

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*

Summer 2019

Vol. 19, No. 2

A Prayer for the Life of the World

Holy Mystery, ever ancient, ever new,
we, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, come before You,
aware of our interconnectedness in the cosmos,
and in solidarity with the *rostros concretos* of the marginalized.

We come with deep gratitude for our common call.
Draw us into communion with You and all creation.
Living with intentional awareness and openness to change,
we seek to expand the expression of our vows,
inviting others to walk with us in sharing our charism.
Free our hearts to recognize and attend to Christ in hidden and unexpected places.

We renounce our participation in the sin of racism
and reject the societal barriers created by the misuse of power.
Through our contemplation, transform us to listen deeply to one another
and to the brokenness of the world.
Bless our efforts to be the holy preaching.

Christ, You are expansive.
We journey in that truth, offering our *testimonio de vida*.

AMEN.



Years ago, on a trip to Bethlehem, I purchased a wooden spoon carved from olive wood. I bought it as a reminder of a rich conversation I had a few days earlier over lunch in the Sinai with a Franciscan friar from the US and a laywoman from Africa.

We talked about the impact of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives and that sometimes that Spirit remains dormant within us unless it is consciously stirred up through shared prayer and dialogue with others. That very dynamic of "stirring" happened at our General Chapter last April. After five days of exploring and integrating our identity, mission, and relationships, attentive to God's Spirit as Energy, we Dominicans of Springfield created and unanimously approved *A Prayer for the Life of the World*. This prayer, which you see on the cover, effectively positions us for the next five years as, together, we walk into the future we share with the world we love. This issue of *JUST Words* provides some early reflections on the significance of this prayer and our Chapter.

Sister Barbara Blesse, OP, has just completed her term as vicarress general of the Dominican Sisters and her membership on the JUST Words editorial board.



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

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ministry of the Dominican
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CELEBRATING THE 2019 JUBILARIANS

Every year about this time we honor and celebrate with our sisters who observe milestone profession anniversaries of 25, 50, 60—and yes, sometimes even 75 years of consecrated life. This year we celebrate with our sisters celebrating 50 or 60 year anniversaries.

50



Sister Rose Marie
Riley, OP

50



Sister Mary Frances
Gorman, OP

60



Sister Mary Georgiana
Stubner, OP

60



Sister Mary Stanley
Karnosky, OP

60



Sister Mary Francella
Vyverman, OP

60



Sister Catherine
Anne Yager, OP

60



Sister Margaret
Ann Cox, OP

60



Sister Agnes Ann
Pisel, OP

Get to know the jubilarians
and leave them your greetings
at springfieldop.org/jubilee.

MEET THE NEW LI

These sisters have accepted the responsibility of animating our congregational



Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
Priorress General

Sister Rebecca Ann has been in a ministry of congregational leadership since 2005 when she was elected to the general council. She served two terms as a council member before being elected priorress general in 2014. A native of Van Nuys, California, Sister Rebecca Ann made profession of vows in 1984 and ministered in elementary education as a teacher and a principal before becoming a licensed social worker. She worked in Springfield for the Rape Information Counseling Service and as a social worker at the Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora, Ill.



Sister Rose Miriam Schulte, OP
Vicaress

Sister Rose Miriam is returning to congregational leadership, now as vicaress of the Springfield Dominicans. The Quincy, Ill., native had a long career in elementary education and administration before her election as priorress general of the congregation in 1989. She served two terms in leadership which ended in 1997, then completed a dual master's degree in pastoral studies and counseling at Loyola University, New Orleans. For the past 19 years she has ministered as a child and family therapist in Madison County, Ill. She made her profession of vows in 1962.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

response to the General Chapter. Congratulations and thank you for your service!



