

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUST *Words*



Celebrating in Peru—Celebración en Perú

Vol. 25, No. 2 Summer 2025

THE CONTEXT

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

This passage from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews is one of my favorites. Other translations use words like "assurance" "realization" "confidence" or "certainty" for "substance." But either way, I think we can all agree that it is hard to be certain or assured in hope these days. Lately, we have not seen much evidence of what we hope for. Compassion, justice, mercy, respect, and wisdom seem to be in short supply. We have a hard time finding hope and faith in all the chaos.

Which is why we need to be reminded that in faith, our hopes—while maybe not visible yet—are still alive and viable. In fact, maybe the original translation of "substance" is really the best translation. Substance implies the stuff that makes up something, the real essence of an idea or material. And that is what we need to remember. Our faith sustains our hope because, in reality, we are in right relationship with God through Christ. As Dominicans, we have evidence that this hope is not in vain. We have centuries of common life, preaching,

prayer, work for justice and relationships that prove, beyond any doubt, that there is hope and a God who will see us through.

Now, that doesn't mean that we can just sit back and wait for God to do some magic. We must participate in building the reality we hope for. Sometimes that work is hard. It calls us to move out of our comfort zones and possibly do something that makes us vulnerable or puts us at risk. In this issue, you will find a list curated by the Cor Unum Community of women. This list offers suggestions for building up hope and countering the chaos and injustice.

While we are fighting off the chaos dragon, we need to stick together and accompany each other. Building right relationships, learning about our commonalities, and embracing our diversity is absolutely necessary. After all, our unity and care for one another is ultimately the substance of our hope. It is this which will bring about the "evidence" for all to see.

Cathy Becker is a Dominican associate living in Springfield, Ill. When she is not on the water in her kayak this summer, she is trying to rein in the chaos as the Director of Faith Formation at St. Agnes Parish and at home with husband Josh Becker and daughter Leah.



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

Sharing the mission, and ministry
of the Dominican Sisters of
Springfield, Illinois. Published three
times a year Volume 25, Number 2.

Dominican Sisters
of Springfield, Illinois
Sacred Heart Convent
1237 W. Monroe
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: 217.787.0481
www.springfieldop.org

For inquiries about this publication:
Sister Beth Murphy, OP
Director of Communications
sbmurphy@spdom.org

For inquiries about vocations:
Sister Denise Glazik, OP
Director of Vocations
dglazik@spdom.org

For inquiries about the Associate
Program:
Sister M. Joan Sorge, OP
Director of the Associate Program
smjsorge@spdom.org

For inquiries about Mission
Advancement
Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
Director of Mission Advancement
skatait@spdom.org

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS:

Catherine Becker
Sister Barbara Blesse, OP
Mary Anne Chevalier
Sister Geraldine Kemper, OP
Jean Ann Miller
Shirley Morris, Ed.D.
Sister Beth Murphy, OP
Sister Katherine O'Connor, OP
Sister Elyse Marie Ramirez, OP
Dave Sanders
Carolyn White
Alexis Williams

TRANSLATOR:

Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP

PUBLICATION DESIGNER:

Jean Ann Miller

Sisters celebrate God's fidelity

Three Dominican Sisters of Springfield celebrate profession milestones in 2025. Sister M. Zachary Sergeena celebrates 60 years of profession while Sisters Martha Carmody and Linda Sue Turner observe the 25th anniversary of their profession. Please join us in celebrating and honoring their commitment. A congregational celebration is scheduled for Sunday, August 3, 2025.



**Sister M. Zachary
Sergeena**, born Penelope Marie in Chicago, was baptized at St. Mary of the Angels Church and joined

the Dominican Sisters of Springfield in 1963, professing her vows in 1965.

Her ministry spanned decades in Catholic education across Illinois. She served as both teacher and principal in schools including St. Thomas (Crystal Lake), St. Norbert (Hardin), St. Frances Cabrini (Springfield), and St. Joseph (Granite City). In 1978, she was the founding principal at St. John Neumann School in Collinsville, which served three parishes.

She continued her leadership at schools in Hardin, Bethalto, Chicago, and Streamwood, concluding her formal educational ministry in 2012. From 2012–2015, she volunteered at Misericordia and worked part-time at St. Edward Parish in Chicago.

