

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*

Summer 2020
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**EN MEDIO DE TANTO DOLOR
NACE UNA ESPERANZA.**

**IN THE MIDST OF SO MUCH PAIN
A HOPE IS BORN.**



In our *Prayer for the Life of the World* we express our awareness of being interconnected in the cosmos. The stories in this issue reflect how some sisters and associates of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield experienced this while facing the pandemic and while being involved in the struggle to counter systemic racism. These pages also challenge us to become the Beloved Community dreamed by God from the beginning of creation.

It is true that the pandemic has affected the whole planet. Nevertheless, its impact and consequences have been different for people living on certain continents and in certain sectors of the society with less access to resources and governmental programs. We all experience uncertainty and loss of control. Anxiety, fear, and exhaustion are part of the air we breathe. We must recognize, however, that there are even greater ordeals endured by marginalized individuals and communities. The stories of the Oglala Sioux people, of the Peruvians, and of some students in the USA are evidence that we are not equally vulnerable. Testimonies of resilience amid hardship, of solidarity and generosity, of a global community awakening to the dignity of creation and joining in the struggle for racial justice, nurtures our hope. There are new learnings and insights we are gaining from this period about ourselves, about our human community, and about creation. Several articles help us to grasp these contrasts and perplexities of life.

The experience of those working on the front line or witnessing the

resilience of patients with cancer or other diseases invites us to reflect on our faith and spiritual journey. The current paschal experience of humanity reveals that Jesus is walking with us amid chaos, suffering, death, and signs of resurrection. The lockdown has pushed us to evolve in our understanding of God and of being Church; of living and being eucharist for each other in a period of social distance. The words of wisdom compiled by two of our sisters reflect how “moments of awareness occur as a dawning of meaning.”¹

When reflecting the present moment through the lens of the Universe Story, we humbly recognize our place as creatures of this precious, interconnected, and evolving universe. We are called to join in the restoration of the balance of creation disturbed by centuries of harmful human behaviors. May the efforts to become the Beloved Community continue!



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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¹Barbara A. Holmes, *Race and the Cosmos*, 2nd edition. (Albuquerque, NM.: CAC Publishing, 2020), p. 45.

COVID-19 AND THE OGLALA SIOUX PEOPLE

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP

Experience of the coronavirus pandemic looks remarkably different depending on where you put your feet. Springfield Dominican Sister Barbara Ann Bogenschutz and the parishioners at Our Lady of the Sioux, in Oglala S.D., where she is the pastoral leader, have their feet in a precarious place.

Oglala Lakota County, the boundaries of which are roughly contiguous with Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is one of the poorest counties on one of the poorest Indian reservations in the U.S. The nearest medical facilities of any note are in Rapid City, two counties and 125 miles north.

In early April, the tribe set up checkpoints to screen passengers for COVID-19 symptoms and to redirect nonessential traffic around the reservation, allowing essential travel to pass through. In early May the South Dakota governor threatened legal action against the tribe.

Our Lady of the Sioux parishioner Paul Little, who served 16 years on the tribal council, has experience with the challenge the tribe faces.

“The governor has told the tribes that they have no right to block state highways through the reservation, but to play it safe the tribe has decided to do that,” he said. He wasn’t aware of whether or when the tribe would remove the checkpoints, but said he favored them as a measure to protect the residents.



Our Lady of the Sioux parishioner Paul Little

The conflict with the governor de-escalated when state legislators representing tribal lands spoke out in support of their sovereignty.

Social distancing was Sister Barbara Ann’s concern, especially at funerals. She said a funeral in nearby Manderson seemed to have been the source of the first two infections. “They do not keep social distancing practices,” she said. “It may have been two people from the meat packers in Sioux Falls who came to the funeral and brought the virus.”

Many factors mitigate against the tribe when it comes to public health. Communicating is a challenge, as is testing, contact tracing, and providing adequate health services

on the reservation. Paul understands. A radio he relies on for news hasn’t worked since he moved to a new apartment. He must run the car radio to stay up to date. He also expressed concerns for tribal members living in the more remote rural areas on the reservation where they are without running water. “How can you keep your hands clean in that case?” he asked.

“We’ve been pretty lucky so far,” he added. As of mid-May, there were 14 confirmed cases in the county and no deaths.

Sister Beth Murphy, OP, is the Director of Communications for the Springfield Dominicans.

LA PARADOJA DE LA VIDA

por Hermana Doris Terrel Jiménez, OP



Clientes de una farmacia en Lima, de pie en los círculos pintados, socialmente distanciados y con mascarillas para evitar la propagación de COVID-19.

Para todas fue una sorpresa este tiempo de aislamiento social. Pensamos que esto no llegaría a Perú o que sería leve. Somos testigos del dolor, temor, angustia e incertidumbre que nuestro pueblo atraviesa a causa de esta pandemia. Al principio de junio, Perú tenía 170,039 casos confirmados y 4,634 fallecidos. El hambre lanza a salir a buscar el pan de cada día. Entre los pobres hay miedo a morir de hambre más que de COVID-19.

