

VISIONS



SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR • CALIFORNIA PROVINCE
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“Expressing in our time, as St. Julie did in hers, that God is good!”

By Sr. Nancy O’Shea

Often I am asked if we have many women coming to be Sisters of Notre Dame. One answer is “Not anywhere near the number who came in the late 1950s and 1960s.” However another very real answer is, “Yes...and they are wonderful!”

I recently spent two months helping to prepare 19 newer members for their final profession as Sisters of Notre Dame. Meeting in Namur, Belgium, we formed an international community with Sisters there from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Kenya, Peru and the U.S.

Sharing this time together deepened our appreciation of the courage and commitment of these newer members as they handle challenging situations in their very diverse life experiences. We became more and more aware of the deep values we hold in common.

Now in my fiftieth year as an SND, I am so grateful for the gift that these newer members are to our Congregation, the Church and the world. These Sisters are bringing new life to many communities and to those they serve in schools, hospitals, clinics and parishes.

The future of the Sisters of Notre Dame is in good, strong, holy hands!



Sr. Caroline Ajaegbu (Nigeria) and Sr. Nancy O’Shea (CA).
Sr. Nancy currently serves on the International Leadership Team for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

*Celebrating signs of generosity
and new life in Notre Dame...*

Introducing Sister Nancy



Sr. Nancy Uhl, third from left, was delighted to have her children, Sarah Sheehan, Priscilla Alvarado and Brandon Nunn, celebrate her new life as a Sister of Notre Dame.

Nancy Uhl had never been drawn to religious life at a young age. The newest Sister in the California Province spent most of her adult life as a wife and mother. But after her husband's death, which, in turn, triggered some very difficult times for Nancy and their three children, she began a journey which took her life in quite a different direction. As she came to know the Sisters in the St. Columbkille community in Los Angeles, she felt a calling of her heart toward religious life and ministry with the poor.

Sister Nancy made her first vows in the Gellert Chapel at the Province Center, surrounded by her children, close friends and warmly welcomed by her Notre Dame Sisters. She continues her work with the homeless in downtown Los Angeles, but now as a part of the Notre Dame community and mission. Grateful for her own call, Sr. Nancy intends to actively encourage other women to consider life as a Sister of Notre Dame.

- **Wondering about life as a Sister of Notre Dame?** Contact Sr. Jacinta Martinez at: 650-722-1040 or visit: snddenca.org/become.

New Notre Dame Associates

"I want to become part of a group of strong, spirited women who make life better for others."

From administration at NDNU and teaching at Notre Dame Elementary, to parish work in Belmont and nonviolence education at Soledad Correctional Facility, these new Notre Dame Associates bring a depth of energy and experience to their relationship with Sisters. **Personally and collectively, they are extending the Notre Dame mission and enriching and expanding the community.**

"The Associates' commitment speaks powerfully to me of the ways that God is calling us to be partners in the prayer and mission of Notre Dame," said Sr. Kay McMullen, Associate Board Member.



The Sisters warmly welcome Suzy Smith, Lois Jones, Joan Marsh, Sandy Lee, Gina Dorst, Mary Fox and Mary Haesloop.

- **To learn more about Association and these new Associates, contact co-coordinators Sr. Jeanette Braun (650-486-2168) or Dede Waters-Masters (650-207-9385) or visit: snddenca.org/associates.**

...Celebrating new life in Notre Dame...

Into the Fullness of Life

Holy Week 2011

Sister Paula (Catherine Dolores) Butier



Devoted to St. Julie for all of her 63 years as a Sister of Notre Dame, Sr. Paula touched the lives of thousands of students, parents, friends and other educators, as well as her own family and SND community. A natural leader and administrator with a commanding presence and big heart, Sr. Paula

deserved the award she received in 1991 for her "remarkable contributions to Catholic secondary education in the United States." Sister died peacefully on April 20. Visit: snddenca.org/Paula

Sister Rose (Julie Dolores) Franci



"God has been very, very good to me," Sr. Rose said at her 50th Jubilee and many other times. Kind and gentle in her ways, she loved her sister and brothers, her Notre Dame community and her years as an elementary teacher in Notre Dame schools. Even in her late 80s, she volunteered in the

Moreland Notre Dame School library in Watsonville so she could be with the children and encourage them in the joys of reading. Sister died peacefully on April 22. Visit: snddenca.org/rose

Gratitude and Generosity



Carmen Pelayo Norona never forgot the Sisters who educated her four children at St. Joseph and Sacred Heart elementary schools and Notre Dame High School in San Jose. More than once she told her daughters that she wanted to show her gratitude to the

Sisters. After Carmen died in 2010 a few months shy of her 100th birthday, two of her daughters came to the Province Center to present their mom's gift to the Sisters. Along with a check for \$13,000 from her estate, they brought these kind words, "**The dedication, love and compassion of the Sisters will never be forgotten. We remember especially Sister Dolores Julie, Sister Mary Wilma, Sister Catherine Dolores and Sister Adrienne Marie.**"

Carmen was born in Mexico and moved with her family to the Santa Clara Valley, and became a proud, naturalized citizen of the United States. After her husband died, she supported her children by working in the canneries and going door-to-door in the evenings selling dresses. She later owned a small market, then a childcare business. This hard-working mother shared her love of reading, poetry, drama and film with her children, and was proud that all four children graduated from college.

Touched by Carmen's generous remembrance, the Sisters are grateful to have been a part of her remarkable life and will remember her always in prayer.

Have the Sisters been an important part of your life?

Become a member of the St. Julie Billiard Legacy Society, a special group of Notre Dame friends who are remembering the Sisters in their estate plans. Contact Monica May (monica.may@sndden.org or 650-486-2177).

...Celebrating generosity...

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650-486-2181 mary.powelson@sndden.org

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 FOR A SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING.

With gratitude to God for the great blessings of working with thousands of children, parents and co-workers, the Sisters give thanks for each person who has been part of the Notre Dame family these 160 years!



Please share your stories at: snddenca.org/160years

GIFTS WITH IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

Thanks to recent foundation grants from Trust Funds, Inc., several electric lift chairs have been purchased for our elderly and infirm Sisters at the Province Center. Other grants from SOAR! Foundation and the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation provide funds for much-needed hearing aids.

"We hope the new electric lift chairs will bring added comfort to those Sisters who have served The Lord so well in their many years of dedicated service."

~ James Healy, President of Trust Funds, Inc.



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