Sister Mila Diaz Solano, OP
Second Councilor

Sister Mila, a native of La Oroya, Peru, made profession in 1998 and is nearing completion of her doctoral studies in Old Testament at the École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem, a biblical studies and archeological institute in Jerusalem. She has worked in pastoral ministry in Lima and completed a Master of Theology in theological research at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Before coming to the U.S. for her new ministry she lived in Lima where she taught scripture at ISET, a graduate school of theology, and ministered at Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas, a Christian human development organization founded by Dominican theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez.



Sister Marie Michelle Hackett, OP
Third Councilor

Sister Marie Michelle, is a veteran educator, having just completed 28 years of administration at St. Edward School, Chicago. She was serving as a consultant to parochial school administrators in the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Catholic Education when elected to leadership. The Chicago native holds multiple degrees and certificates in education, including a master's in nonpublic education administration from the University of Illinois. She is deeply engaged with collaborative projects within the U.S. Dominican Family. She made her profession of vows in 1964.

VOICES FROM CHAPTER

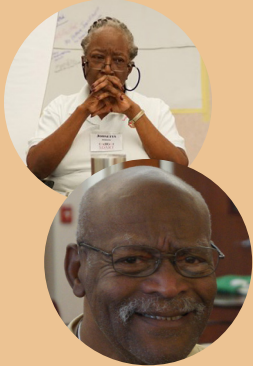


Cheri & Ron Fafoglia: Family Reunion

Recently we were able to assist the Dominican Sisters at their General Chapter. At this meeting, we witnessed sisters reuniting after long separations, renewing acquaintances with one another and also with us. In the truest sense, it was like participating in a family reunion. As we understand, it is the first time that lay persons have had this privilege.

We have been blessed to be Dominican Associates since 1997 and in those years have participated in some of the different activities of this group. We feel truly blessed to have been a part of the Sisters' General Chapter. We look forward to serving at other Dominican events.

The Fafoglias live in Springfield.



Johnetta & Leroy Jordan: Looking for Answers

When we were invited to attend the Springfield Dominican General Chapter, our first thought was that we could find answers to questions that we often ponder when we think about the effectiveness of the Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team (SDART).

As members of SDART we often wonder if our efforts to help the Springfield Dominicans become an anti-racist institution were accomplishing anything or if our work was effective. Are we reaching all the Springfield Dominicans and their sponsored institutions, or are we only having an impact on the Springfield Dominicans who are members of SDART? Are we preaching to the choir?

After sitting at a table of Dominican Sisters, some we knew but most we didn't, we are beginning to think our efforts are not in vain. The conversations at our tables, as well as the conversations at other tables, have convinced us that while the progress may be slow—we were told in the beginning that the process could take 20 years or more—the Springfield Dominicans and their sponsored institutions will become anti-racist. After all, they are doing God's work.

The Jordans are Springfield Dominican Associates, founding members of SDART, and longtime advocates of social and racial justice.



Anne Hilofsky: Transforming Power

"Through our contemplation, transform us to listen deeply to one another and to the brokenness of the world." From A Prayer for the Life of the World

The focus of day two of General Chapter was to "deepen our understanding of the perpetuating nature of 'power differences' among people." We were asked to imagine the power dynamic as a box within a box; those with power live in the inside box and all others live outside. Those with the power make rules for all, decide who is taxed, at what rate, what interest rates are paid for borrowing, and even who can shop where. Do you think this sounds fair? My father loved to ask me, "Who told you life was fair?" I suggest it should be. For more information search borderlands and antiracism!

Anne is a Springfield Dominican associate and member of the community's justice committee. She served as secretary to the General Chapter. She lives in Springfield.



Sister Sara Koch, OP: Touching the *Rostros Concretos* of the World

Walking into the Chapter room of 2019, my heart carried many hopes for the world—a world that seems to be tattered and unraveling at the seams. My hopes were not dashed as I witnessed deep prayer and grappling with old patterns of behavior to design new patterns that will deepen our mission. We identified what we believe is the chief reason of our unraveling world: misuse of power. Disrespect, inequality, and injustice cry out from every corner of the earth. Certainly, our Dominican vows will expand so we can touch the rostros concretos of the world. The voices of our presenters and panelists who shared their insights to provide us with direction were invaluable. After hours of pouring over shared knowledge and discussions, my hopes were confirmed, when A Prayer for the Life of the World was unanimously affirmed. The Spirit, so evident during Chapter 2019, will continue to breathe on us as we live our testimonio de vida.

