



NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE

Network Notes

From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl



Happy New Year! I hope you had a blessed and memorable Christmas season with hopeful anticipation of the coming year. It is such a joy to hear stories of families sharing in celebrations with loved ones. Celebrations continue as Catholic Schools Week, *Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service*, is celebrated in schools across our network. We honor our schools for the excellent ways they embrace our Catholic identity in their service to our students and families.

A new year reminds us that life is filled with many comings and goings -- "a season for every activity under heaven." This year we celebrate the retirement of veteran SND educator and leader Joe Waler from NDCL (Chardon, OH) and welcome Trish Miller as the incoming president of NDA (Park Hills, KY).

The legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame is filled with stories of trailblazing, changing to meet the needs of the times, and making all things new again. We see this happening in real time as many sisters leave their beloved home at St. Joseph Heights to create a new home at St. Charles Community, both in Covington, KY.

In November, 40 ministry leaders, board members and sisters gathered in Covington, KY for the annual leadership meeting, *A Call to Mission: Sponsorship and Leadership*. The gathering brought clarity and understanding to the meaning of sponsorship and its central role in advancing the SND mission and the centrality of our Catholic identity.

Please enjoy announcements, highlights and stories about all this and much more as you read our winter newsletter. Most importantly, we hope you join our NMC board and NSNO staff in celebrating the many ways our SND mission continues to thrive across the SND USA network.

Gratefully,

Laura Koehl, Ed.D.



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Services for Catholic Education

Winter 2023

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



After 17 years as principal of **Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School** (Chardon, OH), **Mr. Joseph Waler** will end his ministry of leadership on June 30. Joe is NDCL's longest-serving principal since the school's founding in 1988 and has served 43 years in Catholic education in the Diocese of Cleveland. "Our status as a national Blue Ribbon School and as a Top Workplace confirms NDCL's strength and vitality in so many areas. Together our students, staff, parents, and alumni have worked with me to build a highly successful school that should be very attractive to many outstanding principal candidates," Joe said. We thank him for his loving service to the SND.

Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY) named **Trish Miller** as the new president beginning on July 1. Trish brings a wealth of both educational and business leadership experience to the position. After 20 years in business, she answered the call to become an educator and attained licensure in social studies, math, gifted intervention, and the principalship. Since 2019, Trish has been serving as the associate principal at La Salle High School in Cincinnati. "I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve in the role of president at Notre Dame Academy, and, given my background in educational and business leadership, I feel that I am in a unique position to make a positive impact at NDA," she said.



Congratulations to **Dave Roush**, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Strategic Growth Committee for **Julie Billiart Schools** (Lyndhurst, OH) for being recognized by the Pillar Awards for Community Service as a Nonprofit Board Executive of the Year. This award honors leaders and businesses that make outstanding contributions to their community and encourages a charitable environment, recognizes creative efforts that make a difference and demonstrates the ties between for-profit and nonprofit worlds. Dave has been integral to the schools' expansion and strategic growth since he joined the board in 2012.



Readers have spoken! Congratulations to **Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles** for being named *Best Private School of the Westside* by *The Argonaut*. *The Argonaut* is the most established and well-read newsweekly on the westside of Los Angeles.



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Congratulations to **Metro Catholic School** (Cleveland, OH) for being recognized as a *Plain Dealer* Top Workplace for the third year in a row! Metro Catholic School is a culturally diverse PreK-8 elementary school located on the Near West Side of Cleveland that was formed in 1988 from nine parishes in the inner city.

Please share excellence in your ministry by contacting us at nsno@sndusa.org.

SND Ministry Leaders Meet

The Call to Mission: Sponsorship and Leadership

The Annual Sponsored Ministry Leadership Gathering, *The Call to Mission: Sponsorship and Leadership*, was held November 2-4 at St. Joseph Heights, the Notre Dame Center in Covington, KY. Forty ministry leaders, board members and chairs gathered with SND leaders for discussion, presentations, prayer and fellowship.

Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP STD, Senior Director for Theology and Sponsorship at Catholic Health Association (CHA), was the keynote speaker. Fr. Charlie, a nationally known speaker and expert on sponsorship and Catholic identity, spoke to the group on *Sponsorship for Catholic Ministries: Now and in the Future*. His presentation provided the context and background for understanding sponsorship as a special and dynamic relationship with each ministry that provides accountability for its Catholic identity. The mission of Jesus is the mission of the church, and this is embraced in the mission and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The SND mission and charism is expressed by the work of the ministries they have founded and sponsor. The Catholic identity of our sponsored ministries is conveyed through the SNDs as a religious order recognized by the Holy See.

Embracing and understanding sponsorship requires understanding the legacy, mission, and charism of the sisters, as well as the centrality of Catholic identity. Religious congregations have founded over 7,000 Catholic schools and hospitals in the United States -- 80% of them founded by women. Unfortunately, fewer people are choosing religious vocation, and, as numbers decline in these congregations, a new model of sponsorship is emerging that calls on the laity to take central leadership roles. "These ministries will survive only if we can form lay people to assume that responsibility," Fr. Charlie said. This process is underway in our SND network as it is in many congregations in the USA today.

Participants also enjoyed a session on Catholic identity and Catholic social teaching led by Sr. Joanne Keppler and discussions on Catholic social teaching in the work of ministries led by the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) office Co-Directors Ann Clark and Katie Drager.

Sr Mary Ethel Parrott and Sr. Shauna Bankemper opened and closed the meeting with presentations on SND charism and history and the elements of the SND legacy that inform the work of our ministries today. It is a story anchored in the sisters' commitment to responding to the needs of the times and doing so by forming life-giving partnerships that celebrate God's Goodness and Provident Care in our world. This is the charism they have received, and they share it as a gift to others. Our ministries are how we perpetuate that gift, and sponsorship provides the structure for sustainability well into the future. Vatican II was a call to holiness for the laity in our church, and accepting the responsibility for our sponsored ministries is seeing that call come to fruition.



Assessment for Sponsored Ministries

Organization. Transparency. Accountability

Catholic identity and religious community charism are not static; they evolve over time. Values, traditions and circumstances of culture and life remain true to their founding beliefs while adapting their expressions of faith and service to the needs of people in the time and place of ministry.

This year the NSNO initiated the Assessment for Sponsored Ministries process, and eight of the sponsored ministries are currently engaged in this process. The assessment instrument is intended to be a reflection on the present and an instrument for continuous improvement. It is designed to augment rather than supplant mission identifying documents already in use by SND sponsored institutions. The relationship between the Sisters of Notre Dame and the ministry are enhanced through discussion of these identifying elements.

The Assessment for Sponsored Ministries reviews five domains or characteristics necessary for Catholic identity and mission effectiveness within each ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. These domains are:

- Charism in Action
- Mission and Vision
- Leadership and Collaboration
- Transformative Education and Care
- Stewardship and Sustainability

The assessment process enables a sponsored ministry to quantify, with evidence, its alignment with each domain. Through conversations and reflections that occur as a ministry completes the assessment, it will identify and affirm ministry practices as well as surface areas of potential growth or improvement. The process is meant to be formative and should facilitate strategic planning for continuous improvement in mission effectiveness, Catholic identity, and sustainability. The results are presented to the SND National Ministry Corporation (NMC) Board.

The NSNO is responsible for overseeing the operational aspects of the process. This includes communicating the process to each ministry, assisting where needed, facilitating meetings to discuss the process, and providing the resulting ministry reports to the NMC Board. Sponsored ministries will submit their final reports by June 1, 2023.

We have the responsibility to ensure ministries that are viable and reflect the mission and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame well into the future. Our challenge now is to intentionally identify the strategies, actions and disciplines that will help ingrain and cement sustainability, best practices and ensure that the spirit and charism remains alive and well in our ministries. If implemented well, the Assessment for Sponsored ministries will ultimately touch every aspect of our ministries including employees, board members, volunteers, and the individuals that our ministries serve.

