

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*



THE CONTEXT

What is mine to do?

Since 2019, I've served in a Franciscan ministry. Dominic and Francis were contemporaries who faced similar obstacles and ministered in turbulent times. With the deaths of Dominic and Francis, the early friars collected the sayings and writings of their respective founders. Among the Franciscans, these words of Francis are a rich source of meditation:

"I have done what is mine. May Christ teach you what is yours."*

Often, I turn the words into two questions: "What is Christ teaching me? What is mine to do?" These questions are also applicable to organizations. General Chapter, for example, is a communal exercise in discerning "What is ours to do?"

The articles in this issue of *JUST Words* demonstrate myriad ways associates, sisters, and students discover that Christ is, indeed, teaching them what is theirs to do. Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, in "Maturing into Discipleship," describes students from our sponsored high schools discovering needs and responding to them.

At the motherhouse, the Holy Preaching continues through shared life and prayer, service to one

another, and study. Last fall, we joined the Dominican Nuns at their monastery in Girard, Ill., for a Dominican Family Study Day on Saint Juan Macias, friend of the poor in Lima, Peru. The next session will focus on Fra Angelico and Sister Plautilla, Dominicans who shared the Gospel of Christ through their art.



"Being There: Accompaniment in Times of Suffering" relates stories from associates and sisters about the power of connection in times of grief. Sometimes we fixate on trying to solve a problem, or worse, fixing the someone who has a problem, when instead, offering a compassionate presence to those who suffer is the one thing necessary.

Associate Charles Good contemplates the 250th anniversary of the United States with the message of Pope Leo XIV to love our neighbors and care for the less fortunate.

Each story gives a concrete answer to the question "What is mine to do?" and invites us to ask it of ourselves.

Sister Susan Karina Dickey, OP, is senior director of mission integration and formation for St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson, Miss., and a member of the JUST Words editorial board.

** Thomas of Celano, "The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul," Chapter CLXII in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol. II, New York: New City Press, 2000, p. 386.*

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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Being There: The wisdom of grief accompaniment

Sometimes, all you can do is to be there. Just BE there. Presence to suffering, to all types of pain, is an invitation to enter deeply into the lives of others and into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. In these brief reflections our Sisters and Associates share their experiences of grief accompaniment through loving presence to many forms of suffering.

Suffering through tragedy

Sister Judith Pfile who worked with Associate Dave Sanders at St. Joseph the Worker Parish a year ago in Chatham, Ill, when a deadly crash at a daycare center killed four children and a teen worker.



"Joining our grief with the hurting families, St. Joseph the Worker Church staff reached out with our prayers, presence, comfort, and compassionate care," she said. "Anyone who needed to talk was invited to come and talk with Father Joe or me, the church doors were left unlocked to allow the grieving to come to pray, and our facility was a designated place to drop off donated food for the victims' families and for the families

of the hospitalized children.

"The parish and the entire Chatham community continues to be unanimously supportive, CHATHAM STRONG."

Suffering through aging and loss

Sister Kelly Moline sees gradual decline every day in her work with the aging at a local care facility. She says, "It's all about connection. Grief work, accompanying the grieving, and grieving for ourselves, too, in these times of loss. Be it spaces or loved ones, dedicated and talented coworkers lost to illness or retirement, family members and friends, ALL of these are connections lost only temporarily though... if we believe in connections beyond our earthly journey and outside our typical 'communication' methods. Remaining connected to someone, something, somewhere beyond ourselves is key to finding and making meaning along the grief journey. "Remaining faithful to



"It's all about connection. Grief work, accompanying the grieving, and grieving for ourselves, too, in these times of loss. " ~ Sister Kelly

the practices of fostering intentional moments of connection and allowing contemplation to reveal deeper meaning to the stories of our lives IS the witness of our lives as Dominican Sisters, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, neighbors, colleagues.....even in grief."

Hospital work, long a part of our pastoral history as Dominicans, continues both in the United States and in Peru.

Spiritual suffering and healing

Associates Joann and Rose Lenn volunteer at HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Ill. "In many encounters with patients, we find they will open up about not receiving Holy Communion in years...just as



Rose Lenn



Joan Lenn

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wisdom of grief accompaniment continued

the doctors work to make them physically well, I can stress the importance of healing their souls at the same time. Many of them leave the hospital feeling God's presence and heal," notes Rose.

