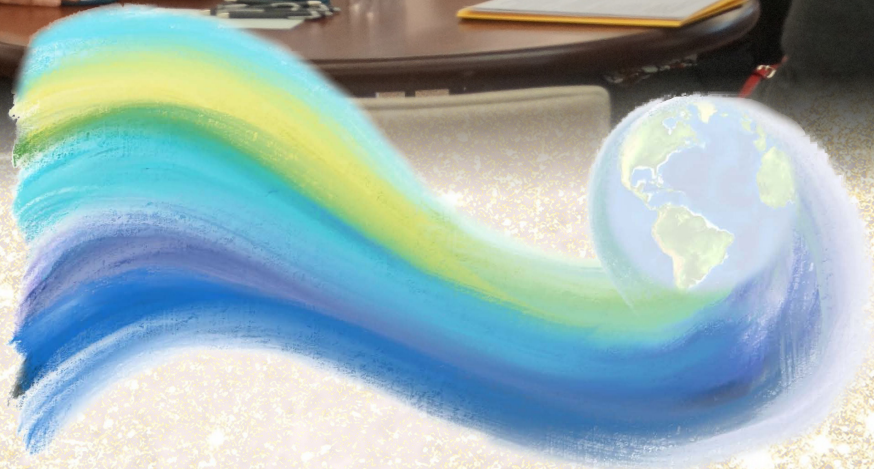


DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*

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For the Life of the World • Por la Vida del Mudo • Pro Mundi Vita
General Chapter 2019 • Dominican Sisters, Springfield, Illinois



How is God's Spirit calling Springfield Dominicans forth?" That's the question of the hour as our congregation moves toward our next General Chapter* in April. It's a challenging question given the enormous diversity of needs in the world and Church in which we live. Will our response truly be "for the life of the world?"

Just who is this Spirit urging us forth? Theologian Elizabeth Johnson reminds us that the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, along with the writings of the early Church, abound with metaphors pointing to the activity of the Holy Spirit. Wind, fire, and water are the most prominent among them...all are elusive and mysterious. Johnson acknowledges that none of these has an identifiable shape and yet...when the Spirit acts...it is evident to those who pay attention. So, how is the Spirit inviting us forward?

A recent Facebook meme featured this quote: "You matter...(unless you multiply yourself by the speed of light)...then, you energy!" Might energy...the energy that makes up the totality of the cosmos...be another apt metaphor for the Spirit? Energy is the force, the glue that literally holds everything together in life-giving unity and love. Spirit-as-energy is present within each of us and in the collective "we." Our deep desire, as Dominican Sisters of Springfield to be "for the life of the world" summons the energy of Spirit to put possibilities into direct conversation with the Dominican mission.

Every process in which we engage before and during General Chapter* attunes us to the movement of Spirit-as-energy among us.

In addition to looking inward and dreaming outward through contemplative dialogue, it is imperative that we listen deeply to those who know us. Might they perceive something we are missing? Acquainted with the Spirit-as-energy that motivates us, they can put us in touch with the needs of the world, those needs we might not notice. The articles in this *JUST Words* offer significant insights from our own sisters and from others who also love us, those whose truth we can trust, those whose challenges are worthy of our consideration. Their wisdom can direct our attention to God's Spirit...so that we can become vehicles of God's Spirit-as-energy "for the life of the world!"



Sister Barbara Blesse OP, is the vicareess general 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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* The general chapter, when in session, is the highest authority in the congregation. All members of the congregation are bound by its decisions. Called together for the good of the Church, the chapter, by its decisions, challenges all members to a renewed fidelity to the mission of the community in the spirit of St. Dominic. Elected delegates, after consultation with the rest of membership, exercise responsibility for the common good through active participation in this collegial, decision-making body.

General Chapter Prayer

O God, Holy Mystery,

Called by you into right relationship with all creation and
graced by our Dominican life and mission,
we desire to compassionately preach your
Gospel to our Church and world.

As we discern your mission in us for the life of the world,
we seek your guidance.

We rely confidently on your ongoing revelation and
the promptings of your Spirit. Accompany us as
we journey during this time of General
Chapter preparation.

Amen.

Oración del Capítulo General

Oh Dios, Santo Misterio,

Llamadas por ti a una relación justa con toda la creación y
benedicidas con la gracia de nuestra vida y misión dominicana,
deseamos predicar compasivamente tu Evangelio
a nuestra Iglesia y al mundo.

