



FROM THE OFFICE OF US COMMUNICATIONS

The Promise of New Life

Last April many of us donned homemade face masks so we could go about our daily lives to buy groceries or pick up a prescription at the pharmacy.

It was an uncertain time as the nation tried to figure out what was happening with this new virus in Seattle, New York, the entire country as well as the world. Few of us realized that we would experience such a long and painful journey and that we would still be wearing facemasks as we prepared for Easter 2021. The difference this year is that we can realistically sense that better days are ahead.

In some ways this past year parallels our Lenten journey. At the beginning of Holy Week, it is reassuring to realize that we are close to Easter Sunday, but we know that our long path forward includes the exhilaration of Palm Sunday, the profound significance of Holy Thursday, the deep pain of Good Friday and the anticipation of Holy Saturday before we can sing our alleluias and celebrate the Resurrection and the fulfillment of the promise of new life.

Despite the challenges of the past year, it has been breathtaking and reassuring to see so much creativity, resilience

and hope in the Notre Dame de Namur community. The stories we share in this April issue reflect these qualities and the enduring commitment to the mission of Notre Dame and the belief in the goodness of God in every circumstance and in every time.

May the promise of new life fill our hearts and give us strength, hope and joy this Easter!



Meg Glendon
Director of US Communications



SPOTLIGHT ON: NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE – CONNECTING NATURE AND HEALTH

Notre Dame Health Care in Worcester is excited

to celebrate the Arbor Day Foundation's recognition of Notre Dame Health Care as an Arbor Day Tree Campus Health Care Program. They are the first health care organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to receive this honor.

Karen M. Laganelli, Chief Executive Officer of Notre Dame Health Care said: "We are so honored to be among those recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation and their Tree Campus Healthcare Program. This past year has taught us all to appreciate the majestic beauty of nature all around us and the healing power of our green environment for those we serve. We are blessed to have a beautiful campus surrounded by trees, young and old, to help nurture the body, mind and soul."

According to Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Campus Health Care recognizes health institutions that make a mission-aligned impact on community wellness through tree planting, education and community engagement, saying, "Trees can play an important role in patient recovery and overall community wellness. This designation is a sign of a health care facility's commitment to the connections between trees and wellness."

As Sue Strandberg AND, the Workforce Development Manager of the Educational Bridge Center shared, "Given the beauty of our Notre Dame Health Care Campus and our ongoing commitment to the Care of Creation participating in a project which paved the way for this honor was a natural fit."

Over the course of the past year, an advisory committee, which included Notre Dame Health Care Groundskeeper and horticulturist Sandy OBey, worked on key standards required for this designation. In addition to forming an advisory committee, they developed a tree care plan, participated in a community forestry



Top - Notre Dame Health Care, Worcester, MA; **Bottom** - Sue Strandberg AND, Workforce Development Manager; Angela Lajoie, Payroll & Benefits Administrator; Mike Randone, Director of Mission Integration; Rosemary Fay, SNDdeN; José Alvarez Rodriguez, ND du Lac Housekeeping; Shelley DePalo, At Home Office Manager; **Not pictured** - Stacy OBey, Grounds Manager; Deb Leone, LTC Medical Supply; Jylliane Alvarez, LTC/Pedi Pals Pastoral

project with the Greater Worcester Land Trust, made a commitment to invest in the care of trees on their campus, reached out to the Notre Dame extended community and are sponsoring an education campaign about the connection between trees and health.

Mike Randone, Director of Mission Integration said, "We entered into this project with the idea of learning about the impact of trees on the environment and the health and well-being of our patients, staff, community and all who interact with Notre Dame Health Care. We saw this as an excellent way to remember Sister Dorothy Stang during her 15th Anniversary Remembrance Year. This

Arbor Day program encourages activities that protect and improve the environment through the planting and care of trees and offers the opportunity to participate in an environmentally sound coffee program that protects the shade trees in the Amazon."

As we all anticipate celebrating National Arbor Day on April 30, 2021, this might be an opportune time to consider participating in an Arbor Day project.

Congratulations to Notre Dame Health Care in Worcester! Stay tuned for photos of the Arbor Day Foundation Celebration and for more information on tree shade saving coffee in the next edition of this eNewsletter.



US SNDdeN Sign-on Letters

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur signed on to a letter to the 117th Congress in February for the support and vote for H.R. 1/S, the For the Peoples Act. This transformational democracy reform package would help return power to everyday American families and amplify the voices of communities that historically have been marginalized in US democracy.

REGIONAL NEWS

Providing Healing Nests for God's Little Creatures

Sister Florence Maier continually finds ways to use her crocheting skills for others! Recently Sister Jane Funch told Florence about Wildlife Rescue Nests (WRN), an international non-profit begun by one woman in Ontario, Canada. It provides crocheted nests to wildlife rehabilitators who rescue endangered animals until they can return to the wild.

