



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DONOR REPORT 2022

For the Life of the World

A MESSAGE FROM SISTER REBECCA ANN GEMMA, OP



Dear Friends,

In the preface of our congregation's Constitution, we read,

"From this original foundation, the Convent of Saint Catharine of Sienna, in Springfield, Kentucky, six sisters were sent to Jacksonville, Illinois in 1873. They were women imbued with the itinerant spirit which was their heritage. Courageously and joyfully they undertook what was to become a familiar pilgrimage: the move from a secure and cherished home to a new and unknown place of ministry."

Now 150 years later, we celebrate the vision of our foundresses who placed their trust in God, embraced God's mission, received with humility the generosity of others, and taught us gratitude for untold blessings.

On behalf of all our sisters, I extend my deepest gratitude to all of you who have contributed to God's mission, expressed through our communal life and ministries throughout the years. From our very beginnings, in each location and ministry, your generosity of time, talent, and treasure has expanded our ministries and our preaching of the Word of God. We are always grateful for your kindness, presence, and generosity. You remain in our prayer.

Sacred Heart Convent, known to many as our motherhouse, has been the congregation's cherished home since we left Jacksonville for Springfield over 130 years ago.

Though some buildings have been razed, new ones constructed, and renovations made over time, the motherhouse has endured as our home and a center for all our outreach and ministry. We pray it has been a place where you have felt welcome and sensed what is expressed in our constitutions: "With joy and with zeal for the reign of God, we commit ourselves...to a life of faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Whether we gather in person, in spirit, or through your sharing of gifts, we welcome you into our lives and express gratitude for allowing us into yours.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

In the joy of St. Dominic,

Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP

Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
Prioress General



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Celebrating 150 Years For the Life of the World

Mission Statement:

Called by God into
right relationship
with all creation and
graced by Dominican
life and mission, we
compassionately
preach the Gospel of
Jesus Christ

2022 Fiscal Year Report
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Dominican Sisters
of Springfield, Illinois
Sacred Heart Convent
1237 W. Monroe
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: 217.787.0481
Fax: 217.787.8169
www.springfieldop.org

For inquiries about
Mission Advancement:
Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
Director of Mission Advancement
skatait@spdom.org

For inquiries about this
publication:
Sister Beth Murphy, OP
Communications Director
sbmurphy@spdom.org

Publication Designer:
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“The Holy Preaching”



The Holy Preaching. That's what St. Dominic called his community. Since the 13th Century “The Holy Preaching”—Dominican women and men; sisters, brothers, priests, and laity—have lived and preached the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Springfield Dominican Sisters' lives in the 21st Century are rooted in our 800-year-old tradition: communal living, common prayer and liturgy, and study for the mission.

We are also committed to walking with those who are poor and marginalized, and to working toward systems that acknowledge the holiness of all life.

Our foundresses' educational mission lives on.

We sponsor three high schools in Illinois, provide literacy education in formal and

informal settings, and are educators and administrators at every level, from pre-school through post graduate studies.

Wherever we and our associates are, we share a commitment to promoting human dignity through teaching and preaching, accompaniment and solidarity, caring for creation, and dismantling institutional racism.

You will find a complete listing of our ministry sites and ways you can share our mission at springfieldop.org/dominican-mission/.

Photos clockwise from left: Bethany House of Hospitality for asylum seekers, Chicago; Sister M. Paulette Joerger at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Regional Catholic School, Herrin, Ill.; Sisters Maristella Dunlavy, Margaret Grueter, and Henrienne Schmidt at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield.

Serving God in Ordinary Time!

‘What I’ve done for them is ordinary’

Some people prefer to think of God’s call in their lives in cinematic glory like the call of Old Testament prophets who experienced burning bushes, parting seas and miraculous rescues from hungry lions or poisonous snakes.

Not Steve Boyer. Steve will tell you that the greatest revelation of God in his life has come through the ordinary events of everyday life. His relationship with the Dominican Sisters followed this route, too.