Joann says, "One of the most profound moments in distributing Holy Communion in the hospital is when, coming upon a patient of a different nationality,...I make the sign of the cross and hold up the host. At that moment the language obstacle is no more and Christ's presence is realized. The joy of sharing His body and blood in the Eucharist brings peace and comfort which makes us united in His love and grace."

Personal grief

Irish-born **Sister Maira Barry**, long certified as a Catholic Hospital



Chaplain, sees pain up close every day at St. John's, but her own journey this Spring echoes the loss of so many: "Early Easter morning, God took my beloved sister, Catherine, into loving arms... The mystery of life as God walks with us can change us in the blink of an eye... we are surprised when God calls a loved one home suddenly. My grief emotions

weave between sadness and joy, Good Friday and Easter SundayAs I reflected on the mystery of grief and loss, messages of support arrived by phone, text, and email...Embraced by sisters, brother, and whole family was such a comfort upon my arrival in Ireland and later Scotland...surrounded by family who freely embraced love, loss, pain and joy, I felt Catherine's arms around me saying, 'All is well, be strong and share your love...'"

Communal loss and grief

Grief can be not simply personal, but structural. This spring, **Sister Angelene Biderbost** accompanied the St. Patrick School community in Springfield in the too-common loss of a Catholic school: "During the past ten years I have witnessed the struggles ... I am looking at this closure with sadness, but more— opportunities, hope, and new beginnings for students and families. I am sad for the staff, but grateful for our principal, Bridget Timoney, our school board, our supporters, and all those working toward a beneficial outcome for all. God's blessings on them!"



"The decision to discontinue classes and all that was a part of St. Patrick's brought

significant grief, a difficult struggle," said St. Patrick's Board member, **Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel**, "The spirit and mission of St. Patrick will continue through a scholarship program allowing low-income and diverse students to attend another Catholic school. This brought a sense of Resurrection and joy." Runkel notes, "The program will enable many of the students to transfer to other Catholic schools and many have already done so...moving grief to a new journey..."



Attention to the suffering of the world

Sisters Celestine Rondelli and Thecla Khunline, who live at the motherhouse in Springfield, telephone **Sister Dorothea Sondgeroth** in Jackson, Miss., to daily pray the rosary for the thousands of prayer requests broadcast each day by **Sisters Collette Barker and M. Joan Sorge**. This presence through prayer, even to strangers, is in solidarity with their suffering. ...across time and geography. To just BE there.



"Reflections on America's 250th Birthday and Pope Leo XIV"

By Charles Good

*"O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!"*

These stirring lyrics from the beloved hymn America the Beautiful remind us of the commitment to human dignity and justice and fairness and compassion that have long served as guideposts for patriots of this nation. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we are blessed with the special gift of Pope Leo XIV – the first American born successor of Saint Peter.

The Holy Father personifies the values that have long represented a goal for America at its best: a commitment to loving our neighbor and caring for the less fortunate; an optimistic spirit that honors hard work and encourages equal opportunity for all; and an appreciation for the beauty and strength of diversity in a land where we respect all and affirm that God loves each person the same.

*"God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!"*

These further words of wisdom from America the Beautiful call to mind another powerful fact about the presence of Pope Leo at this time in history: At a time of uncertainty and division and unkindness at home and abroad, an American-born leader who stands with unquestioned moral authority and integrity speaks with clarity in affirming our Lord's admonition to love our neighbor and to care for the immigrant and all who are marginalized.

Happy Birthday, America! As we celebrate our semiquincentennial we also thank God for raising up a holy and humble Chicago native, a man who leads with kindness and a commitment to justice, to bring much needed moral leadership to our world.

Charles is a Dominican Associate and a member of the JUST Words editorial board. He lives in Springfield.

Our Jubilarians: 475 years of faithfulness

75 Years

Sister M. Bride Quinn, OP, taught children throughout California and Illinois. She is grateful to the people she served for their loving support for her vocation. “I have enjoyed all of the places I was called and am grateful for the people I have met.”

