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Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

December 20, 2024

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...God's bountiful presence...of hope, joy and peace



Dear Friends,

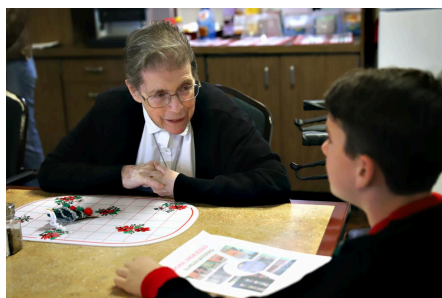
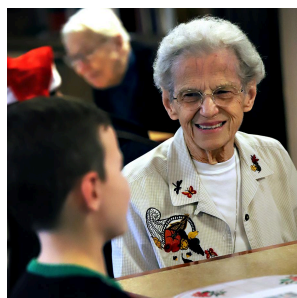
This week found the children of Notre Dame Learning Center Preschool rehearsing for their Christmas program. The joy, excitement and innocence of these precious children was absolutely infectious! Similarly, these photos of the third graders from St. Jude the Apostle School from their visit earlier this month are a reminder of what we celebrate at Christmas.



The words of "O come, O come, Emmanuel!" surround us! Emmanuel, God-with-us, is a reminder that no matter what situation we are in, **God IS with us**. His bountiful presence--of hope, joy and peace--can and will transform lives. If we but welcome him as we have been privileged to welcome children into our lives and hearts, a more hopeful and peaceful world will be ours.

As we conclude this centennial year of the SNDs in California, we pause once again to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you. In sharing so many memories, we have felt renewed in our commitment to share God's goodness and provident care. Thank you for all of your encouragement, support and generosity. Be assured that as 2024 winds to a close, we carry you close in prayer. We also look forward to the graces of 2025--which happens to be the 175th anniversary of the founding of our congregation!

May you have a Christmas and New Year filled with God's bountiful presence,
Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.
Director of Mission Advancement Services



FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

St. Lawrence of Brindisi School celebrates 100 years of Catholic education



Joining the anniversary celebration were Sr. Leanne Hubbard, Sr. Rebekah Kennedy, Sr. Frances Wahl, Sr. Judeen Julier, Archbishop José Gomez, Sr. Louise Hlavac, Sr. Regina Robbins, Sr. Jolisa Lazaro, Sr. Donna Appert, Sr. Luellen Boeglin and Sr. Colette Theobald.

Sunday, December 8, found Archbishop José Gomez, the Sisters of Notre Dame and many alumni, students, staff, parents and friends, recognizing this momentous occasion. In his welcoming remarks, Thomas Lynch, principal, noted: "As we honor the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame, we also renew our commitment to the education and formation of future leaders who will carry the values of faith, service and justice into the world." St. Lawrence was one of the first two schools established by the SNDs in California upon their arrival in August, 1924.

Meeting new friends for Thanksgiving!



Last month's SND Mission Advancement Egram introduced our readers to 2 SNDs from India currently studying at California Lutheran University. Thanks to Deacon Jack Redmond of Padre Serra Parish, Sr. Pramila Hembrom and Sr. Archana Joseph met a local family from India, and together, they celebrated Thanksgiving!

Sr. Pramila shared several memories of their visit. "It was a joyous experience to visit one of the Indian families settled in America. We were impressed by how they have adapted to a new culture yet haven't forgotten their Indian traditions. The family warmly welcomed us. One of the beautiful moments was during supper when we were introduced to their tradition of sharing the blessings of the year as we enjoyed our meal together. The family is very faith-filled and committed to the church. We truly appreciate their hospitality and family spirit. We had a wonderful time together."

And of course the festivities were complete with a group photo: Apurva, the daughter of the family, Mother Nirmala, Sr. Pramila, Sr. Archana, Father Vijay and his niece Preeti.

An ever-deeper experience of the transforming power of his love...

In November, Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, FADICA, sponsored a "Journey in Synodality" pilgrimage to Rome. Forty members, including Sr. Gina Marie Blunck, spent a week in prayer, reflection, and joint learning while networking with global Catholic leaders in various ministries.



The pilgrimage opened with a private audience with Pope Francis and in his remarks, the pope said

"...I thank you for your quiet encouragement of so many initiatives that enrich the life and apostolate of the Church in the United States...As a 'network,' FADICA is naturally 'synodal' in that it counts on the common vision, commitment, and cooperation of many individuals, families, and foundations. I ask that this synodal spirit of solidarity and generous concern for others will always be nurtured by gratitude for the abundant gifts the Lord has bestowed upon us and an ever-deeper experience of the transforming power of his love."

The week-long pilgrimage included various presentations from Vatican officials, visits to several basilicas, and a one-day retreat. The pilgrims left Rome with a renewed sense of hope and faith, a better understanding of the Vatican, and Christian joy that arose from this communal experience.

Care for Creation Corner

New Year's resolutions might be on everyone's personal radar screen right now! If so, [here are suggestions](#) for eco-friendly resolutions for 2025.



Save gas if you still have last-minute Christmas shopping...please consider a gift that keeps on giving [through a donation](#) to the Sisters of Notre Dame. Instructional materials are possible through our East Africa/Uganda Fund. Or your recipient can partner with an SND in her volunteer outreach, especially to the elderly or homeless, through our Life & Ministry Fund. An attractive Christmas/New Year's greeting will be sent to your honoree, acknowledging your kindness. For further information, please contact [Sr. Lisa Megaffin](#).

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, Jan. 11 - 8:30 a.m.
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Hollywood

Los Angeles Walk for Freedom to End Human Trafficking

Southern California Partners for Global Justice (SCPGJ) extends a warm invitation to the 2025 Annual LA Walk for Freedom to End Human Trafficking. It will include a short program featuring inspiring words from community leaders, youth advocate voices, and a call to action. Participants will march and chant for 1.5 miles around the surrounding sidewalks in Hollywood. Participants are encouraged to wear blue, make signs, and bring non-perishable food to donate to the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry.

2025 Los Angeles Walk for Freedom to End Human Trafficking

Saturday, January 11, 2025 (8:30AM)
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
6657 W. Sunset Blvd. Hollywood, CA 90028



LOVE IN ACTION:
Walking for Courage, Hope, and Justice

[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](#)

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