

Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

JUST *Words*



Heirs to the Promise

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Winter 2024 Vol. 24, No. 1

THE CONTEXT

Dear Friends,
St. Paul told the Galatians
“*There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free
person, there is not male and
female; for you are all one in
Christ Jesus. And if you belong
to Christ, then you
are Abraham’s
descendant, heirs
according to the
promise.*”

And the Jesuit
theologian and
mystic, Teilhard de
Chardin, stuttering
his way toward
an understanding
of the depth
of communion that binds
creation, wrote “Let us try,
patiently, to perceive the
ocean of forces to which we
are subjected and in which
our growth is...steeped....For
the depth and universality
of our dependence on so
much altogether outside our
control all go to make up the
embracing intimacy of our
communion with the world to
which we belong.”

As the *JUST Words* board
grappled with the enormity of
the message in these texts we
asked “What do we see when
we look at the lives of our
sisters and associates through
the lens of this beautiful
communion we strive to
realize daily?”

What we saw was this:

- A circle of sisters and
associates tending to the

task of healing of systemic
racism.

- The success of the
Dominican Literacy Center
in Aurora, as sisters, staff,
and dozens of volunteers
recognize their
students, too, as
heirs of the promise
of communion in
God, deserving of
dignity, respect, and
the support required
for their flourishing.
- We saw the sisters
at Marian Catholic
High School giving
their energies and
passion to support students
and parents looking for
education, a community of
faith, and a firm foundation
for a successful future.
- We witnessed the weaving
of threads of relationship
among students, sisters, and
associates on two continents
who value connection
and interdependence over
isolation and competition.

How about you? What do
you see when you look at
your life through the lens of
the promise that we are all
one in Christ Jesus? What
do you see as you recognize,
with Teilhard, the embracing
intimacy of our communion
with the world to which we
belong?

*Sister Beth Murphy, OP, is the communication
director for the Dominican Sisters of Springfield
and the editor of JUST Words.*



Sister Beth Murphy

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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The Associate Antiracism Committee A Valuable Link with SDART

By Daphne Skretvedt

There are more than 400
Springfield Dominican associates
spread over a wide geographic
area in the U.S and Peru. Called
to embody the Springfield
Dominican charism, they
share the sisters’ commitment
to understanding and
dismantling systemic
racism in all spheres of
life.

The core of this effort is
the work of SDART, the
Springfield Dominican
Antiracism Team,
mandated by General
Chapter in 2004 to
implement its antiracism
vision. SDART members
are organized into
stakeholder working
groups which strategize
for and implement
the congregational
antiracist vision in all
of its ministries. The
SDART associate working
group, established in 2022, has
formed an associate antiracism
committee to reach out to all
associates and give impetus to
the study of systemic racism
among all associates.

The associate antiracism
committee is a dynamic group
of 18 participants which meets
bimonthly and virtually.
Margaret Lombe captured its
essence when she said “We are
Springfield Dominican associates
who explicitly live out the
congregation’s commitment to
understanding and dismantling
systemic racism so as to promote
antiracism in all spheres of
life.” She added, “We carry out
this commitment by learning
through community interaction,
one-on-one conversations,

reflections, discussions, and
living out the gospel mandate of
promoting a just world.”

The group uses sources like
webinars, videos, TED talks,
and articles for study and
discussion of systemic racism.



Charlie and Kattie Minor, long-time partners in the Springfield
Dominican antiracism commitment, with Sister Dorothea
Sondgeroth, OP, during an associate meeting at St. Dominic
Convent, Jackson, Miss.

Books are recommended. The
group is now studying *Caste*
by Isabele Wilkerson. Anne
Hilofsky and Douglas King
have been particularly helpful
in researching literature and
resources to further the group’s
understanding of the subject.
Another important role of
the committee is to share
information with all associates—
including prayer associates—
who can access resources either
through virtual events, email
communication, or at cluster
meetings.

A further source of information
and sharing has been taking
place at the motherhouse where
Sister Mary Clare Fichtner, Anne
Hilofsky, and Molly Joseph—
all members of SDART—have
prepared materials to acquaint

the sisters with the culture and
history of diverse peoples for
occasions like Black History
Month, Hispanic Heritage
Month, and Native American
Heritage Month. Thus, in
November the displays they
prepared were focused on
indigenous peoples.

