

General Council Installation : 20 January 2018

Welcome

Mary Maher, SSND

On behalf of the Generalate Community and the international congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, it is a joy to welcome all of you to this Liturgy of Installation of our new general council. The collaboration and strong mutual support among men and women religious in Rome is one of the great blessings of serving in this city. Thank you for coming.

And to all our guests, especially our dear staff and co-workers: heartfelt welcome!

I am pleased to introduce to you and to welcome our presider, Father Arlindo Pereira Dias. Father Arlindo is a member of the Society of the Divine Word and serves on their general council. He is a good friend of the School Sisters and well known to us and especially to our new general superior and our new general vicar. Welcome, Arlindo. We are delighted to have you with us.

More than 30 years ago, when we School Sisters published our revised Constitution and General Directory, we attached to it a brief history of the origins of our congregation. In that history, we find this wonderful sentence:

**The congregation continues today in the mysterious interaction
of divine call and human response.**

That is what we are celebrating today: the mysterious interaction of divine call and human response through which the congregation continues. To our dear, new general council, I want to say that all of us gathered here to pray with you and to support you, know something about the mystery and gift of what you commit to today. That shared knowing helps make our prayer deeply sincere and our support very real.

But most importantly, of course, it is *God* who knows everything about what you are doing today. What we, your sisters and brothers, know is that God receives your self-gift with a great, tender love that will abide with you always.

So, together, let us pray.