

SUMMER 2021 ISSUE

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Notre Dame High School's
Alumni Newsletter

WELCOME NEW ALUMNI - THE CLASS OF 2021!!



FROM MS. MACK'S DESK

I have absolutely been blessed to return to NDHS as the Head of School. Today marks 6 months in the position and I feel like I never left. Thank you to our community for your suggestions, feedback and relentless support as I

continue to navigate through building my understanding of ND culture and operations.

I had the pleasure of addressing the Graduating class of 2021 on June 18th at the Graduation ceremony held at Brewer Memorial Stadium. I shared....

Good evening distinguished guests, parents, relatives, ND faculty, staff, and friends of the Notre Dame Class of 2021. It truly is my distinct honor to be here tonight, as the Head of School to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2021!

This school year has brought unprecedented challenges and obstacles for each and every one of us in this stadium tonight. A life lesson that many of us have learned is to expect the unexpected. Graduates, through all of these barriers, you have come together as a class, persevered, and accomplished greatness!!

I think back to 1985 when I graduated from ND. It was such an
(Continued on page 2)

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FROM MS. MACK'S DESK (continued from page 1)

exciting time. I was heading to college (I couldn't wait to leave home), but also leaving the place where I felt so comfortable, where I was accepted and could be myself. I had friends, like many of you, that I had known since Kindergarten and many others that I met along the way. What was it going to be like leaving all that I had ever known? My friends, the place I grew up, and my high school that I loved so much? The truth is, life is full of change. Friends will change, family will change, goals will change, addresses will change, and jobs will change. Through these life changes will come happiness, joy, disappointment, and sadness. Through all of this, my wish for you is to commit everything to the Lord, trust Him, He will help you! Notre Dame is a family, a community that shaped you. I wish so many things for you! I wish a life for you that becomes all you want it to. Keep your dreams BIG and your worries small. Be strong and courageous. Love truly, LAUGH uncontrollably, and never regret anything that makes you smile.

Always remember, Behind you are your memories, Before you, your dreams, Around you all those who love you, and Inside you, all you need. Congratulations and Best of Luck!

As I reflect on that evening, I am constantly reminded of the privilege I had as a student of Notre Dame and now as the leader of this incredible group of students and staff. I am looking forward to a busy summer at ND as we work to make the 2021-2022 school year the finest!!

Sixty-sixth Commencement Ceremony Friday, June 18, 2021 Brewer Memorial Stadium



Notre Dame High School welcomed home Daniel Pautz'01 to deliver the Commencement Address to the Class of 2021. Following Dan's graduation from Notre Dame High School, he received his B.S., *summa cum laude*, from Niagara University in 2005, and obtained his J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Buffalo School of Law in 2008. Dan joined the law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, N.Y in 2008, becoming a partner in 2019. Dan was presented with the Distinguished Graduate Award by Sister Mary Walter, RSM, in recognition of his professional accomplishments and his service to his community.

In his remarks, Dan fondly recalled his time at ND, sharing memories and four life lessons for the graduates. First, *Don't let your mistakes go to waste*; second, *Be kind to everyone, all the time*; third, *Hard work solves 99% of life's problems*; and fourth, *Be flexible and keep an open mind*. He closed his remarks by reminding the graduates that Notre Dame is a family and you can always go home again. Thank you, Dan!!

Pratha Purushottam
Valedictorian



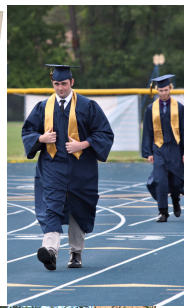
Gino DeLeone
Salutatorian

If you were unable to attend, or watch the live stream, the recorded version of the ceremony can be found here for you to enjoy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeM_5iCY6yc

Best wishes to the Class of 2021 and Godspeed!

PHOTO GALLERY



Congratulations to the graduates of Notre Dame's legacy families!



Above, left to right: Becca Watts'13, Sarah Watts'17, Madison Watts'21, Brenda (Mathers) Watts'83, Debbie (Mathers) Allington'85, Jill (Mathers) Booth'81 and Nikole Watts'10



Above, left to right: Kristin McNamara'04, Theresa (Rodzai) McNamara'66, Robert McNamara'65, Tiara Rodzai'21, Joe Rodzai'71. Tiara is the 14th member of the Rodzai family to graduate from ND!



