

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

# JUST *Words*

Fall 2020  
Vol. 20, No. 3



HOPE ALIVE:  
DISCERNING THE VOTE  
NEW ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT  
MIGRATION CORPORATE STANCE

*“We do not go to God one-by-one.  
We come in with everyone else.”*

*~ Sister Joanne Delehanty, OP*

At an online Springfield Dominican Vocation Night one of our sisters, speaking about prayer, said that while coming to know the divine within us, we simultaneously discover that the divinity within ourselves is one and the same in all individuals, in all creatures, in all life. That recognition moves us beyond a private understanding of salvation.

I think that’s what Matthew means when he tells the story of the sheep and the goats. “*All the nations will be gathered before him...*” (Mt. 25:31ff).

We are in this together—a common, very truthful phrase in the midst of this pandemic. The word that comes to mind to express this is solidarity, one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles.

St. John Paul II wrote about solidarity in his 1987 encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* where he says:

*When people recognize our fundamental interdependence and its ethical implications, the moral and social attitude is a virtue of solidarity ... not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far ...[but] a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” (38)*

Solidarity is about valuing all persons and respecting who they are as individuals. It is about recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good. In our connected humanity, we are invited to build relationships and to understand what life is like for others who are different from us. As a human family we commit to work together for the well-being of all to ensure everyone has what they need to live with dignity.

The stories in this issue speak to that solidarity. We give thanks and we rejoice that we are together in this enterprise of life;

**we belong together.**



*Sister Marcelline Koch, OP, is the director of the Office of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation for the Springfield Dominicans.*

### 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 20, Number 3

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](http://www.springfieldop.org)

For inquiries about this publication:  
Sister Beth Murphy, OP  
Director of Communications  
[sbmurphy@spdom.org](mailto:sbmurphy@spdom.org)

For inquiries about vocations:  
Sister Sister Denise Glazik, OP  
Director of Vocations  
[dglazik@spdom.org](mailto:dglazik@spdom.org)

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

For inquiries about  
Mission Advancement  
Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP  
Director of Mission Advancement  
[skatait@spdom.org](mailto:skatait@spdom.org)

### EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS:

SISTER MILA DÍAZ SOLANO, OP  
SISTER MARIE MICHELLE HACKETT, OP  
CATHERINE BECKER  
SISTER KRISTIN CRAWFORD, OP  
JOHN FREML  
SISTER JUDINE HILBING, OP  
SISTER GERALDINE KEMPER, OP  
SISTER SARA KOCH, OP  
SISTER BETH MURPHY, OP  
AARON TEBRINKE  
SISTER MARY JEAN TRAEGER, OP

### TRANSLATORS:

Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP

### PUBLICATION DESIGNER:

Aaron Tebrinke



# DISCERNING THE VOTE: A PRIMER FOR CATHOLIC CITIZENS

## AN INTERVIEW WITH FATHER CHARLES BOUCHARD, OP

by Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP, and Sister Beth Murphy, OP

Father Charles Bouchard is a Dominican priest of the St. Albert the Great Province and senior director of theology and sponsorship for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. He works with Church leaders and bishops at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and at the Vatican on a range of issues involving health care, social justice, public policy, and the Church. He was interviewed in August by Sister Mila Díaz Solano and Sister Beth Murphy.



Father Charles Bouchard, OP, at the Dominican Sisters General Assembly in July.

**SMD:** *How do we do respond to Pope Francis' call to immerse ourselves in political concerns? What should matter to us when we prepare to discern our vote?*

**FCB:** I agree with Pope Francis that politics is an essential part of our Christian life. We have firm teaching about the values that should inform our political decisions, especially in Catholic Social Teaching. Though we have clear doctrinal teaching, applying those teachings in any given time and place is difficult. That is why the word discernment is really appropriate here. Circumstances change from one place and time to another. We have to look back at our basic teachings and ask 'How do we best make these values real in this particular situation?' According to St. Thomas Aquinas the purpose of

political life is the common good. The common good is mainly the art of living together. We ask, 'What is really best for all of us?' That doesn't mean that our own personal interests and opinions don't have a place here; they do. But when we get into political life we've got to always ask what is best for all of us.

