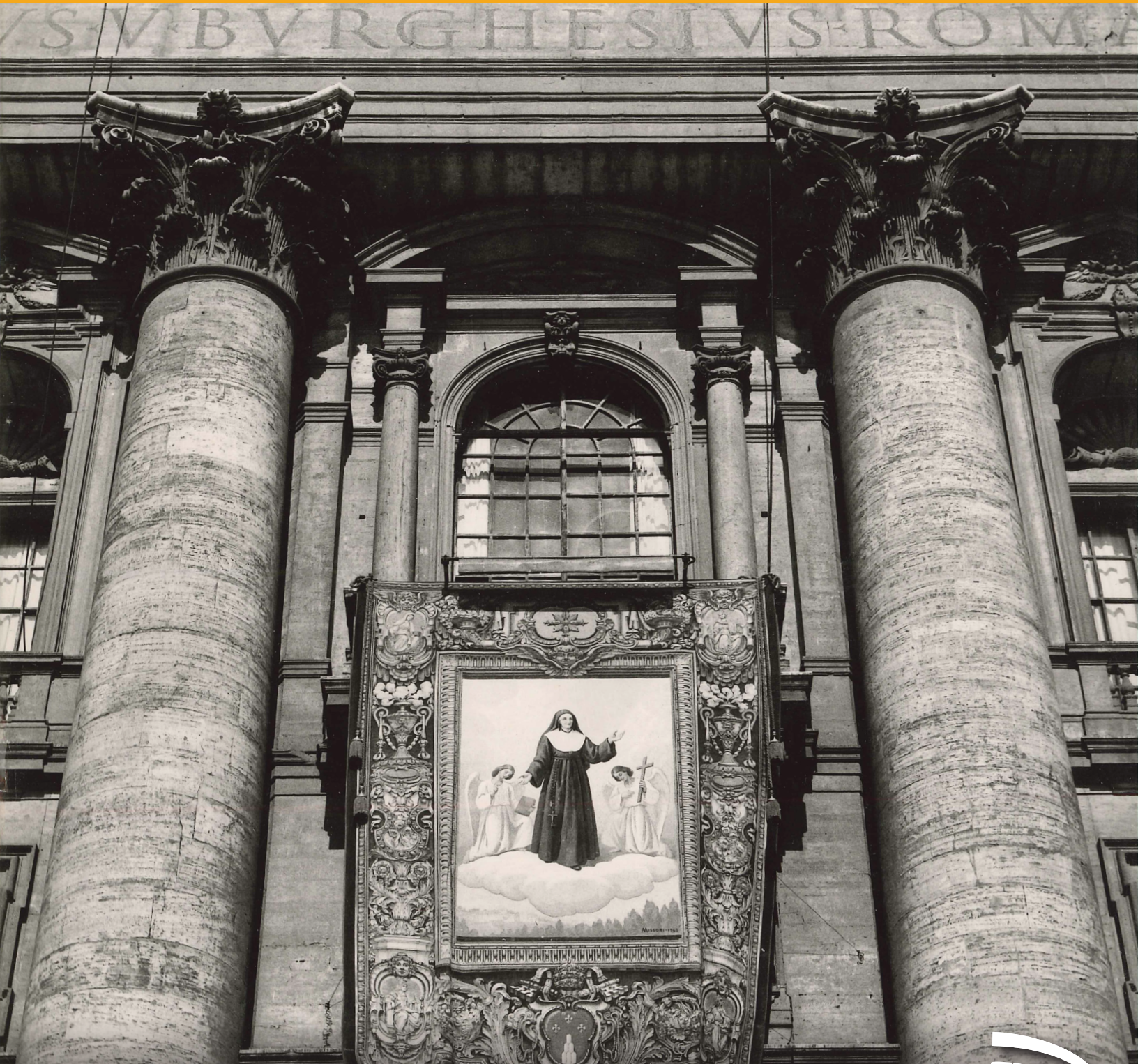


With Gratitude

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR • 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



A Saint for Our Times!



US EAST-WEST PROVINCE – WEST REGION



Saint Julie!



