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*Sisters of Notre Dame  
of the United States*

California Region

*Mission Advancement Egram*

July 31, 2025

**One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.**

## MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

*...with a flame of hope burning in our spirits*

Dear Friends,

This month of July has found a spirit of celebration for us--cherishing God's goodness and provident care. The graphic, designed by Sr. Leanne Hubbard, was used for our 2025 Jubilee. It reveals the song in our hearts and the flame of hope burning in our spirits.

Thirty years ago this month, our four American pioneers arrived in Buseesa, Uganda, to establish what has become an amazing example of God's provident care for the impoverished villagers. In an area where illiteracy was rampant and the average life span was in the 40s, we have been privileged to serve the marginalized of the Kibaale ("the forgotten") district. Today, the villagers receive the benefits of St. Julie Model Primary Boarding School, Nursery School, Notre Dame Senior Secondary School (including an A-level for university preparation), and a farm. Young women from Buseesa are included in more than 100

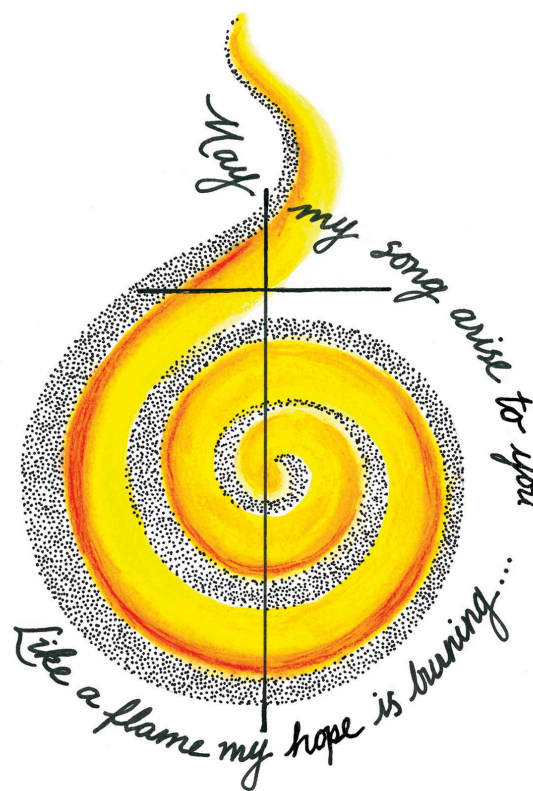
Sisters of Notre Dame who now carry on our spirit and mission in East Africa. We owe our deepest gratitude to the pioneers, Sr. Jane Marie McHugh and Sr. Margaret Mary Scott (from California) and Sr. Del Rita Glaser and Sr. Janet Stamm and (from Kentucky) and to the thousands of individuals whose prayers and financial sacrifices have turned this spark of hope into a flame burning brightly.

United in one heart, one hope, one mission, it is our privilege to share God's love with those entrusted to our care. And we humbly recognize that we depend on you, our partners, who join us with prayer and financial support. It is our prayer that you may be filled with a song in your heart and the flame of hope burning in your spirit.

Gratefully,

Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.

Director of Mission Advancement Services



## FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

**Jubilee 2025**

*...Like a flame my hope is burning...  
May my song arise to you...*

These words capture the theme for the celebration honoring Sr. Antoinette Marie Moon (Diamond Jubilee ~ 60 years) and Sr. Rose Marie Tulacz (Golden Jubilee ~ 50 years). A liturgy and reception at St. Julie Billiart Church included hundreds of relatives, friends and colleagues. The SNDs were grateful for the presence of Bishop Joseph Brennan and Bishop Slawomir Szredka. [Follow this link](#) for a photo gallery of the festivities, and [this link](#) to view a live-stream of the Mass.



**Building bridges...**

*... "out of the providence of God, beautiful things happen..."*



The SNDs are grateful to our partners across the country who regularly support our East Africa Mission. One powerful collaboration began in 2022 after Sr. Valerie Sweeney of the Chardon region made a mission appeal in Lancaster, Ohio. Subsequently, Bridges Ministry was launched through the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and they have chosen to form an ongoing relationship with the East Africa mission. They see their ministry as building bridges, using the structure of the universal church to identify the needs of the marginalized and raising the funds necessary to meet those needs.

Their projects have included access to clean water, emergency repairs to flooded nursery schools, and the construction of boarding facilities for Maasai children.