**SBM:** *Sometimes when we are voting our choice is clear, other times, not so much. Some votes take more discernment than others. Do you have a process you like to use in this discernment?*

**FCB:** First, we have to ask whether the candidate has the ability to pull us together. Then we need to look at the character of our candidates. Are they honest? Do they have integrity? Do we see continuity between their personal

and public lives? We also need to pray as we discern about voting so we can keep our own personal needs and issues in perspective.

We also need to remember that not everything can be solved or fixed by changes in civil law. There is a difference between morality and public policy. My personal morality is very demanding. I want to be the best person I can possibly be. But when we are dealing with political situations and civil laws, public policy is geared toward public order and the common good so it sometimes doesn't reach 100% of what we hope for.

That doesn't mean that we simply give up, it just means that we may have to use other means to achieve the ends that we are interested in. Today that becomes very difficult. One of the biggest issues for Catholics is the whole question of the legality of

(continued on page 10)



Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent affirm the corporate stance on migration.

## CORPORATE STANCE ON MIGRATION AFFIRMED DURING COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Our *Prayer for the Life of the World* speaks to our commitment of solidarity with the *rostros concretos* of the marginalized. This and other desires articulated in the prayer call us to respond in words and actions to the suffering endured by immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons.

As Pope Francis notes, “Unfortunately, in many cases people are forced to move by conflict, natural disasters, persecution, climate change, violence, extreme poverty, and inhuman living conditions. Our shared response can be expressed by four action verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate.”

Catholic Social Teaching regarding

migration offers these three principles:

1. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.

2. A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration. However, those decisions are not to be made out of shortsighted, national self-interest, but with regard for the common good.

3. A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

Principles one and two must be understood in the context of principle three.

We take our responsibility as Dominicans of Springfield to preach the just Word as integral to our Dominican vocation. Though each

of us does this in our own daily life and work, we also know that action on behalf of justice has a corporate dimension.

We make that corporate dimension visible through a corporate stance.

We live in a world inundated with words. Words that clamor with anger, hostility, contempt, and hatred of sisters and brothers that don’t look, dress, worship, or express love the way they “should.”

Words that deny others their rights to life, liberty, and the means to provide for the needs and the future of their families. Words that disparage science and refuse to do what is asked to curb the crises of the pandemic and of climate change, the greatest threat our species has

(continued on page 8)





Las Hermanas del Convento del Sagrado Corazón afirman la postura corporativa sobre la migración.

# POSTURA CONGREGACIONAL SOBRE MIGRACIÓN AFIRMADA DURANTE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Nuestra Oración Por la Vida del Mundo habla de nuestro compromiso de solidaridad con los rostros concretos de los y las marginadas. Este y otros deseos articulados en nuestra oración nos llaman a responder con palabras y acciones al sufrimiento de inmigrantes, refugiados/as, solicitantes de asilo y desplazados/as internos.

Como señala el Papa Francisco, “Desafortunadamente, en muchos casos las personas se ven obligadas a desplazarse por conflictos, desastres naturales, persecución, cambio climático, violencia, pobreza extrema y condiciones de vida inhumanas. Nuestra respuesta compartida se puede expresar mediante cuatro verbos de acción: acoger, proteger, promover e integrar”.

La Doctrina Social Católica nos ofrece tres principios con respecto a la migración:

1. Las personas tienen derecho a migrar para sustentar sus vidas y las de sus familias.
2. Un país tiene derecho a regular sus fronteras y controlar la inmigración. Sin embargo, esas decisiones no deben hacerse con una visión pobre o buscando solamente el interés nacional, sino teniendo en cuenta el bien común.
3. Un país debe regular sus fronteras con justicia y misericordia.

Los principios uno y dos deben entenderse en el contexto del principio tres.

Asumimos nuestra responsabilidad como Dominicas de Springfield de predicar la Palabra justa como parte integral de nuestra vocación

dominicana. Aunque cada una de nosotras hace esto en su propia vida y trabajo diario, sabemos que las acciones en búsqueda de justicia tienen dimensión corporativa. Hacemos visible esa dimensión corporativa a través de una Postura Congregacional.

