

# Vision & Challenge

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BY YOUR SIDE LA





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**SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME**

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*Monthly egram:*

To subscribe to the monthly Mission Advancement Egram, send name and email address to [info@sndusa.org](mailto:info@sndusa.org).

*Photography notes:*

Pandemic restrictions were followed for all photography during that timeframe.

*Please remember to recycle your copy after reading.*

# A Message from *Mission Advancement*

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share the many ways that we are privileged to implement the Catholic Social Teachings so carefully explained in this edition of the SND USA Magazine. Perhaps some readers are more familiar with the traditional corporal and spiritual works of mercy. All of these inspiration points are derived from Jesus' Gospel. In Matthew 25, Jesus identified himself with the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable and taught practical ways for every person to live out their faith. "Whatever you have done to the least of my people, that you have done to me."



These photos show some of the precious children of Uganda. Their situation illustrates those in need of our works of mercy.

A more contemporary statement of these works of mercy might be:

To provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty and naked.

To shelter the homeless.

To care for the sick and the dying.

To visit the imprisoned.

To bury the dead and comfort the grieving.

To share knowledge and advice.

To comfort the suffering.

To be patient and forgiving.

To pray for the living and the dead.

Our cover shares the concerns and ministry priorities that the Sisters of Notre Dame and our Associates most treasure. In addition, we are pleased to feature the logos of various partner organizations.

As our friends, colleagues and donors, you are awesome partners with us.

Together, we shower mercy upon thousands of God's children—whatever we have done to another person, we have done to Christ. Thank you for embracing our mission and making our outreach possible.

Gratefully,

*Sister Mary Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.*

Sr. M. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

# Uncovering Love at Camp Dorothy Kirby

*Sr. M. Paulyne Tubick reflects on her experience accompanying incarcerated youth.*



*Sr. M. Paulyne Tubick leads an entrance procession at a community Mass.*

Each Saturday, Sr. M. Paulyne Tubick offers a prayer service and pastoral counseling to small groups of youth at Camp Dorothy Kirby, a juvenile detention facility. This program is coordinated in conjunction with the Restorative Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and required a 6-month training and approval process through the County Department of Corrections. Camp Kirby houses 67 youth ranging in age from 13-17, some

charged with minor offenses and others charged with violent crimes. All of them are still children.

Sr. Paulyne uses the weekly worship aids provided by the Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative to develop a service that involves Scripture, reflections from other incarcerated persons, meditation, and a time to share. Probation officers are present during the entire service, which makes it very difficult for the young people to share their personal traumas for fear that whatever they say may be used against them. Instead, Sr. Paulyne asks the youths, “Does this remind you of someone?” giving them the chance to share while protecting their privacy.

One young lady, Wendy, expressed a desire to be baptized. Sr. Paulyne journeyed with her and prepared her to receive Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Mass was cancelled for over a year at Camp Kirby due to COVID-19 restrictions. This past spring, Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, came to celebrate Mass for the first time in over a year and Wendy was able to receive the Sacraments. Although Wendy had been estranged from her family, her mother and aunt came to participate in the Mass. The chaplains organized a reception for her.

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Long Beach, where Sr. Paulyne serves as the Director of Ministries, donated a Baptismal candle, stole, rosary, Bible, and handmade certificates. She was gifted an autographed copy of Fr.



*Camp Dorothy Kirby is located in the City of Commerce, in East Los Angeles.*

Greg Boyle’s book *Tattoos on the Heart*. Wendy has now been released and moved out of state for her own safety. In reflecting on this experience, Sr. Paulyne proudly remarks, “She has turned her life around. She loves Jesus.” Although Wendy has moved on, Sr. Paulyne’s ministry continues. She has now begun working with another young woman who wishes to enter the Church.

**“NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, WE ARE ALL MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE AND LIKENESS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT WITHIN. IT IS NOT THAT I ONLY HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD, BUT OTHERS HAVE IT TOO AND WE CAN HELP THEM UNCOVER IT. WHEN I VISIT CAMP KIRBY I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE LOVE OF GOD IN MY LIFE AND IT HELPS ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND MERCY.”**

**~ SR. M. PAULYNNE TUBICK, S.N.D.**

*Concern for the imprisoned is demonstrated by Sr. M. Paulyne Tubick and Sr. M. Luellen Boeglin.*



# SISTERS on the **FRONTLINES**

In response to the needs of the poor and marginalized, Catholic Extension coordinated “Sisters on the Frontlines” during the early days of the pandemic. Here is a description:

Religious sisters are prophetic witnesses and voices of hope in our country and world. They are close to those who are in need and they are trusted by people of all walks of life. That is why Sisters on the Frontlines was launched during the pandemic. This initiative, which operated from the summer of 2020 to spring 2021, **met the exceptional goal of providing 1,000 Catholic sisters with \$1,000 each.** Each sister used the funds to help an individual or family suffering extremely adverse affects due to the pandemic. Sisters on the Frontlines was formed by an alliance of organizations interested in responding to the immediate needs of communities impacted by COVID-19. Ten Sisters of Notre Dame from the California region were privileged to be part of this venture. These vignettes share some of their passions and observations.