Since 2015, Sister Zachary has resided at Sacred Heart Convent, supporting the community and engaging in a ministry of prayer.



**Sister Linda Sue
Turner**, born in Springfield, Ill., joined the Catholic Church at age 19 at St. Sebastian Church in Waverly. She studied at Illinois

State University and Los Angeles City College, and worked in the insurance industry for over 14 years, including positions at Aetna and Manufacturers Financial Group in Los Angeles.

She entered the Dominican Sisters in 1997, professing her vows in 2000. Her ministry began at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, followed by graduate studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology, where she earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies in 2003.

She served in various pastoral and educational roles in Illinois and Louisiana, including campus ministry, parish pastoral work, religious education, and chaplaincy. From 2014 to 2022 she taught part-time at St. Patrick School in Springfield and, since 2018, has served as a pastoral associate at the Church of the Little Flower in Springfield.



**Sister Martha
Carmody** was deeply influenced by her family's military discipline and strong Catholic faith. She graduated

from Calhoun High School and earned degrees in elementary education from Quincy University and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

She dedicated 24 years to teaching elementary grades in Calhoun County public schools, while also actively serving her parish, St. Norbert's, in numerous liturgical and leadership roles. Her parish involvement included Eucharistic ministry, scripture study leadership, and pastoral care.

In 1996, she joined the Dominican Sisters, professing her vows in 2000. She began her ministry teaching at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cary, Ill., and then spent 14 years teaching at Cathedral School in Springfield. Since 2016, Sister Martha has served the community in various capacities, including formation support, hospitality, and children's programming at Jubilee Farm.

Mowing the Grass Stairs: Lessons in Neighborliness

By Brandon Durham

I have always enjoyed mowing. My yard is much smaller than the five acres I grew up on, so when spring comes it doesn't take long to cut. The street out front is split by a raised median that is also part of my responsibility to maintain. What is striking about this strip is that as you go along the length of it, you can see how each house has

and this goes on all along the median. Tall, cut, tall, overgrown, cut on one side, cut, trees, cut, cut on the other side, overgrown...all the way down the street.

Mowing

One day while at work, I knew I would be mowing and thought to myself, "I sit a lot and I could use the exercise.

Just mow the whole median too." A little over halfway done, people began to notice. Some offered simple thanks, others offered money which I declined in spite of their tenaciousness. One woman remarked from her porch that I had mowed the whole thing and was impressed. I spoke with her briefly and she explained that she couldn't get her broken mower working. After I wrapped up for the night, it occurred to me that I could try to fix it for her, but

I didn't think to offer. After work the next day I stopped by again and offered to help. She now has a working mower, and it only took a few small machine screws. It was a simple problem I knew I

could easily solve, removing the burden from her.

This neighborhood is different than where I grew up. There, I was used to cars flying down a county highway, the seasonal farm implement, the calm, distant train horn, trees and crops in the breeze, frogs calling in the night, the pool pump humming low. Horses in the pastures surrounding the yard, and the sound of shots during hunting season. Here, it's taken me a while to acclimate to a new soundtrack: Honking, people walking right by the windows, frequent cars speeding by loudly, lots of neighborhood cats, and of course, the sirens of emergency vehicles.

In-passing

Shortly after moving in, I introduced myself to my neighbor to the south, Jeanette. We share a small patch of grass between our houses instead of a fence. A few short exchanges of greetings in passing became longer conversations. Soon we began to rely on each other for goings on in the area. After one conversation I pointed out that her gutters were growing trees. When I offered to clear them out, she was hesitant. The last person she hired for the job didn't even start the work,



The "grass stairs" in the author's neighborhood.

influenced it. Odd trees, old and new. Patches of pampas grass. Evidence of abandoned excavation. The lawn forms a sort of misshapen "stairs" where cut and level grass meets tall, neglected sections,

she explained. I told her no problem and proved myself by doing a respectable job. I continue to lend a hand as I am able; mostly mowing and taking the trash to the curb. It's a good feeling knowing she is more at ease with these things being done.

I see the “grass stairs” of the median on my street as an analogy for the sort of neighborliness I believe is needed more within communities. Some are only mowing “their half” and others are too busy to get to it. Some areas are under excavation and impossible to deal with. Some have not tended to it at all, and others have carefully maintained theirs.

