

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

October 29, 2025

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...so many reasons for gratitude!



Dear Friends,

The celebration of our 175th anniversary continues! This group of SND pilgrims to Rome recently had the special privilege of a general audience with Pope Leo XIV. In this photo, Sr. Mary Ann Culpert, our Superior General, presented him with a replica of the Annatal Cross, an image that inspired our founding sisters in their daily prayer. I invite you to pray with us:

Good and Provident God, just as Sr. Maria Aloysia and Sr. Maria Ignatia knelt in faith and surrender before the Annatal Cross, offering their lives you as the living stones upon which our congregation was built, may we too trust in your loving providence.

*We are grateful for the Notre Dame charism which animates our mission.
May we find strength beneath the Cross.
Guide us as we embrace a future full of hope for all of God's people.
In union with Mary we pray, "let it be done in us." Amen.*

This egram is full of the many reasons that we have to be grateful! The latest edition of the SND USA magazine features former SND students who are now pursuing careers in education. Indeed, they are continuing our educational legacy, sharing God's goodness and love. Cristina Cuellar, a graduate of St. Lawrence of Brindisi School in Watts and Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles, is one of the educators featured. In addition, Sr. Karlynn Werth recounts her missionary service in South Korea. Prepare to be inspired by their stories!

In addition, we gratefully share the story of the impact of Many Mansions, one of our partner ministries, in this brief video. It includes powerful testimonials from previously homeless individuals. Get some tissue and be inspired!

So as we honor those who have gone before us this weekend (with All Saints Day and All Souls Day), and as we gratefully reflect on the abundance of graces that God has given us, please know that we count each of you as a special gift. Thank you for your encouragement, support and financial assistance...we have so many reasons for gratitude!

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

FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE

Congratulations to South Central LAMP!

... "when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat"

South Central LAMP was recently selected as a Good Food Champion by Los Angeles City Councilmember Cur Price. LAMP's food distribution program was recognized for improving food access and making a meaningful impact in the community. [Follow this link](#) to learn more about LAMP's Thanksgiving Food Drive. **And thank you for supporting our partner ministry!**



Celebrating Foundation Day at Notre Dame Academy



"Here at Notre Dame Academy Elementary, we gathered in school families to honor the legacy of the SND founders. Just as Hilligonde Wolbring (Sr. Maria Aloysia) shared her sandwich with one of her students in need, we made sandwiches for homeless individuals. They were donated to the Hollywood Food Coalition."



High schoolers at NDA recognized all the SNDs around the world, especially from Southern California and Uganda during a Founder's Day Rosary Prayer Service. Special thanks were given to Sr. Donna Marie Appert and Sr. Mary Frances Wahl, members of the NDA faculty.

Learn more about Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles!

Messages of gratitude and hope!

In celebration of our 175th anniversary as a congregation, the SNDs from across the United States provided messages of hope for young people today. Seventy-nine SNDs generously shared their wisdom, as well as stories of a fellow sister who inspired their vocation. [Follow this link and enjoy!](#)



Creating a brighter future...

through safe and naturing spaces

Two members of Bridges Ministry's Team were present for the ribbon-cutting of a boarding facility for Maasai children at Notre Dame Osotwa School in Tanzania. [Bridges Ministry](#) first came to know the SNDs through the annual summer Missionary Cooperative Program, when an SND visited their parish. In this photo, they celebrated the ribbon-cutting festivities by planting a tree which, like the boarding facility, will be a sign of hope for future generations.



In explaining this project, Sr. Christine Syombua stated, "The Sisters of Notre Dame in Maasai land aim to promote education for girls, advocate for legal reforms, and offer support to families and communities to shift perspectives on early marriage. By highlighting the benefits of education and empowering girls to make their own choices, we seek to foster a cultural shift towards valuing girls' rights and opportunities.... When we were starting the mission in the Maasai area, we also realized that boys needed a lot of help because they are not spared from harsh cultural practices. They are

also given wives at a very young age, sometimes while they are still in primary school. Our main aim is to address these issues and promote education for both girls and boys within Maasai communities.” The Sisters of Notre Dame are deeply grateful for the generosity of Bridges Ministry!

Care for Creation Corner



Creation integrates the beauty of fall colors and the pristine nature of crystal, clear water. Our responsible use of natural resources contributes to this display of God's goodness and provident care. Here are some simple and sustainable ways to connect with autumn.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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

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. Fr. Leon Hutton, rector of St. John's Seminary, will be the celebrant. 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...*

**Wednesday & Thursday,
Nov. 5 & 6, a.m. & p.m. shifts**
Camarillo

Volunteer Project at Rancho Sierra Senior Apartments

Join Many Mansions as we prepare for residents to move into their new homes at Rancho Sierra, an apartment community dedicated to housing currently homeless seniors. During this project, volunteers will help assemble and stage IKEA furniture in the individual units, kitchens, and outdoor spaces. [Learn more and register here.](#) Can't make this event? Many Mansions will need support with food delivery, 1-on-1 enrichment, and many more service opportunities. Email [Hannah Blitstein](mailto:Hannah.Blitstein) to connect with future opportunities.



Friday, Nov. 14 - 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, Dec. 7 - 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Notre Dame Center

Be Still and Know that I Am God

The Sisters of Notre Dame are pleased to offer an Advent Afternoon of Recollection. Participants will reflect on many types of stillness in preparation for the birth of Christ. [Click here](#) for complete information; please note that the registration deadline is Dec. 3.



[SNDUSA Website](#)

[2024 Impact Report](#)

[NEW!!! SND USA Magazine, Fall, 2025](#)

[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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!