

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*

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*“We come with deep gratitude for our common call.
Draw us into communion with You and all creation.”*

from the 2019 A Prayer for the Life of the World

“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*



marginalized, recognition of the Holy Mystery is the first step in reading the Bible as a liberating Word (“See”).² The reality of the oppressed is where God is present and where God acts.

The second step that we learn from these communities consists in ‘gaining distance’ from daily life struggles and ‘coming closer’ to experiences reflected in the biblical accounts. The critical analysis of the biblical accounts and the recognition of the meaning of the texts (“Judge”), allows us to experience a liberating God.

This statement reminds us of the value of contemplation, our belief in a transformative God, and our desire to listen deeply to one another, to the whole Creation, and especially to those in the margins.

Some of the stories of this issue reflect how contemplation has led sisters and associates to this deep listening and experiencing God among the *rostros concretos* of the marginalized. We have learned that contemplation starts at the feet of Jesus—in front of the Eucharist—and also in the streets and in the marketplaces.

For many base Christian communities in Latin-America, contemplation occurs in “*lo cotidiano*” (the daily life struggles of the poor).¹ For people who are

It reminds us how the poor and oppressed were in biblical times, and are now, agents of God’s transforming power.

Contemplation from the perspective of the oppressed also requires us to return to our time and place to respond with *osadía* (boldness) to the political, economic, and religious challenges of the marginalized. This is the third step (“Act”).

May deep listening to the stories of women at Bethany House, of the immigrants of Venezuela, of creation, and of our process of transformation become concrete in our actions!

Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP, is the Second Councilor of the Dominican Sisters and a member of 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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¹Ada María Isasi-Díaz, *La Lucha Continues. Mujerista Theology* (New York: Orbis, 2004) 92-106.

²The Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* (Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 1993), 67.



AN UNFINISHED UNIVERSE CHANGES EVERYTHING

by Sister Mary Jean Traeger, OP

Image credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, L. Ho

We live in remarkable times. In the midst of social turmoil and conflict, scientists and theologians are collaborating to explore the wonders of our 13.8 billion-year-old Universe. Biologists, paleontologists and cosmologists join hands with theologians of various faith traditions to study what Pope Francis has called “Our Common Home.”

Out of this amazing endeavor arises a new understanding. “Nature” is no longer a static entity apart from

humankind. Rather, Creation involves the whole of life and all that supports it. We are one, in a continual process of change, evolving, together into the future. This understanding reveals an interconnected reality, in process for billions of years, that shows no signs of disappearing any time soon.

Seeing our Universe as “unfinished” changes everything. We look forward into a still-developing future. Fresh opportunities emerge, enabling us to see anew and be filled with hope. We are no longer confined to looking

backward at what has not worked in the past. We can look forward into a future-in-the-making, where we anticipate a Universe continuing to evolve.

What might this mean in a world intent on battling for limited resources, despising those we perceive as different, and continually competing for power over others? Imagine how opening our minds and hearts to such a spacious way of being might create harmony and blessing among us.

Sister Mary Jean is a member of the JUST Words editorial board.

THE PATH TO HAPPINESS IS TO LOVE AND HELP OTHERS

by Antonio Gilmer Romero Vilcatoma and Irma Zulema Suasnabar Delgadillo



We had the experience of sharing friendship with a Venezuelan family. We met them at the door of a bakery on the great Chimú Avenue in Lima. There, this family offered typical sweets of Venezuela: *arepas* and *bombones*.

Curiosity and concern led us to ask why they decided to come to Peru, leaving behind their country, customs, and job. The parents had no reservations about saying that they left everything for a better future for their children and that they didn't mind starting from nothing to achieve a better future. They said that at the beginning of each day they prayed to God to sell their products. Some days they do well and some days not so well. Nevertheless, that did not discourage them. They said they are grateful to God for being in a country that provides shelter without demanding anything in return.



The bakery on Chimú Avenue in Lima.

They said that in their country it was impossible for them to have a decent life. Venezuelan money has been greatly devalued while consumer goods have become more expensive. People die and the government doesn't care. On the faces of this family we noticed a very great pain. We remembered St. Paul's words "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (Philp 2: 4). We assured them that better times will come. We

gave them hope that calm will return eventually to their country and that they will be happy again alongside their loved ones. We told them our heart and our God are with them. We bought their sweets, in this way collaborating to support them.

