



# NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE

## Network Notes

*From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl*

Spring came early in the Covington region of SND USA this year, and with that an array of lovely blooms and promising green shoots not normally seen in late February and early March. Mother Nature responded to this new and challenging reality of warmer temperatures, and now we celebrate the beauty of new life that the Spring season brings.

It occurs to me that we might see an analogy here in the many challenges and opportunities we face in the ministries we serve. In nature, the one constant is the inevitable cycle of life, and in each of our ministries the one constant we always come back to as we embrace the important work of our ministries is **mission**.

Across the SND USA network of ministries, mission is alive and well as new challenges and opportunities emerge. Our ministries thrive and create life-giving and sustainable futures as they respond to the needs of the times just as our founders, the Sisters of Notre Dame, have done and continue to do since their founding 175 years ago. Embracing mission as we accept and face new challenges and opportunities creates openings for growth and new life, and we can celebrate excellence in many new ways.

The celebration of excellence is evident in the many mission moments and mission accomplishments highlighted in this issue. We hope our readers will enjoy these many stories and find inspiration and hope in the lovely blooms of accomplishment, the promising shoots of new ideas and programs, and the many signs of growth and new life that continue to emerge.

Gratefully yours in mission,

*Laura Koehl, Ed.D.*



## SND CHARISM EXPERIENCE

**Tradition means passing on the flame -- not worshipping the ashes. (Gustav Mahler)**

The 23rd Charism Experience was held in March at Bethany Retreat Center in Chardon, OH. Twenty-two members of the SND network participated representing a diversity of ministries from all four regions. Sr. Lisa Novak and Sr. Donna Paluf led participants through presentations, prayers, and discussions. Participants enjoyed touring the Notre Dame chapel and sharing coffee and conversation with the sisters.

"Over these years of being a part of the Charism Experience for our lay colleagues, I found that this reality of 'passing on the flame' is taking root, growing and expanding into their everyday lives," said Sr. Lisa. "Their profound experience of God's Goodness and Provident Care is energizing them to be mission-driven in answering their call as the persons they are in the professions they've chosen," she continued. "Quite simply, they feel a significant part of our SND One Heart, One Hope, One Mission and want to pass it on!"

Next year's Charism Experience is scheduled for April 2-4.

Spring 2024

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

## Congratulations to SND National Network Award Recipients

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 charisma of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Please join us in congratulating the following recipients of this year's awards.



### Transformative Leadership Award

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

- **Sr. Maureen Burke**, President, St. John School, Ashtabula, OH
- **Jackie Hetrick**, Art Therapist/Art Teacher, Julie Billiart School, Westlake, OH
- **Ben Hopper**, Principal, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Sarasota, FL
- **Lisa Nowak**, Director, Maria Early Learning Center, Toledo, OH
- **Amanda Ramey, DO**, Medical Director, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY
- **Nichole Smith**, President/CEO, St. Charles Community, Covington, KY
- **John Venturella**, President, Clearwater Central Catholic High School, Clearwater, FL
- **Jack VonHandorf**, Principal, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, KY

### Gospel Witness Award

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

- **Jessica Callahan, RN, BSN**, Director of Case Management, St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, KY
- **Belinda Cogsville**, Day Shift Supervisor, St. Charles Community, Covington, KY
- **Brad Fuller**, Assistant Head of School, Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles, CA
- **Bridget Price**, Campus Minister, Notre Dame Academy, 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.

- **Janie Carrillo**, Middle School Teacher, St. Leo School, Versailles, KY
- **Sr. Joanne Keppler**, Director of Professional Learning, Notre Dame Schools, Chardon, OH
- **Katie Kindry**, 4th Grade Intervention Specialist, Julie Billiart School, Akron, OH
- **Molly Proudfit**, Assistant Principal for Academics/Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, KY



Thirty-one SND sponsored and affiliated schools celebrated  
50 **Distinguished Graduate Award** recipients this spring.

