

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*

Winter 2022

Vol. 22, No. 1

**Widening Our Tents, Expanding Our Tables:
Exploring the Synodal Journey**



As we begin this new year and this new volume of *Just Words*, we bring you some profound stories that reflect the many ways in which the People of God accept the invitation of God to journey into the expansiveness of God. This issue is inspired by Isaiah's invitation to enlarge the space of our tent (Isaiah 54:2) and the song composed by Shirley Erena Murray, *For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table*. Here you will find inspiring stories from, by, and about our sisters, associates, and co-laborers that speak of experiences of tent-widening and table-expanding.

Such expansion occurs when we allow ourselves to serve the mission of God while we walk together as disciples and missionaries of Christ within an organization, congregation, or diocese. The stories help us to see that life-giving, sometimes challenging, moments of personal and communal growth are experienced when we journey with those who are at the margins of society and Church.

In this issue you are invited to enter the lives of people who live in the slums of Accra, Ghana; and in the rural communities of the archdiocese of Huancayo, Peru; and in the isolated suburban neighborhoods of our own nation where sick and elderly persons are often hidden in plain sight.

The synodal process inaugurated by Pope Francis in October of 2021 constitutes a powerful opportunity for the global Church to widen its tent and enlarge its table. Here you will find news of how our congregation is participating in the synod and you'll find ways you, too, can become a part of the synodal vision to "plant dreams...allow hope to flourish...inspire trust, bind up wounds..." (see p. 7)

”

“all people live within God's tent and are continually welcomed at God's spacious table.”

May this issue of *JUST Words* deliver a generous serving of hope as it reminds us that all people live within God's tent and are continually welcomed at God's spacious table. In God's ever-widening tent and at God's always-expanding table there is room for you. There is room for all. O Holy Mystery, we recommit ourselves to journey in that truth, offering our *testimonio de vida!*



Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP, is a member of the Springfield Dominican Sisters Leadership Team. She lives in Springfield.



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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.

JUST Words

Sharing the life, mission, and
ministry of the Dominican
Sisters of Springfield, Illinois.
Published three times a year.
Volume 22, Number 1

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 this publication:
Sister Beth Murphy, OP
Director of Communications
sbmurphy@spdom.org

For inquiries about vocations:
Sister Denise Glazik, OP
Director of Vocations
dglazik@spdom.org

For inquiries about the
Associate Program:
Sister M. Joan Sorge, OP
Director of the Associate Program
smjsorge@spdom.org

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

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS:

CATHERINE BECKER
SISTER BARBARA BLESSE, OP
SISTER MILA DÍAZ SOLANO, OP
MICHAEL GOLDASICH
SISTER JUDINE HILBING, OP
SISTER GERALDINE KEMPER, OP
KARA MERNAUGH
SHIRLEY MORRIS, Ed.D
SISTER BETH MURPHY, OP

TRANSLATOR:

Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP

BEING A LISTENING CHURCH: THE SYNODAL PROCESS IN PERU

By Sister Edith Villa Alania, OP

The process of the synod on synodality will take place in our archdiocese of Huancaayo as a continuation of the First Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City November 21-28, 2021. This gathering, customary in Latin America and the Caribbean since the conference in Puebla in 1979, allows for persons in the church to listen to each other and send our contributions as a parish to the bishops' conferences. In addition to the Puebla Conference, Santo Domingo in 1992, and Aparecida in 2007 are other examples.

Preparation for the Mexico City meeting began in our archdiocese in April 2021 with the formation of a team. Our team consisted of one lay man, two lay women, two consecrated sisters, two priests, and two bishops. The general coordinator of our team was Mr. Richard Arreboredo. As a team we

established contact with the five vicariates of the archdiocese. We offered training to their leaders in the listening process and offered questions for the parishes' listening process and for the vicariate.

