



**A message from  
Judith Schaum, SSND**

### ***Dear Colleagues,***

This newsletter will feature two different stories. One is the biennial retreat that was held in June, and the other is a request for prayer for an upcoming SSND international meeting called General Chapter.

“Claiming the Fire Within” was the theme of the fifth retreat sponsored by Ministry Services. It was held June 19 – 23 at Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA. In attendance were women and men who are associated with SSND ministries. These include Board members, administrators and staff from our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries and continuum of care centers and province staff. You can read about the retreat in this newsletter.

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## Claiming the *Fire* Within



Every two years the Ministry Services Department of the Atlantic-Midwest Province sponsors a retreat

called “Claiming the Fire Within.” This retreat experience is designed for women and men who serve with SSNDs in our ministries.

The purpose is fourfold: develop and strengthen a sense of one’s own vocation; identify and articulate SSND charism and mission; explore the implications of

**“Praying and discerning about how God wants me to work for His marginalized was most significant for me.”**

the SSND vision in Love Cannot Wait; connect with colleagues from other SSND ministries. Each day there was time for communal and personal prayer and reflection, small group sharing and insightful presentations by the retreat leaders. For this retreat,  
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At this time I would also like to ask everyone to pray for the upcoming SSND General Chapter. The meeting will be held September 26 through October 24, 2017 in Marriottsville, Maryland. A brief description is also included in this newsletter.

My closing thought is a prayer for you in the words of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger: "May the Lord Jesus pour in your hearts comfort, peace and joy."

Sincerely,



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**Claiming the Fire Within**  
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we were triple blessed to have as our leaders: Joan Penzenstadler, SSND, Suzy Blackburn, Associate and Rose Mary Sander, SSND. One retreatant commented: "The presenters were terrific teachers and made the subjects interesting and engaging. The presentations were full of content for centering my spirit and making me want to do more good."

During the three days, retreatants reflected on Mother Theresa's story, her journey to religious vocation and the founding of the Congregation. They had the opportunity to learn about Mother Caroline, her spirituality and foundations in North America. The evolving charism

was explained by descriptions of the Associates program and the Mission Awareness Program (MAP). There was also a presentation on directional statements from SSND General Chapters and an in-depth consideration of the four province commitments.

Interspersed throughout the retreat were opportunities for personal and communal prayer and reflection as well as sharing in small groups. Another highlight of the retreat was the opportunity to meet other women and men who work in SSND ministries.

I hope you enjoy viewing these pictures from the retreat.

## General Chapter



A General Chapter is a meeting composed of elected delegates and ex officio members representing all the provinces of the SSND Congregation. The purposes of a General Chapter include setting the direction for the life and mission of the Congregation and electing the

General Council (Congregational leadership).


The entire Congregation has been involved in a year-long process of preparation. It is essential that all Sisters have the opportunity to participate in this process of setting future direction and suggesting Sisters for General Council leadership. The theme for this General Chapter is: Trust and Dare. Content with little, we joyfully direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

Of course, prayer is the bedrock of our preparation. Perhaps you would be willing to join all SSNDs in the General Chapter prayer.

**"O Holy Spirit,  
enlighten us,  
strengthen us, so  
that we may  
comprehend our  
divine call and  
recognize what we  
are, what we should  
be, and what we  
must and really  
want to do in order  
to reach this goal."**

*(Trust and Dare, June 3)*

I CAN DO  
*all things*  
THROUGH  
*Christ*

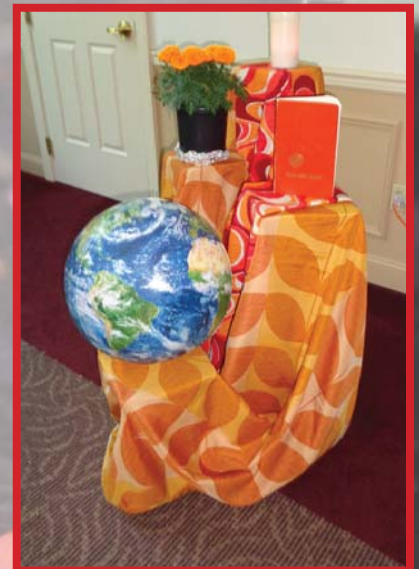


WHO  
*strengthens*  
ME.



**“Really enjoyed the rituals, prayers and songs. Felt a very special connection that I am truly blessed to be a part of this spirituality.”**





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