



November 2023 | Issue 4

## Giving Thanks for You

We hope our latest newsletter will help you, schools, healthcare centers and boards of the East-West Province, recognize the boundless work you all are doing across the sponsored ministries and encourages you to continue to engage with us in the multitude of programs we are offering in the coming weeks and months.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we want to thank you for the incredible commitment you've shown to our shared mission. Your unwavering dedication to supporting our students, residents, faculty, staff, and broader communities is inspiring and it is what propels us forward in the name of mission. As we each strive to make a difference in the lives of those we serve, your commitment to caring for and educating others exemplifies the kindness and selflessness that make our partnership so valuable.

We are blessed to know you as partners in this profound mission. It's our shared values of giving and caring for others that shine the brightest and keep us moving forward. May we continue to see the goodness of God in our work and our daily lives. May our journey together be filled with hope, resilience, and joy.

A very happy, healthy, and blessed Thanksgiving to you all.

***Kim, Julie, Katie, Amy and Sister Louise***  
EW Sponsorship Office Team



## Mission Moments



Give thanks for everything you have,  
For everything you receive,  
And for everything you are going to receive.  
Never cease to give thanks,  
For this positive attitude towards life—  
The very act of giving thanks—  
Draws the best out of you,  
Helps to keep your heart and mind open;  
Helps to keep your awareness expanding.  
The more blessings you count,  
The more they increase.

*Eileen Cady*

Our office is working on a **Prayer Index available on our website**. This is a work-in-progress, beginning with prayers for Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas. More categories/prayers will be added regularly.

## Calendar | Upcoming Events & Meetings

Please link to and bookmark our **Calendar of Events page** on the SNDdeN website to access these events, view up-to-date registration links and additional event listings.

### Partners in Mission

First Mondays of the month

(Oct-Dec; Feb-Apr.) | Zoom

- 12:45 pm PT/3:45 pm ET (Early session)
- 3:15 pm PT/6:15 pm ET (Late session)

**Who Should Attend:** This 6-part orientation program is for new Notre Dame de Namur educators in their first three years of teaching or working at a Notre Dame de Namur learning community. We also welcome all educators.

#### **Download/View Informational Flyer**

Participants have a choice of attending the early or late session each day. The same material will be presented at each session. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to reach out to Julie Dowd, [jdowd@ewsndden.org](mailto:jdowd@ewsndden.org), or Kim Weckbacher, [kweckbacher@ewsndden.org](mailto:kweckbacher@ewsndden.org).



Register - Early Session

Register - Late Session

*A certificate will be offered to all participants who complete the program making this an excellent professional development opportunity for faculty and staff.*

## Mission Integration Committee Info-Session

### Who Should Attend:

SNDdeN sponsored ministries mission integration committee members (board & staff), board chairs, heads of ministry.

As the new board by-laws require that each sponsored ministry establish a Mission Integration Committee on their board, we are offering a session for board chairs and mission integration committee members (board & staff) to cover the following:

- Purpose of the Mission Integration Committee.
- Questions the committee could ask to get started.
- Examples of Mission Integration Committee goals and activities.

Each session will include a presentation by members of the sponsorship office, and discussion among participants for sharing of additional ideas and resources.



**Wednesday  
November 29, 2023**

**3:30 pm ET | Health Care Ministries**

**Register - Health Care**

**3:30 pm PT - 6:30 pm ET |  
School Boards**

**Register - School Boards**

## Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Exploring Opportunities and Implications for SNDdeN Educational Mission - Save The Date

**Who Should Attend:** Any faculty and staff members from the Notre Dame de Namur educational community.



**January 22, 2024  
4 - 6 pm PT | Notre Dame de  
Namur University - Taube  
Center, Belmont, CA**

In a world where machines can drive cars, land spacecraft, and compose sonnets, how do we harness this technology to create a more just and humane world? Professor Chris Brooks will help us to understand AI history, definitions, benefits and concerns, present some ways in which AI can be used to address educational equity and improve learning outcomes, and ask how we can reconsider AI to mean 'augmented intelligence', and whether this reframing can let us place human needs and concerns at the center of the design.

**Christopher Brooks** is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at USF, with a joint appointment in the Department of Engineering. He joined USF in 2002 after



Keynote speaker Chris Brooks and Respondent Panel of SNDdeN educators.

**Save the Date!! Invite & Registration to Come**

completing a PhD in computer science at the University of Michigan. He also holds an MS in computer science from San Francisco State University, and a BA and JBA in English and journalism, respectively, from the University of Wisconsin.