Sister M. Samuella Volk, OP, gave 52 years to classroom teaching, serving the longest at Holy Rosary, Duluth, Minn. She returned to Illinois to serve as the Co-Director of Resident Services at Siena Hall. The joy of teaching little children filled her heart. “I think my love for looking after children came from watching after my little brother,” she said.

Celebrating a 2026 Jubilee

75 years



Sister M. Bride Quinn, OP



Sister M. Samuella Volk, OP

60 years



Sister Judith Curran, OP



Sister Linda Hayes, OP



Sister Paul Mary Janssens, OP

60 Years

Sister Judith Curran, OP, first served in elementary education, and then became the founding director of the Melrose Park Dominican Literacy Center. One of her most cherished experiences was supporting immigrants at the literacy center. She feels blessed with the friendships she has nurtured along the way.

Sister Linda Hayes, OP, taught elementary grades throughout Illinois and California, eventually becoming the congregation’s general treasurer where she pioneered the Office for Socially Responsible Investing. She treasures the people she worked and prayed with throughout her ministry.

Sister Paul Mary Janssens, OP, said teaching children and mentoring others is a hallmark of her ministry. She taught and was principal at several schools throughout the midwest and returned to Springfield to lead the Springfield Dominican Associate Program.

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Meet the 2026 Associate Class

Commitment ceremonies were held at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel on May 3 and May 20.

During the homily of the Mass Father Bob Kelly, OP, chaplain for the Dominican Sisters, compared the new associates to the apostles listening to Jesus' farewell. "Through prayer, study, community and service, the Dominican Associate candidates have responded to Jesus' invitation to continue your mission in the world," said Father Bob. The new associates prepared for commitment

by participating in nine monthly sessions of prayer and study about the history of the Order of Preachers and the Springfield Dominican congregation, about the theology of mission and ministry, Catholic Social Teaching, and liturgy and prayer. Each candidate was accompanied by a sponsor—a sister or an associate—who answered their questions and offered encouragement during their period of discernment before commitment. Dominican associates embrace the Dominican

traditions of prayer, study, community, and ministry. They respond to God's call to share the Gospel by preaching it through the witness of their lives. Each associate was called forward by the associate program director, Sister M. Joan Sorge, OP. They stated publicly their commitment to "preach the Word and witness Gospel values," and received an associate pin from Sister M. Paul McCaughey, OP, prioress general of the congregation, who accepted the new associates' commitment

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Front row (seated) Martha Rawe and Tavia Jones. Second row: Nyasha Nyabawa, Rhonda Cors, and Kimberly Winkler. Third row: Celine Azem, Linda Distlehorst, Shelly Heidemann, Stevie VanDeVelde, Joanie Schone-Themig and Rita Messinger. Fourth row: John Bucari, Joel Gray, Larry McMasters, Marian Palumbo, and Stephanie Heckenkamp. Not pictured: Joan L. Ryan, and Casey Rinewalt.

Maturing into discipleship at Dominican high schools

By Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP

This past April, Marisela and Vanessa Soto, twins and now graduates of Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Ill., were featured on CBS news in Chicago for responding to United Way's annual April Food Drive. These two seniors reached out to the school community to help. The thread of the message in the video clip was "community" as one of the Dominican pillars which has taught them to want to give back—to say "Yes" whenever possible. The spirit expressed by these two young women is the heart of discipleship.

Discipleship is often defined as the process of following Jesus Christ, imitating a life of selfless love and Gospel values. That is true, and

as the Marian students understand, it is important to remember discipleship goes beyond intellectual knowledge to a personal, active commitment to think, act, and love as Christ did, maturing spiritually and bearing fruit—goodness that will last!

How do we instill that in our youth today? How do we promote personal active commitment to following Jesus? As one who works with all three of the Dominican



Students from the Service Class at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School share fellowship with students at St. Patrick Catholic School in Springfield.



Marian Catholic High School students planting on school grounds for the day of service.

Sisters of Springfield's high schools, I see many avenues for students in our schools to practice Gospel values and discipleship. All students take theology classes, but it is through service opportunities that they learn a key aspect of discipleship.

When service is integrated into the Dominican schools' programs, students are able to process their experiences, recognize the positive impact their service has on the beneficiaries, and ponder how giving helps them grow.

