On Saturday, August 18, Sister Maria Christina Hennig and Sister Mary Judine Lambert made their profession of perpetual vows as members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

**Sister Mary Judine**, went through a re-conversion in 2000. "As a lifelong Catholic I knew I had to follow God ... God was drawing me irresistibly toward him," said Sister Mary Judine. "With each new challenge, he unfolded more of his will for me." She began to discern with the Sisters of Notre Dame in 2002 and at the same time felt drawn to pastoral care.

She earned a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministry from the Athenaeum of Ohio. Sister Mary Judine professed temporary vows in 2007, and from 2008 to 2010, worked as a Staff Chaplain at Springfield Regional Medical Center, Springfield, Ohio. From 2010 to present, she serves as a Staff Chaplain at St. Claire Regional Medical Center, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

**Sister Maria Christina** was born in Varberg, Sweden. After high school she studied economic history at the University of Lund, Sweden, and political science at the University of Hamburg, Germany. She made a career in sales and marketing and on weekends volunteered with marginalized women. She began to experience a call to religious life and joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in Vechta, Germany, in 2000 where she made her first vows in 2004. While Sister Maria Christina worked as a Socio Therapist in a women’s prison, she continued her education at the Jesuit University of St. Georgen, Germany, studying Spiritual Direction. Upon graduation she served as a director for the Hamburg Archdiocesan office helping women, families, and individuals in crisis pregnancies.

Since arriving in the United States she continues her education. She is in the process of completing her studies for a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling. "I am very happy and blessed to be in this community of the Sisters of Notre Dame," said Sister Maria Christina. Sister Maria Christina believes her vocation is a desire to be closer to Jesus and to find God in everyday life.

The Sisters of Notre Dame welcome Sister Mary Judine and Sister Maria Christina with great joy as perpetually professed members of their religious community.
A Message from the Provincial

The Year of Women Religious was designated by Bishop Foys and the Diocese of Covington beginning in February, 2012. We will celebrate with an Open House at our Provincial Center on October 14 from 1:00 to 4:30 PM including tours and refreshments. All are welcome to this event. We are grateful for the opportunities this year has provided us in sharing our vocation to religious life with the people of our diocese.

The four U.S. provinces of our international congregation, Cleveland, Toledo, Los Angeles, and Covington, continue our strategic planning. Our focus is to determine how we can be most effective in mission, as we embrace our congregational vision statement: … "we proclaim God’s goodness and provident care, united in one heart, one hope, one mission, committed to global transformation."

This summer has been a season of great joy and celebration as we honored twelve sisters on their jubilees ranging from 25 to 65 years. On August 18th, we welcomed Sister Mary Judine Lambert and Sister Maria Christina Hennig into our community as they made their profession of perpetual vows.

Our Uganda mission, also cosponsored with our Los Angeles, CA, province, continues to flourish. Recently we met with an intercultural consultant to prepare the next strategic plan for the mission. We are committed to ensure our Uganda mission achieves long-term viability and sustainability, and will continue to develop this strategic plan during our annual visit to Uganda in September.

We continue to pray for God’s abundant blessings on you and those you love. We are grateful for our partnership with you in the mission of Jesus.

Sister Marla Monahan, SND

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection

The annual Ash Wednesday Day of prayer and reflection, scheduled for February 13, 2013, from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM, will take place at the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial House. The theme of the day will be openness as seen in the lives of Mary, John the Baptist, the Apostles, and Jesus. The day will include lecture, reflection time, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and distribution of ashes. The cost for the day is $20.00, and lunch will be provided.

Sister Mary Charleen Hug, SND, our presenter, is a Sister of Notre Dame from Toledo, Ohio. Sister’s background includes work in the fields of theology, education, and faith formation.

Please send your registration to Sister Mary Dennise Wagenlander, 1601 Dixie Highway, Covington, KY 41011 by Wednesday, February 1, 2013. Questions regarding the retreat can be directed to Sister Dennise, at 859-392-8101 or smddennise@sndky.org All NDA alumnae, guests, and friends are invited to attend.