Buscamos tu guía mientras discernimos la misión que nos confías
para la vida del mundo.

Tenemos confianza en tu revelación continua y en los impulsos
de tu Espíritu. Acompáñanos mientras caminamos durante este
tiempo de preparación al Capítulo General.

Amén.



TRUST IS THE ANTIDOTE TO FEAR

An interview with Daphne Skretvedt by Sister Rose Miriam Schulte, OP

SRM: Daphne, how do you see the Spirit calling the Dominican Sisters forth at this time?

DS: I have come to know you as courageous, prophetic women. I've witnessed your fearless and persistent ways in serving real people in real-time. I believe this acute sensitivity to addressing the social needs of the times will continue to serve you well.

SRM: Speak more about us as "prophetic," please.

DS: My husband and I are associates and charter members of the Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team (SDART). As a woman of color in a biracial marriage I marveled that years ago you took a communal stance toward becoming an anti-racist institution and invited partners of color to journey with you. That was a huge risk!

It was prophetic in that you chose to dismantle racism in your community before this systemic social evil became a rallying cry in the larger society. And you have been an example in choosing to work in a mutually respectful and transparent way with People of Color.

SRM: How can this prophetic role thrust us forward?

DS: As a former U.N. social worker I've watched you plant the seeds of justice in a variety of milieus. You are blessed with a number of women singularly committed to works such as immigration, ministry among Hispanic and Native Americans, literacy/citizenship, hospitality for women, and care of Earth, to name just a few. Quite uniquely, however,

you do not allow these passions to germinate only in the hearts of a few. As a community you have united these seemingly disparate seeds into communal direction-setting.

SRM: What possible obstacles do you see to our embracing the future to which we are called?

DS: Do not underestimate the power of fear. Fear is a natural and even healthy response to real impending danger. Left to its own devices, however, fear can raise the level of anxiety within the group and become debilitating. I recall



Merlin and Daphne Skretvedt

several years ago when the idea of accountability to People of Color first came up in SDART. There was resistance from the sisters and the matter was tabled. But now, several years later, SDART has formulated an accountability guide for implementation in the community and your sponsored institutions.

SRM: And the antidote to fear?

DS: Trust—in God's providential care, in one another, in your past, and in those with whom you choose to partner. You have a history of collaborating both within and outside

of the Dominican Family. That is itself a prophetic gesture on your part in that it calls into question the societal penchant for authoritarian, hierarchical, or individualized behaviors.

SRM: Are you aware of any current trends among us that better prepare us for moving forward?

DS: I recently learned of your movement toward transfer of the sponsorship of St. Dominic Health Services in Jackson, Miss. I am also aware that your high schools have been in various collaborative ventures with other Dominican sponsored high schools for some time with the possibility of looking at some new form of sponsorship. Difficult as these considerations might be, I believe the Spirit is at work in you . . . divesting yourselves of the responsibility for institutions will give you a new freedom in allocating your resources—both in finances and personnel.

SRM: Is there anything further you'd like to say to us as we prepare for our General Chapter?

DS: Expect the Spirit to carry your works well beyond what you envision. In my years in SDART I have been a part of many conversations around the primary goal: the Dominican Sisters of Springfield becoming an anti-racist institution. Almost in spite of yourselves, however, you have provided the impetus within the Springfield civic community toward anti-racism work.

LA CONFIANZA ES EL ANTÍDOTO DEL MIEDO

Una Entrevista con Daphne Skretvedt por la Sister Rose Miriam Schulte, OP

SRM: Daphne, ¿cómo ves al Espíritu llamando a las Hermanas Dominicas en este momento?

DS: He llegado a conocerlas como mujeres valientes y proféticas. He sido testigo de sus formas audaces y persistentes de servir a personas reales en tiempo real. Creo que esta aguda sensibilidad para atender las necesidades sociales de los tiempos seguirá sirviéndoles bien.

SRM: Habla más sobre nosotras como “proféticas”, por favor.

DS: Mi esposo y yo somos asociados y miembros fundadores del Equipo de Antirracismo de las Dominicas de Springfield (SDART). Como mujer de color en un matrimonio bi-racial, me maravillé de que hace años tomaron una postura comunitaria para convertirse en una institución antirracista, e invitaste a compañeros y compañeras de color a caminar consigo. ¡Eso fue un gran riesgo!

