



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

February 27, 2026

Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. –

Ephesians 5:2

Dear NDA Community,

As we close the month of February, a month closely associated with love, we also step into the sacred season of Lent. It is a season that gently calls us to reflect and prepare for God's greatest act of love. It is a blessing to journey through this holy time together as a school family.



On Ash Wednesday, our community gathered in prayer and worship. At that Mass, marked with ashes and hope, we began our Lenten journey, a path of prayer, repentance, sacrifice, and renewal. Lent invites us not simply to give something up, but to draw closer to the heart of Christ. It is in the sacrifice of Lent that we express our love and gratitude towards God.

We were especially honored to welcome 150 Sisters, Associates, and friends of the Sisters of Notre Dame to campus for their annual Ash Wednesday Retreat. To host their Day of Recollection here on the campus that holds so much history and meaning was truly a gift. NDA will always be home to the Sisters, and it fills our hearts with joy to open our doors and share in this sacred time together.



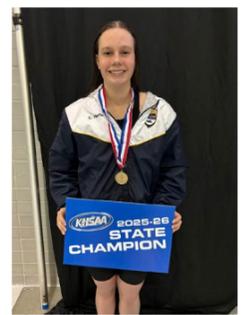
Earlier in the month, we celebrated Valentine's Day in a way that reflected the spirit of our mission. Our Admissions Office delighted girls in kindergarten through 8th grade at our feeder schools with heartfelt gifts of heart-shaped cookie cutters and a sugar cookie recipe. The recipe card was paired with the beautiful reminder from 1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all that you do be done with love." It was a small gesture, but one rooted in the message to keep love at the center of all we do.

We were also honored to welcome Mr. Robert Lorenz, a Jesuit in formation and Outreach Coordinator for the Vatican Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, who spoke to our religion classes. He shared the history of the Vatican's research telescope and reflected on the relationship between faith and science. As students saw images of distant galaxies, they were invited to see the study of the universe not as separate from faith, but as a way of encountering God, the Creator.



Our Catholic Schools Week volleyball game, though delayed by snow, brought warmth and excitement to campus. Students and teachers competed with heart against Covington Catholic, and our Panda spirit was on display. Beyond the cheers and friendly rivalry, the game carried a deeper purpose of supporting the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. To date, we have raised well over \$2,000 and the totals from online giving have yet to be added. It was another reminder that our mission extends far beyond the walls of our school.

This winter has also been a season of accomplishment for our Panda athletes. Bowling had a historic State semifinalist finish along with two individual State qualifiers, Clare Pelstring and Alyssa Bechtol. Archery's excellence continues as they compete in the NASP State Tournament in March. Basketball had a thrilling overtime victory against the defending state champions to end the regular season and are now competing in Districts and have already qualified for the Region Tournament. Swimming took home a State Runner-up finish, and Clare Herfel won an individual State title in the 500 Freestyle. But, what fills me with the greatest pride is not the trophies. It is the way our athletes love and support one another: the cheers from the bench, the arms around shoulders in a timeout huddle, the prayer circles shared with opponents after each game. In these moments, we see clearly that our competition is grounded in faith, humility, and gratitude and offered always for the glory of God.



I also had the pleasure of meeting members of the 1976 State Championship Swim Team who were honored at this year's state championship on the 50th anniversary of their triumphant win. It was joyful to hear their stories of NDA from 50 years ago and to witness how the NDA sisterhood lasts forever.

We also celebrate an outstanding academic achievement within our NDA community. Congratulations to Jane Schuh and Jacie Hail, who have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Roughly 15,000 students nationwide advanced to Finalist standing after submitting a comprehensive application that included academic records, test scores, recommendations and an essay. This distinction reflects not only exceptional scholarship but also leadership and commitment beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of Jane and Jacie for representing Notre Dame Academy with such excellence.



Every day, I witness the love of God alive in the halls of NDA from classrooms, to the stage, to the court, and in quiet acts of kindness. As Lent continues, our students will have many opportunities to deepen their faith through scripture study, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, reconciliation, adoration, and prayer. My hope is that this season draws each of us closer to Christ and prepares our hearts to rejoice fully in the triumph of Easter.

May this Lenten season be one of grace, reflection, and renewed love for you and your families. Thank you for being such an integral part of the NDA community and for the many ways you help us live our mission each day.

In Notre Dame,

Lauren Hitron