The motto of the assembly was: "We are all missionary disciples going forth." Questions were drawn from the preparatory document for the Mexico City assembly. Among them were questions like: Is your parish open in this time of pandemic? How is it present to the people? How can you incorporate into your community the pastoral challenges that are emphasized in the pastoral project? As the archdiocesan team we have the responsibility to synthesize the listening process. Based on this synthesis, our archdiocesan representative, Richard, participated in the First Ecclesial Assembly virtually. The rest of the team and many people in the archdiocese followed the

conferences and liturgical celebrations through social media or radio.

Two criteria were considered in preparation for the assembly. The first criterion was that we are all part of God's people. This was not an elite process. The second criterion was to be aware of the action of the Spirit. The process required a lot of prayer during preparation, listening, and the assembly itself. Listening, dialogue, and encounter were emphasized.

Our meetings as an archdiocesan team and with the parishes from April to August 2021 were held virtually. I accompanied the listening process for the assembly in Vicariate No. 2. The parish of San Juan de Jarpa where Sisters Elizabeth, Doris, and I are administrators, belongs to this vicariate. We engaged the youth of the parish in the listening process.

(continued on page 4)

Sister Edith Vila Alania (fourth from right) and the Huancayo archdiocesan synod team, including Cardinal Pedro Barreto, the archbishop of Huancayo, (left of Sister Edith).



In August we met for the first time in person as an archdiocesan team. It was a great joy to share in the work and enjoy a meal, conversations, and prayer in the parish of the Immaculate in Huancayo. On December 15 we met once again as a team to share the Christmas celebration and a whole year of hard work.

We recognize that in some parishes it was difficult to do the process. Not all parishes participated. There are parishes without technological possibilities. The goal was to have the participation of lay people and not just reports from parish priests. What I liked about this process was the contact with and the sincere listening to our people. I have recognized how our church has been present in society during the pandemic. It was like an evaluation.

Also during the assembly, common concerns arose such as the violence suffered by women in our towns and the suffering of LGBTQ+ people. After reading all the reports, we are left with the challenge of better accompanying our people as a parish. We ask ourselves how to form our youth and adults in social ministry and in their faith. It was also challenging to hear from the people the request to their priests to get involved with what the people live. They asked that parishes be opened to the cultural customs of the people and that they become more present when their accompaniment is most needed, for example during the pandemic.

Having completed this experience, we will begin the synodal listening process on January 15th. This same archdiocesan team will

be leading the synodal process in the archdiocese. Our source materials for this synodal process will be the conversations that took place in the First Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean in November, the preparatory document sent by the pope, and the synthesis of our listening process in the archdiocese. At this time we are immersing ourselves in the documents of the Church, forming ourselves as a team in the spirit of the synod and attending conferences about this process.

Sister Edith is a member of the archdiocesan team for the Synodal process and a pastoral leader at San Juan de Jarpa Parish, in the district of San Juan de Jarpa, Chupaca province, Peru.



A small group synod session in San Juan de Jarpa, where Sisters Edith, Maria Louisa, and Elizabeth Castro Cruz minister.

LLEGAR A SER UNA IGLESIA QUE ESCUCHA: EL PROCESO SINODAL EN EL PERÚ

Por Hermana Edith Villa Alania, OP

El proceso del sínodo sobre la sinodalidad se llevará a cabo en nuestra arquidiócesis de Huancayo como continuación de la Primera Asamblea Eclesial de América Latina y el Caribe (AELAT). En América Latina y el Caribe tenemos la costumbre de escucharnos y enviar nuestros aportes como parroquias para Conferencias de Obispos (ej. La Conferencia de Puebla en 1979, de Santo Domingo en 1992 y

Aparecida en el 2007). La novedad esta vez fue que hicimos un proceso de preparación para una Asamblea Eclesial.