For more information on SND National Network Awards, visit: <https://nsno.sndusa.org/awards/>

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to **St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY)** for being honored with the Kentucky Hospital Association's annual Grassroots Advocacy Leadership Award for the third year and every year since the award was introduced in 2021. "It is such an amazing honor to be recognized, yet again, with the KHA's Grassroots Advocacy Leadership Award," said Donald H. Lloyd, II, President/CEO of SCH.

St. Claire HealthCare was also named as a finalist in the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program, a program that targets areas where prime-age (25-54 years) employment is significantly lower than the national average, with the goal to close this gap through flexible, locally driven investments. SCH's plan will work to assist individuals with substance use disorders in northeast Kentucky find sustainable, meaningful employment. SCH will coordinate abuse support with employer-based training, workforce training, peer support programs, and scholarships in partnership with a community college.



**Sr. Mary Ann Culpert, SND, 'Notre Dame Academy Class of '75, Superior General of the International Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame,** was honored with the 2024 Alumnae Service Leadership Award and Inducted in the **Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)** Alumnae Hall of Fame at the *Mad for Plaid* gala in February. Sr. Mary Ann serves as the leader in global mission and recognizes that her roots and foundation were formed at NDA. "At NDA, we develop young women with empathy and care for their world and for one another," Sr. Mary Ann said. "It's more than just graduating and heading to the best college with the best academics; it's truly becoming a 'woman of vision' and changing the world for the better," she concluded.



**Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)** will launch a middle school this fall designed exclusively for 6-8th grade girls that will balance a rigorous, integrated curriculum with robust opportunities to build connection and sisterhood. The differentiated curriculum features vigorous STEAM offerings and integrated humanities. NDA's strong Catholic identity and service-learning program provide the foundation for age-appropriate leadership, social-emotional development, and

self-discovery. "In this environment of increasing isolation, especially among adolescent girls, we identified a need here in West Los Angeles for a unique learning environment in which girls are challenged to take responsible risks while developing deep community bonds," said Lilliam Paetzold, President and Head of School.

**Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY)** recently added a Volunteer Coordinator to the staff. This position is responsible for all aspects of volunteer engagement, including recruitment, training, scheduling, and retention and ensures that volunteers are effectively utilized and that their skills match the center's needs. This new position led to a dedicated volunteer developing two new science lessons for enrichment, including "Skeletons and Bones," pictured here, and "Life Cycles of Butterflies" that included releasing butterflies into the STEM garden.



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

# TRANSITIONS



The appointment of Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors as the new president of **Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)** after serving as the principal of Notre Dame Elementary and Middle Schools since 2020 and interim President in 2023. Dr. Hoynes' extensive career as an educator and school leader has uniquely prepared her for this appointment. "I felt an instant connection with the entire Notre Dame community four years ago when I was appointed to be the Principal of Notre Dame Elementary School," said Dr. Hoynes. "The Sisters of Notre Dame immediately prompted a sincere admiration for their ministry and have inspired me to also be a catalyst for God's work," she continued.

Lynn Cherry, Head of School, **Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)**, is leaving this position at the end of this school year. Lynn has been in education since 2000. She came to Lial in 2016 as the Assistant Principal before assuming the role of Head of School in 2020. Lynn has given years of loving service and dedication to Lial as an outstanding teacher and leader and has impacted the lives of many teachers and students with her mission-centered leadership. She will be greatly missed. We offer our gratitude and acknowledgement of her many accomplishments.



Following a national search, the Lial Catholic School Board of Trustees announces the appointment of Mr. Christian Mocek as the next Head of School, effective July 1, 2024. "Christian Mocek stands out as a leader who will honor and preserve all that Lial has accomplished while also bringing skills and experience that can strengthen us in the future," said Dan Rudski, Lial Board Chair. "Through the process, Christian showed sensitivity and appreciation for Lial's unique culture. With his ability and experience in school advancement, we believe he will join our school at the right time as we approach the next fifty years," Rudski added. Mocek has extensive experience in strategic planning and enrollment growth and much success in donor expansion.