Send check payable to Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Dennise, SND, 1601 Dixie Highway, Covington, KY 41011. Attn: Day of Reflection
The Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (DCCH), located in Ft. Mitchell, KY, recently completed and dedicated their new multi-purpose facility and welcome center. The center is named the “Sisters of Notre Dame Welcome Center” in recognition of the years of service given by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Over the past 135 years, the Sisters of Notre Dame have played an integral role in the care of children and the administration of two orphanages. The Diocesan Catholic Children's Home came about as a result of a merger in 1961 between St. Joseph (Cold Spring, KY) and St. John Orphanages (Ft. Mitchell, KY).

The DCCH Center for Children and Families helps rebuild the lives of children with traumatic, emotional and behavioral difficulties. The unique, on-site personalized approach allows each child to thrive socially, mentally, and physically, and to make positive, permanent life changes. Services include residential treatment, foster care, adoption, therapy, and training services to children, families and residents in the community.

In 2008 DCCH underwent a capital campaign after a feasibility study indicated renovations were needed in order to continue to adequately care for the children. Despite starting the campaign in a failing economy, it was successful surpassing the goal of $3.5 million.

The Welcome Center was complete in December of 2011. The new facility houses classrooms, administrative offices, a counseling department, and a gymnasium. It is licensed for 34 students ranging in age from 6 to 14. The average length of stay is 9-16 months. The goal of the organization is to transition children back to their families or to foster or adoptive homes.

DCCH Center serves children in need in the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati areas. The campus is located on 83 acres. Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, SND, serves as administrator, and Sister Pamela Mae Geiger, SND, works in development and foster care.

The Sisters of Notre Dame recognize many people who have been partners in mission at DCCH. They are honored that their ministry at the Home has been recognized in the naming of the Notre Dame Welcome Center.

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We remember with love and gratitude Sister Mary Emmanuel (Dolores) Ehlman, who entered eternal life on May 11, 2012. Sister Mary Emmanuel, the youngest of seven children, was born on January 15, 1914, to August and Elizabeth Ehlman. From an early age Dolores knew her calling was to enter religious life. During her high school years she started this journey, committing her life to Christ.

Sister Mary Emmanuel spent 17 years as a teacher and administrator in schools in Bellevue, Covington, and Park Hills, Kentucky, as well as Bond Hill, Loveland, and Linwood, Ohio. She loved teaching, especially the upper grades for it gave her interaction with students and parents. Some of her fondest memories were from St. Agnes in Bond Hill, Ohio.

In 1954 Sister’s responsibilities turned to being a librarian at Notre Dame Academy. Later she was appointed Superior of Notre Dame Academy and oversaw the planning and construction of the building on Hilton Drive.

Then in 1964, Sister was assigned as the librarian at Carroll High School in Dayton, Ohio, where she served for the next 18 years. In 1982, she was once again assigned to Notre Dame Academy as head librarian until her health began to fail in 2001.

Sister Emmanuel lived at the Provincial House for the next eleven years, celebrating her 75th Jubilee. Gradually her ministry became one of quiet and prayer until she slipped into eternity on May 11, 2012.

Sister Emmanuel was a strong, compassionate woman with a zest for life. Her forethought and social-minded thinking brought to fruition great accomplishments. She will always be remembered as a woman who relied on God for strength and courage. May she rest in peace.
Living Out Our Mission in Uganda, East Africa

At the conclusion of the 2011 academic year, all students, with one exception, scored in the top group on the national exam for senior high students. The one student scored one point below. Success stories of graduates reveal that many have taken to heart the encouragement to return to the Kibaale District and work to give back to the area and support development. One young man has completed his advanced studies and is going to begin a business in a nearby town with several other young men. Another is completing his studies in telecommunications. One has a position with an NGO organization that assists people to get medical help, especially those suffering from TB and AIDS. At the same time he is completing studies that will qualify him as a CPA. A young woman has completed a nursing program. All of these graduates are contributing to the development of their country and our world.