Steve’s first encounter with the Dominican Sisters was as his teachers for weekend religious education classes at the parish in Mount Zion, Ill., where he was raised.

Decades later he met the Dominicans again when he and Irene moved to Springfield. They attended St. Patrick’s Church and later, St. Francis Cabrini where they found a welcoming community and a friendly environment which led Irene to seek full communion in the Catholic Church.

Dominicans taught in both places, and the Boyers were aware of the sisters’ existence but weren’t really in relationship with them.

Then one day at work, as Steve neared retirement, Rachel Gotanco, his coworker and a Dominican Associate, mentioned he might enjoy volunteering at the Dominican Motherhouse.

At that point Steve was just looking toward retirement and put Rachel’s suggestion in the back of his mind.

“If you go to the Motherhouse with a negative attitude, it’s impossible to keep it!”



Steve Boyer, right, and his wife Irene, during a visit to Cor Unum House in 2019. The Boyers are parishioners at St. Cabrini Parish, Springfield, and enthusiastic supporters of the ministry of Cor Unum. In addition to their philanthropic giving, they support the Dominican sisters in other ways. Pre-pandemic, Steve gave hours every week companioning some of our elder sisters and Irene reveled in providing the sisters with an array of fancy hats for their annual Kentucky Derby Day celebrations, a nod to our congregational origins in the Bluegrass State.

Six months later, as Steve and Irene were leaving the Cathedral after Mass, Rachel caught up with them and reminded Steve the Dominicans were accepting applications for the next associate class. She encouraged him to

contact the director, Sister Paul Mary Janssens. Curious now, Steve called Sister Paul Mary. From her,

he learned about the associate program and various volunteering opportunities.

No burning bush. No parting sea. Just a co-worker conversation and

a chance encounter led Steve to his relationship with the Dominicans and his deepening understanding that we serve God best in every day, ordinary circumstances.

Steve appreciated the associate meeting presenters talking at a level he could understand while elevating his thought process. He frequently left with questions, which began to make sense as he applied what he was learning to his life.

As time went on, Irene began to notice a change in Steve. He told her, “If you go to the Motherhouse with a negative attitude, it’s impossible to keep it! I’m realizing that choosing to be positive, rather than negative has a healthier impact on others and within me!”

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Sister Mary Jo Sobieck started a new ministry in 2022 which includes teaching theology and assisting with campus ministry at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind. Here she is with the director of campus ministry, Larry Cubalchini, right, and some members of the student ministry team.

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Steve Boyer, left, along with Sister Colette Barker celebrates the Kentucky Derby Day at the Motherhouse. Steve's wife Irene, revealed in providing the sisters with an array of fancy hats for their annual Kentucky Derby Day celebrations, a nod to our congregational origins in the Bluegrass State.

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Sister Maristella Dunlavy, left and Sister Kathleen Kenny enjoy a break during a community meeting, July 2022.

