



## MISSION ADVANCEMENT SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

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### **Seventh Anniversary of Iraq War: 3/19/2010**

**Global Justice & Peace Commission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame:** "Public Prayer for Peace" on Friday, March 19, 2010, 4 to 5 p.m. at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13150 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, Wis. Following the half-hour prayer service inside, everyone is invited to join together outside in a public, prayerful stand for peace along Watertown Plank Road. All are welcome! For more information call 262-787-1023 or see "events" at [www.ssnd-milw.org](http://www.ssnd-milw.org).

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### **Milwaukee Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame**

With nearly 400 professed sisters and 75 associates, the province is part of the International Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, headquartered in Rome. Worldwide, about 3,500 sisters live and minister in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania – a total of 36 countries. Following much political and social strife, the congregation was founded in 1833 to address educational needs in Bavaria. Caroline Gerhardinger, whose religious name was Mary Theresa of Jesus, believed that the renewal of society depended on the Christian family and that the mother had a key role as the first educator. Thus, the Christian education of girls was chosen as the religious community's focus. In 1847, Mother Theresa brought sisters to the United States to meet the educational needs of the children of German immigrants. Today's School Sisters of Notre Dame educate through a variety of ministries, spreading Jesus' message of love and unity throughout the world. They serve as facilitators of change and personal transformation, especially to those who are poor.

### **More about the School Sisters of Notre Dame and their commitment to bringing about peace...**

#### **Perpetual Prayer for Peace**

Beginning in January 2006, the global congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame began a perpetual prayer for peace which continues to this day. Every day of the month a different group of School Sisters of Notre Dame dedicates special prayers for peace. For example, the School Sisters of Notre Dame here in Elm Grove dedicate special prayers for peace on the sixth day of every month.

#### **About Our Peace Pole**

On September 21, 2003, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Milwaukee Province planted a peace pole in the courtyard between the castle building and Watertown Plank Road. The Peace Pole symbolizes our on-going commitment to pursuing peace and justice in our lives, our ministries, our community, and the world. Our hope is that the greater Elm Grove community will come to see the Peace Pole and garden area as a community site for reflection and prayer for peace. Given the number of groups and individuals that have visited the peace pole garden over the past several years - the community seems to be embracing this idea.

There are over 200,000 Peace Poles spread across 180 countries around the world. The Milwaukee Province's Peace Pole is a four-sided western red cedar pole which stands six feet tall. The message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is inscribed on the pole in eight languages - each reflecting some aspect of the heritage of our province.

- 1) German – Reflects the birthplace of our order as well as vowed members who are German
- 2) Polish – Reflects the heritage of many sisters in this province and throughout the congregation
- 3) Chamorro – Reflects our relationship with and presence in Guam
- 4) Potawatomi – Reflects the native culture of this area
- 5) Spanish – Reflects our bond with Latin America and connections to Spanish speaking populations
- 6) Swahili – Reflects our involvements in parts of Africa
- 7) Hmong – Reflects our concerns for this and other immigrant populations
- 8) English – Reflects the primary language of the province