La Primera Asamblea Eclesial se realizó desde el 21 al 28 de noviembre en México. La preparación en nuestra diócesis empezó en abril del 2021 con la formación de un equipo diocesano. Nuestro equipo estuvo formado por un laico y dos laicas, dos religiosas, dos sacerdotes y dos

obispos. El coordinador general de nuestro equipo fue un laico, el señor Richard Revollar. Como equipo establecimos contacto con las cinco vicarías de la diócesis. A sus líderes les ofrecimos formación en el proceso de escucha y las preguntas para la escucha en las parroquias y luego por vicaría.

El lema de la Asamblea fue: “Todos somos discípulos misioneros en salida”. Las preguntas surgieron

(continúa en la página 6)



del documento preparatorio para la asamblea. Entre ellas estaban por ejemplo ¿Tu parroquia está abierta en este tiempo de pandemia? ¿Cómo está presente con el pueblo? ¿Cómo puedes incorporar en tu comunidad los desafíos pastorales que se enfatizan en el proyecto pastoral? El equipo diocesano tiene la síntesis del proceso de escucha. Con esta base, nuestro representante diocesano, Richard participó en la Primera Asamblea Eclesial. Él participó por zoom. El resto del equipo y muchos en la diócesis seguimos las conferencias y celebraciones litúrgicas a través de las redes sociales o la radio.

Dos criterios se tuvieron en cuenta en la preparación a la asamblea. El primer criterio fue que todos somos parte del pueblo de Dios. No fue un proceso de una élite. El segundo criterio fue tener en cuenta la acción del Espíritu. El proceso demandó mucha oración durante la preparación, escucha y la asamblea en sí. Se enfatizaron la escucha, diálogo y encuentro.

Nuestras reuniones como equipo y con las parroquias desde abril hasta agosto del 2021 fueron por zoom. Yo acompañé de cerca el proceso de escucha para la asamblea en la Vicaría No. 2. A esta vicaría pertenece la Parroquia de San Juan de Jarpa donde estamos las hermanas Elizabeth, Doris y yo como administradoras. Nosotras hicimos el proceso de escucha con los jóvenes de la parroquia.

En agosto nos vimos por primera vez de modo presencial como equipo diocesano. Fue una gran alegría compartir no solo trabajo sino comida y espacios de conversación y oración en la

parroquia de la Inmaculada en Huancayo. El 15 de diciembre nos reunimos una vez más como equipo para compartir la celebración de navidad y de todo un año de trabajo arduo.

Reconocemos que en algunas parroquias fue difícil hacer el proceso. No todas las parroquias participaron. Hay lugares que no tienen posibilidades tecnológicas. La idea era la participación de laicos y no solo tener informes de párrocos. Lo que me ha gustado de este proceso es el contacto y la escucha sincera a nuestro pueblo. He reconocido cómo ha estado presente nuestra iglesia en la sociedad durante la pandemia. Fue como una evaluación. También durante la asamblea surgieron preocupaciones comunes como la violencia que sufren las mujeres en nuestros pueblos y el sufrimiento de personas LGBTQ+. Luego de leer todos los reportes, nos queda el desafío de acompañar mejor a nuestro pueblo como parroquia. Nos preguntamos cómo formar a nuestros jóvenes, formar a adultos en la pastoral social y en su fe. Fue también desafiante escuchar de la gente el

reclamo a sus sacerdotes para que se involucren con lo que vive el pueblo. Pedían que se abran las parroquias a las costumbres del pueblo, que se hagan más presente cuando más se necesita su acompañamiento, por ejemplo durante la pandemia.

Con esta experiencia, a partir del 15 de enero vamos a iniciar el proceso sinodal. Este mismo equipo diocesano estará liderando el proceso del sínodo en la diócesis. Nuestros referentes para este proceso sinodal serán las conversaciones que se dieron en la Primera Asamblea Eclesial de América Latina y el Caribe en noviembre, el Documento Preparatorio enviado por el Papa y la síntesis de la escucha a nivel diocesano. En este tiempo estamos empapándonos de los documentos de la Iglesia, formándonos como equipo en el espíritu del sínodo y asistiendo a charlas sobre este proceso.