To attract volunteer nest makers, WRN launched a Facebook page in 2013. People responded, but often their nests were unsafe for the animals. WRN created and tested six patterns with rehabilitators for safety. Potential volunteers applied on-line and submitted crocheted work.

After Florence applied and was accepted, WRN sent her six nest patterns. Watching



Ducks taking refuge in crocheted baskets

Florence crochet motivated Sister Dorothy Deger to apply. Both Florence and Dorothy are now *Registered Wildlife Nest Makers!*

Since 2015, volunteers have provided over 36,000 safe nests for more than 500 wildlife refuges in the United States,

Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, India, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Costa Rica.

Florence and Dorothy have a list of wildlife rescuers in the United States. They ask those east of the Mississippi River for the quantity and kinds of nests they need. Crocheters cover the costs of yarn and postage to send the nests. Rescuers send photos of the nests in use to WRN to post on Facebook or on the website to thank the volunteers and attract more.

Saint Francis of Assisi surely smiles on Florence and Dorothy. To see the animals in their nests, go to <https://wildliferescuenests.weekly.com>. It will warm your heart!

Rita Sturwold, SNDdeN

Craic at the Zoom Pub

On the high holy day of Saint Patrick, March 17, we Irish lassies gathered for Craic, defined as *good times in the best of company*. 'Twas a virtual party, of course in these Covid-19 times but that did not dim the spirits of those participating. Some dropped in, then dropped out, but as far as we know none dropped dead. We were between 20 and 30 Craicers, but who was counting? We hailed from East to West and North to South. The sharing was rich – good stories and funny jokes garnered by willing participants, a poem by Sister Kathleen Haughey's cousin about Dinny and Patsy; Sister Kathleen O'Brien's traditional story about the cat on the roof;

some Irish sing-along songs, and the blessed joy of seeing each other's faces!

Sister Tracy Dill offered three door prizes; mailing costs covered. The prizes went to the first three sisters who could answer the questions related to Ireland posed by Sister Kathleen O'. The winners are: Sisters Louann Sciubba, Marilyn Pechillo, and Mary Ellen Howard. As the two hour Zoom limit edged closer, we ended the gathering with an Irish blessing and the magnificent voice of



Frank Patterson singing Our Lady of Knock. A good time was had by all!

Barbara English, SNDdeN

REGIONAL NEWS

World Hunger Focus at Oxfam Hunger Banquet in Worcester

Adapt: yes. **Cancel:** no. The recent Oxfam Hunger Banquet, held at Notre Dame Academy, Worcester, Massachusetts, fulfilled its two main aims: sharing factual information about “Third World” countries and collecting money to help these developing nations.

Coordinating this activity for the 30th consecutive year was Sister Evelyn McKenna. This year, Evelyn knew some details would need Zoom adaptation. Students involved in this banquet were to have it listed as an extra-curricular activity. That meant keeping track of Zoom attendance. Evelyn had noticed on First Class that Sister Mary Corripio in Japan had done that with some of her students. To solve the NDA problem, Evelyn contacted Mary some 7,000 miles away to learn how to manage this issue. Problem solved.

Students mastered the Zoom switching from the opening hymn and prayer to statistical Oxfam information on world economic levels. For this particular banquet, all participants were placed in low-income countries and instructed to eat accordingly during their brief meal break. They were prepared to do this. Donated money was to come from

supper savings, augmented by whatever they or their families chose to contribute.

Not eating together may have made it difficult for participants to maintain the spirit of the banquet. But bringing the students right back to Third World awareness were main speakers: Sisters Bobby English and Mary

Alice McCabe. Both spoke from their Brazilian experience.

Bobby emphasized how the Brazilians established cooperatives, worked with an agronomist, and became self-sustaining. They also organized against dangerous environmental practices of Alcoa Aluminum. Oxfam helped finance this grassroots work.

Mary Alice led the students through the steps some Brazilians took to “find their



Sister Evelyn McKenna (Far Right) and students from Notre Dame Academy, Worcester, Massachusetts

own voice.” This liberation was not what the people had heard from Christianity for their past 400 or more years. The change in thinking is described in her book, “History in Our Hands.”

The 30th annual hunger banquet introduced pandemic-driven changes. The students may decide to incorporate some of them in next year’s gathering when life has returned to “normal.”

