



Partnership News

from the SND National Education Office: www.snded.org

“New” and “Old” - timeless examples of delivering educational excellence

In the midst of writing about the dedication of a “new” school within our partnership I began to wonder - how old is the oldest school in our network? A quick look at the websites of our network members brought to light some very surprising results. Old!!! An amazing number of schools in existence today have roots that date back to the 1800’s. What a wonderful testament to the sustainability of the Educational Vision and Principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

First, in with the new



The giant scissors were out in-force when the big blue ribbon was cut to officially open the new home of “The Guardian Catholic School” in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Guardian Catholic School is the result of the merger of two north-side Jacksonville schools: St. Pius V, with 215 students, and Holy Rosary, with 198. St. Pius was founded in 1921 by the Sisters of St. Joseph to educate African American students in Jacksonville. Holy Rosary was founded in 1958. The high school graduation rate of the schools is between 95 and 100 percent with most of the graduates going on to higher education.

Guardian has twice the capacity of the former individual schools and offers an early learning program for 3- and 4-year-olds and two classes for each grade level through eighth grade. The new campus is equipped with the latest in technology, a STEM lab, art and music areas and something that neither school had before - a gymnasium.



Construction of the new building on the Holy Rosary campus was completed in phases to minimize disruption to the Holy Rosary students and professional staff. Notre Dame Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, executive director of education, said the schools have been an important presence on the north-side of Jacksonville.

“When you look at the notion of breaking the cycle of poverty, there’s no better way to do it than education. You direct the course of a person’s life with education. A quality Catholic education nurtures students’ faith-life and teaches them to be productive citizens,” Sister Dianne said. “That is a lifelong gift.”

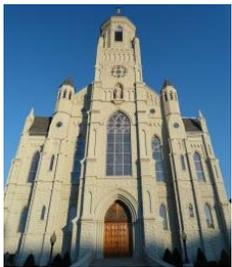
“People have always recognized the schools as the presence of the Catholic Church,” Sister Dianne said. “When we make this kind of financial investment, it shows the people who live here that we have that much confidence in the community.”

Second, celebrating the “old”



Turning the calendar back a few decades, we can see that deep roots often mean long life. Folks that left Europe to escape religious persecution and find new opportunities in America assigned great value to education. The earliest roots in our network of schools belong to **Prince of Peace School in Covington, KY** whose history is tied to St. John School and its founding in 1854. If only widespread use of the camera and George Eastman’s “modern” film had been

in place in the rural counties and developing cities of Ohio and Kentucky we could look back on the simple one-room school houses that so profoundly impacted children’s lives. With a major increase in its student population over the intervening decades, St. John School’s “new school” was dedicated in 1914. It was just a tad bigger than the original log cabin! Building on the foundation of St. John’s School, Prince of Peace School was established in 1986 as a combined urban school to provide quality Catholic education for four of parishes in urban Covington: St. John, Mother of God, St. Ann, and SS Boniface and James. The Sisters of Notre Dame, as well as many other dedicated laity, have taught at the school since 1875.



In response to demographic changes and the financial viability of parish schools, several of our partnership schools have joined forces to create their own network model that helps sustain Catholic education. Heading north from Covington, you’ll pass by a school founded in 1860, **St. Peter School in Canton, OH** - which is a member of Holy Cross Academy. Holy Cross is a school system which brings together ten Pre K - 8th grade Catholic elementary schools in Stark County that celebrate their individual heritages while using human and financial resources more efficiently. St. Peter’s reliance upon the SND philosophy of an integrated education for transformation keeps their deep roots healthy and strong.

Heading up the interstate north and then east, **Saint John School** is the Pre-K to 12 Catholic educational institution serving the Diocese of Youngstown in **Ashtabula County**. Its history includes Saint Joseph Parish - which opened an elementary school in September 1865. After a number of iterations designed to preserve catholic education in the county, a 1997 consolidation of all of the Catholic schools in the Ashtabula area created Saint John Catholic School. Throughout the years, the school has retained its commitment to fostering scholarship, faith and leadership.



Our final leg of the journey takes us west across the top of Ohio to **Queen of Apostles School in Toledo** - which opened its doors as Immaculate Conception School in 1867. Together with Rosary Cathedral Catholic School, Queen of Apostles is administered under the Central City Ministry of Toledo, a branch of the Diocese of Toledo. The two schools stand alone in Toledo’s inner-city neighborhoods in providing a high quality, faith-based education.

These four highlighted schools are joined by many others in our network that count the 19th century in their heritage. While the buildings themselves no longer stand, the cornerstones and roots are still strong and pay homage to an incredible commitment to the value of education and a vibrant faith community.