The canonization was witnessed by 800 Sisters of Notre Dame, including many from the Coesfeld and Amersfoort Sisters, who honor St. Julie as their foundress.



Notre Dame de Namur University students celebrate the anniversary of St. Julie's canonization.



St. Julie Billiard's relatives at the canonization ceremony.

On June 22, 1969, Julie Billiard was canonized by Pope Paul VI at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Fifty years to the day later, Sisters, Associates, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, students, former members and friends and representatives from Notre Dame schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, clinics, education centers, and parishes in all parts of the Notre Dame world gathered to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Julie reminded her Sisters to have “hearts wide as the world,” and that “a Sister of Notre Dame should be at home anywhere.”

Could she ever have envisaged the map of today's Notre Dame de Namur world where Sisters serve on five continents, reaching out to people “in the most abandoned places,” where Sisters focus on education especially for and on behalf of those made poor in a world marked by divisions and inequalities?

On the cover: A large tapestry showing St. Julie hung above the main doors of St. Peter's Basilica during the time of her canonization, and it is now housed in Namur, Belgium. The design for the tapestry was created by artist Alfovino Missori.



Highlights of St. Julie's Very Full Life

*“... Standing true in the midst of
doubt,
Striving strong in the midst of
fear,
Shouting out life's name,
Yes, tomorrow,
Suns will rise, spring comes,
Earth is new.”*

- from “Song for Julie”
(Suzanne Hockel/Janet Simons)

- ◆ Marie Rose Julie Billiart, born in Cuvilly, France, in 1751, began teaching children about God's goodness at an early age.
- ◆ Though crippled by paralysis at the age of 22, and with her life repeatedly threatened during the French Revolution, she kept an unshakeable confidence in God.
- ◆ On February 2, 1804, she, along with her beloved friend, Françoise Blin de Bourdon, began the community of the Sisters of Notre Dame, dedicated to the education of young girls with a special care for the poor. They envisioned making known God's goodness, serving anywhere there was a need.
- ◆ Julie died just 12 years later, but after her death, three miracles attributed to her intervention were documented, and the Church declared her Blessed in 1906. Her life has inspired thousands of people across the world.
- ◆ In canonizing her, the Church officially recognized that Julie's life and spirit is an important gift to be shared with the entire Church.

A Personal Memory of the Canonization

“It was the day before the canonization, between four and five in the afternoon. Those of us in Rome got in a bus and we were driven to St. Peter's Square. We were coming up the boulevard, ‘rounding the corner before the Square, and I saw the tapestry [front cover]... and I just burst into tears—because there was our St. Julie, her picture hanging in front of the Basilica...our humble peasant foundress, there for the whole world! It was just remarkable, and I still cry when I think of it.”

– Sr. Jeanne (Marguerite) Sullivan, SNDdeN



Interested in learning more about St. Julie?
Read *Woman of Courage* by Sr. Roseanne Murphy, SNDdeN

*St. Julie saw teaching
as the “greatest work
on earth.”*

St. Julie's Spirit is Alive and Well!

Sister Barbara (Anthony) Hamm

75



Adventurous, a Traveler to SNDdeN Places... and still dancing

Nothing ever dampened Sr. Barbara's joy in meeting people, traveling or serving in a variety of ministries. As principal and as a parish minister, she especially relished her interaction with parents and parishioners. Having learned to dance almost before she could walk, she still dances with her cane down the halls of Mercy Retirement & Care Center in Oakland.

"Sr. Barbara is a woman of simplicity, integrity, and humor with a straight-forward approach to life. I look up to her as a mentor." – Georgia Ladd, friend

Sister Aileen (Aileen Marie) Bermingham

70



Wise, Caring, a Devoted Aunt... and a good listener

As a young Sister and new teacher, Sr. Aileen loved her fifth-grade class at Moreland Notre Dame School in Watsonville, and later, her middle-grade and high school students. When she was chosen to be the Provincial Superior of the California Province, she felt blessed to observe first-hand the Sisters' goodness in their many ministries. Today she still assists Sisters and staff at the Province Center.

