

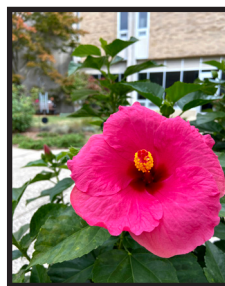
JUST *Words*



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THE CONTEXT

The last verse of our *Prayer for the Life of the World* proclaims “Christ, you are expansive. We journey in that truth, offering our *Testimonio de Vida*.”

This year we are celebrating the expansiveness of Christ visible in our congregation’s history. Since 1873 we have experienced expansion not only geographically and in numbers, but also in our understanding of ministry, in the ways we witness our vowed life, and in how we live our Dominican call to preach.

The words of our associates and partners in mission in this issue reflect the many ways in which the Dominican Sisters of Springfield have journeyed within the Church and the world. Our attentiveness to the signs of the times and the voice of God in the most marginalized have transformed and stretched—or expanded—our mission and vision as we collaborate with Christ’s mission for the Life of the World.

Our anniversary is a time to rejoice because the journey continues. In the context of the Synod, we find ourselves “propelled” by the Spirit to walk with others, aware that our vowed Dominican life and spirituality are needed gifts today. We Dominicans find ourselves preaching by our *testimonio de vida* and as members of “webs”—networks and organizations—that carry out the Good News locally and globally.

This anniversary is also an appropriate time for us to
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recommit to seeking Truth. Alexis Williams’ story about her journey on the Civil Rights Trail reminds us that journeying with Truth requires the recognition of our shortcomings and those of our society. While our world finds it difficult to accept or recognize the *Veritas* that can lead to authentic reconciliation, we continue our antiracism work in hope. The expansive Christ leads us to build the beloved community with all creation.



Dearest reader, we are in this journey together!
While we sing our joyful songs in gratitude for the past and the present, we celebrate together with our 2023 jubilarians the faithfulness of our God, and we embrace our journey towards the unknown future trusting in the expansive Christ who is the Spring of our field.

Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP, is a member of the leadership team of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.

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.

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Our Historical Journey on the Civil Rights Trail

By Alexis Williams

My husband Rickey and I recently travelled to Alabama to visit family, staying in Montgomery in the heart of civil rights history. We embarked on a journey through some poignant chapters of this era. As African Americans, we felt compelled to pay homage to the tragedies and triumphs of this time.

We started in Birmingham at the Civil Rights Museum—



Alexis Williams

an incredible storehouse of information. We toured the 16th Street Baptist Church, the gathering place for civil rights meetings and protests. This church was bombed by four Ku Klux Klansmen on Sept. 15, 1963, claiming the lives of four African American girls. The only stained-glass window remaining on the side of the bomb blast contained the image of a white Jesus. This window remained intact except for damage to Jesus’ face and chest, interpreted as a sign that Jesus closed His eyes to the horror, and His heart was broken. Upon learning of this tragedy, a Welsh



The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., was a gathering place for civil rights meetings and protests. In 1963 the church was bombed by four Ku Klux Klansmen and claimed the lives of four African American girls. Photos by Alexis Williams.

stained-glass maker designed a new window of a black crucified Jesus with one arm pushing against oppression and the other reaching toward reconciliation. Rainbow colors overhead depict the theme of diversity and Christ’s identification with all. Christ’s words are etched in the glass: “You Do It To Me,” a message about world problems of intolerance, denial of human rights, hatred, violence and segregation. The window is beautiful to behold and encompasses messages that still resonate today.

In Montgomery, we toured the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church—where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began his pastoral ministry in 1956—and the parsonage where

he lived with Mrs. King and two of their children. An indentation on the front porch marks the site of a bomb blast which miraculously did not injure Mrs. King or baby Yolanda who had moved away from the front window moments before the blast.