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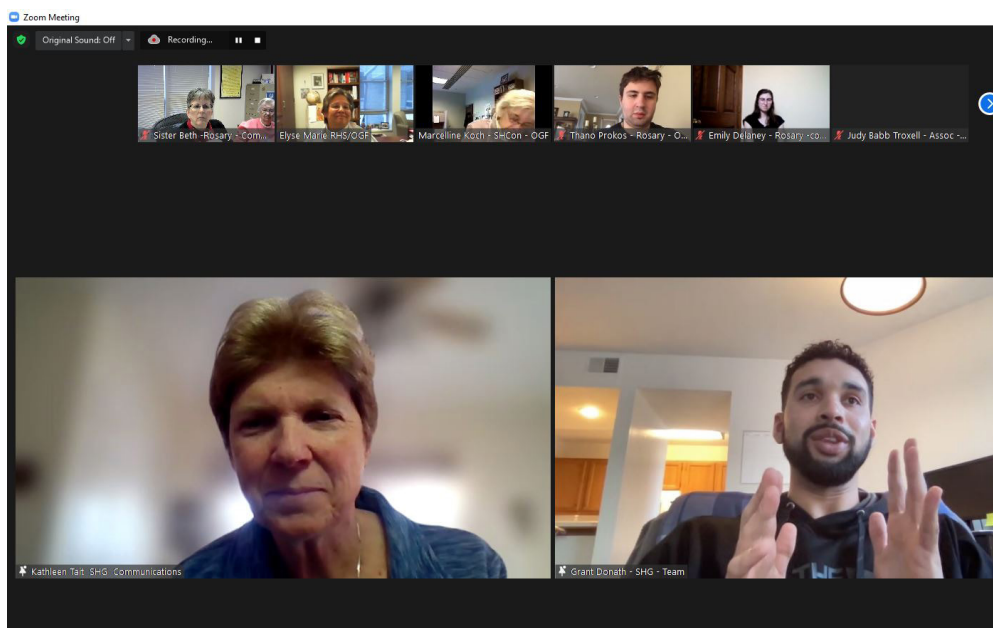
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The COVID-19 pandemic presented its challenges but the Dominican Sisters found that Zoom meetings were an excellent way to communicate. Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, left, listens as Grant Donath from Sacred Heart Griffin shares his thoughts on antiracism.

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The 2022 jubilee class, including Sister Rose Miriam Schulte, background, and Sister Judith Anne Haase, foreground, processes, singing, from the chapel after the community celebration on August 6, 2022.

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Serving God in Ordinary Time

continued from page 4

Steve was impressed with the sisters' pleasant disposition and appreciation for the "little" things with which he helped. "I wasn't living my faith full-time as a person," he recalled.

"When I saw the sisters' fulltime commitment, it taught me how I could serve God in the everyday things I do. I realized the little things I did were for betterment of others and for the glory of God."

Steve and Irene also recognized God's generosity to them and

"Choosing to be positive, rather than negative has a healthier impact on others and within me"

they began making donations to support the elder sisters Steve enjoyed visiting every week.

They like to say they give to the Dominican Sisters and other organizations

important to them with their right hand, not thinking about what they have in their left hand. They know that in giving, they receive more blessings and more fulfillment than they could imagine. "What the sisters have done for me in my life is remarkable," Steve reflected.

"In comparison, what I've done for them is ordinary!"

"There was nothing ordinary about the gift of attention and care Steve brought to the motherhouse when he

visited each week," said Sister Ann Clennon, the motherhouse prioress.

"His loving attention was extraordinarily healing for many of our sisters."

The Dominican Sisters deeply appreciate our relationship with Steve and Irene and all our generous benefactors whose names appear in this report. Your partnership with us as donors and volunteers are a manifestation of the love God desires for all!



Grant Donath, Caitlin Davis, and Edyth Cole, all members of SDART, the Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team, share some fun during the December 2022 meeting. With the support of our SDART partners, we continue to grow in awareness of structures that stand in the way of racial equity and to take steps to bring about transformation with our sphere of influence. Antiracism efforts encompass our high schools, including Sacred Heart-Griffin where Grant teaches social sciences, the Dominican Literacy centers, Jubilee Farm, and St. Dominic Health Services, Jackson, Miss. In 2022 the Springfield Dominican Associate program also joined the effort. An associate subcommittee of SDART was formed this year and is working toward integrating antiracism principles in the formation of current and new associate candidates.

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Continued on page 14



Springfield Dominican Sisters and Associates engaged a panel of advocates to discuss challenges facing LGBTQ persons and their loved ones. The guests shared their experiences and responded to questions. From left: Gail Wasmer, mom of a transgender child; Jonna Cooley, executive director of the Phoenix Center in Springfield, and Christine Zuba, a member of the sisters' LGBTQ Circle of Allies. Behind them are Dominican sisters Marcelline Koch and Mila Díaz Solano, Circle of Allies leaders.

