

Women's Leadership Luncheon

March 23, 2022

University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, Minnesota

courageous
compassionate
confident



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province



“True and sincere love of our neighbor is at the same time the infallible criterion of our love of God.”

*~Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger
Letter #4307, 1868*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2022 Women’s Leadership Luncheon. Thank you for sharing your time with us today.

Through our annual Women’s Leadership Luncheon, the School Sisters of Notre Dame recognize women leaders who make a positive difference in our community. We have been blessed to hear from speakers who are physicians, presidents, CEOs, daughters, wives, mothers and friends.

Guided by the School Sisters of Notre Dame’s commitment to transform the world through education, our speakers not only share their leadership journey, but also how their spiritual and professional lives intersect to create a better world.

This year’s theme reflects how women met the challenges of the pandemic with courage, compassion and confidence.

As we gather today, we celebrate all women - no matter what they do or what labels may be associated with them. We celebrate YOU!

We hope today’s event gives you respite, inspiration and motivation.

With peace, blessings and gratitude,

Sister Debra Sciano, SSND

Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND
Provincial Leader

Speaker



Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT
Executive Director
Change Inc.

Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT, uses creativity, experience and relationship-building as she discovers the best ways to serve urban populations challenged by systemic racism and poverty. Dr. Nelson is the executive director of Change Inc., a community-based social service agency with three main service areas. First, it serves as a GAP School, which could be considered an alternative high school, and was founded in 1967 by a School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Giovannie Gourhan. The program serves students that include a large proportion of immigrants and refugees, ages 16 to 24, in a program leading to a high school diploma or an industry recognized certificate in construction, health or informational technology. Second, the community school collaborative provides school-based mental health services in 25 schools in the Twin Cities. Lastly, the Change Institute provides supervision, training and consultation in the areas of mental health and urban education.

Dr. Nelson holds a master's in counseling psychology and a doctorate in education in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has served as department chair for the Master of Arts Marriage and Family Therapy and Doctorate of Marriage and Family Therapy programs at the Twin Cities Argosy University campus. Dr. Nelson currently teaches in the graduate Marriage and Family Therapy program at St. Mary's University in Minneapolis. She has trained school staff and clinicians locally and nationally in trauma-informed care, which are practices that promote a culture of safety, empowerment and healing.

Dr. Nelson enjoys reading, walking her Bernese Mountain dog and playing with her grand-daughters as often as possible.

Program

Welcome and Prayer **Sister Helen Jane Jaeb, SSND**
Provincial Councillor

Ministry Presentation **Sister Audrey Lindenfelser, SSND**
Ministry Commission

Speaker Introduction **Sister Rita Jirik, SSND**

Keynote Speaker **Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT**
Executive Director
Change Inc.
“Leading Through Shaky Times: Leaning on
the Power of Relationships”

Q&A

Closing Remarks **Mary Kay Murray**
Resource Development Director



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An educational partnership with the School Sisters of Notre Dame and
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virtual tutoring opportunities available.

<https://www.eastsidelearningcenter.org/>

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Lawrence and Ann Brown

Dr. Stanley H. Brown

In memory of my mother Lula Mae
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Eileen Ivory

Molly Kieser

Dick and Nancy Kluge

In memory of Sister Mary Martin, SSND

Mrs. Kathleen Denekamp

In honor of Sister Rita Jirik, SSND
In honor of Sister Paulissa Jirik, SSND

Mary Kay Lanz

In honor of School Sisters of Notre Dame

Marlene and Chuck DeVos

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In memory of Sister Therese Even, SSND

Marilyn L. Steggall

Marcy J. Tupy

Kathleen and Gordon Ferguson

Marian Wolters

Molly Flowers

Kathleen Zweber



School Sisters of Notre Dame Associates

Join us as a SSND associate!



We are women and men called to live Gospel values within our own vocation in the spirit and vision of Blessed Theresa.



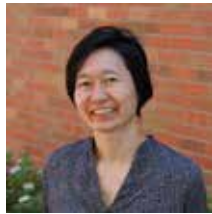
www.ssndcp.org/get-involved/become-an-associate

Women Honorees

On behalf of the Board of Directors, East Side Learning Center is honoring these four women for their continued fight for children and literacy. From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, even pre-immunization and being at high-risk, each of these women chose each day to continue their life's work of providing education and mentorship and have been instrumental in building a path forward. With deep gratitude for the expertise, wisdom, and passion you share each day,
East Side Learning Center



Mary Fritz



Patti Kameya



Mary Noble



Rebecca Nordstrom

Acknowledgements

*We wish to thank our advisory committee members
for their support and friendship:*

Sister Joanne Dehmer, SSND

Lisa Fink

Sister Paulissa Jirik, SSND

Sister Rita Jirik, SSND

Sister Adaire Lassonde, SSND

Pam Ryan

Chris Sorenson

*Thank you for attending our 2022 Women's Leadership Luncheon.
All proceeds benefit the ministries of the sisters who devote their
lives to creating positive, systemic change throughout the world.*

*If you would like to make a gift, you can donate by credit card at
the registration desk or make your check payable to
School Sisters of Notre Dame.*

About the Artist



Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND

Her artwork, displayed on the cover, was used for designs for the 2022 Women's Leadership Luncheon.

A Canadian School Sister of Notre Dame, Barbara Paleczny, Ph.D., STh.D., lived in South Sudan for many years as a member of Solidarity with South Sudan. Solidarity with South Sudan was founded by religious communities who send sisters, brothers and priests from around the world to live and work together there. Her ministry included teaching at Solidarity Teachers' Colleges and teaching others to give workshops in healing from trauma and providing psychosocial support. Sister Barbara enjoys painting and paints mostly from her prayer and dreams as a way to stay healthy. Expressing these, to her surprise, has opened up dialogue and healing for others as well. Currently, Sister Barbara is on sabbatical and lives in Canada.

Description of the painting by Sister Barbara

Painting is one of the great surprises in my life, since I grew up convinced I could not draw. At first, I painted to express my dreams and prayers. Gradually, this expanded as I lived in San Antonio, Texas, teaching at the university there and serving as the Shalom/JPIC Coordinator for the Dallas unit. Living there was a great blessing in my life, as I joined in sisters' wholehearted laughter and tears. Certainly, the beauty of people and nature, the pain of trafficked slaves, touched me deeply and showed up often in my paintings. With Sue Menshek, SSND, and others, we started the South Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Anne Semel, SSND, fostered making our home into an art gallery. The painting, "Flowing Surprises," was a quick response in prayer. This year, another great surprise is my learning to sing. We are never too old to learn, are we?

Blessings!

Barbara, SSND



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

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Resource Development

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