Vivimos en un mundo inundado de palabras. Palabras que claman ira, hostilidad, desprecio y odio hacia hermanas y hermanos que no se ven, visten, creen o expresan amor como “deberían”.

Palabras niegan a otros/as su derecho a la vida, la libertad y los medios para satisfacer sus necesidades y el futuro de sus familias. Palabras menosprecian la ciencia y se niegan a hacer lo que se les pide para frenar las crisis de la pandemia y del cambio climático, la mayor amenaza que tiene  
(continuó de página 9)

# HEALING ENCOUNTERS: NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

by Sister Sara Koch, OP, and Sister Mary Jean Traeger, OP



*SIAN Retreat, January 13, 2017*

*Springfield Dominican associate Veronica Espina, left, visits with Sister Marcelline Koch, OP during the 2017 Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network's team retreat. In the background, Sister Mary Jean Traeger talks with team members Larry Golden and Alicia Shapinsky.*

As the pandemic drags on, Dominican sisters and associates, like many people, have looked for ways to respond to God's call to deeper love and service. There's a phrase from a prayer which has become a mantra for many of our sisters: *Transform us to listen deeply to one another and to the brokenness of the world.*

When the coronavirus inserted itself into the lives of sisters serving in Rantoul, Ill., they received the precautions of the lockdown with care and with some anxiety as they worked to keep everyone safe. Gradually an inner whisper awakened the sisters and parishioners to a new sense of loneliness: triumphs and failures, loss of loved ones and their grieving, isolation and fear.

The sisters who visited parishioners began their phone calls with deep listening to what God revealed. For those they called, being able to share their stories became life-giving. One

grieving teacher whose husband died during the pandemic found healing in moving home with a full-time caregiver. A man who is unable to visit his wife in a memory care home embraced the healing presence of a kind parishioner who accompanied him to Mass.

Another healing grace has developed in Springfield where mutual assistance is demonstrated in the mantra: *How are you doing? What do you need? How can I help?*

For years, sisters and allies in Springfield have reached out to families new to the area. Neighbors companioned neighbors to doctors' appointments and provided translation services for those who needed it.

When the pandemic struck, it brought new challenges. With flexibility and generosity, the circle of neighborly assistance expanded. Now at least three different groups provide food and basic necessities for anyone

in need. SIAN (Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network) developed a process for volunteers to share food, clothing, and resources while maintaining COVID-19 precautions.

Another group, Hispanic Women of Springfield, had as their founding purpose to share Hispanic culture and education in the area. Now they have expanded their service to assist as needed, sharing resources, time, skills, energy, and many kindnesses.

Parishioners from a local church express their faith by sharing prayer, gathering for periodic meals, and offering storage space, transportation, and other accommodations.

Whether in Rantoul or Springfield, people have developed a collaborative, welcoming spirit that is open to doing whatever is needed.

*Sister Sara lives at St. Malachy Parish, Rantoul and Sister Mary Jean lives at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield. They are both members of the JUST Words Editorial Board.*



# ASSOCIATE CLASS OF 2020 MAKES COMMITMENT UNDER “COVID RULES”

by Jim and Jo Powers



*Jim and Jo Powers hold hands during the associate commitment ceremony held in August.  
Inset: Jim reads his commitment statement with his sponsor, Sister Margaret Therese Hebert, OP, at his side.*

Commitment Day dawned like Graduation. We'd spent so much time listening to God, praying to Him and asking Him to "thunk us" on the head to show us the direction He was asking us to go, and now...this was it. We still hadn't heard from Him and hadn't heard that call we were hoping for. Were our listening devices still out of order?

Then, we arrived at Sacred Heart Convent, and donned our COVID masks.

We sanitized our hands in the lobby of the motherhouse before we were allowed to enter the clean space. (Wow! Wasn't that a literal enactment of the figurative gesture of washing away the outer shell of sin in order to enter the new lives we'd studied for?) Our temperatures were taken to

make sure we were ready to continue. (More symbolism?)

We went to sign our commitment statements, have our pictures taken, and wait for the signal that we were ready to enter the chapel and bear witness of our commitments to our sisters. In our session, the last one of the morning, there were four of us. Two-by-two, we walked down the center aisle, then separated in order to take our labeled seats. (Though we initially walked together, we then each needed to walk our individual path.)

