



# NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE

## Network Notes

*From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl*

"Oh, how good is the good God!" St. Julie's quote is a great opener in this season of Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for in our SND USA community. One of the Thanksgiving traditions in my family is to pick names and then share something we are thankful for about that person. It is a wonderful litany of gratitude. Imagine doing that with our SND USA community of so many dedicated, caring and talented people. What a litany of gratitude that would be -- our hearts would surely sing the constant refrain God is good!

This was certainly evident at our annual National Leadership Gathering held in October at the beautiful Lial Renewal Center. It was gratifying to see so many of our ministry and board leaders as we shared in our common journey of advancing the SND mission. Our keynote speaker Chris Lowney, renowned author and speaker on leadership, reminded us that everyone can be a leader. This is clearly evident across our network of ministries. The Sisters of Notre Dame have empowered each of us to embrace that gift of leadership in their legacy of meeting the needs of the times through spreading God's goodness and provident care.

What a great story this legacy is, and we are all part of that great story. As we give thanks for our SND USA community, we acknowledge that it all begins with gratitude for the authors of that story -- the Sisters of Notre Dame. Let our litany of gratitude begin there! May this season of Thanksgiving be a constant joyful reminder not only of the gifts of our SND USA community, but also the gift that we each bring to others in continuing to tell that great story.

Gratefully yours in mission,

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D.*

Help your school or ministry celebrate a milestone or event and show your gratitude to the Sisters of Notre Dame with our new stickers!

Email the office at [nsno@sndusa.org](mailto:nsno@sndusa.org) to place an order.



Fall 2023

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

For the fifth consecutive year **Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School** (Chardon, OH) and for the fourth consecutive year **Julie Billiard Schools** (OH) have been named winners of the Top Workplaces Award by Cleveland's newspaper, *The Plain Dealer*. The list is based on employee feedback gathered using anonymous surveys that measure 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization.

**La Reina High School & Middle School** (Thousand Oaks, CA) received the *Ventura County Star's* Reader's Choice Best Private School in Ventura County for the third consecutive year.

Congratulations to the **Notre Dame Academy** (Los Angeles, CA) Rocketry Team for placing 9th at the 2022-2023 American Rocketry challenge and for submitting a proposal to the NASA Student Launch that has been accepted. NDA is one of only 20 high schools and middle schools across the country participating in this prestigious program.

Congratulations to **Lial Catholic School** (Whitehouse, OH) for being ranked as one of the best schools in Ohio in the 2024 Niche Best Schools Ranking. Niche rankings are calculated using dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews.



**St. Charles Community** (Covington, OH) was named the Best Retirement Community of Northern Kentucky in *NKY Magazine's* 2023 "Best of NKY" competition for the seventh year and the Best Workplace for the third year.

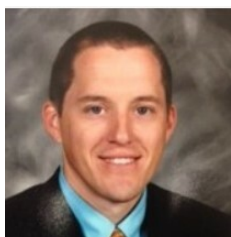
Donald Lloyd, President of St. **Claire HealthCare** (Morehead, KY) recently announced that St. Claire and Edgewater Recovery are teaming up for a Peer Support Program to help those struggling with addiction in the area. This partnership is designed to reduce the impact substance use is having on individuals, families, and the community by ensuring people in active addiction have access to organized, quality, comprehensive medical care.



St. Claire HealthCare was also recognized as a recipient of the Kentucky Hospital Association Annual Quality Awards. This award is given to hospitals and healthcare systems that demonstrate a dedication to patient safety and are persistent in going above and beyond what is expected for providing health care.

St. Claire celebrated its 60th Anniversary in October when nearly 500 supporters from several states gathered for an evening of fine cuisine, outstanding entertainment, and prideful reflection to commemorate 60 years of the immense impact St. Claire has had serving the people of Eastern Kentucky.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has announced the 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Congratulations to **Our Lady of Victory School** (Washington, D.C.) for being one of 40 private schools to receive this distinguished recognition. The National Blue Ribbon Award recognizes private schools for exemplary high performance.



Congratulations to Jennifer Kuzdzal, Principal, **St. Agnes Catholic School** (Arlington, VA) and Nathan Stant, Principal, **St. John's Preschool and Elementary School** (Delphos, OH) for receiving the 2023 *Lead. Learn. Proclaim.* Award from the National Catholic Education Association. The LLP Awards highlight the outstanding work of Catholic school educators in communities across the country.



# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



Students, faculty, staff and benefactors of **Julie Billiart School** (Westlake, OH) gathered in September for the first Mass at the newly opened campus. Bishop Edward Malesic celebrated Mass before blessing and dedicating the school's *Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Chapel*. The Westlake campus is the third campus in the Julie Billiart Schools Network, which opened August 25th with 44 students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Next fall, grades 5-8 will be added.

A special thanks to Father Mark Keene for blessing the **Notre Dame Urban Education Center's** (Covington, KY) new van at their Open House *Cheers* Event.