"Sr. Aileen has been one of the great influencers of my life... her gift of laughter is positively infectious." – JoAnn Shaw, former student

Sister Avelina (Guadalupe Julie) Garcia

70



Sees the Good in Others, a Heart for the Poor... and such a welcoming smile

Her grandmother's faith, devotion and hard work was a model for Sister's contributions as cook, housekeeper and nurse in large SNDdeN communities. A chance to earn a master's degree in religious education opened up many new opportunities to work with Spanish-speaking parishioners in rural areas. Sr. Avelina now enjoys creating art with others at Mercy Retirement & Care Center in Oakland.

"Her open heart is as beautiful as the art she creates..." – Stella Reece, friend

To read more about our Jubilarians, visit www.snddenwest.org

Her vision lives on in these Jubilarians who have reflected the goodness of God for 75, 70, and 60 years in Notre Dame.

Sister Teresa Ann Leahy



Fun-Loving, Wise, a Gentle Presence... and she loves dogs

A Notre Dame San Jose graduate, Sr. Teresa Ann brought together her love of God, concern for the poor, and her talents as a teacher and administrator into all of her 70 years as a Sister. With a gentle, warm, family-friendly approach, she taught in California and Oregon elementary schools before serving for the past forty years (!) at Moreland Notre Dame in Watsonville – as teacher, principal and now volunteer in the school and the parish.

“She is a real outdoors woman, and is very much loved by her nieces, nephews and their children.” – Elizabeth Leahy, sister-in-law

70

Sister Celeste (Marie Celeste) Pagliarulo



Always Ready to Help, Open to New Possibilities... and an accomplished quilter

Sr. Celeste was a teacher in California, Oregon and Hawaii for many years and later, librarian at Moreland Notre Dame School in Watsonville. She has also been recognized for her research and articles about the Carmel Mission and its curator, Harry Downie. Her research was important in the historical preservation of the Mission. A favorite assignment? Serving at the SNDdeN Generalate in Rome, and learning to navigate the Italian ways as well as the language.

“A splendid lady, a role model for living one’s life for others. She is always generous with her time and encouragement.” – Joseph A. Carotenuti, historian/author

70

Sister Cecilia Wallace



Kind, Fun-Loving, Unruffled... and always with a twinkle in her eye

Sr. Cecilia was a beloved teacher of elementary school children in California, Oregon and Washington, a principal that both faculty and students enjoyed being with, and a well-loved administrator at Notre Dame Villa Retirement Center in Saratoga. Able to stay calm in the midst of all kinds of challenging situations, she continues to inspire others to trust God and her Notre Dame de Namur community to work things out.

“She taught me to be attentive to one student at a time and to let each one know that he or she is a special part of the Notre Dame community.” – Rita Gleason, one of Sr. Cecilia’s first grade students

70

Sister Anne (Mary Terence) Locke

60



A 'Why Not?' Attitude, Creative... and once played against the Harlem Globetrotters

A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Alameda, Sr. Anne Locke did not pursue a career in medicine as she had originally intended, but she did become a healer and helper in many ways. Whether teaching science in San Jose, assisting adults at Catholic Charities, finding work situations for students at Cristo Rey School in Sacramento, or working in homeless shelters, Sr. Anne has found meaning in giving generously of her energy and talents.

"No matter where Anne's assignments take her, her focus on educating children and caring for marginalized individuals never changes." – Bill Locke, brother



Sr. Anne Locke with siblings Terry, Mimi and Bill.

Sister Georgianna Coonis

60



An Encourager of Young People and Their Dreams... and she loves Disneyland

'Georgi' felt at home with the Sisters from the time she was a first grader at St. Columbkille School in Los Angeles. As Sr. Georgianna, she enjoyed the children she worked with in California and Hawaii schools – both as a teacher and as a principal. As Director of the "I Have a Dream" program in Menlo Park, she lovingly supported teenagers to overcome serious challenges in order to graduate, not only from high school, but from college as well.

"Sister was one of the biggest inspirations in my life. How blessed I am for the love she gave me in the eighth grade." – Flavio Fernandez



Former members Diane Morey and Marylou Beban at the Jubilee celebration with Sr. Georgi.

Sister ElizaBeth (Peter Marie) Plesche

60



Adaptable, Creative, Caring... and always so hospitable!

