



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

March 31, 2026



Dear NDA Community,

As we enter this most sacred week of our Church calendar, my heart is drawn to both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus. We begin with the joy of His welcome into Jerusalem, surrounded by voices of praise, and then walk closely with Him through moments of deep sorrow such as His betrayal, His suffering, and the weight of the cross. Along the way, we are reminded of small but powerful acts of compassion, like Veronica gently wiping His face or Simon helping to carry the cross.

Yet even in the midst of this sorrow, we hold onto hope. In just three days, the world is forever changed. The Resurrection reveals the depth of God's love for us and reminds us that light overcomes darkness. Our distress is transformed into joy, and we are renewed by the promise of new life. It is this enduring faith and Trust in God's goodness that sustains us and shapes who we are as believers.

That same faith is what we strive to nurture in our students each day. Through the work of the Mission Integration Committee of the Board of Directors, we are reflecting on how our Catholic identity and mission come to life in our school community. We warmly invite you to take a few moments to share your perspective by completing our survey [HERE](#).

March was a beautiful reflection of that mission in action. We began the month by celebrating three remarkable alumnae at the Women Making a Difference Luncheon. Sr. Mary Lynnette Shelton '59, Donna Bloemer '87, and Christine Dunn Whelan '90 are inspiring examples of how our mission extends far beyond our campus and into the world. Through their leadership, service, and faith-filled lives, they are making a meaningful difference in the communities they serve.



Sr. Mary Lynnette Shelton,
SND 1959



Donna Bloemer
1987



Christine Dunn Whelan
1990

Our seniors stepped away for a day-long Mission Retreat, taking time to reflect on how NDA has shaped them and, more importantly, how they will carry that mission forward after graduation. It was a meaningful day filled with gratitude, reflection, and hope for the future. That same day, our sophomores celebrated receiving their class rings during Mass, marking their journey and commitment to our community.



We also had the joy of welcoming the Class of 2030 during incoming freshman conferences. It was exciting to see them begin to discover the sisterhood, explore our academic program, and take those first steps toward becoming Pandas.

This past week, I attended the Charism Experience with faculty, staff, and administrators from other SND sponsored ministries in Chardon, OH. It was a great way to step away from the busyness of regular school and work life and to focus on the Charism, or the gift, of the Sisters of Notre Dame – Experiencing God's goodness and provident care. It helped me to understand that we are part of an even greater SND story that spans 175 years and five continents. It is beautiful to see this Charism flourishing at NDA!



Just yesterday, our entire school gathered in prayer to mark the beginning of Holy Week where we reflected on the Stations of the Cross. Students shared experiences of service, of compassion, and of kindness. We were left with the question, "How will you accompany Jesus on His walk to Calvary?"



The Diocese of Covington is undergoing a broad strategic planning process. As a key partner in our school's mission, would you take a 5-minute confidential survey regarding your opinion about Catholic Education in our diocese. Your feedback will be collected anonymously by a third-party marketing firm, then the aggregated results will be shared with our Diocesan Schools Strategic Planning Commission. Please click [THIS LINK](#) to access the survey.

As we move into Easter, may your hearts be filled with peace, hope, and renewed closeness to God. Together, let us rejoice and proclaim: Alleluia! He is risen!

In Notre Dame,

Lauren Hitron