## Hallmark Retreats

**Who Should Attend:** Any Sister of Notre Dame de Namur sponsored ministry faculty and staff

The Hallmark retreat includes 12 to 15 participants and engages educators in reflection and conversation on the Notre Dame de Namur Hallmarks and tradition. All Notre Dame faculty and staff are encouraged to attend a Hallmark retreat during the first several years of their tenure. Please contact your head of school, campus minister or mission leader for registration information.



Registrations for both East & West Coast to Come

### West Coast

Feb. 26-28, 2024 | Villa Angelica, Carmel, CA

### East Coast

April 4 & 5, 2024 | Notre Dame Spirituality Center, Ipswich, MA

## Healing the Healers Retreat

**May 9-11, 2024 | Notre Dame Spirituality Center, Ipswich, MA**

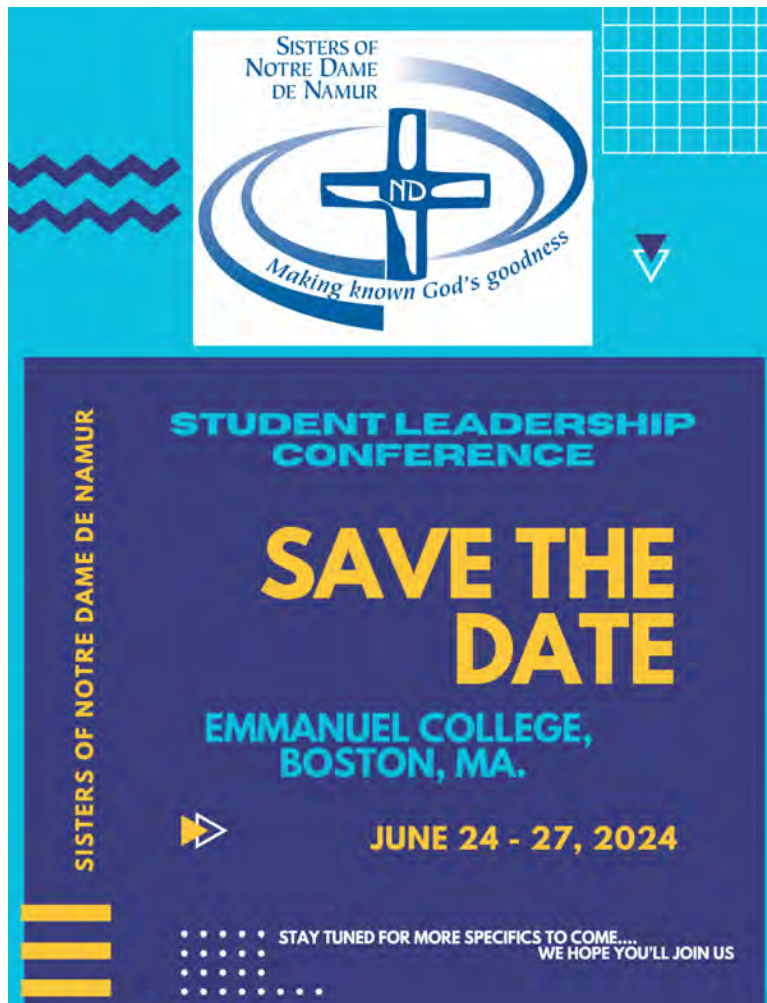
**Who Should Attend:** Any staff members from the Notre Dame de Namur health care facilities

A day-long retreat for rest, reflection, and socializing with fellow staff from Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur health care facilities throughout New England. Opportunities to learn more about the spirituality of the Sisters, and optional meditative walks, gardening, yoga, and art. Option to spend the night at the retreat center for those who would like. Please reach out to [Julie Dowd](#) for more information.



Registration to Come

## Student Leadership Conference 2024



## School Leaders Conference 2024

**November 11-13, 2024 | The Westin, Cincinnati**  
**Who Should Attend:** Heads of Schools and leadership teams.

This year we bring our conference to Cincinnati, Ohio. We will have an all-inclusive experience holding the conference and offering accommodations at The Westin in downtown Cincinnati not far from our Ohio schools and Province center. Custom **[SNDdeN hotel booking link](#)** available now.

With the change in timing and advanced notice we hope you will mark your calendars, plan ahead and rally your leadership teams to join us November 2024! Watch for registration! We welcome you to **[submit your suggestions](#)** for speakers, topics and workshops.