Building Trust

I found that in the year and a half of residing here, simply offering my time, just a little more than usual, and using that to help others—specifically my neighbors—the benefits domino and the community strengthens, even if slowly at first, in ways that are invisible to me. Another neighbor recently mentioned trimming their pampas grass so I will be helping with that, and I am sure as I introduce myself to others, I will find more people I can help.

I will conclude with this; In this increasingly connected world I feel some of the most powerful action we can take is not dwelling on discussions of the wider world, although that is important too, but rather helping those in our immediate area when we can.

Is it not conflicting to have empathy for those across the ocean but ignore your neighbor? I say reach out to those neighbors, be they bitter or standoffish, rich or poor. Yes, even the ones you don't get along with. Show them the same compassion, unyielding. Build trust and start communication. Be a force for good and offer it to others when you can. In my humble opinion, this is a powerful, fulfilling, and effective grassroots movement.

When he is not mowing, Brandon is the multimedia designer for the Dominican Sisters. He values neighborliness and service.

CONGRATS



For giving so much of herself to St. Edward School (1991-2019) and for “keeping the Springfield Dominican tradition of educating our children for service and mission,” **Sister Marie Michelle Hackett** was honored with the “Heart of St. Edward” award by the Chicago parish at their annual Big Red Gala in April.

Sister Judith Pfile was named the 2025 Woman of Distinction from Saint Joseph the Worker

Parish, Chatham, where she is retiring as pastoral associate after 19 years

of ministry. Whether in a classroom, hospital room, or at Mass, Sister Judy has given of herself to share the good news of Jesus Christ.



Sister Sharon Zayac wrote an article titled “Building Connection and Community in Caring for Creation” scheduled for publication in the June 2025 *Health Progress* magazine, a publication of the Catholic Health Association.

What is leisure?

By Sister Judine Hilbing, OP

While leisure can be defined as time spent away from business, work, domestic chores, and education, we simply can't put it off until all the work is done. We need to take time to care for the mind, body, and spirit by carving out time and space for relaxation. Doing so provides an energy source that will help us accomplish our work in a more productive manner. Whether a person is engaged in Gospel ministry, parenthood, a professional occupation, or any other aspect of productive activity, leisure is absolutely critical to a well-balanced life.

Unless we truly embrace leisure as a priority, it will elude us in the midst of busy days. There will always be one more email to send, one more phone call to make, or one more task to be accomplished. It can be easy for us to think we are too busy for leisure activity; however, the very act of relaxing makes us more productive in our



Sister Judine at the theater.



Sister Judine, left, enjoying a walk with friends.

ministry, job performance, and interpersonal relationships.

The manner in which each person finds leisure is determined by many factors, not the least of which are age, health, and opportunity. Whether it's physical activity, spectator sports, social gatherings, pursuit of the arts, hobbies, or introspective activities that bring us joy, finding that which nurtures the soul is a key ingredient for keeping the human person at peak performance.

I like to think of participating in leisure activity as being somewhat similar to maintaining our cars and computers with regular tune-ups. We don't hesitate to have a planned schedule of maintenance for these factory-produced items because we know they will break down if not given proper attention. The human spirit, carefully created by a loving God, is infinitely more precious and requires an intentionally planned schedule of maintenance.

When I reminisce about years gone by, swimming, tennis,

sailing, and water skiing were at the top of my list of fun things to do. Those more active forms of recreation gave way in middle age to bicycle riding, walking, tending the flowers, and enjoying outdoor concerts. There will come a day when even these less strenuous forms of leisure are no longer possible, yet I am confident that other options will emerge. The question is always, "What brings me joy?" Classical music, reading, dinner conversation, or sitting outside in the cool night air will hopefully remain throughout old age.

Leisure has to be planned because it is so elusive. Time gets away too quickly. So grab a book, share coffee with a friend, go for a run, take a walk in nature, tend the flowers, listen to music, or cry at a good movie. Soak in the blessing of each day and keep your inner spirit alive and well. Find your joy!

Sister Judine is director of scholarships and tuition assistance at Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Ill.

"For the Life of the World: Together we reimagine our service as seed in holy ground, as pilgrims of hope"

This Jubilee year is an important time for our Church, and for the Springfield Dominican Sisters. We are celebrating 25 years of our presence in the Parish of St. John the Baptist in Jarpa and 60 years in Peru. What a great event! We celebrate with our sisters who have experienced the rich fragrance of the highlands during their service in Alto Cunas, the highest part of the region where the River Cunas flows.