Fue profético el hecho de que ustedes eligieron dismantelar el racismo en su comunidad antes de que este mal social sistémico se convirtiera en un grito de guerra en la sociedad en general. Y han sido un ejemplo al elegir trabajar de forma respetuosa y transparente con Personas de Color.

SRM: ¿Cómo puede empujarnos hacia adelante este rol profético?

DS: Como ex-trabajadora social de la ONU, he visto cómo ustedes plantaron las semillas de la justicia en una variedad de ambientes. Ustedes están bendecidas con varias mujeres comprometidas de forma singular con trabajos como la inmigración, el ministerio entre hispanos y indígenas

americanos, la alfabetización / ciudadanía, la hospitalidad para mujeres y el cuidado de la Tierra, por nombrar solo algunas. Notablemente, sin embargo, no permiten que estas pasiones germinen solo en el corazón de unas pocas. Como comunidad, ustedes han juntado estas semillas aparentemente dispares en el establecimiento de una dirección comunitaria.

SRM: ¿Qué posibles obstáculos ve usted de nuestro abrazo del futuro al que estamos llamadas

DS: No subestimen el poder del miedo. El miedo es una respuesta natural e incluso saludable al peligro real inminente. Sin embargo, si se deja a su propio ritmo, el miedo puede elevar el nivel de ansiedad dentro del grupo y debilitarse. Recuerdo que hace varios años, cuando surgió por primera vez en SDART la idea de la rendición de cuentas a Personas de Color, las hermanas se resistieron y el asunto se quedó en nada. Pero ahora, varios años después, SDART ha formulado una guía de responsabilidad y rendición de cuentas para la implementación en la comunidad y sus instituciones patrocinadas.

SRM: ¿Y el antídoto contra el miedo?

DS: La confianza—en el cuidado providencial de Dios, la una en la otra, en su pasado. . . y en aquellos con quienes elijan asociarse. Tienen una historia de colaboración dentro y fuera de la Familia Dominicana. Eso es en sí mismo un gesto profético de su parte, ya que pone en tela de juicio la inclinación de la

sociedad por conductas autoritarias, jerárquicas o individualizadas.

SRM: ¿Tiene conocimiento de alguna tendencia actual entre nosotras que nos prepare mejor para avanzar?

DS: Recientemente me enteré de su movimiento hacia la transferencia del patrocinio del Sistema de Salud de St. Dominic en Jackson, Mississippi. También soy consciente de que sus escuelas secundarias han participado en varias formas de colaboración con otras escuelas secundarias patrocinadas por otras congregaciones de dominicas durante algún tiempo, con la posibilidad de formar una nueva forma de patrocinio. Por difíciles que sean estas consideraciones, creo que el Espíritu está obrando en ustedes. Despojarse de la responsabilidad de las instituciones les dará una nueva libertad en la asignación de sus recursos, tanto financieros como personales.

SRM: ¿Hay algo más que nos gustaría decirnos durante este tiempo de preparación para nuestro Capítulo General?

DS: Esperan que el Espíritu lleve sus obras mucho más allá de lo que imaginan. En mis años en SDART he sido parte de muchas conversaciones sobre el objetivo principal: que las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield se convierten en una institución antirracista. Sin embargo, casi a pesar de ustedes, han brindado el ímpetu dentro de la comunidad cívica de Springfield hacia el trabajo contra el racismo.

INVITED BY THE SPIRIT

by Sister Judine Hilbing, OP

"I never turn down an invitation," replied the elderly woman when asked the secret to her vibrancy. "You have to keep making new friends and moving forward in new directions along this journey of life." When some of our sisters were asked, "How is the Spirit inviting the Dominican Sisters forward?" responses were unique; yet each was futuristic and zesting for life.



Sister Patricia Francis, OP

As we transition from active participation in institutions, the Spirit is calling us to be intentional in how we re-envision our community culture in ways that support our values and mission.

Al hacer la transición de la participación activa en las instituciones, el Espíritu nos llama a ser intencionales en la manera en la que re-imaginamos nuestra cultura comunitaria para apoyar nuestros valores y misión.



Hermana Mila Diaz Solano, OP

El Espíritu nos está llamando a permanecer fieles a tomar decisiones en una forma comunitaria en todas las cosas que afectan nuestro futuro, aceptando que la voz de cada persona en la mesa es importante.