Another graduate is a medical student who was doing his practicum work in the Kibaale District, where the Ebola virus broke out. A fellow worker, the head nurse, died of Ebola along with her infant daughter. The young man was put under quarantine for several weeks. Recently he stopped in to see the Sisters, relating how frightened he was and how he prayed. His desire is to be a medical doctor.

Results like these indicate good teaching to students who take their education seriously and who are willing to apply themselves to their studies. With financial help received while at St. Julie School and Notre Dame Academy, students are definitely making a difference in their world.
Sister Mary Lea Paolucci, SND, wrote the first chapter of a 2012 water disinfection project in St Julie Mission when she talked with her engineer nephew, Steve Froehlicher. After describing the efforts of NDA student Kelly Kleier to design a water pump for a developing country, Sister Lea quickly learned that Steve was also involved with a water project. He partnered with EDGE Outreach (www.edgeoutreach.com), which recently became WaterStep, in developing a water disinfection system using electricity, salt, and water to produce chlorine, which could be pumped through a water storage system to destroy any disease-causing microorganisms.

Sister Lea put Steve in contact with Sister Mary Ethel Parrott, SND, and they discussed the possibility of using the system in Uganda where up to now water has been purified by either boiling or adding chemicals.

Steve and colleagues at EDGE met with Srs. Lea, Mary Ethel, Judith Averbeck, and Rita Geoppinger in Louisville at the Christmas holiday to demonstrate the system. Sister Rita, who oversees water purification at the mission, determined that the system could be useful in disinfecting large tanks of water. In early June, Sister Mary Ethel and Karen Averbeck, Sr. Judith’s niece, attended a training workshop on cultural realities and installing such a water system in a developing country.

On July 2, loaded down with tools and components, Karen and Sr. Mary Ethel began their journey to Uganda. Sponsors had funded the electrolysis units and solar panels needed to charge the batteries in the field. After meetings with staff on site, water quality testing, and assessing the local situation, plans were drawn up for the installation of units at the two sites where drinking water is dispensed to the nearly 600 residents.

Irumba, the local maintenance manager, worked with Sr. Mary Ethel and Karen on the installation in preparation for becoming the day-to-day operator of the system. Although Irumba had never worked with PVC pipe, he learned quickly. After a rough mock-up and test run, followed by the inevitable troubleshooting, the design for each of the tank systems was finessed and the system was installed.

Children at St. Julie were fascinated by the activity at their water tanks and often had to be shooed away so that work could proceed. Once the system was operational, seven classes, plus interested adults, attended age-adjusted lessons on how the system was cleaning the contaminated water that flowed into the rain barrels off the roofs.

**Greatest Gift to Give: Education**

Give the gift of education: sponsor a Uganda Student. A donation of $600 will help defray a portion of the cost to educate a student for the year. Donations to the scholarship fund can be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Sponsors will receive a picture and a letter from your sponsored student. For more information contact Sister Mary Margaret Droege at 859-392-8109 or email her at mmdroege@sndky.org.
During the past year we have been able to provide emergency education tuition funds to the schools served by our community, especially in the urban area. We have also subsidized student mission trips, both locally and internationally.

Our St. Claire Medical Center continues to serve many under-insured and un-insured persons. Last year over $20 million of charity care benefited the Eastern Kentucky community served by St. Claire.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is beginning its fourth year of service, providing educational support to children and families in the urban area. Our belief that education is the greatest hope for breaking the cycle of poverty animates us to partner with other persons and organizations to accomplish the mission of NDUEC: to offer transformative educational programs to individuals and families, providing support, restoring hope, and promoting a fully human life for all.

Our St. Charles Care Center provides quality services for the elder population, and the new construction for personal care beds is nearing completion. Julie Learning Center provides early childhood education for three, four, and five year olds. The Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home is expanding its services to children in need, and Notre Dame Academy, recently named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School, continues to educate women who make a difference, annually increasing financial assistance to families.
Our mission in Uganda continues to subsidize education for children in some of the poorest and most remote areas of the country. Young women who might not otherwise have the opportunity for an education are being served and achieving high honors. Studies indicate that the educational influence of the mother of the family has the greatest impact on the education of the children.