Marian Catholic and Rosary College Prep, Aurora, Ill., both sponsor days of service, allowing students a choice of where to spend them. They can assist at community food pantries, shelters, and senior

living communities, women's care centers, or at other community organizations seeking volunteers. Some choose to stay on campus and help beautify the grounds. These days are fun and more importantly they open the students' eyes to the needs within their local community.

Sacred Heart-Griffin, Springfield, Ill., and Marian Catholic, Chicago Heights, Ill., also offer semester-long service classes that provide students the opportunity to regularly visit care facilities, work in food pantries, or tutor students with physical or mental disabilities. These are unique options for students to match their service with deeper theological reflection on integrating Gospel values into everyday life—the ideal for all committed Catholics.

In addition, two of the schools have a long tradition of Thanksgiving or Christmas food drives. All students are asked to bring food to help local families whose circumstances make it difficult to provide holiday fare for their families or gifts for the children. These often generate deep conversations about situations which work against families doing their best to care for themselves. The conversations also reiterate how giving and caring for others is integral to the mission of the school and an important aspect of faith.

SHG seniors have supported a local charity in Springfield called "Mary's Meals" which has led them to reflect together about the reality of



Rosary College Prep students on class retreat.

hunger and poverty.

In addition to the specifics mentioned, throughout the year in each of the schools there are multiple opportunities for students to volunteer. A partial list includes:

- Homeless shelters
- Local parishes
- Nursing homes
- Collections of baby items and diaper drives
- Making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for food banks
- Mowing grass or shoveling snow
- Setting up for school activities
- Preparing mini-retreats for elementary students

Faculty in the schools note how students grow through these experiences. At first, service can feel like something they have to do, but over time that shifts and they begin to

take ownership. They become more aware of others, more compassionate, and more confident in stepping up to help. They build relationships, ask good questions, and begin to understand their role in something bigger than themselves.

In a very real way, the schools foster a culture that allows students to develop as individuals and grow in their understanding of their connection to a community and their responsibility to do their part. This is how students mature in discipleship, their relationship with Christ, and in living Gospel values.

Sister Kathleen Anne is the Director of Mission Advancement for the Dominican Sisters and the Member Board liaison with schools sponsored by the congregation.

Dominican Family study day: A new tradition?

Last fall about 25 Sisters made the 30-mile drive from Sacred Heart Convent to the Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen, Girard, Ill., for the first-ever local Dominican Family study day involving these two branches of the Order of Preachers. The event brought together the apostolic sisters and the nuns on the feast of Dominican luminary St. Juan Macias. The theme was “Pilgrims of Hope.” Together they explored a spiritual and practical response to the climate crisis and the importance of synodality and Dominican friendship for the mission all Dominicans share in common: preaching the Gospel.

“It was enriching to share the day together, enjoy one another’s company, and study topics so important to us as consecrated women in the church,” said Sister Marie Michelle Hackett, who helped coordinate the day.

A second event is planned for Sept. 23, 2026. This time the gathering is scheduled to take place at Sacred Heart Convent. The theme is: The Beauty that Saves: Art and the Order of Preachers. The sisters and nuns will explore visual art as a means of preaching by studying the spirituality



Sister Annmarie Pierre, OP, prioress of the Monastery of Mary the Queen, Girard, Ill., with Sister Rose Marie Riley, Sacred Heart Convent prioress, during a gathering of the two communities at Sacred Heart Convent in August 2026.

and painting styles of 15th century Dominican artist Fra Angelico, and Sister Plautilla Nelli, a prolific but little-known Dominican artist of the 16th century.

CONGRATS



Sister Dorothea Sondgeroth was featured in the *Jackson Advocate*, an online news service that bills itself as the voice of Black Mississippians, during Women’s history month. Find a link to that story with the QR code.



Sisters Elizabeth Wrenn and Rose Marie Riley have received the Advanced Geriatric Certificate from the Avila Institute of Gerontology. The year-long certificate program provides communities with practical information and offers guidance to plan strategically, ensuring that religious communities can continue to thrive as they age.



Sister Kathleen Ann Tait was elected to serve on the Dominican Sisters Conference Executive Committee for three years. This committee provides leadership, guidance, and oversight for the work of the conference and helps shape its priorities and strategic initiatives. She has previous experience on this committee and will bring much wisdom and insight to the group. Thank you to Sister Kathleen Anne for assuming this role of service to the Order in the U.S!