The Spirit is calling us to remain faithful to communal decision-making in all things that affect our future, accepting that each person's voice at the table is important.



Sister Sara Koch, OP

The sisters have ministered in the midst of violence and stood with those who have no voice. Today this same Spirit is calling us to share a vision of compassion and justice.

Las hermanas han hecho su ministerio en medio de la violencia, estando presentes con quienes no tienen voz. Hoy este mismo Espíritu nos llama a compartir una visión de compasión y justicia.



Sister Denise Glazik, OP

In scripture, we observe that the Spirit gives refreshment to those who are running on empty. Our God will not fail us as the Spirit calls us forth to new and unexpected opportunities.

En las Escrituras, observamos que el Espíritu alimenta y renueva a aquellos que están vacías. Nuestro Dios no nos fallará, ya que el Espíritu nos invita a nuevas oportunidades inesperadas.

While the number of vowed religious continues to decline, the commitment of the Springfield Dominicans remains strong. With hope in our hearts, we accept aging as a natural stage of a rich and joy-filled life. We will not turn down an invitation from the Spirit to live each day of our existence in new and creative ways.

These reflections were compiled by Sister Judine Hilbing, member of the editorial board of JUST Words. For complete answers from the sisters, visit www.springfieldop.org/just-words.

INVITADO POR EL ESPÍRITU

por Sister Judine Hilbing, OP

"Nunca rechazo una invitación," respondió la anciana cuando le preguntaron el secreto de su vibrante vida. "Hay que seguir haciendo nuevas amistades y avanzando en nuevas direcciones a lo largo del proceso de envejecimiento." Cuando se les preguntó a algunas de nuestras hermanas: "¿Cómo invita el Espíritu a las hermanas dominicanas a avanzar?" Las respuestas fueron únicas; sin embargo, cada una era futurista y apasionada por la vida.



Sister Margaret Schreiber, OP

The Spirit challenges us to let go of all that resists simplicity. If we become empty vessels, the Spirit can guide us into the next phase of our existence.

El Espíritu nos desafía a dejar atrás todo lo que resiste la simplicidad. Si nos convertimos en recipientes vacíos, el Espíritu puede guiarnos a la siguiente fase de nuestra existencia.



Sister Beverly Jeanne Howe, OP

Our Dominican congregation has always been a community "on the move" in our diverse ministries. In this present age, the Spirit impels us to be open to unfolding truth.

Nuestra congregación dominica siempre ha sido una comunidad "en camino" en nuestros diversos ministerios. En esta era actual, el Espíritu nos impulsa a estar abiertas a la verdad que va revelándose ante nosotras.



Hermana Doris Terrel Jiménez, OP

El Espíritu nos invita a ponernos en las manos de Dios y en las manos de nuestras hermanas, dejando de lado todo lo que es familiar para que podamos minister eficazmente en este tiempo presente.

The Spirit invites us to place ourselves in the hands of God and in the hands of our sisters, letting go of all that is familiar so that we can minister effectively in this present time.



Sister Phyllis Schenk, OP

We have addressed the sin of racism. Perhaps the Spirit is calling us to expand our awareness of sin to include the sin of sexism, recognizing that all human-kind has equal value in God's creation.

Hemos abordado el pecado del racismo. Quizás el Espíritu nos está llamando a expandir nuestra conciencia del pecado para incluir el pecado del sexismo, reconociendo que toda la humanidad tiene el mismo valor en la creación de Dios.

Si bien el número de religiosas comprometidas sigue disminuyendo, el compromiso de las Dominicas de Springfield sigue siendo fuerte. Con esperanza en nuestros corazones, aceptamos el envejecimiento como un escenario natural de una vida rica y llena de alegría. No rechazaremos la invitación del Espíritu para vivir cada día de nuestra existencia en formas nuevas y creativas.

DOMINICAN SISTERS' ROLE: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN A DISCONNECTED WORLD

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP



Left: Erica Smith proclaims the gospel at an associate event. Right: Rocio Hurtado, upper right, at her home with (clockwise from lower right) Sisters Beth Murphy, Clare Fichtner, Kelly Moline, and Lori Kirchman.

Three women under 40 who responded to a question about the future of Springfield Dominican religious life each recognized the need to address social and economic ills that keep humans separated and wary of each other.