Perhaps one of the most
valuable outcomes of the
AARC is the effect that it
has had on its participants.

“We see that in the
smaller groups some of
our members have gotten
confidence to grow and
moved on to be part of
other committees in order
to spread the Dominican
charism” said Charlie and
Kattie Minor. “This is a
blessing to SDART.”

“There is a
comfortableness in being
together as associates”

commented Judy Babb Troxell.
“Listening, learning, and sharing
in faith and friendship make
tackling the difficult work of
antiracism achievable. Meeting
regularly with a robust agenda,
the opportunities for growth are
abundant in being a member
of the antiracism committee.
But what I value most are the
experiences and the strength
that is shared and kept in a
sacred space. I am grateful to
be part of a team that continues
to bring the important issue
of antiracism to every life in a
deep and meaningful way that
inspires and empowers change.”

*Daphne, an associate since 2002, is also a
founding member of SDART and serves on
the SDART associate working group and
the associate antiracism committee.*

Keeping humanity at the heart of language learning

By Sister Kathleen Gallagher, OP

Recently the Dominican Sisters shared in the joy of the sisters who minister at the Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora, Ill., who received a special award from the Library of Congress.

They were honored for their outstanding innovative and effective practices; specifically for successfully “building one-on-one relationships and grassroots organizing that keeps humanity at the heart of literacy experiences.”

When asked why the center has been so successful, Sister Kathleen Ryan, founder, responded, “I believe that the center is a success because of the intentional focus on each individual woman who comes to the center. We offer an excellent, updated curriculum and provide an atmosphere saturated with learning options, but the focus is on the person: her experience, her educational background, her culture, and her personal way of learning. It is our belief that stereotyping and racism can be slowly replaced by personal interaction and friendship with someone who has been ‘other.’”

Sister Jane Ann Beckman, who coordinates citizenship classes at the center, said, “More than having the



Pictured from left are: Alison Brzezinski, ESL tutoring coordinator; Sister Jane Ann Beckman, citizenship program coordinator; and Sister Kathleen Ryan, Dominican Literacy Center founder and administrator.

latest textbooks and tablets, I believe the success of the Dominican Literacy Center is due to the one-on-one tutoring program which encourages a relational environment where the student feels respected and can successfully learn the difficult English language.”

Tutoring coordinator Alison Brzezinski, agrees. “I think the Dominican Literacy Center is successful because we look at each tutor and student’s needs and talents as individuals and it is obvious to all that they are valued both as individuals and as a part of our learning community.”

Since our founding, Springfield Dominican Sisters have been involved in the ministry of education. We can see, from our

attention to this great literacy effort, that our response to the needs of the world have developed over time.

Surely the women who have benefited from the literacy centers in Aurora and Melrose Park have embarked on their own journeys with greater skill, confidence, and joy.

Perhaps even a bit of the Dominican pillar of truth and study is deep in their hearts.

Sister Kathleen is a life-long educator herself. She currently ministers as a resource teacher for fourth and fifth graders at St. Raphael School, Naperville, Ill.

Ministry of presence makes impact on real-life outcomes

The power of a few: Sisters at Marian Catholic are a transforming presence for students, parents

Sister Jean Patrice Schingel has served at Marian Catholic High School, Chicago Heights, Ill., since 1995 as theology teacher, then as department chair, 2005-2019. Since 2020 she has worked in the Bracha Tutoring Center, Marian Catholic’s in-house academic tutoring and support program, with a focus on theology and social science tutoring.

