



ISSUE 06 VOLUME 2

SNDdeN focus

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Making known God's goodness

This series is compiled from the Constitutions and Directory of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur—an international congregation of religious women serving on five continents.



Community and Spirituality, Part 2

Each local community has its distinctive character which expresses the individuality of its members and their diverse responses to the challenges of the local church. We welcome and promote cultural diversity as a reflection of the many-faceted revelation of God. As an international Congregation we try to develop a world-wide perspective.

We commit ourselves to build community with all those with whom we live and work. We try to become a vital part of the local churches and of the wider community.



The distinctive and recognizable sign by which we identify ourselves is the Notre Dame cross engraved with the words which inspired St. Julie, "Ah, qu'il est bon le bon Dieu."

Our dress, as described in our Directory, is simple. It is appropriate for women who have made public profession of the evangelical counsels.

Together we celebrate Eucharist, source and sign of unity and of participation in the paschal mystery. Nourished by the same word and the same bread, we grow in awareness of our call to community, loving and sharing among ourselves and with others, and living in anticipation of the fullness of time when all divisions will be healed. We participate daily in the Eucharist when and where it is possible.

We encounter the mercy of God and the forgiveness of our sisters and brothers in the frequent celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in the reception, when appropriate, of the Sacrament of the Sick.

We participate in the celebration of the liturgical year in remembrance of God's action in the world, in fidelity to that action now, in intercession for and anticipation of the full revelation of God's goodness.

Through liturgical celebrations and various forms of the prayer of the Church, such as morning and evening prayer, we share daily in the worship of the Christian community. —*Constitutions #37-43*



During a simple prayer service, Sr. Maryalyce blesses each member of a new leadership team.



We meet regularly as a community in a variety of ways. We conduct our meetings in a spirit of prayer, reflection, and celebration.

Communities determine their goals and periodically evaluate their realization.

We create communal expressions of reconciliation and look for ways to resolve difficulties and misunderstandings.

**Communal penance is agreed upon by individual communities, especially during the penitential seasons. Special consideration is given to those practices which reflect the biblical traditions of prayer, fasting, and works of mercy and justice.—
Directives # 10-13**

As gospel women we are called to be holy regardless of our state of life.
These reflection questions are offered as a guide for your discernment.



Food for thought

- How do you welcome and promote cultural diversity in your church community?
- How do you participate in your local community/ies?
- Do others recognize you as a disciple of Christ?
- What does your “dress” say about you?
- Are you growing in your understanding of the Eucharist?
- How important is it for you to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion weekly?
- How are you influenced by the liturgical year?
- How do you live out your Catholic Church membership?



What is Liturgy?

Liturgy comes from a Greek word that means “work of the people.” Liturgy is the official public worship of the Church. Liturgy consists of the Sacraments and the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours.

“In the Liturgical Year, the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Christ’s second coming. The summit of the Liturgical year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ’s Paschal Mystery. The presence of the Risen Lord and his saving work permeates the entire Liturgical Year: Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, the Easter Season, and Ordinary Time.” —*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p. 173

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