What better sign of affection and great gratitude than—in the words of our sisters, youth, and families—to keep discovering our God of life. Here are their testimonies:

Planting seeds

I am Maribel, a postulant with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, at this time on a mission experience in

my beloved *Alto Cunas*. I am feeling and living the importance of taking the Word of God to different villages, to so many families who want to hear the message of God that during these 25 years our sisters in this beloved place, San Juan de Jarpa, have been planting seeds to strengthen and give hope to each of our sacred lives.

The fruit of our sisters' day-by-day hard work is shown in the courage, enthusiasm, dedication, responsibility, and love for all without marginalizing or discrimination. That's why many families are close to them and value their great work.

The same as myself, there
are many young people
full of joy and hope to have
the sisters by their side,

sharing many of our daily experiences. We feel very thankful to our Lord for letting us know these valiant women.

Maribel Inés Uribe Baquerizo

Accompaniment

As a Springfield Dominican,
serving at this time in Jarpa,
I find hope in our Church
when I share with the
children, youth, women,
parents and grandparents of
the villages in their closeness,
sharing affection in our day
to day life.

We are part of the Archbishopric of Huancayo, walking together with organizations of the five vicariates in joint projects with the priests of our archdiocese, guided by our Bishop, Luis Alberto Huamán, responding with our service, in charge of St. John the Baptist Parish.

This responsibility generates the need to accompany and be accompanied by God's people, to participate in their every reality: joys, sadness, health problems, family violence, the youth looking for other opportunities. The words of gratitude from all of them give value to our accompaniment, giving us sisters a sense of having offered something to help people grow as persons. This is our hope. I thank God for

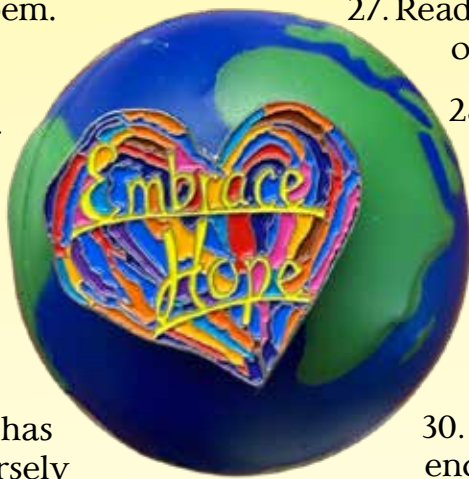
continued on page 10



North Americans watch from the sidelines as a dance performance unfolds before them at St. John the Baptist Church in Japa. Seated are associate Doris Reid, Sister Kathleen Anne Tait (obscured), Sister Adele Human, Sister Judith Hilbing, and Sister Ann Elizabeth Little.

83 small acts of resistance

1. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper, magazine, or online news source.
2. Contact a local elected official.
3. Serve at a soup kitchen.
4. Make a new friend.
5. Bring food to a homeless shelter.
6. Phone someone who is living alone.
7. Spend 15 minutes alone in nature.
8. Contact a state elected official.
9. Read an op-ed you might disagree with.
10. Have coffee with a friend.
11. Write a poem.
12. Take a photo of something that gives you joy and share it.
13. Listen to someone whose life has been adversely impacted by government action.
14. Share vegetables from your garden.
15. Read the Bill of Rights.
16. Visit a neighbor.
17. Read a poem.
18. Contact your U.S. representative.
19. Buy someone a cup of coffee.
20. Attend your city council meeting.
21. Read the Constitution for 15 minutes every day until you finish.
22. Introduce yourself by name to a neighbor you don't know yet.
23. Help someone with yard work.
24. Invite friends in for dessert.
25. Hold the door for the person behind you.
26. Smile at someone.
27. Read the Declaration of Independence.
28. Let someone go ahead of you in line.
29. Share your baking with neighbors or friends.
30. Say something encouraging to activists and organizers in your social media feed.
31. Short circuit hateful thoughts or words.
32. Learn about microaggressions.
33. Read facts about immigration at Justiceforimmigrants.org.
34. Teach a friend how to find out who represents them in government.
35. Take a nap.
36. Refuse a plastic bottle of water or soda.
37. Contact your U.S. senator.
38. Make a list of six good things you noticed today.
39. Read a Psalm.
40. Donate to an organization that supports something you care about.
41. Dance.
42. Check in with a friend who identifies as LGBTQ+.
43. Schedule a board game night with friends, family, or neighbors.
44. Go to a social event at your place of worship.
45. Volunteer as an election judge at your county clerk's office.
46. Become a voter registrar and register your neighbors to vote.
47. Read the Federalist Papers.
48. Meditate on one verse of your sacred texts.
49. Watch a documentary about something that matters to you.