In July, Sr. Lisa Megaffin and Jen Coito met with Bridges Ministry leaders as they were preparing for two events to raise awareness and funds for the SND East Africa missions. Sr. Christine Symbua was featured on a radio podcast; her presentation begins at about 15 minutes into the recording. A concert with singer/songwriter Sarah Hart will be held on Saturday, August 16.

As expressed in the radio podcast, “out of the providence of God, beautiful things happen...” and for these blessings, the SNDs are most thankful. To arrange for a presentation on the SND Global Missions, especially in celebration of Mission Sunday on Oct. 19, email [infoca@sndusa.org](mailto:infoca@sndusa.org).

## Care for Creation Corner

Beach cleanups are the last defense against ocean pollution. Heal the Bay volunteers have removed more than 4 million pieces of trash from the Los Angeles coastline. There are so many ways to protect what you love! [Follow this link to get involved!](#)



**Heal the Bay is presenting the 36th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 9:00 a.m.**

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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

**Thursday, Aug. 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.



**Friday, Sept. 12 - 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time)**  
Online

### Young Adult Faith Sharing

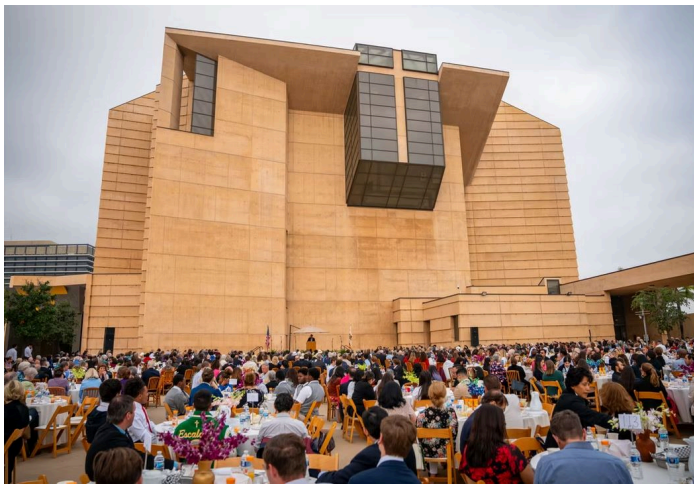
Join young adults from across the country to reflect and share on the Sunday Gospel on the second Friday of each month. All young adults are welcome. And feel free to share this invitation with any young adult in your life seeking meaningful connections rooted in prayer. To register, contact Sr. Val Roxburgh via [email](#) or text to 805-452-6999.



**Tuesday, Sept. 16 - 6:30 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels  
Los Angeles

**2025 Los Angeles Catholic Prayer  
Breakfast**

Please be the guest of the Sisters of Notre Dame for this experience of faith and community. It includes Rosary, Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jose Gomez, breakfast on the Cathedral plaza and a keynote address by the Most Rev. Joseph Espaillet, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of New York. [Send an email](#) for more information.



**Sunday, Oct. 12 - 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
Momentum  
2400 Willow Lane, Thousand Oaks

**Many Mansions 21st Annual Bowls of Hope**

Bowls of Hope raises awareness of the need for affordable housing, and raises funds for Many Mansions’ programs that serve the formerly homeless, veterans, seniors, and families of very low income. Many Mansions' communities can be found in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and in the future, in Riverside County.



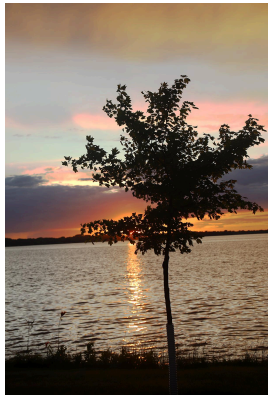
Originally, Bowls of Hope was designed to honor the experience of a soup kitchen, where many residents once turned for both food and connection. Now, Bowls of Hope brings together all members of our community to enjoy each other’s company, savor comforting foods, and participate in hands-on activities like building “Welcome Home” baskets.

All proceeds from this event support Many Mansions continued work to provide affordable housing and life-changing services to families that call Many Mansions, home. [Follow this link](#) to purchase tickets and for more information.

**Saturday, Oct. 18 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
Notre Dame Center

**Embracing the graces of the twilight years ~  
a retreat for "senior" citizens**

Participants will reflect on the challenges and graces of the twilight years (beginning around age 60) and opportunities to grow closer to the Divine. Senior citizens' care givers are also invited. [Follow this link](#) for complete information and please note that the RSVP deadline is Oct. 10.



**[SNDUSA Website](#)**

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

**[2024 Impact Report](#)**

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

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

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