As our names were called, we moved to the microphone with our sponsors. And there, before the community that bore witness, we each removed our mask and exposed our heart, thereby "responding to our baptismal call

and desire to share in the spirit and mission of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois."

After the community's acceptance and blessing, there was so much joy! Such delight! Did it matter that our ceremony was unlike any one previous to it? Looking back upon our year of learning, we understand that God did answer our question regarding direction. We're going in a brand-new direction, one that will be very special, very unique. All we have to do is wash our hands, remain calm, and take off our mask.

*Jim and Jo Powers are parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Chatham, Ill., and members of the 2020 Dominican associate class.*



Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP, prioress general, speaks to the community assembled in “hybrid” mode. Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent were in the meeting room; the rest of the congregation joined remotely.

(continued from page 4)

ever had to face. Words that reject the intrinsic interconnection of clean water, air, soil, food and the flourishing of life.

And yet, we still need more words. We need alternate words, words that herald justice and non-violence, that speak the urgent need for social equality and economic parity, for compassion and for reconciliation. It is vital that we continue speaking that Truth, even as our understanding of that Truth and of its implications continues to evolve. Who we are, what we are, what we say, how we choose to live, reveals a commitment to envision a world where all can flourish and to midwife the birthing of that world.

The world we envision is one that welcomes, supports, and protects all migrants: immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. It is a world that assists in and celebrates their integration. It is a world that protects their human rights.

With such a stance our congregational leadership is able to affirm and respond in all our names to the efforts of others who are also working to bring about the future

We, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Ill., express solidarity with those individuals and families who find it necessary to leave their homes or homeland in order to secure their safety and future.

We commit to welcome, support, and protect all migrants: immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.

We commit to assist in their integration. We advocate for policies that protect their human rights, including family unity.

we all desire. It affirms and supports those of our sisters and associates who are already actively involved in this work. It offers a way for us to put flesh on the words in our *Prayer for the Life of the World*. All of us can study and do our part to advance the right relationship that is at the heart of justice-making.

The more we speak of the world we want to inhabit, the more its reality is possible. If we do not envision it, if we do not speak it, if we do not labor to bring it about, our silence is complicit in the stillbirth.

The process of affirming this new corporate stance, the twelfth since 1994, began earlier this year with a period of communal study by the

sisters on issues facing migrants in the U.S. and around the globe. Immigration issues are complex and are not new to this century. This statement affirms our commitment to continued concern for, ministry to, and advocacy on behalf of immigrants. This is deeply rooted in our own story. Our founding sisters were asked to come to Jacksonville from Kentucky in 1873 to teach the children of Irish immigrants whose opportunity for education was limited.

Springfield Dominican Sisters now work to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants in a multitude of ways. We serve migrants at the Dominican Literacy Centers in Aurora and Melrose Park, Ill., and at

(continued on page 12)



que afrontar nuestra especie. Palabras rechazan la interconexión intrínseca de agua limpia, aire, suelo, alimentos y el florecimiento de la vida.

Sin embargo, todavía necesitamos palabras. Necesitamos palabras alternativas, palabras que anuncien justicia y no violencia, que expresen la urgente necesidad de igualdad social y paridad económica, compasión y reconciliación. Es vital que continuemos hablando de esta Verdad, a medida que nuestro entendimiento de esta Verdad y de sus implicaciones continúa evolucionando. Quiénes somos, qué somos, qué decimos, cómo elegimos vivir, el compromiso de imaginar un mundo en el que todos puedan prosperar y hacer lo posible para contribuir a hacer nacer un mundo nuevo.

El mundo que imaginamos da la bienvenida, apoya y protege a migrantes: inmigrantes, refugiados/as, quienes solicitan asilo y desplazados/as

internas. Es un mundo que ayuda y celebra su integración. Es un mundo que protege sus derechos humanos.

Con tal postura, nuestro liderazgo congregacional puede afirmar y responder en nombre nuestro a los esfuerzos de otras entidades que también están trabajando para lograr el futuro que todos deseamos. La postura afirma y apoya a nuestras hermanas y asociados/as que ya están activamente involucradas en este trabajo. Nos ofrece una manera de encarnar las palabras de nuestra Oración por la Vida del Mundo. Todas podemos estudiar y hacer nuestra parte para promover relaciones justas, que son el corazón de la justicia.