Our visit to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace & Justice in Montgomery was particularly painful and poignant. The museum chronicles the history and horrors of slavery, including holographic images of enslaved men, women, and children in cells telling their own stories. It then moves to the brutal backlash against the freedoms and political gains of African Americans

Continued on page 4

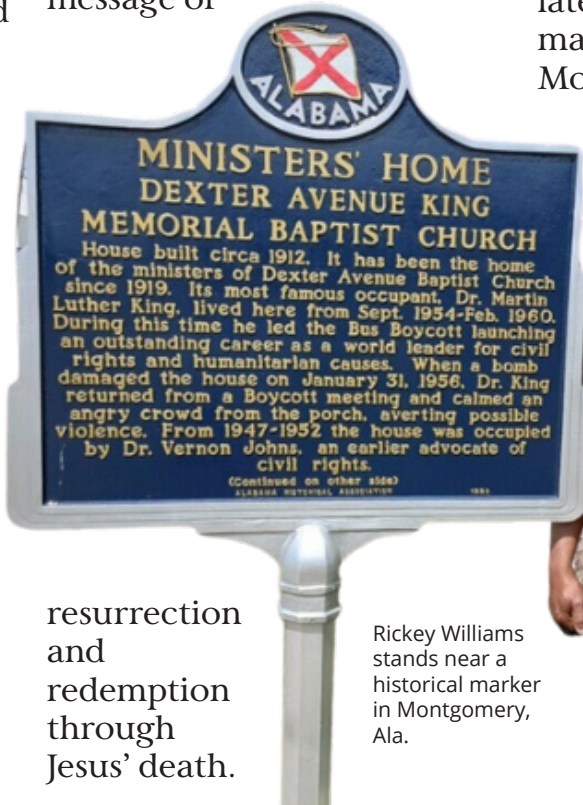
Our Historical Journey on the Civil Rights Trail

Continued from page 3

during Reconstruction with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and ensuing waves of terror. Since Reconstruction more than 4,000 men, women, and children have been lynched. Jars of soil collected from lynching areas display names, dates, and locations of victims. There are displays on segregation, Jim Crow, and the start of the civil rights movement. The museum shows the interconnection between slavery, lynchings, mass incarceration, the disproportionate number of black prisoners, and the current waves of police brutality. A final room holds a huge photo display of African Americans instrumental in the fight for equality.

From the museum, a shuttle transported us to the Memorial Center. This outdoor tribute to lynching victims felt sacred, solemn, and painful to behold. Over 800 steel pillars hang in rows overhead with names, locations and death dates of over 4,000 victims from 1877 to 1950. For me, the site embodied this verse from Lamentations 1:1-2: “How lonely sits the city that once was full of people....She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheek.” One sobering find was the names of two men murdered in my hometown of Frankfort, Ky.

Our visit fell on Palm Sunday, leading to Jesus’ passion, and left me wrestling with images of these lynching victims juxtaposed with images of the torture and ultimate lynching of Jesus and the message of



Rickey Williams stands near a historical marker in Montgomery, Ala.

resurrection and redemption through Jesus’ death.

We travelled to Tuskegee and toured the Tuskegee Airmen site—two hangers filled with information about these African American airmen. We learned that the training of Black fighter pilots was an experiment marked for failure to prove Blacks were incapable of holding such positions. Instead, it was a resounding success. Despite continued obstacles, these airmen displayed the tenacity and courage to earn multiple commendations and played an instrumental role during WWII.

The last leg of our journey was to Selma. We walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, mindful of the “Bloody Sunday” violence against protesters on March 7, 1965, followed two weeks later by the triumphant march across the bridge to Montgomery where Dr. King delivered his voting rights speech. Their march took four days.

