



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Summary for Meeting of
Notre Dame Congregations with Common Roots

1. Number of Members

As of January 1, 2023:

Temporary Professed (Junior Sisters)	22
Perpetually Professed	1,929
Total	1,951

Novices	10
Postulants	13

Among the Communion of Saints 19,922

2. Current Ministries

Sisters are living and ministering in 28 countries on 5 continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America in the following areas:

Formal Education	260	(13%)
Health Care / Social Service	120	(6%)
Pastoral Service	137	(7%)
Congregational Service	390	(20%)
Prayer and Presence	944	(49%)
Other	100	(5%)

3. Structure of Government

We are a pontifical congregation with a central government in Rome, a general superior and 4 councilors, (after 1 councilor resigned due to health concerns in 2021). The General Chapter now takes place every 6 years.

There are 8 Provinces: Africa-1, Latin America and Caribbean 1, North America-2, and Europe-4, with 2 districts affiliated to the Bavarian Province. All our provinces are encouraged to strengthen collaboration with each other. This is especially true for Europe where some provinces have few members.

In 2020, the provinces in Europe began a process of dialogue and taking steps toward becoming one province in Europe in 2025.

4. Challenges / Opportunities

While we are addressing diminishment in age and membership and moving forward with selling some major properties and handing over some ministries in Europe and in North America, we are attentive to the life and energy in our charism expressed through our sisters and various ministries.

Discerning the call to address urgent needs in South Sudan, the congregation responded in 2020 with two new communities in South Sudan with the commitment of four sisters (from Germany, Kenya, Peru, and Poland). Two sisters collaborate with the OFMs in Juba to address social and pastoral needs of children, youth, and women; and two sisters collaborate with the Comboni Missionaries in Old Fangak, Malakal Diocese in education and pastoral. In addition, we continue our collaboration with Solidarity with South Sudan through financial support and a sister serving at the teacher training college in Yambio.

In 2021, we committed to being a *Laudato Si'* congregation, embarking on a seven-year journey towards an integral ecology. This initiative is coordinated worldwide through our international *Shalom* (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) Network in collaboration with our UN-NGO representative in New York.

There is ongoing effort to strengthen collaboration among the provinces, facilitated by congregational meetings of provincial leaders and councils. Topics have included:

- ❖ communications,
- ❖ initial and ongoing formation,
- ❖ transformative/discerning leadership,
- ❖ finances and holding all in common, which led to further building up congregational funds to support the congregational novitiate and provinces and ministries with need.

The Congregational Novitiate begun in August 2016 at the generalate in Rome continues now with a 4th group of 9 novices from 5 countries and a community of 4 professed sisters each of them from a different country. Our generalate community presently has 15 sisters representing 8 cultural nationalities. It is a rich experience for all of us, challenging us to develop skills for intercultural living to witness more authentically to unity in diversity.

This year we will celebrate our 25th General Chapter, beginning October 24 on the 190th anniversary of our foundation. With the theme *Living into a Prophetic Witness of Universal Communion*, we seek to discern and journey together into the future as a congregation to bring forth the newness in the charism entrusted to us for the sake of the life of the world.

Sister Roxanne Schares, SSND
General Superior
10 April 2023