La Hermana Edith es miembro del equipo arquidiocesano para el proceso sinodal y líder pastoral en la Parroquia San Juan de Jarpa, distrito de San Juan de Jarpa, provincia de Chupaca, Perú.



PLANTING DREAMS, BINDING UP WOUNDS: ENGAGING THE SYNODAL PROCESS

By the Dominican Sisters' Synod Conveners

Pope Francis has called us to become a truly synodal church while we engage in the process of consultation for the Bishops' Synod on Synodality scheduled to convene in Rome in 2023. During the first phase of the synod, all people are invited to participate in a listening process, after which time, responses will be synthesized and sent to Rome for inclusion in the bishops' synodal process.

Our Leadership Team has joined in this global process of consultation by establishing a group of conveners, who along with a larger number of listeners, are developing a plan to participate in the consultation. This process will end August 1, 2022. The conveners met in November and invited volunteers from among sisters and associates. Twenty people generously responded to the conveners' call. The conveners

and these volunteers together comprise the "Springfield Dominican Sisters Synod Working Group," which met in December to move the work forward.

Our participation in the synodal process is unique in that it comes under the umbrella of our congregation rather than within parish structures. Our listening sessions will include sisters, associates, and partners in mission from our schools and other ministries. These sessions will be held virtually from February to May of 2022. Together we will discern how we are a church that walks together wherever we find ourselves geographically, and how we may need to transform as a church, so that God's dream for us, globally and locally, can become a reality.

As the synod Preparatory Doc-

ument emphasizes, the purpose of the synod, and therefore of this consultation, is "to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands." (§32)

The Springfield Dominican Sisters' Synod Working Group hopes to fulfill this vision through our participation in the process. When the listening sessions are complete, a synthesis of the experience will be sent to Rome as our contribution to the synod.

Thus, let us participate in the listening sessions wherever the table is set, wherever the door is open, so that we learn from one another and become a synodal church!



Sister Barbara Blesse



Sister Mila Diaz Solano



Sister Elyse Marie Ramirez



Sister Jean Patrice Schingel

Sisters Barbara Blesse, Mila Díaz Solano, Elyse Marie Ramirez, and Jean Patrice Schingel are the synod conveners for the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.

(continued on page 14)



FOR EVERYONE BORN,

A SONG BY SHIRLEY

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and
bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place
for growing, for everyone born, a star
overhead.**

Refrain:

**And God will delight when we are
creators of justice and joy, compassion
and peace: yes, God will delight when we
are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For woman and man, a place at the
table, revising the roles, deciding the
share, with wisdom and grace, dividing
the power, for woman and man, a
system that's fair.**

**For young and for old, a place at the
table, a voice to be heard, a part in the
song, the hands of a child in hands that
are wrinkled, for young and for old, the
right to belong.**

**For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in
anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for
just and unjust, a new way to live.**

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and
worship, for everyone born, the right to
be free.**

by Shirley Erena Murray



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

BY ERENA MURRAY



Lectio Divina/Visio Divina

We invite you to approach these pages with the eyes of your heart in the manner of the ancient practice of “Divine reading” and “Divine seeing,” or Lectio Divina and Visio Divina. Allow God’s Holy Spirit to shape what you read and see, and how you respond to the song and these images, contributed by sisters and associates.

Thank you to Sister Bernadette Marie McGuire, OP (ink drawing); Michael Goldasich (sketched crucifix); Ray Cicci (Sacred Heart crucifix); Sister Patricia Stark, OP (tree photo); Vicki Schmidt (Ghanaian child photo).

To see more art submitted by sisters and associates for this story visit <https://springfieldop.org/visio-divina>.

WIDEN YOUR TENT, EXPAND YOUR TABLE

By Vicki Schmidt

Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly; lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs. For you shall spread abroad to the right and left; your descendants shall dispossess the nations and shall people the deserted cities.

