

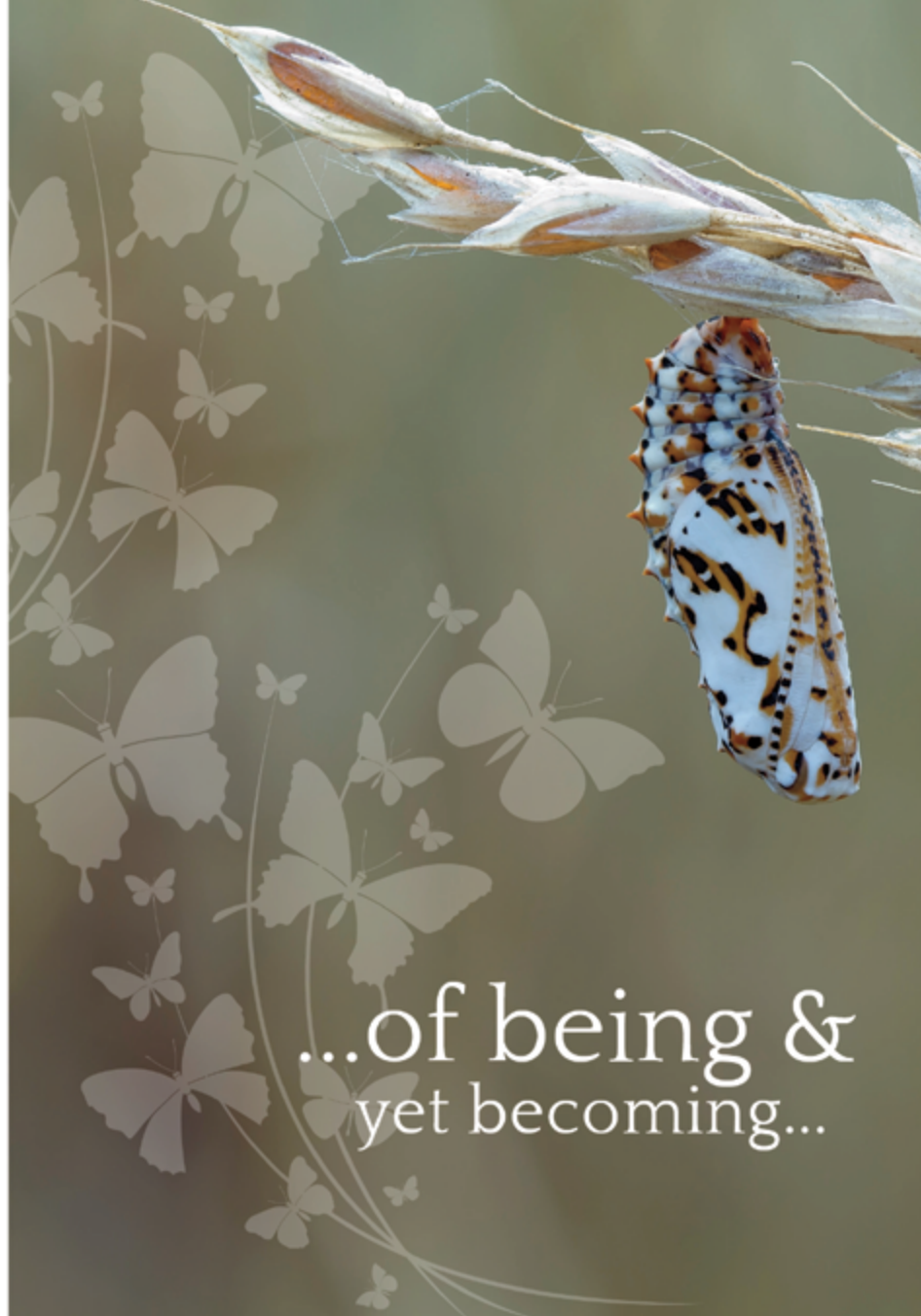


School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world  
through education.

**AUGUST 2025**

# connections



...of being &  
yet becoming...

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*Connections  
August 2025*

1

## A time for everything

by *Sister Regina Palacios, Provincial Councilor*

*There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot. (Ec. 3:1-2)*

August marks the beginning of the harvest season when grain crops ripen in the fields. I saw some early evidence of this on a recent visit to Mankato, where fresh corn on the cob was being sold by a local farmer.