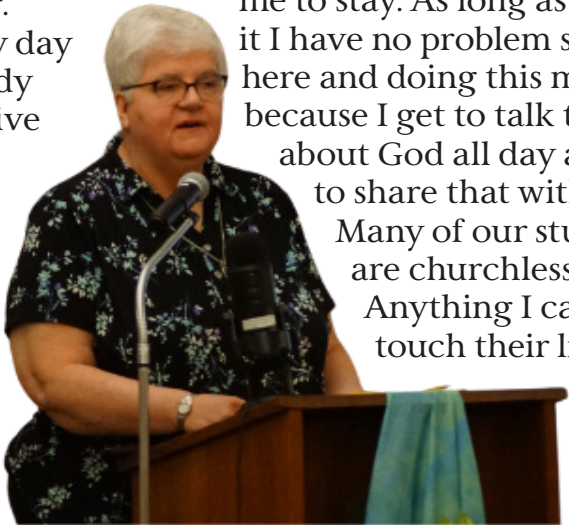
Sister Judine Hilbing was MCHS president 2008-2016, and continues on staff now as the director of scholarships and tuition assistance.

They spoke with JUST Words about what inspires them in their ministry at Marian.

Sister Jean Patrice

JW: 28 years is a long time in high school ministry. What inspires you to continue?

SJP: Students with academic challenges are assigned to the Bracha Tutoring Center where I minister. Kids come every day during their study hall. There are five or six tutors in the center with various areas of expertise. We work with them to help with their homework or get them ready for exams.



Sister Jean Patrice

Just yesterday a young man who was at our school three years ago stopped by the center to see me. He had a terrible accident on the football field that left him almost paralyzed for a time. He had a hard time academically even before the accident. I worked with him about an hour or two a day through the COVID years, to try to keep him academically above water, but he just couldn’t make it. He left Marian a few credits short of graduation. Yesterday, he came in to let me know he had his GED and had gotten a nice paying job. He told me ‘You kept telling me that I could do this.’ That is what inspires me.

JW: You and Sisters Judine and Karen Kvidera (who also works in the scholarship office) are the only sisters at Marian for the time being.

SJP: That is another reason for me to stay. As long as I can do it I have no problem staying here and doing this ministry because I get to talk to and about God all day and I get to share that with kids. Many of our students are churchless. Anything I can do to touch their lives, help them, gives me deep



High School preaching students from Marian, Sacred Heart-Griffin, and Rosary enjoy Sister Anita Cleary’s weaving demonstration at Jubilee Farm.

fulfillment. This year I get to teach a sacraments course to students in an AP research class. It’s been a real pleasure because I am, by nature, a teacher. I find they have a deep desire to understand the sacraments in an integral way, so they can make it their own and enter into the sacraments more prayerfully, which is an incredible blessing.

I’ll share an experience I had with a student whose family is not Catholic and she is not baptized. I didn’t know that. In the middle of class, she was crying while I was talking about baptism. I asked her what was up; she asked ‘Do you think I’m going to hell because I’m not baptized?’ When I asked where that idea came from she said ‘My middle school teacher told me that.’ I said ‘No, you are one of the kindest students in the

Ministry of presence (cont.)

building. Some people have a baptism of desire—they are just living it. You are that person. Someday you might want to officially get baptized but you are already in sync with God.’

It’s moments like that that help me understand why God keeps me at Marian.

JW: While Marian is a Catholic school, much of the student body is not Catholic. What would you say to those who say it isn’t necessary to provide a Catholic education for non-Catholic students?

SJP: A catholic education, especially one that expresses what ‘small c’ catholicism means—the universality of the Christian message that the baptized are called forth to spread the good news—is the greatest gift the Church gives young people who aren’t Catholic. First, they understand we are all Christians, and second there is a certain social justice



Sisters Denise Glazik, Kathleen Anne Tait, and Marcelline Koch with the high school preachers from SHG at the national gathering of high school preachers, held annually in Adrian, Mich.

tenor to the Catholic Social Teaching that many haven’t been exposed to. If you want good leaders you have to form them. I’m a big advocate that Catholic schools do that.

Sister Judine

JW: How much connection with the students does your role as director of scholarships and tuition assistance afford?

SJ: We have over 500 students that receive tuition assistance and I read every application essay and donor thank you letter every student writes. My real contact is with the parents, and usually while their children are still in 8th grade. My biggest task right now is working with incoming freshman so I’m talking to parents whose kids are still in elementary school as they work through the tuition assistance process.

JW: What is it like to engage in relationship with the parents?