Above, left to right: Don Mustico'65, Mike Mustico'90, Lisa (Beaty) Mustico'92, Xavier Mustico'12, Julia Mustico'17, Ellie Mustico'21, Ava Mustico'23



Above, left to right: Brian Lemley, Kevin Murray'91, Ashley Murray, Nate Murray'21, Cathy Murray, Riley Murray'25



Left: Una Cowley, Georgia Cowley'18, Alexandra Cowley'21, Phil Cowley



Right: Joe DeLeone'84, Gino DeLeone'21, Joey DeLeone, Carrie DeLeone



Front row, left to right:: Declan Murphy, Owen Murphy, Liam Murphy. Back row, left to right: A. Scott Welliver, Lori Welliver, Steve Welliver, Sarah (Murphy) Welliver'94, Kathryn Welliver'23, Alexandra Welliver'21, Charlotte Welliver'26, Patricia (O'Brien) Murphy'64, John Murphy'58, Jillian Murphy, Jack Murphy'96

Below, front row, left to right:: Patrick McCarthy'25, Lindsay McCarthy'19, Back row, left to right: Kevin McCarthy'89, Colleen (Kozemko) McCarthy'89, Justin McCarthy'21, Daniel Ruppenthal'21, Eileen (McCarthy) Ruppenthal'81, Bill McCarthy'85



Above, front row, left to right: Patti Gough'76, Karen (Gough) Hale'78, Sydne Franceschelli, Emma (Pautz) Norton'09, Charlotte Norton, Tom Gough'86, Taylor Pautz, Kathryn Gough'21, Carol Gough, Luca Franceschelli, Ellie Gough, Peyton Pautz, Mollie Pautz'07, Wendy Pautz. Back row: Steven Gough'22, Steve Franceschelli, John Gough'19, Dan Pautz'01, Steve Hale, David Norton'09

Alumni return for graduation!



Left to right: Gino DeLeone'21, Matthew Rilloraza'20, Lucy Kaffenbarger'20, Caroline Rogers'20, Alexandra Welliver'21, Emmalie Barkley'22

Left to right: Maddie Wirth'20, Alexandra Cowley'21, Patrick Finnerty'20



Left to right: Daniel Ruppenthal'21, Ryan Eller'20, Justin McCarthy'21



ALUMNI CORNER



by Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal'81, Business & Alumni Relations Coordinator

Graduation is always a special time at Notre Dame. You can feel the excitement in the halls as the calendar turns to June and the days of celebration begin. The anticipation builds as the seniors attend their prom, go on their class trip, plan their senior prank day, attend senior banquet and baccalaureate, and finally, walk across the field to receive their diploma. The Class of 2021 was no exception. After a year of upheaval and challenges due to Covid-19, this class has proven to be resilient & adaptable, and they were ready to celebrate their hard-won accomplishments. As the date of graduation drew closer, and more and more restrictions were lifted, we received notification that events could be expanded to hold more guests and

mask requirements were lifted. The appreciation and joy could be seen on the face of every graduate and those of their families, along with ND's administration, faculty and staff. As the graduates walked across the field and received their diplomas, leaving Notre Dame for the last time as a student, they carried with them all of the lessons they had learned, the friendships they had made, and the prayers of all who have gone before them. The Class of 2021 will always be a part of the Notre Dame family, no matter how many years have passed or how far they travel.

Our motto of "Ego Sum Lux Mundi" is not just a phrase. Whether a recent grad or a seasoned alumnus, this is a motto that rings true in all phases of life. It is a reminder to always be yourself, to celebrate those around you for who they are, and to share your talents with your community. We hope that all of our alumni continue to share with us your achievements, your successes, and your life events so that we may celebrate with you. We hope that you will stay involved and active in the Notre Dame community. Your talents are boundless and giving back as an active alumni can & will change the lives of future Crusaders. No matter where your journey in life takes you, never forget the people and places that got you to where you are. Once a Crusader, Always a Crusader.