*Sr. M. Jolisa Lazaro joined St. Lucy's Parish in the midst of the pandemic and discovered the deep spiritual traditions of this multi-cultural community.*

## **FROM SR. JOLISA LAZARO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, ST. LUCY'S PARISH, LONG BEACH**

As a new staff member at St. Lucy's Parish in Long Beach, I quickly learned about the needs of the parishioners and the unique multi-cultural environment of this low-income area. Families represent various cultures: Filipino, Pacific-Islander, Central American and Vietnamese to name a few. While poor economically, the people have a deep faith and sharing this faith with their children is a very high priority. Rituals such as the daily rosary, processions and celebrations of the saints are very important to them.

Funds received from Catholic Extension underwrote the expenses for the parish religious education program since many families could not afford the fees. In some cases, the grandparents, godparents or extended family members pay the fees; the family income can be used for food, rent, medical care and transportation costs. Many families also participate in the parish food bank, with food provided by Long Beach Unified School District.

I was thrilled to be of service to this parish community because I see firsthand the multi-faceted struggles and I want to support the families in their faith journey. Despite their own challenges, some of the St. Lucy's families helped the unaccompanied minors housed at the Long Beach Convention Center.

**“CATECHISTS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME  
AT THE CONVENTION CENTER, SHARING THE  
FAITH AND GIVING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL  
SUPPORT TO THESE CHILDREN WHO SO EASILY  
FEEL FRIGHTENED AND ABANDONED.”**

**~ SR. M. JOLISA LAZARO**



**FROM SR. JUDEEN JULIER,  
CHAPLAIN, DIGNITY-HEALTH CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES**



*Sr. Judeen Julier offers comfort and basic necessities to a client at Hope Street Margolis Family Center.*

“Our hospital serves many low-income residents of South Central and Downtown Los Angeles (including skid row) and provides services through the Hope Street Margolis Family Center.

The densely populated downtown area of Los Angeles became an epicenter of the COVID pandemic, causing financial distress for the families served by the Hope Street Center. Almost half of the families experienced job loss, with both parents unemployed in about 27% of the cases. The Center began distributing baskets of food staples to these families, and to others who were quarantined.

In my ministry, I saw COVID’s severity. It was distressing to see some families with several members of the same household hospitalized. Through this grant, Hope Street Margolis Family Center addressed their food insecurity, and I have the opportunity to share God’s goodness with them, helping to lessen their burdens. Seeing the smiles of the children and parents is a memory I will long cherish!”

## Frontlines Recipients

**SR. ANNCARLA COSTELLO**

CAST: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

**SR. SHAWN MARIE DOYLE**

Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Oxnard

**SR. LEANNE HUBBARD**

Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance, Santa Paula

**SR. JUDEEN JULIER**

Hope Street Margolis Family Center, Los Angeles

**SR. JOLISA LAZARO**

St. Lucy Parish, Long Beach

**SR. SHIRLEY MCGOVERN & SR. JANE MARIE MCHUGH**

St. Dominic School, Eagle Rock

**SR. LISA MEGAFFIN**

Many Mansions

**SR. ROSE MARIE TULACZ**

Unite to Light and St. Jude the Apostle Parish,  
Westlake Village

**SR. ANNA MARIA VASQUEZ**

St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Paschal Baylon Parish,  
Thousand Oaks



*Sr. Rose Marie Tulacz and Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson (back to the camera) give a solar cell phone charger to a homeless man near St. Monica’s Church in Santa Monica. During the pandemic, homeless individuals were unable to charge their phones at coffee shops or public libraries. Recipients were able to stay in communication with their AA sponsors, probation officers and other supportive services.*

# It all started with Mediterranean and Baltic

by Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

It all started with Mediterranean and Baltic, not exactly the high-rent district on the Monopoly Board. As kids, we quickly learned that hotels on those two properties didn't really enhance one's cash flow. On the other hand, we had to deal with the luck of the throw of the dice.

Fast forward to the 1990's. Repeatedly, I observed individuals whose luck had run out. On the northeast side of the Hollywood Freeway just past Sunset Boulevard, there were individuals whose mattress or shelter consisted of large pieces of cardboard. Even today, googling a map of the Hollywood Freeway shows tarps attached to a chain link fence to create some privacy and a sense of home. That type of situation would make a hotel room on Mediterranean or Baltic seem luxurious.

