



NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP AND NETWORK OFFICE

Network Notes

From the Desk of Dr. Laura Koehl

Congratulations to our dear sisters on celebrating their 150 anniversary in the United States. Those many years ago, these visionary and courageous women traveled across the Atlantic to escape the Kulturkampf and find a new home to serve the mission of Jesus. Having made their way from Cleveland, OH to Los Angeles, CA, the sisters of Thousand Oaks celebrated their 100-year anniversary as well this year. As the sisters continued to meet the needs of the times, their legacy grew across the four USA provinces to become a network of affiliated and sponsored ministries that provide transformative education and care for many.

And today many of these ministries celebrate milestones of their own as they continue the SND legacy and advance their mission forward. Notably, Notre Dame Academy in Toledo celebrates its 120th anniversary, and Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles celebrates their 75th anniversary.

In this 21st century, our ministries face many new challenges, and this requires a strategic commitment to mission by our lay leaders and governing boards. As they do so, the mission continues to evolve. St. Claire Healthcare has found a new path to advance their mission to the people of Eastern Kentucky through a partnership with UK Healthcare. This took the same kind of vision and courage our founders brought with them as they journeyed to the United States those 150 years ago.

Our newsletter notes many developments and milestones in the ministries founded by the SNDs in the USA. These would not be possible if the SNDs had not laid a solid foundation in building each of these ministries, and today that legacy continues with our lay leaders and collaborators.

Gratefully,

Laura Koehl, Ed.D.



NDA Toledo President Kim Grilliot and Board Chair Kathy Korducki celebrate the school's 120th anniversary at the Sponsored Ministry Leadership Gathering in November.



Fall 2024

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Sponsored Ministries Celebrate Anniversaries

Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH) celebrates their 120th anniversary with several events this year. On June 2, there was a 120-year celebration for faculty and staff. A *Back to the Nest Fest* on August 18 celebrated students coming back to school. After a successful campaign raising over \$7 million, their anniversary year kick off included a groundbreaking for their new school entrance. On August 23, a school-wide pilgrimage took place to mark the 120 years. Sisters of Notre Dame Foundation Day was celebrated in October, and an event in November was also held.



Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA) celebrated their 75th anniversary on September 14th with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jose Gomez followed by a family barbecue. The academy also opened a new all girls middle school welcoming the first class of 16 girls in a newly renovated wing of the school.

On September 12, **Julie Billiart Schools** (Lyndhurst, OH), a leading provider of educational services for children with learning and social differences, celebrated their 70th anniversary with a gala themed *70 Years of Changing Lives* at their new Brecksville, OH location. Proceeds from the gala will support Julie Billiart School's mission of providing a high-quality education that meets the unique needs of each student.



Top Work Place and School Awards

For the sixth consecutive year, **Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School** (Chardon, OH), and for the fifth consecutive year, **Julie Billiart Schools** (Lyndhurst, OH) have been named a winner of the Top Workplaces Award by *The Plain Dealer*. The Top Workplaces list is determined solely by employee feedback, collected through an anonymous third-party survey that evaluates 15 critical culture drivers essential to organizational success, such as alignment, executive, and connection.



Congratulations to **Lial Catholic School** (Whitehouse, OH) for achieving an impressive A+ ranking from Niche and to **Notre Dame Academy** (Toledo, OH) for being rated #1 for Best Catholic High School in Toledo and an over all 'A' grade!

Niche considers a variety of components when determining their rankings, including academics; culture and diversity; teachers; student life; safety; location; and expenses per student.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



UK St. Claire (Morehead, KY) held the annual *Signature Event* on October 26 to celebrate the partnership of the University of Kentucky and St. Claire HealthCare. The blue carpet was rolled out to welcome UK to Morehead. During this unforgettable evening, over \$150,000 was raised to support healthcare education scholarships for students from eastern Kentucky. Pictured left to right are Sr. Mary Joelle Overman, Sr. Janet Smith, Sr. Marla Monahan, Mindy Highley (CEO of the SND Eastern Kentucky Foundation), Sr. Judine Lambert, and Sr. Marge Mouch.

This past spring, St. Claire HealthCare (Morehead, KY) 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 Eastern Kentucky. As part of the agreement, St. Claire established a \$30-million community foundation dedicated to funding projects that continue the SND mission in the local area. The new SND Eastern Kentucky Foundation held its first board meeting this past June and is a sponsored ministry under the SND National Ministry Corporation. The foundation was established to provide support to individuals, families and communities in Eastern Kentucky through health and wellness; education and workforce development; and quality of life initiatives.

