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**PRESS RELEASE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SSND Convene 22nd General Chapter in São Leopoldo, Brazil

The School Sisters of Notre Dame will convene their 22nd General Chapter on September 23 in São Leopoldo, Brazil, to set future direction for the congregation and elect a general superior and general councilors.

With the theme to “hear the cries of the earth and its peoples and respond together as SSND” as a focus, 84 sisters representing the international membership of nearly 4,000 women religious will meet for five weeks at the Spirituality Center of Christ the King (CECREI) in São Leopoldo, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The general chapter, which is convened every five years, is the highest authority of the congregation when in session. During the first week of the chapter, the participants, who represent 35 countries on five continents, will listen to, reflect, and discuss reports on the life and activities of the congregation since the last chapter in 2002. The election of general leadership and the setting the direction for the future will be integrated into work of the chapter.

General Chapter topics and business include the report by Sister Rosemary Howarth, SSND General Superior, on the state of the congregation and on developments since the last chapter, the treasurer’s report on the financial status of the congregation, reports from the representatives of various geographic areas, and the joint report of the director of the SSND UN-NGO office and the coordinator of the international Justice and Peace office.

Chapter members will consider this information in setting the direction for the future of the international congregation. The final day of the 22nd General Chapter will launch the 175th anniversary of the founding of the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The international congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was founded by Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger at Neunburg vorm Wald, Bavaria in 1833. As transformative educators responding to the urgent needs of the earth and God's peoples, the School Sisters of Notre Dame educate with the conviction that the world can be changed by enabling persons to reach their potential. The sisters minister within an international congregation which fosters a global vision and is committed to living the Gospel mission of Jesus.

The daily proceedings of the 22nd General Chapter will be published on www.gerhardinger.org, the international web site of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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