— Isaiah 54

This reading from Isaiah 54 has always been a favorite. I remember my mom extending our family kitchen table to include whoever might show up unannounced, or whoever I might bring to share a meal at our table. She never questioned but always welcomed. In 1996 I met two young women from Rwanda in a university class I was taking. They received scholarships to complete their graduate level classes. Over time we began to share lunch together and we got to know one another. They lost seventeen members of their family in the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Thankfully, they were able to escape with other members of their family and two years later were studying in Springfield. Their grief was palpable. Their emotions were raw; I would even say now that they most likely had PTSD. In the fall of that year, I invited them to a birthday celebration for my niece Elizabeth at my parents' home. I was so proud of my family for the way they welcomed Anna and Ruth. *Widen your tent, lengthen your table* is a Gospel imperative for Christian life. My dear Mom never knew who I was bringing to our table next. I will always remember the grace and generosity she shared when someone new appeared bidden or unbidden!

The photos accompanying this article are of children I met at one of the largest, most toxic slums in

the world, in Accra, Ghana. I was there in 2012 to attend the international conference being hosted by Theresians in Accra. I knew about the slum called Sodom and Gomorrah and asked one of our Theresian leaders if she could arrange for some of us to visit there before the conference. She was so pleased that we wanted to go there. She happened to be the sister of the Archbishop of Accra, Charles Palmer Buckle.

Often slums are located outside of cities, or just on the edge, but this one was in the middle of the city. People who don't live in the slum often call it "Sodom and Gomorrah." Its real name is Korle Dudor. When Archbishop Buckle first visited the slum, he told his sister he was

angered by the name given to the vast region inhabited by 100,000 people. The Archbishop felt that it demeaned the people who lived there. He pronounced that it should be called, "City of God," because he encountered many fine people and felt the presence of God within the men, women, and children he met there.

It is true the squalid slum is rife with corruption and prostitution. Most people living there left their villages in hopes of finding work and ended up living in this slum and next to a marsh. People from



all over Ghana and from neighboring countries find themselves living there. It has become a dumping ground for trash and toxic electronic waste, poisoning the only water source people have for drinking and bathing. It is considered one of the world's most toxic sites.

The photograph of the children on the bicycle was taken as I walked with several Theresians to visit City of God School. The photo of the little girls was taken at the school. We walked a mile into the slum to the school which is operated by an Indian priest, Father Subash Chittilappilly. Sister Eileen McGrath, a Franciscan Missionaries of Mary sister from Ireland, has worked at City of God for many years, providing education and training for young women. To see these precious girls and boys trying to survive in this massive slum is heartbreaking! These children may never have the opportunity for a full education or adequate food and shelter in which to grow strong. Because of the toxicity which surrounds them, they might not even live a full life simply because of where they live.

Too often profits take precedent over people, snuffing out their human potential. Simply put, Jesus explicitly makes this request as a tenet of our faith: *do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. Governments and big industry seem to have forgotten how to work for the common good. Sometimes I think if they could have an experience of the consequences of their current practices, if they could see the unabated daily suffering that goes on in the City of God and places like it, there might be a world-transforming widening of tents and an extension of our tables.

Theresians, through a sister organization called Women InSpirit,



Photos clockwise from top: Polluted marsh near the slum in Accra, Ghana; children of Korle Dudor, Accra; Girls at the "City of God" school.

now provide a sewing school and pay for the education of 12-15 girls each year at City of God School. Once the girls complete their sewing training, they are provided a sewing machine and the supplies they need to start their business. It is a great day when they launch out on their own. Older girls are supported with tuition to become

nurses and teachers. It is the way Theresians are widening their tents and extending their tables. What a difference it makes for these young women.

Vicki Schmidt, a Springfield Dominican Associate, is recently retired from her role as Executive Director of Theresians International. She lives in Springfield, Ill.



