

Goodness in Action

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



April 2026 Updates

Goodness Blooms! California 175th Anniversary Liturgy Celebrated in San José

"Goodness Blooms" was a fitting theme on April 17 as more than 700 guests gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in San José, California, to celebrate the [175th anniversary](#) of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's ministry in California. Others joined us via [livestream](#).

Bishop Oscar Cantú celebrated the joyful Eucharistic Liturgy co-hosted with Notre Dame High School in San José, marking the official launch of the anniversary festivities. [Read more online.](#)

Be sure to save the date for a luncheon event in Foster City on Sunday, October 4, celebrating 175 years Woven Together in God's Goodness.



Volunteer Appreciation: Spotlight on Notre Dame Mission Volunteers



April is a time to celebrate the power of volunteerism and the people who bring our Mission to life through their generosity and service. This year, we proudly celebrate 35 years of incredible impact through the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers (NDMV). Since 1991, NDMV has put faith into action by supporting communities and creating meaningful, lasting change across the country.

One of those volunteers is Ciara Littlejohn, an assistant garden teacher in New Orleans, Louisiana: "The first step of environmental justice is to spark a care for the Earth. I introduce children to the beauty and importance of nature and growing things that you can eat or just enjoy."

[Read More](#)

Look for a story about NDMV's Mission and impact in the Summer issue of our Sowing Goodness magazine!



Time Capsule Gives Flashback to 1927

A time capsule from 1927 was unexpectedly discovered recently in a chapel wall at the former St. Augustine's convent in South Boston. Earlier this month, several Sisters witnessed the opening of the box, where they were the first in this century to see a number of artifacts such as photos, newspaper clippings and other interesting items. What a treat to see such precious mementos of SNDdeN life in the early 20th century! [See more photos.](#)

Photo courtesy of South Boston Neighborhood Development Corp.



Advocacy in Action

Sisters, Survivors and a Safe House

It was 2011 when **Sisters Mary Jane Cavallo** and **Peggy Cummins, SNDdeN** were asked to establish a safe house for women rescued or escaped from labor or sex trafficking in Boston.

Bakhita House was that home, a place where love healed so many. "We loved them, and they knew it," Sister Mary Jane says. "We lived an example of a good faith life, and we modeled healthy relationships."

Now retired from Bakhita House, which closed in 2019, Sister Mary Jane (pictured in the center seat) continues to advocate for victims and serves with the Anti-Trafficking Coalition in Boston. In April, she was a featured presenter at the [Alliance to End Human Trafficking Conference](#), joining sisters from two other orders to share how women religious support trafficking survivors.



The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are making a difference for those most in need. Read more about our work on the [Trafficking Survivors Relief Act](#).



Public Witness: Sisters Advocate for Peace

Following in the spirit of St. Julie Billiart, we advocate for justice and peace in an increasingly divided world.

Recently, with hearts full of compassion and a love for justice, Sisters and staff from across the United States participated in peaceful advocacy, giving public witness to our Gospel values and faith in our good God, while joining in prayer with Pope Leo and others around the world to advocate for peace.

May God fill us with a love for others that extends a helping hand to all in need of hope.

[Watch a short reel with photos.](#)



An Interfaith Passion for Social Justice

Sister Eileen Burns, SNDdeN, recently represented the Catholic community at an interfaith panel discussion, *The Role of Faith in Social Justice Issues*, hosted by Emmanuel College in Boston.

Joining others from the Muslim and Progressive Christian perspectives, Sister Eileen spoke on what justice looks like for the poor and marginalized, the love of God and neighbor, support for immigrants and faith in action.

More than 50 students, faculty and staff members attended the discussion. We pray that our good God will grow compassion and empathy in all our hearts.





Earth Month and our Commitment to Laudato Si'

During April, we celebrated *Earth Month*! The Sisters are deeply committed to environmental justice and Laudato Si', believing that the planet can and should be a healthy place for all.

This month, our social media channels featured a series of posts highlighting our commitment to living responsibly. [Click here](#) to read a featured story, and be sure to follow us on social media to see all our social content!

Province Updates

Peace Through Civil Discourse

On the heels of our Lenten series Practicing Respect Across Difference, Kathryn Yanik, our province justice promoter, spoke on civil dialogue at a webinar promoted by [Global Sisters Report](#).

“Civil dialogue is just one model for how we can dialogue across differences in our experiences and values,” says Kathryn Yanik, director of justice, peace and integrity of creation for the U.S. East-West Province. “This form of communication, which emphasizes interpersonal connection and mutual respect, is deeply tied to our congregation’s mission to celebrate the goodness of God while practicing solidarity and building peace.”

[Healing Relationships Through Nonviolent Communication](#) was hosted by Tri-State Network.

