

Circular 19/90 Rome, Italy July 1, 1990

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Dear Sisters,

We begin this circular with the theme for the fifth Extended General Council to be held in Debrecen, Hungary, from October 16 through November 9, 1990.

Our Internationality Challenges Us

To Develop

A World Vision and a Sense of Global Responsibility

To Witness

Unity in a Divided World

To Discover

Unsuspected Ways of Sharing with the Poor

To Search

For New Channels of Service in the Universal Church

YAS C #6

Both the theme and the location of the EGC highlight past and present events which are creating new structures in Europe and influencing the entire world order. We as a congregation are also being touched and called to change by these events. Thank God our times require that we individually and congregationally respond anew to these challenges of internationality.

It is a profound experience to recall that when we first chose to have the Extended General Council in an East European country we knew it was a risk because the communist government could hinder our efforts at any time and in many ways. Today we envision this SSND gathering as a graced opportunity to deepen our understanding of the past history of Central Europe, to experience the changes which continue to unfold there and to hope in the future for all the countries from which we come and in which we serve. We eagerly anticipate this time together as we pray and reflect on the understanding, communication and unity among us, and as we consider needs and situations of the Church and world and recommend a direction for congregational response. (GD #112)

To foster greater understanding among the participants of the EGC there will be major presentations with time for reflection and interaction on the past and current situation of the Church in Hungary and in East Europe by Father Istvan Jelenits, the provincial leader of the Hungarian province of the Piarist priests. Father Paul Michael Zulehner, a diocesan priest and professor of pastoral and kerygmatic theology in Vienna, Austria, will speak on the topics of ecclesiology, pastoral theology, and religious life in the future. Dr. Hanna-Renate Laurien, who is from West Berlin and was mayor of that city from 1986-1989, has been actively involved in the educational field and in church activities in

Berlin and will speak on the possibilities and tasks of Christians, specifically women, in a society that longs for freedom and needs to address the question of poverty in the world. We are also blessed to have our provincial and regional leaders of Czechoslovakia, the DDR, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, and, hopefully, Romania who can share on a more personal level the developments in their respective countries over this past year.

Other agenda items include

- 1) a report on the state of the congregation,
- 2) a report from each province/region on the implementation of the directional statement, with emphasis on the particular part which produced the most energy and enthusiasm among the Sisters, and the part which needs more attention or was the most difficult to accomplish,
- 3) a preliminary report from Zielinski & Associates on the long range study regarding the total congregation,
- 4) dialogue on
 - (a) the meaning of necessity for restructuring in the congregation,
 - (b) means of communication among areas of the congregation,
 - (c) computerization, common data base, etc.,
- 5) decisions about the general chapter: representations, date, place, theme,
- 6) report on the congregation-wide dialogue on canonization and consideration of next steps,
- 7) stewardship with particular attention on the use of property owned by the congregation in Rome and the implementation of Constitution #57

We are grateful for the able assistance of the following Sisters who will serve in various capacities to facilitate the work of the EGC:

Facilitator: Sister Marie Michelle Emmerich (SL)

Communications: Sister Sharon Dei (BA)

Translators: German to English: Sister Judy Connolly (DA)

Sister Mary Ann Kuttner (MK)

English to German: Sister Luitborg Brandl (BY)

Sister Thoma Galuschka (BR)

Sister Margaret Liethen (CA)

Secretaries: Sister Dorothy Mary Kosarko (PR/WI) Generalate

Sister Consolata Neumann (BY)

General Assistance: The provincial leader and councilors of Hungary - Sister Jozefina Bacsai, Sister Caritas Erdosi, Sister Katalin Lepes – and the Sisters of the Hungarian Province, especially those who live and work in Debrecen.

In closing we invite you to share any suggestions, concerns, comments you may have about the Extended General Council. We ask you to pray with and for us as we seek God's revelation to us at this moment of our salvation history.

Gratefully, prayerfully,

Sister Patricia Flynn
Sister Jacqueline Buckley
Sister M. Brunhild Teufel
Sister Susan Birk

Sister M. Conceicao Della Giustina
Sister Maureen Wada
Sister M. Erna Heumann
Sister M. Adrien Peko