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Increasingly, communications technologies provide new avenues for preaching and outreach. In the spring of 2022 Sister Santina DeLuca performed her well-rehearsed monologue as St. Catherine of Siena, the 14th century Dominican lay woman who was named Doctor of the Church in 1970 for her mystical and pastoral theological wisdom. The videographer was Brandon Durham.

Relationships that matter

In 1873 Dominican Father J. A. McShane shared with his cousin Father P.J. Macken the challenge of finding Catholic sisters to teach in Jacksonville, Illinois. Father McShane was well acquainted with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Kentucky and suggested he try there. Six sisters traveled from Kentucky. Thus began the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois.

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Joseph D'Amico

Continued on page 17



Sister Francis Mary Philipp, retiring as liturgical musician at Sacred Heart Convent after eight years, savors the final note of the closing liturgy at the 2022 jubilee Mass. Music and liturgy are central to the spiritual life of the community.

Gifts in honor of sisters and friends

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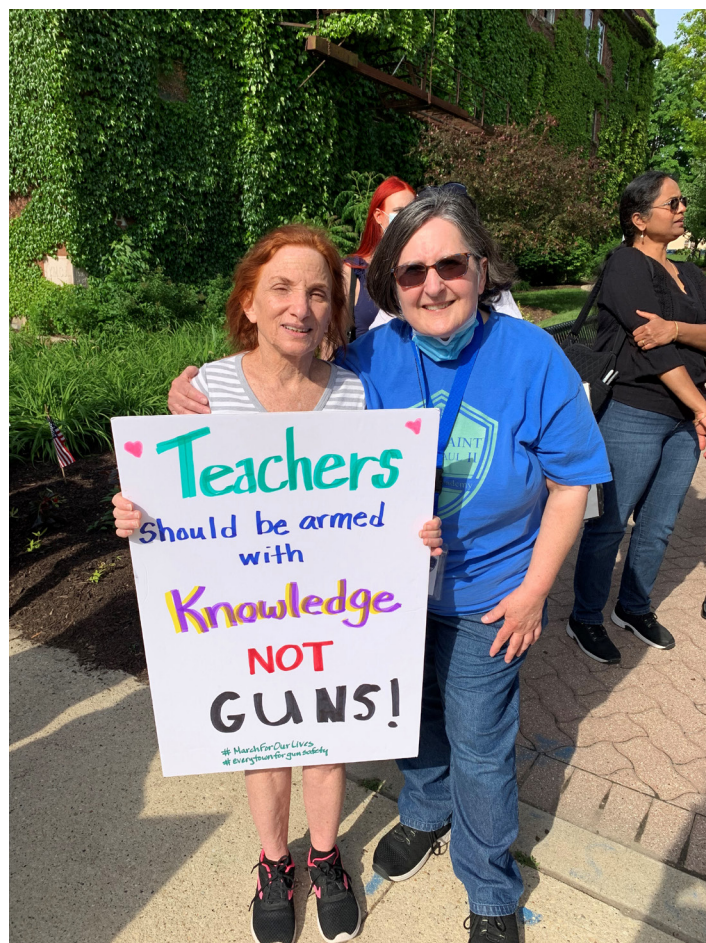
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After the gun tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022, Sister Adele Human, right, an experienced school social worker, was joined at a Naperville March for Our Lives rally by Carolyn Schmidt, the 8th grade teacher at St. Rita of Cascia School, Aurora, Ill, where Sister Adele was then serving as school social worker. "Carolyn and I both knew we needed to be present for the rally, which called for gun control and an end to the call to arm teachers. More guns will not solve gun violence—in our schools, or anywhere," Sister Adele said.

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A modest gift from our ministry subsidy grant made possible community-building activities in Enos Park Neighborhood Garden, like a mini free farmer's market, and a fresh coat of paint on the garden toolshed.

