

Excerpts below are from a letter written by SSND General Superior,  
S. Rosemary Howarth. October 26, 2005.

For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be,  
**yes!**

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Swedish Diplomat (1905-1961)

School Sisters of Notre Dame unite in solidarity on December 31, 2005, and  
January 1, 2006.

Sisters in eight units of the congregation will be experiencing a form of  
reconfiguration and moments of historical transition during these days.

▪ **We pray for:**

The Sisters in Baltimore, Chicago, and Wilton Provinces  
As they become the new Atlantic-Midwest Province

S. Mary V. Maher, Provincial Leader; S. Margaret Anne Juskelis,  
S. Kathleen Cornell, Vicar; S. Barbara Bowers; S. Joan Doyle;  
S. Eileen Marie McKeever; S. Eileen Shea

The new council will be installed on December 31, 2005, as sisters from the three  
provinces gather to celebrate. Sister Rosemary Howarth, General Superior, and  
Catherine Sarther, General Councilor, will participate in the ritual.

▪ **We pray for:**

The Sisters of the three German provinces as Westphalia and Berlin  
are officially integrated into the Bavarian Province on January 1, 2006.

The Provincial leaders,

Sister Therese Marie Everts (Westphalia,)  
Sister M. Salome Strasser (Bavaria) and  
Sister M. Claudia Vietz (Berlin)

Bavarian Provincial Council

S. M. Doris Obermeier, S.M. Salome Strasser, Provincial Leader;  
S. M. Gudrun Landstorfer, S.M. Rita Zirngibl, Vicar.

Each province will ritualize the transition at different times. Berlin will celebrate on January 6, 2006; Westphalia on January 8, 2006; and Bavaria on May 6, 2006. Sister Laura Jean Spaeth, General Councilor will join the Sisters in Westphalia, Sister Marcela Rockenbach, General Councilor, the Sisters in Berlin, and Sisters Rosemary Howarth, General Superior, and Johanna Schrockseis, General Councilor, in Bavaria.

These six units will participate in a simultaneous ritual on December 31, 2005. The three North American provinces will celebrate a Liturgy at 11:30 a.m., (Eastern Standard Time) which includes the installation of the new Atlantic-Midwest Council. The three German Provinces will celebrate with Vespers at 5:30 p.m. (this corresponds to 11:30 a.m. (EST)).

You are invited to be part of these historic events by joining in prayer with the sisters. The following is taken from the simultaneous ritual that will take place on December 31, 2005.

Dear Sisters,

Today we are standing at a very important juncture in our history as School Sisters of Notre Dame. On the first of January 2006, three provinces in North America and three provinces in Germany are concluding a process of restructuring and are forming new units.

In North America, the provinces of Baltimore, Chicago, and Wilton are coming together to form a new province called the Atlantic-Midwest Province. In Germany, the provinces of Berlin and Westphalia are becoming part of the founding province. (Bavaria)

**Let us pray:** Lord, our God, on October 24, 1833, Blessed Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger founded our congregation. In the time of flowering and growing in many countries around the world and in the painful experiences of political persecution and of diminishment, You have faithfully continued to guide us and have prepared us to accept change.

**All:** Loving, ever-present God, lead us on as we, the former provinces of Berlin and Westphalia, and the former provinces of Baltimore, Chicago, and Wilton, today conclude our processes of communal searching, begin to form units. Accompany us as we walk together into the future.

Through the intercession of Blessed Theresa and of Mother Caroline, we pray, God of our past and of our future, accompany and protect us with your blessing; help us that we - true to our charism - may live our mission as School Sisters of Notre Dame, and through our ministry of education, help us to build a more just and human world. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen (Excerpt from the common ritual taking place on December 31, 2005)

For more: <http://www.bachwi.org/> and <http://www.scholschwestern.de/>.

- **Let us pray for:** The Sisters of the Polish Province, The Gambia, and the District of Africa

On January 1, 2006, the Gambia, a mission extension of the Polish Province, will officially become part of the District of Africa. During the Extended General Council, Sister Mary Jo Welter, leader of the District of Africa, and Sister M. Leonarda Tymich, provincial of the Polish province, formally requested the Incorporation of The Gambia into the District. The request was granted:

With the consent of the General Councilors, I give you the approval for the incorporation of The Gambia into the District of Africa that is effective as of January 1, 2006.

In the name of the General Council, I promise our support and prayer for you and all the sisters of Poland and the District of Africa as you live into this new relationship of deeper unity for the sake of Christ's mission!

May Blessed Mother Theresa continue to be an inspiration for all our sisters who minister in The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, and may their collaborative efforts help transform the life and the situation of the African people according to God's dream for them!

The future, which begins with this New Year's Day, "is shrouded in as dense and mysterious a fog as is nature these days. Through it, only one star gleams for us – the infinitely wise and gracious providence of God." MT #4758