Five Ugandan women have professed vows with the Sisters of Notre Dame, and several other women are in initial stages of formation. We trust these women will be the future leaders at our mission.

Your support enables us to continue our mission. We strongly believe that you are our partners in mission as we seek to serve our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

Where We Are Going

During the coming year we will continue our sponsorship of our educational, health care, child care, and social service ministries. Difficult economic times challenge us to find ways to support those who need services in our institutions.

Currently, worldwide the Sisters of Notre Dame serve in 19 countries, and in 4 provinces in the United States. The Cleveland, Ohio, Toledo, Ohio, Los Angeles, California, and Covington, Kentucky, provinces have been doing strategic planning to see how we can be more effective in mission in the U.S. when we serve as one SND•USA.

Our province leadership knows the responsibility within the SND community to care for our retired members while keeping a focus on mission. We are grateful for the support that enables us to do both.

In addition to our focus in ministry, this year we anticipate major capital expenses. The Provincial House chillers that support the HVAC system are over 25 years old and in need of replacement. Also we hope to provide for better communication and internet connectivity for St. Julie Mission in Buseesa, a remote area of Uganda. This will require the installation of a tower to transmit data.

The annual appeal allows us to continue to support our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you for your partnership with us in mission.

This annual fund is a tangible way of joining the Sisters of Notre Dame "Partnership for Mission." Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution, or if you prefer, donate online at sndky.org.
Honing Our Jubilarians

The Jubilarians of 2012 celebrated with their families and friends during a spirited liturgy at St. Agnes Church, Park Hills, KY, followed by a reception at the SND Provincial Center, on June 24th. A special observance was held on August 4th by the religious community that included Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., followed by a festive dinner and musical entertainment.

The Jubilarians felt deeply moved by their public renewal of vows and overwhelmed by the community’s support. Excerpts from the Jubilarians' reflections and their number of years professed appear below.

Sister Christa Marie (60) “To be a bearer of Christ’s love and presence in the world and to partner with him in mission is a grace beyond telling.”

Sister Mary Marjorie (60) “I recall the blessings of community life. Jubilee celebrations are filled with many happy anticipations.”

Sister Marie (60) “Jubilee was a deep experience of love from the community, another important day to renew my ‘yes’ to God.”

Sister Mary Walter Ann (60) “I am aware of the many ways God comes to us every day in little ways.”

Sister Mary Marjorie (60) “I recall the blessings of community life. Jubilee celebrations are filled with many happy anticipations.”

Sister Mary Judith (25) “On this occasion, the deep meaning that’s always present bubbles up to the surface. It solidifies my ‘forever yes.’”

Sister Mary Judeann (50) “I’m full of love and gratitude for so much love from God, family, friends, and community.”

Sister Mary Paul Ann (60) “The community enabled me to do things I would have never thought possible.”

Sister Mary Colleen (60) “I see how God’s goodness spread across all those years.”

Sister Mary Rosetta (50) “Since I entered at age 33, I wondered what I’d be like at my jubilee. I had a wonderful time with over a hundred of my family and friends.”

Sister Janet Marie (50) “You enter the convent and live religious life every day and all of the sudden 50 years happen.”

Sister Mary Caroline (65) “I praise my God for he has loved me.”

Sister Mary Rita (50) “I was thrilled with the whole thing, so glad to be home from Uganda to celebrate with everybody.”

The 90th anniversary of the Sisters of Notre Dame 4th of July Festival was an event to remember! Festival goers gathered on the SND grounds to enjoy games, great food, and wonderful entertainment. Children this year even had an opportunity to ride ponies while everyone enjoyed visiting the petting zoo. Extreme temperatures didn’t dampen the day’s festivities, with a record crowd in attendance. Throughout the day festival guests strolled through tents taking chances on various games, eating delicious food, and enjoying the sights and sounds taking place on the entertainment stage.

The Sisters wish to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who worked the festival and the following groups who entertained our guests: Nick Tuttle Guitar Trio, Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers, Stephanie Hacker (tap dancing), and the Mexican dance group Orgullo Mexicano.