Former educator now feeds the hungry

By Jean Ann Miller

Springfield Dominican Sister Katrina Lamkin knew at a young age she wanted to serve as a sister.

“A friend and I shared the same idea that we wanted to be sisters. I remember begging my parents to let me

go to Sacred Heart Academy to continue my catholic education. It was during my senior year that I made the decision to follow God’s call after graduation,” said Sister Katrina.

Once in the community, Sister Katrina earned a degree in elementary education from St. Ambrose College. She taught at Christ the King School, Springfield, Ill., and at Holy Rosary, Duluth, Minnesota. After earning a graduate degree, she served as a principal at St. Maurice, Morrisonville, Ill., St. Thomas More, Elgin, Ill., SS. Peter and Paul, Cary, Ill., and was an assistant principal at Rosary High School in Aurora, Ill.

Over the past 53 years in education she has seen many changes in the field.

“A lot has changed over the years. I enjoyed those I have worked with and for over those years. I can honestly say that I left a piece of my heart at each place where I worked,” she said.

“I kept hearing and felt like I was being called to serve the hungry”

Soul Food

She accepted an offer to take a six-month sabbatical and said the time away was good for her soul.

“I spent time out of state visiting Arizona, the UP of Michigan, Wisconsin; I was blessed to be part of a sabbatical program at Mercy Center in Colorado Springs.

The sabbatical was a rewarding and enriching time for me and deepened my love of God and all of creation,” she said reflecting on her time away.

While on break she also prayed, asking God about the future. “I kept hearing and felt like I was being called to serve the hungry,” she said. At the end of her sabbatical, Sister Katrina started her ministry at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry in mid-February and volunteers five days a week.

“People come in for food on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and

then we restock and sort items on Wednesday and Friday,” she said.

Demand Increases

Increasing food prices have made an impact on the pantry as well as those who use it.

“I hear ‘this is the first time I’ve come here’ now much more than in the past. We know food prices have really escalated,” she said.

The pantry serves five counties including Kane, Kendall, Will, DuPage, and DeKalb. Besides the weekly offering

Continued on page 20



Dominican Sister Katrina helps organize the produce section at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry.

Staying Grounded

Sister Kelly Moline, who made her first profession of vows in 2016, participates in Giving Voice, a peer-led organization for younger Catholic sisters that cultivates peer accompaniment and empowers young women religious to live their vocation fully.

It fills a valuable need for women religious under the age of 50, who are about 4% of the total number of Catholic sisters in the United States.

“My Giving Voice peers are really a great spiritual and social support for me,” Sister Kelly said.



Sister Kelly Moline, far left, with other young Dominican Sisters at the Giving Voice National Gathering in San Antonio, Texas, July 2022.

“We pray together and discuss the joys and challenges of religious life unique to us while supporting one another in our commitment to consecrated religious life as a gift

of self for the life of the world. My Giving Voice peers really keep me grounded.”

Former educator now feeds the hungry

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of sustenance, volunteers of the pantry visit various communities with pop-up pantry options for the elderly, low-income families, and women and babies.

“We also make boxes of food that are delivered to people unable to come and to Hesed House,” she said.

Rewarding experience

Sister Katrina works in the produce area of the market and finds the overall experience rewarding by the comments she hears.

“Like. ‘I am just grateful,’” Sister Katrina said. “Or some say ‘you

don’t know how much this helps me.’ It is answering a real need, and it’s much appreciated,” she added.

Lending a Helping Hand

Sister Katrina considers the work just one small peg in the process of helping others and credits staff and volunteers for lending their support.

“We do a lot and are always looking for more volunteers. We all work hard and enjoy the time we spend together and work as a team,” she said with a smile.

Reflecting on her years of religious life, as an educator

and now as a beacon of hope in feeding the hungry, Sister Katrina has one thought to share.

“I am right where God wants me to be and I am grateful to be able to serve the hungry.”