Sister Sara is a prayer companion and mentor of parish life at Saint Malachy Parish, Rantoul, Ill.



Sister Joanne Delehanty, OP: A Good Beginning

We must widen our reality, and how we stand in it. Our future is made by walking into it together. Committing to ongoing and challenging conversations is essential. A good beginning came of our time together. There was undeniable investment of people in this effort. Communion among us was a fact. Hope was close to our hearts and calls us forward. Realizing that we must be about recognizing God present in creation, relationships, and service, we must live what we claim with deliberate openness and the hope entrusted to us by God. Then our praise will be authentic.

Sister Joanne is a pastoral minister at St. Benedict the African Parish, Chicago.



Bob Blackwell: Sacred & Joyful

The experience of the Dominicans' Chapter, my first, proved to be both sacred and joyful. In a personal life committed to peace and social justice I take spiritual and civil refuge in the inclusion of antiracism as an expression of the Gospel by these women in their governance and evolving praxis.

I do not take for granted the privilege or importance of being invited into one of the most important moments in the life of this Dominican congregation. Being in "right relationship" with these mighty Women of God imbues my soul, our community and our world.

Bob is a Dominican Associate and member of the Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team. He directs the Office of Racial Equity Practice for the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services.



Douglas King: Where We've Trod

Wednesday, April 24th, was a very special day for me. I was asked by my Springfield Dominican family to attend and participate in a day of prayer and discussion of two of the community's ministry goals, caring for Mother Earth and becoming an antiracist organization. As I reflect back on that experience, it was awesome in many ways—too many to write about in 100 words or less.

The prayer for caring for GOD's creation, the Earth, has stayed with me emotionally. I read it often. Sister Mary Jean Traeger's and Kelly Hurst's Center/Borderlands power analysis caused me to think about the places I've trod without being aware of the boundaries. Thank you my Dominican Family.

Doug is a member of the Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team and community activist.



EXPERIENCE ON THE WAY

by Sister Elizabeth Castro Cruz, OP

Each Chapter is an experience of the path we walk as a congregation of Dominicans of Springfield, known here in Peru as Dominicans of the Sacred Heart. Seeing and reading the words in Spanish written in our Chapter-direction-as-Prayer shows how we continue to commit ourselves to the mission of Jesus that invites us to “go and share the Good News.”

Jesus, as a man of his time, was very courageous in facing the *rostros concretos* of his reality in women, children, the blind, the invalid, the hemorrhaging woman, the paralytic, the tax collectors, the temple-made-market, the Pharisees. For them, Jesus

gave his life without fear of criticism. Persecution, abandonment, and denial were risks that Jesus assumed by his choice to live for these *rostros concretos*.

He could only recognize each one of them because he was attentive to his reality and unafraid to listen, observe, share, and recognize with neither glossing over nor prejudice.

What do we see in our reality? What are the *rostros concretos* we face? What risk do we take for them?

The other phrase that unites us as an integral community is *testimonio de vida*. We can give witness with our lives because we trust in God. Our *testimonio de vida* becomes real

when we witness what is happening around us and allow it to shake us into making known our significant experience. If an experience has truly been meaningful, it cannot remain hidden or private; to keep it secret and not want to share such lived experience would be very mean and a sign that one does not trust in God.

Being a witness to life requires us to be truthful. Such authenticity offers credibility to our sharing, and the passion that accompanies it awakens interest on the part of those who will listen, observe, share or live with you.