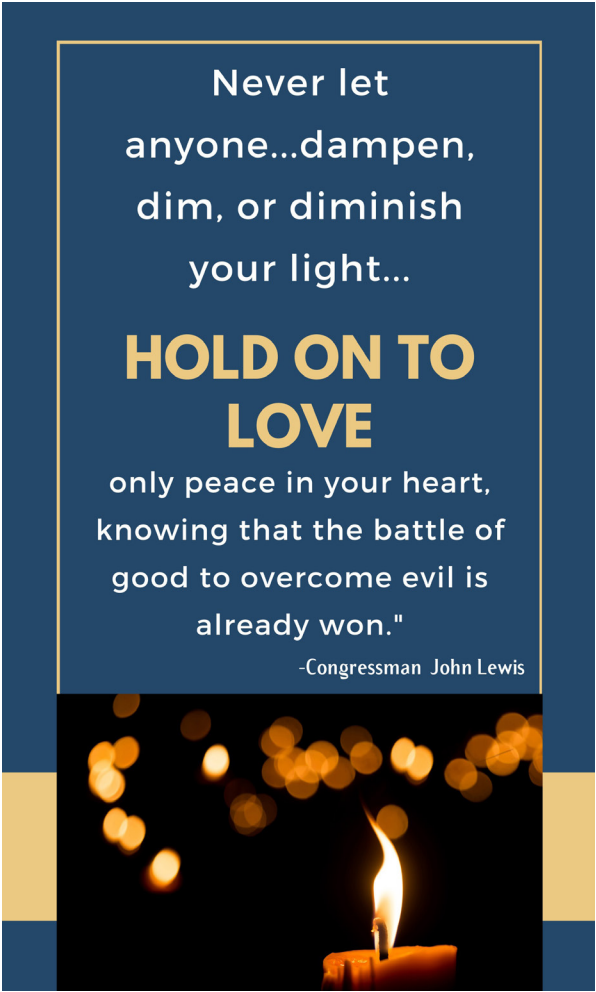
camp sites where marchers broke their journey, and a memorial to Viola Liuzzo, the white mother who joined the marchers from New Jersey and was murdered afterward by the Klan.

This trip left me even more aware that my husband, our daughters, and I stand on the shoulders of so many who endured unspeakable horrors for the opportunities we enjoy today. It was encouraging to see a number of white tourists also absorbing this history. In the current climate of racial

polarization, there are attempts to suppress voting rights and to squelch study of African American history, while some express nostalgic longing to return to lynchings. These realities make the importance of preserving, discussing, and remembering this history glaringly apparent. Only then can hope for change stay ignited and true reconciliation be achieved through Jesus’ message of love and equality.

“Never let anyone...dampen, dim or diminish your light... Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.” (John Lewis)

Alexis is a member of the JUST Words editorial board and a licensed clinical social worker. She and her husband are Springfield Dominican Associates.



A few of the 800 pillars denoting lynchings by counties within the states. Below: Alexis on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



Congratulations to our 2023 Jubilarians

75
Years



Sister M. Alberta Lawless



Sister M. Edwina Finnegan

60
Years



Sister Judith Pfile



Sister M. Theodora Stremlau



Sister Karen Freund



Sister Mary Lou Owens



Sister Judine Hilbing



Sister Kathleen Kenny

50
Years



Sister Sharon Zayac

25
Years



Hermana Edith
Vila Alania



Hermana Mila
Díaz Solano

The 2023 Jubilarians: Hundreds of Years Living Common Life

It’s fun to total up the collective number of years of profession for our jubilee celebrants. This year, that’s 610—more than a half-millennium of service to the people of God. Six hundred-ten years of preaching, teaching, healing, consulting, and consoling. A half-millennium of common life: morning prayer, evening

prayer and Eucharist; coffee made, meals cooked, served, and cleaned up after. That many years of community meetings, study sessions, debates and deliberations. And so much more: the divisions of one another’s sorrows and the multiplications of joys. A half-millennium of obedience—listening—to the

Holy Spirit’s lead—and doing the best to follow. Thank you, sisters, for your fidelity to the preaching mission for the life of the world!

To leave a message of encouragement for the jubilarians and read more about their lives visit: springfieldop.org/jubilee-2023.