It is important that as Christians we live our lives attentive to those who have less. May we approach others with an attitude of service, love, and humility. Venezuelans are now experiencing what our brothers and sisters in Israel lived when they went out, led by Moses, in search of a promised land. In this desert Moses devoted to them time, patience, and love. In this way we see that the path to happiness is to love and help others.

Antonio Gilmer Romero Vilcatoma and Irma Zulema Suasnabar Delgadillo, husband and wife, became Springfield Dominican associates in 2003. They live in Lima.

LA RUTA DEL CAMINO A LA FELICIDAD ESTÁ EN AMAR Y AYUDAR A LOS DEMÁS

por Antonio Gilmer Romero Vilcatoma e Irma Zulema Suasnabar Delgadillo



Tuvimos la experiencia de compartir vivencias con una familia venezolana. Nos encontramos con ellos en la puerta de una panadería en la gran avenida Chimú. Allí, esta familia ofrecía productos típicos de Venezuela: arepas y bombones.

La curiosidad y pena nos llevaron a preguntar como así decidieron venir al Perú, dejando atrás su país, costumbres y trabajo. Los padres no tuvieron reparo en decir que dejaron todo por un futuro mejor para sus hijos y que no les importaba empezar de cero para lograrse un mejor porvenir. Decían que al empezar el día se dirigían a Dios para que les vaya bien en la venta de sus productos.

Unos días les va bien y otros días no. Nos dijeron que eso no les desanimaba y que agradecían a Dios por estar en un país que les brinda cobijo sin exigir nada a cambio.

Dijeron que en su país les era imposible tener una vida decente. La moneda venezolana se ha devaluado enormemente y los productos se han encarecido en forma terrible. Las personas mueren y al gobierno no le importa. En sus rostros notamos un dolor muy grande. Recordamos el pasaje de Pablo “no debemos encerrarnos en nuestros intereses sino busquemos más bien el interés de los demás” (Fil. 2,4). Les aseguramos que vendrán tiempos mejores. Les dimos esperanza de que la calma volverá a su

país y serán felices nuevamente al lado de los suyos. Que nuestro corazón y nuestro Dios están con ellos. Les compramos sus productos. Siempre estamos colaborando de diferentes maneras.

Es importante que como cristianos vivamos pendientes de los que menos tienen. Que nos acerquemos con actitud de servicio, amor y humildad hacia los demás. Los venezolanos están experimentando lo que vivieron nuestros hermanos de Israel cuando salieron en busca de una tierra prometida guiados por Moisés. Él les dedicó tiempo, paciencia y amor. La ruta del camino a la felicidad está en amar y ayudar a los demás.

GROUNDING FOR [THE] LIFE [OF THE WORLD]

by Sister Kelly Moline, OP



About the photo: Sister Kelly, second from the left in the back row, enjoys a moment with her Springfield Dominican Sisters during General Chapter. **Row 1:** Sister María Luisa Ñaupari Gutiérrez, Patricia de la Ó Llanos, Doris Terrel Jiménez, Edith Vila Alania **Row 2:** Sisters Mary Jo Sobieck, Patricia Stark, and Elizabeth Castro Cruz.

Y*ou're grounded for life!* Surely my little brother heard these words more than I did growing up. But I hear them differently these days. In a world of Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram, I find being *quickly connected* is much easier than being *truly grounded*.

Sometimes I'm surprised when a friend or colleague asks, "**You're so grounded, Sister Kelly...how do you do it?**" After my initial surprise passes, I share what I've come to learn: "It's a grace of this [religious] life."

As I prepare to renew my vows as a Dominican Sister of Springfield, groundedness in my relationship with God and in vowed Dominican life allows me to give my daily "Yes" for the life of the world. It's the fruit

and grace of a life of prayer, study, community, and preaching (ministry). These pillars of Dominican life have helped form my response to God's invitation and the needs of my sisters and brothers.

While I've certainly been stretched (and at times felt a bit wobbly) along my journey within religious life, leaning on these pillars keeps me steady, grounded, and committed to God's call for me.

