

Poitiers - France, the 23rd December 2022



Dear members of the Administration, dear teachers, dear families,

It is with great sorrow that I address you today to inform you of the decision that the Congregation of the Christian Union of Saint Chaumont has been led to take in recent weeks concerning the presence of the sisters at Notre-Dame Academy.

Faced with too few sisters in our community, the renewal of their presence at Notre-Dame Academy is now impossible for us. We therefore have decided to withdraw from the school. Sr Marie-Pascale and Sr Angélique-Thérèse will leave San Diego at the end of this school year. As you can imagine, this decision comes with great heartbreak, especially for the two of them, after so many years of dedication to the children at NDA, all the beautiful relationships that have been forged, and all the joys and trials the Sisters have experienced at your side. Unfortunately, the reality of the Congregation hinders our dreams of continuing at NDA.

We regret all the more that we have to make this decision because our establishment in California required great sacrifices on the part of the three sisters who founded this school and who are now in Heaven, but we are also sure that they will continue to look after the school and all young students, even after we leave.

It is now 17 years since we started NDA with the help of Father Nick, and I could see during my visits how this school is of great quality, both by the pedagogical level and by the family spirit, specific to our institutions. The motto “One Family Always United” is really lived there! I am very optimistic about the future of the school under parish and diocesan leadership. I encourage everyone, despite the pain or regret that one may feel, to continue to work together to give our young people a solid, integral formation:

- An Intellectual Formation through continued academic excellence
- A Moral Formation through the attention and benevolence that you, the administration, teachers and parents bring to the children in their daily lives.
- And a Spiritual Formation through the acknowledgement that you are all witnesses to Christ who is your life and your Light.

Sr Marie-Pascale and Sr Angélique Thérèse are committed to making the transition as peaceful as possible for each of you and especially for the children. I know we can count on them to do that. We make our departure in collaboration with the diocese and Father Chris. We all want to ensure that the character of this school is maintained, and that it keeps its originality and charism.

Dear members of the administration, dear teachers and families, please believe in our great friendship with you all. You should also know that, despite the departure, the links will not be broken. The Sisters and I will continue to keep everyone in our daily prayers.

We are immensely grateful to the Lord for these beautiful and rich years at your side! May God bless you and continue to bless Notre-Dame Academy for many years to come!

Sr Marie-Vianney RESSEGAND
Supérieure Générale