



East-West Province - Sponsorship Office

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Making known God's goodness



September 2023 | Issue 3

Living Sawubona

At the opening of school liturgy at Notre Dame Academy in Hingham, MA, the celebrant, Fr. Oscar Pratt, taught us the Zulu greeting, "Sawubona." Its profound message of "I see you, you are important to me, and I value you" transcends cultural boundaries. It parallels the imperative of our second Hallmark, honoring the dignity and sacredness of each person which is crucial in fostering empathy, compassion, and a sense of community. In today's world, where it can be easy to overlook or ignore the suffering and challenges faced by others, this concept is more relevant than ever.



As we move forward into this year, let us take action - individually and as SNDdeN ministries – as called for in our Notre Dame mission so that we can truly see and value one another.

1. **Practice Sawubona:** Embrace the spirit of Sawubona in your daily life. Make an effort to truly see, value and appreciate the people around you. Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion in your community.
2. **Practice Empathy:** Actively listen to others without judgment. Try to understand their perspectives, feelings, and experiences. Empathy fosters deeper connections and mutual understanding.
3. **Raise Awareness:** Educating yourself and others about the issues that matter, whether it's climate change, social justice, poverty, or mental health. Awareness is the first step toward meaningful change.
4. **Support and Empower:** In addition to offering sympathy, provide practical support to those in need. This could involve volunteering, donating to charities, or helping individuals directly. Empowerment is often more impactful than passive assistance.
5. **Reduce Environmental Impact:** Given the extreme temperatures, fires and floods, consider adopting more sustainable practices both personally and within the SNDdeN ministry. Reduce energy consumption, minimize waste and support eco-friendly initiatives.
6. **Practice Gratitude:** Take a moment each day to appreciate the people around you and the beauty of the world. Gratitude can help you recognize and value the importance of others in your life.
7. **Promote Inclusivity:** Work to create an inclusive and diverse community where everyone feels valued and respected. Challenge prejudice and discrimination when you encounter it.
8. **Lead by Example:** Be a role model for the change you want to see in the SNDdeN ministry (in the world!). Your actions and attitudes can inspire others to follow suit.
9. **Self-Care:** Remember that taking care of yourself is essential to being able to support others effectively. Prioritize self-care to maintain your physical and emotional well-being.

10. **Stay Informed and Adapt:** The world is constantly changing, and new challenges arise. Stay informed about current events and be ready to adapt your efforts and strategies as needed.

By putting these practices in place, we can embody the spirit of Sawubona and work together to create a more compassionate, just and sustainable SNDdeN ministry where we truly see and value one another.

Peace,

Katie Colin

Mission Moments



*There is
no creation
that does not have a radiance.*

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

During this fall season, when we celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4), and anticipate the release of *Laudato Deum*, we contemplate the words of *Laudato Si'*:

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is to discover God in all things.” (§233).

May our Notre Dame de Namur learning communities continue to be places where students contemplate the goodness of God in all things and take action in the care of our common home. Visit **[Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)** for ideas.

Calendar | Upcoming Events & Meetings

Please link to and bookmark our **[Calendar of Events page](#)** on the SNDdeN website to access these events, view updated 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, or Kim Weckbacher, 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.

Hallmark Retreats

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.



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 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

Administrators Monthly Meetings

SECONDARY / ADULT EDUCATION:

12:30 pm ET / 9:30 am PT

First Monday of the month:

October 2, 2023

November 6, 2023

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:

October 2, 2023

November 6, 2023

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.

October 17, 2023

December 12, 2023

February 2, 2024

April 2, 2024

Happenings Across the Province

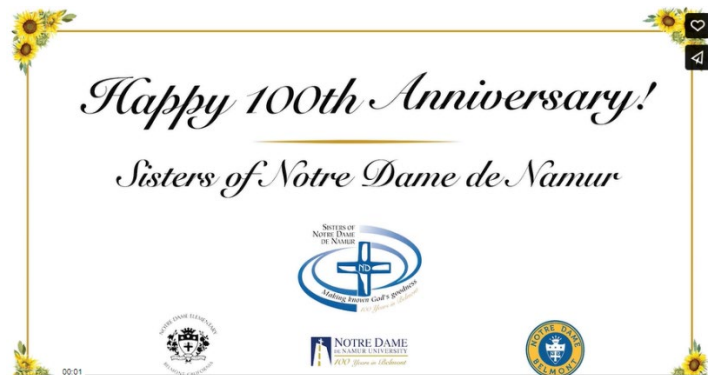
Sisters Celebrate 100 Years in Belmont, CA



On Sunday, September 24th, our Sisters celebrated their centennial in Belmont, California! Hundreds of our friends and supporters joined us for a special liturgy and ceremony at Notre Dame de Namur University to celebrate the Sisters' legacy of courage.