We hope and pray that the newest members of Notre Dame's Alumni Association find great happiness and success on whatever path they take as they leave Notre Dame. Congratulations to the Class of 2021!!

Keeping Track

This newsletter is meant to inform fellow alumni of the great things you are doing, but we need your help in order to do so! Fill us in on your travels, life experiences, accomplishments, careers, volunteer work, etc. so that we can share your news with your classmates!

You may submit news directly to Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal'81 at
ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com
or to ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com

We hope to hear from you soon! Thank you!

Alumni Chronicles



Grand Traveling, Global Pandemics, and Graduation - What I've Learned in the Last Year and a Half by Allison Wichtowski'17

I had just pulled up to the hotel in Rome, Italy, where I was going to be staying as I began what was supposed to be my epic adventure of a lifetime, when I first heard the words "Covid-19". I received a text from a fellow NDHS alumni who was also studying abroad in Rome, warning me with a picture from a news article that reported the first cases of the virus in the country's capital. He reassured me that his program said it was just a "flu-like virus" and nothing to worry about. This was the narrative I continued to hear throughout the month, as I studied and explored the treasures Rome had to offer. The anxious phone calls from home greatly contrasted the laid back Italian culture. It wasn't until I began seeing signs in pharmacy windows indicating that they were completely sold out of face masks and hand sanitizer, that I began to realize just how serious this "new flu" was.

About 10 days later at 2 o'clock in the morning, I received an email from my study abroad program stating that the CDC had issued a level 3 warning in Italy & all non-essential travel should be avoided. On March 2, 2020, I packed my bags and left, touching down in Philadelphia with a hundred other college students. Cameras from local news stations were thrust in our faces with reporters asking how we felt about leaving the epicenter of the pandemic. At the time, I was informed by my personal healthcare provider & the NYS Department of Health that my family and I would be fine and a quarantine was not necessary. Four days later, the County Health Department called, mandating that I needed to be in complete isolation from my family and the outside world, as the risk of my possible exposure to the virus was too high.

I feel confident when I say that this past year and a half has been difficult for everyone. However, I still have hope. During a time of uncertainty and confusion, people have shown just how powerful human connection and empathy can be. Although the words "we're all in this together" may sound cliché, the message rings true. I have been able to overcome all of the challenges of the past year because of the people who supported me every step of the way.

In May 2021, I graduated from St. John Fisher College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Inclusive Childhood Education with a concentration in English Literature. To be completely honest, I thought the day would never come. In the fall of 2020, SJFC had to shut down for the second time due to Covid-19. I had to complete my course work virtually while also completing some of my pre-student teaching hours via zoom. Trying to develop personal connections with students through a computer screen is no easy feat, but I witnessed some amazing connections being formed despite the impossible nature of the task. Fifth grade students would write messages on paper and hold them up to the screen during their lunch period, so that they could try to communicate with their friends. If that isn't resilience, I'm not sure what is. In the spring semester, I was assigned to complete my student teaching in a sixth grade ELA class at Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield, NY. The students were attending school on a hybrid model, two days in person and three days at home in a virtual setting. Despite the students being hybrid, I was fortunate enough to go into the building five days a week. I was finally able to build connections with students and colleagues face-to-face. These connections motivated and reassured me that I was capable of accomplishing difficult tasks and making it through the last few months of my undergraduate years.

I loved this community so much that I decided to stay on as a substitute teacher after graduation and was hired to be a teacher for the middle school special education classroom for the summer. In the fall, I plan to start graduate school in pursuit of a master's degree in Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology. I am currently in the process of looking for a full-time teaching job in the Rochester area and am very hopeful that the connections and relationships I have made and developed in this past year will help lead me to whatever is destined to come next in my journey.

Alumni News

Congratulations to these alumni on their recent college graduations!



Andrew Wichtowski'17 received his BS from Daemon College. He will begin a year of rotations as he works on his masters degree as a Physician's Assistant.



Katie Ronsivalle'17 graduated *cum laude* from Fordham University with a double major in biology and theology. In September, she will be starting a MA in Theology at Yale.