Cuanto más hablamos del mundo que queremos habitar, su realidad se hace más posible. Si no lo imaginamos, si no lo hablamos, si no nos esforzamos por lograrlo, nuestro silencio es cómplice de su muerte antes de que haya nacido.

El proceso de afirmación de esta nueva postura corporativa, la duodécima desde 1994, comenzó a principios de este año con el estudio comunitario de las hermanas sobre los problemas que enfrentan los migrantes en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Los problemas de inmigración son complejos y no son nuevos. Esta declaración afirma nuestro compromiso con la preocupación continua, el

mujeres y niños que buscan asilo o esperan la concesión de sus casos de trata de personas.

Las hermanas que participan en el ministerio parroquial a menudo sirven a inmigrantes en las parroquias, y migrantes asisten a las tres escuelas secundarias patrocinadas por la congregación. Personas migrantes son atendidas por las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield en los centros de consejería en Illinois y están entre quienes que reciben cuidado en los centros de atención médica donde trabajan nuestras hermanas.

En muchos casos, las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield son voluntarias al servicio de inmigrantes,

Nosotras, las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield, IL, expresamos solidaridad con las personas y familias que consideran necesario abandonar sus hogares o su patria para garantizar su seguridad y su futuro.

Nos comprometemos a acoger, apoyar y proteger a todos los y las migrantes: inmigrantes, refugiados/as, personas solicitando asilo y desplazados/as internos/as.

Nos comprometemos a ayudar en su integración. Abogamos por políticas que protejan sus derechos humanos, incluida la unidad familiar.

solicitan de asilo y refugiados/as, y a menudo se las puede encontrar abogando por políticas de inmigración más justas en las entidades del gobierno. En Springfield, muchas hermanas y asociadas están comprometidas

ministerio y la defensa en nombre de las personas migrantes. Esto está profundamente arraigado en nuestra historia congregacional. A nuestras hermanas fundadoras se les pidió ir a Jacksonville desde Kentucky en 1873 para enseñar a hijos e hijas de inmigrantes irlandeses cuyas oportunidades de educación eran limitadas.

Las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield procuran de muchas maneras acoger, proteger, promover e integrar a los y las migrantes. Prestan su servicio en los centros de alfabetización en Aurora y Melrose Park, Illinois, y en Bethany House, un centro de acogida de Chicago para

con el trabajo de Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN), una organización sin fines de lucro totalmente voluntaria que brinda servicios y defensa a inmigrantes en el centro de Illinois.

Para su reflexión y oración continua, visite la página web de los obispos católicos de Estados Unidos Justicia para inmigrantes <https://justiceforimjected.org/>

*Preparado por las miembros del Comité de Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación: Susan Hickman, la Hermana Marcelline Koch y la Hermana Sharon Zayac*



(continued from page 3)

abortion. We can vote for a candidate who promises to make it illegal either through a law or a change on the Supreme Court, but all indications are that [making abortion illegal] is simply not going to happen. Then Catholics are faced with a dilemma. What do I do? I believe this act is morally wrong, but we can't fix it through legal means. I think the answer is to vote for the candidate whom we think, all things considered, is the best for all of us. Then work on specific issues like abortion, to try to persuade people of the truth of our value and our belief. Theologians would say sometimes we have to tolerate inadequacies in the law and work to persuade or change people's minds.

**SMD:** *What happens after the vote? We know that participatory democracy requires more than casting a ballot, as important as that is. What recommendations do you have for Catholics who want to fully engaged their responsibilities as citizens?*

**FCB:** When we as Christians, as Catholics, look at voting and at government, when we talk about the common good, we never fully achieve it in this life. We are moving toward it, but it is always going to remain a promise. Ultimately, the promise of the common good is the reign of



Father Charlie makes his point.

God. That is what we are trying to bring about.

