



East-West Province - Sponsorship Office

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Making known God's goodness



January 2023 | Issue 2

A February Celebration - Congregational Feast Day

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur around the world celebrate February 2nd each year as their Congregational Feast Day.

On this date in 1804 St. Julie Billiart and the first sisters founded the congregation, committing themselves to the ministry of education, especially for the poor. Despite the humble and arduous beginnings of the community, two years later on the same date, St. Julie envisioned that the work of her sisters would be worldwide. In the years following her death, that became a reality as many sisters left their homeland to serve the mission of the congregation. And now the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur serve in 13 countries around the globe. Sisters in different parts of the world celebrate this day together in some way, often with prayer and liturgy.

In those places, and in collaboration with our many schools, sisters continue to see St. Julie's mission to educate and the fostering of faith for life continue to move forward.

Schools in California celebrate a "founders day" with a variety of activities that includes assembly prayer, a liturgy, a student-led sunflower cookie or cupcake activity. Moreland Notre Dame in Watsonville is also including a presentation on vocations and Notre Dame San Jose high school is including remembrance of World Hijab Day as a celebration of diversity.

In the Massachusetts schools, the day is celebrated in myriad ways but typically include a liturgy, community service, and learnings about the history of St. Julie and the congregation.

These links are provided for you to learn more about the [History of the SNDdEN](#) or visit the online [Heritage Center](#).

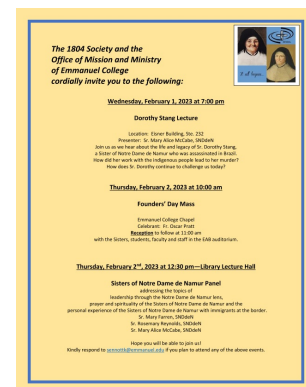
Founders' week celebrations across the Province

Click each image to view invitation.

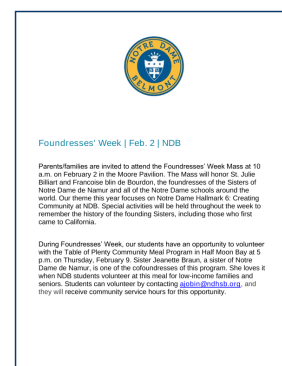
Notre Dame Academy Hingham, MA



Emmanuel College Boston, MA



Notre Dame High School Belmont, CA



Mission Moments

Anniversary of Sister Dorothy Stang - February 12

“If we keep working, helping our people grow in education, their ability to speak up—organize—create within themselves a spirit guided by The Spirit to help create a new people a little at a time, we’ll get there. I might not live to see the day, but with the help of all of you, our people have grown in their understanding—caring for others.”



For more information, visit [About Sister Dorothy Stang](#).

Credit: Letter from Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN

*From *Martyr of the Amazon*, by Roseanne Murphy, p. 114-5

Sister Maria Delaney, SNDdeN - Sharing her experience as the temporary NGO at the United Nations



Sister Maria Delaney, SNDdeN is working temporarily at the United Nations in New York City while the Sister designated to be our next Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Representative awaits her U.S. visa from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She shared, “The NGOs provide reality for the heads of state and the ambassadors who make decisions that can be globally life altering... we work in a coalition of religion based NGOs on the issues of biodiversity, climate, education, energy, extraction, food and agriculture, gender equality, homelessness, human rights violations, indigenous

peoples, migration, nuclear weapons, oceans, peace/nonviolence, racism, social development trafficking, war water, among justice issues... All have roots in environmental degradations, so the overarching issue is the climate crisis in all its manifestation. The UN paper included shows that everyone has a role to play “in caring for our common home,” Pope Francis’ theme in *Laudato Si*.”

Read Sister Maria's [full story here](#) as well as "The Lazy Persons Guide to Saving the World" pamphlet.

Events | Registrations | Save the Dates

**Environmental Justice & the Legacy of
Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN**

Monday, Feb. 6, 2023 | 3:15 - 4:15 pm ET | Zoom

SISTERS OF
NOTRE DAME
DE NAMUR



U.S. EAST-WEST SPONSORSHIP OFFICE

NOTRE DAME EDUCATORS: PARTNERS IN MISSION SERIES

[Register](#)

Who Should Attend: Any Notre Dame-sponsored ministry faculty, staff, heads of ministries

Presenters:

Sr. Mary Alice McCabe, SNDdeN, co-director of the Laudato Si' Action Platform for the province, and personal friend and coworker of Sr. Dorothy Stang.