To be a witness to life and not to death is to speak the word of the Living God, not of Death. It is the
(continued on p.13)



General Chapter 2019

EXPERIENCIA DE CAMINO

por Hermana Elizabeth Castro Cruz, OP

Cada Capitulo es una experiencia del camino que recorremos como congregación de “Dominicas de Springfield” aquí en Perú como “Dominicas del Sagrado Corazón”, el ver y leer las palabras en español escritas en nuestra dirección hecha Oración, es muestra como seguimos apostando con la misión de Jesús que nos invita diciéndonos “Vayan y lleven la Buena Nueva”.

Jesús fue un hombre de su tiempo, fue muy valiente al mirar los rostros concretos de su realidad en la mujer, los niños, el ciego, el invalido, la mujer hemorroísa, el paralitico, los cobradores de impuestos, el templo

hecho mercado, a los fariseos; rostros concretos que Jesús asumió con su vida, sin temor hacer criticado, perseguido, abandonado, negado, fue el riesgo que corrió Jesús por su opción por estos rostros concretos.

Solo pudo reconocer a cada uno de ellos porque estaba atento a su realidad no tuvo temor de escuchar, observar, compartir y reconocer sin maquillajes ni prejuicios.

¿Cuál es nuestra realidad?, ¿Cuáles son los rostros concretos que asumimos?, ¿Qué riesgo corremos por ellos?

La otra frase que nos une como comunidad integral es Testimonio de Vida, se puede dar testimonio de vida

porque se confía en Dios, testimonio que se puede hacer real cuando eres testigo de lo que pasa a tu alrededor y tienes la inquietud de dar a conocer tu experiencia que ha sido significativa. Si verdaderamente ha sido significativa no puede quedarse para ti, si esto pasara seria mezquino no querer compartir tu experiencia vivida y se estaría demostrando que no se confía en Dios.

Ser testimonio de vida nos exige ser veraces, cuando eres veraz es creíble lo que compartes o quieres dar a conocer; también la pasión despierta interés por tu testimonio a quienes te escuchan, observan, comparten o viven contigo.

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FIVE SMALL WORDS, TWO LIFE LONG CHALLENGES

By Sister Beverly Jeanne Howe, OP



Images of the rostros concretos shared in the General Chapter.

An intense week of listening, prayer, reflection, and conversation culminated in the creation of *A Prayer for the Life of the World*, which was unanimously affirmed by the community assembled in General Chapter. This prayer, grounded in our congregational prayer and ministry, voiced anew our present anticipation and future congregational direction. Within it, we affirmed our faith in Holy Mystery, our interconnectedness with all creation, and our desire to renounce racism and all that separates us from one another and from Christ, “hidden in unexpected places.”

Also entwined within the prayer, one finds two Spanish phrases, *rostros concretos* (the concrete, real faces of people and creation marginalized by the misuse of power) and *testimonio*

de vida (the witness of our lives). Why now include these Spanish phrases? What do these actually mean within the context of the North American sisters’ experience? As one among many, I invited several North American sisters to share their reaction to the inclusion of these Spanish phrases.

The sisters with whom I spoke affirmed the inclusion of these Spanish phrases. They understood them not simply as a symbolic gesture, but as an expression of the essence of who we are as an international congregation united in prayer and ministry. Some of the sisters mentioned that the translation of words from another language may diminish the essence of meaning in their original language, and that, as an international congregation, it

was especially necessary to express the depth and breadth of meaning in *A Prayer for the Life of the World* as it guides us into the future. The use of these Spanish phrases in the prayer calls us to be united—North American and South American together—and to see the icon of Christ in our suffering brothers and sisters. That same Christ, whom we see in immigrants and others who are marginalized in society and in all of Creation, now beckons us—as blessing and service—to see the sacred faces of God hidden among us.

The participating sisters recognized that these Spanish words are but five words among many, yet they challenge us to see complex realities facing the hidden Christ, and to witness what we believe together.

Sister Beverly Jeanne is administrative assistant at the Dominican Literacy Center, Melrose Park, Ill.