August is also referred to as the driest month of the year; our latest heat waves can surely attest to this. Nevertheless, cooler weather will come, and somewhere, someone will be shoveling snow once



*Sister Regina Palacios  
Provincial Councilor.*

*continued...*

# Connections

**Mission:**

**Connections** newsletter serves as a vehicle for internal communications within the Central Pacific Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The newsletter strives to inform, educate and inspire; to build connections and enhance community; and to future the mission and charism of the congregation.

**Communications Department**

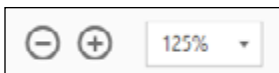
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Please print paper copies only when necessary!

**Next Issue: September 2, 2025**

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Central Pacific Province, 2025.

again.

August is the last month of summer vacation, as stores are stocked full of school supplies - children, some with dread, most with excitement, look forward to seeing their friends and wonder who their new teacher will be. Parents are generally gleeful to return to some form of a routine.

In the reading from Ecclesiastes, the words transition and transformation came to mind in relation to this month. It seems like we are always in some stage of transition: moving to a new location, welcoming a new community member, changing ministries, grieving a loss, harvesting our gardens, waiting for cooler weather, preparing for a new school year or suffering physical decline. Transition is not something new to any of us, we have all had to leave behind the known to embrace the new. Yes, there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.

I recently read an article where the author compared adolescence to the chrysalis stage in the development of a butterfly. Chrysalis is a protective shell wherein the transformation into an adult butterfly occurs. Our lives are in a state of ongoing transformation, as change is a constant presence in our lives. I discovered that the spiritual meaning of the chrysalis is described as the daily pursuit of God, as we change and grow into the perfect person God created us to be - someone beautiful. It is truly in the life, death and resurrection of Christ that we daily live the Paschal Mystery, trusting that one day we will be that beautiful butterfly. You Are Sent reminds us that “we are all in a lifelong process of development, of being and yet becoming” (C 45).

**Chrysalis**

Unknown author

Changing, ever changing  
chrysalis is your name  
who you were in the past  
will not be who you remain.

Changing, ever changing  
emerge with wings anew  
spread them wide  
let them dry  
from the tears that once were you. ●

When did I start changing  
when did I decide  
the time had come to leave the past  
and let that within abide.



**Sister Mary Anne Schaezner celebrates 60 years**

Sister Mary Anne Schaezner celebrates 60 years with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. To learn more read The Catholic Spirit article, [“Sister Mary Anne Schaezner Celebrating 6 decades of sharing the love of Christ.”](https://www.thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/special-sections/jubilees/celebrating-six-decades-of-sharing-the-love-of-christ/) or visit <https://www.thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/special-sections/jubilees/celebrating-six-decades-of-sharing-the-love-of-christ/> ●



*Sister Mary Anne  
Schaezner.*

## Contacting your Member of Congress

by *Sister Suzanne Moynihan and Lisa Demler, Shalom/JPIC Director*



### Introducing the Laudato Si' Action Platform: Year 4!

**SSND Laudato Si' Commitments 2025 2026**

For year four, we are excited to announce a focus on the seven Laudato Si' goals through the lens of **advocacy** – recognizing that we are educators in all we say and do and must heed the crises of the Earth and the poor in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Throughout this year, we look forward to opportunities to gather, learn, pray and engage!

**The 7 Goals**

- Response to Cry of the Earth
- Response to Cry of the Poor
- Ecological Economics
- Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Resilience and Empowerment

**Individuals/Communities**

- Host a **letter-writing** event to your elected officials; submit a letter to the editor.
- **Learn about** and **engage with** organizations and initiatives that share our values.
- Mindfully include the concerns of climate refugees in your **daily prayers**.
- Continue these important **daily practices**:
  - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Being mindful of our consumption.
  - Enjoy meatless meals – Being mindful of our food choices.
  - Choose and advocate for alternatives to single use plastic – Being mindful of better options.
- **Educate, advocate, and act** in support of our SSND LSAP commitment – Being mindful of our responsibility to engage others.

**Departments/Ministries**

- **Incorporate** SSND LSAP commitment into existing goal-setting processes going forward.
- **Encourage** residential and ministry partner organizations to embrace or support SSND LSAP commitment.