- St. John School in Delphos, OH - 1869 (early teachers included SND foundress, Sr. Maria Aloysia)
- St. Wendelin School in Fostoria, OH - 1873
- Notre Dame Academy (now combined with Cathedral Latin) in Cleveland, OH - 1878
- St. Joseph School - Cold Spring, KY - 1884
- St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School in Avon, OH - 1885
- St. Francis Elementary School in Cleveland, OH - 1887
- St. Mary Elementary School in Leipsic, OH - 1889

2018 Lenten Journey

The beginning of Lent this year shares the calendar with another noteworthy day on the calendar - St. Valentine's Day. I must admit my first inclination when seeing the shared date was to think "how sad that the happiness of St. Valentine's Day might be diminished by the solemnity of Ash Wednesday". But that's the wrong approach to the beginning of Lent. St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are both about our hearts - the former about celebrating earthly love and the latter about opening our hearts to Christ and preparing to accept a gift far greater than cards, candy or roses.



One way to begin the Lenten journey would be to look to the cross for inspiration. Sr. Mary Paul Grech of the Thousand Oaks Province sent this wonderful prayer that was shared by the Sisters from Coesfeld, Germany and used in their Foundation Day presentation. The prayer has the historic Coesfeld Cross as a centering reflection.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said

*"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine let him take up his cross and follow me."
For centuries people in Coesfeld have looked up to the cross that shows us your suffering.*

When we go to this cross

*or when we carry it through the streets of the town,
it can remind us of our own cross.*

*It can remind us that the paths of life are often thwarted by difficulties, injustice, force,
sufferings of all kinds, illness and death.*

When we come to this cross

*or when we carry it through the streets
we also see the Tree of Life.*

*Then we see the sign of redemption, because you have overcome the cross and death
through your resurrection.*

So today-

in the face of the cross -

*we may pray in complete confidence "Be praised Holy Cross, our only hope."
You, Oh Lord, carried the cross and you also carry our cross with you.*

So today-

in the sign of the cross-

*we may ask you to give strength to us and all people that we take up our cross and follow
you.*

Rice Bowl Materials



Please join our "Global High Schools" (<http://www.snded.org/global-high-school>) in using the CRS Rice Bowl as a Lenten resource. The Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter our neighbor as companions on the Lenten journey, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Throughout its forty years, the program has had a meaningful impact on the student participants and the families who struggle to find even a bowl of rice to alleviate their hunger. To-date, Rice Bowl collections have raised more than \$250 million to support programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world. Twenty-five percent of the funds donated remain in the diocese in which they are raised to address hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those local communities.

CRS has embraced the technology teens love with a Rice Bowl "app" that is available in English and Spanish in the Google Play and App stores. The app features daily reflections, meatless meal recipes, integrated social sharing, and a new way to track Lenten sacrifices.

The National Education Office has a supply of cardboard rice bowls to collect Lenten alms that can be ordered by emailing Lisa Canterbury at lcantebury@ndec.org. Or, you can contact CRS directly for a supply of bowls through a link on their website: <https://www.csricebowl.org>.

Green Ribbon Schools

State Education Agencies (SEA's) are currently accepting applications for the 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program, which recognizes schools in three primary areas known as Pillars: (1) reduced environmental impact and costs, (2) improved health and wellness, and (3) effective environmental and sustainability education. Any school that wishes to be nominated should contact their [SEA contact](#) for application deadlines and further information.



We have a great "green" success story within the SND National Education Network - **Metro Catholic School in Cleveland, Ohio!** Visit their website to learn more about what being green means to a school that is located in a very urban location: <http://metrocatholic.org/about-us/going-green>

If you would like to talk to Metro Catholic about their application experience, please contact Sr. Ruthmary Powers at 216-280-4809 or ruthmaryp@sbcglobal.net. She's happy to share their story!

"S.T.E.M" - it's never too early to start! Check out the new STEM classroom at Maria Early Learning Center in Toledo: <http://mariaelc.org/>. What fun the students will have learning!!

Birthdays of historical proportions....

The month of January is often significant for new beginnings. For the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame, January is the beginning of the beginning - the birth of the two foundresses of the order. 190 years ago on January 9, 1828 Hilligonde Wolbring was born in Rotterdam. Hilligonde would later become Sr. Maria Aloysia.



196 years ago on January 10, 1822 Elisabeth Kühling was born in Münster. Elisabeth would become Sr. Maria Ignatia. Under the guidance of three sisters from Sisters of Notre Dame of Amersfoort the two young women began their formation for religious life, abandoning themselves in strong faith to God's action. Happy Birthday - and AMEN!



2018 National Education Summit - countdown to this summer's "must be there" event!!

We listened to the feedback of those who attended our first Summit in 2015 and have worked hard (extremely hard ☺) to develop a 2018 event filled with experiences that will be enjoyable, memorable, thought-provoking, and spiritually uplifting. Our keynote speakers will make you laugh and think - and give you tools and resources to be an even more effective educator or administrator. Many thanks to the hard working committee members who helped craft the overall agenda and design relevant break-out session topics. We're delighted to bring you the 2018 Summit - which we're confident will be a worthy successor to the 2015 inaugural event!



Dates: June 20 - 22, 2018

Who: The target audience includes presidents, principals, directors, emerging teacher leaders, campus ministers, faculty, tutors and resource volunteers at SND sponsored and affiliated schools. The Summit is, however, open to all interested in the event as well as those in international SND education.