We elect representatives to try to realize the values we hold dear, everything from the value of the sanctity of unborn life to the sanctity of the lives of children and of poor people, and of immigrants. That is all part of the deal. We are not going to get 100% of that from any candidate. So we need to continue to stay involved and to stay informed after the election. We have to understand what values those who differ with us hold, why those values are different, look for what we hold in common, then try to work toward that, especially by persuasion and by writing to our representatives and elected officials and letting them know whether we

think this is a good proposal or not.

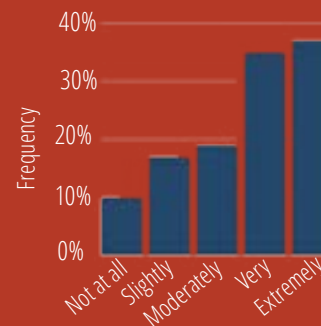
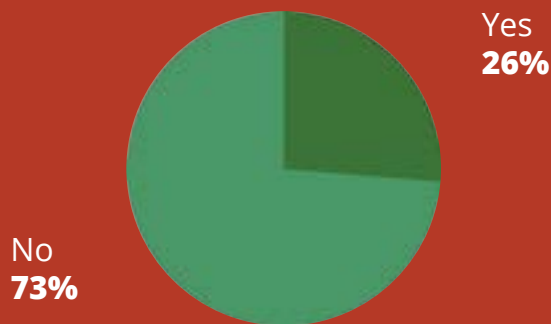
The common good is not a spectator sport! We all have to be involved and working toward it. The church often gets reduced by society to the single issue of abortion. The common good has to include far more than that. All of these values we hold have to find a place in our political program.

**SBM:** *Thank you for this wonderful resource for voting Catholics, Father Charlie. The resources we talked about today will all be linked to our website, <https://springfieldop.org/discern-your-vote>. Readers are encouraged to visit our website for a video of our conversation. There they will find additional resources as they move forward in discerning their vote for November 3.*



# Can we agree on basic facts?

“Before you share news stories you found on social media, do you care if the news is accurate?”



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted by Pew Research Center in early September 2019.

Source: Understanding and reducing the spread of misinformation online, early November 2019, Hill/Levene Schools of Business, University of Regina; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Media Lab, Sloan School of Management, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

## Is it possible to fix a polarized nation?

In a word: Yes.

In his interview with *JUST Words* editorial board members, Father Charlie Bouchard named one way forward for our polarized nation: find common ground. “We have to understand what values those who differ with us hold, why those values are different, look for what we hold in common, then try to work toward that,” he said.

Yet, social science research tells us three-quarters of Americans don’t believe it’s possible to agree on basic facts and fully one-third of Americans don’t much care whether the messages they amplify by posting and sharing are even true.

According to the authors of *Understanding and Reducing the Spread of Misinformation Online*; and polling from Pew Research Center, low media literacy and critical thinking skills contribute significantly to the problem.

## What’s the fix?

It is possible—and necessary—to learn how to “read” the media—to become media literate. Here are some sources for your consideration.

**On the Media.** This NPR podcast is an excellent way to learn how the media shapes our worldview.

**Pauline Media.** Visit <http://media.pauline.org/> to subscribe to the Daughters of St. Paul media spirituality blog or take a short course in media literacy.

**Digital Citizenship Institute.** <http://www.digcitinstitute.com/> If you are a teacher, or teaching at home, oodles of resources for helping your children (and yourself).

Becoming savvy media users and consumers is an important step on the road back to effective civil discourse, finding common ground, and working together for the common good.



## Resources for the 2020 US Elections

Visit our website for the video of Father Charlie Bouchard’s interview and for more resources to assist you in discerning your vote: civic engagement and voter reflection guides, voter information, how to protect the vote, voter pledges, and more.

<https://springfieldop.org/discern-your-vote/>



Masked Sisters during General Assembly 2020

(continued from page 8)

Bethany House, a Chicago shelter for women and children seeking asylum or awaiting adjudication of their human trafficking cases.

Sisters engaged in parish ministry often serve migrants in those parishes, and migrants attend the congregation's three sponsored high schools. Migrants are served by Springfield Dominican Sisters at counseling centers in Illinois and are among those cared for in health care facilities where our sisters work.