“Almost nothing happens in the real world anymore. Everything happens online,” said Rocio Hurtado, a recent Springfield transplant and Illinois Department of Public Health employee. She says she’s struggled to develop friendships and find people who share her values.

“Our relationships are through social media. Even dating happens online. The organic development of relationships doesn’t exist anymore,” she says. “The Dominican Sisters are creating spaces in which we can build relationships. That is valuable.”

She challenges the sisters to look around their own neighborhoods. “The carpenter’s house is a mess,” she says, using a Mexican wisdom saying to explain that the sisters could be missing needs in their own backyards.

“Do visible work in the community,” she says—like creating community gardens, improving access to fresh food for the poor, and living in the communities that need the most work. “Community is a valuable witness in these neighborhoods,” she says.

For Marie Owumi, a senior business major at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Ill., the world needs sisters to make “safe space.” She offered two ways to do that: create “no judgement zones” for young adults who want to explore what they believe without fearing reprisal, and support “dreamers and entrepreneurs” who want to fulfill their dreams “without bending to the will of capitalism.”

“You can start wherever you are already working, whatever you are already doing,” she says. “In your schools and small offices, you can inspire people to go for their dreams.”

Erica Smith is a Springfield Dominican associate and executive director of Helping Hands Shelter in Springfield. From where she stands

she sees that “economic, social, and political systems we all participate in” are the creators of the poverty and homelessness she confronts every day at the shelter.

The most important use of Springfield Dominican sisters’ energy is being where Jesus would be, she says. “When I think of the suffering, and the pain, and the strength, and the grace I see every day in those who are homeless, I’m pretty sure Jesus would spend a lot of his time at a shelter or a day center.”

The burden of change, she says, “is upon us who have had the safety net of privileged race, socioeconomic status, and opportunity.”

For more insight from Rocio, Marie, and Erica visit www.springfieldop.org/just-words.

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

EL PAPEL DE LAS HERMANAS DOMINICAS: CONSTRUYENDO RELACIONES EN UN MUNDO DESCONECTADO

por Sister Beth Murphy, OP

Tres mujeres menores de 40 años que respondieron a una pregunta sobre el futuro de la vida religiosa de las dominicas de Springfield reconocieron la necesidad de abordar los males sociales y económicos que mantienen a los seres humanos separados y cautelosos entre sí.

“Casi nada sucede en el mundo real. Todo sucede en línea,” dijo Rocio Hurtado, un reciente trasplante a Springfield y empleada del Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois. Ella dice que ha tenido problemas en desarrollar amistades y encontrar a personas que compartan sus valores.

“Nuestras relaciones son a través de las redes sociales. Incluso las citas ocurren en línea. El desarrollo orgánico de las relaciones ya no existe,” dice. “Las Hermanas Dominicas están creando espacios en los cuales podemos construir relaciones. Eso es valioso.”

Ella desafía a las hermanas a mirar en sus propios vecindarios. “La casa del carpintero es un desastre,” dice, usando una sabiduría mexicana que dice que las hermanas podrían no reconocer las necesidades en su propio barrio. “Haga un trabajo visible en la comunidad,” dice—como crear jardines comunitarios, mejorar el acceso a alimentos frescos para los

pobres y vivir en las comunidades que necesitan más trabajo. “La vida comunitaria es un testimonio valioso en estos vecindarios.”

Para Marie Owumi, estudiante de negocios en Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois, el mundo necesita que las hermanas creen un “espacio de seguridad.” Ofreció dos formas de hacerlo: crear “zonas de no juzgar” para adultos jóvenes que



Marie Owumi durante una visita de Pascua al Convento del Sagrado Corazón.

desean explorar sus propias creencias sin temor a represalias, y apoyar a los “soñadores y empresarios” que quieren cumplir sus sueños “sin someterse a la voluntad del capitalismo.”

“Pueden comenzar donde sea que estén trabajando, sea cual sea lo que estén haciendo,” dijo Marie. “En sus escuelas y oficinas pequeñas, pueden inspirar a las personas a hacer realidad sus sueños.”

Erica Smith es una Asociada Dominica de Springfield y directora ejecutiva de Helping Hands Shelter en Springfield. Desde su posición, ella ve que son los “sistemas económicos, sociales y políticos en los que todos participamos” que son los creadores de la pobreza y la falta de vivienda que ella enfrenta cada día en el refugio.