SJ: Many of my most touching experiences



Marian parents Antonio and Leticia Ferreira, from left, vist with Sister Judine, third from left, along with associate Sue Brown, right, who serves on the scholarship committee.

involve a parent who dies suddenly. We are extremely attentive to the needs of students who’ve had a parent die. We can’t always offer a full scholarship but we do our best and it is very much appreciated.

This year one girl lost her father to cancer. He was sick for three or four weeks and he died suddenly. The family was super active, and the children high performing students. Her brother graduated from Marian Catholic; she is a senior this year. They were band students, dad was on the crew, big volunteers. He died so suddenly.

There are also so many immigrants. The parents are often undocumented and the children are looking for a way to be successful even though they know their parents are very low income, often day laborers. In these cases, the student and the parent are working together. Often that student is going to become the first to graduate from high school.

Ministry of presence (cont.)

JW: What do those stories do for you, personally?

I am motivated to find funding when I know how deep the desire is, either on the part of the students or parents or both. Every donor that sponsors an endowed scholarship gets a thank you letter from the student. All those communications come through my office. I help keep the donors informed about how much the student appreciates the support, and that encourages donors to continue giving.

JW: Why do you think families choose Marian when there are other options available to them?

Some of our families come, at first, because they want safety and education, then they become very connected to the community. Over time the parents discover that in addition to good education they find a spiritual aspect along with it. It might not be what they come for, but it is why they stay.



Sister Judine Hilbing engages with a student at Marian Catholic High School.



Students from Marian, Rosary High School, and Sacred Heart-Griffin enjoyed a 2-day immersion in Dominican life last summer as part of the sisters’ 150th anniversary festivities.

JW: How do scholarship donations work?

About 75% of our students receive some scholarship money. Our tuition is \$15,000. Even people with steady jobs can hardly afford that, especially if they have two kids. We have about 60 endowed scholarships. Those donors write a profile of the kind of student they want to support. It is up to us to make the right match. Then we have the Sister Simeon Fund, to which donors, many of them alumni, also give. Whether a scholarship gift is \$25 or \$50,000, it all goes into the Sister Simeon Fund. Then the committee and

I follow the rules and regs and disburse it according to a combination of need and merit.

JW: Looking back on your tenure, what difference has your commitment to Marian meant over the years?

SJ: I am reminded of something Jimmy Carter says: “Just keep doing as much as you can for as long as you can with the resources you have—and don’t stop.” As long as I have the energy I want to keep doing it because I know it is helping the students, I know it is helping the parents, and I think indirectly it is helping the donors, too.

Building relationships that change lives

By Carolyn White

While fewer sisters are ministering in classrooms, they haven't lost their love of accompanying young people on their faith journeys. Here's a glimpse at how Springfield Dominican sisters and associates are in partnership at the service of young folks, supporting their faith development and encouraging their personal and spiritual growth.

Learning empathy and service

Springfield Dominican Sister Maria Luisa Ñaupari Gutiérrez ministers at the Colegio Parroquial San Jose in Lima, Peru, where she teaches religion to students in the first two years of secondary school. In this middle-class neighborhood Sister Maria and her colleagues teach the students how to take care of themselves and how to build a sense of community and empathy. "We help them to really live their faith formation," Sister Maria explained. The students visit nursing homes and, in

order to understand the challenges facing those who are impoverished, the San Jose students live for 15 days with low-income families nearby. "They have to deal

with limited availability of water and food" during their visit, Sister Maria explained, "but there is plenty of love and lots of hugs to go around."

Becoming disciples of Christ

Molly Murphy, a Springfield Dominican associate, is the campus minister at Sacred-Heart Griffin High School, Springfield, Ill., though she spent her first four years there teaching theology. A native of Morrisonville, Ill., she attended St. Maurice School and learned the joy of having an older "faith buddy" to sit with at Mass.

In partnership with Kristie Tolliver, a third-grade teacher at Christ the King School, she has incorporated a similar program at Sacred-Heart Griffin.

SHG freshmen are partnered with Christ the King third-graders, praying for them and exchanging notes and cards. Now in the post pandemic-era, this innovative mentoring program includes an annual all-city Catholic school third-grade retreat at SHG. This faith-driven event provides fun and reflection on why—and how—to live like a disciple of Christ every day.

