

Responding to the Times

1970-1980

While continuing their strong commitment to education, the Sisters respond to the challenges put forth by Vatican II and the changes in society. Reading "the signs of the times" and returning to the spirit of their founders prompts religious communities to greater awareness of the poor among us.

1970s

Integrating the social teachings of the Church into the school curriculum, Sr. Diane Reese coordinates the Notre Dame Education to Justice programs which have an impact on both students and faculty, and open up learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

1972

Three Sisters move to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in the poor Hunters Point neighborhood in San Francisco. They work closely with the Redemptorist Fathers in this vibrant faith community. Over the years other Sisters will join them.



Sr. Kathleen Murray with parishioners.

1978

Sisters Julia Clayton and Dolores Steiner are missioned to Fairbanks (Alaska) Diocese to assist with religious education in the remote villages. Other Sisters will follow in this life-changing experience.

Photos courtesy of the SND Archives, California Province.

1971

A nationwide House of Prayer movement leads Sisters to establish a House at their Carmel property. The property remains a sacred space for Sisters and many guests seeking personal and spiritual renewal.



View from the House of Prayer in Carmel.

1976

While teaching English to police officers at Chaminade College in Hawaii, Sr. Roberta Julie Derby is asked to serve as chaplain for the Honolulu Police Department. She becomes the first female police chaplain in the U.S.



During the '80s Sr. Roberta Julie received a medal of valor for defusing a hostage situation.