Springing into action

For the Life of the World

by Sister Kelly Moline, OP

A spring is created when water moving underground finds an opening to the surface and emerges, sometimes as a trickle, maybe only after a rain, sometimes in a continuous flow. A spring is formed when the side of a hill, a valley bottom, or other excavation intersects groundwater at or below the local water table, below which the subsurface material is saturated with water. A spring is the result of an aquifer filled to the point that the water overflows onto the land. The amount of water that flows from a spring depends on the size of the caverns beneath, the water pressure in the aquifer, the size of the basin, the amount of rainfall. ¹

¹ <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/springs-and-water-cycle>. Accessed June 1, 2023.



First convent in Jacksonville. From left: Sister Mary Agnes, Mother M. Josephine and Sister M. Thomas. Photo courtesy of Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois archives.

Likewise, the call from God. The Spirit’s natural propelling force, girded in an undercurrent of trust, has created a verdant spring field from the Springfield Dominican mission: generations of sisters and their partners in ministry expending their energy to serve God and neighbor for 150 years.

Freeing our hearts

The call to ministry is nurtured in the groundwaters of baptism and flows from an internal attunement to the movement of the Spirit.

The founders of the Springfield Dominican Sisters responded affirmatively to the Spirit’s “expansion

Continued on page 8

project.” These seven women relied on God’s grounding Providence when they “petitioned the Holy Spirit” as they pondered how to respond to the news that they were no longer affiliated with the Dominicans in Kentucky. Their basins filled with a little bit of heartbreak, a trickle of anger, and a surge of trust in God. Each sister, “searched her own heart, weighed her own zeal, and measured her own vision” as she prepared her decision. Each sister signed the contract affirmatively.



In 2018 the Jubilee Farm staff included, from left, Sisters Suzanne Donner, Rose Marie Riley, Sharon Zayac, the late Margaret Therese Hebert, and Anita Cleary.

From that moment forward the Spirit and various new missions began to spring up in a variety of ways throughout the United States and Peru.

God’s invitation

Like ground water that reaches the surface by dissolving a network of cracks and fissures, God’s invitation enlarges our hearts’ capacity for the love of Christ, expanding within us so that, filled to overflowing, Christ’s love

freely flows from WITHIN us—For the Life of the World. This was a truth the sisters’ first pastor, Father P.J. Macken, somehow knew, and the sisters would soon discover, too. Their expanding assent has made clear the path for generations. Now we offer our *testimonio de vida* in the spirit of Christ.

Whether we are taking on new ministries or expanding our minds, hearts, and consciousness, we learn the Truth that Christ

is present within us and all around us. We walk together in Christ. In this way we are opened to encounter ourselves, one another, and the world.

“Spread thin”

Borrowing from the Celtic concept of “thin places” leads us to ponder: When we are “spread thin” in our ministries because there are fewer sisters available for service, are we drawn closer in relationship? Is our service, our witness, and our Dominican life more transparent? Perhaps the Holy Spirit and the design of our very Earth are helping us learn: it’s the underground current that affects the flow, and the flow determines the energy that feeds the spring.

Much as each pioneer sister had to, “search her own heart, weigh her own zeal, and measure her own vision” while discerning how to respond with her life, we are invited to ponder the caverns of our hearts and listen for the Truth that speaks to each of us in the unique language of our heart.

The impulse of the Holy Spirit, like water that flows from a spring, is not always clear. Therefore, we rely on the depth and breadth of our call—the “recharge basin” of Dominican prayer, study, community and ministry—to shape the outpouring of



Students play under the watchful eye of Sister James Martin (Vivian Murphy) at St. Mary Grade School, Mt. Sterling, Ill., April 1952.

the spring that is the Holy Preaching.

We remain faithful to monitoring the water level in the basin of our heart for the flow of gratitude, commitment, determination and deep joy. We regularly test our spring as we reconnect with that familiar sound of God’s voice and prepare our “echo” of prayer and service.

Living for the Life of the World

A spring’s resurgence is determined by its recharge basin.

How are we filling our recharge basin and how is our prayerful presence helping others to fill theirs? Are you offering a helping hand at the local homeless shelter?