**Notre Dame Academy** (Park Hills, KY) partnered with Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute to help NDA achieve a fully functioning school-based CPR-AED program and receive the national distinction as a "Heart Safe School" by Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory). The designation is attained by schools upon successful implementation of a quality sudden cardiac arrest program of awareness, training and effective emergency response to promote a Heart Safe environment for students, visitors and staff as outlined within the Heart Safe School Checklist.

**Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School** (Chardon, OH) joined over 3,000 students from schools in the Cleveland diocese for the *Eucharistic Revival Rally* and Mass at Cleveland Public Auditorium. The event also included inspirational speakers and music. "The opportunity to be a part of a Catholic school where young people are grounded in the Word of God is truly a blessing. I am so grateful for our students and the many ways that they reflect God's light and strength," said Principal Jodie Ricci.



Congratulations to the first graduating class of eighth graders at **Notre Dame Middle School** (Chardon, OH).

All SND sponsored schools and 24 affiliated schools recognized a total of 49 middle and high school graduates with the **Distinguished Graduate Award**. Visit the NSNO website at <https://nsno.sndusa.org> for a complete list of schools and recipients.



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



# Transitions

## Outgoing Board Chairs

We offer our sincere gratitude to our outgoing sponsored ministry board chairs. We are grateful for the dedication and leadership to their ministries and their commitment to the SND mission:

Lynn Ernes, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)

Tricia Gerak, Julie Billiart Schools (OH)

Dave Koenig, Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)

Sr. Marla Monahan, St. Charles Community (Covington, KY) and St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY)

## Incoming Board Chairs

It is our pleasure to welcome our newest sponsored ministry board chairs and board members:

David Payne, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)

Nick Russo, Julie Billiart Schools (OH)

Edward Buechel, St. Charles Community (Covington, KY)

Kathy Korducki, Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)

Bill Redwine, St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY)

## New Board Members

Dr. Phillip Baker, St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY)

Jose Benitz, Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)

Jim Berger, Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)

Lane Bove, Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)

Jason Connell, Maria Early Learning Center (Toledo, OH)

Karen Daugherty, Julie Learning Center (Covington, KY)

Connie Eyman, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)

Margaret Lockhart, Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)

Meredith Mercurio, Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)

Kimberly Mumma, Maria Early Learning Center (Toledo, OH)

Elaine Patel, Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)

Paul Tyler, Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)

Michael Vedda, Julie Billiart Schools (OH)

## New Sponsored School Presidents

Tricia Miller, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)

Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH) (interim)

## New Sponsored School Principal

Jodie Ricci, Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School (Chardon, OH)

## New Affiliated School Principals

Loretta Pilla, St. Francis Elementary School (Cleveland, OH)

Jennifer Churchill, Guardian Catholic School (Jacksonville, FL)

## Assessment for Sponsored Ministries

The *Assessment for Sponsored Ministries* was launched in 2022-2023. Six of our sponsored ministries completed the process by engaging members of their community in discussions and reflections on the ways in which Catholic identity and mission are central to the work they do and the culture of their communities. 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; and 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 should facilitate strategic planning for continuous improvement in mission effectiveness, Catholic identity, and sustainability. The results are presented to the SND National Ministry Corporation Board. This year seven more ministries will engage in the process.

***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. We must plan for the reality of a time when the sisters are no longer able to actively participate in our ministries.***

Bruce Jarosz, NMC Board Chair

## HAPPY SND FOUNDATION DAY!

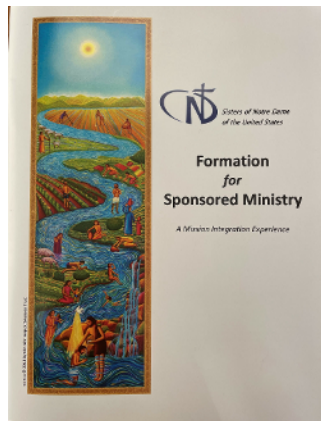


**Maria Early Learning Center** (Toledo, OH) commemorated Founder's Day with a *Donut know what we'd do without Sisters like you!* theme. Sisters enjoyed reading, donuts, apple cider and fun activities that were "child-led."



The **Notre Dame Academy** (Los Angeles, CA) community celebrated Founder's Day by gathering for a prayer service honoring Our Lady and the Sisters of Notre Dame Foundresses. Theology teacher, Sr. Frances Wahl, and all of the Sisters of Notre Dame were honored and remembered in a special way for their dedication and service to all of their ministries, especially at NDA. Prayers of the faithful asking for the intercession of St. Julie Billiart, musical reflections, and Founder's Day gifts of thanks for faculty and staff rounded out the prayer service with gratitude and grace.

# MEETINGS/GATHERINGS



## NMC Board Annual Meeting and Retreat

The National Ministry Corporation Board held its Annual Meeting and Retreat at St. Joseph's Heights (Covington, KY) in late September. It was a productive meeting furthering the group's focus and objectives in working to promote Catholic identity and mission and sustainability in our sponsored ministries. Sr. Joanne Keppler also presented an overview of the *Formation for Sponsored Ministry* program and began implementation with the NMC board.