**LAUDATO SI' Action Platform**

**Walk with us as we embark on year 4 of our 7-year journey!**

As of July 1, we are officially in the fourth year of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)! The Province's LSAP committee will provide guidance and suggestions throughout the year related to the theme of advocacy.

### Did you know?

School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) throughout the Central Pacific Province reside in 58 different congressional districts within the U.S. House of Representatives. Sisters span more than 20 states, which means there are 40 U.S. Senators who can be contacted. This number is even larger when we consider the vast network of SSND associates, partners in mission and friends.

This first installment on advocacy provides practical tips on how to contact an elected official via letter, phone or email.

Regardless of method, make sure that you:

1. Communicate about **one bill or issue at a time**. The message will often get shared with a staff member or legislative assistant around a specific issue area.
2. Identify where you live in the district /state /territory, providing the city name and ZIP code.
3. Mention any affiliation you may have, such as Catholic, person of faith, sister, associate, concerned citizen, educator, volunteer, etc.
4. Be courteous and express appreciation for their work as a public servant.
5. Explicitly state the bill number and/or title and your position. Ask the official to take a specific action, such as voting no or co-sponsoring a bill or resolution.
6. Make it **personal**. How might this legislation impact your community locally? Share a few sentences that include a personal anecdote of how this legislation would affect you and your community.
7. Restate your ask and express appreciation in closing. Include your signature if it's a physical letter.
8. For a phone call, be prepared to talk with a legislative assistant or leave a voicemail. Keep your message brief.

For communication with members of Congress, you can call or write to their local office (often referred to as an "in-district" office) or to their Washington, D.C. office. These numbers vary by locality. Anyone can be connected to their respective member of Congress through the **U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121**. Save this number in your contacts for easy reference! State your Representative or Senator's name to be connected.

Look up U.S. Congress: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

By the end of August, each sister will receive a document that includes updated contact information for your respective members of Congress and state-level officials. Stay tuned for this helpful resource.

## Template for organizing a letter or email to an elected official

**Your Name**

**Your Address** (include City, State, ZIP code)

**Representative's Name**

**Representative's address**

**Today's Date**

**Greeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph one:** Begin with a brief commendation of something that person did that was favorable or commendable.

**Paragraph two:** Say clearly what you would like the elected official to do, name the bill, the number of the bill or what positive action you would like them to take.

**Paragraph three:** Give your reasons for asking them to promote/vote no on this bill. Include a sentence about a personal event, history or share a short story.

**Brief conclusion:** Thank them for (name action you would like them to take) and ask for a response indicating what they intend to do.

**Sincerely,**

**Your Signature**

**Below signature:** Add all the ways you can be contacted, such as home address, phone and email address. ●



## Open Tomb Celebration held in St. Louis

**T**he Miryam Community at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, held an Open Tomb Celebration to celebrate the Resurrection and Blessed Theresa, May 11. Participants met on the fourth floor for treats and conversation in the community room that overlooks the Mississippi River. ●



*Sisters take part in the Open Tomb Celebration at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. (L to R): Sisters Mary Ann Morley, Dannel Wedemeyer, Virginia Grumich, Charlotte Flarlong, Jackie Selmeyer, Cindy Weber and Geraldine Neier. Photo by Sister Carol Jean Dust.*

## Reflecting: Sisters (and companions) Speak Out

by [Lisa Demler](#), Shalom/JPIC Director

*“There is a reason why my/our vows as consecrated religious persons are public. By virtue of those public vows, we are committed to speaking up, speaking out, standing up for everyone and every aspect of creation. Wherever and whenever human and other than human aspects of creation are threatened, we must act.” ~ Barbara Battista, Sister of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, Co-organizer of Sisters Speak Out*

The above reflection was shared a few days prior in our final Friday meeting before Sisters Speak Out convened in Washington, D.C., across the country and world. As you likely heard, the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) Central Pacific (CP) Province was a co-sponsor of Sisters Speak Out. Given the Gathering’s emphasis on storytelling, I wish to tell you a bit more about this event held June 24, 2025.

