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Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

California Region
Mission Advancement Egram

November 22, 2024

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...knowing God's goodness, not by hearsay but by experience



Dear Friends,
Thomas Merton once said that the grateful heart knows of God's goodness, not by hearsay but my experience. And so in this season of Thanksgiving, the Sisters of Notre Dame wish to express heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of individuals who are part of the fabric of our lives, our ministries and our congregational history. As the weeks of 2024 are coming to a close, we pause once again in awe of the many graces of this Centennial year.



On November 2, we celebrated a Memorial Mass, lifting up those who have gone before us in solemn prayer. Following a simple reception, guests had the opportunity to tour our new Heritage Hallway and revisit significant moments and dimensions of California SND history. We trust these these photos capture some of the spirit of this day.

As families and friends gather this Thanksgiving Day, please know that we carry each of you in our hearts and in our prayers. Through your love and kindness, we have experienced God's goodness and have been able to share many graces with those entrusted to our care. ***Thank you for being part of our great story!***

Gratefully,
Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.
Director of Mission Advancement Services



FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

"It's a privilege to study in the USA..."



Two SNDs from India are currently living at Notre Dame Center while they attend graduate classes at California Lutheran University. Sr. Pramila Hembrom (on the left) is pursuing an MA in Educational Leadership, while Sr. Archana Joseph (on the right) is studying for a MS in Counseling with an emphasis on student support services.

In this global experience, Sr. Archana has already noticed the impact of context, culture and demographics as significant influences in various educational settings. Both sisters are learning new tools to be adapted to India's ministry realities.

This cross-cultural exchange also provides opportunities for personal and spiritual renewal. In observing parish life, they note the joy and freedom in expressing one's faith publicly.

Sr. Pramila said that "it is a privilege to study in the USA." She appreciates getting acquainted with the sisters and learning from their life-long ministries and wisdom. Sr. Archana commented "I am inspired by how the sisters continue serving with grace, despite some age-related physical limitations."

The SNDs first went to India from Cleveland, Ohio in 1949 and many California donors will remember the missionaries' stories from those early years. Today, India continues to be a beneficiary of our [Global Missions](#) efforts. Thank you to all who have embraced this mission with us over the past 75 years!



This time of year can be especially challenging for those who struggle to provide food and other necessities for their families. [Many Mansions](#) is inviting donors and volunteers to be Holiday Helpers by contributing grocery gift cards or unwrapped holiday gifts.

In addition, volunteers are invited to wrap gifts that families choose at one of the Holiday Shoppes in Sun Valley, Fillmore or Thousand Oaks.

Follow [this link](#) for more information about these and other gift-giving opportunities.

To arrange a presentation about Many Mansions for your church or civic organization during 2025, contact [Hannah Blitstein](#) and mention the SND Mission Advancement Egram.

Care for Creation Corner ~ with Santa!

As Santa's elves this Christmas, we might consider gifts that show our care for creation... [Here are some suggestions](#) for celebrating a more sustainable Christmas.

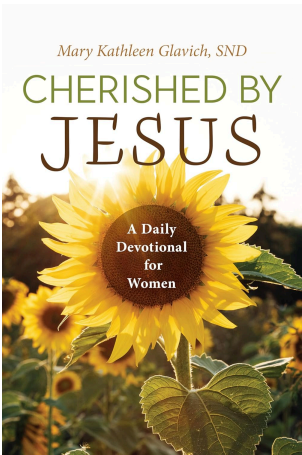
Or please consider a gift that keeps on giving [through a donation](#) to the Sisters of Notre Dame. The gift of clean water or new textbooks is possible through our East Africa/Uganda Fund. Or your recipient can partner with an SND in her volunteer outreach, especially to the homeless or sick, through our Life & Ministry Fund. An attractive Christmas card will be sent to your honoree, acknowledging your kindness. For further information, please contact [Sr. Lisa Megaffin](#).



For women who want something more...

The SNDs are pleased to announce the publication of a new book by Sr. Kathleen Glavich, [Cherished by Jesus](#). It is a daily devotional written for women who want something more—women who desire the empowerment that comes from being in relationship with God; women who seek the intimacy of a friendship with Jesus that resonates with their hopes, dreams, and daily lives; women who want to see themselves in the stories and teachings of Jesus.

Each day begins with Scripture, followed by a reflection that highlights the reasons we know that we are cherished by Jesus. The daily devotion concludes with a tender prayer offered in conversation with our Savior.



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

...living with one heart, one hope, one mission

Sunday, Nov. 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Samuelson Chapel,
California Lutheran University

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This event is hosted by the Conejo Valley Interfaith Associations. Refreshments will follow and donations will benefit Harbor House. [Read more.](#)



Saturday, Dec. 7 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. repeated on
Sunday, Dec. 8 - 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Notre Dame Center, Thousand Oaks

Advent Retreat ~ Seasons of Surrender

Those who wish to experience the spirituality of the Sisters of Notre Dame and our Associates are invited to this half-day retreat. Participants will reflect on spiritual surrender as seen in the seasons of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany.

[Follow this link](#) for complete information. **Please note that the RSVP deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 4.** And feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested.



*Mary, grant me the simple faith to believe
that all that happens to me is truly for the best.*

Sunday, Dec. 8 - 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
St. Dominic's Convent
Eagle Rock

Sr. Joyanne Sullivan's Annual Art Show

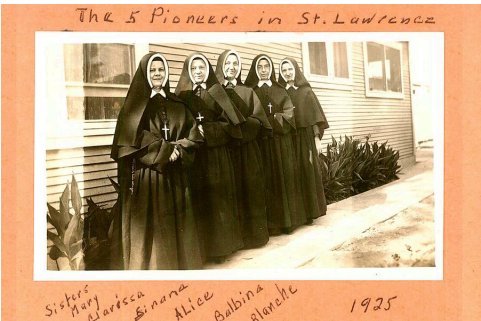
Sr. Joyanne Sullivan is shown here with Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P., pastor of St. Dominic's. They will welcome friends to her annual art show, showcasing a variety of prints which are unique and special gifts!



Sunday, Dec. 8 - 10:00 a.m.
St. Lawrence of Brindisi School
Watts

100th Anniversary Celebration

When the SNDs arrived in Los Angeles on August 30, 1924, the opening of St. Lawrence of Brindisi School in Watts came next! [Follow this link](#) for more details about this celebratory Mass.



[SNDUSA Website](#)

[SND USA Magazine, Fall, 2024](#)
featuring Sr. Joan Schlotfeldt and the California Centennial!

[SND 2023 Impact Report, California Region](#)

[The Living Legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame in California](#)

[Archives of the California Mission Advancement Egrams](#)

Please be our partner and donate now.

The Sisters of Notre Dame | 1776 Hendrix Ave. | Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 US

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