CINCO PEQUEÑAS PALABRAS, DOS DESAFÍOS PARA TODA LA VIDA

por Sister Beverly Jeanne Howe, OP



Hermana Mila Díaz Solano y la hermana Karen Freund presentan una Oración por la Vida del Mundo al Capítulo general en abril.

Una semana intensa de escucha, oración, reflexión y conversación culminó con la creación de Una Oración por la Vida del Mundo, que fue unánimemente afirmada por la comunidad reunida en el capítulo general. Esta oración, fundamentada en nuestra oración y ministerio congregacional, expresa nuevamente nuestra anticipación actual y nuestra futura dirección congregacional. Dentro de ella, afirmamos nuestra fe en el Santo Misterio, nuestra interconexión con toda la creación, y nuestro deseo de renunciar al racismo y todo lo que nos separa unos de otros y de Cristo “escondido en lugares inesperados”.

Entrelazadas dentro de la oración, se encuentran dos frases en español, rostros concretos (refiriéndose a los rostros concretos y reales de las personas y la creación marginadas

por el mal uso del poder) y el testimonio de vida. ¿Por qué incluir estas frases en español? ¿Qué significa en el contexto de la experiencia de las hermanas norteamericanas? Como una entre muchas, invité a varias hermanas norteamericanas a compartir su reacción a la inclusión de estas frases en español.

Las hermanas con las que hablé afirmaron la inclusión de estas frases en español. Las entienden no solo como un gesto simbólico, sino como una expresión de la esencia de lo que somos como una congregación internacional unida en oración y ministerio. Mencionaron que la traducción de palabras de otro idioma puede disminuir la esencia del significado en su idioma original, y que, como congregación internacional, es especialmente necesario expresar la profundidad

y amplitud del significado en Una Oración por la Vida del Mundo que nos guía hacia el futuro. El uso de estas frases en español en la oración nos llama a unirnos (como norteamericanas y peruanas) y a ver el ícono de Cristo en nuestros hermanos y hermanas que sufren. Ese mismo Cristo—a quien vemos en los y las inmigrantes y otros rostros marginados en la sociedad y en toda la Creación—ahora nos llama, como bendición y servicio, a ver los rostros sagrados de Dios escondidos entre nosotras.

Las hermanas con quienes hablé reconocen que estas palabras en español son solo cinco palabras entre muchas, pero nos desafían a ver realidades complejas que enfrentan al Cristo oculto, y a dar testimonio con nuestras vidas de lo que creemos juntos.

Hermana Beverly Jeanne es asistente administrativa en el Dominican Literacy Center, Melrose Park, Illinois.

2019 ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT CLASS



Row 1: Kathy Roe, Sister M. Samuella Volk, Dave Sanders, Sister Judith Pfile, Sister Martha Carmody, Marian Jenkins, Sister Regina Marie Bernet, Kara Rapacz **Row 2:** Joan Anderson (sponsor), Sister Patricia Stark, Jen Bettis, Sister M. Joan Sorge, Pam McGhiey, Sister Teresa Marron, Judy Baab-Troxell, Madonna Berry (sponsor), Patty Fitzpatrick (sponsor) **Row 3:** Blanca Farris, Norinne Pulec, Dennis Iggins, Shirley Morris (sponsor), Sister Katherine O'Connor, Sister Barbara Blesse, Kathy Turner **Row 4:** Joann Lenn, Sister M. Corde Lenn, Rose Lenn, Sister Loyola Miller, Jen Graves, Ralph Metz, Teresa Tierney, Maurice Tierney.

Sixteen women and men made their formal commitment as associates of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield during a ceremony at Sacred Heart Convent on May 5, 2019. One more member of the class, Mary Kay Bolser, made her commitment on June 2.

"This class of associates is alive with the Spirit and eager to walk with our Dominican Sisters in preaching the gospel with their lives," said Sister M. Joan Sorge, associate program director. "Their willingness to share their gifts reflects God's loving and risen presence in our world."

