mary and our Notre Dame sisters in saying *Yes!* to God's calling to be a Gospel witness to others.

In the days and weeks ahead, may you find many opportunities to celebrate Mary, our SND sisters who model her loving service, and all those you work with in serving the mission of your ministry.

Gratefully in Notre Dame,

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D.*

## Welcome Kayla!

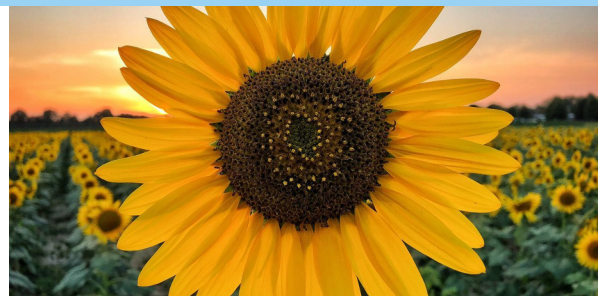
Please join the National Sponsorship and Network Office in welcoming Kayla Englert as the Communications and Administrative Coordinator! Kayla brings a wealth of experience in project and office management and executive and meeting support. She previously worked for Xavier University, The Christ Hospital and UC Health in Cincinnati, OH and Sanitation District No. 1 in Ft. Wright, KY. Kayla works at the SND Covington Regional Center.



Sisters of Notre Dame  
of the United States

National Sponsorship and Network Office

Website:  
<https://nsno.sndusa.org>



Spring 2022

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



## National Sponsorship and Network Office Announces National Network Awards

The SND National Network Awards program recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions of employees and volunteers in the SND Network for witness to the mission, vision and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

### Congratulations to the following winners!

#### Transformative Leadership Award

recognizes individuals who are catalysts for growth; inspire hearts; and transform lives of those with whom they minister.

- **Kim Grilliot**, President, NDA Toledo, OH
- **Sheila Martinez**, Principal, Our Lady of Victory School, Washington, DC
- **Philip Overall, MD**, Medical Director of Emergency Department and Pandemic Response, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY

#### Gospel Witness Award

recognizes those who reflect and nurture the Notre Dame charism, spirit and mission within their professional communities and among all they minister.

- **Sr. Colleen Marie Cousino**, Chemistry Teacher and Faculty Professional Development Coordinator for Technology, NDA Toledo
- **Jennifer Hardin**, HomeCare Services Director, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY
- **Andy Shannon**, Director of Ministry, Clearwater Central Catholic High School, Clearwater, FL
- **Jack VonHandorf**, Interim President/Principal, NDA Park Hills, KY

#### Father Bernard Overberg "Teacher of Teachers" Award

recognizes educators that demonstrate exceptional, inspirational impact on the formation and professional learning of teachers.

- **Kim Haupt**, Kindergarten Teacher/Elementary School Director, NDA Los Angeles, CA
- **Teri Merkle**, Second Grade Teacher, St. Mary Catholic School, Chardon, OH

## Congratulations to SND Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients

Thirty-two SND sponsored and affiliated schools recognized 53 middle and high school graduates with the SND Distinguished Graduate Award. For a list of recipients and schools, visit the NSNO website at <https://nsno.sndusa.org/awards/>



*Information on the National Network and Distinguished Graduate Awards can be found by visiting <https://nsno.sndusa.org/awards>*

# EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRIES



Congratulations to **Notre Dame Academy** (Toledo, OH) and NDA College Counselor Erin Young for ranking sixth in the state for non-public schools in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion and the first in Northwest Ohio. Erin meets individually with each junior and senior throughout the year to promote FAFSA completion and conducts meetings for their parents. This year she partnered with scholarship search platform "Going Merry," which has a FAFSA Made Easier Tool, and promoted FAFSA completion by using visual reminders throughout the school.

**St. Claire Healthcare** (Morehead, KY) recently opened its new Urgent Care Center offering a new level of care for the Morehead area. Care for common illnesses and moderate injuries, as well as wellness physicals, is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm, and Sunday from noon to 4 pm.