ce you can do today

50. Attend a peaceful protest or rally.
51. Create art about an issue that matters to you.
52. Host a protest poster design event.
53. Organize with friends to prepare an op-ed for your local paper.
54. Avoid the big box stores and online retailers. Buy local.
55. Learn one new social media fact-checking technique.
56. Buy less.
57. Pray.
58. Join a faith community. Participate in services and get active.
59. Share your reasons for speaking out with one person you meet today.
60. Share your gifts with an organization that matters to you.
61. Listen to someone who disagrees with you.
62. Donate the price of a coffee to an immigrant-serving community group.
63. Send anonymous postcards with cheerful messages to your local elected officials.
64. See how many weeks you can go without making an online purchase.
65. In a social media space, explain simply and respectfully a justice issue you care about.
66. Take a day off from your outrage.
67. Watch a comedy.
68. Spend an hour with some children.
69. Read the newspaper to someone who can't do that for themselves.
70. Bring a gift of sweets or flowers to someone in a care facility.
71. Make a list of 10 things you are grateful for.
72. Play your most inspiring protest music on repeat.
73. Decorate a T-shirt with the funniest protest slogan you know.
74. Invite your favorite hang-out to sponsor a protest-poetry reading night. Help them organize it.
75. Donate to public radio or television.
76. Write a thank you letter to the immigrant who cleans your office.
77. On your next business trip leave a big tip for the hotel housekeeping staff.
78. Volunteer in a neighborhood garden.
79. Make a pot of soup and share it with a neighbor.
80. Attend a neighborhood association meeting.
81. Call your mother. Or your sibling. Or a friend.
82. Surprise someone with a letter that honors what they mean to you.
83. Journal for five minutes.

**Live an
engaged
Christian
life.**



Prepared by the Cor Unum House community for their Be Courageous Project. To learn more visit springfieldop.org/courage.

this lovely experience in this time that helps me, too, to grow as a person and as a Dominican.

Sister Edith Vila Alania, O.P.

Family!

The Dominican Sisters are a part of our community of San Juan de Jarpa. Thanks to their teachings about Christian living and their dedication to the children and youth, we feel a lot of affection for them, as if they were family. They are with us in the best and the worst times of our life, and we are accustomed to being beside them, bringing the Word of God. They are like second mothers to us and we have great trust and love for them. Thanks to the support they give to our community, we can keep advancing together.

*Jyosue Steven Salvatierra
Antesano, 13, Animator for
Child Missionaries*

Light of hope

We the youth, accompanied by the sisters and always guided by God, are signs of hope for others because we reflect the energy and commitment needed to build a better world. Together we give creativity and values that inspire those around us. The sisters guide us with wisdom and faith. Their support and example strengthen our commitment and enthusiasm. Without them, nothing would be possible. Our example motivates others to not lose hope in the face of difficulties

and to believe in positive change. That way we show how that together we can transform reality and be a light of hope for all.

*Yaquelyn Ninalaya,
Coordinator of EJE
Youth group*

Alliance of love

The sisters and the youth they accompany are living signs of hope, because with their joy, faith and giving, they light up a sometimes-dark world. Their sincere witness of God's love inspires others to believe in a better future. The youth with their dreams and the sisters with their tenderness and wisdom form an alliance that reflects Christ's love. They walk together sowing peace, serving with humility, and showing that it's possible to live with purpose and faith. They are lights lit by God that guide others towards hope and full life.

*Jheferson Salvatierra Antesano,
22 years old, member of the
group EJE*

Present and future

From a vision of equity, social justice, respect and empathy, the Dominican Sisters have listened and accompanied the youth of Jarpa, making them protagonists in evangelization within and without their community. Along the way they have formed pastoral leaders to walk with them, people sensitive to recognize and empathize with people's needs. We firmly believe that seeing the youth, leading

with love and self-giving, are the present and the future. They are becoming a significant example of hope for a world that needs positive role models to follow.

