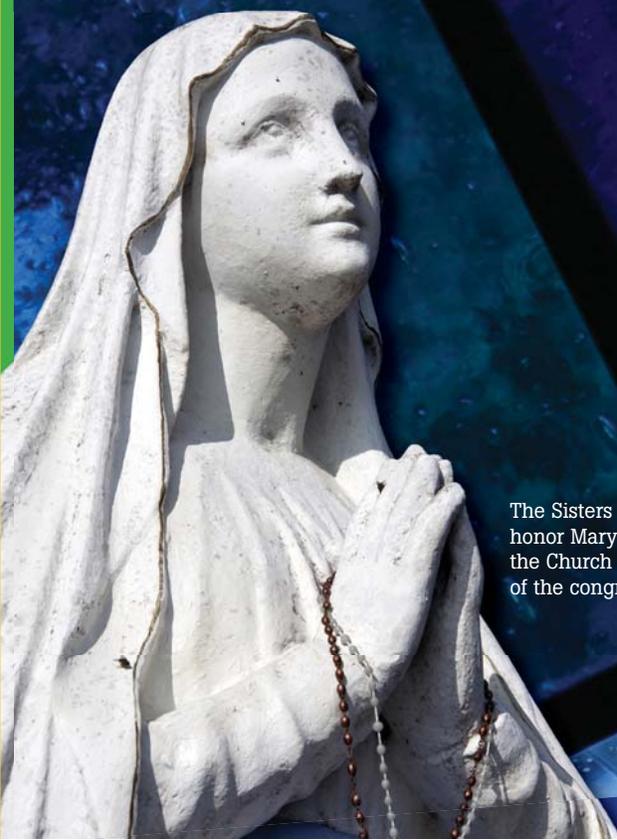


A representation of the center of the Seal of the Sisters of Notre Dame in stained glass in the Regina Chapel on the campus of Notre Dame College.

**Notre Dame College is honored to award the highest distinction the College bestows, the 2013 Notre Dame College Medal, to its original founders, the**

# *Sisters* of *Notre Dame.*

In 1850, the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) began with a vision of education as transformation. That SND vision has continued to evolve through their dedication to teaching, social services, pastoral ministries and missions abroad. The Sisters ever inspire those whose lives they touch to advance personally and professionally toward greater global responsibility.



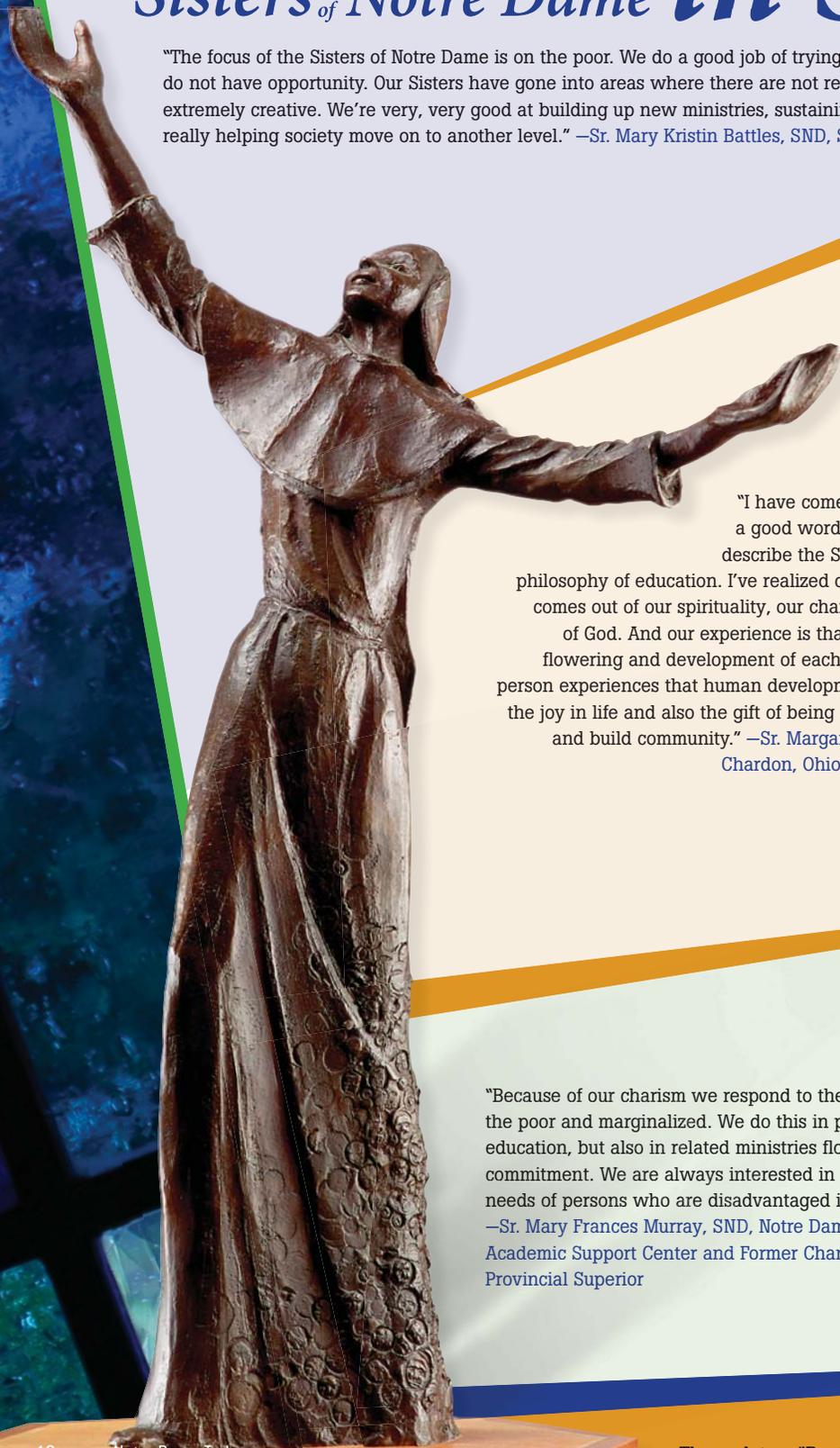
The Sisters of Notre Dame honor Mary as Mother of the Church and patroness of the congregation.