**Meet the 2026 Associate Class
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statements and thanked them for their dedication in preaching the word of God. “Our Associates are deeply a part of the Dominican family—and of our family as well. Having them make their commitment in the presence of their loved ones binds us together even more deeply. What a glorious morning!” she said. The 2026 Associate class:

Joan Ryan, Joanie Schone-Themig, both of Jacksonville, Ill.; Shelly Heideman, Pleasant Plains, Ill.; Rhonda Cors, Woodson, Ill.; Stevie VanDeVelde, Winchester, Ill. Rita Messinger, Stephanie Heckenkamp, Marian Palumbo, John Bucari, Nyasha Nyabawa, and Linda



Joan L. Ryan

Distlehorst, Springfield, Ill.; Larry McMasters, Rochester, Ill.; Kimberly Winkler, Glen Carbon, Ill.; Martha Rawe, Greenfield, Ill.; Tavia Jones Tower Hill, Ill.; Celine Azem, Chicago, Ill.; Joel Gray, Jackson, Miss.; and Casey Rinewalt, Canton, Miss. To learn more about the associates visit: springfieldop.org/associates



Casey Rinewalt

**Jubilarians celebrate milestones
continued from page 6**

Sister Katherine O'Connor, OP, enjoyed supporting students as a teacher and school administrator and using her leadership skills as a member of elected leadership in the congregation. She was principal and president of Sacred Heart-Griffin and now serves as the co-director of the Springfield Dominican Literacy Center.

Sister Kathleen Ryan, OP, taught in parochial schools throughout central and northern Illinois. She saw a need in her ministry to help those learning English as a second language and became the founding director of the Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora where she served for 31 years. Since returning to Springfield she has been helping with the Springfield Dominican Literacy Center. She says it has been a

Celebrating a 2026 Jubilee

60 years



Sister Katherine O'Connor, OP



Sister Kathleen Ryan, OP

25 years



Sister María Luisa Ñaupari Gutiérrez, OP

privilege to work with the immigrant community. She will begin serving this summer as subprioress at the motherhouse.

Sister María Luisa Ñaupari Gutiérrez, OP, is deeply connected to education, evangelization, and the

accompaniment of children, adolescents, and young adults. She teaches at Colegio San Jose in Lima, Peru and is pursuing a master's degree in psychology. Sister María said “Women today need not be afraid to listen to God's voice amidst the noise of our world.”

Palabras Justas: Acompañar en tiempos de sufrimiento

Estar presente:
Acompañamiento en
tiempos de sufrimiento

La presencia ante el sufrimiento, ante todo tipo de dolor, es una invitación a estar profundamente presente en la vida de los demás y en el Misterio Pascual de Jesús.

En estas breves reflexiones, nuestras Hermanas y Asociadas comparten sus experiencias de acompañamiento en el duelo mediante una presencia amorosa ante diversas formas de sufrimiento.

El sufrimiento ante una tragedia

Hace un año, la **Hermana Judith Pfile** era asistente pastoral en la parroquia de San José Obrero en Chatham, Illinois, cuando un trágico choque en una guardería cobró la vida de tres niños y una joven que trabajaba allí. “Compartiendo nuestro dolor con las familias



afectadas, el personal de la iglesia de San José Obrero les brindó apoyo con oraciones, presencia, consuelo y compasión”,

dijo. “Cualquiera que necesitara hablar podía venir a conversar con el Padre Joe o conmigo; las puertas de la iglesia permanecieron

abiertas para que los afligidos pudieran venir a orar, y nuestras instalaciones fueron designadas como lugar para entregar alimentos donados a las familias de las víctimas y a las familias de los niños hospitalizados. La parroquia y toda la comunidad de Chatham continúan brindando su apoyo unánime. ¡CHATHAM FUERTE!”