"Groundedness in my relationship with God and in vowed Dominican life allows me to give my daily "Yes" for the life of the world."

A "**support**" to these pillars is the single vow all Dominicans take and in which we are grounded: Obedience—the vow to listen deeply to the call of

God, the wisdom of the Church, the needs of the world, and one another. Tethered to this vow—included within it—are the other evangelical counsels of poverty and celibacy.

For me, cooperating with grace is the key to remaining grounded in our turbulent times. Attuning my ear to God's voice, responding in freedom, loving my neighbor whole-heartedly, and embracing simplicity and an abundant worldview are practices that allow me to remain "Grounded for the Life of the World."

Grounded for Life? I say "Yes"!

Sister Kelly is a pastoral care associate at St. Dominic Hospital Jackson, Miss.

DOMINICAN SISTER KELLY MOLINE RENEWS VOWS

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP



Sister Kelly celebrates her vow renewal on August 5.

Springfield, Ill.—Springfield Dominican Sister Kelly Moline renewed her vows during Solemn Evening Prayer at Sacred Heart Convent August 5.

Surrounded by her Springfield Dominican Sisters, she pronounced, for the second time, the ancient formula of Dominican profession that every member of the Order of Preachers makes.

Born in Minneapolis, Sister Kelly and her brother Jay were raised there by their parents, Kevin and Cindy Moline, who now live in Glendale, Arizona.

Sister Kelly is a chaplain at St. Dominic's Hospital, Jackson, Miss., and an active member of the young adult group at St. Richard Parish, Jackson. She also participates in Giving Voice, a peer-led organization for the small but increasing number of women who are choosing religious life.

Before joining the Dominicans, Sister Kelly earned a bachelor's degree in gerontology from Missouri State University, Springfield, Mo. She worked in continuing care retirement communities in St. Louis

and Southbury, Conn., before taking a job in Springfield that synced her coordinates with several Springfield Dominican Sisters and led to her decision to pursue consecrated religious life as her vocation.

The private vow renewal ceremony is a step in Sister Kelly's ongoing discernment of a life-long commitment to consecrated life as a Dominican Sister of Springfield.

"We are blessed to call Sister Kelly our sister and look forward to her continued ministry among us as she grows toward her decision about perpetual profession in the Order of Preachers," said Sister Barbara Blesse, OP, at the time, the director of sisters in temporary vows for the Springfield Dominicans. "This next two-year period of profession allows Sister Kelly and our sisters to continue mutual discernment of her readiness and desire for perpetual profession of vows."

This period of initial formation, Sister Kelly says, fits with her desire for deep discernment about the way God is calling her. "Formation is structured to help me continue my spiritual and professional growth

in an atmosphere of freedom and encouragement," Sister Kelly said. "I look forward to the adventures that await me as I continue my discernment and my ministry at St. Dominic's."

Unique among religious orders, Dominicans pronounce only one vow—obedience—which is inclusive of the other two evangelical counsels: poverty, and celibacy. Read the adjacent reflection by Sister Kelly on what it means to be grounded in these vows.

Catholic women interested in discerning God's call in their own lives are welcome to contact Sister Denise Glazik, OP, director of vocation ministry for the Springfield Dominican Sisters, or visit www.springfieldop.org/join-us for background information about what it takes to become a Dominican sister. Sister Denise may be reached through the website, at dglazik@spdom.org or 217-787-0481.

Sister Beth is the Director of Communications for the Springfield Dominicans.

Bethany House residents celebrate graduation from the World Relief Job Readiness program.

WALKING THE TALK AT BETHANY HOUSE

by Sister Kathlyn Mulcahy, OP

Imagine you are 18 years old (again!)—and have spent fully half of your life searching for a safe and welcoming place to call home. That is Elizabeth's reality. She fled her home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at nine years old with her family (Mom, Dad and younger brother and sister), seeking to escape a brutal civil war described as "the bloodiest war since World War II." The family landed in a refugee camp in Angola.