El regreso de Lima a provincia de muchas personas que no tienen que comer, donde vivir o perdieron lo poco que tenían, hace que el virus se expanda. La población teme infectarse, pero también quiere ayudar a sus paisanos. La imagen que me llegó al corazón es el de muchas personas caminando, queriendo llegar a sus pueblos. Mientras les caía la noche vecinos de la zona, desde su pobreza sacaron lo mejor para darles

de comer. En medio de la dificultad Dios puede obrar en cada corazón humano la caridad.

Este virus COVID-19 ha expuesto nuestra frágil condición humana, nuestra vulnerabilidad ante una enfermedad y nuestro miedo a morir. Acompañando a una paciente a una clínica, experimentamos la realidad del sistema de salud. En la primera puerta nos detuvieron. Interrogaron tan solo a la paciente. Al decir que tenía fiebre, nos prohibieron el ingreso, nos sugirieron que llamemos a un número telefónico del ministerio de salud. El miedo del personal de salud a contagiarse los hace indolentes al sufrimiento del paciente, a quien tratan como objeto. Los hospitales nacionales carecen de personal especializado. Un solo médico en Lima atiende a una población de 83,323 habitantes. Al primer mes de la cuarentena, los números de emergencia fueron

saturados, los hospitales colapsaron y se acabaron los insumos para proteger al personal de salud. Es un tiempo difícil y frustrante. Queremos aliviar el dolor y no podemos hacerlo. Sin embargo volvemos la mirada a nuestra fe esperanzadora que Dios va caminando con su pueblo.

La paradoja de la vida es que mientras el ser humano está sufriendo y confinado en sus hogares, la naturaleza está renaciendo. ¡El cielo limeño es azul! Los pajaritos cantan, los ríos reflejan sus aguas cristalinas, se siente la frescura del aire. Las grandes conferencias internacionales no lo lograron, pero un virus ha suscitado la defensa de la creación. No vamos a ser igual después de este tiempo. Nuestro carisma dominicano nos invita contemplar y dar el fruto de nuestra contemplación. Es tiempo de reflexionar ¿cómo estamos viviendo?, ¿cómo queremos vivir? No podemos continuar como antes.

THE PARADOX OF LIFE

by Sister Doris Terrel Jiménez, OP



Pharmacy customers in Lima stand in painted circles, appropriately masked and socially-distanced to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This time of social isolation came as a surprise for all of us. We thought that this would not happen or that it would be mild. We witness the pain, fear, anguish, and uncertainty that our people are going through because of this pandemic. As of early June, in Peru we have 170,039 confirmed cases and 4,634 deaths. Hunger pushes people out in search of daily bread. *There is fear of starvation more than of COVID-19.*

Many people from Lima have returned to the provinces because they have lost the little they had and do not have food or a place to live. This caused the virus to spread. The population is afraid of being infected, but they also want to help other people. The image that touched my heart is that of many people walking, wanting to reach their villages. When night fell the residents of the area, from their poverty, shared the best of what they had to feed the travelers.

God prompts charity in every human heart amid difficulty.

This COVID-19 virus has uncovered our human condition, our vulnerability to illness, and our fear of death. While accompanying a patient to a clinic, I experienced the reality of the health system. We were stopped at the first door. They only questioned the patient. When she reported fever, they prohibited us from entering, suggested that we call a telephone number from the Ministry of Health. The fear of infection among healthcare workers makes them apathetic toward the suffering of the patient. They treat patients as objects. National hospitals lack specialized personnel. One doctor is available for 83,323 inhabitants. In the first month of quarantine, emergency hotlines were saturated, hospitals collapsed, and protective supplies were exhausted. It is a difficult and frustrating time. We

want to relieve pain and we cannot do it. Nevertheless, we go back to our hopeful faith that God is walking with his people.

The paradox of life is that while human beings are suffering and confined to their homes, nature is being reborn. The sky in Lima is blue! the birds sing, the rivers flow with crystalline waters, the freshness of the air is felt. While great international conferences were cancelled, a tiny virus triggered the defense of creation. We will not be the same after this time. Our Dominican charism invites us to contemplate and share the fruits of our contemplation. This is a time to reflect: How are we living? How do we want to live? We cannot continue as before.

Springfield Dominican Sister Doris is a nurse who lives and works in Lima, Peru.

BUILDING A BRIDGE IS THE GREATEST REWARD

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP

In 45 years as a respiratory therapist I've never seen anything like this. Not AIDS. Not SARS. Nothing."

After "hello," these were Howard Derrick's first words to me on a May 1st video call from his office at St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson, Miss. "This" was coronavirus.

Howard, a Springfield Dominican associate, and I have served many years together on the congregation's antiracism team. When asked whether he thought states should allow businesses to open soon, he responded with that head-tilt I've learned means "listen up."

"I'm just not comfortable with that," he said.