Teaching an immigrant woman to read so she can help her children with their homework?

Visiting a dying hospice patient, or encouraging a tired nurse at the end of a long shift?

Writing your state representative?

When did “trusting in the Providence of God” help you to spring into action?

How do each of us remain faithful to filling, being filled, and refilling our basins and our neighbors’ as we offer our *testimonio de vida*?

Whatever your call and response look like; this is how the spring field flows FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.

Sister Kelly is a chaplain at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Miss.

Brotando a la acción

Por la Vida del Mundo

Por Hermana Kelly Moline, OP

Un manantial se origina cuando el agua que se mueve bajo tierra encuentra una grieta en la superficie y emerge, a veces como un chorrito, a veces solo después de una lluvia, como un flujo continuo. Un manantial se forma cuando la ladera de una colina, el fondo de un valle u otra excavación se cruza con el agua subterránea en o por debajo del nivel subterráneo local, por debajo del cual el material del subsuelo está saturado de agua. Un manantial es el resultado de un acuífero lleno hasta el punto de que el agua se desborda sobre la tierra. La cantidad de agua que fluye de un manantial depende del tamaño de las cavidades debajo, la presión del agua en el acuífero, el tamaño de la oquedad, la cantidad de lluvia.¹

¹ <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/springs-and-water-cycle>. Consultado el 1 de junio de 2023.

Muy parecido es el llamado de Dios. La fuerza natural del Espíritu que impulsa, contenida en una corriente subterránea de confianza, ha creado una fuente en el campo (spring-field) verde de



Hermanas Andrea Smith y Janet Guretz cruzando el río Mantaro en Huari, Perú, 1965.

la misión de las Dominicas de Springfield: generaciones de hermanas y sus compañeros/as en el ministerio han puesto su energía para servir a Dios y al prójimo durante 150 años.

Liberando nuestros corazones

El llamado al ministerio se nutre de las aguas subterráneas del bautismo y fluye de una sintonía interna con el movimiento del Espíritu.

Las fundadoras de las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield respondieron afirmativamente al “proyecto de expansión” del Espíritu. Estas siete mujeres confiaron en la providencia fundamental de Dios cuando “invocaron al Espíritu Santo” mientras reflexionaban sobre cómo responder a la noticia de que ya no estaban afiliadas a las Dominicas en Kentucky. Sus reservorios se llenaron con un poco de angustia, una gota de enojo y una oleada de confianza en Dios. Cada hermana “escudriñó su propio corazón, sopesó su propio celo y midió su propia visión” mientras preparaba su decisión. Cada hermana firmó el contrato afirmativamente. A partir de ese momento, el Espíritu y diversas misiones nuevas comenzaron a brotar en variedad de formas en los Estados Unidos y Perú.

Como el agua subterránea

continúa en la página 11

Brotando

que llega a la superficie disolviendo una red de grietas y fisuras, la invitación de Dios amplía la capacidad de nuestro corazón para amar a Cristo, expandiéndose dentro de nosotras para que, llenas hasta rebosar, el amor de Cristo fluya libremente desde DENTRO de nosotras— Por la Vida del Mundo. Esto era algo que el P. Macken de alguna manera lo sabía, y las hermanas pronto lo descubrirían también. Su consentimiento constante y expansivo ha dejado claro el camino para generaciones futuras. Ahora ofrecemos nuestro testimonio de vida en el espíritu de Cristo.

Ya sea que estemos asumiendo nuevos ministerios o expandiendo nuestras mentes, corazones y conciencia, aprendemos la Verdad de que Cristo está presente dentro de nosotras y a nuestro alrededor. Caminamos juntos y juntas en Cristo. De esta manera nos abrimos al encuentro con nosotras mismas y con el mundo.