*Paquita Gutiérrez and Enrique Ñaupari- "Paquita and Kike,"
partner guides for the youth
group EJE*

Chosen by the Trinitarian God, we know that we can't be selfish with the great love we have for life, that which we pour out in each of our missions with fidelity to the Gospel, overcoming the inhumane during this time of so much pain and death. We will continue, firm in our experience of Jesus the Nazarene, resurrected.

"By their fruits they will be known." (Luke 6:44)

“Por la vida del mundo: Juntas Reimaginamos nuestro servicio como germen en tierras sagradas, como peregrinas de esperanza”

Año jubilar, tiempo importante para nuestra iglesia, tiempo importante para la iglesias locales y tiempo importante para nosotras las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield Illinois, por los 25 años de nuestra presencia en la parroquia San Juan Bautista de Jarpa y los 60 años en tierras peruanas. Que acontecimiento tan grande y nuestro deseo fue poder festejar con nuestras hermanas, quienes han experimentado el rico aroma de las alturas en su tiempo de servicio en el Alto Cunas.

Que mayores pruebas y muestras de cariño y los mayores agradecimientos en las palabras de nuestras hermanas, jóvenes, niños y familias para seguir encontrando al Dios de la vida. Aquí los testimonios:

Plantando semillas

Yo Maribel, postulante con las hermanas Dominicas de Springfield Illinois, en estos momentos estoy en experiencia de misión en mi querida zona del Alto Cunas. Voy sintiendo y viendo la importancia de poder llevar la palabra de Dios a diferentes pueblos, a tantas familias con ganas de poder escuchar el mensaje de Dios. En ellas durante estos 25 años nuestras hermanas con su presencia en mi querida tierra, San Juan de Jarpa, han ido sembrando semillas que las han fortalecido y suscitando mucha esperanza en cada una de sus vidas sagradas.

El fruto del arduo trabajo de nuestras hermanas, día con día van obrando con el ejemplo de sus vidas,

demostrando mucho coraje, entusiasmo, dedicación, responsabilidad y amor por todos, sin marginar ni distinguir y por eso muchas familias son cercanas a ellas y valoran su gran labor. Al igual que yo, hay muchos jóvenes llenos de gozo, de mucha esperanza al tenerlas a nuestro lado; acompañándonos, compartiendo muchas experiencias en nuestra cotidianidad. Nos sentimos muy agradecidos con nuestro Señor por permitirnos conocer a mujeres valientes.
Maribel Inés Uribe Baquerizo
postulante HDSI

Acompañamiento

Como Hermana Dominica de Springfield Illinois y en estos momentos, al estar presente en la misión de Jarpa, encuentro la esperanza en nuestra iglesia: cuando comparto la vida diaria con los jóvenes, niños, mujeres, abuelitas, los padres de familias y en las personas del pueblo; en su cercanía al compartir su cariño en nuestro diario vivir.

Somos parte del Arzobispado de Huancayo, Caminamos en organización con las cinco vicarias en un trabajo en conjunto con los sacerdotes de la arquidiócesis con la guía de nuestro obispo, Luis Alberto Huamán, respondiendo con nuestro servicio como encargadas de la parroquia.



Un perrito del barrio pasa de largo mientras hermanas, feligreses y amigos, muchos de ellos con atuendos tradicionales de la región, se reúnen para una foto comunitaria en San Juan Bautista, Jarpa.



Hermanas, asociados y amigos se reunieron para una misa festiva en conmemoración del 25 aniversario de la presencia de las Hermanas Dominicas en la parroquia San Juan Bautista, Jarpa, presidida por el arzobispo de Huancayo, Luis Alberto Huamán Camayo, OMI.

Esta responsabilidad genera que con nuestro servicio podamos acompañar y dejarnos acompañar por el pueblo de Dios, cuando estamos en medio de la realidad, participando con el pueblo en todo: en sus alegrías, tristezas, dificultades de salud o dificultades familiares; También cuando los jóvenes salen a buscar otras oportunidades, para ellos, sus palabras de agradecimiento dan mucho valor a este acompañamiento, sintiéndose que la hermanas hemos aportado en sus vidas para crecer como personas, eso es la esperanza. Doy gracias a Dios por esta linda experiencia en este tiempo que me ayuda a crecer como persona y cómo hermana Dominicana.