Where one of us is, all of us are there. 100-degree heat couldn’t stop over 200 folks from gathering in-person in Washington, D.C. Sister Mary Kay Brooks, Tim Dewane and I were present as representatives of the CP Province – and were joined by a few SSND from the Atlantic-Midwest Province. With cooling towels draped around our necks, souls were stirred from the prophetic witness of several sisters. We prayed the rosary together – the Sorrowful Mysteries – adapted to help us contemplate of the potential harms of the budget bill. You can find a copy of the rosary (both Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries) that were [written for this initiative here](#).

We concluded our gathering with a presentation of letters written by sisters, partners in mission and friends, urging their Senators to vote no on the budget bill, blessing them and those individuals participating in lobby visits to their Senators that afternoon.

More than 60 religious congregations and organizations co-sponsored this effort to bring our moral authority to speak out against the federal budget bill. We convened together – across motherhouse chapels, sidewalks and on the U.S. Capitol grounds - to urge the Senate to reject steep budget cuts that would gut health care and food assistance and expand the detention and deportation of our immigrant siblings. However, the Senate and House did pass this devastating budget bill on a razor-thin margin, and it was signed into law July 4. This is certainly not the outcome we prayed and advocated for, as we know much work remains. It can feel overwhelming or bleak at times. To be honest, I personally felt heartbroken July 3 as I watched the House of Representatives vote and pass the bill. I cried for the impending pain and deaths that will come. So, where is the hope?

I have experienced and tasted hope in the collective. In gathering folks – sisters, lay people, JPIC staff and leaders – we recognize that our network of influence (as Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI articulated at the Gathering) is profound. We must remain rooted in prayer, attuned to the Holy Spirit and willing to have difficult conversations and process conflict, disagreement and tension. Friday’s virtual meetings with Sisters Speak Out folks grounded and focused our energy and built relational power across the computer screens, which I believe has laid an important foundation for collaboration into the future.

As one of the main organizers for Sisters Speak Out over the past few



*Over 200 individuals gathered for the Sisters Speak Out event in Washington D.C. (L to R): Tim Dewane; Lisa Demler; Mary Gunning, Atlantic-Midwest associate; Nancy Dewane; Sister Mary Kay Brooks; and Sister Joan Pickiell. Photo provided by Lisa Demler.*



*(L to R): Little Falls Franciscan Sister Gloria, Sister Mary Kay Brooks and Minnesota Senator Tina Smith's staffer, Grace, participate in a discussion. Photo by Lisa Demler.*



*The organizers of Sisters Speak Out (L to R): Barbara Battista, SP; Lisa Demler; Angie Howard-McParland, Justice Team for Sisters of Mercy; and Eilis McCulloch, HM, Network. Photo provided by Lisa Demler.*

months, I am heartened by the renewed energy folks expressed to work together across geography, generations and charism for a common cause. Over 20 Echo events took place across the country and the world – spanning from outside a county jail in Erie, Pennsylvania, to a motherhouse chapel in California, to our own SSND sisters and associates gathered in prayer and solidarity in Effingham, Illinois.

More than anything, I pray that you continue to recognize the power of your baptismal call to proclaim the Good News and courageously hope and act out of how God calls you in these times. May you know that you are not alone in your desires to live out God’s dream for flourishing of all people and creation.



*(L to R): Participants of the Sisters Speak Out event in Effingham, Illinois. Photo provided by Lisa Demler.*

### **Sisters Speak Out: By the numbers**

- 60+ cosponsoring organizations and congregations – across 40 states and 10+ countries; an estimate of at least 18,000 sisters and associates represented
- 14 Echo events (private/limited to a congregation)
- 17 Echo events open to the public across 11 U.S. states and digitally
- 200+ who braved the D.C. heat from 18 states: afternoon Congressional visits, prayer and conversation with Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Speaker Emerita Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
- News coverage: [GSR](#), [Eloy, AZ Echo Event coverage](#), [Catholic Standard](#)



## **New York Times bestseller taught by SSND**

John Thavis gave a presentation at the Twin Rivers Writers Series, Mankato, Minnesota, Tuesday, June 10, 2025. John discussed his “New York Times bestseller,” “The Vatican Diaries,” and his follow-up book, “The Vatican Prophecies,” as well as his experience covering the Vatican for the Catholic News Service for over 20 years. John was a 1969 graduate of Loyola High School, where he was taught by SSND. Sister Mary Kay Gosch was one of his high school teachers who were in attendance. ●