Mientras tomamos prestado el concepto celta de “espacios delgados” en los que lo temporal y lo eterno se tocan, reflexionemos: cuando nos dispersamos en nuestros ministerios porque hay menos hermanas disponibles para el servicio, ¿Nos fortalecemos más en nuestras relaciones? ¿Es más transparente nuestro servicio, nuestro testimonio

y nuestra vida dominicana? Quizás el Espíritu Santo y el diseño de nuestra propia Tierra nos están ayudando a entender: es la corriente subterránea la que afecta el flujo, y el flujo determina la energía que alimenta el manantial.

Así como cada hermana pionera tuvo que “escudriñar su propio corazón, sopesar su propio celo y medir su propia visión” mientras discernía cómo responder con su vida, estamos invitadas a reflexionar en lo profundo de nuestros corazones y escuchar la Verdad que nos habla a cada una de nosotras en el lenguaje único de nuestro corazón.

El impulso del Espíritu Santo, como el agua que brota de un manantial, no siempre es claro. Por lo tanto, confiamos en la profundidad y amplitud de nuestro llamado—la “recarga del reservorio” de la oración, el estudio, la comunidad y el ministerio dominicano—para dar forma a la efusión del manantial que es la Santa Predicación.

Nos mantenemos fieles cuidando del nivel del agua en el reservorio de nuestro corazón para que emerja la gratitud, el compromiso, la determinación y el gozo profundo. Regularmente examinamos nuestra Fuente mientras nos reconectamos con el sonido familiar de la voz de Dios y preparamos nuestro “eco” de oración y servicio.

Viviendo por la Vida del Mundo

El resurgimiento de un manantial está determinado por la recarga del reservorio.

¿Cómo estamos llenando nuestro reservorio y cómo nuestra presencia orante ayuda a otros a llenar el suyo?

¿Ofreciendo tu ayuda en un refugio local para personas sin hogar?

¿Enseñando a leer a una mujer inmigrante para que pueda ayudar a sus hijos con sus tareas?

¿Visitando a un paciente moribundo o animando a una enfermera cansada al final de un largo turno?

¿Escribiendo a tus autoridades del estado?

¿Cuándo fue la última vez que el “confiar en la Providencia de Dios” te ayudó a entrar en acción?

¿De qué manera estamos siendo fieles a llenar, dejarnos llenar y volver a llenar nuestros reservorios y los de nuestro prójimo mientras ofrecemos nuestro testimonio de vida?

Cualquiera que sea tu llamada y respuesta; así fluye la fuente en el campo POR LA VIDA DEL MUNDO.

Hna. Kelly es capellana en el Hospital St. Dominic en Jackson, Mississippi

CONGRATS

Regenerating the Land

Jubilee Farm staff has begun to study permaculture and engage consultants to establish permaculture gardens at the farm, through a Nature-Based Climate Solutions grant from Faith in Place, an Illinois-based nonprofit.

“Since the establishment of Jubilee Farm in 1999, the staff has worked diligently, with the help of volunteers, to plan and execute restoration projects,” said director, Sister Rose Marie Riley. “The grant from Faith in Place will help us address the next step in regeneration of



Bill and Becky Wilson (center) founders of Midwest Permaculture, discuss plot maps with Jubilee Farm staff and volunteers.

the land. We look forward to involving members of the local community in this exciting venture and are grateful to

Faith in Place for making this grant possible.” For more information about Jubilee Farm visit jubileefarm.info.

Pastoral Care for Transgender Persons

Sister Beth Murphy completed her service on a Catholic Health Association (CHA) ad hoc subcommittee which explored the need for standards of pastoral care for transgender persons in Catholic healthcare settings.

Led by Dominican Father Charles Bouchard, senior director of theology for CHA, and Jill Fisk, CHA’s director of mission services, the subcommittee helped craft care guidelines for use by Catholic chaplains and other patient-care personnel.

Their work also informed *Care for the Transgender Soul: An Introduction to Spiritual Care for Trans Persons and their Families*, a CHA webinar held in June.

Celebrating 25 years of collaboration

Twenty-five years ago, several sisters from the Mexico-based Daughters of Mary Immaculate of Guadalupe accepted a mission to teach at Immaculate Conception School in South Chicago.

