



**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Milwaukee Province

For Immediate Release:

October 11, 2010

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SSND Extended General Council in Session

The Extended General Council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame opened on September 27, 2010 in Wilton, Conn., and will continue in session through October 24. The international gathering of provincial, regional and district leaders of the congregation of women religious meets every five years, halfway through each term of the General Council leadership team.

The Extended General Council's purpose is to foster unity in the congregation, to facilitate communication among its many diverse leaders, and to recommend a direction for congregational response to needs and situations of the church and the world.

Twenty-five sisters from five continents make up the Extended General Council, which is in residence at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton throughout the assembly. They include General Superior Mary Maher and the six members of the General Council, all based in Rome, as well as provincial, regional and district leaders from the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. Sister Debra Marie Sciano, provincial leader of the Milwaukee Province, is attending. The Milwaukee Province includes School Sisters of Notre Dame who minister in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, as well as the U.S. territory of Guam, the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean.

As they opened the EGC 2010 session last week, the members began to reflect on the state of the congregation, the church and the world today. By the end of the four-week session they will set the theme for the SSND 23rd General Chapter, the congregation's largest governing body, which will meet near Rome in 2012.

The agenda of the 2010 EGC has been designed so that various topics that appear repeatedly during the four weeks of daily meetings will be interwoven. The hope is that by the end of the session the topics will have come together as one direction for the congregation in response to the critical challenges of our time.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame is an international congregation that recognizes the obligation and opportunities to develop a world vision and a sense of global responsibility. The sisters' internationality challenges them to witness to unity in a divided world; to discover unsuspected ways of sharing what they have, especially with the poor and marginalized; and to search for new channels of service in the universal church. SSNDs currently minister in 34 countries. For more information about the School Sisters of Notre Dame, visit www.gerhardinger.org (international), www.ssnd.org (North America) and www.ssnd-milw.org (Milwaukee Province).

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