*(L to R): Sister Mary Kay Gosch, John Thavis and Sister Mary Kay Ash at the Twin Rivers Writers Series, Mankato, Minnesota. Photo provided by Sister Mary Kay Ash.*



The School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province



*Bob Perrotta. Photo provided  
by Ben Brzeski.*



*Lois Vollmer. Photo provided  
by Ben Brzeski.*

## Ministry Commission welcomes two new members

by *Ben Brzeski*, Ministry Office Director

The Central Pacific Province Ministry Commission will be enriched this fall with the addition of two new members. With Eileen Schwalbach completing her second term of service on the Commission and Ben Brzeski going off the Commission to begin work in the Ministry office, two seats were open.

A small subcommittee of the Commission and Ministry Office sought candidates for these open seats and, as has repeated itself in each previous search process, the Holy Spirit has once again called forth a pair of gifted candidates ideally suited for this work and eager to serve.

**Bob Perrotta.** A longtime educator and legal professional, Bob brings a wealth of experience to his work on the Ministry Commission. He served for 39 years as principal of Fairfield Prep, a Jesuit Preparatory School in Connecticut, taught Spanish for 10 years and has served on numerous boards and committees around issues of Ignatian Pedagogy, mission and identity and management and staff development. Bob's deep engagement in Jesuit education at the provincial, national and international level, includes chairing the National Jesuit Board for four years. His experience in forming and assessing education for mission will be a great asset to the commission's work. Now, retired from his work in education, Bob practices law part time.

**Lois Vollmer.** Having been taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) from grades 1-12, Lois then entered SSND and received her BA at Notre Dame College, St. Louis. She taught in SSND schools for several years. When she left SSND, she became an associate 28 years ago. To put it simply, Lois has been formed in the SSND deep story over the course of a lifetime. As principal of a large Catholic school, Lois was responsible for the formation of the learning community. As such, she says, "One of my priorities with the faculty...was always to hire people of faith, support them and continue to offer opportunities for their continual growth." Lois currently serves as part of the leadership team for the associates in Missouri/Illinois and teaches weekly Memory Keepers classes to some retired SSND who live at The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri.

A set of orientation sessions will be held for Bob and Lois over the summer, conducted by Ministry Commission chair, Sister Carol Jean Dust and a "Meet and Greet" Zoom session will take place amongst the full commissioners with the goal of "building the bonds for one mind and one heart." Bob and Lois officially began their three-year terms on the commission July 1 and will participate in their first commission meeting in September. ●



## The Utilization of Photographs and Photo Identifications

Sisters, associates and staff members - Communications will continue to share photos and possibly the names of those in the images, *unless specifically asked not to do so*, on social media, eNews, Connections, One Heart One Mind and the SSNDPCP website. ●





- We were together in a way that made us one family and community. Even the bus rides were part of that community building. I thank all who worked to make it happen.
- It is hard to think of just one word because it was amazing, wonderful, enjoyable, powerful, prayerful, compassionate, inspiring—but I thought since I learned so much, I would say: informative! •



## **Mankato sisters and associates gather with area faith leaders to oppose federal budget cuts**

Sisters and associates gathered with other members of the faith community in front of the Mankato Intergovernmental Center, Mankato, Minnesota, Monday, June 23, holding signs in opposition to the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” and the proposed federal budget cuts on social services in Minnesota and nationwide. Read the Free Press article, “Community faith leaders say there’s nothing beautiful about the “Big Beautiful Bill” or visit [https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local\\_news/community-faith-leaders-say-theres-nothing-beautiful-about-the-big-beautiful-bill/article\\_a64941b9-aea3-4ae5-9dd4-1fd99f6864e5.html](https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/community-faith-leaders-say-theres-nothing-beautiful-about-the-big-beautiful-bill/article_a64941b9-aea3-4ae5-9dd4-1fd99f6864e5.html) •

\*\* If you have viewed 5 or more articles from The Free Press this month, you may not be able to view the above article without a paid subscription.