In many instances, Springfield Dominican Sisters volunteer time in service of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and can often be found advocating for more just immigration policies in the seats of government. In Springfield, many sisters and associates are engaged with the work of the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN), an all-volunteer non-profit that provides service and advocacy for immigrants in central Illinois.

For your ongoing reflection and prayer, please visit the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Justice for Immigrants website <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/>.

*Prepared by Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee Members: Susan Hickman, Sister Marcelline Koch, and Sister Sharon Zayac.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*Please pray with us for our sisters and associates, and Dominican nuns who have died.*

Sister Maria Eck, OP • July 2, 2020

Sister M. Diana Doyle, OP • July 19, 2020

Marilyn Missel, Associate • July 28, 2020

Rosalie McLaughlin, Prayer Associate • August 14, 2020

Sister M. Jeanine McGinley, OP • August 17, 2020

Sister M. Anton Uthe, OP • August 17, 2020

Leroy Jordan, Associate • September 5, 2020

Rose Moore, Associate • September 12, 2020

Sister M. Regina Berkel, OP (Monastery of Mary the Queen) • September 14, 2020

Marie Guagliardo, Prayer Associate • September 16, 2020

Kim Howard, Associate • September 28, 2020

Sister Margaret Therese Hebert, OP • October 6, 2020



# Congrats!



## Spiritual Direction

Sister Catherine Stewart (second from left) completed a course in spiritual direction through Centerquest, an ecumenical program based in Pasadena, Calif. Her program was a hybrid approach to learning, including occasional in-person gatherings and online learning over a 15-month time frame. A virtual graduation ceremony was held September 3. “I am grateful to have the opportunity as a spiritual director to companion others in their spiritual journey and look forward to helping others deepen their relationships with God, others, and self,” she said. Sister Catherine is currently principal of Father McCartan Memorial School, Brookfield, Mo. Congratulations!

---

## Online Ministry

Sister Denise Glazik and Sister Elyse Marie Ramirez have collaborated for a [springfieldop.org](http://springfieldop.org) first: a well-received, online, 3-day mini-retreat called *Listen. See. Respond.* The retreat incorporates video messages from Sister Denise, online music videos, and encouragement to pray, journal, and ponder at your own pace and on your own schedule. “This retreat was perfect!” said Springfield Dominican associate Mary Kay Bolser. You can access the retreat and enjoy it yourself at [springfieldop.org/listen\\_see\\_respond](http://springfieldop.org/listen_see_respond).



## Help for Oglala

Sister Barbara Ann Bogenschutz was one of three Catholic Sisters in Western South Dakota to receive a \$1,000 grant through Catholic Extension’s *Sisters on the Frontlines Program*. The money is meant to respond to the immediate needs of communities impacted by COVID-19. With the funds she was able to purchase cleaning supplies for 20 families who otherwise would have had no defense against the virus in their homes. Blessings on your ministry, Sister Barbara Ann!





# STANDING ON THE ROCK OF HOPE: A LOOK BACK AT 20 YEARS OF *JUST WORDS*

In this sometimes-disorienting era, it can help to recall the stuff of life that keeps us focused and grounded. Here we share some of those grounding, hope-filled gems from past editions *JUST Words* during our 20th anniversary year.

A big thanks to *JUST Words* editorial board members John Freml and Sister Mary Jean Traeger who curated this list for us. Connect to the stories at [springfieldop.org/vintage-just-words](https://springfieldop.org/vintage-just-words).

## In the Struggle: Faithful to God's Mission

- *Dismantling Racism: Challenge and Success* | Vol. 7, No. 2, Spring 2007
- *Hope and Anti-Racism* | Vol. 10, No. 2, Spring 2010
- *How to be a Disciple: Relationship and Community Organizing* | Vol. 16, No. 1, Winter 2015-2016
- *Exploring My Privilege* | Vol. 17, No. 3, Fall 2017
- *God Willing: The Power of Faithful Service in Iraq* | Vol. 17, No. 1, Winter 2016-2017
- *Renovacion de Votos: Hermana Doris Terrel* | Vol. 13, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2013
- *Dominican Sister Kelly Moline Professes Vows during 800th Anniversary Year of the Order of Preachers* | Vol. 16, No. 3, Fall 2016

## Leading, Praying, Serving

- *At M.E.R.C.Y. in the Year of Mercy* | Vol. 16, No. 2, Spring 2016
- *Sowing Seeds of Wellness at Jubilee Farms* | Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 2015
- *New Corporate Stance: Consistent Ethic of Life* | Vol. 14, No. 1, Winter 2014
- *Prayer Associate Doris Drago Celebrates 50 Years of Novenas* | Vol. 7, No. 3, Summer 2007
- *Healing the Homebound* | Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring 2008.