It was evident, even to a child, that this new country did not welcome them. A year later Elizabeth accompanied her father to Brazil where they hoped to establish a home and reunite the family. She went to work braiding hair to earn money. They lost contact with the family back in the refugee camp. Forced to uproot again, they made the treacherous journey north through eight different countries. Her father died crossing the Río Grande. Elizabeth arrived in the U.S.—both alone and as one of thousands of unaccompanied children at our southern border.

Now she lives at Bethany House of Hospitality, a home established by women religious of Illinois to welcome immigrant women. Bethany House offers housing and support services to women 18-22 years old as they journey to independence. Since its founding two years ago, Bethany House has been a temporary home to more than 35 women and 4 children from Central America, Africa, and the Middle East. Their average length of stay has been 6 months as they



learn English, study for the GED, and wend their way through the immigration court system. Almost all current residents have been victims of human trafficking.

The humanitarian crisis of millions of immigrants throughout the world forced to flee violence and environmental destruction has led to a politics of fear and hatred in some instances, while it has also awakened creative compassionate responses. Pope Francis has made the plight of migrants and refugees a cornerstone of his papacy, calling for “bridges not walls.” Reminding us that immigrants are among “the least of these” brothers and sisters God calls us to love, this summer, on the 6th anniversary of his visit to Lampedusa,

he said, “My thoughts go out to those ‘least ones’ who daily cry out to the Lord, asking to be freed from the evils that afflict them.... These least ones are abandoned and cheated into dying in the desert; these least ones are tortured, abused, and violated in detention camps; these least ones face the waves of an unforgiving sea; these least ones are left in reception camps too long for them to be called temporary.... They are only a small number “of the least ones who Jesus asks us to love and raise up.”

Since July, I’ve ministered as live-in weekend staff at Bethany House. Working with immigrants is not new to Springfield Dominicans, however. The Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora has offered ESL and

citizenship classes for more than 25 years; the Dominican Literacy Center in Melrose Park opened shortly after. SDART, the Springfield Dominican Anti-Racism Team, has been working since 2005 to help the sisters and their sponsored institutions recognize and eliminate racism. Historically, the first six Dominican women arrived in Illinois in 1873 in response to a call to teach Irish immigrant children at a time when discrimination against Irish immigrants was common. Working with immigrants and against discrimination seems to be in the very DNA of Springfield Dominicans!

Sister Kathlyn lives in Springfield when not at her ministry in the Chicago suburbs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We invite you to join us in this vital area of mission. Listen to (or read) the stories of immigrants to glimpse the brave, strong, and resilient people behind the rhetoric we too often hear in the news.



1. BECOME A TUTOR IN A LITERACY CENTER

(Ours: <https://dominicanliteracycenter.org>, or someone else's at www.lvillinois.org)



2. VOLUNTEER AT OR SUPPORT BETHANY HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

<http://bethanyhouseofhospitality.com>



3. BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR THOSE SEEKING A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
<https://www.icirr.org>

Let the words of Jesus live in your heart:

**“I WAS A STRANGER
AND YOU
WELCOMED ME.”**

**Learn all you can about
Catholic Social Teaching
on immigration
share your knowledge
with others.**

WWW.JUSTICEFORIMMIGRANTS.ORG

COHERENCIA DE VIDA CON BETHANY HOUSE

por Sister Kathlyn Mulcahy, OP

Imagine que tienes 18 años (¡otra vez!) Y que has pasado la mitad de tu vida buscando un lugar seguro y acogedor para llamar hogar. Esa es la realidad de Elizabeth. Huyó de su hogar en la República Democrática del Congo a los nueve años con su familia (mamá, papá y hermano y hermana menores), buscando escapar de una brutal guerra civil descrita como “la guerra más sangrienta desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial”. aterrizó en un campo de refugiados en Angola.

Era evidente, incluso para una niña, que este nuevo país no le daba la bienvenida. Hace un año, Isabelle acompañó a su padre a Brasil, donde esperaban establecer un hogar y reunir a la familia. Ella fue a trabajar trenzando el cabello para ganar dinero. Perdieron el contacto con la familia en el campo de

refugiados. Forzados a desarraigarse nuevamente, hicieron el traicionero viaje hacia el norte a través de ocho países diferentes. Su padre murió cruzando el Río Grande. Isabelle llegó a los Estados Unidos, sola y como una de los miles de niños no acompañados en nuestra frontera sur.

