

## Notre Dame Vocational Week Our Lady Aparecida Province, Canoas, Brazil



From August 11 to 17, the Notre Dame Schools hosted a Vocational Week, reflecting on the inspiring theme *“Vocation: A Response of Gratitude and Hope.”* Students from early childhood through high school engaged in activities designed to encourage self-awareness and a deeper understanding of the meaning of vocation.

This year’s celebration held special significance, coinciding with the Church’s Jubilee Year and the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame. These milestones enriched the week’s reflections, highlighting the vital role of vocation in the congregation’s history and in nurturing an identity rooted in its charism.

Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of experiences — personal testimonies, group dynamics, lectures, and self-discovery exercises — each aimed at fostering gratitude, hope, and a stronger sense of commitment to personal and community life.

In addition to strengthening the institutional identity, the Vocational Week encouraged students to reflect on their own life journeys and the importance of making conscious choices grounded in Christian values and personal life purpose. The event underscored the Notre Dame Educational Network’s mission to form honest, engaged citizens who contribute to the common good, guided by a vocation that serves others.

The week’s goal was to awaken in every student — regardless of age — a genuine interest and lively curiosity about vocational themes. More than an abstract concept, vocation emerged as both a response of gratitude for the gifts and talents each person receives and a beacon of hope for building a purposeful future. The 175-year history of the Sisters of Notre Dame stood as a living, inspiring example of vocation and service, motivating students to value the congregation’s enduring legacy and guiding principles.

To make the experience enriching for all, activities were thoughtfully designed and tailored to each age group, offering meaningful and engaging learning opportunities. Pastoral care leaders also received a detailed guide with practical suggestions for each day’s activities, ensuring a cohesive and fruitful program.

The Notre Dame Vocational Week proved to be a valuable time of growth and discernment across our schools. Together, we celebrated and understood vocation as a path to living fully, rooted in gratitude and hope.