Left to right: Karen Ronsivalle, Kate Ronsivalle'17, Joe Ronsivalle



Ryan Steed'16 received his BS in Packaging Science from RIT. He will be working for Integra Life Sciences in Columbia, MD

Left to right: Frank Steed'81, Caitln Steed'20, Karen (Kozemko) Steed'86, Ryan Steed'16, Alexandra Steed'13, Nick Steed



Julia Mustico'17 graduated from University of South Carolina with a degree in Experimental Psychology. She will be moving to St. Petersburg, FL to work in a behavioral health center before beginning grad school in the next year.



Merle Becker'17 graduated from University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Genetics and minors in Computational Biology, Psychology, and German.



Mackenzie Maloney'17 graduated *cum laude* from Cornell University with a degree in Bioengineering. She will be moving to Kennebunkport, ME to work for Corning Life Sciences.

Left to right: Mike Maloney'85, Shannon Maloney'23, Kara Maloney, Mackenzie Maloney'17, Peyton Maloney'20, Shane Maloney'23

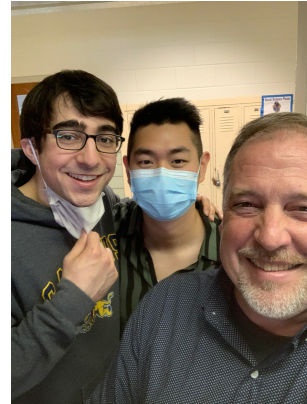
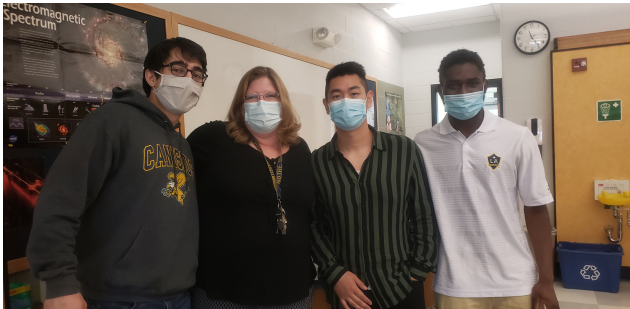
Tyler Rosplock'17 visited with Mrs. Bernadette McClelland. Tyler graduated from Elmira College with a BA in International Studies.



(Left to right) Paco Rillorazo'17, Mackenzie Maloney'17, & Patrick Brown'17 stopped by the Crusader Carnival to visit and lend a hand. Paco graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Engineering Physics and is heading to NYU for Grad school. Patrick graduated from Notre Dame University with a degree in Finance and has accepted a job with a firm in Chicago, IL.



Aidan Sharma'17, Clark Ji'17, and Junior Coulibaly'16 stopped in for a visit with some of their favorite teachers. Aidan is a student at UCLA and will be traveling to Kazakhstan to study Russian. Clark graduated from University of Buffalo and will be pursuing his masters in Material Engineering at the University of Illinois. Junior is studying Human Services at Elmira College. Below, left to right: Aidan Sharma'17, Mrs. Sandy Williams, Clark Ji'17, Junior Coulibaly'16



Left to right:
Aidan
Sharma'17,
Clark Ji'17,
Mr. Dave
Benjamin

Mr. Chris Wise, Clark Ji'17,



Thomas Lambert, former ND Theology teacher & Girls Basketball Coach (1982-1986), dropped in for a visit with Head of School, Patricia Mack'85, who was a basketball player on the team he coached. Tom retired from teaching in 2018 and moved to Los Angeles where he currently lives, pursuing a career in the TV and Film industry. He has appeared in *Vice*, *Brooklyn 99*, and *Rebel*, among other TV shows.



Annette Russo'17 & Regina George'17 supported the Crusader Carnival and took some time to visit with Mrs. Karen Jennings. Annette is currently attending TC3. Regina recently graduated from SUNY Brockport.



