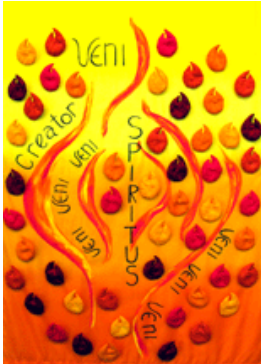


**THEME of the 2010 Extended General Council**  
***VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS***

Since the birth of the church at Pentecost, the Christian community has experienced the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to be with us. The tradition of invoking the Holy Spirit before significant decisions of the church originated with the apostles. In addition, calling on the Holy Spirit has always been an essential part of the church's sacraments and rituals of commitment.



It seems fitting, therefore, for us to take as the theme for the 2010 Extended General Council the prayer of pleading: *Come, Creator Spirit!* While this title, *Creator Spirit*, has been used since the early centuries of the church, it also has particular and profound relevance for our world-situation today. The hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*, with which many of us are familiar, has been chanted at Ecumenical Councils, General Chapters, ordinations, and vow ceremonies for nearly 1200 years. We will continue that tradition and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us School Sisters of Notre Dame as we discern future directions for our congregation in light of the situations in the church and world today.

(from *EGC Memo 10*, July 30, 2010 by S. Mary Maher, SSND)