Please welcome Betsy Dellinger as the new board chair of **Julie Billiard Schools (Lyndhurst, OH)**. Betsy has been on the board at Julie Billiard Schools since 2016. "I am honored to serve as JB Schools Board, Chair," Betsy said. "As a proud alumni parent, I have witnessed how JB can change the literal trajectory of a child's life." Betsy is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Park Place Technologies located in Mayfield Heights, OH.

**St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY)** has entered into an expanded partnership with the University of Kentucky, a collaboration that will ensure St. Claire can continue its 60-year tradition of servicing the healthcare needs of the people of Northeastern Kentucky.



While St. Claire HealthCare will no longer be a Catholic hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, this groundbreaking collaboration will provide expanded opportunities to carry the mission forward into the next 60 years -- a lasting tribute to the legacy of SND, whose sponsorship helped build and maintain St. Claire. As part of the agreement, St. Claire will establish a \$30-million community foundation dedicated to funding projects that continue the SND mission in the local area. The new foundation will be a sponsored ministry under the SND National Ministry Corporation.

# MISSION MOMENTS

Lion pride at **Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School (Chardon, OH)** was in full force during their 7th Annual Spirit Week when students beat the wintertime blues with friendly competition among the four classes. The fierce but friendly coin war between grade levels raised \$4,157.71 for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank with the class of '24 claiming the Spirit Week trophy.



Kudos to the Ecology Committee at **Notre Dame Academy Elementary School (Los Angeles, CA)** for implementing the first *Zero Trash Day!* All items, including the pizza boxes, plates, napkins, pizza, and cookies, were compostable.

For the 32nd year, 44 students and 10 chaperones from **Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)** traveled to Harlan, KY to provide Christmas for this underserved Appalachian community. This service trip is a tradition started by the Sisters of Notre Dame and remains an important part of NDA's commitment to developing socially responsible servant leaders.



Families return year after year to experience the meaningful and joyful Christmas NDA students create that includes wrapped gifts, a festive lunch, crafts, games, Christmas carols, and a visit from Santa Claus. "The trip to Harlan is a telling experience for our students where they witness the transformative power of service to others," said Josh Mocek, Co-Director of Campus Ministry for Retreats and Service Learning.

As part of the school-wide Lenten project, students at **Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)** packed bag lunches for Helping Hands of St. Louis kitchen. Each lunch contained a hand crafted sandwich and other goodies, plus a note from the students.



**Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)** is celebrating their 120th anniversary in the coming year. To mark this special year, Sisters in Toledo joined NDA students, faculty, and staff in praying the SND Heritage Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. To prepare for this all-school Stations of the Cross, the Junior Academy reflected on the Stations of the Cross and how they symbolize the journey of Jesus Christ's suffering and sacrifice, inviting contemplation on the depth of his love and the redemption it offers to humanity.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



**Julie Billiard School (Lyndhurst, OH)** celebrated Catholic School's Week with their annual JB Movie Night Kickoff Event, Crazy Sock Day, Cosmic Bowling, and Teacher Appreciation Day.



Catholic Schools' Week at **Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)** always begins celebrating Mass and showing gratitude for the Sisters of Notre Dame who pioneered Catholic education in the Diocese of Covington. The celebration continued after liturgy with a lunch where students served the Sisters ice cream.



Wednesday was neon attire day and culminated with the traditional volleyball game against Covington Catholic High School. The paNDAs came out on top, and proceeds from this exciting event were donated to the Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky.

The community of **Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)** began Catholic School's Week by congratulating the Sisters of Notre Dame who are celebrating their 100th year in California. The Archbishop celebrated the sisters at a Mass at the Cathedral of our Lady of Angels, where NDA President Lilliam Paetzold gave each sister a white rose with a message from the school.

As part of the week's activities, NDA Elementary School community families came together to assemble hygiene kits to donate to West LA Homeless, an organization that serves those within the neighborhood of NDA.



