

# THANKS on THURSDAY

God, for us both Mother and Father,  
You created the world and, when finished, saw that it was very good.  
You send us again and again the Power of your Spirit,  
Who opens our hearts and enables transformation towards constant improvement.  
Much has already happened.

Courage is needed for more and much is still possible.

We trust in the power of the Spirit and we sing:

*Veni creator, veni creator, veni creator spiritus!* RESPONSE



V

e-ni Cre- á-tor Spí-ri-tus, Méntes tu-ó-rum vís i-ta:

Imple su-pér-na grá-ti-a Quae tu cre- á-sti pécto-ra.



Irene Gassmann, a Benedictine nun and prioress of Fahr Monastery, near Zurich in Switzerland, initiated the "Prayer on Thursday" together with three other women. Since February 2019, people in Switzerland and other countries have been praying every Thursday for changes in the Church, using the prayer "Step by Step." **It is about equal rights for men and women and a church that is open to all.** For five years, they asked for confidence and strength to keep praying, and they say, "During this time, we noticed that something had moved, that the church had taken some small steps in the desired direction. That's how the idea for a **prophetic prayer of thanksgiving** was born." In on Pentecost in May 2024, the women's group around Irene Gassmann launched the new prayer called "Thanks on Thursday."

Sr. Irene will be a speaker at the annual study days & conference of ANDANTE EUROPA, an organization of Catholic women in Europe, of which the SHCJ is a member organization, and European sisters and associates have been active participants. Maria Dinnendahl, SHCJ was asked to translate the prayer for Thanks on Thursday from German to English for that meeting in April 2025 in Gdansk, Poland. The theme is:

## Moving and Movements: Not without women!

# We thank you: *Veni creator*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7EaOICMPWU>

For all who remain in the Church despite everything, because they love her.

For all who want to change the structures from within.

For all who disregard the regulations of the Church, when they contradict human dignity. *Veni creator...*

**For all who expose sexual and spiritual abuse.**

**For all who put a stop to cover-up.**

**For all who speak about what has happened to them. *Veni creator...***

For all who stand up for human rights in the Church.

For all who have the courage to 'come out' in the Church.

For all who keep the doors of the Church wide open for all. *Veni creator...*

**For all who make use of the resources particular to each local church and develop them further.**

**For all priests and deacons who confirm and support the concerns of the Prayer on Thursday.**

**For all who listen to the Power of the Spirit and allow her space. *Veni creator...***

For all who hear your call and answer it, despite all opposition,

For all women who are training for the diaconate and are preparing for ordination,,

For all those who campaign world-wide for the ordination of women. *Veni creator...*

**For all who share bread and wine with each other,**

**For all who baptise children, bless the sick, pray with others for forgiveness,**

**For all who act sacramentally. *Veni creator...***

For all who are conscious of their baptismal dignity.

For all who are true to their priestly, royal and prophetic calling.

For all who pass on the Word of Jesus, so that others may be enabled to open themselves  
and be healed by him. *Veni creator...*

**For all who pass on and keep alive the message of Jesus by their actions.**

**For all who share power.**

**For all women who are changing the image of the Church, by preaching  
and standing behind the altar, *Veni creator...***

For all women who are called to minister as priests and deacons and openly profess this calling.

For all who are already living out their priestly vocation, acknowledged and confirmed  
by the Anglican and other Christian/Catholic Churches.

For all who devote their talents and charisms to create a world conformed to the Spirit of Jesus. *Veni Creator...*

**For all who, in our Convents and Monasteries, go forward step by step and make it possible for change to happen.**

**For all who have fallen silent, but whose quiet prayer is effective nevertheless.**

**For all who are united with each other through the Prayer on Thursday. *Veni creator...***

**You, our God, what seems impossible to us human beings is already possible for you.  
We thank you for everything., today and always till we reach eternity. Amen.**