Ms. Alex Webb, director of environmental education at NDA Tyngsboro. Preregistration is required.

Hallmark Retreat - West Coast

Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2023 | Villa Angelica, Carmel, CA

Who Should Attend: Any Notre Dame-sponsored ministry faculty and staff

The Hallmark retreat includes 12 to 15 participants and engages educators in reflection and conversation on the Notre Dame 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.



[Register](#)



[Save the Date](#)

Board Webinar - Effective Board and Head of Ministry Partnership

Mar. 8, 2023 | Zoom

Who Should Attend: Any East-West SNDdeN board of director, head of ministry

The relationship between the board chair/directors and the head of ministry is critical to the advancement of the mission. Calling on the experience and expertise of colleagues from the East-West Province and the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) network, this webinar will provide an opportunity to explore strategies to build an effective relationship that support the priorities of the ministry. Details and registration coming soon.

Hallmark Retreat - East Coast

Mar. 17-18, 2023 | Notre Dame Spirituality Center, Ipswich, MA

Who Should Attend: Any Notre Dame-sponsored ministry faculty and staff

Being held for the first time on the East coast, the Hallmark retreat includes about 12 to 15 participants and engages educators in reflection and conversation on the Notre Dame 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.



[Register](#)



Cross Congregational Board Forum

Apr. 2-3, 2023 | Four Points by Sheraton | Norwood, MA

Who Should Attend: All board of directors from both congregations, heads of all ministries - president, principal, executive director, administrator

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Xaverian Brothers invite you to attend a cross congregational board forum April 2-3 in the Boston Metro area. The cost for attending this event is free of charge. We are asking participants to pay for their hotel reservation. Hotel reservation instructions, agenda and details coming soon.

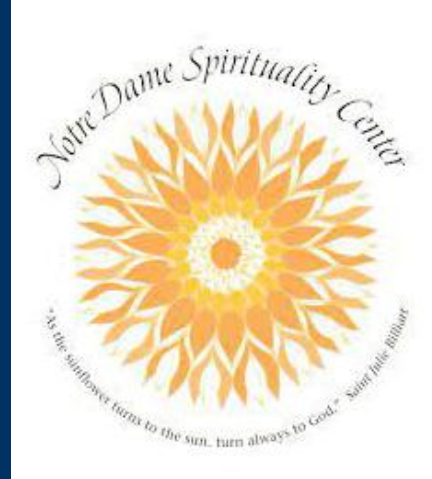
Save the Date

Healing the Healers Retreat

May 5-6, 2023 | Notre Dame Spirituality Center | Ipswich, MA

Who Should Attend: Any staff members from the Notre Dame 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. Details and registration coming soon.



Save the Date

SNDdEN NATIONAL SCHOOL LEADERS CONFERENCE
Ministry in Leadership

Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA
June 26-29, 2023

Conference Schedule (subject to change)
Monday, June 26
12 pm: New Leaders Seminar - Introductory session for new leaders (separate invitation to follow)
4 pm: Welcome Reception & Dinner
Tuesday & Wednesday, June 27 & 28
9 am: Keynote Presentation by Ann Gaudin
Ann Gaudin, O.S.B., is a nationally recognized thought leader in Catholic education and author of *Reforming Administrators*, and *Reforming Conflicts: 12 Habits for Christian Leaders*. She will facilitate interactive sessions on campus governance for navigating complexities and opportunities in SNDdEN education today.
Networking, meals to meet SNDdEN ministers, & dinner
Thursday, June 29
8:30 am: Breakfast & Registration by Conference Attendees
11 am: Closing Liturgy & Lunch

Request for Proposals
In addition to the keynote, we will schedule time throughout the conference for presentations by members of the SNDdEN network to share insights, best practices, experiences, and program updates with conference attendees. We invite proposals from any conference attendees for talks related to the conference theme, *Ministry in Leadership*. Suggested topics include applying the hallmarks to school culture, managing teacher transitions, equity and inclusion initiatives, effective faculty development programming. Please submit proposals to conference@sndden.org by March 31, 2023.

Accommodation Options
1) **Mercy Center**: Single occupancy rooms sharing dorm-style bathrooms. Quiet, peaceful setting with grounds for walking, a library, and proximity to the conference meetings. \$110/night.
2) **Westin San Francisco Airport**: Located 2.4 miles from Mercy Center. Discounted rate available for single king or double occupancy rooms. Free shuttle service from SFO. You will be responsible for your own transportation to Mercy Center daily. Credit card required for booking. [SNDdEN Special Rate Booking Link](#). \$129/night (before taxes).