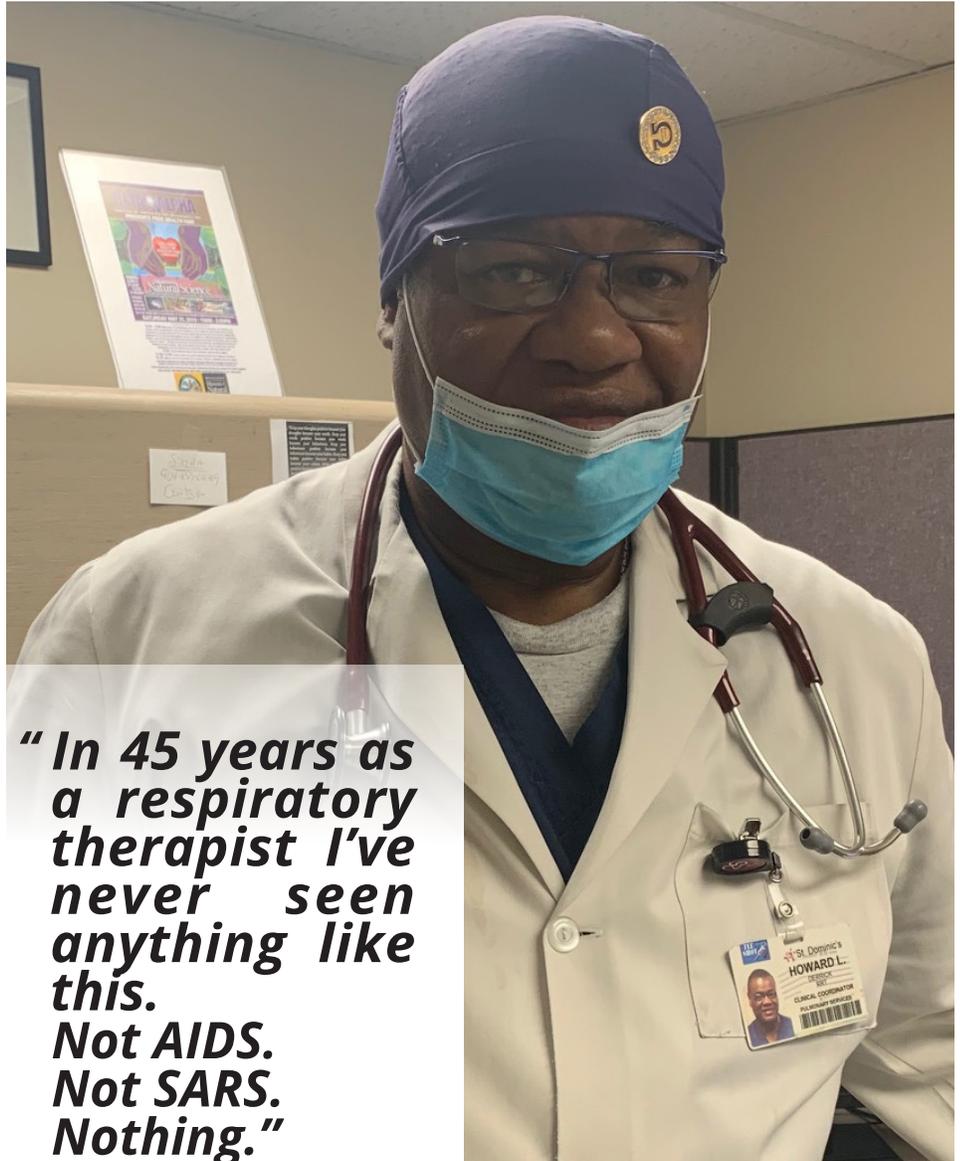
Howard understands the consequences of his profession—he calls it his vocation. "This is what we trained and signed up for," he said about himself and his frontline colleagues at St. Dominic. "We are willing to risk our lives to take care of people."

Soon, our call was interrupted by a code called over the PA. Howard grabbed his pager and darted off-camera. "Gotta go!" he shouted, leaving me staring at his empty office.

When he called back, he said he had intubated a distressed patient. I asked about the source of his courage.

"My mother reared us up on the 23rd Psalm. That will take you through life," he said. "That's the God-honest truth."

Howard said he practices a detailed decontamination process at the end of every shift: Lysol-spraying his clothing before entering the house, then meticulously showering before seeing his wife Maryam or touching anything at home.



"In 45 years as a respiratory therapist I've never seen anything like this. Not AIDS. Not SARS. Nothing."

"It's depressing to come here every day knowing I might go home with something I didn't come to work with," he said. Still, those challenges do not override his desire to follow "the same pathway Jesus took" in his willingness to give his life for others.

He says it's satisfying to see the results of his work. "It's thrilling to take someone from an inability to breathe or talk to clear airways and sufficient breath. You give of yourself and you receive back the gift of what you've given from others."

Howard is aware of the limits to his knowledge and skill, and clear that the "bridge" to life he builds for his patients is temporary. "God is going to have his way," he said. Whether he gains his patients a few additional hours, or days, months, or years, he knows what he gives them is the gift of time—and an opportunity for healing and reconciliation. That, he says, is the greatest reward.