Ahora vive en Bethany House of Hospitality (BHH), un hogar establecido por religiosas de Illinois para recibir mujeres inmigrantes.

BHH ofrece servicios de vivienda y apoyo a mujeres de 18 a 22 años de edad en su camino hacia la independencia. Desde su fundación hace dos años, Bethany House of Hospitality ha sido un hogar temporal para más de 35 mujeres y 4 niños de América Central, África y Medio Oriente. El tiempo de estadía promedio ha sido de 6 meses mientras aprenden inglés, estudian para el GED y avanzan por el sistema de tribunales de inmigración. Casi todos los residentes actuales han

llamando a “construir puentes, no a muros”. Nos ha recordado este verano que los inmigrantes están entre “el menor de estos” hermanos y hermanas que Dios nos llama a amar. En el sexto aniversario de su visita a Lampedusa, dijo: “Mis pensamientos están con los” menos importantes “que diariamente claman al Señor, pidiendo ser liberados de los males que los afligen ... Estos más pequeños son abandonados y engañados para morir en el desierto; estos menores

son torturados, maltratados y violados en campos de detención; estos menores se enfrentan a las olas de un mar implacable; estos menores se quedan en los campos de recepción demasiado tiempo para que se les llame temporales ... Son solo un pequeño número “de los más pequeños a quienes Jesús nos

pide que amemos y levantemos”.

Desde julio, estoy en el ministerio como personal residente durante el fin de semana en Bethany House of Hospitality. Sin embargo, trabajar con inmigrantes no es nuevo para las dominicas de Springfield. El Centro de Alfabetización Dominicana en Aurora ha ofrecido clases de ESL y ciudadanía por más de 25 años; El Centro Dominicano de Alfabetización (continúa en la página 12)



Bethany House residents met with Illinois State Representative Karina Villa (IL-49).

sido víctimas de la trata de personas.

La crisis humanitaria de millones de inmigrantes en todo el mundo obligados a huir de la violencia y la destrucción del medio ambiente ha llevado a políticas de miedo y odio en algunos casos, mientras que también ha despertado respuestas creativas y compasivas. El Papa Francisco ha convertido la difícil situación de los migrantes y refugiados en una piedra angular de su papado,

ASSOCIATES HAVE A DAY OF REFLECTION AND MAKE RECOMMITMENT

by Michelle Marr



Associates and sisters contemplate the question of presenter Father Wayne Cavalier, OP, “What are you doing here?”

On August 24 associates and sisters embarked on a Dominican Day of Reflection, For the Life of the World, at Sacred Heart Convent. After Sister Joan Sorge, Associate Director, welcomed everyone, the leadership team spoke about the 2019 General Chapter.

Sister Rose Miriam Schulte explained the role of the General Chapter as the highest governing body for the Springfield Dominicans. All decisions therein guide the community for the next five years.

Embodied in the day were mysteries surrounding the theme: “For the Life of the World.” Sister Mila Díaz Solano invited a gaze through the lens of the Universe Story. She introduced new understandings of the creation story where the spiritual and scientific integrate and illustrate the interconnectedness of all beings.

Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma challenged listeners to use the lens of antiracism to unmask its systemic origin. When people become uncomfortable with the truth of racism, then they can begin to own the problem and change their perception.

With brief biographies, Sister Marie Michelle Hackett introduced the four sisters elected to roles of leadership. She added colorful stories and humorous quips and quotes!

In the afternoon, Dominican Father Wayne Cavalier, director of the Congar Institute at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas, presented *Becoming the Holy Preaching: The Dominican Charism as Prayer*. He led participants in a process of theological reflection to assist with integrating life experiences through the lens of religious traditions and scripture. He said that such a practice

helps align the real world with God’s word, so important for followers of Dominic who are to become the Holy Preaching.

As the day closed, Father Wayne’s words culminated in the Eucharistic celebration. The liturgy was beautifully laced with vocal and instrumental music. Sisters Joan and Rebecca Ann spoke to the associates about their five-year recommitment. The associates read their commitment statements and the sisters replied with the community’s acceptance. It was an incredible affirmation of the shared spirit and mission between the associates and the Dominican Sisters.