Speakers

- Dianne Prichard
Co-Author, *Raising America: Building a More Perfect Union*
- Dr. Chris Peters
Braver Angels
- Kathryn Yanik
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (East-West Province)

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION

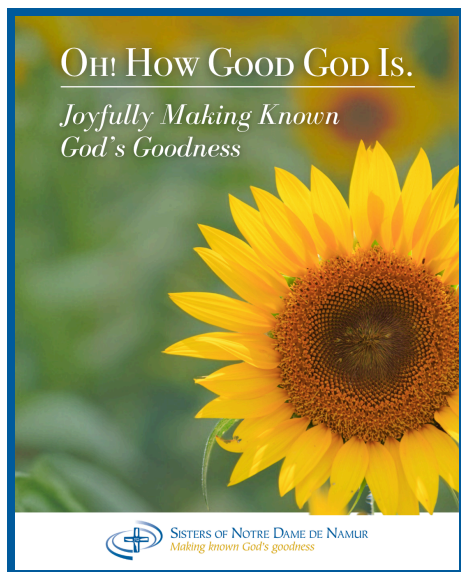
Thursday, April 30, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm CST
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5b4w57z>

Kathryn Yanik, SNDdeN
Director of JPIC

As political polarization deepens in the United States, many Americans struggle to hold meaningful conversations with those who think differently. This panel discussion features three experienced speakers in civil dialogue and cross-partisan engagement, exploring how nonviolent communication can restore trust, strengthen relationships, and help communities rebuild a healthier democracy.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$15

Presented by the Tri-State Network - a coalition of Catholic women religious and spirituality centers from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, including: Benet House Retreat Center; Dominican Sisters of Shinawau; Franciscan Peace Center; Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Center; Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center; Shalom Spirituality Center; Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Sisters of Mercy Justice Team; Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque; and Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Support our Mission to Educate and Advocate

Is your heart as wide as the world?

Join our friends around the country in supporting the Sisters' ministries in education, spirituality, social justice and advocacy. *You can make a difference!*

Go online to use our [secure form](#) or call 617-387-2500 ext. 2011 for other ways to make your gift. Thank you!

Please enjoy this [booklet of reflections](#) on living joyfully as we respond to the Gospel call.



New Leader at NDNU Announced

Congratulations to Leamor Kahanov, EdD, ATC/L, recently announced as the new president at Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) in Belmont, California, effective July 1, 2026.



Sister Jean Stoner, SNDdeN, Chair of the NDNU Board of Trustees, said, "Dr. Kahanov is a dynamic, forward-thinking leader whose experience aligns seamlessly with NDNU's mission and momentum. Her ability to connect academic innovation with workforce needs, community partnerships, and student success makes her the ideal leader to advance NDNU's continued growth and impact."

We look forward to God's blessing on this new era in the university's history!



Student Journalist Describes Value of All-Girls Schools

We love to hear from students at our sponsored schools and learn how their education prepares them as scholars and students.

In a recent article published in the student newspaper at Notre Dame High School in Belmont, California, sophomore Riley McGlynn discusses the unique benefits of all-girls schools:



Notre Dame Cristo Rey Alumna Returns as Principal

Demonstrating the value of a Notre Dame education, Mabel M. Dominguez, alumna of Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School (NDCR), has been named school principal at NDCR for the 2026-27 school year.

According to the school, she is the first alumna in the Cristo Rey Network to lead her alma mater.

"A community focused on creating an all-girls' atmosphere can give women a place to grow and empower them to rise higher."
Well said, Riley!

Read more on our [website](#).

"Mabel embodies the mission we seek to live each day," shared **Sister Maryalyce Gilfeather, SNDdeN, Ph.D.**, school president. "Her leadership is a powerful sign of what is possible when young people are formed in faith, purpose and opportunity."



Upcoming Events

Unique Chance for Women to Learn Spanish from Native Speakers

Now in its 40th year, Spanish Education for Women (SEW) is accepting applications for an intensive Spanish language immersion program in Guadalajara for women committed to immigration justice. The dates are June 29 to July 17. For more information, visit the [website](#), call 202-635-3118 or send an [email](#).

"With all the turmoil in immigrant communities," says **Sister Denise Curry, SNDdeN**, "many people are responding as allies: neighbors walking kids to school, others delivering groceries, and some individuals are attending court as observers. Our SEW program would be especially valuable with this advocacy work."

Visit our [website](#) for more about Sister Denise's experience with SEW.



Spirituality and Prayer in May

Our [website](#) is your hub for learning about upcoming ways to interact with the Sisters and to deepen your spirituality throughout May and beyond. There are a variety of in-person meetings at our Spirituality Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts, as well as virtual events:

- [Hildegard of Bingen and the God Who Causes the Grasses to Laugh](#)
- [Spirituality Series](#)
- [Journey with St. Julie](#)
- [Pray with Sisters](#)

Event Spotlight: Omega Gathering

Did the Easter season reveal a desire to become more Christ-conscious in your everyday life? Join us each month as **Sisters Mary Boretti and Ellen Keane, SNDdeN** lead a *virtual* discussion exploring the integration of science and spirituality. The next event is on Wednesday, May 20.

Please register by phone (978-380-1574) or [email](#).



OUR CALL TO ACTION

JOIN US

WAYS TO GIVE

CONTACT US



U.S. East-West Province

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Making known God's goodness

U.S. East-West Province

351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149

Email: ewcommunications@sndden.org

www.snddeneastwest.org

Phone: 617-387-2500

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur | 351 Broadway | Everett, MA 02149 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!