Sister Beth Murphy is the communications director for the Dominican Sisters.

AN UGLY YEAR, AND HOPEFUL

by John Freml

Compassion in action:

Protesters at the Illinois State Capitol lay on the ground chanting “I can’t breathe” like the handcuffed George Floyd did as he died in police custody on May 25 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Photo by Cathy Brookshire, June 1, 2020.



As it turned out, 2020 was not the year I had anticipated when I made my New Year’s resolutions at the end of December.

I had not expected a global pandemic that would bring the entire world to a grinding halt; and even if I did, I would not have foreseen the politicization of inherently non-political things like face masks or the World Health Organization; and even if I could have, my heart broke as protests erupted across the nation due to the black and brown bodies that piled up at the hands of police blinded by systemic racism and white supremacy.

As I worked from home and homeschooled my two small children, I was unprepared for the exhaustion I felt, and the deep sense of guilt that swept over me for not being as present as before to my colleagues, my spouse, and my children.

As I figured out how to finish the college course I was teaching, I was caught off guard by a student who asked for extra time to complete her work. She explained that she had become homeless over spring break and was completing her homework on her smartphone using Wi-Fi in a parking lot because that was the only connection she had. She didn’t want to fail.

I started thinking of other college students who faced similar challenges. As dorms closed, where would those students go who had no other home? What about gay and transgender students who weren’t welcome back home? What about students who needed on-campus employment? What about undocumented students?

But one more thing also caught me by surprise: the hopefulness I felt as my community came together to take care of each other. I saw public

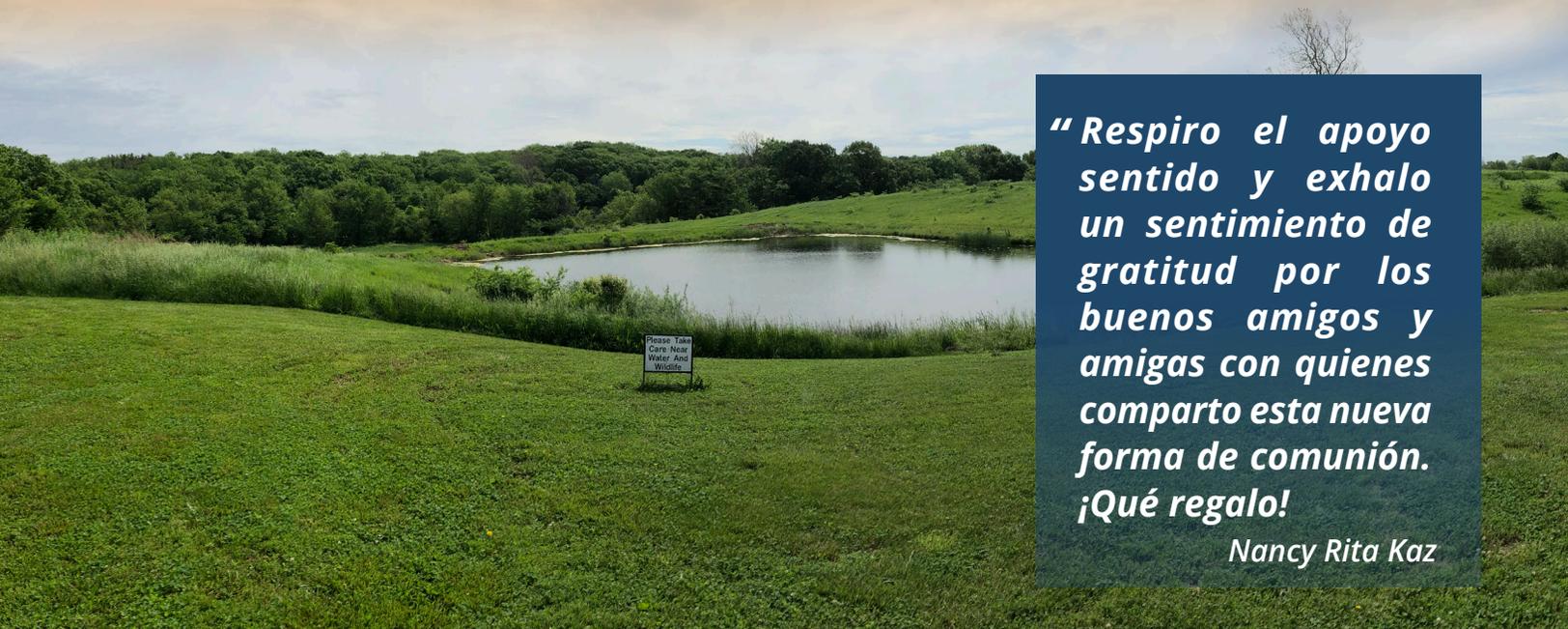
school cafeteria workers showing up every day to make sure no kids in the district went hungry; volunteers delivering food and toiletries to the undocumented, who sometimes feel unsafe asking for help; mini-pantries popping up all over my city, with goods appearing inside each day as if by magic; a restaurant on the east side serving free meals to the homeless, even though their doors were closed to paying customers.