*Mankato area sisters and associates gather with area faith leaders to oppose federal budget cuts. Photo provided by Associate Theresa Zeman.*

## Concierge doctor vs primary care physician

by *Mary Beth Sevigny*, Nurse Care Coordinator

As we all know, health care today is ever changing. For instance, the way care is delivered, along with a new list of terms, leaves us with more questions than answers. Let's look at the biggest differences between concierge medicine and traditional primary care physicians.

Concierge medicine is a model of health care where patients pay a monthly membership fee in exchange for health care services. This type of health care provider doesn't usually accept insurance. The cost of membership fees can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Some fees can be considerably higher.

According to WebMD, traditional primary care physicians usually manage 2,000+ patients. They will see 20+ patients a day as their revenue depends on the insurance reimbursements. Traditional physicians need this volume to stay financially viable. The results of such a large volume mean shorter appointments and longer waiting times for patients.

In contrast, concierge doctors typically care for 400-600 patients. This means they see only six-10 per day. This smaller patient population means appointments are more meaningful (appointments can last 30 minutes or more), deeper conversations can be held and more thorough assessments can be conducted. Instead of rushing through your symptoms, your concierge doctor has the time to fully focus on you, the patient.

A big frustration with traditional doctors is delayed access, especially when you're sick. Patients can wait days, weeks and even months for an appointment when you are feeling miserable.

Concierge doctors block time each day specifically for the same day or next day acute visits. Essentially, this means that you won't be waiting until next week to receive care from your doctor.

Health care concerns don't follow office hours, but most traditional doctors do. If something happens in the middle of the night or perhaps over the weekend, your options are usually limited to urgent care facilities or the emergency room at a hospital.

Concierge medicine offers the patient some peace of mind with around-the-clock availability. The patient may have direct access to the physician's cell number, 24/7 answering service or an on-call rotation of concierge physicians.

When performing an annual physical, traditional physicians are often pushed for time because of the daily patient load. The patient is often lucky to spend 2-30 minutes performing this important task. If standard tests are ordered, the patient may wait days to be notified of the results. These results are often communicated to the patient via the nurse or a portal.

Concierge physicals are more comprehensive and designed toward the patient's unique needs. Concierge physicians often spend 60-90 minutes with the patient performing an annual physical, including an in-depth conversation with the physician. ●

## Reflections on Guatemala April 2025

by Perry Nigh & Heather Thomas Flores

In April 2025, a team from Global Partners: Running Waters (GPRW) visited Guatemala to connect with our partners there and to see progress on water projects. Here are reflections from two board members who participated.

### Reflection by Perry Nigh:

As a group leader having been to Latin America dozens of times, I am eager to help others experience the warmth of the people and the beauty of the land. Sometimes when I think to myself that I've done this many times, before and I pretty much know what to expect, something will happen that will give me a new perspective.

While visiting a very rural school in Guatemala, as we exited the van and were accosted by smiling grade-schoolers running down the hill to greet us, one of the participants turned to me and said, "Look at all these kids. Why didn't we bring a bunch of toys to give out. This would have been the perfect opportunity?" I posed this question to Sister Jan Gregorcich who has spent much more time than I in Guatemala and led many of these trips. She answered that it is important that we not be seen as just a source of material goods that our presence is more important than our presents. Through our presence we allow them to also enjoy the blessings of being "givers."

Their gift to us was a presentation by the students with music and dance that incorporated much of their culture and traditions. They also shared with us their joy and youthful enthusiasm dancing with us and giving many hugs. Global Partners: Running Waters is about relationships. While it is more blessed to give than to receive, as the saying goes; by receiving we allow others to be blessed by their giving. With this new perspective I was able to enjoy their presentation even more. Thanks for one more lesson Sister Jan!

### Reflection on Guatemala

by Heather Thomas Flores, SSND associate and board member of  
Global Partners: Running Waters

Meeting the women of Chuacaman III, sitting with them and learning about the struggles and barriers they have had to overcome to even get their project considered was an unforgettable experience. The relief and joy that washed over them and the entire community as we shared that GPRW was able to fundraise the amount the community had requested to complete their water project and that the money was being wired that day is a moment forever engraved in my heart and mind. It was truly humbling to be a part of something that has such a far-reaching and lasting impact on the present community and for future generations.