Bruce Jarosz

NMC Chair

We have truly enjoyed being able to take the time to thoughtfully look at each of our campuses and see the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame in action.

Jodi Johnston, M.Ed.

Director of Academics and Teacher Development

Julie Billiard Schools

Lyndhurst, OH

NETWORK GOOD NEWS

Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY) offers an educational oasis for students and families that attend Northern Kentucky's urban schools. In addition to offering four programs of learning -- Early Learning; Homework Plus; Summer Academics; and Family Support -- the center provides enrichment through a STEM garden. The STEM garden enhances eco-literacy where students learn about food security, nutrition and sustainability. The children help prepare the soil and plant the seeds, and students and their families are encouraged to take home vegetables from the garden. Yearly themes for the garden provide an opportunity to explore animal life cycles and have included pollinators, the alphabet and butterflies.



Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY) presented **Sr. Paul Ann Hanneken** and **Sr. Mary Rachel Nerone**, two women who have dedicated their lives to educating young women at NDA, with *Rapture in Action*, a statue of St. Julie Billiart, which is located in front of Marian Circle at the school. The statue beautifully depicts St. Julie with her arms wide open to God's will and a feeling of her intense joy. "Just as St. Julie felt intense joy in her ministry to the people of France, we have seen the joy of servant leadership in Sr. Paul Ann and Sr. Mary Rachel," said Interim President Jack VonHandorf. "We sincerely thank them for all of their work at Notre Dame Academy over the decades," he continued.

In December, 43 students and 10 adults from **Notre Dame Academy** (Toledo, OH) traveled to Harlan, KY for the annual Appalachia Mission Trip started by the Sisters of Notre Dame over 30 years ago. Over 70 Harlan area children and adults enjoyed a Christmas party and received clothes and other items at the local parish.



Sisters from St. Joseph Heights, the Covington, KY regional center, have moved to their new home at **St. Charles Community Center**, also in Covington. To date, 10 sisters moved into the Lodge, which is a living environment that offers a balance of independence and help when needed, and 15 sisters moved into the new Lourdes Hall. What a blessing the sisters will be to St. Charles Community as they are for all those they serve and welcome in partnership.



Celebrate Excellence In Your Ministry

The SND National Sponsorship and Network Office's National Network Awards

recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of employees and volunteers in the SND Network for witness to mission, vision and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Nominations are now being accepted through March 31 for the Transformative Leadership Award; Gospel Witness Award; and Father Bernard Overberg "Teacher of Teachers" Award.

The Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA)

recognizes graduating 8th and 12th graders who are outstanding witnesses to Notre Dame education in SND sponsored and affiliated schools. DGA medallion order forms and payment of \$30 per medallion are due on April 1. DGA recipient names are due to the office by May 30.

For more information on both award programs, including background and criteria, a list of previous awardees, and nomination/order forms, visit nsno.sndusa.org/awards/.

Calendar of Events

MARCH	8-13	Catholic Sisters Week
	25	Feast of the Annunciation
	29-31	The 22nd Charism Experience will be held at Bethany Retreat Center (Chardon, OH). Contact Sr. Lisa Novak at 440.279.1192 for more information.
	31	Network Awards Submissions Due
APRIL	8	Feast of St. Julie
	15	DGA Medallion Orders Due
MAY	1	Network Award Recipients Announced
	30	DGA Recipient Names Due
JUNE	18-22	The second Rural Healthcare Student Experience will be held at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead, KY. For more information, contact Lisa Fredrickson .
OCT	25-27	Annual Sponsored Ministry Leadership Meeting at Lial Renewal Center (Toledo, OH)

Thank You To....



Volunteers at **La Reina High School & Middle School** (Thousand Oaks, CA) for preparing 500 Halloween Goodie Bags for the Autism Community in Ventura County.

The community of **St. Columban School** (Loveland, OH) for collecting 1,460 items for the Thanksgiving Food Drive, which helped 20 Loveland families with their Thanksgiving meals. Money raised on "out-of-uniform" day went towards purchasing perishable items to complete the Thanksgiving meals.