Registration Fees
For those staying at Mercy Center: \$725 (includes accommodations at Mercy Center)
For those staying at the Westin or other: \$499 (does not include accommodations)
REGISTER BY MARCH 31, 2023

Note: Mercy Center requires ALL attendees to show proof of vaccination.

2023 SNDdEN National School Leaders Conference

June 26-29, 2023 | Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA

Who Should Attend: All members of school leadership teams within the East-West and Ohio Provinces

With this year's theme being *Mission in Leadership*, we are excited to offer presentations, interactive workshops and discussions aimed at supporting school leaders on topics such as conflict management and administration, cultivating Catholic identity in sponsored institutions, racial equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, the Hallmarks reaffirmation process, and other topics suggested by conference attendees. Click the flyer to see full details.

Register

2023 Student Leadership Conference

June 26-29, 2023 | Emmanuel College, Boston, MA

Who Should Attend: Notre Dame sponsored schools should send up to 4 rising juniors and 4 rising seniors

Being held at Emmanuel College in Boston, MA, the Student Leadership Conference is for those students who are difference makers in your schools and communities. This conference offers a chance to grow and learn as leaders in the spirit of St. Julie

and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. More details and registration coming soon!



Save the Date

Important Meeting Dates

Monthly School Leaders Meetings

February 14, 2023

March 14, 2023

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

Quarterly Board Chair Meetings

March 7, 2023

May 2, 2023

Happenings Across the Province



Happy Chinese Lunar New Year!

Susie Lui Ruan, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Belmont, CA and international student from China, plays at a recent recital to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This year is the year of Rabbit. In Chinese culture, rabbit is the symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity.

Katie Colin and Amy Jobin were privileged to experience this recital live! [Click to view her performance.](#)



The Sun is Out!

Students at Notre Dame High School in Belmont, CA are grateful for the return of good weather and enjoy lunch outside in the courtyard.

Recent storms and flooding impacted much of the area and some schools were temporarily closed.



Sisters Academy of Baltimore Visit

While attending the Sponsorship Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in December, the EW Sponsorship team made a visit to [Sisters Academy of Baltimore](#).

L to R: Kim Weckbacher, Katie Colin, Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, President, Sister Louise O'Reilly, SNDdeN, Julie Dowd, Jeanne Dolamore, Principal.



Student Immersion trip to Homeboys Industries, Los Angeles

Sister Gillian Wallace, PhD, a teacher at [Notre Dame San Jose](#) will be taking about a dozen students to visit [Homeboy Industries](#) in Los Angeles at the end of January. This organization provides training and support to former gang members and previously incarcerated youth and helps them to give new direction to their lives and communities. Sister Gillian and the group will tour that site and spend the night there; they will visit the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in LA, and also tour a couple of college campuses.

Notre Dame de Namur University: Commemoration & Rededication to The Legacy of Sister Dorothy Stang

Feb. 11, 2023 | 2 - 4 pm PT
Notre Dame de Namur University,
Belmont, CA | Cunningham Chapel
Who Should Attend: All are welcome.

We will join for prayer in Cunningham Chapel and share remembrances of Sister Dorothy, led by her brother Tom and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who knew her and were inspired by her.

Then we will head down to the Julie Billiart Conference Room for refreshments and a strategy session to explore ways that we can extend Sister Dorothy's legacy in a world that desperately needs it.

For more information and livestream link, contact bvaughn@ndnu.edu.

Click image below to view and print flyer.

Please Join Us for a
Commemoration & Rededication to The Legacy of Sister Dorothy Stang

**February 11
2-4pm**
Cunningham Chapel,
NDNU, Belmont

Our Program

We will join for prayer in Cunningham Chapel and share remembrances of Sr. Dorothy, led by her brother Tom and Sisters of Notre Dame who knew her and were inspired by her.

Then we will head down to the Julie Billiart Conference Room for refreshments and a strategy session to explore ways that we can extend Sr. Dorothy's legacy in a world that desperately needs it.

For More Information & Livestream Link:
[✉ bvaughn@ndnu.edu](mailto:bvaughn@ndnu.edu)

Parking Available
Prayer - Rededication - Commemoration - Legacy

Without Exception is a network for faculty, staff and campus ministers who support LGBTQ+ identified

students at Catholic middle and high schools. Developed by theology teacher David Palmieri of Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, MA, Without Exception offers resources, zoom sessions, and other materials for Catholic educators. Learn more [here](#).



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Prayers**

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