

Heartbeat

Daughters of the Heart of Mary U.S. Province

December 2025 – Issue 6

DHM Mission & Ministries

Then ...

“Courage now, you are a DHM more than ever.”



& Now ...

“Light & Leaven”

- Adelaide’s Place
- DeCicé Hall Ministry
- Nardin Academy
- NativityMiguel Middle School of Buffalo
- St Joseph’s School for the Deaf

Then ...

“We are the Daughters of difficulties,” M. de Guinamont used to say to a novice who sought her support. “Courage now, you are a DHM more than ever.” She demanded real abnegation under the exterior of an ordinary life and she never tired of recommending the constant seeking of the hidden life. But in the face of a responsibility, of any employment, she would not allow them to insist too strongly on their incapacity or their inexperience. She wished them to make the attempt and humbly expose themselves to failure.”

[Annals of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, Vol. 5, M. de Guinamont (1829-1910), p. 355]

& Now

... light and leaven



Adelaide’s Place – Ocean Casino and Resort for the third year in a row prepared a Thanksgiving meal for us. They provided a delicious salad with cranberries and walnuts, three kinds of dressing, cranberry walnut rolls, turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, candied carrots, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, string beans almondine as well as mini pumpkin and apple pies. The hot items were piping hot and were able to serve the meal immediately when delivered at noon. To say the ladies were stuffed is an understatement! All of the items were in separate foil serving pans, so we were able to freeze the abundant leftovers and have them for our Christmas celebration.

Santa’s Elves were busy in November and December gathering items for our ladies. Several church groups collected items for our Christmas celebration which included gloves, hats, scarves, socks, McDonalds and 7-11 gift cards as well as candy and lots of Christmas cookies! Two church groups continue to bring lunch once a month on different days and provide gift bags for the ladies filled with various goodies. We are very blessed indeed with the generosity of others. – Patty Prendergast, Director. Visit: www.facebook.com/adelaides.place



DeCicé Hall Ministry – is continuing in its mission “to provide a hospitable center for spiritual and religious development, a respectful space for ecumenical growth, and a seedbed in which our common humanity may be nourished.” Over the fall and winter, we have been hosting sessions for the Irish Musicians, Al-Anon Sunday and Monday night meetings, and meetings for the Justice & Peace Committee of the Sisters of St Joseph of Springfield, Behavioral Health Network, and WISE Family Services. Our co-sponsorship/facilitation of the “Sacred Fire” spiritual reflection circles continues, and “What do you fear: Insisting on Hope this Advent” wound down in early January. Beginning April 1, we will transition from making the Hall available for in-person meetings, while we expect to continue with virtual program sponsorship and program facilitation. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/DeCice.Hall>



Nardin Academy – is moving forward in its mission “to inspire hearts and minds to do amazing things for the world through faith, character, academic excellence, and service.” The Academy’s Strategic Plan 2024-2027 is well underway. See www.nardin.org/about/the-strategic-plan. On January 11, 2026 Nardin Academy President, Dr. Eric Miles sent his weekly letter to families, colleagues and friends to update the community on the Academy. Specifically, about Nardin’s Catholic identity, he wrote:

“Our Catholic identity is central to who we are and to how we form students in mind, body, and spirit. In keeping with this commitment, this past fall we took intentional steps to strengthen faith formation across our campus. By elevating the role of Campus Ministry within our leadership structure, we reaffirmed our dedication to living out the values of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary each day and to keeping our Catholic mission at the heart of all we do. In November, Nardin was blessed to receive a generous \$100,000 gift in support of our Campus Ministry program. We are deeply grateful for this gift and look forward to sharing more about how these funds will be thoughtfully invested to further strengthen our Catholic identity and mission. Our Catholic identity is not only something we teach—it is something we live. Few reflections capture this more beautifully than *Doors to Love*, written by Religion teacher Renee Boltri, which invites us to see how faith, service, and transformation unfold at Nardin and beyond ...” (Dr. Miles goes on to share Renee Boltri’s reflection, which relates the doors of hope on her Fall pilgrimage to the “big green doors” of Nardin.)

President Miles continues “... As we move forward together this spring, may we continue to walk through our own “big green doors” with hearts open to God’s call—rooted in faith, animated by service, and strengthened by community. The stories shared by Renee remind us that Nardin’s Catholic identity is alive and active, shaped not only by prayer and reflection but also by courageous acts of love that extend far beyond our campus.”

To subscribe to the weekly emails from the President, contact Jennifer Westerholt VP of Institutional Advancement & Communications at jwesterholt@nardin.org. Board of Trustees meetings resumed in January. Daughters serving on the Board: Anita Baird, Vice Chair; Chris Clark, Renee Dewhurst, Paula Gaudet, Marilyn Smith, and Pat Lucas. Visit: www.nardin.org



NativityMiguel Middle School of Buffalo – its mission statement: “NativityMiguel Middle School of Buffalo is an independent, Catholic middle school (grades 5-8) that provides a quality, scholarship-supported education to under-served girls and boys of all faiths. Standing arm-in-arm with our families, NativityMiguel makes a 12-year commitment to our students, starting in middle school and continuing through high school and college.”

