**Founder’s Day Prayer Service IV**

7:50 students arrive and sit on floor

8: 00 Begin Prayer service (28 minutes long)

**1. Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 minutes)**

Today we gather to celebrate the gift of our school, Notre Dame Academy was founded in1949; it is easy to remember because it is written on the seal in the middle of the gym floor. Because our school was founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame, in years past, this prayer service has focused on the life of St. Julie Billiart, who is the spiritual foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame, as well as the life of Hillegonde Wolbring who became known as Sr. Alyosia in religious life. These two women, St. Julie and Sr. Aloysia help us to see the love of God more clearly in the lives of the Sisters of Notre Dame and his love and provident care in the witness of our Sisters. We are honored to have two Sisters of Notre Dame here with us today, ministering in Jesus’ name at our beloved Academy. Sr. Anna Maria is a graduate of Notre Dame, a regal gryphon, while Sr. Joann has been sharing her love of God and her beautiful smile her for over 25 years. Please join as we begin our prayer service with the Sign of our Salvation, ‘in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.”

**2. Introduction Song: Jesus, My Everything (3 minutes)**

**3. Opening Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1 minute)**

Good and loving God, you have called us to love you. You have made us in your image and cherished us with your word in Scripture. You sent your Son Jesus to us so that we may follow in his footsteps- loving those people you have given to watch over us and guide us, our parents and families- and loving those people who are so easily forgotten- those who lack material necessities like food, clothing and shelter. Help us to center our lives in the power of your love that transcends all barriers, obstacles and penetrates our very souls. Help us to open our hearts to the depths of your love and mercy as we care for others. Amen.

**4. Litany of Prayers : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(10 min)**

1. We pray Lord, in thanksgiving for the spiritual gifts you gave to St. Julie Billart, to whom the Sisters of Notre Dame connect the foundation of their order. During her illness, her eyes were fixed on you Lord. You filled her with vision and purpose. St. Julie remains for us as an example of perseverance in our faith in times of trouble and difficulty. We thank you Lord, for the gift of St. Julie to the world. We pray, “Hail Mary..”

2. We pray Lord with gratitude for Hillegonde Wolbring, known as Sr. Alyoisia in her religious life, who founded the Sisters of Notre Dame in the spirit of St. Julie Billart. Her love of Jesus Christ, especially her love of those who were hungry for signs of God’s goodness in their lives remains a model of a life lived in leadership and service. We pray, “Hail Mary..”

3. We pray for the international community of the Sisters of Notre Dame, who as women of faith made a vow to you O God. Strengthen them in their vocation to love and serve as Jesus did. We invite Mary, Notre Dame, to intercede for them as we pray, “Hail Mary...”

4. We pray for the Sisters of Notre Dame who began this school in 1949, who taught and prayed for the students here. We also pray for the sisters who have served and taught at Notre Dame Academy in the past as they witnessed to God’s goodness and provident care. Whether as principals, administrators, teachers or staff, they unselfishly gave of themselves for the good of our community. Bless them Lord with all good gifts. We ask Mary, our Mother to intercede for them as we pray,“Hail Mary...”

5. We pray for former teachers, staff members, coaches and adults who have shared their love of learning with our student community. Through their commitment to academic excellence the lives of many young women were enriched. Though they are no longer here with us and have moved on to new journeys in their lives, we ask you Lord to watch over them. Let us pray together, “Hail Mary...”

6. We pray for our past students, especially our big sisters who graduated and are in college, that you continue to guide them as they strive to live a life of service by putting into practice all that they have learned here at Notre Dame Academy. For these young women we pray, “Hail Mary...”

7. We pray for our current teachers, administrators and staff who are dedicated to educating young women to make a positive difference in our world. Bless these adults in every way, Lord, especially by showering them with your tender care as they mirror to us the depths of your love and sacrifice. We ask Mary to pray on our behalf, “Hail Mary...”

8. We pray for our current student community as they seek to be women of hope, compassion and service, using their intellectual gifts for the good of others. Nurture them as they follow in your footsteps O Lord. We pray, “Hail Mary...”

9. We pray today in particular for our Sisters, Sister Joann and Sister Anna Maria as they renew their vows to you in our presence. We ask you to bless them as we pray , “Hail Mary..”

10. For all the intentions that we keep in the silence of our hearts today, Lord. We know that when we lift our hearts and minds to you, that you hear our every prayer and need. (PAUSE for SILENT REFLECTION) We ask Mary, Our Mother, to intercede for us as we pray, “Hail Mary...”