WIDENING THE SPACE OF MY TENT: ONE ASSOCIATE'S JOURNEY

By Dave Sanders



My story of becoming a Dominican Associate and expanding my capacity to love my neighbor is one I never saw coming. It began a decade ago when the health of my aging in-laws, lifelong and faithful Catholics, began to fail. Their end-of-life journey revealed to me a need for volunteer lay ministers to help with pastoral and spiritual needs of those who could no longer attend Mass for age or health issues. I felt called to help.

A big thing held me back; I had no experience for such ministry. I had not been around the seriously sick or the dying much in my life. And I was not confident in my ability to pray with those needing the comfort, peace, and strength of a pastoral minister's prayer.

Enter Springfield Dominican Sister Judith Pfile, pastoral associate, at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham, where my wife and

I attend. She accepted me into St. Joseph's care ministry, provided me with a mountain of resource materials and prayer books, and most importantly, made time to guide me and answer my questions.

One evening, standing in our church parking lot, Sister Judy told me about the Dominican Associate program, something new to me. But it looked like—and turned out to be—a good path to deepen my prayer life and grow a richer sense of God's presence in my life.

For four years now, I have been ministering to the elderly, sick and homebound. I have witnessed God's peace and hope, but also suffering and death. I've seen faith and confidence in God's promise of eternal life on levels I never imagined. I've made friends with elderly and sick people I never expected to meet, some of whom have joined God in Heaven and are praying for us now.

In my story, Jesus the carpenter unexpectedly enlarged my spiritual table to make room for a wonderful group of people I have befriended and served through this ministry. I couldn't have done it without the Dominican community, which helped me grow in confidence through their preaching that God will provide everything we need when we are actively working in His service. The stories of St. Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena and other saints tell this, but when you try to live as they did—even in a small way by comparison—you come to a very real understanding of this wonderful truth.

Dave Sanders, a husband, father, grandpa and retired Illinois State Police officer, married his wife, Mary, 48 years ago at St. Anthony Church, Effingham, Ill., and came into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2007. He's been a Dominican Associate since 2019.



Dave Sanders is welcomed by Mary Ellen Kingery, a parishioner at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Chatham, Ill., for 70 years.

Congrats



Sister Patricia Francis, OP, and Jan Torrence.

Sister Patricia Francis and her colleague Jan Torrence marked their 25th year of service at the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center. Sister Pat, who has a doctorate in psychology, has served as a licensed clinical psychologist, spiritual director and director of counseling services at the center. Jan is the IT manager and designs and maintains the website: www.cdpc.org

Sister Paul Mary McCaughey has had a full calendar of presentations for educators this year. She participated in the National Catholic Education Association's micro-credit series on the alignment of the faith of the Catholic teacher with STEM programs (science, technology, engineering, math); offered retreats for the faculties of two Catholic elementary schools, and spoke with the religious education teachers in one Chicago parish about reaching families in the time of COVID. She also presented a workshop on social-emotional learning and one on racial justice and equity at several other parochial schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. She is the coordinator of Catholic Educational Leadership in the department of Leadership, Language and Curriculum at DePaul University.



Sister Trinita Eddington with a patient at St. Dominic Clinic.

Sister Trinita Eddington was featured in a December issue of *Catholic Health World*, a publication of the Catholic Health Association. The story, *Nurses play essential role in efforts to advance health equity*, highlights Sister Trinita's 60-year ministry at St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson, Miss., and her role in founding St. Dominic's free clinic, which she has run for 24 years. "I knew I needed to walk where they walk and had to build trust, I had to listen to them," she says of her long accompaniment of the impoverished people of Jackson.

Our sisters were presented with the 2021 *Gratiam Dei* Award at the annual American Catholic Press Benefit held Dec. 3, 2021, in Olympia Fields, Ill. The award was given to honor our sisters' 63-years of service at **Marian Catholic High School** for their contributions to Catholic education and the Chicago Heights community. Congratulations to our many sisters who have served at Marian Catholic since its founding in 1958!



