



GEORGE MEADE, *minister to future leaders*

“Every Sister of Notre Dame has combined the SND charism with her own personality and her love of Christ to make a real difference in the community and in the world.” These words of George Meade, whose ministry and professional life have revolved around youth for more than 30 years, reveal the power of leadership through example.

Beginning as the youth minister at St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Thousand Oaks, George has been a model of leadership for thousands of young men and women. George’s association with the SNDs started when George taught eighth grade religion at La Reina High School in 1984. As a member of the campus ministry team through 1990, he assisted with retreats, liturgies and other events.

Continuing his service with the Sisters of Notre Dame, George transitioned to St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura as theology teacher and campus minister. And now 27 years later, George is Dean of Students and Theology Department Chairperson. George attributes his passion for educating youth to the spirit, mission and example of the Sisters of Notre Dame that he knew. “Education was a ministry that the SNDs embraced, always setting high academic and spiritual standards for the students. For example, if a student needed extra care during family or personal crisis, the SNDs always responded with love and attention.”

One particularly memorable incident involved a student whose choices were “unwise.” The

student was sent to the assistant principal for a disciplinary conversation. One of the sisters approached the student, indicating that she had great potential for leadership. The SND also told the student that she had to make a choice: would she use her potential in a positive or negative manner? This student subsequently identified that talk as a turning point in her life.

George’s experiences with campus ministry enabled him to write a chapter of Doing Great Campus Ministry, edited by Sr. Angela Hallahan, C.H.F., published in 2003. His chapter is entitled: “Campus Ministry: Eight to Three and Three to Eight.”

George affectionately recalls the many SNDs he has ministered with over the years, especially: Sr. M. Patrick Sullivan at St. Paschal Baylon Parish; Srs. M. Kathleen Burns, AnnCarla Costello and Josanne Furey at St. Bonaventure High School; Srs. M. Leanne Hubbard and Lisa Megaffin at La Reina High School; Sr. Margaret Mary Scott at Sacred Heart Church in Ventura; and Sr. M. Rebekah Kennedy at Our Lady of the Assumption Elementary School.

In conclusion, George noted that for him, the number one positive impact of the SNDs and their colleagues is their ability to form young people as leaders. The confidence and values instilled by these educators has a ripple effect in many families, communities, colleges and workplaces. And certainly, the students whose lives George has touched are among those leaders of the future as well.