**6. THE CHARISM of the SNDs: \_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_(2 min)**

What drew our sisters to the Sisters of the Notre Dame? This is what drew the sisters to join the order. Sr. Aloysia let her heart be permeated with the love of God. Her vision for the sisters of Notre Dame, that they would love Mary, our Blessed Mother, confiding in her and seeking her protection and guidance, opened the way for others to join the community. The tender care of the poor and vulnerable, the absolute trust in the goodness of God and in His providence attracted more sisters to the community. They too sought to spread the fragrance of the love of God like she did. God gave this order a special gift, in religious terms, this type of gift is called a “charism.” “Charism” refers to a gift given to a person by the Holy Spirit for the good of humanity and the building up of the Church. A charism has the quality of a magnet that draws someone closer to God. It is a deep experience of God that must be shared. That experience gave our foundress, Hilligonde Wolbring, a firm belief in the provident care of God, which moved her to a compassionate love for others, especially poor children. It gave our spiritual mother, Saint Julie Billart, an unshakable confidence in God’s goodness.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: This charism, a deep experience of God’s goodness and provident care, continues to be enriched by the creative fidelity of each Sister of Notre Dame. They pray to be signs of this charism to all those they meet by their presence and their ministries of service. One sister says,

“We’re called for joy; we’re called for love, and we’re called simply to share our experience of God’s goodness and provident care. Our charism is so beautiful: God is caring and good- even in pain, even in suffering, God holds us by the hand. God upholds the whole way.”

**7. Sister Anna Maria and Sr. Joann will each speak and then renew their vows together.**

**9. Renewing their vows before our eyes**

**9. Song: Ave Maria by Brad Fuller (4 minutes)**

**10. Closing Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 minute)**

As we celebrate the love and commitment to Christ of Sister Anna Maria and Sister Joann, we ask you Lord, to continue to bless their lives with all good gifts and virtues.

END of PRAYER SERVICE

(lots of other stuff I need follows but it is not for the prayer service: disregard)

[**http://saintquotes.blogspot.com/2009/05/suffering-helping-others-who-suffer.html -**](http://saintquotes.blogspot.com/2009/05/suffering-helping-others-who-suffer.html#http://saintquotes.blogspot.com/2009/05) [**http://saintquotes.blogspot.com/2009/05/suffering-helping-others-who-suffer.html**](http://saintquotes.blogspot.com/2009/05/suffering-helping-others-who-suffer.html*)

· *“You never give to the poor what is yours; you merely return to them what belongs to them. For what you have appropriated was given for the common use of everybody. The land was given for everybody, not just the rich.”* St. Ambrose, 4th century bishop of Milan

· *“The bread that is in your box belongs to the hungry; the coat in your closet belongs to the naked; the shoes you do not wear belong to the barefoot; the money in your vault belongs to the destitute.”*  St. Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, c. A.D. 370

·  *“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to the one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”* St Gregory Naziansen, Bishop of Constantinople, late fourth century

*It is to those who have the most need of us that we ought to show our love more especially. -*St. Francis de Sales

*Love the poor tenderly, regarding them as your masters and yourselves as their servants. -*St. John of God

*No one has ever been accused for not providing ornaments...Do not, therefore, adorn the church and ignore your afflicted brother, for he is the most precious temple of all. -*St John Chrysostom

*The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor. -*St. Basil the Great

*The rich man who gives to the poor does not bestow alms but pays a debt. -*St. Ambrose of Milan

*It would be considered a theft on our part if we didn't give to someone in greater need than we are. -*St. Francis of Assisi

*As long as any one has the means of doing good to his neighbours, and does not do so, he shall be reckoned a stranger to the love of the Lord. -*St. Irenaeus of Lyons

*The poor and the sick are our owners and they represent the very person of Jesus Christ. -*St. Luigi Scrosoppi

*Do not wait for leaders, do it alone, person to person. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Our actions have a tongue of their own; they have an eloquence of their own, even when the tongue is silent. For deeds prove the lover more than words. -*St. Cyril of Jerusalem

*Never see a need without trying to do something about it.-*Blessed Mary Mackillop

*We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen away, and to bring home those who have lost their way... -*St. Francis of Assisi

*We must show charity towards the sick, who are in greater need of help. Let us take them some small gift if they are poor, or, at least let us go and wait on them and comfort them. -*St. Alphonsus Liguori

