

## Solidarity in Crisis and in Hope by S. Roxanne Schares

Peoples and nations throughout the world have followed closely the events in Kenya during the last few months: the post-election conflict and violence and the movement to a peace agreement between the leaders. The crisis caused untold suffering to thousands of people, the death of 1,500 and the wounding of many more, the displacement of 600,000, and the shattering of countless lives and livelihoods. Everyone in Kenya has been affected in some way.



School Sisters of Notre Dame around the world were also deeply affected. Within the country, sisters were concerned for the well-being of families, friends, and colleagues as well as for their own. They reached out in support to those around them. Communities shared food and basic supplies with neighbors. Sisters visited the wounded and displaced; some helped with food distribution in makeshift camps and church centers. They offered spiritual and psychological support to many. Their witness of courage and love inspired others to respond.

Within the congregation, sisters prayed and fasted for peace and sent messages of support to those in Kenya facing the violence. [The JPIC Commission of the Unions of Superiors General](#) in Rome sent a letter to the Kenyan Church leaders, the conferences of bishops and women and men religious, expressing support of their efforts to call for an end to violence and to encourage the following of the channel of dialogue in pursuit of truth and justice.

Groups within Kenya as well as international bodies, including the [Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network](#) and the [Africa Faith Justice Network](#), of which SSND is a member, collaborated in advocacy efforts. Petitions to which SSNDs and many others around the world responded were circulated through the *Shalom* network.

Although much was done to express solidarity, questions linger in the hearts and minds of many about what else could have been done. As the leaders and people of Kenya continue the work of re-establishing peace, setting up a power-sharing government and a truth and reconciliation commission, addressing humanitarian issues and beginning the healing process, we continue to ask, What more might be required of us in living solidarity?