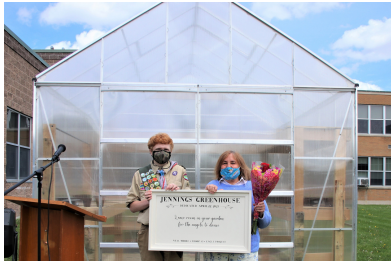
Congratulations to Hunter Thomas'14 who, earlier this year, was named Assistant Baseball Coach and Recruiting Coordinator for the West Virginia Wesleyan Mountain Lions (NCAA D2). Hunter recently met with Justin McCarthy & Jack Holleran, two graduating seniors, to discuss their plans to pursue careers in sports management.

Best Wishes to Kate Agan'08 on her upcoming wedding to James Liska. Kate, the daughter of Steve'79 & Beth Agan, was recently celebrated at her wedding shower with family, friends, and ND classmates. The wedding is scheduled for July 4, 2021.

Left to right: Lauren Cerio'08, Elizabeth (Sincock) D'Aloisio'08, Jennifer Agan'10, Kate Agan'08, Danielle (Allington) Agan'09, Mallory Lawes'08, Ashley (Herrick) Marks'08, Megan Herrick'14



STUDENT LIFE



On May 6, a newly erected greenhouse on the Notre Dame campus was dedicated to Karen Jennings in honor of her years of service and dedication to ND. The construction of the greenhouse was funded through a Catholic Climate Covenant grant with the goal of growing native nectar and milkweed plants for the ND on-campus monarch habitat. In addition, the greenhouse will be used to support educational activities and projects for Notre Dame science students. The grant will also cover the purchase of a compost bin, so that cafeteria waste can be composted. The composting initiative will be used to educate the student body about counteracting the "throwaway culture". Future projects will include the development of an on-campus community garden.

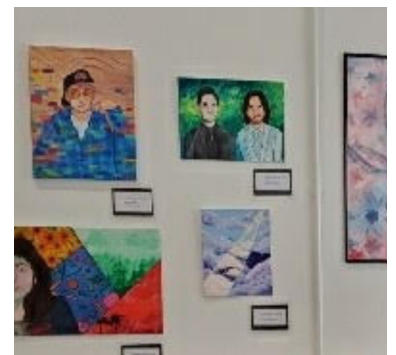
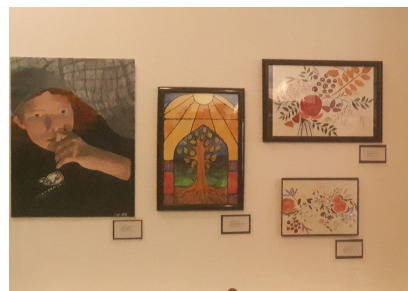
Of note, the actual building of the greenhouse was undertaken by ND Sophomore Neal Moore for his Eagle Scout project.



SCIENCE NEWS



Congratulations to Mrs. Sandy Williams who was recently selected as one of the 200 Step-Up Ambassadors. Step-Up is a program sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation and the American Association of Physics Teachers. The program provides training and curriculum resources to Ambassador teachers with the goal of inspiring young women to pursue careers in physics while enhancing the experience of all physics students. In July, Mrs. Williams will attend training sessions and a virtual summit for the program and plans to implement the curriculum and materials for the 2021-2022 school year.



ART DEPARTMENT

The Notre Dame Art Department had the opportunity to install an art exhibition at the Downtown Grind, a coffee shop in downtown Elmira. The drawings and paintings of senior Abigail Beames and juniors Samantha Easton and Alexia Blitz were showcased during the monthlong exhibition.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

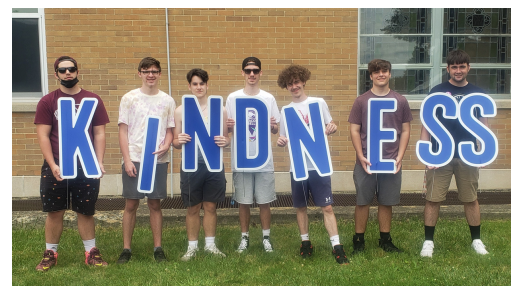


With the close of the 2020-2021 athletic seasons, I am thrilled to say that we were able to play all three seasons, with twenty-four teams competing throughout the year. The spring season saw the ND girls soccer team named co-champions of the IAC, the ND girls softball team named large school IAC champions and overall IAC champions, and the ND Lacrosse team winning their first divisional title since 2008. I want to thank all of our student-athletes and coaches for their dedication and commitment to our athletic program. I look forward to the upcoming 2021-2022 year and working with all of our student-athletes, coaches, parents, and the Notre Dame community. Our fall athletic teams for next year will begin on Monday, August 23, 2021. Thank you all for a great year!



