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*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

September 30, 2025

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...celebrating 175 years of God's bountiful love

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow, Wednesday, October 1 is Foundation Day for the Sisters of Notre Dame, and we will be celebrating 175 years since our founding. In the words of Sr. Mary Ann Culpert, our Superior General, "We thank and praise our God's goodness and provident care in sustaining us these 175 years and using us as instruments in transforming the world and co-creating with God a new heaven and a new earth. Confident that God will always provide, we place our HOPE in the words spoken to us through the prophet Jeremiah: 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.' (Jer. 29:11)From the tiny mustard seed planted in Germany 175 years ago we now circle the globe, incarnating the love of our good and provident God." [Our congregational website](#) showcases the many different ways we are celebrating this landmark occasion--enjoy!



Last weekend, we honored the consecrated life of Sr. Cristina Marie Buczkowski with a Memorial Mass and reception. We invite you to share in our memories...

[Live stream of her Memorial Mass](#)

[Photo tribute](#)

[The story of her life](#)

And so this 175th anniversary and the life of Sr. Cristina Marie are awesome reminders of the graces that surround us. We are grateful to God for the thousands of individuals like you who have been and are now part of our lives, our relatives, friends, colleagues and donors. Our prayer for you is that your life is filled with profound trust and hope, that God who has begun the good work in you will always fill you with his bountiful love.

Gratefully,
[Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.](#)
Director of Mission Advancement Services

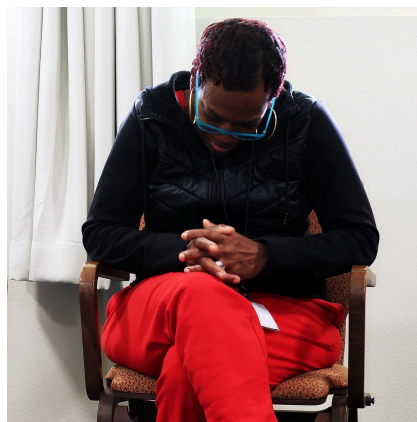
FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

Young adults embrace the silence...

...waiting for God to speak

The weekend of Sept. 19 through 21 found young adult women gathering at Notre Dame Center for a time away from their usual routine for a silent retreat.

Individuals' introductions provided fellowship and laughter. A special guest was Sr. Maria Nonata de Aquiar Bezerra, a member of the SND international leadership team who happened to be visiting. Sr. Regina Robbins introduced the retreat theme through a reflection on "The Gift of Choice, Rooted in God."



Activities included fellowship, reflection on Scripture, personal prayer, adoration and journaling. Retreatants also had the opportunity to meet with a spiritual director. As the group shared the fruits of the retreat, there were many common threads as reflected in these comments.

- I discovered that I really didn't need my phone.
- I sometimes wonder, "God where are you?" How great it was to discover his presence.
- I'm so grateful for this weekend and I wish I could stay another week.
- I didn't expect that God would show up...but he did!
- My world is very loud and I know that something has to change. I look forward to the messages from Sr. Val Roxburgh, inviting me to retreat time.
- You SNDs really have something here. Coming together with fellowship and with the Holy Spirit is so valuable. And I'm so grateful.



San Buenaventura Serra Club

...celebrating religious consecration

On September 15, approximately 20 members of the San Buenaventura Serra Club joined the SNDs at Notre Dame Center for Evening Prayer, Mass and dinner. A highlight of the evening was the installation of the group's new officers by Anne Champagne, Pacific Region Director of the Serra Club. (Anne is seated in the bottom row on the left.) Since the mission of the Serra Club is to encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Church, young members of the congregation from around the world were featured in a brief program. [This rendition of the SND 175th anniversary song](#), courtesy of the SNDs in Kenya, was particularly energetic and enjoyable!



Care for Creation Corner

As we celebrate St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4, it might be meaningful to review this St. Francis Pledge and take action to make it real. I/We Pledge to:

- **PRAY and REFLECT** on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- **LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- **ASSESS** how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable

Adapted from [*Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*](#)



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

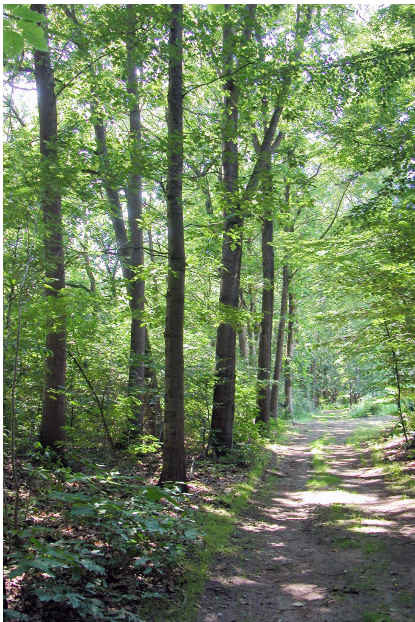
...living with one heart, one hope, one mission

Friday - Sunday, Oct. 3 - 5

Serra Retreat House
Malibu

"From Surviving to Thriving"

Sr. Antoinette Moon, SND, and Fr. Larry Gosselin, OFM, will be the presenters for this Men's Retreat. Participants will be invited to be genuinely renewed on the spiritual journey, moving beyond simply enduring life's challenges to embracing God's grace in a way that leads to the flourishing of souls. [Consult the Serra Retreat website](#) for further information.



Friday, Oct. 10 - 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 805-452-9699.



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.

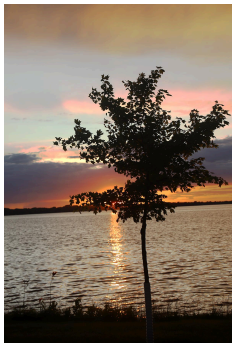
All proceeds from this event support Many Mansions continued work to provide affordable housing and life-changing services to families that call Many Mansions, home. [Follow this link](#) to purchase tickets and for more information.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Many Mansions invites energetic volunteers to assist with the many facets of this event! [Follow this link for more information.](#) **THANK YOU!**

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.**



Saturday, Nov. 1 - 9:30 a.m.
Notre Dame Center

**Memorial Mass honoring
All Saints and All Souls**

Please join the Sisters of Notre Dame for this Mass honoring our deceased loved ones. A simple reception will follow. Kindly RSVP with name and number attending to infoca@sndusa.org by October 30.



*A sunset is ablaze
in brilliance, stillness, and hope..
much like the lives
of those we have cherished...*

[SNDUSA Website](#)

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

[2024 Impact Report](#)

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

[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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