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*Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States*

California Region

Mission Advancement Egram

March 31, 2026

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

MESSAGE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

...beautiful shapes in our kaleidoscope of hope...

Dear Friends,

As children, we probably discovered a kaleidoscope as a unique toy. The word kaleidoscope comes from the Greek: "kalos" meaning beautiful and "eidos" meaning shapes. Made of colorful bits and pieces of glass, a kaleidoscope creates changing patterns when rotated. In so many ways, the vocation and daily life of each Sister of Notre Dame is like a kaleidoscope of hope.

We are pleased to share our 2025 Impact Report, and we trust that you will see the impact of your donations reflected in many ways. As world realities are constantly changing, our responses must adapt to the needs of the times. Indeed, the various patterns within a kaleidoscope represent the diverse combinations of our prayer and outreach, revealing the hope we find in God's goodness and provident care.

As our partners in mission, you are vital in supporting our Kaleidoscope of Hope. Please be assured that we are deeply grateful for your encouragement and financial support, and that you and your loved ones are remembered with great fondness in our daily prayer.

[Follow this link](#) to enjoy the many facets of our 2025 Kaleidoscope of Hope Impact Report!

Wishing you many blessings this Holy Week and Easter season,
Sr. Lisa Megaffin, S.N.D.
Director of Mission Advancement Services



FROM THE CALIFORNIA GRAPEVINE



Clean water for Mpanda Mission, Tanzania thanks to the Hilton Fund for Sisters!

The SNDs established the Mpanda Mission in Tanzania to educate children of the Waviba Tribe since they had no access to schools or professional opportunities. The facility lacked proper drainage during the rainy season and adequate water supply in the dry season. Flooding and improper drainage resulted in children contracting bilharzia, colds, cough, pneumonia and malaria, and skin diseases from standing, dirty water and insect bites. The standing water also hid snakes and sharp objects, which posed serious risks.

Due to a generous grant from the Hilton Fund for Sisters, St. Kizito Primary was able to install gutters to drain water from the roofline into seven storage tanks. More than 300 children, along with the teachers and sisters, are getting enough clean water for daily use. Hygiene has improved in the dormitories and kitchen. There is even enough water for the children to wash their clothes regularly.

Follow [this link](#) for more updates on the progress of the SND missions in East Africa. We send many grateful blessings to our donors who are our partners in mission!

Career Day highlights at Pius Matthias Academy

Sr. Judeen Julier and Sr. Erin Nagy recently represented the SNDs at a Career Day at St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy in Downey. Many community members from various professional fields shared their stories with the students. Sr. Erin commented "We hosted a table which gave us the opportunity to speak to many students throughout the day. In our conversations, we found that the students were excited about to learn about their faith and how to continue serving with the Church after their high school graduation. I was grateful for the opportunity to witness to the students at Pius Matthias about religious life, but even more to enjoy mutual inspiration with these faithful and motivated students!"



Participants in the Career Day included Mary Frances Rutz, Campus Ministry Coordinator, Jason Martinez '26, and Sr. Erin Nagy. Sr. Erin is currently a graduate student at Loyola Marymount University.

Mission Moment

Meet Sr. Shirley Marie McGovern ~ Minister to the Incarcerated

Sr. Shirley Marie McGovern recently shared her experiences of visiting the incarcerated.

Every Sunday, Catholic volunteers celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion with inmates at the Men's Twin Towers Correction Facility in Los Angeles. We volunteers are able to serve between 50 and 100 men weekly. Most of the men have little experience of God in their lives. Reading Scripture and discussing its meaning is well received by the men. And all of them are also eager to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

For about 20 years, I have been involved in this ministry—and I truly feel it reaches the poorest of the poor. Visiting them has helped me realize the many "God opportunities" I have that the incarcerated don't have. This ministry adds a little of that into their lives, and for this I am grateful.



Mission Moment will become a regular column in our monthly egram. We will feature SNDs, Associates, and ministry partners who exemplify the SND spirit and mission. To make suggestions and provide testimonials, please email infoca@sndusa.org.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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



Tuesday, Apr. 7 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Monica's Parish
Santa Monica

How Do You Embrace God's Light When You Are Experiencing Darkness?

All young adults are welcome to attend Lent at YMA which will include a presentation given by Sr. Val Roxburgh. Come join Sr. Val Roxburgh unpack the richness of John 1:5: "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." invited to experience a spiritual pilgrimage through scripture, relevant literature, and real-life inspirational stories of faith. [Follow this link](#) for more information.

Friday, Apr. 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.



Saturday, Apr. 11
St. Cornelius Parish
Long Beach

**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 Apr. 3.



Saturday, Apr. 18 - 9:00 - 12:30
repeated on
Sunday, April 19 - 1:00 - 4:30
Notre Dame Center

Friendship with Jesus Retreat

This retreat will be an opportunity to reflect on images of God as well as the dynamics of human and divine friendship. The same content will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. [Follow this link](#) for complete information and please note that the registration deadline is April 10.



Friday, Apr. 24 - Sunday, Apr. 26
Serra Retreat House
Malibu

Men's Retreat ~ Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Sr. Antoinette Marie Moon and Fr. Larry Gosselin, OFM will be the presenters for this retreat. It will include conferences, liturgies, confession and much more. [Follow this link](#) for more information and to register.

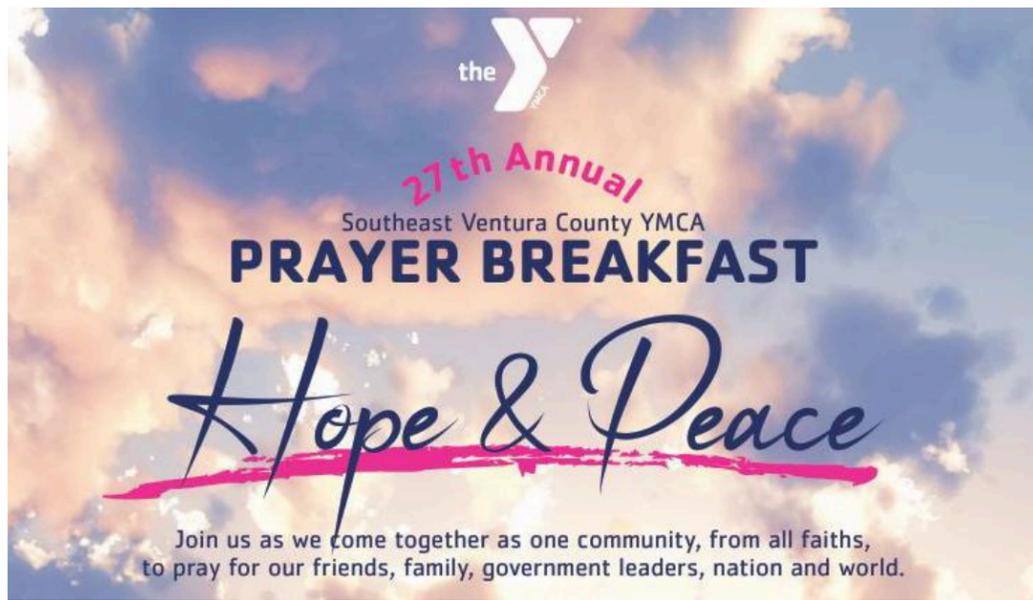


Wednesday, Apr. 29 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Notre Dame Center

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 names of those attending to infoca@sndusa.org by Friday, Apr. 24.





Thursday, May 7, 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. To join the SND table(s), please email infoca@sndusa.org by April 30.

[SNDUSA Website](#)

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

[2025 Impact Report](#) ~ *NEW!*

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