El uso más importante de la energía de las hermanas dominicas de Springfield es estar donde Jesús estaría hoy, dice ella. “Cuando pienso en el sufrimiento y el dolor, y también la fuerza y la gracia que veo todos los días en las personas sin hogar, estoy muy segura de que Jesús pasaría gran parte de su tiempo en un refugio o un centro donde las personas sin hogar puedan pasar el día.”

La responsabilidad por el cambio, dice ella, “está con nosotras que hemos vivido dentro de la red de seguridad y oportunidad que proporciona nuestra raza privilegiada y estatus socioeconómico.”

Hermana Beth Murphy, OP, es la Directora de Comunicaciones para las Dominicas de Springfield.

UNA “ESTRELLA GUIADORA” DE FE Y MISIÓN

por Marcelo y Cookie Ruvinsky



El Doctor Marcelo Ruvinsky conoció a su esposa Cookie en una escuela de medicina en Córdoba, Argentina. Se mudaron a Jackson, Mississippi, en 1971 para su internado y residencia en el Centro Médico de la Universidad de Mississippi, pensando que volverían a casa en cuatro años. “Entonces, la vida intervino,” dijo. “Todavía estamos aquí, y nos sentimos muy bendecidos con todo eso.” Doctor Marcelo ha practicado la medicina en el Hospital de St. Dominic por más de cuarenta años. Es el Presidente de la Junta de Servicios de Salud de St. Dominic.

La opinión expresada—y eso también incluye la percepción de Cookie—se basa en mi asociación con las hermanas durante toda mi carrera profesional.

Mi sentido de admiración y respeto por las hermanas es genial. Son altamente educadas, compasivas, sin pretensiones. Una misión llena de fe

es su estrella guiadora. Las hermanas son líderes probadas y jugadoras de equipo. Las hermanas tienen una gran influencia en la vida espiritual y emocional de los individuos y de la sociedad en general.

El uso de todo este talento debería beneficiar a toda la comunidad

La educación es un área donde sobresalen las hermanas. Podrían enseñar inglés en iglesias y parroquias, al creciente número de inmigrantes que vienen a nuestra tierra. Podrían enseñar otras materias en escuelas y refugios locales.

Las clínicas comunitarias y el cuidado de los indigentes y personas con discapacidades mentales deben continuar ya que ha demostrado ser un programa muy necesario y popular en Jackson.

Las hermanas podrían participar en hospicios y hogares de ancianos, proporcionando apoyo espiritual y

emocional para los pacientes muy enfermos y terminales y para sus familias.

Su participación activa en las organizaciones comunitarias en todos los niveles debe continuar. La presencia de una hermana en cualquier buena causa siempre se percibe como valiosa y merece el apoyo.

Finalmente, creo que las hermanas deben permanecer involucradas con el Hospital de St. Dominic por el mayor tiempo posible. No hay duda en nuestras mentes de que el éxito y la reputación de la institución están profundamente arraigados en la presencia y el trabajo de las Hermanas Dominicas, y nuestra sociedad lo sabe. El patrocinio del hospital está cambiando, pero sabemos que las oportunidades para mantener su presencia física de las Hermanas Dominicas se mantendrán.

A “GUIDING STAR” OF FAITH AND MISSION

by Marcelo and Cookie Ruvinsky



Doctor Marcelo Ruvinsky and his wife Cookie met in medical school in Cordoba, Argentina, and moved to Jackson, Miss., in 1971 for his internship and residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, thinking they would return home in four years. “Then, life happened,” he said. “We are still here, and feel very blessed with all of it,” he says. Marcelo has practiced medicine at St. Dominic’s Hospital for more than forty years. He is the chair of St. Dominic Health Services Board.

The opinion expressed—and that includes Cookie’s insight as well—is based on my association with the sisters during my entire professional career.

My sense of admiration and respect for the sisters is great. They are highly educated, compassionate,

unassuming. A faith-filled mission is their guiding star. Sisters are proven leaders and team players. Sisters have great influence in the spiritual and emotional lives of individuals and society as a whole.

The use of all this talent should benefit the whole community.

Education is an area where sisters excel. They could teach English in churches and parishes, to the increasing number of immigrants coming to our land. Other subjects could be taught in local schools and shelters.

Community clinics and care for the indigent and mentally challenged should continue as it has proven to be a very needed and popular program in Jackson.