As part of the festivities, Sister Jean Stoner, SNDdeN, accepted proclamations recognizing the Sisters' enduring legacy from Congressman Kevin Mullin, the office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, and Belmont Mayor Julia Mates.

View a commemorative video about the history of our Sisters coming to Belmont, CA and learn more by clicking below.



SNDdeN Board Orientations held on both East & West Coasts

The Sponsorship Office recently facilitated SNDdeN board orientation programs on both the east and west coast. These programs are required for new Directors, board chairs and the head of each ministry but all Directors were welcome. We discussed the fundamental principles of effective governance, the importance of accountability, transparency, as well as legal and ethical obligations while upholding the ministry by-laws and SNDdeN mission. There were connections made, fruitful discussions and helpful group activities. We are grateful to all those who attended.





Meet our New Heads of Ministries

As part of our commitment to fostering the life and mission of the congregation, in the spirit of St. Julie, we are thrilled to introduce you to the new leaders of four of our sponsored ministries! These newest members of our SNDdeN network were carefully selected and bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and fresh perspectives to their roles. We look forward to collaborating with you and supporting your leadership. Welcome!



Stacy Kesi, Executive Director
Julie House, Windsor, CT



Mary Kelly, Principal
St. Patrick School & Educational Center,
Lawrence, MA



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



Kaliq Hunter Simms, President
Sisters Academy of Baltimore



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.

School Leaders Conference Held in California

In June the East West & Ohio Provinces hosted the annual SNDdeN School Leaders Conference. Eighteen school ministries participated, including Sister Aoi Tsuda, SNDdeN, President at Notre Dame Seishin University in Japan. The conference included a workshop for new leaders led by Katie Colin and Meg Sharp. The keynote speaker for the conference was Ann Garrido, a nationally recognized thought leader in Catholic education, who presented on "The Spiritual Journey of the Administrator." Ministry leaders came together to learn, grow, collaborate and create new friendships with peers within their network. We are already hard at work planning for the next School Leaders Conference watch for announcements soon!



School leaders from both the East West and Ohio Province ministries gathered in San Francisco, CA for the annual School Leaders Conference.



Ann Garrido presents on "The Spiritual Journey of the Administrator."



A panel consisting of (L to R) Jessica Kanoff, Ted Miles, Sabrina Harper and Sister Eileen Burns SNDdeN present on "Vocations, Volunteers, Associates, Partners in Mission."



Leadership from Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, MA.

Students Gathered in June for the Student Leadership Conference in Boston, MA

More than 90 high school student leaders chosen from our Notre Dame schools came together in June at Emmanuel College in Boston, MA for the SNDdeN Student Leadership Conference. They spent four days networking, deepening their understanding of the mission and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and St. Julie Billiart, attending talks about environmental and ecological justice, and planning sustainability projects to be implemented back at their schools. In their downtime, they got to explore Boston, and attend a Red Sox game! Our deepest gratitude goes out to Sr. Rosemary Reynolds, SNDdeN and Ms. Gina Helms for their dedication to this conference.



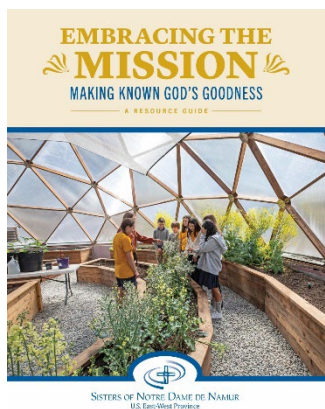


Newly Published Resources Available for all Sponsored Ministries

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](#)



Exciting News From Across our Network



Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, PA will be competing in the Head of the Charles Regatta on October 20-22, 2023.

We wish them all the best! [View their racing time here](#) and for those in the area, we hope you can head out to cheer them on.

[Province Circle of Prayer](#)

[Visit EW Sponsorship Web Pages](#)

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

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