Together, we can make an awesome difference! ●



*The women and men of Chuacaman III. Photo by Heather Thomas Flores.*

## The Gathering welcomed individuals in person and online

The Gathering at the Marriot Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Chicago, welcomed Central Pacific sisters and associates, as well as some members from the Atlantic-Midwest and the Province of Africa leadership team, Mission Leaders and some staff members in person and online during the week of June 30 to July 2. The facilitator, Sara Marks, led the event, along with two guest speakers, Father Bryan Massingale and Sister Teresa Maya. •



(L to R): Associates Amanda Watson, Hawley Iseke, Liz Keller and Sister Mary Kay Brooks at The Gathering, Chicago. Photo by Communications.



Sisters at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, participate in The Gathering online. Photo by IT.



Sister Addie Lorraine Walker at The Gathering, Chicago. Photo by Communications.



(L to R): Sisters Gilda Bruce and Nancy Flamm hold a banner which states, "I commit to widen my circle of friends across boundaries," at The Gathering, Chicago. Photo by Communications.



Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen and other sisters take part in a dancing line at The Gathering, Chicago. Photo by Communications.

Sisters from The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, participate in The Gathering online. Photo by IT.



Sisters at Benedictine Living Community, Shakopee, Minnesota, participate in The Gathering online. Photo by IT.

## School Sisters of Notre Dame says farewell to Judy Maret

Sisters at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, said farewell to Judy Maret, the community care person who organized the activities on the Sophia wing. Judy has a long history with the sisters, going back in time with them to Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. ●

*(L to R): Sister Loretta Bauer and Judy Maret at the farewell event held in Judy's honor at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Photo by Sister Joan Van Beek.*



*(L to R): Sister Roger Marie Postl, Judy Maret and Sister Rose Miriam Phair at the farewell event held in Judy's honor at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Photo by Sister Joan Van Beek.*



*(L to R): Sister Mary Catherine Dundon and Judy Maret at the farewell event held in Judy's honor at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Photo by Sister Joan Van Beek.*



## Sister Ana Marie Reha talks to Trinity Woods

Sister Anna Marie Reha shared her experiences in South Sudan with the sisters and residents of Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, on Sunday, July 6. ●

*(L to R): Sister Anna Marie Reha talked with sisters and residents at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Photo by Sister Carol Fibich.*



## Independence Day celebrations at Trinity Woods

School Sisters of Notre Dame and residents at Trinity Woods celebrated the fourth with a delicious dinner that included barbecue spareribs, burgers and corn on the cob. They also gathered in the mid-afternoon for a sing-along, drawings for prizes and root beer floats. The celebration was capped by fireworks viewed from porches that afforded a marvelous view of displays from the surrounding suburbs. ●



*Sister Barbara Janda paused in the hall before joining the Fourth of July birthday party, which celebrated the country and herself! Photo by Sister Dianne Marie Engelbart.*



*Foreground (L to R): Resident Rita M., Sister Marie Andre Miszewska, Sister Sylvia Hecht and Resident Joe B. took part in singing patriotic songs during the mid-afternoon social at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Photo by Sister Dianne Marie Engelbart.*



## Sisters, associates and friends gather with community members in prayer for U.S. and provide educational materials for contacting congress

In Effingham, Illinois, School Sisters of Notre Dame, associates and friends joined with sisters throughout the United States to pray for the country, June 24. Sisters Jane Boos and Lois Martens invited all sisters in the area, alongside associates and friends, to gather in the chapel at St. Anthony hospital. They used the litany and divided it into three parts so that there could be silence and music between each section. At the end, a fact sheet and sample letter were provided for anyone inspired to take additional action by calling or writing their representatives in Congress. ●

*Sisters, associates and friends gathered with community members and sisters across the U.S. to pray for the country in Effingham, Illinois. Photo provided by Sister Jane Boos.*



## The Basilica of Saint Mary exhibits Sister Mary Ann Osborne's art work

Sister Mary Ann Osborne was invited by the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, to exhibit her work from May 3 to July 27 in the Pope John XXIII Gallery. Throughout the exhibit, Sister Mary Ann explores the theme of Oneness. The Basilica hosted a late-afternoon reception, attended by the public, sisters and associates from both the metro and Mankato areas, June 24. ●