Ann Marie Cook, SNDdeN

ANTI RACISM TEAM

We are all interconnected

During this Lenten season, our parish community is reflecting on the words of Dr. King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Dr. King reminds us of our “interconnectedness” and that “whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” So it is with the twin pandemics of racism and COVID. As I have come to be keenly aware of how my actions and inactions can affect the transmission of the virus, I too am becoming aware of how my actions and inactions contribute to the dismantling of my racist thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

When I fail to recognize that I am abusing my privilege as a white woman, I am directly and indirectly perpetuating racism. When I fail to recognize and appreciate the

differences of race and culture, I am directly and indirectly perpetuating racism. And, when I fail to speak out against these things, I am directly and indirectly perpetuating racism.

Pope Francis, in “Fratelli Tutti” wrote, “You can never restore hope and renewal by isolation and withdrawal into your own interests”. During these remaining days of my Lenten journey, my reflection has become: “Good God, help me to recognize ways that I can restore hope and renewal despite my isolation, help my awareness of the interconnectedness of us all continue to grow. Amen.”

Sabrina Harper, AND

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Intersectionality - a vital concept

The term “intersectionality” is gaining traction in the news. For all interested in creating a more just and peaceful society, it is worth our while to study and reflect on this concept. It calls us to deepen our analysis to address the not so visible root causes related to justice and peace issues.

The term intersectionality came after the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 that banned discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. As important as the Civil Rights Act is, it is often applied on a single-issue basis.

Kimberle Crenshaw, Esq. realized that this single focus application was insufficient to address the “double discrimination” that she and others experienced as African American women. Attorney Crenshaw coined the concept of intersectionality which she



described in a Ted Talk video, [The Urgency of Intersectionality](#).

Intersectionality considers all the factors that apply to an individual in combination rather than considering each factor in isolation. An example of this view happened after the recent mass shootings that occurred in Atlanta.

In her speech in Atlanta just after this violent

tragedy, Vice-President Kamala Harris spoke at Emory University. While she did not use the specific term intersectionality, her remarks reflected that concept.

Vice-President Harris said, “Whatever the killer’s motive, these facts are clear: Six out of the eight people killed on Tuesday night were of Asian descent. Seven were women. The shootings took place in businesses owned by Asian Americans. The shootings took place as violent hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans have risen dramatically over the last year and more.”

By including the concept of race as well as gender, the Vice-President broadened the discussion to consider the intersectionality of race and gender as key factors to consider as this violent crime is adjudicated.

Maura Browne, SNDdeN

NOTRE DAME MISSION VOLUNTEERS

Honoring our roots

Notre Dame Mission Volunteers honored its various roots during AmeriCorps Week and National Catholic Sisters Week, both celebrated during the week of March 7-13. Service sites and NDMV staff took time to formally recognize and thank this year’s Notre Dame AmeriCorps members for their service. During such tumultuous times, their ongoing presence (virtually or in person) in classrooms and community centers is greatly appreciated! Members also had unique opportunities throughout the week to network with other AmeriCorps and faith-based volunteer programs and to participate in special service projects. Our team in Dayton planted raised flower beds and members in Apopka served youth at a medical clinic.

Social media platforms were abuzz all week with appreciations from service sites for their members and their service.

Alumni were spotlighted as they shared their stories of service and how it impacted their choices post-service.

There was also plenty of gratitude shared for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and their lasting impact on the program. NDMV combines the values of reaching the poor and leveraging the resources of two significant institutions: AmeriCorps and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

This year of AmeriCorps service is a glimpse into the lifetime of service to which sisters are dedicated. We are grateful for their example and leadership at this intersection.

Be sure to follow along on Facebook, [com/NotreDameMissionVolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/NotreDameMissionVolunteers). Our



Dayton NDMVA members in action

most popular post during the week was our celebration of the Sisters! We are also frequently posting updates about our program and members’ impact in their communities!

Caroline Menendez, NDMVA

TECH TIP



- Kristin Hokanson,
SNDdeN

I often receive many questions regarding a technology concern or question . . . my advice is simple: **Google It**



- Interest in learning more about an event or school online . . . **Google It**
- Not sure of the correct spelling for a word . . . **Google It**
- Not sure what an “error message on a computer screen means” . . . **Google It**
- Not sure how to use Zoom on an iPad . . . **Google It**
- Not sure how to increase your print size . . . **Google It**
- Not sure of what a prescription means . . . **Google It**

. . . **Google** is the most-used search engine that provides safe and trusted answers to any question you may have online. It can help you order something, look up the latest news, and troubleshoot any technical issues you may face during during an experience.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE US ENEWSLETTER

The deadline for submitting articles for this eNewsletter is the **20th of each month**.

We ask that any article submitted be no longer than **250** words. It is a good idea to ask someone to help with proofing and editing.

Please send your submissions to the US eNewsletter or to your Unit Content Gatherer listed below.

US ENEWSLETTER CONTENT GATHERERS

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation:

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