



“With hearts as wide as the world,” let’s do our best to love without limits

As partners in mission, we share in the joy, kindness and love that St. Julie had for her Sisters and we see daily in the communities we serve.

At its core, our shared mission is one of kindness and love. Yes, the Hallmark Cards Company may have cornered the market on February 14th, but the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community have promoted the essence of living our lives with love and kindness for decades as evidenced by the numerous examples within this newsletter.

At the Notre Dame Health Care Center in Worcester, MA, this poem, written by Sister Bernice King, SNDdeN, sits on a table in its reception area. Taking a day to be sure we celebrate and express love and kindness to all those with whom we interact is a very good demonstration of living out the SNDdeN Hallmarks. So, with that:



Mission Moments

View the [Prayer Index available on our website](#). This is a work-in-progress, more categories/prayers will be added regularly.

I Will Turn



Lord, I will turn,
Turn my face towards you.
I will lay before you the desert areas I hide
And turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.
I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits
And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.
I will draw back from the harsh pull of media

And turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.
Lord, today I turn my face towards you.

I will turn
To soak in your words of life,
To rest in the warmth of your love,
And to bathe in the power of your Spirit.

A Lenten prayer by Julie Palmer © 2018 www.prayerscapes.com

Reflecting on the legacy of Sister Dorothy Stang

On February 12th, we commemorate the 19th anniversary of Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN's passing. Below, we share some of her inspiring story and provide resources for further exploration and reflection on her legacy.



Sister Dorothy embarked on her mission in the Brazilian rainforest in 1966, focusing on sustainable farming practices among local communities. She worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization of the Catholic Church that fights for the rights of rural workers and land reform. Her outspoken defense of the vulnerable incurred the wrath of corporations and landowners eager for forest exploitation. Tragically, she was assassinated on February 12, 2005.

Recognized as "Woman of the Year" by the state of Para and awarded the Humanitarian of the Year accolade by the Brazilian Bar Association, Sister Dorothy's legacy resonates globally. Her posthumous honors include tributes from colleges, the US Congress, and the United Nations, which awarded her the 2008 Prize in HumanRights. The Vatican also acknowledged her as a modern-day martyr.

Through the artistry of Sisters Janet Mullen and Margaret Hoffman, who created a series of artistic “Beatitudes,” Sister Dorothy's essence is immortalized in depictions reflecting her faith, advocacy for the marginalized, and reverence for the land. Her timeless words echo: "We need to... re-appropriate a kind and tender relationship with Mother Earth. Then we will know how to act."

Many of our learning communities are finding ways to be kinder to the earth. In December, sixth through eighth grade students at Moreland Notre Dame planted seven shade trees and plans are underway for a planting of plants that require little water and are friendly to pollinator insects.

Click here to view more resources and reflections on Sister Dorothy's legacy, including flipbooks, **video library**, downloadable posters, events and sponsored school awards.



The Student, The Nun & The Amazon

is a video produced by James Newton Films. It follows UK student Sam Clements as he journeys to meet Sister Dorothy and he is immediately inspired by her determination.

Notre Dame Virtual School: Empowering education globally for 23 years

In the dynamic landscape of education, technology has emerged as a transformative force, breaking down barriers and expanding learning opportunities. A prime example of this is the **Notre Dame Virtual School** (NDVS), a visionary initiative born in 2001 out of the passion and dedication of Sister Kristin Hokanson, SNDdeN. Sister Kristin's expertise, forward-thinking approach, and the congregation's support have not only sustained but enhanced this valuable resource over the years.

With an impressive 23-year legacy, NDVS is accessed through the Notre Dame Online (notredameonline.org) website. Notre Dame Online was developed simultaneously with the NDVS by Sister Kristin and her sister, Sister Karen and is now managed by the Congregation Communications Office and co-led by Sisters Anne Stevenson and Angele Lewis. Together, these tools enrich the educational experience further. Monthly themes based on United Nations and its Sustainable Development goals are curated by Sister Kristin and Sister Angele, who ensure these valuable resources reach the schools within the network.



Continue Reading Full Story

Happenings Across the Province

Be sure to check out the SNDdeN social media accounts - [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#) - to see what wonderful things are going on within our sponsored ministries! Links also at bottom of newsletter.

Beth Ross, Ed.D., named 14th president of Emmanuel College



The Board of Trustees, in a unanimous vote, has appointed Dr. Beth Ross as the 14th President of Emmanuel College, effective immediately.

As Acting President for the past six months, Dr. Ross has steered a strategic course for the College, building on her 23 years of committed service to Emmanuel, her comprehensive understanding of all facets of institutional operations, and her strong collaborative engagement with students, faculty, and staff.

With her optimism and creativity, Dr. Beth Ross embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that has characterized Emmanuel from its founding in 1919. She enjoys the full and enthusiastic support of the Board as she continues to lead Emmanuel forward in this time of unprecedented possibility. Read Dr. Beth Ross' [message to the Emmanuel community](#).

Founders' week celebrations

Throughout the Province, our ministries commemorated Founders' Week leading up to the Congregational Feast Day on February 2, 2024. Our ministries marked 220 years of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur by engaging in acts of service, deepening their spiritual reflection, and coming together to honor St. Julie Billiart with grateful hearts as wide as the world.

[VIEW PHOTOS](#) from around the Province.



Notre Dame Elementary and High School, Belmont, CA celebrating Founders' Day Mass together

Spilling the Tea with Sister Sister Gillian Wallace Ph.D., Class of 1988 at Notre Dame High School, Belmont, CA

Students hosted a talk show and trivia game with Sister Gillian in honor of Founders' Week.



