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*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

March 28, 2025

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...faith and hope on the road to eternal life



Long-time OCIA director, Sr. Joyanne Sullivan (on the far left) is shown with a group of seekers from St. Dominic's Parish in Eagle Rock.



Bishop Sławomir Szkredka signs the Book of the Elect from St. Paschal Baylon Parish, held by Sr. Antoinette Moon.

Dear Friends,

Continuing the Lenten journey, we have the opportunity to reflect on the gifts of faith and hope which are central to our spiritual lives. We recognize that faith truly is a gift, but a gift that we can strengthen and deepen through our daily choices. Within the Church, this Jubilee Year of 2025 is intended to be a time of hope for a world facing many chaotic challenges: violence, effects of a pandemic, climate change, and economic and social uncertainty.

From our own spiritual journeys, we know that faith and hope are deeply intertwined, with faith providing the foundation for hope, and hope being the confident expectation of what faith believes: eternal life as our ultimate happiness.

As Sisters of Notre Dame, we are consecrated for mission in the Church, placing special emphasis on catechesis (handing on the faith) so that others may grow in faith and confidence in God. Handing on the faith is central to each of our ministries, but especially for the SNDs and Associates who coordinate and support the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) within several parishes.

Over 35 years of service in this ministry, Sr. Joyanne Sullivan has discovered powerful questions she asks the seekers: "Why are you here? To get the ticket punched so you can have a Catholic wedding? Or are you here to develop a lifelong deeper relationship with Jesus?" Many of the seekers are first responders or medical professionals who need to work nights. Sr. Joyanne and her team have developed a program that adapts to their availability, including Zoom sessions. During high fire season, a fireman seeker could not leave the station, so he joined remotely. As it turned out, all of the fireman at the station joined the discussion, including one who had been away from the Church for 25 years. The seeker fireman was an evangelizing disciple, enabling a colleague to grow in faith and confidence in God! Even in the midst of chaotic challenges, faith and hope are growing through the power of the Spirit! [Be sure to read more](#) about Sr. Joyanne's ministry.

Thank you to each of our partners whose encouragement and support sustains our ministerial outreach. With these reflections, we pray that this coming month is a time of renewed faith and hope, but also a time of peace and joy!

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

FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

Check out our 2024 Impact Report!

St. Julie Billiart, spiritual mother of the Sisters of Notre Dame, encouraged her community members that they should have "hearts as wide as the universe." With that inspiration in mind, we are pleased to share our 2024 Impact Report. St. Julie, Sr. Maria Aloysia Wolbring and Sr. Maria Ignatia Kuhling (our co-foundresses) could never have imagined the depth of human need today, nor the **global impact** of SND lives of consecration and service.

And so the theme of this impact report is **global impact**, and it includes news-bytes from California, East Africa, England, India, Mexico, Rome, South Korea and Texas.

We are deeply grateful to each of our friends and donors whose partnership has made these various forms of impact possible. Together, we are able to bring God's goodness and compassionate love to many hearts. Just click on the graphic, enable a full screen, and enjoy! **Thank you again!**



A unique gathering for disabled youth: "Making Your Dreams Come True?"

The SND Mpala Community in Uganda recently held a unique youth gathering for deaf and mute boys and girls. The language used that day was a creative form of sign language! The sisters shared inspiration around the theme "Make Your Dream Come True." In their sharing, one of the mute girls said that her dream is to become a public speaker.

There was a lot of excitement around a game of netball between the disabled youth and the able-bodied. A silent cheer was seen as the mute and deaf players encouraged their team mates who scored a goal--an explosion of joy. They all raised their hands in jubilation!

[Read the entire story](#) at the SND congregational website.



Care for Creation Corner

Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22 is just around the corner! Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

This year's theme is Our Power, Our Planet--a call for renewable energy generation to triple, globally by 2030. Ideas for education and action [can be found here](#).

[And here is](#) a catchy motivational video!



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, April 12 - 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Notre Dame Academy

75th Anniversary Making a Difference Gala

Notre Dame Academy High School invites you to celebrate its 75th anniversary at the Making a Difference Gala on Saturday, April 12. The school's iconic campus will be the backdrop for an unforgettable night celebrating the legacy and bright future of Notre Dame Academy.



The Making a Difference Gala is NDA's largest yearly event to support the tuition assistance program, with more than one million dollars raised since its inception in 2020. The community's support makes a difference in the lives of NDA students. 100% of the proceeds from tickets,

sponsorships and donations provide direct and immediate tuition assistance to the nearly 45% of students receiving aid. [Follow this link](#) for further information.

Sunday, April 13 - Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Notre Dame Center

Mother-Daughter Retreat

The SND Mission Advancement Office cordially invites grandmothers, godmothers, mothers and daughters to an afternoon of reflection, designed to help mothers and daughters better understand their feminine gifts and each other. It will include fellowship, lunch, Scripture reflections and journaling, family and group conversations, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

The event is open to women 18+ years. Registration is limited and closes on April 7. [Follow this link](#) for more information and to register.



Who shall find a courageous woman, her value is far beyond pearls.
{Proverbs 31:10}

Thursday, May 1 - 7:30 -9:30 a.m.
California Lutheran University

Southeast Ventura County YMCA National Day of Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to be the guests of the SNDs for this powerful occasion, celebrating fellowship and prayer. As one community, from all faiths, we pray for our friends, family, government leaders, the nation and the world. To make reservations, please contact [Sr. Lisa Megaffin](#) by April 24. If you cannot attend, please join us in spirit.



[SNDUSA Website](#)

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

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

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

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