

October 1
Sisters of Notre Dame Foundation Day



Suggested introduction:

In the fall of the year 1850, on October 1st, two young teachers, **Hilligonde Wolbring** and **Elisabeth Kühling**, began their religious life as Sisters of Notre Dame when they became novices, new, young sisters. Hilligonde Wolbring became Sister Maria Aloysia and Elisabeth Kuhling became Sister Maria Ignatia. Because they began the Sisters of Notre Dame of Coesfeld, this red letter day, October 1st, is marked on our calendars as Foundation Day. So, 164 years ago the “seed” of the congregation was planted in the hearts of these two young, caring women! Now this congregation has grown throughout the world to 2100 sisters in 18 countries on 5 continents, witnessing to God’s Goodness and Provident Care for all.

We live in a different world from these founding women. However, what continues to give us a reason to celebrate is our connection to them through the Sisters of Notre Dame we know today. We can carry on their spirit through our own dedication to education and by bringing God’s goodness and loving care to all we meet.

PRAYER:

Loving God, in your provident care you brought the Sisters of Notre Dame into being. The gifts you gave to many holy people blended in a special way of telling the world: that you are good,
that you care for us more than anyone else ever could,
that you are the only one who can fill the longing in our hearts.

We pray that you help all Sisters of Notre Dame to see your hand working through their past and in their present. Keep them connected to their roots so that all growing, developing and changing they experience will be seen as the unfolding of the gifts you gave to them from the beginning of the congregation. Bring them and all whose lives they touch, always to you.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.