Notre Dame Health Care Center, Worcester honors employees, volunteers and residents with monthly "Mission Moments" ceremony

Notre Dame Health Care's (NDHC) monthly "Mission Moments" program celebrates employees, volunteers and residents who demonstrate exceptional dedication to serving residents, patients, students, and colleagues across their various service lines. Here, we see honorees of their January 2024 ceremony from the Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center, du Lac Assisted Living Residence, the At Home Division (hospice and palliative care), and Central Administration. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to fostering community, in alignment with Hallmark 6: "We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve."



Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville, CA

Congratulations to the Moreland Notre Dame School for winning the Best of Pajaro Valley 2023 award for Best Private/Charter School, Best After-School Program and Runner Up for Best Preschool (TK).



- ✓ Best private/charter school
- ✓ Best after school program
- ✓ Runner up: Best Preschool



SNDdeN Educators Symposium held at Notre Dame de Namur University - recording now available

On January 27th, the East-West Sponsorship Office hosted the initial SNDdeN Educators Symposium on the West coast, co-sponsored by Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) in Belmont, CA. The symposium brought together faculty, staff, and administrators from Notre Dame de Namur schools across the province to delve into significant education trends impacting our mission.

The event, held at the Taube Center at NDNU, featured approximately 30 in-person and 140 virtual attendees consisting of school leaders, educators, existing students at NDNU, alumnae and Sisters. The focus was on the theme "Being Human in the Age of AI: Exploring Opportunities and Implications for SNDdeN's Educational Mission."

Keynote speaker Christopher Brooks and a panel of professionals within the Notre Dame de Namur network addressed AI history, definitions, benefits, and concerns. Discussions encompassed educational equity, improving learning outcomes, and ethical and theological considerations within the context of the Notre Dame mission, spirituality, and charism.

A second Educators Symposium "**Educating for Life: Notre Dame de Namur Schools Today**" is scheduled for March 15, 2024, on the east coast at the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro. (Event information below.)

“Fostering openminded, research-based conversations around the opportunities and implications of AI is a timely priority for educators. In this evolving technological landscape, I am grateful that the SNDdeN Sponsorship Office is at the forefront of such crucial dialogue. As panelist, Dr. Kathleen Quiazon, NDSJ’s Director of Mission and Ministry submitted during the symposium, integrating our guiding Hallmarks with emergent AI capabilities is indeed a “transformational opportunity.””

Ashley Rae Mathis, Head of School,
Notre Dame San Jose



VIEW
RECORDING

SNDdeN
Educators
Symposium held
at NDNU in
Belmont, CA.

Presenters L to R:

Kathleen Quiazon, Ed.D., VP for Mission and Ministry, Notre Dame High School San Jose;
Bobby Vaughn, Ph.D., Special Asst. to the President;
John Veitch, Ph.D., Dean, School of Business and Management, NDNU.

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.

Notre Dame de Namur Educators Symposium *Educating for Life: Notre Dame de Namur Schools Today*



Registration Open

Friday, March 15, 2024 | 9
am - 1 pm ET

Academy of Notre Dame
Tyngsboro, MA
Lunch is included

What does it mean to be a Notre Dame de Namur educator today? How do we meet the needs of our students in our classrooms with integrity to our mission and hope for the future? Join SNDdeN educators from throughout the province for a day of conversation, reflection, and networking. All SNDdeN educators, teachers, and staff are encouraged to attend. A livestream option will be available for those unable to attend in person.

Keynote: David Palmieri, Theology teacher, Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood MA and founder, *Without Exception*, a network for LGBTQ+ ministry in Catholic schools.

Faculty panel:

Evan Derosby, History Teacher, Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro

Ashley Hasling, Math Teacher, Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School, Methuen

Pam Mason, Religion Teacher, Notre Dame Academy, Worcester

Hallmarks Retreat - East Coast

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

Who Should Attend: Faculty and staff of Notre Dame de Namur schools to deepen their understanding of the 7 Hallmarks & connect with colleagues across the network. All Notre Dame de Namur faculty and staff are encouraged to attend a Hallmarks retreat during the first several years of their tenure.

The retreat begins at 9 am on Thursday, April 4 and ends at noon on Friday, April 5.

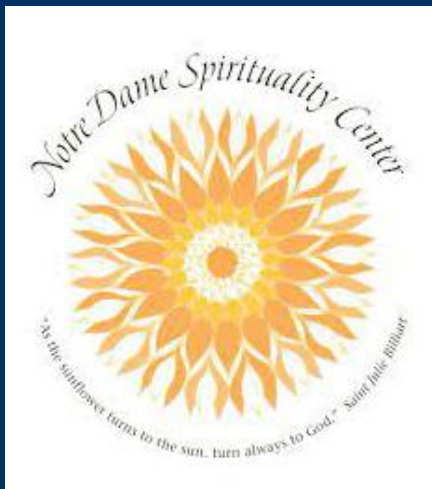
\$150/person includes all meals and single room with private bath.

Please contact your principal, campus minister or mission leader to express your interest in attending.



Registration Open

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 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

June 24 - 27, 2024
Emmanuel College, Boston, MA

Mark your calendars and start preparing your students for the 2024 Student Leadership Conference.

Announcements and registrations coming soon!



2024 School Leaders Conference - Educate, Empower, Transform



Registration to Come

November 11-13, 2024 | The Westin, Cincinnati, Ohio

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. Designated [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.

School Administrators Monthly Meetings

SECONDARY / ADULT EDUCATION:

12:30 pm ET / 9:30 am PT

First Monday of the month:

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:

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.

April 2, 2024

U.S. East-West Province Sponsorship Office

30 Jeffreys Neck Road

Ipswich, MA 01938

<https://sddeneastwest.org/>