*Remember that the Christian life is one of action; not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well. -*St. Vincent Pallotti

*All our religion is but a false religion, and all our virtues are mere illusions and we ourselves are only hypocrites in the sight of God, if we have not that universal charity for everyone - for the good, and for the bad, for the poor and for the rich, and for all those who do us harm as much as those who do us good.* -St. John Vianney

*God’s invitation to become saints is for all, not just a few. Sanctity therefore must be accessible to all. In what does it consist? In a lot of activity? No. In doing extraordinary things? No, this could not be for everybody and at all times. Therefore, sanctity consists in doing good, and in doing this good in whatever condition and place God has placed us. Nothing more, nothing outside of this. -*Blessed Louis Tezza

*What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. -*St. Augustine of Hippo

*The saints must be honored as friends of Christ and children and heirs of God. Let us carefully observe the manner of life of all the apostles, martyrs, ascetics, and just men who announced the coming of the Lord. And let us emulate their faith, charity, hope, zeal, life, patience under suffering, and perseverance unto death so that we may also share their crowns of glory. -*St. John of Damascus

*Man's value before God is estimated by the dispositions of his heart, its uprightness, its good will, its charity, and not by keenness of intellect or extent of knowledge. -*Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

*My confidence is placed in God who does not need our help for accomplishing his designs. Our single endeavor should be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to him, and not to spoil his work by our shortcomings. -*St. Isaac Jogues

*It is not the actual physical exertion that counts toward a man's progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken. -*St. Francis Xavier

*He alone loves the Creator perfectly who manifests a pure love for his neighbor. -*St. Bede

the Venerable

*If you want God to hear your prayers, hear the voice of the poor. If you wish God to anticipate your wants, provide those of the needy without waiting for them to ask you. Especially anticipate the needs of those who are ashamed to beg. To make them ask for alms is to make them buy it. -*St. Thomas of Villanova

*Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. -*St. Augustine of Hippo

*The bread which you use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit. -*St. Basil

*After knowing the will of God in regard to a work which we undertake, we should continue courageously, however difficult it may be. We should follow it to the end with as much constancy as the obstacles we encounter are great. -*St. Vincent de Paul

*We must show charity towards the sick, who are in greater need of help. Let us take them some small gift if they are poor, or, at least, let us go and wait on them and comfort them. -*St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

*May I not come before You with empty hands, since we are rewarded according to our deeds. -*St. Teresa of Jesus

*Love ought to consist of deeds more than of words. -*St. Ignatius of Loyola

*If you have a sick or lonely person at home, be there. Maybe just to hold a hand, maybe just to give a smile, that is the greatest, the most beautiful work. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*The poor do not need our sympathy and our pity. The poor need our love and compassion. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*People are hungry for God. Do you see that? Quite often we look but do not see. We are all passing through this world. We need to open our eyes and see. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Love does not measure; it just gives. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Sometimes it is harder for us to smile at those who live with us, the immediate members of our families, than it is to smile at those who are not so close to us. Let us never forget: love begins at home. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*As far as I am concerned, the greatest suffering is to feel alone, unwanted, unloved. The greatest suffering is also having no one, forgetting what an intimate, truly human relationship is, not knowing what it means to be loved, not having a family or friends. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*People have forgotten what the human touch is, what it is to smile, for somebody to smile at them, somebody to recognize them, somebody to wish them well. The terrible thing is to be unwanted. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*I repeat that the poor, the sufferers from leprosy, the rejected, the alcoholics, whom we serve, are beautiful people. Many of them have wonderful personalities. The experience which we have by serving them, we must pass on to people who have not had that wonderful experience. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state; but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made. -*St. Peter of Alcantara

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*If you judge people, you have no time to love them. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love? -*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

*I wonder what the world would be like if there were not innocent people making reparation for us all? Today the Passion of Christ is being relived in the lives of those who suffer. To accept that suffering is a gift of God. Suffering is not a punishment. Jesus does not punish. Suffering is a sign--a sign that we have come so close to Jesus on the cross that he can kiss us, show us that he is in love with us by giving us an opportunity to share in his Passion. Suffering is not a punishment, nor a fruit of sin; it is a gift of God. He allows us to share in his suffering and to make up for the sins of the world. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*So long as there are poor,I am poor,*

