

# SHALOM CLUB

## ALL SAINTS SCHOOL – ST. PETERS, MO

To continue in the **mission of Jesus** we are called to the spirit of **right relationships** with God/ourselves/others/creation, a spirit of **harmony, peace, shalom**. **Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger**, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, shared this spirit in her very reason for beginning the religious group of women in 1833: to bring the justice of a Christian education to poor girls who had no opportunity to be educated and, therefore, lacked a sense of peace in their lives. Since then the international community of school Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), as emphasized through *SSND Shalom International Network* continues to work for **unity**, educating with a **world vision** and a sense of **global responsibility** risking in faith for a more **just and truly human world**. *All Saints School* shares in this mission of Jesus and continually works to bring about peace and justice both locally and globally. **SHALOM CLUB – ALL SAINTS SCHOOL** represents both the fruit of and action for this mission.

- STRUCTURE:**
1. Membership consists of students of Grades 5-8.
  2. Meetings are held twice a month at lunch time on Wednesdays.
  3. Meetings will include shared reflection on issues and realities in need of peace in our world and that touch the lives of the students as well as choosing an action(s) to work on together that brings peace
  4. A motivating “kick-off” in the first semester will be given to members of the club with members from other clubs in the area
  5. Moderator is Sister Carol Jean Dust, SSND

**PURPOSE:** To share the vision and commitment of the SSND Shalom Network

- GOALS:**
- To show that it is possible to bring peace through justice
  - to provide for the Shalom Club members and others in the world an experience of community focused on justice and peace
  - to reflect together through the light of the Gospels, Catholic social justice teachings and the charism (spirit) of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
  - to provide hope to others
  - to communicate and network with other youth throughout the world in SSND schools who share the same vision
  - to choose an action(s) that will bring about God’s vision of peace, shalom

For ALL SAINTS SCHOOL this is an exciting outgrowth of the efforts of our recent school years: to be angels in action and angels of peace, to know and live the Catholic social justice teachings, to develop an attitude like Jesus. We join our global world community as this vision of SHALOM is echoed through us to others in this “International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World”.

# The information given below shows the historical development of Shalom: the SSND International Network for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.

## DEVELOPMENT OF SHALOM

### SSND International Network for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

Timeline of some events in the development of the Network:

November 9, 1992

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

*“As a congregation, we will establish an International Network for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.”*

Unanimously accepted by the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter

1993-4 Throughout the congregation sisters and associates and friends gathered to develop what a NETWORK would look like and how it might work. Materials sent to S. Henrita Frost, SSND in Rome who with a small group crafted the document: The Name: SHALOM, Definition, Rationale, Goal, Objectives, Membership and Mode of Operation. The document was approved by the General Council July 9, 1994

December, 1994

Letter from General Council to about 20 sisters in the congregation to consider the position of one of the coordinators.

April, 1995

Six sisters participated in a discernment process in Rome at the Generalate and Sisters Krisztina Vargacz (MG) and Peggy Mattare (BA) were appointed by the General Council to initiate SHALOM in the congregation.

September, 1996 Krisztina and Peggy set up the SHALOM office in Vienna, Austria at our motherhouse.

August 17, 1997 the first annual SHALOM branch meeting with branch representatives began at the Motherhouse in Budapest, Hungary. A retreat was given to the representatives by S. Kay O’Connell, (WI) on You Are Sent in Resita, Romania with the business part of the meeting happening in Vienna, Austria at the SHALOM office site.

The Branch Representatives at that time were:

SHALOM AFRICA S. Roxanne Shares (MK) Kenya

SHALOM EUROPE S. Johanna Schrockseis (BY)

SHALOM NORTH AMERICA S. Genevieve Cassani (SL)

SHALOM ASIA/OCEANIA S. Jean Schmid (SL) Japan

SHALOM LATIN AMERICA/CARRIBBEAN:

Mecca Division S. Catherine Arata (BA) El Salvador

South American Division S. Marinez Capra (Brazil)

July 1998 Second Annual SHALOM Branch meeting – Nairobi, Kenya

August 2000 Third International SHALOM Branch Representative meeting – El Salvador

August 2002 Fourth International SHALOM Branch Representative Meeting- United States

2004 Fifth International SHALOM Branch Representative Meeting – Japan  
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Below are the objectives and goals for the Shalom Network. They are based on reflection on the Scriptures, Catholic Social Justice teaching and the heritage of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Collaborating with others who also work for peace, the School Sisters of Notre Dame foster ways to educate for peace throughout the world.

## SHALOM

SSND International Network for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
built upon relationships  
God, self, others, creation

action-oriented

toward reconciliation,  
solidarity with the oppressed,  
promotes human dignity  
collaborates to safeguard the earth

dual dynamic: announcing and denouncing  
of enhancing just structures which foster fullness of life  
and changing structures which inhibit it

commits to work against:

violence  
manipulation of truth,  
attacks on the family  
dehumanization of women and  
abandonment of children

commits to:

deepening relationship with all creation  
standing with those whose lives are in danger in their work for justice  
exerting a positive influence on mass media  
respond to unjust situations

thinks globally, but acts both locally and globally

foundation:

Gospel  
Catholic Social Teaching  
Spirit of Blessed Theresa

SHALOM Clubs

purpose: to share the vision and commitment of Shalom  
For a “more just and truly human world”

how to communicate the vision:

- must affect the lives of the students

- demonstrate that it is possible to change unjust situations and structures

  - by reflection on experience, analysis, searching Gospel and tradition that leads to action (without using the word, "theological reflection." This could be a method adopted which would TEACH them HOW TO apply the social teaching of the church and arrive at an action to address the issue)

- provide hope in a sometimes hopeless view of the future by instilling the confidence that they can have a positive role in shaping the future

- provide a genuine experience of a community focused on justice

- select with them a project that we know is "easy to win"—early taste of success is important

  - incorporate them into the Shalom world of other SSND schools in other countries

  - approach and issues

Structure of SHALOM Clubs:

- activities supervised by one who understands the SHALOM vision

- activities take place in an extra-curricular setting

- analysis used is grounded in Gospel and Catholic social teaching

- issues(s) have real relevance to lives of students

- analysis leads to action

- students could enter into conversation with other SSND students via internet

- SSND UN/NGO representative and SHALOM international coordinator would support the clubs

  - but the clubs would be such that they would NOT DEPEND on SHALOM but rather

  - take the Shalom focus and frame it for their culture and school

What is SSND International focusing on now? Big umbrella: Human Rights Education & Action

Globally

CHILDREN

The International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World

  - all the issues of children—sweatshops...universities and sweatshirts, soccer balls etc.

  - How can ND students promote such a culture?

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Trafficking of women and children

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Water crisis

Global Warming

CANCELLATION OF INTERNATIONAL DEBT

Nationally

Debt

Welfare Reform

Landmines

Militarization of Space

Locally (St. Louis, MO)

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women in Prison, Children in Crisis

MCU (Metropolitan Congregations United)

Issues of housing, economic development and planning