Julie Billiard School (Brecksville, OH) officially opened its doors on August 21 with a school-wide ribbon cutting ceremony. The school welcomed 46 students in grades K-4 this year and will open up to full capacity with grades 5-8 starting next year. The expansion of Julie Billiard Schools is a direct response to the growing demand for their specialized programs. The new campus features 1:8 teacher-to-student ratios, state-of-the-art classrooms, specialized therapy rooms, and outdoor learning spaces. These facilities will enable Julie Billiard Schools to offer even more comprehensive services to the students.



Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY) offers four transformative initiatives including Family Support; Early Learning; Homework Plus; and Summer Academics. The Family Support Program emphasizes the holistic development of students by providing life skills training and coaching for parents and guardians to better support their children's academic success, thus strengthening the partnership between educators and families to create a consistent environment that fosters academic growth. Research shows that children with involved parents tend to achieve higher grades, maintain better attendance, and develop stronger social skills.



Each Family Support night fosters camaraderie and friendship while strengthening family bonds, which leads to a nurturing setting where children feel secure and motivated to excel. Families participate in hands-on activities and discussions and are provided a hot meal.

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

Transitions

Outgoing Board Chairs

Mark Hausfeld, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Joe Woodall, Notre Dame Learning Center Preschool (Thousand Oaks, CA)

Incoming Board Chairs

Margaret Meland, Notre Dame Learning Center Preschool (Thousand Oaks, CA)
Sr. Marla Monahan, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)

New Board Members

Gayle Beier, Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)
Timothy Bencic, Jr., Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Mark Bigelow, Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH)
Mary Blomer-Santos, Notre Dame Academy, (Los Angeles, CA)
Mandy Capel, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Frank Cappello, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Benjamin Caudill, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Kay Freeland, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Sr. Judine Lambert, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Parker Kern, Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)
Tom Kerr, Julie Billiart Schools (Lyndhurst, OH)
Mike McKeown, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Kate McNeely, Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY)
Joe Michels, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Emily Minardi, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Allyson O'Keefe, Julie Billiart Schools (Lyndhurst, OH)
Jacklin Ortega, Notre Dame Learning Center Preschool (Thousand Oaks, CA)
Sr. Joell Overman, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Mara Luna Delos Reyes, Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)
Eric Rieger, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Chris Ryan, Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY)
Carey Sanders, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Zach Schmidt, Notre Dame Urban Education Center (Covington, KY)
Mike Smith, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Erin Sullivan-Ward, Notre Dame Academy (Los Angeles, CA)
Richard (Dick) Tapke, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Adrienne Vannarsdall, Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Madonna Weathers, SND EKY Foundation Board (Morehead, KY)
Kevin Woeste, Notre Dame Schools (Chardon, OH)
Evan Young, Jullie Billiart Schools (Lyndhurst, OH)

New Sponsored School Presidents

Jane Kleier (Interim), Notre Dame Academy (Park Hills, KY)
Christian Mocek, Lial Catholic School (Whitehouse, OH)

New Sponsored School Principals

Joelle Coates, Notre Dame Middle School (Chardon, OH)
Friederika Winterstellar, Notre Dame Elementary School (Chardon, OH)

New Affiliated School Principal

Michelle Alvarado, St. Mary Magdalen Elementary School (Camarillo, CA)

Meetings and Gatherings



The National Ministry Corporation Board held their annual meeting and retreat at St. Joseph's Heights (Covington, KY) in late September. All members were in attendance, and Sr. Jacquelyn Gusdane was welcomed as the newest board member. The meeting included thoughtful discussion regarding the evolution of sponsorship, prayer and social time.

Two **New Board Member Orientations** were held in October for the 31 new members that joined nine SND ministry boards. Sr. Joanne Keppler presented information on SND Charism, Mission and Vision, and Laura Koehl discussed SND, the governance model and roles and responsibilities for board members.

The **Annual SND Sponsored Ministry Leadership Gathering, Lay Leadership and Governance for Sustainable Ministries**, was held in November at the SND Center in Chardon, OH. The gathering welcomed approximately 50 SND ministry and board leaders as well as representatives of the National Ministry Corporation and SND leadership. The meeting focused on governance and leadership in the face of challenges and opportunities of today and those that are yet to come.



The meeting included discussions of sponsorship and the critical role of governing boards and ministry leaders in developing self-sustaining ministries committed to mission and Catholic identity; an in-depth experience of the Board Formation Program to promote meaningful and effective governance that embraces the mission, charism, and legacy of the SNDs; and best practices in board governance as ministries face challenges and embrace opportunities for growth. There were also presentations on innovative ways our ministries are moving mission forward. Attendees enjoyed a celebration recognizing the SND 150 anniversary in the USA and many anniversaries of sponsored ministries in the network.