Visits between SHG students and the sisters were common before the pandemic, and this year they have begun again. "Our prayer partners at the motherhouse send cards and words of encouragement to all students at SHG," Molly said. "This year's goal is to rebuild the prayer partner program and include monthly visits to the motherhouse and invitations to the sisters to activities at SHG."

Pen pal literacy and forever friends

Stephanie Steele, an associate who teaches fifth grade and junior high language arts at St. Agnes School in Springfield, tells another beautiful story of developing community and teaching discipleship. Stephanie has always enjoyed the art of written communication and she was determined to instill that discipline in her students. Each fall her fifth grade students randomly draw the name of a sister out of a basket to begin the pen pal relationship. They correspond with the sisters every other week and Stephanie delivers letters to the motherhouse and picks up mail for the students.

"Over the course of these past two years the students in my classroom have made forever friendships with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois," Stephanie explained. "I feel that especially after being cloistered in our respective bubbles during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is wonderful to be able to bring these two groups together. Some of last year's students, now sixth-graders, have continued to write to their sister-pen pals this school year.

"It is my hope that they can continue these relationships long after they are finished with the pen pal program, remembering the Dominican charisms of community—building relationships—and

study—learning from each other."

Growing in self-respect

My own story began while I lived in Jacksonville Ill., and started coaching Girls on the Run. I fell in love with the concept of the program and the girls who faithfully came to each practice and ended the season with a district-wide 5K. After moving to Missouri, I knew I wanted to stay with the program so I now help coach at St. Joseph grade school in Cottleville, Mo., and have started a team of third to fifth graders at my own parish of Ss. Joachim and Ann in St. Charles Mo. I also volunteer at the school library so I've seen these girls grow up from kindergarten. My goal is to make a difference in the girls' lives by teaching them about team-building and community service.

We help the girls see themselves and each other in a positive light and teach them how to stand up for themselves and their

friends. We teach them about taking care of their bodies through healthy nutrition and exercise. Whether they walk or run, our goal is to instill in them the ideal that they should keep moving forward. One of my greatest pleasures is hearing the girls share their feelings and reaching their goals. Our community service project this year was creating gift bags for the teachers and staff and making cards for them. Whether the Dominican Sisters are themselves in classrooms, as Sister Maria Luisa is, or whether they mentor students in other creative ways, their passion for education, community building, and service continues in the ministries they serve and among the associates they have mentored.

Carolyn lives in St. Peters, Mo. with her husband, Paul, with their daughters and granddaughter nearby, and serves on the JUST Words editorial board.



The author, left, with Girls on the Run participants in Missouri.

“Que vengan los niños”: las dominicas y el desarrollo de la fe de los niños

Por Carolyn White

Aunque menos religiosas tienen ministerio en las aulas, no han perdido su amor por acompañar a los jóvenes en su camino de fe. He aquí un vistazo de cómo las hermanas dominicas de Springfield y sus asociados están en colaboración al servicio de los y las jóvenes, apoyando su formación en la fe y alentando su crecimiento personal y espiritual.

Aprendiendo empatía y servicio

La hermana María Luisa Ñaupari Gutiérrez, dominica de Springfield, tiene ministerio en el Colegio Parroquial San José de Lima, Perú, donde enseña religión a los alumnos de los dos primeros años de secundaria. En este barrio de clase media, la Hermana María y sus colegas enseñan a los alumnos a cuidar de sí mismos y a construir un sentido de comunidad y empatía. “Los ayudamos a vivir realmente su formación

en la fe”, explica la Hermana María. Los estudiantes visitan residencias de ancianos y para comprender los retos a los que se enfrentan las personas empobrecidas, los estudiantes de San José viven durante 15 días con familias de bajos ingresos de los alrededores. “Tienen que hacer frente a una disponibilidad limitada de agua y alimentos” durante su visita, explica la hermana María, “pero hay mucho amor y muchos abrazos para todos”.



La hermana María, de pie, a la izquierda, con sus compañeros catequistas y alumnos del colegio San José de Lima (Perú).

