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*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

June 20, 2025

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...you are members of God's family

Dear Friends,

Today is World Refugee Day, celebrating the strength, resilience, and courage of refugees worldwide. And this painful reality has been part of our SND history. Our experiences of persecution and flight from anti-Catholic laws in Prussia led to new fields of ministry in the United States in 1874. Sr. Maria Aloysia Wolbring, our co-foundress, was among those refugee-pioneers who came to the United States. Since then, out of the darkness came the new light of hope-filled service to thousands of God’s people.

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul reiterated the bond of our common humanity, a non-negotiable value taught by Christ. “So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.” (Paraphrase of Eph. 2:19). And in our own day, Pope Leo XIV has reminded us to “help each other to build bridges-- with dialogue, with encounter, uniting all of us to be one people always in peace."



As a member of God’s family, may you find an abundance of grace, building bridges which unite all of us as one people, always in peace. This is the prayer of each Sister of Notre Dame as we gratefully acknowledge your presence in our lives.

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

FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

The Healing Arts
...beyond a Southern California comfort zone

The Rural HealthCare Student Experience (RHSE) is designed for rising junior and senior students in SND sponsored high schools who are seriously considering a career in health care. This month, two students from Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles, joined the four-day immersion experience in Morehead, Kentucky. They shadowed healthcare professionals, participated in clinical skills learning labs, completed service projects and more. The rural nature of the area truly expanded their horizons!

[Learn more](#) with this video showcasing a 2024 participant's reflections.



Tech Upgrades at NDA
...thriving, more than surviving

Sr. Annet Namakula, SND shares this report on the impact of recent technology upgrades at Notre Dame Academy.

In the photo, note that there are multiple students sharing one device in each computer lab session.



Notre Dame Academy in Buseesa, Uganda, gives women a chance to thrive and not just survive as their families have done for generations. NDA provides a multifaceted education, access to books, safe housing, clean water, and exposure to careers beyond subsistence farming. As technology evolves, the girls need to learn to navigate the internet for research, exam prep, and future careers. Thanks to a recent generous grant from the Hilton Fund for Sisters, NDA was able to purchase 20 computers for use by 300 students and their 20 teachers. Read more.

Distinguished Graduates
...taking the SND spirit and mission into the future

The Sisters of Notre Dame proudly congratulate the students from the California region who received the Distinguished Graduate Award upon their recent graduation. This recognition honors students from schools sponsored or affiliated with the Sisters of Notre Dame, as being outstanding witnesses to Notre Dame education. The criteria include practice of one's faith, service and academic achievement. We wish them many blessings in their future endeavors and we thank the educators who have guided and inspired them through the years.



Sienna Rosa	St. Jude the Apostle School, Westlake Village
Madeline Yolanda Padilla	Our Lady of the Assumption School, Ventura
Izaiah Salcedo	St. Helen Catholic School, South Gate
Abbie O'Donnell and Julia Daielle Yanez	Notre Dame Academy, Los Angeles
Alex Nocon	St. Mary Magdalen School, Camarillo
Jhoana Padilla Rico	St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy, Downey

Care for Creation Corner

The SNDs at Notre Dame Center have been enjoying the presence of several owls in the inner courtyard between the chapel and the dining room. The many mature trees provide natural nesting sites, and these two tend to roost on the chapel roof overlooking the courtyard. Owls are often associated with wisdom and intuition, and their hoots may symbolise a call to listen more closely to one's inner voice. Perhaps these owls are a reminder of how important it is for us to respect and care for creation! Follow this link to learn more about this unique creatures...



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
...living with one heart, one hope, one mission

Friday, June 20

30 Years and Counting...

The SNDs offer special gratitude and congratulations to Ofelia Santiago, a member of the SND health care team in California since June 20, 1995. In this photo, Ofelia receives congratulations from Sr. Antonine Manning. Her compassion and thoughtfulness are gifts that are dearly treasured by the living and deceased SNDs! *Thank you, Ofelia!*



Saturday, July 26, Noon
St. Julie Billiard Church
Newbury Park

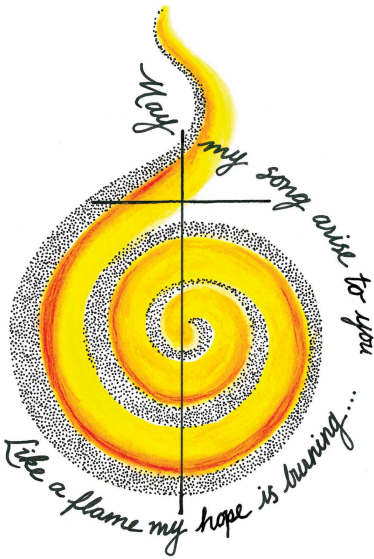
2025 SND Jubilee Mass and Reception

We will be honoring two Sisters of Notre Dame for their years of consecration:

DIAMOND JUBILEE ~ 60 years
Sr. Antoinette Marie Moon

GOLDEN JUBILEE ~ 50 years
Sr. Rose Marie Tulacz

The ceremony will be livestreamed [through this link](#).
For further information, email infoca@sndusa.org.



Thursday, August 7 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Notre Dame Center

Life is changed, not ended

The Sisters of Notre Dame will offer a practical conversation about planning a Mass of Christian Burial (for oneself or a loved one) and other related topics. Seating is limited and an RSVP is required to guarantee sufficient materials; a free will offering will be appreciated. Kindly RSVP [via email](#) by Monday, August 4.



[SNDUSA Website](#)

[SND USA Magazine, Spring, 2025](#)

[2024 Impact Report](#)

[Gift of Prayer & Memorial Prayer Cards](#)

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