Because of the cultural and language challenges the sisters would face, Springfield Dominican Sister Judine Hilbing was asked by Father Michael Enright to assume leadership of the school while continuing as principal of nearby St. Michael’s. Thus began the collaborative friendship between our community and Las Hijas—the Mexican sisters. Several Springfield Dominican Sisters supported Sister Judine’s accompaniment of Las Hijas. Sisters Patricia McDonald, Janet Guretz, Judith Hilbing, and June



These sisters worked collaboratively to provide a quality Catholic education for students at Immaculate Conception School. (l to r) Sisters Judith Hilbing, OP; Katia Alcantar, HMIG; Judine Hilbing, OP; Claudia Carrillo, HMIG; Janet Guretz, OP, June Volpe, OP, and Maria de Jesús Nuñez, HMIG.

Volpe shared organizational skills, language instruction, tutoring, and the translation into English of Jose Antonio Plancarte’s pedagogical and spiritual documents. Sister June Volpe was a classroom teacher for the middle grades.

And so, 25 years later, filled with courage and confidence, Las Hijas celebrate their ongoing challenges and growth in South Chicago. We wish them all amazing blessings and ongoing friendship.

Meet the Associate Commitment Class of 2023

By Dave Sanders

After meeting monthly since last September for prayer and study, 14 candidates made their formal commitment as associates of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield during Mass at Sacred Heart Convent on May 7, 2023.

Watching the commitment Mass, I could not help but think back to May 2019 when I became an associate. I was focused on my commitment and what I would give, not fully appreciating what it meant to be part of the Dominican community. Yes, I understood the Dominican Sisters would support me with prayer, with a community of new religious friends, with resources for spiritual study and enrichment, and with help for my outreach and preaching. But I could not imagine the depth of their support.

Just ten short months after becoming an associate I would find out. The COVID crisis arrived, and we entered an unprecedented time of closings, lockdowns, isolation and most of all, fear. While our ever-present, invisible God was there for me, the visible body of Christ, the Church and

sacraments that are essential in my life were unavailable as the doors of churches, convents, and monasteries were locked. It was a devastating time. I can’t imagine how I would have managed without the Dominican Sisters’ community. But thankfully, in so many crucial ways, they were there for me.

Through my spiritual reading I met one of the most venerated Dominicans, St. Catherine of Siena. Her writings and spirit showing me how she leaned on her faith during the deadly plague in her community 650 years ago.

Through technology, Associate Director Sister Joan Sorge worked hard to keep us connected via email and virtual events; assuring us that we were being prayed for and making opportunities to pray and “be with” others in the community through our computers and devices.

The homilies of the sisters’ chaplain, Fr. Michael DeTemple, OP, were regularly shared to help us put perspective on those most stressful of times. His homily during the recent commitment Mass serves as an example when he reminded us, Jesus is there to “guide us through a difficult situation with his inspiration.”

COVID taught me that being a Dominican associate was more than about giving, more than our commitments, as important as they are. It is also very much about receiving God’s help and love through a community that genuinely cares.

Dave Sanders made associate commitment in 2019 and is active in his parish, St. Joseph the Worker, Chatham, Ill.

This is an abbreviated version of Dave’s essay. Read it in its entirety at springfieldop.org/just-words.



First row from left: Christina Wise, Sister Martha Carmody, Sister Agnes Ann Pisel, Eleonora Babayants, Sarah Fafoglia, Sister Bernice Juip, Ann Moroff, Janet Chiavaro, and Barb Leaf. Back row from left: Sue Brown, BeckyWoiwode, Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel, Deena Warrick, Diane Keller, Sarah Grauvogl, Linda Hansen, Cecily Fultz, Colleen Peabody, Jennifer Arreola, Stephanie Steele, Sister Phyllis Schenk, Kara Mernaugh, Laura Wheeling, Susan Kerouac, Sister Mary Clare Fichtner, John Clark, and Sister Mary Joan Sorge.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Jill Hopper, associate, February 26, 2022
Marian Jenkins, associate, January 2, 2023
Sister Helen Wolf, OP, January 28, 2023
Doris Sellmeyer, associate, February 26, 2023
Allie Beard, associate, April 10, 2023
Kevin Vost, associate, April 11, 2023
Sister M. Elene Hanrahan, OP, April 24, 2023
Sister Kathleen Cour, OP, May 26, 2023
Father Peter Witchousky, OP, chaplain, May 27, 2023

Visit springfieldop.org/donate to make a gift in memory of a sister or associate who has died.