The Dominican Associate class of 2022 on the day of their commitment ceremony, May 1. Since 1989 women and men baptized in any Christian tradition have sought to join the community in our preaching mission. Sister Joan Sorge, program director since 2017, is the sixth director. Previous directors were Sister Charlotte Rebbe, Sister Marie Vianney Trutter, Sister Margaret McCormick, and Sister Paul Mary Janssens.

How does one become a Dominican Associate?

If you are a baptized Christian and at least 21 years old, you are eligible to seek candidacy. After acceptance into the program, associate candidates complete a nine-month formation process in which they study dimensions of church and Dominican life as they are interwoven in study, prayer, community, and ministry.

The formation process concludes with a one-day retreat during which candidates discern the next step of commitment. The associate relationship is formalized and celebrated through a commitment ceremony held at Sacred Heart Convent in Springfield, Illinois.



Rostros Concretos: How you and your gifts can—and do—transform the world

In *A Prayer for the Life of the World*, the community commitment by which we've lived since our last General Chapter in 2019, we used the phrase "in solidarity with the rostros concretos of the marginalized."

Think of Jesus stepping out of a boat and encountering the crowds. As he disembarked Matthew says,

"He stepped ashore and saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick."

The rostros concretos are right in front of us

In 2022 our sisters have had hundreds of compassionate encounters with the people right in front of us: the rostros concretos.

Students in our three sponsored high schools, those who seek out English and lessons and citizenship training at the literacy centers, families in parishes and elementary schools challenged by unemployment, food and housing insecurity, life-threatening illness, or intergenerational trauma. Our sisters stand in their midst each day holding out hope, encouragement, and practical and spiritual guidance.

More ways you can help

We value the sacrifices you make to help fund our ministries in these contexts. Here are more ways you can participate in the mission God calls us to for the life of the world.

Encourage vocations to religious life

A woman you know is right now seeking God's purpose for her life. Put her in touch with our vocation office to provide her with a companion on her journey.

What is Rostros Concretos?

While not commonly heard in the United States, in Peru and much of the Spanish-speaking world, rostros concretos is deeply embedded. Though awkward to translate, it literally means "concrete faces" — that means we are committed to living the Gospel by starting with the people right in front of us.

Connect a young adult woman to a community just for her

Invite a woman 18-35 to connect with the Cor Unum House community, where she can "find her center, meet her people, and discover her why."

Give and receive as a Dominican Associate

Associates are Christian women and men who want to know more and give

more of themselves through participation in a dynamic community committed to preaching the Gospel with their lives.

Care for Creation

Jubilee Farm welcomes volunteers who appreciate the gift of the land and want to share that with others.

Feed your spirit

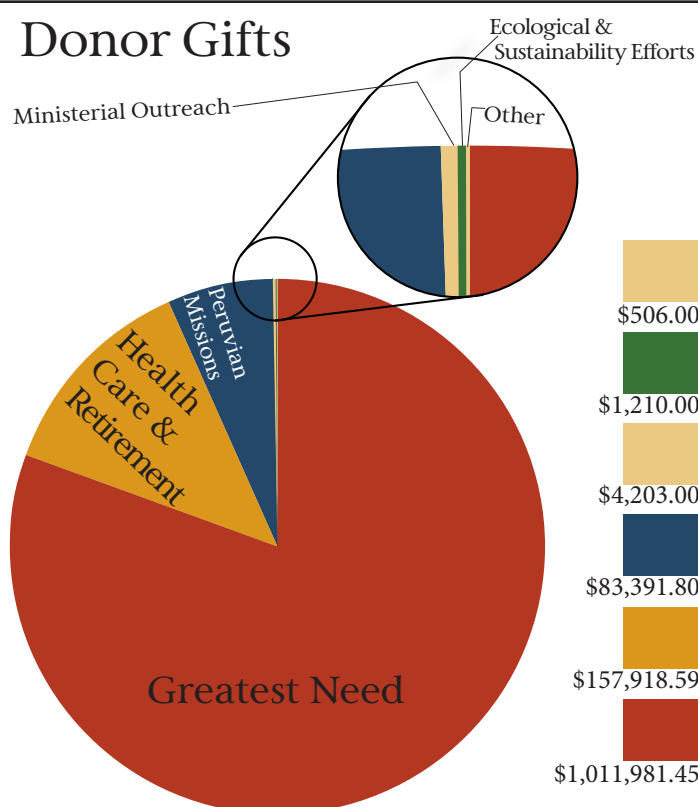
Dominican sisters trained in the art of spiritual direction are available to accompany you on your spiritual path.

