

Who is invited to association?

Association is open to men and women, to married and single, and to people of different faith traditions who share the mission of Jesus. The steps on the journey to association are:

- A call to listen
- A call to begin
- A call to commitment
- A call to continue the journey.

Formation for Associates

Preparation for the associate relationship involves a year of special formation. The candidates prepare to make an associate covenant by participating in:

- * An initial interview
- * Formative gatherings
- * Meetings with a sister companion
- * A second interview
- * A weekend retreat



For more information, please contact:

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"The charism of St. Julie continues to live effectively in the Church through our life and mission. The Church sends us through our congregation that we may assist our brothers and sisters to direct their lives to God in faith that they too may experience his goodness and glorify the Father in heaven."

—Constitutions of
the Sisters of Notre Dame

"Let us do all we can to make the good God known and loved by all who surround us."

—St. Julie Billiart



SND Associates

Unlike vowed members, associates do not take vows, vote, or participate in the local or general government of the congregation. There is no mutual financial or legal responsibility between associates and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

**Toss a
pebble into
a pond...**

**Associates of
The Sisters of Notre Dame
Chardon, Ohio**

...and watch the ripples spread

These ripples carry the hope of the Sisters of Notre Dame in our formation of an associate relationship.

We have witnessed many such ripples in the outpouring of God's Spirit on the Church all over the world. It has been evident particularly in the laity's growing awareness of their baptismal call. Many have expressed a deep desire to renew and deepen their spirituality, to commit themselves more fully to the mission of Jesus and the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

At the same time we are seeking new ways to celebrate and share our charism and mission. One significant way of uniting these similar hopes is through an associate relationship.

Who are the Sisters of Notre Dame?

The Sisters of Notre Dame originated in Coesfeld, Germany in 1850. Hilligonde Wolbring, helped by her friend and fellow teacher Lisette Kühling, began to care for and to educate neglected children.

After agreeing to give their work continuity within a religious institute, Hilligonde and Lisette began their novitiate on October 1, 1850 as Sister Mary Aloysia and Sister Mary Ignatia. They received formation as religious from the Sisters of Notre Dame of Amersfoort, Holland, according to the rule and spirit of St. Julie Billiart. In 1855, the Coesfeld community became a separate religious congregation.

The Sisters of Notre Dame today serve the Church, with a special emphasis on the poor, in educational, pastoral, and social ministries in thirteen countries on five continents.

What are the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame?

We recognize a deep experience of God's goodness and provident care as our special gift from the Holy Spirit. This charism, lived by St. Julie and our first Coesfeld sisters, leads us to entrust ourselves to our good and loving God. It impels us in our mission to bring the experience of God's caring goodness into the lives of all people.



Mission Statement of the Associates of the Sisters of Notre Dame

Drawn by the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame, we are called by our good and provident God to be a hope-filled presence in the world.

This associate relationship

- deepens our relationship with God through prayer
- impels us to radical discipleship
- moves us to solidarity with the poor and marginalized

What does being an associate involve?

The associate relationship is between the associate and the Sisters of Notre Dame. It involves a commitment on the part of both.

For the associate, there is a willingness:

- to witness to God's goodness and provident care in daily life
- to enter fully into the associate formation program
- to participate in spiritual and social gatherings
- to nurture a fervent liturgical and personal prayer life
- to share gifts and talents in whatever way feasible with their families, the local Church, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.
- to demonstrate service to others especially the poor and marginalized
- to pray daily for the worldwide mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame
- to foster devotion to Mary and St. Julie Billiart
- to accept the ongoing invitation to grow in the charism and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

For the Sisters of Notre Dame, there is a willingness:

- to live the charism and mission of the congregation
- to share their spirituality and heritage
- to welcome and companion associates
- to provide an appropriate formation program
- to offer opportunities for service in various ministries, especially with the poor and marginalized
- to invite associates for special celebrations
- to communicate appropriate congregational news
- to pray daily for the associates
- to assess annually the vitality and commitment of each associate's relationship with us.