Mission Moments



Notre Dame Academy (Toledo, OH) kicked off the school year by packing 2,000 bags of food and creating over 6,000 cards for kids through Connecting Kids to Meals, a nonprofit agency that provides healthy meals at no cost to at-risk kids in low-income and underserved areas of Northwest Ohio.



The community of **St. Charles Community** (Covington, KY) donated essential relief items to support those impacted by the recent hurricanes. They also raised money through their annual bake sale in honor of October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

RURAL HEALTHCARE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The third annual Rural Healthcare Student Experience (RHSE) welcomed two students from both Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles CA and Park Hills, KY; three students from Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, OH; four students from Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School in Chardon, OH; and four chaperones to Morehead, KY for a week of shadowing health care professionals at St. Claire HealthCare (SCH).



In addition to shadowing, students participated in skills labs including suturing; fetal pig dissection; and, new this year, virtual reality healthcare simulation.



Students also participated in a half day of community service at Rowan County Christian Social Services, a food and clothing distribution center. The group enjoyed dinner at the home of SCH CEO Donald Lloyd and his wife Monti, where Mr. Lloyd presented them with fleece jackets .



The fourth annual Rural Healthcare Student Experience is scheduled for Sunday, June 8 through Thursday, June 12, 2025.

HAPPY SND FOUNDATION DAY!



Sr. Rose Moser (left) and Sr. Carol Gregory (right) celebrated Foundation Day with students at **Maria Early Learning Center** (Toledo, OH) with ice cream sandwiches and games.



Students from **Julie Learning Center** (Covington, KY) and **Notre Dame Academy** (Park Hills, KY) celebrated Foundation Day with a Mass with the sisters and enjoyed ice cream sandwiches at lunch. Notre Dame Academy also celebrated 100 years of accreditation.



Clearwater Central Catholic High School (Clearwater, FL) celebrated Foundation Day with a breakfast enjoyed by sisters and President John Venturella followed by an all-school prayer service on campus that focused on SND charism, a deep experience of God's goodness and provident care. A Mass was held to bless calligraphy artwork by Sr. Joanne Zeitz that captures the Legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Educational Principles. SNDs have been part of Clearwater Central Catholic since 1971.



Students at **Our Lady of Victory School** (Washington, DC) celebrated Foundation Day with Sr. Mary Frances Taymans in an assembly where they learned about the Sisters of Notre Dame, their connection to Our Lady of Victory School and the tradition of sharing a bite to eat. The celebration continued throughout the week with special prayers, stickers and sandwiches.

ALL SAINTS DAY

In honor of All Saints Day, 8th grade students at **Notre Dame Middle School** (Chardon, OH) researched and selected a Saint that sparked their interest. After learning about their chosen Saint, they dressed up and presented their findings to other classrooms as well as to several of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The 8th graders concluded their All Saints Day celebration by attending Mass.



Coming Up!

12/28

SND USA Feast Day

1/26-2/1

Catholic Schools Week

3/8-14

National Catholic Sisters Week

3/25

Feast of the Annunciation

3/31

Network Award Submissions
Due

4/2-4

Charism Retreat

4/18

Feast of Julie

4/15

DGA Medallion Orders Due

5/1

Network Award Recipients
Announced

6/8-12

Rural Healthcare Student
Experience

NSNO Website

Visit our website to view ***Perspectives from the Sisters of Notre Dame*** and ***Perspectives from the Sisters of Notre Dame: Serving Others, Bringing Hope***, videos highlighting the many good works of the sisters and how they exemplify our rich Catholic Social Tradition. Their stories are vivid examples of the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching at work in our world. This tradition, which flows from the commitment to the dignity of each person as an image of God, is central to our Catholic identity.

The eight Sisters of Notre Dame who share their life's work in meeting the needs of others in the videos and to whom we are deeply grateful are:

Sr. Joyce Marie Bates

Sr. Rita Mary Harwood

Sr. Judeen Julier

Sr. Jane McHugh

Sr. Marla Monahan

Sr. Kathleen Ryan

Sr. Constance Marie Suchala

Sr. Nicole Marie Varnerin

These videos are the result of a collaboration between NSNO and the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office.

Visit the NSNO website to find these videos as well as network updates and valuable resources. Also on the website is helpful information for boards on organizing and implementing board meetings; board roles and responsibilities; board development; and strategic planning.



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

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