*“We accept the little ones so much more lovingly the poorer and more abandoned they are.”*

~Sr. Maria Aloysia (Hilligonde) Wolbring, Sisters of Notre Dame Foundress

# Sisters of Notre Dame *in Service*

“The focus of the Sisters of Notre Dame is on the poor. We do a good job of trying to educate those who do not have opportunity. Our Sisters have gone into areas where there are not resources and been extremely creative. We’re very, very good at building up new ministries, sustaining those ministries and really helping society move on to another level.” —Sr. Mary Kristin Battles, SND, Superior General



“I have come to appreciate what a good word transformation is to describe the Sisters of Notre Dame philosophy of education. I’ve realized over the years that it comes out of our spirituality, our charisma, our experience of God. And our experience is that God wants the full flowering and development of each person. When each person experiences that human development, we experience the joy in life and also the gift of being able to contribute to and build community.” —Sr. Margaret M. Gorman, SND, Chardon, Ohio, Provincial Superior

“Because of our charism we respond to the needs of the poor and marginalized. We do this in part through education, but also in related ministries flowing from that commitment. We are always interested in meeting the needs of persons who are disadvantaged in any way.” —Sr. Mary Frances Murray, SND, Notre Dame College Academic Support Center and Former Chardon, Ohio, Provincial Superior

## **Their Influence: Father Bernard Overberg**

The first Sisters of Notre Dame in Coesfeld, Germany, were formed in the pedagogy and spiritual tradition of Bernard Overberg. In place of rote memorization, he taught motivational storytelling and student involvement. He saw the need for education that forms character as it feeds the mind. His teacher-training classes imparted a humanistic spirituality duly respectful of creation and trustful of divine providence.



## **Sisters of Notre Dame Cornerstones of Education**

The dignity of the teacher  
The worth of the individual student  
The thoroughness of instruction in all subjects  
The centrality of religion in the curriculum

The sculpture “Rapture in Action” by Sr. Megan Dull, SND, depicts St. Julie Billiart’s deep experience that apostolic action is the outflow of prayer.

*“That you have conversed with  
God should be evident in your  
loving manner to others.”*

~Sr. Maria Ignatia (Elisabeth) Kühling, Sisters of Notre Dame Cofoundress

## *Sisters of Notre Dame in Spirit*

“The strength of the Sisters of Notre Dame is that we are very optimistic, very hopeful, willing to take on challenges. We are dedicated women. We are real daughters of the Church. We are committed to the mission of Jesus in the world, and our Sisters are very motivated to work for others, to work in society as a leaven. We always make a difference and change things for the better.”

—Sr. Mary Kristin Battles, SND, Superior General

“As Sisters of Notre Dame we have always believed in living our ministry in a way that emphasizes the centrality of the goodness and provident care of God and great respect for human dignity. We serve those who cannot advocate for themselves, who are experiencing difficulties of any kind, always looking to their development and hoping that over time our assistance will help them to become independent of our services. This is a very, very important part of what we do.” —Sr. Mary Frances Murray, SND, Notre Dame College Academic Support Center and former Chardon, Ohio, Provincial Superior

### **Their Inspiration: St. Julie Billiard**

Through the Sisters of Notre Dame of Amersfoort, Netherlands, the Coesfeld Sisters of Notre Dame received a way of religious life coming from St. Julie Billiard. St. Julie’s charism involved living in joyful simplicity and in the willing acceptance of the role of suffering in spiritual fruitfulness. Called the smiling saint, she ministered through love of the Church and proclaimed God’s goodness in word and deed.