Convertirse en discípulos de Cristo

Molly Murphy, una asociada dominica de Springfield, es encargada de la pastoral educativa en el colegio Sagrado Corazon-Griffin, en Springfield, Illinois, aunque pasó sus primeros cuatro años allí enseñando teología. Nació en Morrisonville, Illinois, asistió a la Escuela San Mauricio y aprendió la alegría de tener un “compañero de fe” mayor con quien sentarse en misa. En colaboración con Kristie Tolliver, profesora de tercer curso en el Escuela Cristo Rey, ha incorporado un programa similar en Griffin del Sagrado Corazón.

Los alumnos de primer año de SHG (Sagrado Corazón-Griffin) se juntan con los de tercer grado de Cristo Rey, rezan por ellos e intercambian notas y tarjetas. Ahora, en la era posterior a la pandemia, este innovador programa de tutores incluye un retiro anual en SHG para todos los alumnos de tercer grado de las escuelas católicas de la ciudad. Este evento impulsado por la fe ofrece diversión y reflexión sobre por qué -y cómo- vivir como discípulo de Cristo cada día.

Las visitas entre los alumnos de SHG y las hermanas eran habituales antes de la pandemia, y este año han vuelto a empezar. “Nuestros compañeras de oración de la casa matriz envían tarjetas y palabras de ánimo a todos



Tres de los alumnos de primer año de hermana María con una Biblia.

los estudiantes de SHG”, dijo Molly. “El objetivo de este año es reconstruir el programa de compañeros de oración e incluir visitas mensuales a la casa matriz e invitaciones a las hermanas a actividades en SHG”.

Lectoescritura por correspondencia y amigos para siempre

Stephanie Steele, una asociada que enseña quinto grado y lenguaje en 7 mo y 8 vo grado en secundaria en la Escuela Santa Inés de Springfield, cuenta otra hermosa historia de desarrollo de la comunidad y enseñanza del discipulado. Stephanie siempre ha disfrutado con el arte de la comunicación escrita y estaba decidida a inculcar esa disciplina a sus alumnos. Cada otoño, sus alumnos de quinto grado sacan al azar el nombre de una hermana

de una cesta para iniciar la relación de amigos por correspondencia. Se cartean con las hermanas cada dos semanas y Stephanie entrega las cartas en la casa matriz y recoge el correo para los alumnos.

“A lo largo de estos dos últimos años, los alumnos de mi clase han hecho amistad para siempre con las Hermanas Dominicas de Springfield, Illinois”, explicó Stephanie. “Creo que, especialmente después de haber estado enclaustrados en nuestras respectivas burbujas durante la pandemia del COVID-19, es maravilloso poder reunir a estos dos grupos”. Algunos de los alumnos del año pasado, que ahora cursan sexto grado, han seguido escribiendo a sus hermanas de correspondencia este año escolar.

“Tengo la esperanza de que puedan continuar estas relaciones mucho después de haber terminado con el programa de amigos por correspondencia, recordando los carismas dominicos de comunidad -creando relaciones- y estudio -aprendiendo unos de otros”.

Creciendo en auto respeto

Mi propia historia comenzó cuando viví en Jacksonville, Illinois, y empecé a entrenar a “Niña en Carrera.” Me enamoré del concepto del programa y de las niñas que acudían fielmente a cada entrenamiento y terminaban la temporada con una carrera de 5 km por todo el distrito. Después de mudarme a Missouri, supe que quería seguir con el programa, así que ahora ayudo a entrenar en la escuela primaria San José en Cottleville, Missouri, y he empezado un equipo de tercer a quinto grado en mi propia parroquia de los Santos Joaquín y Ana en San Carlos, Missouri. También soy voluntaria en la biblioteca de la escuela, así que he visto crecer a estas niñas desde el jardín de infancia. Mi objetivo es marcar la diferencia en la vida de las niñas enseñándoles a construir sentido de equipo y a prestar servicios a la comunidad.

