Celebrating Foundation Day at Notre Dame Elementary School in Los Angeles comes with some wonderful traditions. Each year the 8th grade leadership tells the story of Sister Aloysia and Sister Ignatia to their "school family," and emphasizes the Sisters’ love for the orphan children and the poor. The students integrate this with the school theme for the year which is "Soaring into the Future" through Habits of Mind by posting notes on a circle map. Then sandwiches are made for individuals and families living in a nearby homeless shelter, which is a wonderful way to acknowledge the early work of the SND foundresses.

Students from the second grade at St. Agnes School in Fort Wright, KY visited the sisters at St. Joseph Heights SND Provincial Center. The blanket in the picture below was made by some of the older students for a sister because she has been ill. What a lovely connection between our youth and the sisters who have played a vital role in education at St. Agnes!

Double ARC in Toledo, OH celebrated their 25th anniversary with a very special “Kaleidoscope of Children” breakfast. Among the 300 attendees were parents and foster parents of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) who spoke about the value of Double ARC’s services.
Rebeckah, a Double ARC client pictured below, is handing out blue stress reliever balls in the shape of a brain to remind folks that FASD is permanent brain damage due to prenatal alcohol exposure. A number of Sisters of Notre Dame were a part of the celebration – serving as a Table Captain, board member, or representing their ministry. Breakfast is indeed the most important meal of the day!

Lots (lots!) of tears were shed at the farewell reception for Sr. Mary Ann Culpert as she said goodbye to the Toledo Notre Dame Academy community and packed her bags for Rome as one of the new SND congregational leaders. The reception was a beautiful testimony to Sr. Mary Ann’s NDA 16 year legacy, including 11 years as president — plus four years as a student there. It was evident Sr. Mary Ann was loved by the NDA school community and will be missed.

One of the hundreds of folks who came to wish Sr. Mary Ann a fond farewell was Mary Westphal, Vice Chair of the NDA Board of Trustees. Mary serves as Executive Director of the Northwest Ohio Affiliate of Susan G. Komen, and was recently honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northwest Ohio Chapter as the 2016 “Outstanding Fundraising Professional”. Congratulations Mary!
St. Augustine School in Covington, KY celebrated a major milestone earlier this year - their 100th year of education! Congrats to the staff, faculty, students and families of the St. Augustine community – and happy birthday!

And in lands far, far away …

Sr. Hema from Kainjalia, India shared photos from “Environment Day” at her school. The program is called “Each One Plant One” as students plant lots of wonderful green plants in and around the school. It helps them appreciate the beauty of nature and their surroundings.
Finally, there’s good news from the Sisters of Notre Dame mission in Uganda, East Africa.

*The Daily Monitor* in Uganda reports that Notre Dame Senior Secondary Academy (NDA) in Buseesa is the second best school in the entire country. The ranking was determined after the Uganda Ministry of Education sought to determine which schools provide the most holistic development of their students. Schools received a higher ranking in the research if they admitted students with average academic ability and fewer resources, but taught the students to perform well academically as well as life skills that are not measured in exams. Kudos to all in Buseesa!