*Sister Mary Ann Osborne's Hallowed Wing art piece shown at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis. Photo by Sister Mary Kay Ash.*

*(L to R): Sisters Anna Louise Kemen and Mary Lorentz stand beside Sister Mary Ann Osborne's art work shown at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis. Photo by Sister Mary Kay Ash.*



## Ice cream social held at Our Lady of the Angels

Sisters and associates gathered for an ice cream social at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin, July 15, 2025. Those gathered participated in a rousing singalong and chatted while enjoying refreshing root beer or orange soda floats. ●

*(L to R): Sisters Gladys Courtade has a special hug for her high school teacher, Sister Marcia Zofkie, during the ice cream social at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. Photo by Sister Dianne Marie Engelhart.*



## High tea at St. Anthony's Gardens

Sisters at St. Anthony's Garden, Covington, Louisiana, participate a high tea, Sunday, July 20, 2025. ●

*Around the table are Sisters Marcelle Stos, Helen Roper, Nancy McNemar, Gemma Dittle, Colette Kraus, Gloria Cain and Dorez Mebrtens participate in high tea at St. Anthony's Gardens, Covington, Louisiana. Photo provided by Sister Colette Kraus.*



# Central Pacific Province Calendar

## August

- 2 Associates Gather in Orange, California:** 12 p.m. PDT. Contact Sister Gilda Bruce at [gbssnd@att.net](mailto:gbssnd@att.net) or Janice England at [jkengland89@gmail.com](mailto:jkengland89@gmail.com).
- 2 Kyoto Associates and Pre-associates Meeting:** Contact Midori Teranishi for details at [terani-6@maia.eonet.ne.jp](mailto:terani-6@maia.eonet.ne.jp).
- 3 Jubilee Celebration:** Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis.
- 5 Communal Contemplation:** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. CDT via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting.](#)
- 9 Mankato Associates Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. CDT at St. John's Episcopal Church in Mankato, Minnesota. Contact Carol Schmidt for more information at 612-443-3347 or [rr2box125@gmail.com](mailto:rr2box125@gmail.com).
- 9 Dallas Associates Meeting:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. CDT, St. Augustine Community. Guest Speaker: Sister Anna Maria Reha. Contact Sister Maria Gomez for details and zoom link at [mgomez@ssndcp.org](mailto:mgomez@ssndcp.org).
- 10 Louisiana and Mississippi Associates Meeting & Sister Baby Shower:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CDT St. Anthony's Gardens, Covington, Louisiana. Contact Chris Ingrassia at 301-266-0433.
- 12 Communal Contemplation:** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. CDT via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting.](#)
- 12 Illinois & Missouri Associate Gathering:** 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. CDT. Sisters and associates welcome. Contact Sister Charlotte Flarlong at [cflarlong@ssndcp.org](mailto:cflarlong@ssndcp.org), Norma Struempf at [nlscedarlane@gmail.com](mailto:nlscedarlane@gmail.com) and Lois Vollmer at [vollermerlois@gmail.com](mailto:vollermerlois@gmail.com).
- 19 Communal Contemplation:** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. CDT via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting.](#)
- 19 Coolville Associates:** 11 a.m. EDT (10 a.m. CDT) St. Ambrose Hall. Join via [ZOOM](#) link.
- 19 Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota Associate Zoom Meeting:** 2 p.m. CDT. Contact Barb Garding to receive zoom link at [barbgarding54@gmail.com](mailto:barbgarding54@gmail.com).
- 26 Communal Contemplation:** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. CDT via Teams. [Click here to join the meeting.](#)
- 31 St. Augustine Party in Milwaukee Area:** 2 p.m. CDT at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee. Contact Judy Maret at [judymaret@wi.rr.com](mailto:judymaret@wi.rr.com).

## September

- 1 Labor Day Holiday.**

◆ The diamond indicates calendar events that are open to the public. Consider sharing these events with family, friends, coworkers and parishioners.

## Share with us what is happening

We encourage readers of Connections to let us know about upcoming events, or to share quick reports and photographs from events that have already happened. We will share them under "Around the Province" and perhaps share on Facebook or Instagram.

You may share them with Connections editor, [Heidi Sampson](#). Thank you for helping to make Connections the best it can be.