Ayudamos a las niñas a verse a sí mismas y a verse entre ellas de forma positiva y les enseñamos a defenderse

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Alumnos de quinto año de San José interactúan con residentes de un hogar de ancianos local.

a sí mismas y a sus amigas. Les enseñamos a cuidar su cuerpo mediante una nutrición sana y ejercicio. Tanto si caminan como si corren, nuestro objetivo es inculcarles el ideal de que deben seguir avanzando. Uno de mis mayores placeres es oír a las niñas compartir sus sentimientos y alcanzar sus objetivos. Nuestro proyecto de servicio comunitario de este año fue crear bolsas de regalo para los profesores y el personal y hacer tarjetas para ellos.

Ya sea que las Hermanas Dominicas estén ellas mismas en las aulas, como lo está la Hermana María Luisa, o que sean mentoras de estudiantes en otras formas creativas, su pasión por la educación, la construcción

de la comunidad y el servicio continúa en los ministerios a los que sirven y entre los asociados de quienes han sido mentoras.

Carolyn vive en San Pedro, Missouri, con su esposo Paul, con sus hijas y su nieta cerca y forma parte del consejo editorial de JUST Words.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sister Trinita receives lifetime achievement award

Sister Mary Trinita Eddington was recently honored with the 2023 DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award.

She was nominated by the nursing staff at St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson, Miss.

“We wanted to celebrate her remarkable contributions and leadership over many decades,” said Tracey Smithson, Chief Nursing Officer, St. Dominic Hospital. “Her unwavering commitment and dedication have made an irreplaceable mark on our healthcare teams and community.”

The award was created by the DAISY Foundation to recognize nurses across the globe who have devoted their lives to the compassionate care of others. Recipients of this award are recognized for their dedication to nursing through outstanding and transformational leadership, active mentoring, role modeling, advocating for patients with an enhanced patient experience, and promoting a positive image of nursing.

“This recognition means so much to me because I feel like it is my cohort, my St. Dominic’s nurses, who brought this about,” shared Sister Trinita. “That’s what makes this so special.”

Sister Trinita made her profession as a Springfield Dominican Sister when she was 18. Little did she know her vocation in religious life would lead her to a lifetime in Jackson.

After spending time assigned to the pharmacy, Sister Trinita began the journey to become a nurse. A little over two years later, she received her first nursing degree and started out as a staff nurse until advancing to the positions of Head Nurse, Assistant Nursing Director, Nursing Services Administrator, and eventually Vice President. During that time, Sister Trinita went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in nursing and later a master’s degree in nursing administration with a minor in community health nursing.

After stepping down from her vice president role in the early 1990’s, her mission focused on the needs of the community. She was instrumental in the formation of the St. Dominic’s Community Health Clinic that was established in 1996 to serve those who could not afford basic medical care. The clinic provides healthcare services free of charge for the medically underserved in Jackson.

During this time, she was also studying to become a nurse practitioner and designing a program for a residential Alzheimer’s facility at St. Catherine’s Village.

Although Sister Trinita has reduced the hours at her nurse practitioner practice and role at the clinic, she continues serving the St. Dominic’s ministry and Jackson community as a nurse and leader.



Sister Mary Trinita Eddington, OP, MSN, RN, FNP, recently honored with the 2023 DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award .

“Her unwavering commitment and dedication have made an irreplaceable mark on our healthcare teams and community.”

-Tracey Smithson, Chief Nursing Officer

CONGRATULATIONS (cont.)



Sister Kelly, center, with fellow award recipients, Sister Lilian Onovo, MSDP, and Bonny J. Bobka.

Sister Kelly awarded scholarship

Sister Kelly Moline was one of the first three persons to receive an award from the David Lichter CPE Scholarship Fund. Established in 2022, the fund provides tuition assistance to Catholic students pursuing CPE units as they continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church. The fund honors the legacy of a past executive director of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, which sponsors the award. Congratulations Sister Kelly!

Sister Katrina honored by Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry

Sister Katrina Lamkin was recently named Volunteer of the Year 2023 at the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. She was presented with a plaque and a beautiful bouquet of red roses at their staff Christmas luncheon. They recognized her faithful work five days a week, her helping with extra Saturday food distribution, and fundraising.