Hna. Edith Vila Alania O.P.

Familia

Las hermanas dominicas

son parte de nuestra comunidad de San Juan de Jarpa, Gracias a las enseñanzas de la vida cristiana y su dedicación más en los jóvenes y niños las tenemos un gran cariño, como si fueran una más de nuestra familia. También nos acompañan en los mejores y peores momentos de nuestra vida y estamos acostumbrados a estar a su lado llevando la palabra de Dios, Son como unas segundas madres y les tenemos gran confianza y amor, gracias a su aporte a la comunidad podemos seguir avanzando todos juntos.

*Jyosue Steven Salvatierra
Antesano 13 años- Animador
Infancia Misionera*

Luz de esperanza

Nosotros los jóvenes, acompañados por las hermanas y guiados siempre por Dios, somos signos de esperanza para los demás porque reflejamos la energía y el compromiso necesarios para construir un mundo mejor. Juntos, aportamos creatividad y valores que inspiran a quienes nos rodean. Las hermanas nos guían con sabiduría y fe, y sin ellas nada sería posible, ya que su apoyo y ejemplo fortalecen nuestro compromiso y entusiasmo. Nuestro ejemplo motiva a otros a no perder la esperanza ante las dificultades y a creer

en un cambio positivo. Así, demostramos que, unidos, podemos transformar la realidad y ser una luz de esperanza para todos.

*Yaquelyn Ninalaya -
Coordinadora del grupo juvenil
EJE*

Alianza de amor

Las hermanas y los jóvenes a quienes acompañan, son signos vivos de esperanza porque, con su alegría, fe y entrega, iluminan un mundo a veces oscuro. Su testimonio sincero de amor a Dios inspira a otros a creer en un futuro mejor. Los jóvenes, con su fuerza y sueños, y las hermanas, con su ternura y sabiduría, forman una hermosa alianza que refleja el amor de Cristo. Caminan juntos, sembrando paz, sirviendo con humildad y mostrando que es posible vivir con propósito y fe. Son luces encendidas por Dios que guían a otros hacia la esperanza y la vida plena.

*Jheferson Salvatierra Antesano
22 años - Miembro del grupo
juvenil EJE*

Presente y futuro

Desde una mirada de equidad, justicia social, respeto y empatía, las Hermanas Dominicas han logrado escuchar y acompañar a los jóvenes de Jarpa haciéndolos protagonistas en el camino evangelizador dentro y fuera de su comunidad, En este recorrido se han formado líderes pastorales que junto

a ellas caminan, pero por sobre todo personas sensibles a reconocer y empatizar con la necesidad de su gente. Creemos fielmente que ver jóvenes liderando con amor y entrega son el presente y futuro convirtiéndose en ejemplo significativo de esperanza para un mundo que necesita modelos

positivos a seguir.

Paquita Gutiérrez y Enrique Ñaupari- Paquita y Kike – Pareja Guía del grupo Juvenil EJE

Elegidas por este Dios Trinidad, sabemos que no podemos mezquinar este gran amor que tenemos por la vida. Nos desbordamos

en cada una de nuestras misiones con fidelidad al evangelio. Trascendiendo lo deshumano en este tiempo de mucho dolor y muerte seguimos firmes para seguir experimentado a Jesús Nazareno Resucitado. *Por sus frutos los conocerán (Lc. 6,44).*

CONGRATS continued



Sisters Edith Vila Alania (left) and Elizabeth Castro Cruz (right) were honored by the people of Jarpa for their years of ministry and service to the community in Peru's Huancayo archdiocese. They were presented with traditional Peruvian mantas, cultural symbols of respect and identity.

Sisters Mary Jo Sobieck and Mila Díaz Solano, (third and fourth from left) were among the Dominican sisters and brothers present at Rate Field on June 14 to celebrate Chicago's own pope, Leo XIV. She made headlines on the pitchers' mound at Chicago White Sox home field in 2018 by throwing a perfect pitch over homeplate during a celebration of Marian Catholic High School.



Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel was recently presented a Champion for Children Lifetime Achievement Award by The Parent Place. She was honored for her significant contributions to families in the community. She has more than 20 years of service as a board member at St. Patrick Catholic School.



The Dominican Associate class of 2025 along with their sponsors. First row from left: Sister Francis Mary Philipp, Faye Mini-Reyman, Sister Judith Pfile, Susan Gillen, Sister M. Celestine Rondelli, Belen Ortega Daba, Linda Sue Turner, Sister Maristella Dunlavy, and Nancy Gehlsen. Second row: Nina Houston, Sister Joanne Delehanty, Sister Patricia Burke, Holly Novak, Sister June Volpe, Equeña Micabalo, Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel, Mike Riordan, Allison Young, and Sister M. Joan Sorge. Third row: Tammie Klein, Kathy Rubinkowski, Elizabeth Simpson, Nancy Goetten, Cathie Rockwood, Sister M. Clare Fichtner, Molly Parker, Katie Grant, and Nancy Kemper. Fourth row: Rihab Habibi, Jonny Habibi, Kathy O'Bryen, and Sister Judith Anne Haase.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Darlene Froehlich, associate, February 20, 2025

Josephine Richardson, associate, May 29, 2025

Judy Mathes, associate, May 30, 2025

Ann Certy, associate, June 8, 2025

Marilyn Murphy, associate, July 1, 2025

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

PARTNERS IN MISSION

By Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP

The Springfield Dominican Sisters are celebrating 60 years of service to the Peruvian people. In response to a call from Pope John XXIII to send sisters to South America, four sisters volunteered in 1965. Today, native Peruvian

of being there, in a beautiful country among warm and welcoming people and a culture rich in tradition.

Jarpa is tucked high in the Andes Mountains. Though the comforts of modernization are scarce,

was served to those of us watching from the pews. It was an unfamiliar experience for me, but it demonstrated clearly what it means to be “Church” in Jarpa.

I treasured learning more deeply about the service of our sisters in Peru. Whether they are part of a traveling health clinic in Lima, or teaching, or being available to parishioners and youth, they respond with enthusiasm and the warmth of God’s compassion and love. The needs are different every day, and the sisters are there ready to help!

Thank you for the support you have given our Peruvian Missions through the years! Having experienced it recently, I can assure you your generosity is bearing fruit for the Peruvian people.



Members of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield Illinois pose for a photo during the anniversary celebration in March 2025.

Springfield Dominican Sisters serve in Lima and in Jarpa, a rural agricultural area. In late March seven of us travelled to Peru for the anniversary celebration in Jarpa where we have served for 25 years.

I was privileged to be included in the trip along with the other six sisters who had ministered in Peru. Through my years in the community, I’ve heard many stories of Peru, but they all fell short of the experience

it is a strong, cohesive community. Celebrations include dancing and food. If a house needs to be built or repaired, help is readily available from neighbors.

Our anniversary celebration included an Evening Prayer service at San Juan Bautista Church, which often doubles as the parish hall. After the prayer the pews were pushed to the sides and we enjoyed watching the youth perform traditional dances. Soup



Sister Kathleen Anne is the Director of Development for the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Sacred Heart Convent
1237 West Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62704-1680

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
Paid
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 414

Go green

Receive JUST Words in your inbox. Subscribe here:
www.springfieldop.org/just-words



Dominican Sources

"At the Last Supper, there seemed to be no future. All that lay ahead apparently was failure, suffering and death. And in this darkest moment, Jesus made the most hopeful gesture in the history of the world: 'This is my body, given for you. This is my blood poured out for you'. This is the hope that calls us beyond all division."

~"Hoping Against Hope,"
Synod retreat meditation.
Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, OP

DATEBOOK

July	4	U.S. Independence Day
	23	Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles
	28	Peruvian Independence Day
August	3	Community celebration of sister jubilarians
	8	Feast of St. Dominic de Guzman, founder, Order of Preachers
	17	Sacred Heart Convent Chapel Tour*
	19	Founders' Day, 60th anniversary of Peru foundation
	23	Feast of St. Rose of Lima, Dominican reflection day for sisters and associates
September	1	Season of Creation, through October 4
	12-14	National Dominican Associate Directors' meeting, Sacred Heart Convent
	18	Sisters and Nuns study day, Dominican Monastery, Girard, Ill.
	20	Jubilee Farm 25th anniversary open house*

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