A graduate of Palma High School in Salinas, Sister Beth loved making joyful beginnings for first graders and kindergartener's in inner-city Los Angeles and at Most Holy Trinity School in San Jose -- for more than 50 years! Creative in and out of the classroom, she can always make time to share fruits and vegetables from her garden, host a barbecue, and be available to help in countless ways.

"Her passion for women's rights and working on behalf of the poor is inspiring! I love her enthusiasm and no-nonsense approach."

– Marie Annette Burkart, SNDdeN, friend



Sisters and friends from San Jose and Los Angeles add to the occasion.

Sister Jean (Mary Jean) Stoner

60



Mission-Oriented, Reflective, Leaderly... and with a sense of humor

So good in such a wide variety of ministries! A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Alameda, Sr. Jean taught second grade and high school math, served as a high school principal and is now the chair of the NDNU Board of Trustees. She was sent to help Sisters in Africa and Latin America plan their future financial needs, and she represented the Sisters at the UN for several years! In-between, Sr. Jean enjoys creative times with friends and her three sisters and their families.

"She has responded without fanfare or flourish, out in front as well as behind the scenes, to requests for her services."

– Irene Cullen, RSCJ, friend



Family and friends celebrate with Sr. Jean.

To read and see more about the Sisters, go to www.snddenwest.org

You can also add your own memories and Jubilee wishes for them.

Meet Our New Notre Dame Associates

Sabrina Harper

"I believe that Association will nurture and support my future endeavors and open doors for new ministry opportunities where I can spread St. Julie's message, 'God is good!'"

- Pastoral Associate/Operations Manager at St. Mathias Church in Redwood City
- Studying for an MA in U.S. History, Sabrina is interested in the intersection of religion, race, politics and women's issues
- Daughter of Associate Marie Felix



Associate Sabrina Harper participates with Sisters at a demonstration in San Jose.



Suzanne Kay

"What do I hope for? That my relationship with the other women involved deepens, and that I am able to use my gifts to help others."

- A leader of weekly Christian meditation groups and gentle yoga classes
- With a special care for refugees, she has worked with Catholic Charities to help with family resettlements
- Suzanne is grateful to her aunt, Sr. Mavourneen McGinty, SNDdeN, for introducing her to "a sisterhood based on our Good God."

Christine Madrigal

"The friendships formed with the Sisters and Associates will create a network of support. It's a blessing to have a lifetime bond with these amazing women."

- From pre-school through graduate school, the SNDdeNs and St. Julie have been part of Christine's education
- She enjoys working with colleagues, students, parents and alums at NDHS Belmont
- Grateful to her parents who provided educational opportunities for her and her four siblings



Associate Gina Malanca, left, with her daughter, Gina.

Gina Malanca

"I am excited to start this new chapter of my life, and feel honored to be part of a group of like-minded women who are following St. Julie's focus and dedication."

- As Operations Manager for St. Denis Parish, Menlo Park, she enjoys interacting with parishioners and visitors
- A wife and mother, she worked in the medical field for many years
- Gina loves classical music and musical theatre, and enjoys growing her own fruits and vegetables

Our new Associates join 450 Associates worldwide, who partner with the Sisters in the Notre Dame de Namur.

Rebecca Marquez

“My hope is to incorporate my faith, the word of God and St. Julie into my work and my everyday life.”

- A recent graduate from the Counseling Psychology program at Santa Clara University
- Working now with marginalized and at-risk youth who suffer from trauma and high-risk behaviors
- Rebecca credits her aunt, Sr. Jean Stoner, SNDdeN, with influencing her to blend her faith with her work



Rebecca Marquez with her aunt Jean Stoner, SNDdeN



Jan Rhoades

“I hope to continue being involved with the Notre Dame community, helping others and trusting that God will guide me in this direction.”

- Recently widowed after 30 years of marriage, Jan has two daughters
- Now retired after working as a nurse for many years, and then at a law library
- She served as a Eucharistic Minister for several years with the NDNU Chapel Community

Annie Schweibinz

“I am drawn to the charism of St. Julie, the Hallmarks and the ongoing Notre Dame focus of social justice and Peace.”