Get connected at springfieldop.org/dominican-mission/



Financial Report | January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

Donor Gifts



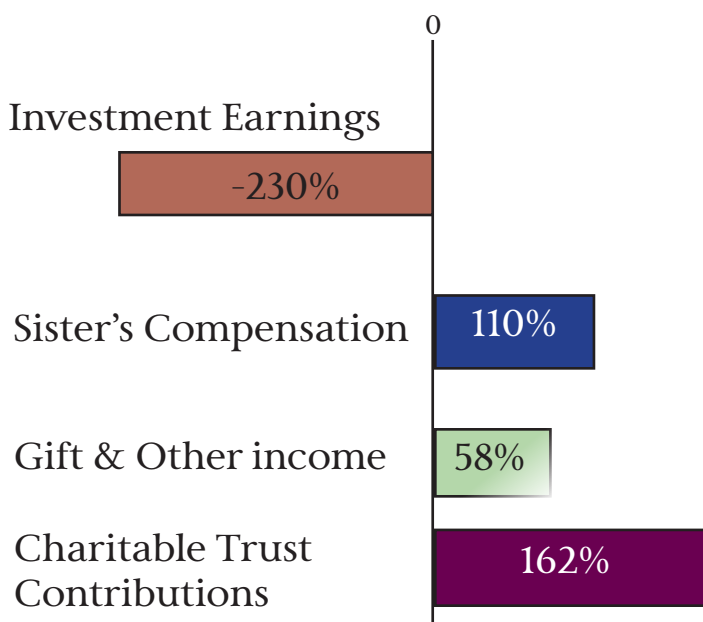
Total: \$ 1,259,288.09

Donations by Category

Greatest Need	\$1,011,981.45
Sisters Health Care & Retirement	\$157,918.59
Peruvian Missions	\$83,391.80
Ministerial Outreach	\$4,203.00
Ecological & Sustainability Efforts	\$1,210.00
Other	\$506.00

Income

(Percentage increase or decrease over 2021)



Expenses

Living expenses of Sisters on Mission

10%

Support of Ministries & Social Justice

14%

Administrative Expenses

16%

Assisted & Skilled Care at Motherhouse

30%

Independent Care at Motherhouse

30%

Charitable trust indicates income from a trust established in 1998 for the care of our senior sisters and those who are ill or have a disability. Sisters' compensation includes the income for 34 full-time salaries as of December 31, 2022. There are 53 sisters living independently and 26 needing assisted care at the motherhouse. There are 61 sisters living on mission outside the motherhouse. Administrative Expenses include congregational finance and professional service expenses.

Financial statement for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2022 of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield were reviewed by the accounting firm of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, Springfield, Illinois. Official documentation is on file in the Finance Office, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704.



Dominican Sisters of Springfield Illinois
Sacred Heart Convent
1237 West Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62704-1680

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**Thank
You!**

It is only with
gratitude that life
becomes rich.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Sisters Mary Bride Quinn, Gabriella Luebbbers and Catherine Anne Yager are just three of the Springfield Dominican Sisters who are grateful for your generosity.

Front cover photo: Sister Margaret McCormick, left, and Sister Ancilla Caulfield enjoy a favorite pastime in the Regina Coeli community room. After many months of isolation as a precaution against the COVID-19 vaccine, the sisters are enjoying being together again.