

An Invitation from SHALOM

To all of our sisters living in retirement centers

To participate in a monthly day of prayer for world peace

Our call to Transformation states, "We have heard the cry of our world. Although precious and beautiful in God's design, the earth and its peoples exist today in a fragile, divided, and fragmented condition."

If the world is to be transformed, prayer is an essential part of the process of transformation. It is for this reason that the SHALOM network invites our sisters in retirement centers to become international advocates for peace through prayer.

Retired sisters are a special gift to the congregation for its mission to the world. Sisters in retirement provide a powerful source of prayer for our mission as School Sisters of Notre Dame. As YAS reminds us: "Prayer is our continuing response to God's continuing call to mission." (YAS C#28)

We would like to assure that each day of the month, sisters in one of our retirement homes are consciously praying for peace in our world. We leave how that will be done up to each retirement center. It could mean praying the rosary for peace, it could mean some quiet time praying and reflecting on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. It could mean a holy hour in the chapel. It could mean singing "ubi caritas" with the awareness of spreading God's love throughout the world. It could mean dedicating the entire day to praying for peace. It could mean whatever the sisters would like it to mean.

The sisters in each retirement home can decide on their response to this invitation.

We live in a broken and divided world. A world in which there has been a massive breakdown in relationships, a breakdown in relationships in families, within and among cultures, among people and their governments, among allied nations; a breakdown in relationships between the north and the south, the east and the west, a breakdown in respect for, and adherence to, international treaties and the multi-lateral institutions that were founded for insuring peace and stability in our world, There has also been a breakdown in our relationship as humans to the earth. And perhaps the greatest breakdown has been in our relationship to God as creator of this beautiful world in which we live.

Today, more than ever, our world needs healing and reconciliation. In the gospels, Jesus tells us that there are some evils that can only be thrown out with prayer and fasting. War and violence call for a change of heart. Let us commit ourselves to be actively involved in bringing peace to our world through our prayer and acts of love.

With the restructuring of provinces, as of January 1, 2006, there will be 20 units in the congregation. Attached is a list of the units and the day of the month suggested for that unit to pray for peace. Because there are more days in the month than units in the congregation, some days are not covered. Perhaps one unit would offer to take two days. Please let me know if this is possible.

May our loving God make each of us an instrument of peace.

Your sister,
Cathy Arata, SSND

Day of Month	Unit
1	Argentina
2	
3	Atlantic Mid-west
4	
5	Bayern
6	
7	Canada
8	Ceská Republica
9	
10	Dallas
11	Guam
12	Italia
13	
14	
15	Distrito de America Latina
16	Magyarország
17	
18	District of Africa
19	Mankato
20	Milwaukee
21	
22	
23	Nippon
24	Österreich
25	
26	Porto Alegre
27	Polska
28	Slovenija
29	St. Louis
30	São Paulo
31	