2020 has been ugly. But I have also witnessed what can only be described as a miracle of human compassion and understanding. When this is all over, I pray that we heal from the trauma and cling to the good that remains amongst the ashes.

John Freml is a Springfield Dominican associate, JUST Words board member, and member of the community’s antiracism team.

EUCARISTÍA EN TIEMPO DE PANDEMIA ... Y SIEMPRE

por Hermanas Judine Hilbing, OP y Mary Jean Traeger, OP



“Respiro el apoyo sentido y exhalo un sentimiento de gratitud por los buenos amigos y amigas con quienes comparto esta nueva forma de comunión. ¡Qué regalo!

Nancy Rita Kaz

El coronavirus entró en nuestras vidas sin invitación, brutalmente. La ausencia de la misa dominical intensificó la pérdida. Sin embargo, ni siquiera la pandemia puede alejarnos de la gracia de la Eucaristía. Continuamente Dios nos lanza hacia la expansión y abundancia con que se puede vivir este tesoro incluso cuando no podemos asistir a Misa. Las maneras son múltiples.

En Springfield, más de 90 hermanas dominicas viven en la casa matriz encerradas para protegerse contra el virus. Oramos sin la Misa, en solidaridad con otros que tampoco pueden participar de ella. Nuestras hermanas Joanne Delehanty y Mary Pokorny en la parroquia St. Benedict the African de Chicago han tomado una decisión diferente pero igualmente válida. A sugerencia de su párroco, ellas reciben comunión en su capilla diariamente en nombre de quienes no pueden recibir. “Lo experimentamos como una confianza sagrada y lo hacemos parte de nuestra oración. . . por la vida del mundo “.

El padre Steven Janoski, párroco de la parroquia St. Ambrose en Godfrey, Illinois, fue directo al meollo del asunto cuando se le preguntó cómo sus feligreses están lidiando con la ausencia de Misa. “Creo que están aprovechando la oportunidad para SER Eucaristía, ser el cuerpo de Cristo, fuente de Vida al cuidarse unos a otros, incluso desde la distancia”. Aunque la tecnología ha ayudado, sabemos que “cuando nos reunimos físicamente como una familia, somos verdaderamente el Cuerpo de Cristo vivo, respirando, amando y sirviendo”.

Leroy y Johnetta Jordan, católicos de toda la vida y miembros del equipo de Antirracismo, a menudo se sienten privados de su cultura afroamericana. Leroy está agradecido por que “durante la pandemia, ¡la Iglesia ha venido a nosotros!” Confinados en casa, reciben a los miembros de la familia para reunirse y compartir la diversidad de rituales que atesoran. Con alegría declararon: “La comunión y la comunidad son Uno, y es una bendición”.

La hermana Judine Hilbing, desde Sur Chicago, comparte su interpretación de Jesús preparando una morada para todos. Ella cree que “Dios nos precede siempre, incluso en una pandemia global, ofreciendo fortaleza y consuelo dentro del Cuerpo de Cristo”.

Nuestra asociada Nancy Rita Kaz habla tiernamente mientras se recupera de una lesión en la médula espinal. Compartiendo la fe desde su sala de rehabilitación con asistencia de teléfonos celulares, susurra: “Respiro el apoyo sentido y exhalo un sentimiento de gratitud por los buenos amigos y amigas con quienes comparto esta nueva forma de comunión. ¡Qué regalo!

La hermana Judine tiene su ministerio en Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Illinois. La hermana Mary Jean es representante congregacional en la Red de Defensa de Inmigrantes de Springfield y vive en Springfield. Ambas pertenecen al Comité Editorial de JUST Words.

EUCHARIST IN TIME OF PANDEMIC... AND ALWAYS

by Sisters Judine Hilbing, OP and Mary Jean Traeger, OP



“I breathe in a sense of support and I breathe out a feeling of gratitude for the good friends with whom I share this new form of communion. What a gift!”

Nancy Rita Kaz

Jubilee Farm, spring 2020

The coronavirus entered our lives uninvited, brutally. Absence of Sunday Mass intensified the loss. Yet even pandemic cannot deter us from the grace of Eucharist. Continually God lures us toward the expansiveness and abundance with which this treasure can be lived even when we cannot attend Mass. The ways are multitude.

In Springfield, 90+ Dominican Sisters live in an enclosed motherhouse to guard against the virus. We pray without the Mass, in solidarity with others unable to attend. Our Sisters Joanne Delehanty and Mary Pokorny at St. Benedict the African Parish in Chicago have made a different, yet equally valid choice. At the suggestion of their pastor, they receive communion in their chapel daily in the name of everyone who cannot receive. “We experience it as a sacred trust and make it part of our prayer . . . for the life of the world.”

Father Steven Janoski, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Godfrey, Ill. goes

straight to the heart of the matter when asked how his parishioners are dealing with the absence of Mass. “I believe they are embracing the opportunity to BE Eucharist, the life-giving Body of Christ, as they care for one another, even from a distance.” Though technology has helped, we know that “when we physically gather as a family, we are truly the Body of Christ, living, breathing, loving, serving.”