## Being Dominican Family

- *Girls Share Faith, Friendship and Fun at Dominican Faith Camp* | No. 3, Summer 2011
- *Creating Synergy the Dominican Way* | Vol. 12, No. 1, Winter 2012
- *The Dispersal of the Brethren* | Vol. 9, No. 2, Spring 2009
- *Energizing Enriching Assembly* | Vol. 12, No. 3, Fall 2012
- *Sister Santina as Catherine, Catherine of Siena* | Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 2008
- *Sisters Make a Difference in Iraqi Resettlement* | Vol. 8, No. 4, Fall 2008

---

 Read all the stories here: <https://springfieldop.org/vintage-just-words>

---



# PARTNERS *In Mission*

## THE DELICIOUS PLEASURE OF SHARING: **TOM AND MARY LOU ZARLENGO**



“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Luke 6:38



**H**ave you ever jumped in with both feet and questioned your choice later? That's how it was for Tom and Mary Lou Zarlengo when they started Zarlengo's Italian Ice & Gelato 30 years ago. Today it's one of Chicagoland's best-known ice cream shops. Back then it was just a shared family dream.

“We had no previous experience with the culinary business and had to learn from the college of hard knocks,” Tom recalled “We had a lot of failures and the quality Italian ice and gelato we wanted required ever more funding.”

He vividly recalls the tipping point between failure and success. The ice cream shop took increasing time away from his work at the family asphalt business. Over a fast-food sandwich with Mary Lou one day, he recognized the need to step away from the asphalt company to focus on his dream. “In my heart,

I knew we'd make it,” he said. “I wanted to provide a good product for our guests—something that would help them feel better and give them a little joy.”

Tom knows he's blessed: with stamina and endurance, with a family of co-workers committed to positive energy and great customer service, with a desire to help others in need.

And he knows blessings shared often return in abundance.

When Tom thinks about all the people who've helped him in his times of need, it's easy to see how he can help others. “It's embedded in my heart. There's a need there and I know it would be a good thing for me to help out,” he said.

*Blessings shaken together, pressed down and running over.*

Tom and Mary Lou's generous sharing includes a monthly gift to the Dominican Sisters, who are grateful for this, and for one

other thing: The delicious pleasure of sharing the corner of Joe Orr Rd. and Ashland Avenue: home to Marian Catholic High School and Zarlengo's Italian Ice & Gelato.

Thank you to all our Partners in Mission who share your blessings with us! You have our prayerful support for all your endeavors!



*Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP  
Director of Mission Advancement*



Sacred Heart Convent  
1237 West Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62704-1680

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
Paid  
Springfield IL  
Permit No. 414

Address Service Requested



## Dominican Sources

*“Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don’t look at your weakness. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything.”*

**St. Catherine of Siena**

## DATEBOOK

### November

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1-17  | National Vocation Awareness Week*           |
| 1     | All Saints’ Day                             |
| 2     | All Souls Day                               |
| 3     | Election Day, Feast of St. Martin de Porres |
| 8     | Associate Formation: Dominican Spirituality |
| 11    | Veterans Day, Feast of St. Martin of Tours  |
| 13-14 | Antiracism Team Meeting (SDART)             |
| 26    | Thanksgiving                                |
| 29    | First Sunday of Advent                      |

### December

- |    |   |
|----|---|
|    | Dominican Month for Peace: Ukraine      |
| 6  | Associate Formation: Mission & Ministry |
| 8  | Feast of the Immaculate Conception      |
| 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe          |
| 21 | Winter Solstice                         |
| 25 | Christmas Day                           |
| 25 | New Year’s Eve                          |

\*Visit <https://c4wr.org/meet-our-sisters/> for a calendar of virtual events.