El sufrimiento a través del envejecimiento y la pérdida

La **Hermana Kelly Moline**

observa un deterioro gradual cada día en su trabajo con personas mayores en un centro de atención local. Dice:

“Se trata de conexión. El acompañamiento en el duelo, el apoyo a quienes sufren y el duelo por nosotras mismas en estos momentos de pérdida. Ya sean espacios para seres queridos, compañeros de trabajo dedicados y talentosos que se han ido por enfermedad o jubilación, familiares y amigos, todas estas son conexiones perdidas... aunque solo temporalmente... si creemos en conexiones que trascienden nuestra vida terrenal y nuestros métodos habituales de comunicación. Mantenernos conectadas



con alguien, algo, algún lugar más allá de nosotras mismas es clave para encontrar y dar sentido al proceso de duelo.

“Mantenernos fieles a fomentar momentos intencionales de conexión y permitir que la contemplación revele un significado más profundo a las historias de nuestras vidas ES el testimonio de nuestras vidas como Hermanas Dominicas, madres, padres, hermanos, hermanas, vecinas, compañeras... incluso en el duelo”.

Sufrimiento espiritual y sanación

La labor en salud, que forma parte de nuestra tradición pastoral como Dominicas desde hace mucho tiempo, continúa tanto en los Estados Unidos como en el Perú. Las **Asociadas Joann y Rose Lenn** son voluntarias en el Hospital St. John's.

“En muchos encuentros con pacientes hospitalizados, descubrimos que se sinceran sobre no haber recibido la Comunión en años. Así como los médicos trabajan para que mejoren físicamente, yo puedo enfatizar la importancia de sanar sus almas



Rose Lenn

al mismo tiempo. Muchos de ellos salen del hospital sintiendo la presencia de Dios y la sanación”, señala Rose.

Joann comenta: «Uno de los momentos más profundos



al distribuir la Sagrada Comunión en el hospital es cuando me encuentro con un paciente de otra nacionalidad. Me persigno y levanto la hostia. En ese instante, la barrera del idioma desaparece y siento la presencia de Cristo. La alegría de compartir su cuerpo y su sangre en la Eucaristía me brinda paz y consuelo, uniéndonos en su amor y gracia».

Dolor Personal

La **Hermana Maira Barry**, nacida en Irlanda y con amplia experiencia como capellana católica de hospital,

presencia el dolor de cerca cada día en St. John's, pero su propia experiencia esta primavera



refleja la pérdida de tantos: “En la madrugada del Domingo de Pascua, Dios se llevó a mi querida hermana, Catherine, a sus brazos amorosos... El misterio de la vida, mientras Dios camina con nosotros,

puede transformarnos en un abrir y cerrar de ojos. Nos sorprende cuando Dios llama a un ser querido a su lado repentinamente. Mis emociones de duelo oscilan entre la tristeza y la alegría, el Viernes Santo y el Domingo de Pascua. Mientras reflexionaba sobre el misterio del duelo y la pérdida, recibí mensajes de apoyo por teléfono, SMS y correo electrónico... Sentirme abrazada por mis hermanas, mi hermano y toda mi familia fue un gran consuelo a mi llegada a Irlanda y luego a Escocia... Rodeada de una familia que abrazaba libremente el amor, la pérdida, el dolor y la alegría, sentí los brazos de Catherine a mi alrededor diciéndome: “Todo está bien, sé fuerte y comparte tu amor...” Su reflexión completa, que incluye un poema de Joseph Mary Plunkett, se puede encontrar en springfieldop.org/jw

La Pérdida y el duelo comunitario

El duelo no solo puede ser personal, sino también estructural: esta primavera, la **Hermana Angelene Biderbost** acompañó a la comunidad de la Escuela St. Patrick en Springfield ante la tristemente común pérdida de una escuela católica:

“Durante los últimos diez años he presenciado las dificultades... Veo este cierre con tristeza,



pero sobre todo, como una oportunidad, esperanza y nuevos comienzos para los estudiantes y sus familias. Me entristece por el personal, pero estoy agradecida con nuestra directora, Bridget Timoney, nuestra junta escolar, nuestros simpatizantes y todos aquellos que trabajan para lograr un resultado beneficioso para todos. ¡Que Dios los bendiga!”.