IN MEMORIAM

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

- Victor Ritz, associate, August 15, 2013
- Carol Pike–Bergeson, associate, October 13, 2023
- Marie Pope, associate, October 17, 2023
- Sister M. Harold Herrmann, October 19, 2023
- Sister M. Henrianne Schmidt, November 21, 2023
- Dan Chevalier, associate, December 6, 2023
- Sister M. Kristin Rever, OP, December 27, 2023

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

PARTNERS IN MISSION

Partners in mission for 150 years

By Sister Kathleen Anne Tait, OP

January 2024...I remember as a youngster calculating how old I would be when the year 2000 rolled around! Each new year offers opportunities for continued growth and the adjustments needed to attain wholeness for ourselves and world. New years are also a time of being grateful for those generations who preceded us and for the values and principles on which we stand today.

Last year we Springfield Dominicans celebrated the 150th anniversary of our founding. Our foundresses left Kentucky in response to the growing need for Catholic education among immigrant families in Jacksonville, Ill. Those sisters didn't have many of the resources that we have come to expect today: no previous arrangements for housing, contracts for salaries, or prearrange plans for the educational needs of the students! They relied solely on the One who had called them to live the Gospel and simply began meeting the needs of those students.

Before long, the families of Jacksonville began bringing

food and supplies. Other partners stepped forward to help financially with the school's and sisters' needs. In this way, the people of Jacksonville became our first "Partners in Mission." Their generous collaboration fueled our



An iconic photo of our first convent in Jacksonville.

earliest response to God's call to service for the life of the world. As a congregation, we remain deeply rooted in the values and principles that shaped our community early on. Like them, we continue to respond to the needs of the time and are always challenged anew. Trusting our faithful God and remaining committed to Gospel values are vital to us and to the mission, even as that mission takes on new dimensions in this century.

There is a continual evolution in the way we

respond to the call and needs of the world. Clearly, none of us can project where we will be in five years, let alone the next 150 years. But we do know that working together—sisters, friends, families, coworkers, associates and Partners in Mission—yields more genuine Gospel service than we could possibly do alone! We are truly grateful for your collaboration and generosity through the years. Without you, and others before you, we could never have sustained our response to God's mission for 150 years.

Thank you for your partnership! We count on your continued support as we look forward to our future!

Blessings on your 2024!



Sister Kathleen Anne is the Mission Advancement director for the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.



DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

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Springfield, IL 62704-1680

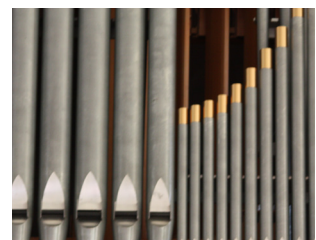
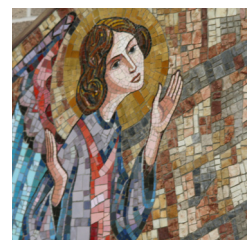
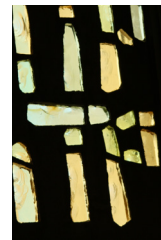
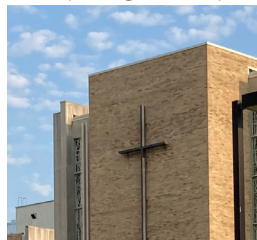
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About the cover art: Sister Maria Luisa Naupari Gutierrez, center, and her students at the Colegio San Jose, Lima.



Dominican Sources

"We are embraced by the healing friendship of God which unlocks the doors of the prisons we create for ourselves."

—Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP,
during a synod retreat on friendship,
October 2, 2023.

DATEBOOK

January	1	Mary, Mother of God; World Day of Peace
	12-14	Zoom & See vocation event*
	15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day
	26-26	SDART, Springfield Dominican Antiracism Team
February	2	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
	10	Sisters' community meeting day
	14	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
	16-18	In person Come & See, Springfield*
March	8-15	Catholic Sisters Week
	17	St. Patrick's Day
	19	St. Joseph's Day
	28-30	Holy Triduum
April	31	Easter Sunday
	1-7	General Chapter

As always, we appreciate your prayer as we prepare for General Chapter in April, 2024.

* Visit springfieldop.org/comesee for details.