Sisters could be involved in hospices and nursing homes, providing

spiritual and emotional support for the very ill and terminal patients and their families.

Their involvement and active participation in community organizations at all levels should continue. The presence of a sister in any good cause is always perceived as worthwhile and deserving support.

Finally, I think that sisters should remain involved with St. Dominic Hospital for as long as possible. There is no doubt in our minds that the success and reputation of the institution is deeply imbedded in the presence and work of the Dominican Sisters, and our society knows it. The sponsorship of the hospital is changing but we know the opportunities for the Dominican Sisters to maintain their physical presence will remain.

“LET THE CALL BE HEARD!” ASSOCIATES IN ACTION

By Sister M. Joan Sorge, OP



Associates (L to R) Rita Dodd, Karen White and Anne Hilofsky registered guests during the October 7 Sacred Time, Sacred Space 50th Anniversary Open House.

Three hundred fifty-one active associates, eighty-one prayer associates and eighteen candidates in formation have heard the call to partner with the Springfield Dominicans in uncovering the light and truth of the Gospel in the world. Their mission calls associates to proclaim God's Word with their daily lives.

This year, associates and sisters are studying an article by Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, *Let the Call Be Heard*. Sister Joan speaks of the importance of sharing a community's charism in today's world—for Springfield Dominican associates, that's the Dominican charism. "Each of us, lay as well as religious, carries within us a piece of the truth," she wrote. All need to learn to listen to each other's wisdom. Sharing with one another the wisdom of experience each brings from his/her

life's journey allows associates and sisters to be "companions on the way," to do together what cannot be done alone. To be a Dominican Associate is to be a carrier of Dominican spirituality, a carrier of truth, peace, prayer, justice, compassion and love. Sister Joan concludes: "Together we are meant to be messengers, models and makers of a whole new world wherever we are."

The call to witness to the gospel belongs to associates as well as to the sisters. Associates take part in Bible study groups, minister during liturgical services, and lead others in prayer. They are reaching out to those in need by praying, serving meals, collecting food, visiting the sick, caring for Earth, welcoming into their home students from other countries, and using their voice to speak for the vulnerable.

Associates are partnering with the Dominican Sisters by sharing their wisdom as members of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee, the Anti-Racism Team, and the *JUST Words* Editorial Board. They serve as greeters at the wakes of the sisters and, most recently, for the fiftieth anniversary of the chapel. Some come weekly to companion the sisters or to drive them to appointments. Associates join the community for prayer and community celebrations. They are welcome at the daily and Sunday liturgies and for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays.

Dominican Associates are embracing the Dominican Mission. They have heard the call!

Sister M. Joan Sorge is the director of the Springfield Dominican Associate Program.



Associates in action. Clockwise from top left: Tom Bernet, Springfield; Teresa Bennett, Pleasant Plains, Ill., right, with Sister Loyola Miller; Phil Seck and Ron Fafoglia, Springfield, with Sister Rose Marie Riley; Marian Catholic High School President Vince Krydynski; Sue Brosmith, Jacksonville, Ill., and a friend. Below: Springfield associates Carrie Becker and Barb Kern; an associate formation session at Sacred Heart Convent.

Want to learn more about the associate program?

Contact Sister M. Joan Sorge, OP, with your questions to learn more about how to become a Springfield, Illinois Dominican Associate.
www.springfieldop.org/join-us/dominican-associates/



IN MEMORIAM

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

Nora Cray, prayer associate • November 19, 2018
 Charles Schmidt, prayer associate • November 19, 2018
 Ann Tucker, prayer associate • December 19, 2018

Congrats!

Lifetime Achievement

Sister M. Trinita Eddington was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi during their 2018 Salute to Our Heroes Gala. She was honored for dedicating her life to promoting, protecting, and advocating for people who are disadvantaged or have disabilities. She had, the award said, “by word and deed, significantly changed and improved the lives of countless Mississippians.”

Sister M. Trinita’s dedicated, selfless service as Director of St. Dominic Community Clinic for over twenty years and her years prior to that having served effectively as Vice President of Patient Care Services at St. Dominic Hospital qualified her for this prestigious and well-deserved honor and recognition. Thank you Sister Trinita!



