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**SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR • U.S. EAST-WEST PROVINCE**

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## **East Meets West in Notre Dame**

Dear Friend,

As graduates, students, colleagues, associates, and friends, we have been blessed by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the spirit of St. Julie Billiart.

In recent years, the Sisters, too, have been blessed and enriched by the recent merger of the former Notre Dame provinces of Boston, California, Chesapeake, Connecticut, and Ipswich.

In this first newsletter from the Sisters' U.S. East-West Development Office, we are happy to be in touch and to share some Notre Dame updates with you. **Whether you know the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from the East Coast, the West Coast, or any place in-between, you are very much a part of the Notre Dame Family, and always will be. We welcome your responses, prayers and support.**

We can assure you of the Sisters' gratitude and prayers for you. Together, we, as the Notre Dame community, can continue to accomplish more together than what any of us can do alone.

Gratefully, SNDdeN Development Directors,

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## **Congratulations!**

Sister Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, will be receiving the 2020 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).

Sr. Patty spent nearly 30 years working with many religious congregations and lay groups on diversity-racism issues, and was Executive Director of Pax Christi USA for almost 8 years. She was also one of the founding members of the Black Sisters Conference and served as its president from 1996-2001. Sr. Patty currently serves on the Leadership Team for the U.S. East-West Province.

# Celebrating Sister Dorothy: Her Legacy Endures

Fifteen years ago, Notre Dame de Namur Sister Dorothy Stang was martyred in Brazil after serving there for 40 years.

Sr. Dorothy had been working with the Catholic Church's Pastoral Land Commission, fighting for the rights of rural workers and peasants on behalf of the poor and the Amazon Rain Forest. When she was shot by gunmen hired by wealthy landowners, news of her death drew attention worldwide to the causes she fought for.

Within a few years, she was honored with the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights. Books, movies, documentaries and even an opera now help to tell her story. Her life and work have also inspired and helped educate new generations of students about ecology, social justice and faith. She has also been formally recognized by the Vatican as a modern-day martyr.

Dorothy would be amazed at how her life and work among the poor have taken root in the lives and hearts of people in Brazil and beyond. Her legacy is all the more important today as we confront the challenge of global climate change.



Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN

*Dorothy, your life sang of the goodness of God.  
The whole world is your home now,  
your dream continues on.*

*Your strength emboldens us;  
your love has sown seeds deep in our hearts  
and the hearts of the poor  
and in the rainforest which you loved so much.  
We hope for the grace to continue your struggle for justice.*

**—Marlene DeNardo**  
Marlene served with Sr. Dorothy in Brazil

*“The more difficult the times are, the more we must expect  
and hope everything from the goodness of the good God.”*

**—St. Julie**



# Educating for Life

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur first came to the United States from Belgium in 1840, fulfilling St. Julie Billiart's vision that her Sisters would go throughout the world to teach young people "whatever is necessary to prepare them for life." The Sisters established hundreds of schools and have educated many thousands of children and adults.

*"Education is the most important work on earth."*

*—St. Julie*

St. Patrick School in Lowell, Massachusetts, was one of the first schools opened by the Sisters on the East Coast to teach mainly children of the Irish Catholic immigrant community. One hundred and sixty-eight years later, St. Patrick School and Educational Center is thriving. "We are still welcoming and teaching immigrant children," says principal Sr. Joanne Sullivan, "but now from many different countries and cultures." St. Patrick's commitment is to remain constant and steadfast in its original mission to meet the educational, spiritual, and human needs of the children of the people of Lowell, especially those who may be poor or new to this country.



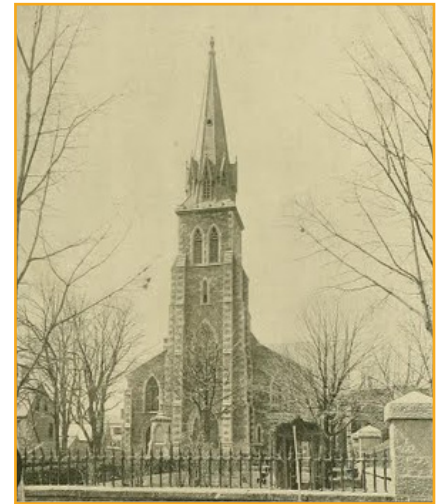
St. Patrick students celebrate International Day.

And on the West Coast, 120 years after its founding, Moreland Notre Dame School in Watsonville, California, was voted best private K-8 school in Santa Cruz County. Located in a lush agricultural area with a significant Hispanic population, it serves pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. The school, originally a boarding school for girls, was funded by Mrs. Margaret Moreland to honor her daughter who had died at a young age. Mrs. Moreland trusted the Sisters to honor her daughter's memory just as parents have continued to entrust the education of their children to the Sisters.

Because of the Covid-19 stay-at-home situation, both of these schools are experiencing enormous challenges now. To lend your personal and financial support for one or both of them, please use the enclosed envelope. THANK YOU!



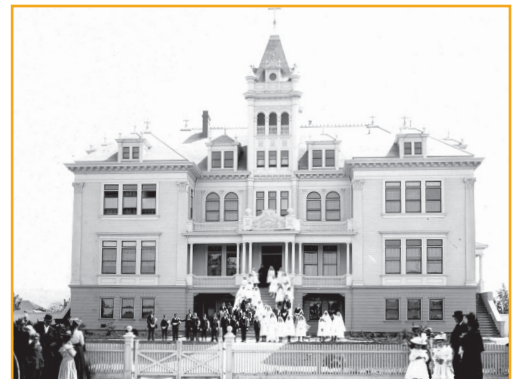
Students at Moreland Notre Dame School.



St. Patrick Church, Lowell

## Mission Statement

*Sisters of Notre Dame make known God's goodness and love with and among people living in poverty, through a Gospel way of life, community and prayer.*



Moreland Notre Dame School, Watsonville

# VISIONS

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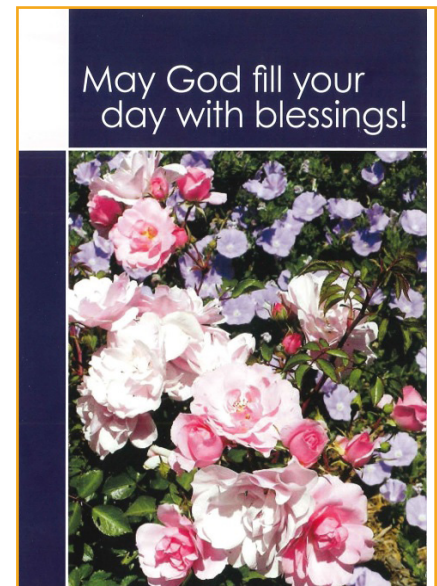
*“We live in a century in which we must not count on much  
tranquility, but let us put all our trust in the Lord who will  
be our support.”*  
—St. Julie

## PRAYING TOGETHER For Our Loved Ones

*Making a gift to the Sisters through the Notre Dame Memorial/  
Tribute program offers a way for you to remember or honor  
someone special in your life—a loved one who has died, someone  
who is sick, someone celebrating a special anniversary, birthday  
or other happy occasion.*

A beautiful card will be mailed to the person you designate,  
notifying them of your thoughtful remembrance and assuring them  
of the Sisters joining you in prayer for them.

You may use the enclosed envelope, email Lala Shahkarami at  
[Lala.Shahkarami@sndden.org](mailto:Lala.Shahkarami@sndden.org) or call 650-551-6402. You can also  
make a gift online at [snddenwest.org](http://snddenwest.org).



When making a Memorial/Tribute  
gift, you will have your choice of  
several cards from the Sisters.

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