Theme & Focus: The theme for the 2018 Summit will be "Mirrors & Windows". We will reflect on our shared heritage while planning for a future of transformative education that maintains the mission and vision of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The program will focus on leadership development, Charism understanding and SND Educational Vision in today's reality. The Summit process will integrate prayer, knowledge, understanding, action and networking.

Program Elements:

- Daily Keynote Speakers
- Breakout Sessions specifically geared towards administrators, faculty & staff
- Networking options
- Quality Prayer Experiences

Location: Notre Dame College (our only U.S. sponsored college) in South Euclid, Ohio. Just east of Cleveland, the beautiful campus offers plenty of space for general sessions, breakout sessions and housing as well as close proximity to the many wonders of northeast Ohio.

Keynote session leaders Joe Waler, Kelly Croy, Sr. Melannie Svoboda and Fr. Tom Elewaut, V.F. will be joined by a cadre of experts who will facilitate over 25 specialized break-out sessions. The agenda weaves inspiration, education, professional development, and prayer with collegial networking throughout each day.

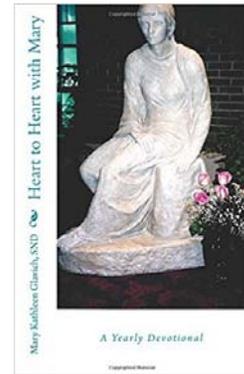
The **Registration link on our website** is live!! Visit <http://www.snded.org/2018-national-education-summit> for the detailed Agenda, Keynote Speaker Bios, Break-out Session Topics, Housing Choices, "Things to see and do while in Cleveland" and the Cost to attend the Summit. Group discount prices are available so that you and your colleagues can band together to attend all 25 breakout sessions and share notes afterwards!

If you have any questions, contact Lisa Canterbury at lcantebury@ndec.org. Meantime, save the date, register soon and we'll see you in June!

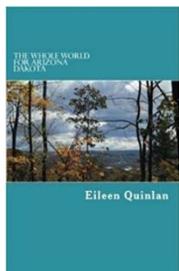
New books to include on your 2018 reading list

Three Chardon Province Sisters have recently added to their list of published works:

An author of over 50 books, Sr. Kathleen Glavich's newest endeavor, "*Heart to Heart with Mary*," contains Mary's words for each day of the year. Mary speaks as our mother who loves and cares for us. Each entry ends with a suggestion for continuing the conversation with Mary. Its daily scripture reflections would tie beautifully with a Lenten commitment to spend more time in prayer. Contact Sr. Kathleen via email at kglavich@ndec.org to purchase copies of the book.



In "*The Whole World for Arizona Dakota: A Story of the Pennsylvania Oil Boom*" Sr.



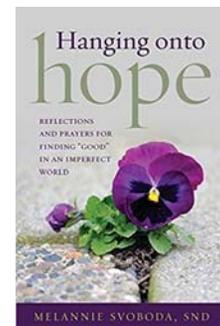
Eileen Quinlan brings to life her great-great aunt Arizona Dakota Long, Kode for short, who grew up in Titusville, Pa., in the late 19th century. Sr. Eileen was inspired to write this piece of historical fiction after conducting extensive research about her family, the Pennsylvania Oil Boom, and the small town of Titusville. Sr. Eileen brings Kode to life as a strong, intelligent and conscientious teen who works hard to support her terminally-ill mother but longs to see the world. Here's the very intriguing summary listed on Amazon.com:

After the Civil War, oil producers became millionaires in western Pennsylvania, while working-class families made ends meet in towns like Titusville. In 1870, thirteen-year-old Arizona Dakota "Kode" Long has to make choices: helping her mother with household tasks and the care of four brothers, earning extra money to supplement her father's income as a harness maker, and struggling for the chance to go to high school. The pressures of her father's drinking and her mother's illness force Kode to let go of one of her most cherished dreams and enter the world of adult responsibilities.

To order a copy of Sr. Eileen's book visit: <https://www.amazon.com>

"*Hanging onto Hope: Reflections and Prayers for Finding Good in an Imperfect World*" is Sr. Melannie Svoboda's latest work. It too can be ordered from Amazon.com. Read on for more information

"A purple petunia growing through a crack in the sidewalk...two small sparrows perched on a roof...seed catalogs in February... Our world is yearning for signs of hope, and with images like these, Melannie Svoboda helps us open our hearts to hope, even in the darkest of times. Here, she explores the relationships between hope and faith, love, courage, prayer, pain, and sorrow. She also offers short prayers and questions for personal reflection or group sharing. This beautiful, touching book is perfect for prayerful meditation. As Sr. Melannie says, "We believers know hope's origin. And we know hope's destiny. That origin and destiny is...God."



As always - many thanks to Partners in Mission for sponsoring our newsletter!

Founded and currently led by Larry Furey, Partners in Mission is "a full-service consulting firm that offers proven strategies and practices to advance the mission of growth and excellence in Catholic schools, dioceses, religious congregations and parishes." For more information visit their website at <http://www.partnersinmission.com>.

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