

Inauguration of Notre Dame Santa Júlia School

Holy Cross Province, Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil



Since the time of Saint Julie Billiard in France/Belgium and our founders, Sister Maria Aloysia and Sister Maria Ignatia in Germany, our Notre Dame tradition has been deeply committed to education. Rooted in the charism of proclaiming God’s goodness and provident care, this mission continues to unfold with the establishment of yet another educational institution.

On January 20, 2025, Holy Cross Province celebrated the inauguration of Notre Dame Santa Júlia School in São Domingos do Maranhão, in northeastern Brazil. Dedicated to serving 65 underprivileged children ages 4 and 5 years, the school is directed by Sister Margarida Maria Juver and staffed by a team of 14 dedicated professionals who are committed to holistic student development.

The opening ceremony was graced by various municipal authorities, including the Deputy Mayor, the Secretary of Education and Social Assistance, and the local parish priest, who bestowed a blessing upon the new school.

Named in honor of Saint Julie Billiard, the school embodies the spirit of a woman who, despite immense challenges and a scarcity resources of resources, devoted herself to education and to uplifting those in need. Inspired by her legacy, this new institution aspires to provide a nurturing environment for learning and growth, guided by the pedagogy of “kindness with firmness”, as taught by our spiritual mother.

More than just an educational facility, Notre Dame Santa Júlia School stands as a testament to the enduring mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Brazil. For over a century, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to the most vulnerable, ensuring that education serves as a beacon of hope and transformation.

Saint Julie, pray for us, for our educators, collaborators, children, and their families!