CRUSADER CARNIVAL

The theme of this year's Crusader Carnival was "Choose Ki**ND**ness Day" in honor and memory of Rebecca ("Beckie") Ryan '17.



CRUSADER CLASSIC

The annual golf classic returned this year on June 12th at the Mark Twain Golf Course. 26 teams came out to play in the event - we thank you ALL for your support!



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Notre Dame High School will be celebrating
our 65th anniversary
September 17 - 19, 2021**

Friday, September 17 - Come out & cheer on your Crusaders in the first home game of the athletic season! (details on the game & time to be released soon)

Saturday, September 18 - Shenanigans (see below for details)

Sunday, September 19 - Join us for a Celebration of the Mass at 2:00 pm in the Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium with Bishop Salvatore Matano
The Mass will be followed by an afternoon reception for guests, alumni, current families and students, faculty and staff in the Notre Dame gymnasium



Notre Dame High School
presents

Beer & Wine Tastings 🍀 Food Tastings 🍀 Live Music 🍀 Raffle Drawings

Saturday, September 18, 2021
3-7 pm

🍀 **Tickets** 🍀
\$20/person \$30/Two

Available for purchase in the Advancement Office at Notre Dame High School
Contact: Theresa Tobey at tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com 607-734-2267 x 325

Please save the dates & make plans to come home and celebrate with us!!

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1961

DATE: Thursday, August 19, 2021

TIME: 12:00 pm

PLACE: Tag's, Route 352, Big Flats, NY

CONTACT: Mary Fran (Rodzai) & Dennis O'Herron -
maryfranoh@rochester.rr.com

Emily Sira - emilysira@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1970

DATE: October 2022

TIME: TBD

PLACE: TBD

CONTACT: Tom Eagan - ndclassof1970@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1971

DATE: Saturday, July 31, 2021

TIME: 2:00 pm - until

PLACE: "Moondance", 9620 Silsbee Road, Hammondsport, NY

CONTACT: Tom Kelly - tkelly1121@gmail.com

Your attendance is requested!!! There will be food, fun, refreshments, and lodging for the night if desired. Pet friendly. RSVP & questions via email, with the number attending, please.

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PLANNING YOUR REUNION?

If your class has a reunion coming up, please contact Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal'81 at ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com to share your plans, schedule a school tour, request a class list, or for any other assistance you may need.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA



by Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

Look at how we've come this far.

This refrain from a song by Dolores Nieratka, R.S.M, a sister of Mercy from Detroit gives me hope for the future and makes me pause and celebrate the last year and a half. The lyrics from the verse are also worth pondering.

God has led us to this moment now.

Let our spirits sing.

Through God's kindness Mercy binds us

Giving years both sun and rain

With the call to a deeper care.

Let our spirits sing.

Today, this moment, our spirits sing. Our seniors have graduated and are ready to embrace a future filled with hope. Underclassmen have completed their finals, moving successfully to their next level of education. Our teachers, administrators, and staff who have worked diligently with deep care and concern through all the challenges of the 20-21 school year, rejoice with the success of our students and graduates. Our future looks bright.

It is in a spirit of hope that we look to a future filled with sun and rain. As a school community, we are committed to a deeper care, a call to live in hope, to love one another, and always be committed to others by serving them. Let us join in HOPE and CELEBRATE as the Notre Dame High School community's years of service continue to make our world a better place.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

Are you interested in sponsoring a Notre Dame student? Your financial support can cover a student's tuition, sports fees, graduation fees, lunch payments, exam fees, or Mercy Online tuition fees.

If you are interested in supporting a Notre Dame student, please contact Tracy Mustico at musticot@notredamehighschool.com

Thank you!!

Are you an Amazon shopper?

You can donate to Notre Dame while using the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you!

Thank you!!