CONGRATS (continued)

Sister Mary Lou preaches at sun rise service in Elkhart

Sister Mary Lou Owens, right, participated in an Elkhart tradition this year, presiding over the Easter sunrise service, at St. John the Baptist Chapel on Elkhart Hill.

She recently completed 16 years of ministry to the Catholic community of Logan County this spring and is expected to join the community of sisters at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, Ill.



PARTNERS IN MISSION

Donors Perspectives ... our history, today & tomorrow!

By Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP
 Director of Mission Advancement

An anniversary is a time to celebrate beginnings, reflect on growth, and share hopes for the future. For that reason, we asked a few of our partners in mission to share the impact our sisters have made in their lives.

Mark Quinn's first encounter with our sisters occurred in school. "Along with teaching came healthy doses of care, concern, and love," he recalled. "The sisters were not only wonderful teachers but caring mentors and confidantes; their care and their love were genuine."

Vicki Schmidt said, "The sisters have made the transition from their important role of teaching children in schools to teaching adults about social justice issues. They remain committed to their desire to educate and teach the Gospel of Jesus. Today the issues that divide us have caused irreparable harm to our human community. The Dominican Sisters and Associates work toward healing by addressing racism, the challenges faced by Native American families and immigrant families,

and learning about care of the earth through Pope Francis' teachings in *Laudato Si'*. I believe they have not swayed from their foundational call to teach, but rather have grown into their lifelong commitment in a new and contemporary way—bringing the light of God's justice to the fore for the life of the world."

Our long-time donor Shirley Juip, and Mark, would agree. They see that our educational, missionary, healthcare, and spiritual ministries focus on the same types of people Jesus lived with, ministered to, loved, and served. Those who find themselves on society's fringes are our concern: the disenfranchised, the lonely, the spiritually confused or lost; the sick—mentally and physically—and those who need friends in a world that has left them bereft of friendship.

Shirley, Mark, and Vicki express their gratitude for our sisters who touched their



young lives by supporting us now with their friendship, care, and financial gifts. We are immensely grateful for their life-long partnership in mission, as we are grateful to all of you who have partnered with us throughout our history. Your support serves the needs of the world today!



Sister Kathleen Anne is the director of mission advancement for the Dominican Sisters.



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About the cover art: Sisters and associates visit the 150th anniversary exhibit at the Jacksonville Area Museum. Pictured (l to r) are: Sister Celestine Rondelli, Tom Cisne, Jim Powers, Sisters Agnes Ann Pisel, Maristella Dunlavy, Margaret McCormick; Beth Lafata, Sisters Teresa Maron, M. Clare Fichtner, and M. Joan Sorge. The exhibit closes July 30, 2023.



Dominican Sources

“God is the newest thing there is, the youngest thing there is. God is the beginning and if we are united to God we become new again.”

~ Meister Eckhart, OP

DATEBOOK

July	4	United States Independence Day
	22	Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, patroness of the Order of Preachers
	27-30	National gathering of Dominicans, Columbus Ohio
	28-29	Peruvian Independence Days
August	30	Jacksonville Area Museum 150th exhibit closes
	8	Solemnity of Holy Father Dominic
	15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary
	17-19	Annual congregational assembly
	19	Mass in Celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Founding †
	23	Feast of St. Rose of Lima, Dominican
September	1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Season of Creation begins
	30	Global Ecumenical Prayer for the work of the Synod of Bishops

†Public welcome. See springfieldop.org/150years for details.