Sr. Mary Frances Taymans visited **Our Lady of Victory School (Washington, DC)** to talk to students about the themes of National Catholic Schools Week. Our Lady of Victory School has been a member of the SND network as an affiliated school since its founding in 1955. SNDs were invited to found, lead, and staff the school and did so for many years. The SND charism and educational mission are alive and well at the school.

# CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Sisters were celebrated by **Julie Learning Center Preschool (Covington, KY)** with a get-together for coffee, cookies and the board game Telestrations and a faux Chihuly sculpture made by the children for the dining room along with ice cream treats. Sisters were also invited to attend a Circus Mojo presentation.



**Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School (Chardon, OH)** had a wonderful celebration for the NDCL Sisters that included student speeches on the announcements, flowers, posters, and cards from the student body. The week ended with a faculty/staff celebration. "Thank you to all of the Sisters of Notre Dame who share their spirituality, charism, and love of Christ with our NDCL students and community," said Principal Jodie Ricci. Pictured here are (left to right) Sr. Emilia Castelletti, Sr. Michelle Kelly, and Sr. Joanne Keppler.

Students at **Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)** enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate the Sisters. The week began with a *Living Lent Lunchtime Prayer* in the chapel and continued with students going upstairs to the sisters' living quarters to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and eat with the sisters. Sr. Mary Richard Kaufman '65 shared her story to help the girls explore how their passions, strengths, and gifts can be used to make the world a better place. Students also prepared a *Sisters Shoutout* video that can be viewed at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ksNA3CafH7BjHBdL2ThuFVJ8h4XIZnJ8/view?usp=drivesdk>



## Toledo Sisters Share the Great Notre Dame Story



Sr. Joanne Francia and Sr. Jenny Zimmerman lead the faculty and staff formation retreat day at **Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)** that featured the *Great Notre Dame Story*, including the history, charism, mission, spirituality and educational principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Around eight members of the faculty and staff participated, including many new and young hires that had not before participated in the story and formation experience. "Hopefully our presentation and individual conversations throughout the day will help these amazing women and men identify their part in our history and traditions," Sr. Jenny said.

## Coming Up!

**6/9-13**

Rural Healthcare Student  
Experience

Morehead, KY

**9/23-25**

National Ministry Corporation  
Board Retreat

Covington, KY

**11/13-15**

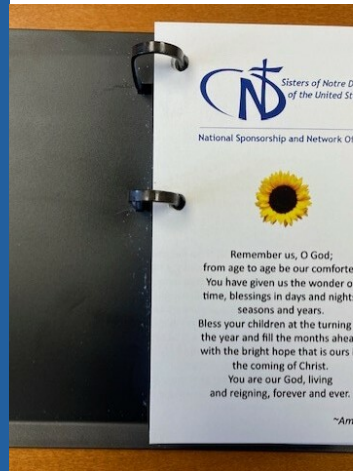
Sponsored Ministry Leadership  
Meeting

**4/2-4/25**

SND Charism Experience  
Chardon, OH

## Resources

The NSNO office can provide booklets, bookmarks, stickers, and the new perpetual calendar for your school and staff. To order NSNO resources, visit the NSNO website or email the office at [nsno@sndusa.org](mailto:nsno@sndusa.org).



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

Laura Koehl, Executive Director: [lkoehl@sndusa.org](mailto:lkoehl@sndusa.org)

Sr. Joanne Keppler, Associate Director for Mission and Formation : [jkeppler@sndusa.org](mailto:jkeppler@sndusa.org)

Lisa Fredrickson, Programs and Services Manager:  
[lfredrickson@sndusa.org](mailto:lfredrickson@sndusa.org)

Kayla Englert, Communications and Administrative Coordinator:  
[kenglert@sndusa.org](mailto:kenglert@sndusa.org)



**June 23-27:** The National Advancement Summer Institute for Catholic Schools at the Boston Quincy Marriott Hotel in Boston, MA. Register now for: *The National Enrollment Management Conference for Catholic Schools* and *the National Advancement Conference for Catholic Schools* at:  
[www.partnersinmission.com/boston](http://www.partnersinmission.com/boston)



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