Referencing John's gospel

resurrection story about the risen Christ appearing to the apostles after a failed night of fishing, Sister Kathleen Gallagher, an outgoing member of the sisters' leadership team, invited the new associates to think about the meaning of Jesus' request to cast nets on the other side of the boat. She said, "When Jesus calls the disciples to cast their net over the right side of the boat, he tells them, 'You will find something.'" What the associates find may be "New inspirations, new friends, new graces to go on if troubles haunt you, new paths drawing you closer to your God."

The associates are increasingly active in collaboration with the sisters. Three members of this year's class work in ministries sponsored by the sisters. Three are related to one of the sisters; others have been taught by them or are active in parishes where the sisters minister. Associates need not be Catholic, but it is important that they be baptized in a Christian tradition and already actively living their faith. Learn more about the 2019 associate class and their commitments at www.springfieldop.org/join-us/dominican-associates.



(continued from page 10)

life that we discover in ourselves with those with whom we share life, with whom we work—whenever we feel our hearts burning within us and come back to tell others what we have experienced.

Am I a testimony of life or death? Is my *testimonio de vida* true? How much passion do I put in my *testimonio de vida*? Do I share or keep my life experiences hidden within?

Our Chapter was a time to experience the *testimonio de vida* of my sisters and look together at our *rostros concretos*.

Amen.

Sister Elizabeth Castro Cruz is a pastoral leader in Jarpa, Peru, and responsible for communications at the vicariate level in the diocese of Huancayo.

About the photo: Sister Elizabeth Castro Cruz, right, and Sister Maria Luisa Ñaupari Guttiérrez, left, enjoy a visit with Sister Janet Guretz, who served with them in Peru for many years. Sisters Maria and Elizabeth are missioned to the Andean outpost of Jarpa, where they serve as pastoral leaders.

(continuado de la pagina10)

Ser testimonio de vida y no de muerte es como nos dice la palabra de un Dios Vivo y no de muertos, la vida que encontramos en nosotras mismas con los que compartimos y vivimos, con quienes trabajamos, es cuando sientes el ardor en tu corazón y vuelves para contarlo.

¿Soy testimonio de vida o de muerte?, ¿Mi testimonio de vida es veraz?, ¿Cuanta pasión pongo en mi testimonio de Vida? ¿Comparto o me quedo con mis experiencias de vida?

Nuestro capitulo fue un tiempo de experimentar el testimonio de mis hermanas y mirarnos nuestros rostros concretos.

Amen.

Hermana Elizabeth Castro Cruz es líder pastoral en Jarpa, Perú, y responsable de las comunicaciones a nivel de vicariato en la diócesis de Huancayo.

IN MEMORIAM

Please join us in prayer for these sisters and associates who have died:

Sister M. Dolorita Brown, OP • January 23, 2019
 Sister Philip Neri Crawford, OP • February 26, 2019
 Sister M. Megan Farrelly, OP • March 3, 2019
 Mary Ellen English, Associate • March 11, 2019
 Sister M. Paulita Philippe, OP • March 16, 2019
 Nancy Rioux, Prayer Associate • March 29, 2019
 Sister Margaret Joanne Grueter, OP • April 1, 2019
 Sister M. Brendan Gibbons, OP • April 9, 2019
 Sister Mary Alan Russell, OP • May 2, 2019
 Classie Murray, Prayer Associate • May 10, 2019
 Sister M. Martina Finn, OP • June 9, 2019
 Sister M. Lawrence Green, OP • June 18, 2019

WHAT IS THE CALL TO LEADERSHIP?

The *JUST Words* editorial board invited the new leadership team to reflect on their roles and responsibilities as they lead to carry out the will of the General Chapter, the highest governing body of the congregation. These are excerpts; to read their full responses visit www.springfieldop.org/call-to-leadership.

A call to leadership is a response to the movement of the collective. In a religious congregation, leadership is exercised as a contemplative action of mutuality and accountability within a shared decision-making model.

Sister Rose Miriam Schulte, OP



During General Chapter.