Contemplative Dialogue

Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel and **Sister M. Joan Sorge** presented a workshop on contemplative dialogue for the Association of Women in Communication during a luncheon at the Sangamo Club in November. They were so successful they were asked to provide the same input in other locations. Thank you both for the outreach!

Teaching Faith & Life

The Champaign Vicariate of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria and The High School of Saint Thomas More, Champaign, Ill., honored **Sister M. Paulette Joerger** in recognition of her long service and commitment to Catholic education with their 2018 Paideia Award. The Greek word *paideia* refers to a method of education. Sister M. Paulette was honored for her work with RCIA, the parish youth, the liturgy, and service to the Latino/a community through St. Malachy Parish, Rantoul, where she has served since 1993.

Spencer Neitzel, a senior at St. Thomas More, said Sister M. Paulette taught him “more than just some religion,” he said. “She taught me to be a better man, and to listen to what God called me to be, and that’s to become a saint.” Well done, Sister M. Paulette!



Sister M. Paulette Joerger, OP, receives Paideia Award from St. Thomas More School principal Jason Schreder and Tracy Neitzel.

Balance Coach

Sister Martha Carmody was recently certified as a Matter of Balance coach through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield. This qualifies her to coach others in skills and techniques to prevent falls. Each class consists of eight 2-hour sessions. So far, she has used her new credentials to coach sisters at Sacred Heart Convent and parishioners at Christ the King Parish, Springfield. Good Work, Sister Martha!

BLANCA FARRIS: MONTHLY GIVING IS “THANKS-GIVING”

by Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
Director of Mission Advancement



Farris Family: Blanca (far right) with her daughter Isabella, rear center, her husband Steve, and Hermana Beatriz Villa Alania.

Blanca Farris partners with the Springfield Dominicans as a “Bearer of the Flame.” because she values memories of the Dominican Sisters who’ve influenced her family life through the years, prompting her to give back through a monthly donation.

“Sister Lenore and Sister Marie Andre mentored my strong-willed, protective, and outspoken daughter during her junior high and high school years,” Blanca remembers. “The sisters positively influenced Elizabeth who is now 26 years old, married, and teaching at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

“Sister Clara Malanowski never disappointed with funny stories of her childhood and the things she did that got her in trouble. She shared her love of horses with my daughter Victoria who, now a nurse, still loves horses,” Blanca continued.

Sister Philip Neri Crawford has also been a wonderful, loving, presence in the lives of the Farris children, Blanca says, filling the roles of teacher, confidante, role model, and surrogate grandmother. “She taught all four of my children and they have become successful adults in professions of service to others,” she says with pleasure.

Sister Mary Alice Mannix was also one of the most influential persons in Isabella Farris’s life. Blanca believes it is because of their 8-year friendship, their many rosary-making sessions, their conversations and laughter, that Isabella has grown to be a loving, caring, and giving young lady.

“I am forever grateful to these wonderful women of faith who have so lovingly cared for my children and thus helped me to become a better mother,” Blanca says. “As a result, I want to give back—in thanksgiving—

to the retired sisters’ fund and the Peruvian sisters’ fund.

“It helps that there is an easy-to-set-up monthly giving plan which releases me from having to remember to write a monthly check,” she says. “I can also easily monitor my monthly gift and have access to the record of my contributions. What I like most about the monthly giving plan is that I don’t even have to think about it!”

This year, as we sisters prepare for General Chapter, a sacred time of listening and discernment about God’s call for our congregation, we count on our Partners in Mission—like you—to carry forth our mission and ministry to embody God’s love for all. ***Please consider a monthly gift to the Dominican Sisters and become a “Bearer of the Flame.”***



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OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Dominican Sources

“Now, the words of St. Paul about the great treasure that we ‘carry in a fragile clay jar’ resonate more than at any other time. We are very much fragile people, but the power of God is what keeps us alive.”

~ Sister Nazik Matty, OP

Dominican Sister of St. Catharine of Sienna, Iraq

DATEBOOK

Events not public unless otherwise noted.

February	2	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
March	8-14	National Catholic Sisters Week
	9	Sisters to the Land: Explore Our Relationship with Earth, Jubilee Farm (women 18-35)*
	10	Tea & Tour at Sacred Heart Convent (Girls ages 10-15 & their moms)*
April	21	Easter
	22-28	Dominican Sisters of Springfield General Chapter
May	5	Dominican Associate Commitment Sunday
	12	Mother's Day

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