Going forward, as partners in mission, I would like to quote *A Prayer for the Life of the World*: “Bless our efforts to be the Holy Preaching!”

Michele Marr is a Springfield Dominican Associate.

(continuó de p.10)

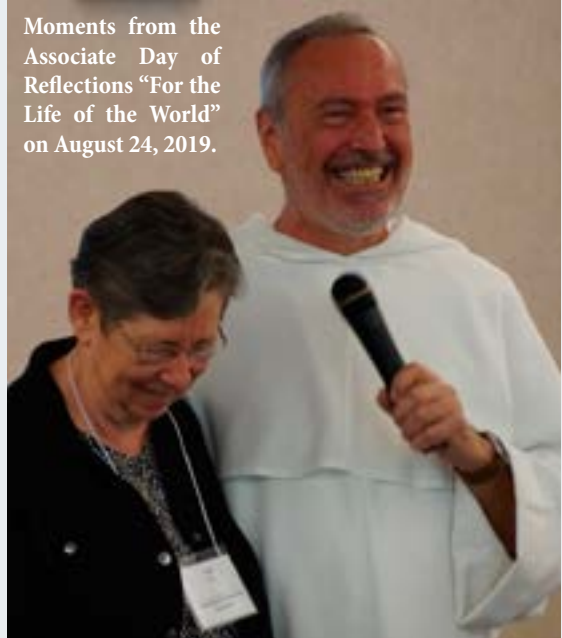
en Melrose Park abrió poco después. SDART, el equipo dominicano antirracismo de Springfield, ha estado trabajando desde el 2005 para ayudar a las hermanas y sus instituciones patrocinadas a reconocer y eliminar el racismo. Históricamente, las primeras seis mujeres dominicas llegaron a Illinois en 1873 en respuesta a una llamada para enseñar a los niños inmigrantes irlandeses en un momento en que la discriminación contra los inmigrantes irlandeses era común. ¡Trabajar con inmigrantes y contra la discriminación parece estar en el ADN de las Dominicas de Springfield!

Les invitamos a unirse a nosotras en esta área vital de misión. Escuche (o lea) las historias de inmigrantes para vislumbrar a las personas valientes, fuertes y resistentes detrás de la retórica que con demasiada frecuencia escuchamos en las noticias. Permita que su corazón se mueva con compasión ... y RESPONDER! Sea

agradecido por todo lo que se le ha dado y encuentre formas creativas de compartirlo: conviértase en un tutor en un centro de alfabetización, sea voluntario o apoye a Bethany House of Hospitality, comuníquese con inmigrantes en su ciudad y pregunte cómo puede apoyarlos, conviértase y abogue por aquellos que buscan un lugar seguro y acogedor para llamar hogar. Deja que las palabras de Jesús vivan en tu corazón: “Fui un extraño y me acogiste”.



Moments from the Associate Day of Reflections “For the Life of the World” on August 24, 2019.



IN MEMORIAM

Please join us in prayer for sisters and prayer associates who have entered eternal life:

Sister Mary de Paul Kane, OP • July 18, 2019

Elaine Theobald, prayer associate • July 22, 2019

Sister Mary Blaise Galloway, OP • August 1, 2019

Helen Dunham Call, prayer associate • August 29, 2019

SISTER DENISE GLAZIK: VOCATION ENCOURAGEMENT IS “A.I.D.ING”

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP

Sister Denise Glazik says she understood the nature of call early in religious life when she realized she was not called to teaching. Try as she would, she found no life, energy, or satisfaction in that ministry. With the help of others, she discerned a call to pastoral ministry and finally knew she was doing what she was called to because of the surge of creativity, energy, and joy that followed.

Since July 1, Sister Denise has put all her creative energy and joy at the service of vocation ministry for the Dominican Sisters.

“I have such a huge learning curve,” she admits, “but it feels good.”

The youngest of 14 siblings, Sister Denise was born in Paxton, Ill., and spent much of her early life in and around her gregarious family’s businesses, including restaurant and catering, in rural Champaign County. She joined the Springfield Dominicans in August 1988, made first profession in 1991; professed perpetual vows August 8, 1994. She remains close to her siblings and the 98 nieces and nephews they are raising for Sister Denise to spoil.

