

Goodness in Action

A monthly newsletter from
the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
U.S. East-West Province



April 2025 Updates

Prayers and Gratitude for Pope Francis

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur U.S. East-West Province join with people across the globe in mourning the death of Pope Francis. We give thanks for his extraordinary leadership over the past 12 years, marked by his unwavering emphasis on mercy, his call to care for creation and his deep concern for both the life of the Church and the well-being of society.



Pope Francis blessed the congregations of the International Union of Superiors General at a meeting in Rome two years ago. Here he is pictured shaking hands with Sister Mary Johnson, SNDdeN of our Congregational Leadership Team.

[Read our Statement of Condolence here.](#)





Sowing Seeds of Goodness for Creation

Over 221 years ago, our foundresses planted a seed of faith. Guided by the charism to make known God's goodness, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur continue to sow seeds of positive change worldwide.

Today, this mission is more urgent than ever.

In response to the growing climate change crisis, the Sisters committed to the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform on Earth Day 2022. True to our foundresses' vision, we are taking action to build a more just and sustainable world by:



SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR
Making known God's goodness

- **Educating for change:** *Empowering young people as stewards of the Earth.*
- **Advocating for justice:** *Supporting policies that promote climate justice.*
- **Living our values:** *Implementing sustainable practices like a Land Trust and a Consumer Ethics pledge.*

Learn more about what steps our community has taken toward climate justice [here](#).

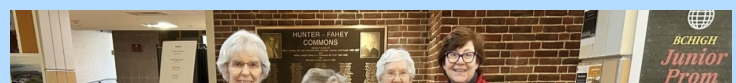
Support us in Sowing Seeds of Goodness!

Highlights from across the Province

Finding Hope at the Boston Archdiocese's Social Justice Convocation

On March 29, several of our Sisters attended the 16th annual Social Justice Convocation of the Archdiocese of Boston! Sisters Bárbara

Gutiérrez, Mary T. Kelleher, Monica Madden, Margaret Lanen, Mary Fitzpatrick and Leonore



Margaret Lanen, Mary Fitzpatrick and Leanne Coan, SNDdeN attended the "Hope for Our Common Home: Catholics Caring for Creation" event at Boston College High School. The convocation featured a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Richard Henning, as well as panels, workshops, and resources aimed at addressing climate and conservation issues, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.



Pictured: Sisters Mary T. Kelleher, Monica Madden, Margaret Lanen, and Bárbara Gutiérrez, SNDdeN.



Pictured: SNDdeN Hallmarks Retreat Participants.

Hallmarks Retreat Brings SNDdeN Community Together

The Hallmarks Retreat took place in Ipswich from April 10 to 11. Participants represented sponsored ministries across the Northeast from elementary, middle, and high schools, and province staff. The group participated in prayer and reflection to learn more about the life of St. Julie Billiart and the ways that her legacy continues to grow today. Attendees heard the stories of four Sisters who shared their ministry experience across the U.S. and abroad. As we share this mission with our students, our leaders are better equipped to live out the example of St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Highlights from our Learning Communities

Notre Dame Cristo Rey Celebrates 100% Acceptance Rate.

Great news from [Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School](#) (NDRC) in Methuen, Massachusetts:

100% of the students from 2022-2023 were accepted to college.



100% of the class of 2025 has been accepted into 4-year colleges and universities! All Senior class members had acceptances by January, making it the school's earliest 100% acceptance rate in history. Furthermore, the incoming class is looking just as bright. The NDRC is on track to admit one of the largest freshman classes to date. Enrollment numbers are expected to surpass 300 this year! Congratulations to the students on their accomplishments and to the NDRC community for making a difference in the lives of these young people!

**Congratulations,
Notre Dame Cristo
Rey High School
Students!**

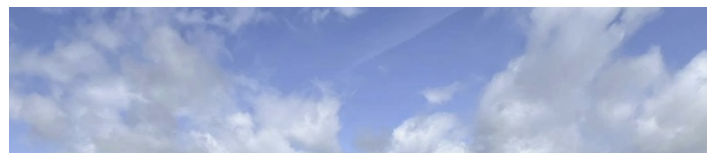


Notre Dame Hingham Students Raise Funds for Clean Water

Students at [Notre Dame Academy](#) in Hingham, Massachusetts, marked the Lenten season with an initiative to raise funds for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's Clean Water Project. Lack of clean water puts communities at risk of disease, disproportionately affecting girls and women. The Clean Water Project provides safe drinking water to our Sisters' communities in Africa, South America and Central America. Through this initiative, the school aims to help students deepen their understanding of almsgiving and the Lenten season, while also raising much-needed funds.



Notre Dame San Jose Marks Cesar Chavez Day with Service



Notre Dame High School in San Jose, California

honored Cesar Chavez Day on March 31 by engaging in action to highlight the legacy of the labor leader and civil rights activist. Students delivered fresh lunches to farmworkers in the field and distributed food and hygiene products to the Center for Farmworker Families.



NDA Worcester Students Spend Day of Service with Sisters at Du Lac

On Friday, April 11, 2025, the Notre Dame Academy Worcester Junior Class members of Student Leadership spent a day of service at Notre Dame du Lac in Worcester, Massachusetts. The student leaders worked diligently to prepare the grounds of the Dorothy Stang Memorial Garden for spring—tilling raised garden beds, raking and cleaning the surrounding areas. The garden, maintained by the Sisters at the Notre Dame du Lac Assisted Living Community as a testament to the legacy of Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, grows food that is generously donated to the Mustard Seed, a Catholic Workers' community, and the Worcester County Food Bank. After their service work, students had the opportunity to sit down with our Sisters and conduct interviews for biographical sketches, which will be featured at Notre Dame du Lac to celebrate and honor the residents.



Deepen your Commitment to Laudato Si'

Looking to deepen your commitment to the environment? Want to learn what steps you can take to make a difference? Join us on Zoom and learn more about reducing food waste on May 13th, 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT.

This is the second in a three-part series, with a third meeting on consumer ethics, on June 10th.

Join us on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3G0nGC3>

Meeting ID: 978 1399 8979

Passcode: peace

Join us for a Virtual Discussion on Land and Consumer Ethics

Looking to deepen your commitment to the environment? Join us on Zoom and learn more about reducing food waste on May 13th, 7:00 p.m. ET / 4:00 p.m. PT.



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Making known God's goodness

Make sure to follow us for more!



OUR CALL TO ACTION

JOIN US

WAYS TO GIVE

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U.S. East-West Province

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