During these trips, I heard God calling me to action for my brothers and sisters in need of housing...and hope. What I was observing was a direct denial of human dignity. The homeless situation was not unique to Los Angeles (and today, in 2021, the homeless population has increased to more than 60,000 in LA and Ventura Counties). I also observed homeless people in Thousand Oaks, sleeping in bushes or creating cardboard shanties near corners of buildings, especially during the cold winter months. They were obviously down on their luck. Action someday, I thought...

In 1995, I was invited to join the Many Mansions Board of Directors, clearly a call of the Spirit. I felt overwhelmed by data, acronyms, and concepts beyond my comfort zone at the first few meetings. But I was deeply attracted by its mission to provide housing and resident services for low-income individuals.

It became obvious that advocacy is a huge part of our mission. One particular city council meeting comes to mind, when Many Mansions was negotiating to acquire the property now known as Esseff Village. It was a blighted motel, probably similar to Mediterranean or Baltic. When one official questioned the small size of the proposed units, an older woman testified, "Those rooms won't be any smaller than the back of my truck."

Unfortunately, the need for affordable housing continues to grow, with our ever-growing waiting list. In 2019, that list grew to more than 4,000, with a potential wait time of 10 years—and with sad hearts, the board concurred that it was necessary to temporarily close the list.

Regular media reports on the homeless situation, and state and national attention to this social and economic blight indicate incredible need. But true to Many Mansions mission, new communities are now under

development in Boyle Heights, Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Sun Valley and Sylmar.

How blessed I have been to work with incredibly dedicated and compassionate individuals--staff, board, volunteers, donors, city and housing authority officials. I deeply appreciate the encouragement of my co-sisters who regularly offer their interest and support for our SND partnership with Many Mansions. But most importantly, I have become acquainted with our residents who, once down on their luck, now enrich Many Mansions, and our local community, with the dignity and pride that are rightfully theirs.

Others may think that affordable housing corresponds to Mediterranean or Baltic. To our residents though, Many Mansions is Boardwalk.



Susan Cass, Many Mansions Board Chairperson and SND Associates Eileen and Marty Garcia award a Vicky's Scholarship to Aleli Perez.



## The SND Mission Lives on

Eileen and Marty Garcia are SND Associates with many years' devotion to Many Mansions. As a board member for 25 years, Marty established the Vicky's Scholarship Fund in honor of his mother. With just a fourth grade education, Vicky Garcia served as a teacher's aide in New York, giving her students the maternal affection and encouragement necessary for them to succeed in school and in life. Since 2014, 104 Many Mansions residents have received more than \$175,000 in scholarships, enabling them to continue education beyond high school. Past recipients include formerly homeless individuals, first generation college students, single mothers, and the disabled. Their success ranges from professional certificates awarded by technical schools to graduate degrees from major universities.

Many Mansions has recently established an Advisory Council, community ambassadors who represent diversity in geography, socio-economic status, ethnicity, interfaith groups, professional expertise and community service organizations. Sr. Ann Carla Costello, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Sr. Judeen Julier, Chaplain for Dignity Health California Hospital in downtown Los Angeles have agreed to be pioneers in this venture.

Students from La Reina High School & Middle School have regularly volunteered at Many Mansions communities, especially as tutors in the Homework Club. SND Associates are included as regular donors, both financially and with in-kind gifts, especially during the holiday gift drive.

To learn more, visit  
[www.manymansions.org](http://www.manymansions.org)



SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME 

# NUN RUN

To Heaven on Foot - St. Julie Billiart

February 5, 2022, the race is on!

The Sisters of Notre Dame in California are still running "To Heaven on Foot". Our in-person Nun Run is scheduled to return on February 5, 2022! Not comfortable at a large event? Don't live in California? We will offer our incredibly popular Virtual Mileage Challenge again this year. Proceeds support the SND Life & Ministry Fund, providing spiritual, educational, and social outreach locally and around the world.

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

- Run/Walk on February 5, 2022
- Participate in our Virtual Mileage Challenge
- Invite friends and family to join a running/walking team
- Become a volunteer
- Reserve a booth at the Community Service Fair
- Start a fundraiser team
- Advertise with us

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[WWW.NUN.RUN](http://WWW.NUN.RUN) OR CONTACT JEN COITO AT  
805.917.3730

Registration is now open!



# The Grapevine

## NATIONAL NETWORK AND SPONSORSHIP OFFICE AWARDS

The Sisters of Notre Dame congratulate these four educators who were recently recognized for the impact they are making on hundreds of lives each year. Each of them demonstrates a commitment to the educational vision and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame in their various roles.

**TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD** recognizes individuals who are catalysts for growth; inspire hearts; demonstrate mission effectiveness, and transform the lives of those with whom they minister.



**Tamara Harper,**  
**Board of Directors,**  
**La Reina High School**  
**& Middle School**

Tamara is a 1987 La Reina graduate and past chair of the Board of Directors.

Tamara has contributed literally thousands of hours of pro bono legal work and done much to advance the mission of Catholic education and the goals of La Reina High School.

## GOSPEL WITNESS AWARD

honors those who give witness to Jesus' spirit of compassion, hope, and joy, especially to those who experience poverty in its various forms.



**Chad Ribordy - Religion**  
**Department Chair**  
**La Reina High School**  
**& Middle School**

As chair of the Religion Department and 11th grade religion teacher, Chad Ribordy is highly respected as a religion teacher and

colleague. Chad keeps abreast of the latest Catholic educational resources and teaching methods. He demonstrates a commitment to the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame in remarkable ways.



**Betsy Ward**  
**Assistant Head of School**  
**for Mission, Notre Dame**  
**Academy Schools of**  
**Los Angeles**

Betsy Ward has been a treasured and valuable steward of the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame for 26 years. Her colleagues describe her as someone who: radiates God's goodness and provident care and is Christ-centered, affirming, and readily finds the good in others.

## FATHER BERNARD OVERBERG "TEACHER OF TEACHERS" AWARD

recognizes educators who honor Father Bernard Overberg's legacy and demonstrate exceptional, inspirational impact on the formation and professional learning of teachers.



**Ms. Maggie Marschner**  
**Principal, La Reina High**  
**School & Middle School**

Maggie Marschner was inspired by the late Sr. Anita Hornack at St. Mary

Magdalen School in Camarillo. Maggie fosters the professional development of faculty and staff, creates a collaborative atmosphere, and encourages innovative learning, especially through the Universal Design for Learning model. Added to her professional expertise is her caring presence to everyone on campus.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH, SIMI VALLEY

The Sisters of Notre Dame congratulate Rev. Joe Shea, pastor, and the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Simi Valley on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Two SNDs claim St. Rose as their home parish. Sr. M. Kathleen Burns, daughter of the late Margaret and John Burns, is a member of the congregation's General Council. In this capacity, she coordinates the initial formation of new members who are preparing to be Sisters of Notre Dame in 17 countries. Sr. M. Colette Theobald has served in Uganda since 2005. She has been an educator at St. Julie's Primary Boarding School and a member of the leadership team for the East Africa Delegation.

## RCIA ZOOM PRESENTATION

Sr. Laura Marie Kane and Sr. Valerie Marie Roxburgh recently shared with the RCIA group at St. Paschal Baylon, led by Sisters Marie Paul Grech and Antoinette Marie Moon. The topic for the Zoom meeting was vocation and the call to religious life. Sr. Laura Marie shared her vocation journey with corresponding pictures. Sr. Val gave an overview on how religious life evolved and what it looks like today. Both were inspired by the group and their choice to become Catholic and were grateful for the opportunity to speak with them.

## DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARDS

Special congratulations to the young men and women who recently received the Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award through the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office. These graduates:

- Value their relationship with God and strive to live the Gospel
- Have worked to their ability and challenged themselves academically
- Express God's goodness and provident care for all through service and outreach.

### Taylor Melton

La Reina High School & Middle School, Thousand Oaks

### Megan Pena and Kathryn Syta

Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles

### Shelby M.

Notre Dame Academy Elementary, Los Angeles

### Joseph Kiet Tuan Nguyen

Our Lady of the Assumption, Ventura

### James Granillo and Zoe Zamudio

St. Helen Catholic School, South Gate

### Kayla Jarra and Preston Smart

St. Jude the Apostle School, Westlake Village

### Keith Sauers

St. Mary Magdalen School, Camarillo

### Madeline Salvador

St. Pius-St. Matthias Academy, Downey

## "GRACE HAS NO AGE"

What do Millennials, Xennials, Gen X and Gen Z have in common? They are all a part of SND USA Young Adult Ministry! Learn how SNDs have connected with thousands of young people this past year. Watch the archived event at [sndusa.org](http://sndusa.org).

## PLANNED GIVING

Born in Holland in 1828, Hilligonde Wolbring was orphaned at age 7 and taken to Germany to live with relatives. She became a teacher, deciding to use her inheritance to benefit poor and neglected children. With this background, the Sisters of Notre Dame have a cherished legacy of inheritances as a source for funding our mission to live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Please consider joining this tradition by including the Sisters of Notre Dame in your will or estate plan. Our legal title is "The Sisters of Notre Dame" and our federal tax identification number is 85-2630127. And thank you to those who have already chosen this powerful form of partnership.