Sister Denise is under no illusion that vocation encouragement is easy. After years of parish-based pastoral ministry, she is close to what is happening in people’s lives. “How are we going to invite people when they are not even going to church?” she asks. “Mass and sacraments are a part of our daily life. I believe young people are living gospel, but [many of them] are not practicing a religion.”

She says she can invite women to consider religious life, but they are often surprised by what that

means. “Oh, by the way, we go to Mass and we receive the sacraments, we pray together, and we live in community. What we have we are to share in common. It’s not ‘mine’ but ‘ours,’” she says, “Our house, our cars, our money,” she ticks off the practices of consecrated religious life so antithetical to Western culture.



Given all that, why even try?

Despite the challenges, there are women who are choosing religious life and discerning that choice. Sister Denise is building relationships with several women who are enlivened by God’s lure of their hearts to this radical life choice. “God calls and we welcome,” she says with a smile.

“I love my life,” she adds. “I want others to love this life, too. And so many of our sisters have called me to take on this role of service for the community. They mention my gifts of presence, patience, listening, and pastoral ministry.”

In her brief time in her new ministry she’s come to think of what she does as A.I.D.ing: **Animating** the sisters in the congregation; **Inviting**

young people to open themselves to the startling realization that God calls them for a purpose in life, and **Discerning** with young women who are interested in learning whether consecrated life is a good fit for them.

She grows animated speaking about her experiences in the past few months. One weekend she traveled with two sisters who are cousins to one another—Sister Marcelline and Sister Sara Koch—to the parish in Crystal Lake, Ill., where Sister Sara once taught. What Sister Denise witnessed by their sharing of the weekend vocation event filled her with joy and hope.

The husband of one of Sister Sara’s former students stood with his arms embracing Sister Sara on one side and his mother-in-law on the other and said “You two were instrumental in helping my wife to become the woman she is. For that I owe you great thanks.”

Labor Day weekend, several sisters and associates gathered in Jacksonville for a parish festival that included a vocation booth. Our Dominican presence started there in 1873 and continues today through our faith-filled Dominican Associates. “That’s the meaning of our lives—witnessing to God’s love and touching others through our relationships,” Sister Denise says. To Praise, To Bless and To Preach! “That is what I have been asked to do with my vowed life and that’s what I will invite others to do with theirs.”

To join Sister Denise in her ministry of A.I.D.ing religious vocations call her at 217-787-0481.

Sister Beth is the Director of Communications for the Springfield Dominicans.

Congrats!

Spiritual Guidance

“Grace-filled and transformative,” is how **Sister Patricia Francis** described the training program in the supervision of spiritual guides and directors from which she graduated recently. She was a member of the first cohort to complete the yearlong program facilitated by Annette Jo Giarrante and Rev. Terry Johnson. The program was based on the paradigm of the Universe Story and included prayer, a variety of experiential learning modalities, and supervisory sessions. Graduates were invited to be on a list of approved supervisors for students who participate in the two-year training program for spiritual guides and directors through the Spiritual Guidance Institute at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wis., a ministry of the Racine Dominican Sisters.



Sister Patricia Francis, far left, row 2, with other graduates of the spiritual guidance training program she completed this year.

Dominican Charism Initiative

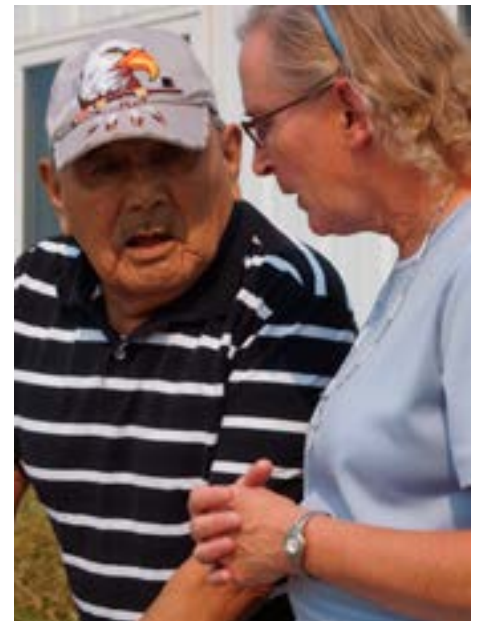
Dominican Sisters in the US are collaborating on a series of learning modules to share Dominican life and charism with young adults, boards, associates and other groups working in Dominican ministries. This summer, **Sister Marcelline Koch** and **Sister Sharon Zayac** co-wrote and recorded the Call to Action module. This module focuses on the Dominican call to justice and provides participants a road map for analyzing and responding to injustices they see and experience. Watch for the role out in early 2020!