Sister Beatriz Vila Alania, far right, and Springfield Dominican associates Celia and Dámaris distribute Christmas gifts to families in Bellavista, Peru.

The call to leadership is deeply expressed by inviting others to use their gifts, providing opportunities for this, and promoting the common good.

Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP



At Jubilee Farm.

Leadership urges me to journey in this service in solidarity with the *rostros concretos* of the marginalized.

Sister Mila Diaz Solano, OP

As a member of the Leadership Team, I will work toward nurturing the graced life of each individual in our community. It is important to recognize the gifts of our sisters by honoring where and how they live their lives For the Life of the World.

Sister Marie Michelle Hackett, OP

Sister Kristin Crawford, OP, a member of the JUST Words editorial board, assisted with this story.

FLETCHER FARRAR TALKS ABOUT HIGH ADVENTURE, OLD HOUSES, AND GIVING

by Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
Director of Mission Advancement

Spirituality and Money? These two concepts don't often rub shoulders. For Fletcher Farrar and his wife, Mary Jessup, however, it's a connection continually made.

Fletcher learned from his parents who were integrally tied to church and community in Mt. Vernon, Ill., where Fletcher Farrar, senior, worked as an oil producer. Frequently the product was a dry hole; at other times a stream of income for the family.

The senior Farrar was grateful when resources were available and treated his money as a tool for Christian stewardship. The Farrars were always willing to help others, knowing the "good life" did not require a lot of resources.

Instilled with these values, the younger Fletcher's interest was piqued by Wisdom and Money, an organization that promotes the spiritual freedom which comes from giving of yourself and your resources.

"Without the high hope of adventure, religion degenerates into a mere appendage of a comfortable life" Fletcher says, quoting philosopher Alfred North Whitehead. Fletcher's "high adventure" is linked to old houses. He loves everything about them: their stories, their architecture, and especially, their revitalization. This passion has filled his life with "high adventure" like providing affordable housing for low income families, encouraging and sustaining the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association's efforts to promote economic and cultural



Fletcher Farrar and his spouse Mary Jessup, a Methodist minister, are generous and active neighbors in Enos Park.

diversity, and supporting the Dominican Sisters' ministry with housing.

The friendship between Fletcher, Mary, and the Dominican Sisters began in 1999 when the sisters asked Fletcher's help finding rental housing in Enos Park, a place we hoped to contribute to the stabilization of the neighborhood. The providential result was the renovation of an historic home built by a member of the prominent Enos family—across the street from the Farrar's home. At first the sisters rented the property, enjoying the home, the friendship with the Farrars it afforded, and contributing to the life of the neighborhood. Influenced

by the sisters' emphasis on prayer and social justice, Fletcher and Mary gave them the house 10 years later. Now another transformative gift from the Farrars is making possible another Enos Park home, and a new ministry for young adult women, *Cor Unum*.

This connection between faith and stewardship of resources has helped the Dominican Sisters transform the Enos Park neighborhood and neighborhoods wherever we are. Thanks is due to Partners in Mission like Fletcher and Mary, and each of you! Without your support the desired impact would not be possible!



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OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Dominican Sources

“We can never forget who we are! We are a dying and rising people continually searching for Jesus, the Living One.”

~ Sister Lori Kirchman, OP
Preaching for the Easter Vigil

DATEBOOK

Events not public unless otherwise noted.

August

- 4 Jubilee Celebration
- 5 Renewal of Vows, Sister Kelly Moline
- 8 Feast of St. Dominic
- 19 Founders Day 146th Anniversary
- 24 Associate and Sisters Day of Renewal and Prayer
- 25 Sacred Heart Convent Chapel Tour*

September

- 8 Feast of the Nativity of Mary
- 20-22 SDART Team Meeting
- 22 Sacred Heart Convent Chapel Tour*

October

- 7 Feast of the Holy Rosary
- 27 Sacred Heart Convent Chapel Tour*

Events not public unless otherwise noted.

**Public events. Call 217-787-0481 or visit springfieldop.org for details.*