**La Reina High School & Middle School** (Thousand Oaks, CA) principal Maggie Marschner, left, and Dean of Mission Sr. Regina Robbins, right, congratulate Tamara Harper, class of 1987, for being named Distinguished Alumna of 2021-2022. This award is given annually to a graduate who uses her God-given talents to better her community. Tamara served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for La Reina from 2018 through 2021. She was the first alumna to lead the board of trustees and the first female to hold the position.

Congratulations to Bruce Jarosz for being named as a recipient of the prestigious Alumni Medal from John Carroll University in University Heights, OH. Bruce serves on the JCU Board of Directors and lends his expertise in support of strategic initiatives. The Alumni Medal is the highest award given annually by the JCU Alumni Association. It recognizes an individual's accomplishments in their profession, contributions to their community, exemplary family and personal life, and dedicated service to John Carroll University post-graduation. Bruce serves as the Board Chairman for the **SND National Ministry Corporation**, where he works closely with the NSNO. He was the founding Chair of the Board of Directors of **Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School** (Chardon, OH).



## Two ministries in our SND USA Network are growing!

**Notre Dame Schools** (Chardon, OH) are adding a middle school enrolling students this fall. Enrollment projections are on target, and President Dr. Michael Bates expects grades 6-8 will be fully enrolled when school starts in August.

**Julie Billiard Schools** (Westlake, OH) will add grades 5-9 to their school this fall after just opening last fall for grades K-4. President Lannie Davis is pleased to see applications on target to meet their goal of increasing enrollment by 50-60 students.

It is great to see more families choosing Catholic education in our SND sponsored ministries. We are grateful to the leadership and boards at these schools for creating these new opportunities.

*Please share excellence in your ministry by contacting us at [nsno@sndusa.org](mailto:nsno@sndusa.org).*

# CENTRALITY OF GOD

## SND Schools Participate in Synod Discussions



Pope Francis declared that synodality is what God expects of the Church in the 21st century and put his own transformative stamp on the meaning and conduct of synods, saying that a synod involves mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. In April 2021, he initiated a synodal journey of the whole People of God. SND schools that participated in synod discussions found that students want the Church to listen to young voices and be more open to new ideas from young people.

Through the synod discussions, facilitators learned that most of the students enjoy Mass because it provides an opportunity to connect with God and builds community. Some suggested the Church could create more opportunities for lay involvement, while others expressed a desire for more meaningful, relatable liturgies, especially in the homily and music. Students also want the Catholic Church to be a warm place for all by welcoming newcomers and building relationships that lead to a life of faith with less focus on rules. They also would like the church to address social issues, including racism, LGBTQ and women's rights, poverty, the disabled and the environment.

According to Chad Ribordy, **La Reina High School & Middle School** (Thousand Oaks, CA) religion teacher, the process, pictured at right, proved most valuable. "It was the first time for the school together in mixed grade levels to discuss what they think is important in the life and mission of the Church," he said. "I think they all felt like their voices were heard and that they matter," he continued.



## SND Professionals Gather for Charism Experience



Professionals from nine SND sponsored and affiliated ministries representing all four SND regions gathered in Chardon, OH in April for the annual Charism Experience to experience God's goodness and provident care. According to facilitators Srs. Lisa Novak and Donna Paluf, the Charism Experience provides a formative opportunity for participants to reflect on the Charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame by becoming aware of their own personal goodness and experiences of provident care today.



The three-day experience featured stories of SND founder Hilligonde Wolbring and spiritual mother St. Julie Billiart. Participants enjoyed coffee with the sisters and a tour of the provincial center property, including the heritage area and chapel, where Mass was celebrated. Abundant time was dedicated to discussion, prayer, and reflection. The Charism Experience concluded with small group discussions on ways to bring the fruits of the experience back to their ministries.

# GOSPEL WITNESS

## CCHS Students Assemble Wall of Love

Students in the Girls Club at **Cleveland Central Catholic High School** (Cleveland, OH) assembled a "Wall of Love" of free personal items in honor of Women's History Month. Members hung plastic bags filled with an assortment of personal care items to help people in the neighborhood. Items included wash rags, soap, hats, gloves, and t-shirts. In addition to the personal care items, each bag included a fact sheet about pivotal women in history.

This is the second "Wall of Love" at the school this year. Walls of Love, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, gives donors and volunteers an opportunity to pay it forward in a meaningful way within local communities one wall at a time. Since 2018, it has helped more than 825,000 people.