Dominicans gathered in Houston to plan for the Dominican Charism Initiative meeting in February 2019.

Light of Christ

Sister Barbara Bogenschutz has been recognized by a national Catholic organization for her ministry within the Oglala Sioux community in the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota. Catholic Extension recently announced that Sister Barbara is among eleven finalists for the *Lumen Christi* Award, which honors individuals and groups working in geographically isolated locations who demonstrate “how the power of faith can transform lives and communities.” Each of the eleven finalists for the *Lumen Christi* Award receives a \$10,000 ministry grant from Catholic Extension. The recipient of the award, to be named toward the end of the year according to the *Lumen Christi* Award website, receives a \$50,000 grant, half of which is to be used by the diocese for enhancing its ministry.



Sister Barbara Bogenschutz visits in Oglala, South Dakota, with Mr. George Looks Twice, the grandson of Nicholas Black Elk, a Lakota catechist who cause for canonization is in process.

NON-STOP NEED MEANS NON-STOP MISSION

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



Springfield Dominican's Literacy Center' staff, volunteers and students show up for Aurora's Memorial Day parade.

We live in unsettling times. The nightly news broadcasts global conflicts, weather-related destruction, and images of tens of thousands fleeing their homes due to violence and poverty. We experience a destabilizing roller-coaster ride each time a new tweet announces rapidly changing government policies and ways of functioning in the US. While all this implodes on us from city, nation, and world, we all—yes, our sisters and YOU—face day-to-day concerns about health, finances, relationships, and meaningful engagement in efforts for positive change.

Where do we find HOPE? We are hopeful when we see how deeply our Partners in Mission care about basic kindness to neighbors. Our Partners in Mission include you: our

co-workers in ministry, Dominican Associates, and friends like you who share our values. We find hope when we witness those who learn to embrace diversity rather than fear it; to collaborate with others of good will; to live with integrity in word and deed. Yes, these are the signs of hope we need and crave! We are grateful for your partnership.

As sisters to one another and to you, we foster that hope with communal discernment, and individual prayer and contemplation. We listen to God calling us as individuals and as a community. When we share with each other the yearnings and hopes which come from prayer, we recognize our deep need to live the gospel today. Then we draw on the courage to act—to make change. We are not always “right” and learn from

mistakes—like everyone. However, we deepen our trust in God's mercy and depend on the support of people like YOU!

Our experience of Dominican common life has taught us that none of us can change the world alone, yet, together in community we can move mountains! Our service for the life of the world depends on friends like you who are willing to stand with us. Thank you for doing so!

In our recent direct mail appeal, we talked about our NON-STOP Mission to serve in areas of need. That NON-STOP Mission also implies being a moral compass in these days of turmoil. Thank you for your friendship and financial support—truly signs of hope in these unsettling times.



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OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Dominican Sources

“We need not go far...to stand at the crossroads of any frontiers that often intersect one another. We find the border between humanity and inhumanity, between life and death on our very streets.”

~ Gerardo Timoner, OP

Master of the Order of Preachers. Commencement address, Loyola School of Theology, Quezon City, 2015.

DATEBOOK

Events not public unless otherwise noted.

October	27	Chapel Tour, Sacred Heart Convent, 1:30 p.m.*
November	1-3	Come and See Weekend*
	3	Associate Formation: Springfield Dominican History
	22-24	Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team meeting
	24	Chapel Tour, Sacred Heart Convent, 1:30 p.m.*
	28	Thanksgiving Day
December	1	Associate Formation: Mission & Ministry
	9	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Transferred from Sunday)
	22	Chapel Tour, Sacred Heart Convent, 1:30 p.m.*
	25	Christmas Day

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