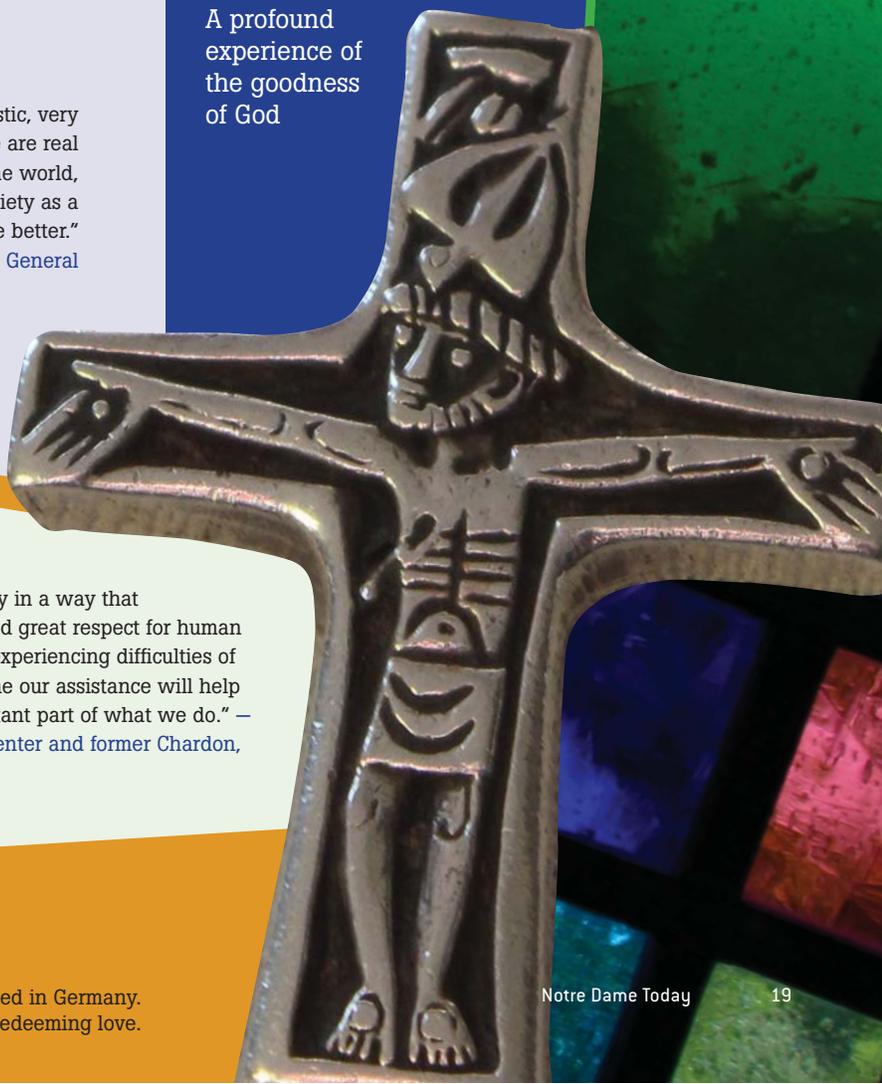


### **St. Julie’s Guiding Spirit**

A lively faith

A boundless charity

A profound  
experience of  
the goodness  
of God



"With more than 2,000 Sisters serving in 19 countries on five continents, wherever our Sisters go in the world, they have the perspective of always leaving a place better than when they found it, helping people with opportunity and seeing the possible, the liberating potential." —Sr. Mary Kristin Battles, SND, Superior General



### **Their Foundress and Co-Foundress: Hilligonde Wolbring and Elisabeth Kühling**

Hilligonde Wolbring and Elisabeth Kühling were teachers of poor neglected children in Germany. Their charity attracted others to form the religious community of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Coesfeld.

Sr. Maria Aloysia Wolbring (Hilligonde) taught the children whom her charity had taken in. Sr. Maria Ignatia Kühling (Elisabeth) taught courses in pedagogy in the teacher-training school and prepared the many young women who joined them for religious profession of vows in the congregation.

When during the Kulturkampf religious schools in Prussia became subject to state inspection that restricted religious training, Sister Maria Aloysia was among the first of 200 sisters who, beginning in 1874, transferred their ministry to the United States where Cleveland became the hub of the congregation.



### **Founding Principle of the Sisters of Notre Dame:**

Trust in God's providential care expressed through the care and education of poor children

## *Sisters of Notre Dame in Scope*

***"The Seed is the Word of God which you are called to implant in the hearts of children. In its time it will bear fruit, and you will see that in doing good to one child, you will have saved whole generations."***

~St. Julie Billiart, Spiritual Mother of the Sisters of Notre Dame

"I just got back from visiting Tanzania, Africa, where one of our Sisters is educating young African women interested in joining our congregation. So I saw firsthand what education can do for a developing country. In one country, where half the population is under 15 years of age, education is a desperate need. That is the gift our congregation wants to give the world wherever we serve."

—Sr. Margaret M. Gorman, SND, Chardon, Ohio, Provincial Superior

A Triptych honoring the story of the Sisters of Notre Dame is in the chapel at the Sisters' provincial center in Chardon, Ohio. Created by Sr. Mary Carol Dikovitsky, SND, it depicts "God's love poured forth in the world" through the outreach of the congregation.