

UNITED IN MISSION

ATLANTIC-MIDWEST PROVINCE

Transforming the world through education

March 2019



A message from
Judith Schaum, SSND

Dear Sisters, Associates and
Colleagues,

Already it is March and the season of Lent has begun. As we know, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter come, it is not just another day but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

It seems like the perfect time to continue our reflections on the SSND Directional Statement *Love Gives Everything*. In particular, let us consider the sixth statement:

“We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation.”

In this issue of *United in Mission* we celebrate the many ways SSND ministries are already implementing this sixth commitment. I know this list is

not exhaustive. Let us rejoice in the examples described in this newsletter and at the same time, challenge ourselves to find creative ways to personally respond. As you journey through this Lenten season toward Easter, may you grow in a deeper appreciation for who God is and what God has done for you. And may you experience the joy of Resurrection,

Sincerely,

Judith Schaum, SSND
Ministry Services,
Associate Director
jschaum@amssnd.org

It is enlightening to read through the web sites of our ministries or speak with someone who works there. The stories of collaboration with others or the promotion of the dignity of others abound. So, too, do the examples of the care of creation.

Take some time now to enjoy these examples and reflect on your own participation in this commitment from the SSND Directional Statement.

Caroline House

Academy of the Holy Angels

Mother Seton Academy

**Notre Dame of Maryland
University**

Caroline Center

St. Peter School

Institute of Notre Dame

Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School

Sisters Academy

Notre Dame Preparatory School

Academy of the Holy Angels Demarest, NJ

Students at AHA are encouraged to integrate Catholic Social Teaching in their daily lives. As one expression of this commitment, the entire Holy Angels' community spends one day each spring giving service at more than a dozen locations, including food banks, homes for at-risk mothers, daycare centers, nursing homes and environmental centers. Students also sponsor a field day for the students at St. Peter School, Philadelphia, with whom they have an on-going relationship. Another example of collaboration is the annual visit to Caroline House, Bridgeport, CT. During their visit, students help tutor the women in the English language and also provide activities for children in pre-school.



“Going to the border made everything we learn and see on social media and TV real.”

Melina Tidwell-Torres, Academy of the Holy Angels



Caroline House Bridgeport, CT

In support of the Atlantic-Midwest Province's commitment to the goal of universal access to clean water, the women at Caroline House receive their own refillable water bottles and access to filtered water. They no longer use bottled water.

Institute of Notre Dame Baltimore, MD

Since IND is situated in the heart of the city, IND students find ample opportunity to provide care for the hungry and homeless. A student-initiated and organized activity called Project KIND enables students to build long-lasting relationships with middle school girls, which make a remarkable difference in the lives of both the big and the little “sisters.” The program helps younger students gain self-esteem, improve academic skills and feel special. The student leaders gain a sense of leadership and empowerment.





Caroline Center Baltimore, MD

In October 2018, the Caroline Center community watched a video about the SSND partnership with Beyond Borders in Haiti. They learned about the severe water crisis and its many implications in the lives of the Haitians. Generous donations from the staff and trainees amounted to \$2,206 and made it possible to fund six rainwater catchment systems in Haiti restoring access to clean water to a number of communities.

Sisters Academy Baltimore, MD

Monthly, the sixth grade students at SAB visit Coursey Station, a Catholic Charities Senior Community Center. Students enjoy interacting with the residents, providing entertainment and craft-related activities. Students also provide service at Beans and Bread or Paul's Place. In both cases they help serve food or perform other needed activities.



Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School Dundalk, MD

Children participate monthly in an outreach activity. In November they prepared snack bags for the clients of the local soup kitchen, while in December they collected coats for clients at Assisi House, which is a Social Service Outreach Program offering food, clothing and other services to people in Baltimore City.

Notre Dame Preparatory School Towson, MD

Both service and justice work are rooted in the Gospel, and both are integral to NDP's philosophy and spirit. Since 1985, Camp Umoja has provided a summer camp experience to Baltimore City youth. To date, more than 3,300 campers and 1,650 volunteer counselors have been involved in this transformative project. Students have also helped to renovate houses through Habitat for Humanity.

"Volunteering at Camp Umoja helped me realize that I love working with kids and that I want to continue making a difference in children's lives as a pediatric nurse when I am older."

- Sarah Schiavone, NDP



Notre Dame of Maryland University Baltimore, MD

For two years, faculty and staff from the School of Education have visited La Gonave, Haiti, bringing teaching supplies and support to native Haitian teachers. In addition, the School of Nursing also sends students to Haiti to care for persons in clinics, surgical centers, schools and orphanages. NDMU also participates in Agua/Water = Vida/Life, a program where students help to construct artificial wetlands, among other projects.

Mother Seton Academy Baltimore, MD

Community service is an essential component of Mother Seton Academy's holistic education. Some of the many service projects include sending Christmas cards, baking bread for the holidays, visiting with residents of area nursing homes, and cleaning and beautifying the neighborhood.



"It teaches me to help others and the smallest actions can make a big difference."
- Sage Rivera,
St. Peter the Apostle School.

St. Peter School Philadelphia, PA

The elementary school students at St. Peter School participate in a variety of outreach activities. In the spirit of Bishop John Neumann and Mother Caroline Fries, students collect donations for good causes or crises during a monthly solidarity day. They prepared 175 food baskets at Thanksgiving and 57 family gift baskets for Christmas. For Catholic Schools Week, students made treat bags for the local police and fire departments. Giving and caring for others is an important part of their learning experience.

Conclusion:

How do these accounts of our ministries' activities move you to educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation? Who could you approach to join you in pursuing a particular activity that embraces and implements this point of the DS?

United in Mission is a quarterly publication of the Department of Ministry Services, School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province.