Sister Beth Murphy has joined the 2022 panel for Global Sisters Report's feature, "The Life," now in its fifth year. The panel of 20 sisters periodically reflect on issues that impact the lives of Catholic women religious around the globe in this online magazine produced by National Catholic Reporter. The panelists represent a diversity of ages, nationalities, religious congregations, ministries and charisms. They'll take turns writing responses to a prompt or a question about spirituality, religious life and other topics. Sister Beth's first contribution was a brief reflection on the global synod. She will write approximately five times during the calendar year.

Your Donation is Appreciated

Supply chain disruption means no remittance envelopes were available for this issue of JUST Words. To make a gift today visit bit.ly/DonateDominican.

Or send your donation via mail to:
Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
1237 W. Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62704

Thank You!



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in this time of Synod.

Visit <https://www.synod.va/en.html> to subscribe to the weekly synod email. (Hint: the link to subscribe is in the footer of the webpage.)

Check your diocesan website about how you might participate locally.

Visit <https://www.synodmeetings.com/> to find or report a gathering near you.

If you have membership in any national Catholic organization watch for announcements from that group about participation.

IN MEMORIAM

*Please pray for these sisters and associates
who have died in the peace of Christ.*

Sharon Fulton, Associate • October 24, 2021

Sister Constance "Connie" Klamroth, OP • October 31, 2021

Rita Dodd, Associate • November 13, 2021

Candace Randolph, Associate • December 18, 2021

FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE

By Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP

For everyone born, a place at the table. The title of this hymn so beautifully illustrated on pages 8-9 is reflected in Pope Francis' invitation to the 2021-2023 synod "for a Synodal Church," which promises the listening ear of the Church as a path to communion, participation, and mission among the People of God.

In 2015, we established the Mission Advancement Office as a similar pathway, an invitation to the table for those who had been influenced by our sisters' efforts "to compassionately preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ." As with Pope Francis' invitation, there was a bit of skepticism about this new venture on the part of some of our sisters, who wondered what kind of response there would be.

Six years on, the persons gathered around the "Partners in Mission" table have expanded three-fold and donations have grown apace! Our former students, our co-workers in ministry, our families, and our friends in the parishes and other ministries where we serve



have generously gathered around this ever-expanding table to share gifts of prayer, encouragement, and financial resources for the sake of the mission of the Gospel.

This generous presence at the table enables our ministry and outreach. **You** have generously responded by providing electronic lift chairs, hearing devices, and healthcare needs for our elder sisters. **You** have supported the ministry of our Sisters in Peru among the impoverished and young. **You** have said yes

to the transformational efforts of Jubilee Farm and Cor Unum. **You** have made possible our continued financial support of students who cherish the values-based education offered in our schools. **You** have partnered with our sisters who serve in urban food deserts and in rural areas lacking basic social services. Most recently, your generosity is providing the furniture and healthcare technology needed for *Regina Coeli*, our nursing facility.

It is clear you've said yes to joining us at the table of mission *For the Life of the World*.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a world of acceptance, mutual respect, and commitment to help one another in times of need. Know that at our Eucharistic table each day we pray for you, your intentions and your needs. May 2022 be blessed in every way...filled with good health, peace, and the love of God, who unites us!

Sister Kathleen Anne, Tait, OP, is Director of Mission Advancement and lives in Springfield, Ill.

Go green

Receive *JUST Words* in your inbox.
 Subscribe here: www.springfieldop.org/just-words



Dominican Sources

“Synods depend upon both having the confidence to speak and the humility to listen. Listening is daring to open yourself to people who’ve got views other than your own, views with which you may disagree with strongly.”

~ Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP

DATEBOOK

Events not public unless otherwise noted.

January	1	World Day of Prayer for Peace
	17	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	28	Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican
February	2	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
	4-6	Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team (SDART) meeting
	12	Dominican Sisters’ Community Day
	14	St. Valentine’s Day, Feast of Ss. Cyril & Methodius
March	2	Ash Wednesday
	11-13	SDART meeting
	17	St. Patrick’s Day
	19	Feast of St. Joseph
	25	Feast of the Annunciation