

Circular 54/94 Rome, Italy
October 17, 1994
School Sisters of Notre Dame

Dear Sisters,

In the MANDATE FOR ACTION, the members of the 19th General Chapter, (1992) in the name of the congregation, called for the establishment of an international network for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. SHALOM is the name of the network to be established in response to that call.

SHALOM is a call and a challenge to all School Sisters of Notre Dame to rededicate ourselves to work for justice on a personal, communal, national, and international level because we know that the unity we strive for can only be realized in a just society.

SHALOM is a reminder to each of us that justice must be an all-pervasive attitude in our relationships and activities.

SHALOM is a reaffirmation that, as we work in our local situations, we remain part of a larger community that can and will support efforts to change unjust structures.

SHALOM is designed to promote involvement by all School Sisters of Notre Dame, foster our efforts to think and act globally, and respect the wisdom and insights of people within a local situation in terms of knowing when and what action should be taken when confronted by injustice.

In all of its activities SHALOM will model the principles upon which it is based: inclusiveness, reconciliation, solidarity, human dignity, commitment to truth, peace, and care for the earth. SHALOM will work for justice, support activities which promote the culture of life, and exert a positive influence on the media. SHALOM will denounce injustice and unjust structures and work to end violence, dehumanizing situations, and manipulation of the truth.

Two coordinators, from different cultures, appointed by the general council and accountable to them, will initiate SHALOM within the congregation. This includes communicating information about SHALOM and working with the general, provincial, and regional councils to develop the six geographic branches of SHALOM and to determine a location for its center.

Each branch will have a contact person, selected by the sisters of the branch, who works collaboratively, with the coordinators and the leadership and sisters of the provinces/regions associated with that branch, to surface and address needs. The sisters in each branch of SHALOM decide upon the model that will best enable them to live out the goals of SHALOM. Fundamental to each model is the

process of gathering information, analyzing it, judging a situation in light of scripture, Catholic social teaching and *You Are Sent*, reflecting, and moving to action.

The coordinators and contact persons will meet annually. The coordinators will work collaboratively with the general council and the resource personnel on the general staff. They will report to the extended general council in 1995 and to the general chapter in 1997.

The general council is currently in the process of surfacing names of those who would be interested in serving as coordinators. Provincial and regional councils have been asked to submit names, by December 1, 1994, of those interested in entering into a discernment process regarding these positions. Some criteria to consider include: enthusiasm for and a strong belief in SHALOM, creativity, initiative, stamina, and the ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively as part of a team. Anyone interested in this ministry should contact her provincial or regional council as soon as possible to obtain a complete description of SHALOM.

On July 9, 1994, the general council reached a consensus decision to accept the proposal of the international ad hoc committee established to develop this network. While the original proposal was rewritten and changes were made by the general council, the basic concepts are the ones presented by the committee. In the name of the congregation, we wish to thank the sisters of that committee for their work. Truly they witnessed and worked to reflect the call of the MANDATE. The committee members were Sisters Lydia Marie Borja (GU), M. da Conceicao Della Giustina (PA), M. Henrita Frost (WI), M. Thoma Galuschka (BR), M. Beatrix Mayrhofer (OR), Patricia Murphy (BA), and M. Kordia Puskely (MG).

I ask for your prayers for blessing on this effort to implement the MANDATE FOR ACTION and on the sisters who will be called assist us all in living SHALOM.

Gratefully, prayerfully,

Sister Patricia Flynn
General Superior