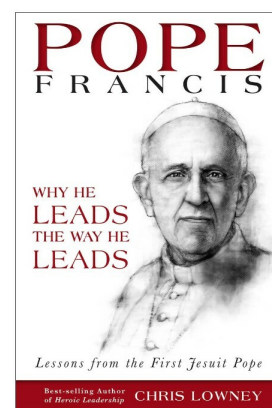
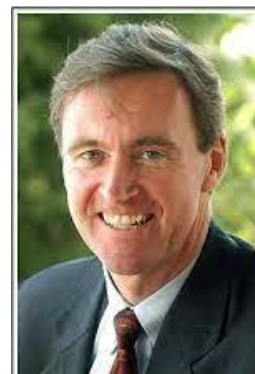
## Annual Sponsored Ministry Leadership Gathering

Sponsored Ministry board chairs and members, presidents, principals and other ministry leaders along with the National Ministry Corporation Board and SND Leadership Team gathered for the annual Sponsored Ministry Gathering, *Leadership in Catholic Ministry: Grace and Possibilities*, at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, OH in October.

The keynote speaker was Chris Lowney, board chair of CommonSpirit Health, America's largest nonprofit health system, one-time Jesuit seminarian, Managing Director of JPMorgan & Co. on three continents, and author. His presentation, *Great Leadership in a VUCA World*, discussed leadership in a world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. Participants were provided Lowney's book, *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*, to help frame the presentation and ensuing discussions.

Continuing the leadership theme, Sr. Leanne Hubbard presented sessions on Discernment in Leadership and Community Discernment. Sr. Joanne Keppler shared the *Formation for Sponsored Ministry* program. Tours of local ministries were offered, including Notre Dame Academy and Maria Early Learning Center in Toledo and Lial Catholic School in Whitehouse.

Almost 50 participants, the largest sponsored ministry leadership gathering to date, also enjoyed Mass with the sisters at the Whitehouse SND Center, lively discussion, and thoughtful prayer and reflection.



## Sponsored Schools Professionals Network on Zoom

The National Sponsorship and Network Office hosted a Zoom meeting in October bringing marketing and admissions colleagues together across the SND network to discuss topics relevant to their specific areas of responsibility and expertise. Nine marketing and admissions professionals participated in a lively conversation around their goals and challenges and shared strategies and ideas. Two more Networking Zoom Meetings are being planned for professionals in campus ministry and mission advancement and development. Contact Lisa Fredrickson at [lfredrickson@sndusa.org](mailto:lfredrickson@sndusa.org) for more information on this and upcoming Networking Zoom meetings.



# Rural Healthcare Student Experience



This past June, four students from Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School in Chardon, OH; three students each from Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, KY and Toledo, OH; and two students from Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles, CA along with five chaperones participated in the second year of the Rural Healthcare Student Experience at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead, KY. Students and chaperones stayed at the Hampton Inn in Morehead and enjoyed a great learning experience and memorable camaraderie with each other.



Improvements to the previous summer's experience included more time shadowing home healthcare, hospice and hospital providers. The students also performed community service by boxing and distributing food at the Elliott County Christian Community Center for a half day. The week concluded with a presentation on physician assistant opportunities and a clinical skills lab including suturing and dissection.



The students celebrated Mass at Jesus Our Savior Parish and enjoyed activities including movie night; a barbecue supper; swimming, playing cards and ice breaker games at the hotel; and dinner and discussion with Don Lloyd at his home, where he presented students and chaperones with custom jackets embroidered with the St. Claire HealthCare and SND logos.



A follow-up Zoom meeting for students with representatives from St. Claire took place in August to discuss considerations for health professions education and included information on nursing and pre-med pathways and the National Health Service Corps loan forgiveness opportunities. Plans are underway for the Third Annual RHSE tentatively scheduled for June 16-20, 2024.

## Coming Up!

**12/28**

SND USA Feast Day

**1/28-2/3**

Catholic Schools Week

**3/8-14**

National Catholic Sisters Week

**3/25**

Feast of the Annunciation

**3/31**

Network Award Submissions  
Due

**4/8**

Feast of St. Julie

## From the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation National Office

Laudate Deum is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis published on October 4, 2023 where he calls for brisk action against the climate crisis. Pope Francis reminds us that the dangers of climate change are upon us and goes far beyond weather. The effects have and will continue to reach health, healthcare, employment, housing, and migration.

The SND Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation National Office, led by Co-directors Ann Clark and Katie Drager, have compiled information about Laudate Deum, including a list of resources and a pledge that can be signed responding to Pope Francis' urge to "Move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes."

Visit <https://jpic.sndusa.org/> for more information.



Visit the NSNO website at <https://nsno.sndusa.org> for more resources and information or contact the staff at:

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**March 3-6:** The National Leadership Conference for Catholic Schools at Naples Hilton Hotel in Naples, FL. Keynote speaker is Dr. Kevin White, Former Director of Athletics at Duke University and the University of Notre Dame.

**June 23-27:** The National Advancement Summer Institute for Catholic Schools at Boston Quincy Marriott Hotel in Boston, MA.

**For more information, visit [www.partnersinmission.com](http://www.partnersinmission.com).**

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