As a result of our generous corporate sponsors, festival advertisers and patrons, and those who purchased raffle tickets, this year’s festival grossed $97,211. Thank you to everyone who made this event our most successful festival in history. During these 90 years, the Fourth of July Festival has helped to support the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, both nationally and internationally. Proceeds from this year’s festival help fund our Uganda, East Africa Mission, our urban mission in Covington, KY: Notre Dame Urban Education Center, and our retired Sisters of Notre Dame.

To all the SND friends, families, and supporters, thank you for your partnership in this annual SND tradition.
Notre Dame Urban Education Center (NDUEC) is excited to open its doors again after completing a successful summer program. Fifty children are expected to arrive in September for the after-school educational program. This program focuses on educational support for children and families, made possible by over 100 tutors, specializing in one-on-one instruction. Our tutors come from many local organizations and high schools including Notre Dame Academy, Covington Catholic, Bishop Brossart, St. Henry, Holy Cross, Beechwood, Villa Madonna, and Covington Latin School.

NDUEC has been awarded grants from several organizations. As a result of these grants the children now have their own mathematics kit, while older pupils utilize the Center's I-Pads. The center was also able to purchase art supplies as a result of grant funds.

In January, the formal family component of the program will begin providing support for families on topics that they identify as needs. This will be a collaboration local support agencies.

The success of the summer session was celebrated with 40 students in attendance, many for the first time. Partnerships with so many individuals and organizations made the summer program possible and successful.

Four young men from Cooper High School enthusiastically taught the physical education component of the program. Kenton County Public Library assisted with the reading program and provided a T-shirt and a book for each child participating in the program. The volunteer music teacher gave individual lessons. Pre-and post-scores indicated improvement in the areas of reading and math for nearly all of the children.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center continues to grow in many ways, not only in numbers, but also in its ability to instill knowledge, skills, self-confidence, and in a spirit of giving and caring.
Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.” Direction … a course one follows when desires and goals come together to form positive impacts. And what an impact you, our wonderful, supportive, and committed donors have made this year!

Over the past year, the Sisters of Notre Dame have sponsored ministries that have impacted the lives of men, women, and children both nationally and internationally. From helping under-insured or un-insured individuals with their medical expenses at our St. Claire Regional Medical Center, caring for elderly or senior adults in their advanced years in our St. Charles Care Center, educating women and children at our academies in Covington, KY, and Uganda, East Africa, or helping children excel or establish a strong educational foundation in our Notre Dame Urban Education and Julie Learning Centers, your dollars do make a direct impact on the quality of life for thousands of people.

Our charism and spirit remains alive and energized as a direct result of our partnership with you! Together we participate in the mission of Jesus Christ, witnessing God’s goodness and provident care to others. Impelled by our missionary spirit, collectively we respond to the needs of the times and share God’s compassionate love with people of all faiths and cultures.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Sisters of Notre Dame. Thank you for all the generous support, love, and prayers you have given this SND community over the past decades. Thank you for stepping forward in these times of economic difficulties and partnering with us to continue to minister to God’s people. Thank you for investing in our direction, a direction that keeps evolving in many wonderful, miraculous ways.

Julie Althaver, Dir. of Mission Advancement

Currently we are using Facebook and our website as more effective ways of communication. If you use Facebook, you will find us listed as Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington, Kentucky. We encourage you to "like" us. We have no plans to discontinue The Pulse, but printing and mailing costs continue to rise. We hope to begin sending The Pulse electronically as a more cost effective way of communication. Send your email address to mschnelle@sndky.org to be added to our electronic mailing list.
Open House for the Year of Women Religious

Sunday, October 14, 2012
1:00-4:30 p.m.

Please join us at one of the participating communities to learn more about religious life.

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery
3500 Amsterdam Rd., Covington, KY
859-531-6314
Website: www.sistersofstwalburg.org

Congregation of Divine Providence
1600 St. Avelin Dr., Midway, KY
859-394-0002
Website: www.cdplkh.org

The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker are unable to participate in the Open House, but remember you in their prayers.