## Celebrating Catholic Sisters Week

Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious. SND ministries joyfully celebrated the Sisters of Notre Dame.



Photo on left: Students at **Julie Learning Center** (Park Hills, KY) sang songs for and gave flowers to sisters at St. Joseph Heights.

Photo on right: This student of **Maria Early Learning Center** (Toledo, OH) was eager to help the sisters with their "Stuff the Truck" food drive benefiting the Toledo Seagate Food Bank.



# EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Schools across the network celebrated Catholic Schools Week (January 30-February 5) recognizing the importance, value and contributions of a Catholic education to the Church and the world at large.



Left photo: Students at **La Reina High School & Middle School** (Thousand Oaks, CA) put together bags to give to parents at drop off and pick up time to show their appreciation.



Students at **Our Lady of Victory School** (Washington, D.C.) enjoyed pajama day, above, during Catholic Schools Week.



**St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy** (Downey, CA) celebrated the week with an all-school Mass, shown above.



Students at **Notre Dame Academy** (Park Hills, KY) honored the Sisters of Notre Dame with a rose after an all-school Mass, shown above.

**Cardinal Gibbons High School** (Raleigh, NC) commemorated Catholic Schools Week with a celebration of Gibbons Alumni serving in Catholic education. Throughout the week, the school profiled 16 alums who graduated from 1984 to 2017 currently working in Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Indiana and North Carolina, including many who teach at Cardinal Gibbons. Participants credit their love of teaching to their supportive and inspiring teachers and coaches at Cardinal Gibbons as well as the positive impact of a Catholic Education. To read the profiles, visit <https://www.cgshnc.org/aboutus/communications/news>

# HUMAN DIGNITY

## Students March for Life



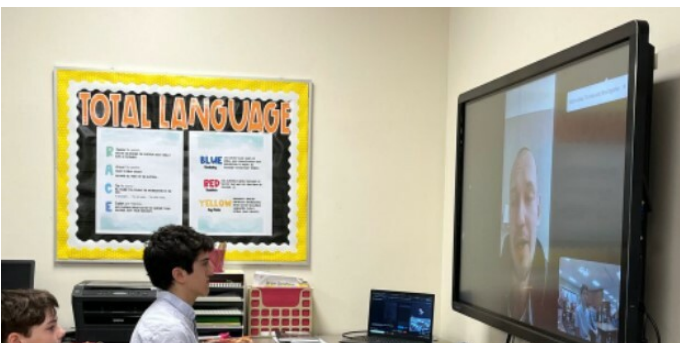
With the support of the Delphos Knights of Columbus and other donors, 44 students and chaperones from **St. John Catholic School** (Delphos, OH) attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The group attended Mass Friday morning prior to taking part in the march with an estimated 150,000 people in attendance. They visited outdoor monuments, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the Holocaust Museum before heading home.

## Prayers for Ukraine

Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation. The response from the Sisters of Notre Dame is as follows: "We, the Sisters of Notre Dame, deeply regret the war in Ukraine. We stand in complete solidarity with the Ukrainian people and join all people of goodwill in prayers and supplications for peace and an end to the war."

Many schools held events and participated in activities to pray for peace in Ukraine.

Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine, and 7th and 8th grade students at **St. John School** (Ashtabula, OH) made beautiful cards decorated with sunflowers and wrote letters to send to Ukrainian refugees through the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the USA.



Middle Schoolers at **Lial Catholic School** (Whitehouse, OH) had an opportunity to talk directly with a Ukrainian citizen who is a friend of a Lial parent. Through this conversation, students gained a deeper understanding of why prayers for peace are needed.

# Coming Up.....

**6/19-6/24**

Rural Healthcare Student Experience

St. Claire Healthcare, Morehead, KY

**11/2-11/4**

Sponsored Ministry Leadership Meeting

(Tentative: Location TBD)



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*Have a Safe and Happy Summer!*

Thank you to **Partners in Mission** for sponsoring *Network Notes!*



June 19-23: *National Advancement Summer Institute for Catholic Schools*; Boston Quincy Marriott Hotel, Boston, MA: Keynote Speaker; Sister Claire Fitzgerald, SSND

Visit [www.partnersinmission.com](http://www.partnersinmission.com) for more information