



LILLIAM PAETZOLD, *woman of encouragement*

“I always tell people that with the Sisters of Notre Dame, every detail counts in educating the whole child. Their schools are clearly Catholic.” These are the words that ring true for Lilliam Paetzold, newly appointed president of Notre Dame Academy Schools of Los Angeles.

As a graduate of both the elementary and high schools, Lilliam is no stranger to the education that is the living legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Beginning her relationship with the SNDs in 1972 as a first grader at Notre Dame Academy Elementary, Lilliam fondly recalls the SNDs who were her teachers there and at the high school. “The SNDs have established strong Catholic traditions that continue today at the schools, and in the memories of their graduates. These traditions are keeping the spirit and charism of the SNDs alive in hundreds of hearts, over many generations.” These generations include her daughters, NDA alumnae from the Classes of 2011 and 2015.

She noted the influential presence the SNDs had on each student and the entire school community. Lilliam cherishes the stories about the SND foreign missions and the courage of the missionaries. Other powerful messages and traditions include the call to service for the poor, school Masses, prayer experiences and service projects. These small actions have made a big impact on Lilliam’s spiritual formation, and have prepared her to carry on the SND spirit and tradition as the newly appointed president of her alma maters.

Prepared with bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Loyola-Marymount University, Lilliam worked in the public school system as a teacher, resource specialist and staff development specialist. In 2005, she was named the principal of St. Lawrence of Brindisi School in Los Angeles, a school established by the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1924.

As an educator for 27 years and administrator at Notre Dame Schools since 2010, Lilliam’s dedication is itself legendary. Notre Dame Academy annually recognizes an alumna who has distinguished herself in education. The recipient is a woman of faith who exemplifies a spirit of service and cooperation, demonstrates a commitment to serve the Church and makes a commitment to service through education. This prestigious award, the Sister Mary Aloysia Service in Education Award, was presented to Lilliam in 2008.

As Lilliam settles into her new position, she knows that the faculty, staff and administration will attend to the many details of educating the whole child, developing independent and courageous Catholic leaders. She wants to encourage the students to make a difference in the world, leading by example in words and actions, becoming better individuals every day. From her own experience, Lilliam knows the impact of her final goal so well—encouraging her students to take responsible risks to make a difference in the world, following the message of St. Julie Billiart: “Better mistakes than paralysis.”