- As the manager of an afterschool center for the San Carlos School District, she loves seeing children learn and explore each day
- Annie came to know the Sisters and Associates while an undergrad at NDNU
- Loves learning about the Sisters’ educational and social justice work



Interested in becoming a Notre Dame Associate?

Contact Shyrl McCormick (shyrlmc@comcast.net)
or Joan Rossi (jrossi@ndnu.edu).



Are you planning to remember the Sisters in your will or trust?

You will be in very good company with other special Notre Dame graduates!

Jane Dabovich built life-long memories and friendships with the Sisters and classmates during her years at Notre Dame San Francisco. As a devoted alum, she rarely missed the annual Mass and Luncheon.

Delia Woodhouse Foster and her sister, Eileen “Toss” Woodhouse, loved telling stories of the good, sometimes funny, but all happy times they had with friends at NDSF.

Both Jane and Delia valued the Notre Dame education that prepared Jane to become a bookkeeper and to serve in the Coast Guard during WWII – and Delia to become an astute business woman in San Francisco.

We learned recently that both Jane and Delia had generously remembered our Sisters in their trusts.

*We are so grateful to
Jane Dabovich and to Delia Foster for
their very generous bequests to the Sisters.*

To learn more about leaving a legacy that includes the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, visit www.snddeneastwest.plannedgiving.org or contact Monica May, Development Director – monica.may@sndden.org or 650-486-2177.



Jane Dabovich, NDSF 1938



Delia Woodhouse Foster, NDSF 1933



Dear Notre Dame Friends and Benefactors,

YOU, like the Sisters, are a vital part of St. Julie’s legacy. Your friendship and support are helping to extend that legacy in concrete ways – in our own country and in many places in Africa and Latin America – enabling others to experience God’s goodness in their lives.

WITH our never-ending GRATITUDE and prayers for you,

Monica May

Development Director
On behalf of the Sisters

ST. JULIE LEGACY SOCIETY



We are grateful to the following generous friends who have let us know that they are remembering the Sisters of Notre Dame in their estate plans. These legacies will ensure the continuing work for the Sisters and the care of our elderly and infirm Sisters.

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Bequests

These Notre Dame friends remembered the Sisters even beyond their lifetimes. May they be blessed forever for their care and generosity.

Thomas R. Bettencourt Living Trust*
Celeste Golden*

Circle of Blessings

We are especially grateful to donors who made gifts of \$10,000 and more for the fiscal year.

Thomas R. Bettencourt Living Trust*
Bob and Marie Gallo*
Celeste Golden*
Notre Dame Alumnae Association-SF*
Henry J. Thierry*
Norm Serra

Leadership Circle

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to the Sisters by giving between \$5,000 and \$9,999 during this fiscal year.

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS

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Named after the foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, this Circle acknowledges those donors who have given between \$1,000 and \$4,999 during this fiscal year.

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Sr. Helen (Thomas Julie) Dugan celebrated her 100th birthday in October, 2019. With her is Jean Howe, Community Coordinator for the Province Center.

Mother St. Joseph Circle

Named after the co-foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, this Circle acknowledges those donors who have given between \$500 and \$999 during this fiscal year.

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70-year Jubilarian Teresa Ann Leahy, SNDdeN (in front wearing red) celebrated with her family and friends.

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Sr. Carol Shoup (front row, second from right) who ministers at Notre Dame High School, San Jose, celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 2019.

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Srs. Judy Ward, Carolyn Sanchez, Ellen Dabrieo and Margaret Lanen with partners in serving immigrants.

#GIVING TUESDAY

What better focus for our Giving Tuesday
campaign this year than assisting immigrants
and asylum-seekers at the border?!

**Join us on December 3 to contribute online
to this Notre Dame 'Ministry at the Border'**

St. Julie's Spirit at the Border!

Many Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from across
the country honor St. Julie by reaching out today to
some of our most needy and vulnerable brothers
and sisters. Joining with others at the U.S.–Mexico
border, they offer a loving and welcoming
presence, distribute clothing and supplies, care
for children, prepare basic food and assist in
various ways. Those Sisters bring with them care,
compassion and financial support from those of
us who can't be there in person.

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