“La decisión de suspender las clases y todo lo que formaba parte de St. Patrick nos causó un profundo dolor y una dura lucha”, dijo la **Hermana Marilyn Jean Runkel**, miembro de la junta de St. Patrick, “pero el espíritu y la misión de St. Patrick continuarán a través de un programa de becas que permite a estudiantes de bajos recursos y de diversos orígenes asistir a otra escuela católica, lo cual ha traído una sensación



de resurrección y alegría”. La Hermana Marilyn Jean señala: “El programa permitirá que muchos de los estudiantes se trasladen a otras escuelas católicas, y muchos ya lo han hecho... llevando el duelo a un nuevo camino...”.

Atención al sufrimiento del mundo

Las **Hermanas Celestine Rondelli y Thecla Khunline**, quienes residen en la Casa Madre en Springfield, llaman por teléfono a la Hermana

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Dorothea Sondgeroth en Jackson, Mississippi, para rezar diariamente el rosario por las miles de peticiones de oración que transmiten cada día las **Hermanas Collette Barker y M. Joan Sorge**. Esta presencia a través de la oración, incluso para

desconocidos, es una muestra de solidaridad con su sufrimiento. ...a través del tiempo y la geografía. Simplemente para estar ahí.



FMOL Health | St. Dominic marked a historic milestone with the dedication of a new bronze statue, “The Meeting of St. Francis and St. Dominic: Companions on the Journey,” commemorating the shared mission and enduring partnership between the Franciscan and Dominican traditions that shape the ministry’s identity. The dedication took place June 11, 2026, on the St. Dominic Hospital campus as part of St. Dominic’s 80th anniversary celebration. Four Springfield Dominican Sisters continue the mission at St. Dominic. They are pictured here: Sisters Susan Karina Dickey, Trinita Eddington, Dorothea Sondgeroth, and Marian Joseph Joerger.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of these sisters and associates who have died in the peace of Christ.

Robert Engelhart, Associate, June 15, 2025

Charlotte Wafford, Associate, December 14, 2025

Patricia Tennery, Associate, December 21, 2025

Virginia Ann Joerger, Associate, February 24, 2026

Sister Pat Scherer, Associate, March 27, 2026

Sister M. Emmeric Emerick, OP, April 19, 2026

Sister Janet Guretz, OP, May 17, 2026

Regina Ehrhardt, Associate, June 2, 2026

Visit <https://springfield.org/donate> to make a gift in memory of a sister or associate who has died.

PARTNERS IN MISSION

Sacred is the Call: A garden dedication



On June 7, sisters and friends gathered at Sacred Heart Convent in the sticky summer heat to dedicate the Laudato Si' Garden. The garden, with its water feature, new trees, and thousands of native pollinator plants, was made possible through a major gift from the Helen and James Call family, relatives of Springfield Dominican Sister M. Thomasene Dunham (d. 2003), and through the generosity of dozens of additional donors.

Sister M. Paul McCaughey thanked the family and all who made the garden possible. "This garden created through your love and generosity still needs tending... but somebody had to begin with the seeds of love. Your vision, your care and your generous hearts began that vision."

"May it grow and prosper. may it nourish the creatures it feeds and bless those who sit with it. Let this sacred space be a place of peace, calm and comfort, joy and belonging."

— Martha Call Karis



The Call Family

Additional pavers are available. If interested contact
cgency@spdom.org



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On the cover: Used with permission. Sts. Francis and Dominic "Companions on the Journey" is a digital painting by Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, OSFS, of BEE STILL STUDIO, Camden, New Jersey.



Dominican Sources

"You are my companion, we will work together, supporting one another toward the same end, and no one will prevail against us."

—St. Dominic de Guzman to St. Francis of Assisi upon their meeting.

DATEBOOK

July	4	Independence Day, 250th Anniversary
	22	Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles
	25	Dominican Sisters at Old Capitol Farmers Market*
	28-29	Peruvian Independence Day
August	8	Feast of St. Dominic de Guzman, founder, Order of Preachers
	19	Dominican Sisters of Springfield Founders' Day, 153rd Anniversary
	23	Feast of St. Rose of Lima, USA
	29	Dominican Sisters at Old Capitol Farmers Market*
	30	Feast of St. Rose of Lima, Peru
September	7	Labor Day
	8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	12	Dominican Sisters at Old Capitol Farmers Market*
	13	Sacred Heart Convent chapel tour*
	14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast
	18-19	SDART antiracism team meeting

* Public event. See springfieldop.org/events for details.