Registration to Come

## School Administrators Monthly Meetings

### SECONDARY / ADULT EDUCATION:

12:30 pm ET / 9:30 am PT

First Monday of the month:

December 4, 2023

**January 8, 2024 – FULL PROVINCE  
MEETING 2:00 pm ET / 11:00 am PT**

February 5, 2024

March 4, 2024

April 8, 2024

May 6, 2024

June 3, 2024

### ELEMENTARY/EARLY CHILDHOOD:

2:00 pm ET / 11:00 am PT

First Monday of the month:

December 4, 2023

**January 8, 2024 – FULL PROVINCE  
MEETING 2:00 pm ET / 11:00 am PT**

February 5, 2024

March 4, 2024

April 8, 2024

May 6, 2024

June 3, 2024

## Quarterly Board Chair & Vice Chair Meetings

All meetings are held at 6:30 pm ET/3:30 pm PT.

December 12, 2023

February 2, 2024

April 2, 2024

## Happenings Across the Province

### Notre Dame students gather at Ignatian Family Teach-In For Justice

Students from NDA Hingham, NDHS San Jose, and AND Villanova met up in Washington, DC for three days of workshops and conversations on social justice issues including climate change, racial justice, living wage, peace-building, and ending the death penalty. Villanova campus minister Julia Tully said, “I was so happy to watch our students see a Church that does justice, to help them see their faith put into action. Our students were so inspired by the stories they heard, and they are having conversations about how to bring more students from our school into their conversations.”

NDHS San Jose student Asami Harte said, “I have always felt passionate about advocacy and sometimes in a school setting you don't really get to go to in depth with that. So being able to come on this trip and being able to be with a bunch of people my age who are just as passionate about these topics is really fulfilling and it feels very nice.”



Learn more about the annual [Teach-In here](#).



Notre Dame students from San Jose (CA), Hingham (MA), and Villanova (PA) enjoy pizza and socializing at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, Oct. 28-30, 2023 in Washington, DC.

## Academy of Notre Dame Tyngsboro's geodome highlighted in recent issue of *The Pilot*

A recent [article in \*The Pilot\*](#), America's oldest Catholic newspaper, highlighted and discussed the use of the Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro's geodome and its effect on students, faculty and community.



We invite you to join *Education for Justice* (EFJ) through our EW Province Sponsorship Office group membership.

EFJ is an online library of thousands of text-based and multimedia resources in faith and justice, Catholic social thought,

and other topics related to the SNDdeN mission for teachers, students, campus ministers, service coordinators, etc.

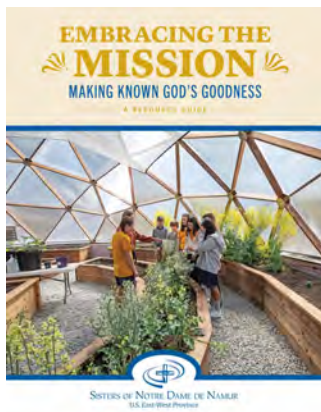
[Log-in here](#) to set up your own account free of charge for EW Province Sponsored Ministries. (Please note that you'll see a screenshot of a payment page when you log-in, but you will not be prompted to pay. Scroll down to complete the registration fields.) Any questions, please contact Julie Dowd at [jdowd@ewsndden.org](mailto:jdowd@ewsndden.org).

# Resources Available for all Sponsored Ministries

## Embracing the Mission: A Resource Guide

This book delves into the diverse ministries of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, their mission, and the extraordinary importance of being part of their blessed and purposeful mission. This resource is intended for anyone who wants to learn more about the SNDdeN history and mission, the Sponsorship Office's role and definitions of terms and symbols used throughout our ministries.

### [View Embracing the Mission](#)



## A Mission Forward The Life and Spirituality of St. Julie Billiart

This book is a wonderful republished compilation of the founding story of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and the spirituality in which it is rooted. Taken in part from *Pathways to God's Goodness, Julie Billiart: Woman of Courage* and *Saint Julie Billiart: A Saint for Our Times*, this resource also includes symbols and characteristics of Notre Dame mission and spirituality as well as prayers.



To receive more information or copies of either book, reach out to:

- East coast ministries - [Julie Dowd](#)
- West coast ministries - [Sister Louise O'Reilly](#)

## Province Circle of Prayer

## Visit EW Sponsorship Web Pages

### [U.S. East-West Province Sponsorship Office](#)

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Ipswich, MA 01938