Leroy and Johnetta Jordan, lifelong Catholics and members of the Dominican Antiracism Team, often feel bereft of their African American culture. So, Leroy is grateful that “during the pandemic, the Church has come to us!” Confined at home themselves, they welcomed family members to gather and share the diversity of worship they treasure. Joyfully they declared, “Communion and community are One, and it is blessing.”

Sister Judine Hilbing from South Chicago shares her interpretation of

Jesus preparing a dwelling place for all. She believes that “God goes before us always, even in a global pandemic, offering strength and comfort within the Body of Christ.”

Dominican Associate Nancy Rita Kaz speaks tenderly as she recovers from a spinal cord injury. Sharing faith from her rehabilitation room through the assistance of her cell phone, she whispers, “I breathe in a sense of support and I breathe out a feeling of gratitude for the good friends with whom I share this new form of communion. What a gift!”

To read more about the impact of the pandemic on our understanding of Eucharist visit <https://springfieldop.org/eucharist-pandemic>

Sister Judine ministers at Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Ill. Sister Mary Jean is the congregational liaison for the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network and lives in Springfield. They are members of the JUST Words Editorial Board.

“BWAIN BWEAKS” AND BRIDGES: COPING WITH CANCER DURING COVID-19

by Sister Kristin Crawford, OP



A gloriously disheveled five-year old sits, lotus-style, on the floor; eyes closed, arms gently rising and falling, breathing deeply. “What are you doing, Sadie?” my niece asks of her daughter. Response: “I’m taking a bwain bweak!”

During the months following my sharing that image with coworkers in the Decatur lab of Cancer Care Specialists, that phrase has morphed into something of a mantra: “I need a bwain bweak!”

Given the unremitting media coverage of COVID-19, you might think there is no angle, no insight unfilmed or unsaid. The signs proclaiming “superheroes work here” and the multicolored hearts on the walls of our clinic speak to us not only of coworkers but of our patients and their families.

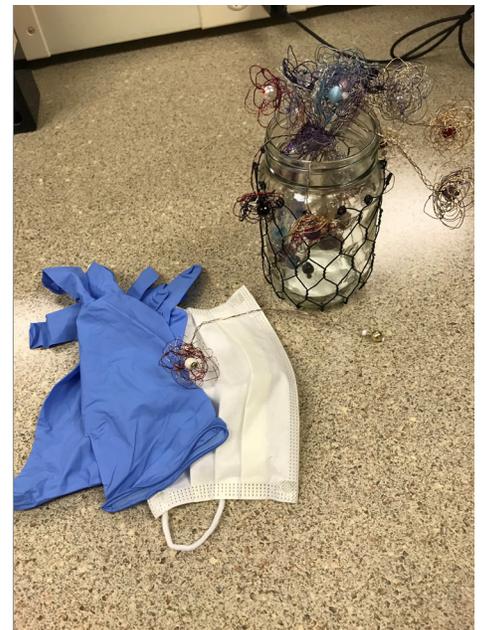
For all of us, some aspects of the shelter-at-home decree seem inviting when the necessity of leaving home carries an extra weight of fear and uncertainty. Compromised by their illnesses, our patients push through that fear each time they

enter our doors. Upon arrival, they and their caregiver (limited now to one) must go through the gauntlet of temperature-taking, symptom-checking and masking. Despite the masks, the “social distancing,” and Lysol-wielding cleaners, our patients constantly surprise us with their resilience and grace.

Masks, face shields and all the other “PPE” can’t disguise the concern of the many people who care for those patients. Perhaps one of the blessings rising from the corona-chaos is greater appreciation of and sensitivity to others. We share God’s creativity when we find ways to bridge the distances caused by disease.

Flimsy though it may be, I have been building a bridge of flowers. My personal “bwain bweaks” before and after lab shifts will usually find me surrounded by beads and wire which are fashioned into small flowers available to the staff. Recently a nurse chose one of those flowers for a patient who has received a difficult diagnosis. Another worker used the small token to say “thank you” to a besieged spouse trying to work from

home while supervising the children. Every time I see one of the flowers disappear, I see the bridge between us grow stronger.



Top: Sister Kristin gives a flower to her coworker Keri Pals. Bottom: A jar of wire creations that provide Sister Kristin with a “bwain bweak” and patients with a symbol of care and hope.

Sister Kristin is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Cancer Care Specialists, in Decatur, Ill., and a JUST Words board member.

THE NEXT HEALING: IS EARTH HEALING?

by Sister Sharon Zayac, OP



Many of us have seen stories of what some of the rest of the Earth community had been doing while vast portions of human populations were sheltering in place. Wild animals moved freely through national parks, no longer keeping hidden from view. Wild goats wandered through village streets in Wales, and lion prides rested on roads in South Africa. Others of us remarked on smog-free, bright blue skies seen in our cities for the first time in decades. Scientists monitored a reduction of

carbon emissions as airplanes and millions of vehicles sat unused.

