



A PENNY GOES A LONG WAY...

A penny goes a long way. Just ask Notre Dame Associate Joan Caswell and Sister Ellen Julie Flanagan. In 1994, Sister Juana McCarthy, then a recently-returned missionary from Peru, spoke to a small group of associates in Massachusetts about the life and ministries of the Sisters in Peru. Sister Juana explained that the needs are great and any amount of money goes a long way there.

Moved by Sister Juana's presentation, Associate Joan Caswell contacted Sister Ellen Julie Flanagan, who was then in ministry in Joan's home parish, to devise a way to take up a collection for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur missions in Peru. After several brainstorming sessions together, an idea was born: ***Pennies for the Missions.***

Initially, the two women contacted local parishes in Massachusetts and arranged to place large jugs with photos of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in ministry at the doors of these parish churches for a couple of weekends each year, asking for *Pennies for the Missions*. Since then, the project has grown, with the resulting donations now disbursed to missions in all of Latin America as well as Africa. In the early days, Joan and Sister Ellen Julie brought the pennies to a local parish, and a group of volunteers armed with donuts and coffee rolled all the coins. They now give thanks to the inventor of coin-counting machines!

Over the years, Joan and Sister Ellen became known as the "Penny Ladies." After two decades of raising almost \$30,000 to support the Sisters of Notre Dame missions, the Penny Ladies are asking for your help. The time is coming when they will need to step down from their roles, but both would like to keep this simple, yet significant, ministry alive. **If you would be interested in helping the "Penny Ladies" collect pennies and coins for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur missions in Africa and Latin America, please contact, Sister Marie Prefontaine, SND, at missionsupport@sndden.org or call 978-356-2159, ext. 20.**

When next you see a penny on the street, pick it up and remember that a penny goes a long way. Maybe the penny you found is an invitation from the Holy Spirit to become involved in this missionary project?