



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](#).

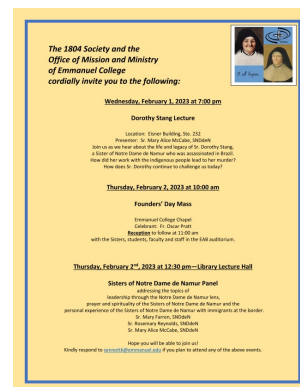
## Founders' week celebrations across the Province

Click each image to view invitation.

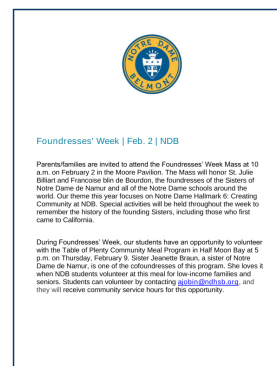
### Notre Dame Academy Hingham, MA



### 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

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## 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.

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## Events | Registrations | Save the Dates

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**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.

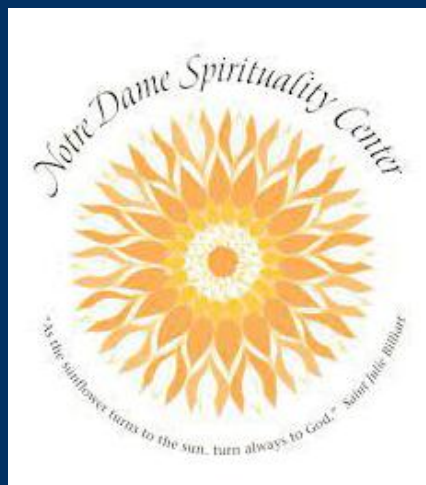
Save the Date

## Healing the Healers Retreat

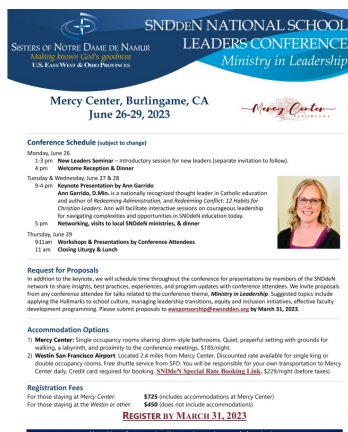
May 5-6, 2023 | Notre Dame Spirituality Center | Ipswich, MA

**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



## 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](mailto: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

"I have learned three things are difficult: As a woman to be taken seriously in the struggle for land reform; to stay faithful to believing that small groups of poor farmers will prevail; and to have the courage to give your life in the struggle for change. My faith sustains me." - **Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN**

**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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**U.S. East-West Province Sponsorship  
Office**

30 Jeffreys Neck Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938