Earth has begun to heal, we heard from a number of sources. We would like to think so, wouldn't we? She was certainly enjoying a breather—a fresher one than she has had in over a century.

Traffic was down 36% in the United States alone. COVID-19 and a warmer-than-average winter reduced our carbon emissions by 8%. We proved that our activities do make a difference, quite a dramatic one, by doing what scientists have

been requesting for years: cutting down our use of fossil fuels, particularly in the transportation sector. However, the fact remains that we must sustain that kind of reduction each year for the next ten years if we are to prevent global heating from exceeding 1.5 degrees C (2 degrees F). Earth has only had a short breather.

For Earth to truly begin to heal, we humans must look at all our behaviors that upset the balance of relationships that keep the whole healthy. COVID-19 points to a major behavior regarding our relationship to animals, particularly those we raise or poach for food. Both the SARS and COVID viruses result from our contact with animals who carry the virus. We must also dramatically alter our abuse and over-use of water, soils, the oceans, and other major ecosystems that support life on this planet we call home.

Can COVID-19 be an impetus for Earth's healing?

What lessons might we learn from this experience?

Humility: We humans do not have control over the rest of nature. We live in a precious balance that we must honor and respect. **Resilience:** Earth can bounce back when we stop our relentless planetary assault that upsets that balance. **Hope:** When we see the urgency, understand what we must do, we can move quickly, decisively, and do the right thing. Perhaps, after all, Earth has begun to heal.

Sister Sharon is on staff at Jubilee Farm in New Berlin, Ill.



Sister M. Angelene Celebrated

Sister M. Angelene Biderbost was honored with the Alumni Award during the Catholic Schools' week Mass at St. Agnes School, Springfield, Ill., last winter. A 1951 graduate of the school, Sister M. Angelene taught there and continues to work with the parish school of religion program. Congratulations, Sister M. Angelene!



Sister Judith Hilbing practices the pandemic elbow bump with nurse Kathy Price while Sister M. Diana Doyle looks on.

Six Years of Service

In August, **Sister Judith Hilbing** completes six years of service as prioress of Sacred Heart Convent. She, like others before her, has given a full measure of care and commitment to assuring community life at 1237 W. Monroe Street. That includes planning celebrations and mourning deaths, managing details, and attending to crises, welcoming crowds home for events, and accompanying individual sisters making the transition from active ministry to a new phase of life. It includes all of that and so much more. Thank you, Sister Judi, for your generous and personally costly service to our sisters and community.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray with us for our sisters and associates who have died.

Barbara Dunlavy, Prayer Associate • January 28, 2020

Karen Miller, Associate • February 16, 2020

Sister Stephanie Kapusta, OP • March 24, 2020

Sister Charlotte Rebbe, OP • April 10, 2020

Jim Sellmyer, Prayer Associate • June 13, 2020

Mary Agnes O'Donnell, Prayer Associate • June 14, 2020

Congrats!



Nicholas Black Elk's Journey to Sainthood

Sister Barbara Bogenschutz, OP, has film credits to her name! She appears as associate producer in the crawl of *Walking the Good Red Road: Nicholas Black Elks' Journey to Canonization*. As pastoral leader of Our Lady of the Sioux Parish in Oglala, S.D., Sister Barb was among those who assisted producers and crew from the New Media Group, the South Bend, Ind., based producers of the documentary. Black Elk served as a catechist in the parish and surrounding community. Some of his relatives continue to worship there. The video can be watched for free on the website of the Diocese of Rapid City at <https://blackelkcanonization.com/>.

Sister Barbara Ann Bogenschutz, OP, with George Looks Twice, grandson of Nicholas Black Elk.

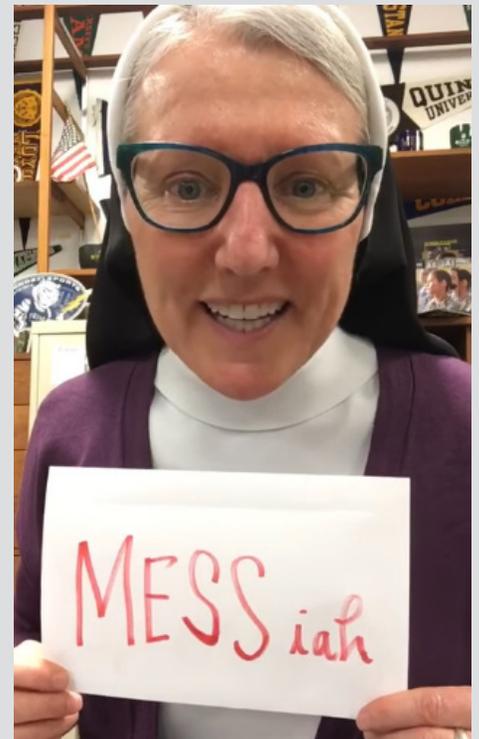


Successful Seedling Sale

Jubilee Farm enjoyed a successful seedling sale despite the coronavirus pandemic. Sister Suzanne Donner and Sister Rose Marie Riley prioritized getting organic flower, herb, and vegetable seedlings to as many families as possible. They took phone orders and organized a no-contact drive-through pick up process. Plants leftover after the end of the sale were donated to community gardens and those in need.