*So long as there are prisons,I am a prisoner,*

*So long as there are sick,I am weak,*

*So long as there is ignorance,I must learn the truth,*

*So long as there is hate,I must love,*

*So long as there is hunger,I am famished.*

*Such is the identification Our Divine Lord would have us make*

*with all whom He made in love and for love. -*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

*I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much. -*

Mother Teresa

*God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. -*John Henry Cardinal Newman

*If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first of all with your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire. -*St. Vincent Ferrar

*It is best to first listen to others before we attempt to help them. -*Father Peter Van Breemen, S.J

*Something can be done everywhere for the glory of God. -*St. Clement Hofbauer

*Every family should have a room where Christ is welcome in the person of the hungry and thirsty stranger. -*St. John Chrystostom

*It is not necessary to have great things to do. I turn my little omelet in the pan for the love of God. -*Brother Lawrence

*Graciousness in accepting service is as blessed as graciousness in giving it. -*Sister Mary Catherine Nolan, O.P.

*Try to acquire the virtues you believe lacking in your brothers. Then you will no longer see their defects, for you will no longer have them yourself. -*St. Augustine

*One must do all one can do for everybody, expecting no return save from God only. -*St. John Vianney

*If you are going to do something for the poor, the abused, or the imprisoned, above all be faithful. People with broken lives often come from lives with broken promises.*

Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J.

*Peace begins with a smile--smile five times a day at someone you really don't want to smile at. Do it for Peace. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen; for God speaks in the silence of the heart. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The more the soul loves, the more it desires to love, and the greater its suffering, the greater its healing. -St. Columban

*We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgive endlessly. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them. -*St. Vincent de Paul

*The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrificing, and with extreme effort. -*St. Padre Pio

*Here is a rule for everyday life: Do not do anything which you cannot offer to God. -*St. John Vianney

*We may be excused for not always being bright, but we are not excused for not being gracious, yielding and considerate. -*St. Francis de Sales

*I never looked at the masses as my responsibility. I can only love one person at a time. So I began. I picked up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand. -*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*The value of life does not depend upon the place we occupy. It depends upon the way we occupy that place. -*St. Therese of Lisieux

*What we need is a cup of understanding, a barrel of love, and an ocean of patience. -*St. Francis de Sales

*Watch, O Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones. And all for love's sake. -*St. Augustine

Let us not be justices of peace, but angels of peace. -St. Therese of Lisieux

*Every effort to make society sensitive to the importance of the family, is a great service to humanity. -*Pope John Paul II

*The love of Christ knows no limits. It never ends; it does not shrink from ugliness and filth. -*St. Edith Stein

*I will be kind to everybody, particularly to those whom I find troublesome. -*St. Anthony Mary Claret

There are many people who can do big things, but there are very few people who will do the small things. -Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*True charity consists in putting up with all one's neighbors fault's; never being surprised by his weakness, and being inspired by the least of his virtues. -*St. Therese of Liseux

*The means for maintaining perfect love is to accomplish frequent acts of love. Fire is kindled by the wood we cast into it and love is enkindled by acts of love. -*St. Alphonsus Liguori

*If we practice love of neighbor with great perfection, we will have done everything. -*St. Teresa of Avila

EXTRA STUFF:...

Prayer: Power of love.. we can never know just how deep and love can be… Love called the Sisters to the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame, to give their lives in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Explanation of the sisters vows: we sustain them in prayer as they voice their commitment to their vocation. They need us to support them in love and prayer. Please prayerfully listen as the sisters renew their vows.

Healing is in your hands: no chain is strong enough to keep us from your love

Our past, present, and future is in your hands

Pour out your healing through our hands…

Bless the work of our hands as we lift our hearts to you in love

How deep is your love, how strong is your love

Bless our hearts, break them with what breaks yours

Friend of sinners, we have strayed so far

Friend of sinners, the world is on their way to you but they are tripping over me

Friend of sinners, open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers

Let our hearts be led by mercy

Let us reach with open hearts and open doors

Oh Jesus, Friend of sinners, Break our hearts with what breaks yours.

Help us to remember we are all the least of these

Let the memory of your mercy bring us to knees

Nobody knows what we are for only what we are against when we judge the wounded

What if we put down our signs crossed over the lines and loved like you did

You love every lost cause

You reach for the outcast

For the leper and the lame

I was that lost cause, and I was the outcast

Casting Crowns, Jesus Friend of sinners

St. Theresa of Avila: I have no hands but yours…