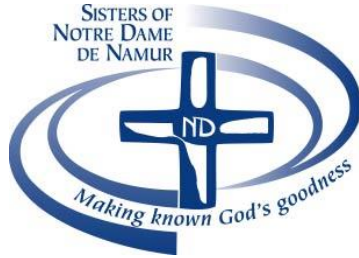


PRESS RELEASE FOR SR. ELLEN GIELTY, SNDDEN



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Contact: Sr. Anne Stevenson, SNDdN

Congregational Mission Office

Telephone: 978-356-2159 (Ext. 214)

E-mail: anne.stevenson@sndden.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR MOURN LOSS OF DYNAMIC LEADER

Ipswich MA, USA – September 10, 2022 Sister Ellen Bernadette Gielty, SNDdN, General Moderator of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdN) for 12 years, died suddenly at 88 years of age on September 3, 2022 in a hospital in Southport, England. SNDdN for seventy years, she was an educator and administrator *par excellence* in the United Kingdom. She served two terms in General Leadership, from 1990 to 2002 in Rome, Italy, as the **17th Superior General of the SNDdN Congregation**. Known internationally as well for her extraordinary Leadership with and for many other Religious Congregations, Sr. Ellen worked tirelessly on the Executive Committee of the Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome, throughout her two mandates. After her time in General Leadership, when she lived in Oxford and Birkdale, she assisted the Religious Congregation of Our Lady of Walsingham in their founding years.

Through her Leadership in the Congregation, Sr. Ellen actualized, with two General Government Teams, *THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTERS* of 1990 and 1996. Her Leadership, grounded in a prophetic spirituality was remarkable and significant. With her two Teams, Sr. Ellen accomplished multiple marvels for the Congregation in:

- Promoting the spirit, charisma and friendship of the Co-Foundresses, St. Julie Billiart and Françoise Blin de Bourdon in multiple ways, including the publication of their *Dialogue Letters*;
- Energizing a Vision for Mission, in collaboration with Province Leadership at numerous meetings at province, inter-province and cross-cultural levels on five continents;
- Ensuring the sharing of Resources for Mission, including Living Expenses and Education of our Sisters in the Southern Hemisphere through an International Office of Africa and Latin America, which later became an Office of Mission Support, and eventually “naming” these resources in a Jubilee Fund;
- Establishing a strong Communications System for Mission and initiating the printed publication, *Notre Dame International* and an international Intranet of First Class, still actively viable and expanding today for congregational communications;

- Researching and establishing the role of the SNDdeN NGO Representative at the United Nations;
- Organizing many international meetings of Communications, Finance and Formation personnel as well as three international meetings of Archivists, which included the Coesfeld and Amersfoort Sisters of Notre Dame;
- Strengthening internationally programs for newer members and for ongoing renewal in the Congregation, with priority for gatherings of SNDdeN formation personnel;
- Bringing to the forefront the history and heritage of the Congregation to envision a Congregational Heritage Centre in Namur, Belgium;
- Promoting relationships and programs for Notre Dame Associates internationally;
- Clarifying, formulating and circulating in 7 languages to all Provinces a *Mission Statement of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur* in 2000;
- Completing the final design of an Official SNDdeN Logo for the Congregation.

Born in Stirling, Perthshire, Scotland on October 7, 1933, Ellen was the youngest of 10 children with three brothers and four sisters living, and two siblings who died before Ellen's birth. Her parents, James Gielty and Mary Fadian Gielty had migrated from the west of Ireland to Scotland and married in Stirling where the family lived.

Ellen met the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur through her education in Scotland and entered the Congregation in October 1951. She graduated from Glasgow University, with honors in English Language and Literature, and subsidiary studies in History and French, with a diploma also in Education. She received a special certificate from Notre Dame College in Scotland. She attained a Master of Arts (M.A.) in educational research from Lancaster University. Sr. Ellen was a scholar, a superb teacher and administrator, unbelievably gifted and creative as a dynamic leader in schools/colleges in Scotland and England. She was a founder in 1963 and also the Principal of the first Notre Dame Mission in Nigeria.

At Commencement in May 1995, Emmanuel College in Boston, MA. USA awarded Sr. Ellen an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, "*for her lifelong commitment to education and... leadership of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.*"

Sr. Ellen's spiritual depth in communicating the vision and values of St. Julie and Françoise Blin de Bourdon, expressed in her rich command of the English language with a spontaneous wit, captivated and inspired her listeners at various international assemblies. In her presence, she communicated profoundly her life's convictions as a disciple of Jesus and a Servant Leader for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Sister Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, will attend the Requiem Mass of Christian Burial, celebrated by Bishop John Rawsthorne at Our Lady and All Saints' Church in Parbold, England on September 21, 2022. Sr. Ellen will be buried

in the Notre Dame Cemetery, also in Parbold. A Reception will follow in St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre in Wrightington. Her Sisters, her family and friends worldwide mourn the loss of this extraordinary SNDdeN, a woman of integrity and a global spirituality, with a prophetic vision for the Church and Religious Life in our time.

Recognized with gratitude and affection in the British Province, Sr. Ellen Gielty was a loving presence in her participation in community life, her commitment to many educational ministries in England, Scotland and Nigeria, her service as Chapter Coordinator (1970-1972) and Province Councilor for six years (1972-1978). Internationally, SNDdeN sing the *Magnificat* in all that God has accomplished through Sr. Ellen Gielty's Leadership as our 17th Superior General. We proclaim with St. Julie Billiart: "*Ah! How good is the good God.*".

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are an international Congregation of Women Religious founded in France in 1804 by St. Julie Billiart. Sisters serve in Belgium, Brazil, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, and in 19 states throughout the USA.

We, SNDdeN, commit ourselves *to make known God's goodness* through education in a variety of ministries. We staff offices/centers in Rome, ITALY, Namur, BELGIUM and Ipswich, MA, USA. We work to change lives and "**We are called to continue to till** the ground of the liberating mission of education in all its forms." (CALLS General Chapter 2021, p.2). We maintain a web site at: www.sndden.org.