A Decade of Service

Sister Maira Barry recently observed the 10th anniversary of her ministry as chaplain at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill. Thank you for your years of accompaniment, Sister Maira!



Get Up & Go with Sister Mojo

Did you see *Get Up and Go with Sister Mojo*? These 90-second inspirational messages from Sister Mary Jo Sobeck were shared as part of her ministry at Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Ill. Check out #CelebrateMarian or #GoSrMoJo to see for yourself.

MEET THE JUBILARIAN CLASS OF 2020



Sister Mary Dominic Joerger, OP | *Holy Cross Parish, Mendota, Ill.*

Sister Myra Flahive, OP (Sister Myra Joseph) | *St. Bartholomew Parish, Chicago*

Sister Colette Barker, OP | *Holy Angels, Aurora, Ill.*

Sister Bernadette Marie McGuire, OP | *St. Patrick Parish, Springfield, Ill.*

Sister Judith Hilbing, OP (Sister Francis Irene) | *St. Boniface Parish, Quincy, Ill.*

Sister Mary Harold Herrmann, OP | *St. Charles Borromeo, Hampshire, Ill.*

Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel, OP | *Little Flower Parish, Springfield, Ill.*

Sister Margaret Mary Byrnes, OP | *St. Brendan Parish, Chicago*

Sister Anne Lawrence Buchmiller, OP | *St. Lawrence Parish, Greenville, Ill.*

These nine faithful women have lived a combined 555 years of consecrated life as members of the Order of Preachers.

Sister Mary Dominic, who has been professed for 75 years, made her profession amid the violent end of the Second World War. All the other sisters made profession 60 years ago, in 1960, after the Second Vatican Council was called but not yet convened.

It was during these historic, liminal moments—not unlike our own—that each sister chose a life of consecration to God and to the people of God for the Life of the World. Learn more about each sister at <https://springfieldop.org/jubilee-2020/> where you can leave them a note of gratitude.

How Will You Respond?

If you or someone you know wants more information about how to respond to God's call to consecrated life in this historic liminal age visit springfieldop.org/join-us/become-a-sister/ or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, at 217-787-0481.

CELEBRATING
JUST WORDS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY!

Watch for more vintage JW stories in the October edition!

WHAT PARTNERSHIP REALLY MEANS

A “partner” is someone who agrees to cooperate with another to advance mutual interests. Partners often increase the likelihood of each achieving their mission and amplifying their reach.

You could expect that during times of tragedy partnerships are tested. This global pandemic has been challenging for all of us. Do we love deeply enough to sacrifice personal freedom and mobility to protect another? Are we creative enough to care for others while protecting our families and our health?

When partnerships are healthy, partners are free to choose retreat from the partnership or a recommitment to the mission. As the magnitude of the pandemic became clear, we reached out to our partners to assure them they were free to make that choice.

A remarkable thing happened.

Our spring appeal landed in mailboxes the week of the shut-down of the country.

The economy was tanking.

We anticipated a dramatic decrease in giving.

And it didn't happen.

Instead, our partners responded with characteristic generosity. Some even increased their gifts, using envelopes from *JUST Words* or the *Donor Report*.



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



With humble gratitude, we say thank you to our partners for their generosity and support.

A special thanks to our monthly donors and to our Sacred Heart Convent coworkers who give through payroll deduction. These automated donations are a significant dependable income for our sisters. They are an invaluable, constant support amid fluctuating markets and rising costs. Thank YOU!

All our partners, all our readers, can count on us for prayers as you continue to discern how God is calling forth from you your generous response to your mission and our common mission “for the life of the world.”

How to become a monthly donor:

1. Click the donate button at springfieldop.org.
 - Choose your donation amount and select it to recur monthly, quarterly, or yearly.
 - Choose your payment method: bank transfer, credit card, or electronic check.
2. Or, you can indicate your gift as reoccurring on a *JUST Words* or appeal envelope.

Please know you can adjust or cancel reoccurring donations with a call or email to me.

Thank you again for being *Partners in Mission*—both in the good and challenging times.



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Dominican Sources

“Only when the systems that support the supremacy of whiteness are dismantled will we have the opportunity for a healthier, more equitable nation and freedom for all—persons of color and white persons.”

From the Springfield Dominican Leadership Team’s June 1 statement on racial killings.
See Springfieldop.org/black-lives-matter.

DATEBOOK

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 19-25 Retreat at Sacred Heart Convent
- 22 Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, patroness of the Order of Preachers
- 25 JUST Words editorial board meeting

August

- 6-7 Community Assembly
- 8 Feast of St. Dominic, Founder, Order of Preachers
- 15 Feast of the Assumption of Mary
- 19 147th Founder’s Day
- 23 Feast of St. Rose of Lima, patron saint of Peru and South America

September

- 7 Labor Day
- 8 Feast of the Birth of Mary
- 22 Autumn begins