Sisters Take a Stand
Sisters Call for Action on Climate Change

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Associates, and friends participated in the Global Climate Strike Sept. 20. By many accounts, 7.6 million people took to the streets to call for government and business accountability in regard to protecting Earth through adopting environmentally sound policies and practices. The Global Climate Strike came just before countries gathered at the United Nations for the Climate Action Summit.

Pictured on the cover are (from left) Sisters Colleen (Lillian) Nolan, OP; Kathy Long, OP; Loretta (Mary Nathan) Zemaitis, OP; and Christa (Claudian) Cunningham, OP; and Associate Coni LaBarbera. Pictured above is Sister Patricia Sullivan, OP.

New Year Brings New Format

Opportunity for Change

On behalf of our Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, we hope you had a joyful and blessed Christmas season and a great start to 2020!

The beginning of the New Year brings with it an opportunity for change. We are updating our format of *Sinsinawa Dominican Vision* magazine to include more stories about our Sisters and congregation news. We also decided to change the format from a magazine to a full-color newsletter. Honor and Memorial names will no longer be listed as they were in the magazine but will continue to be added to our *Book of Intentions* for the liturgical year in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound. As always, our Sisters keep you and your intentions in their daily prayer.

Here is what we’ve heard from you recently.

“I strongly feel that I am indebted to the Sisters, not only for my education, but also for helping me to become the woman I am today.”

“The Sisters [who ministered at my parish] were beautiful souls, and I thank you for the time of their presence in our area.”

We are excited about the year ahead. All the best in 2020.

*Kelly Myers*

*Director of Philanthropy*
Sharing Vibrant Dominican Life

St. Dominic Villa

by Sister Patricia (Gereon) Gallagher, OP

St. Dominic Villa at Sinsinawa is an amazing place. Designated as our skilled care facility, it is truly home for our Sisters where Dominican life is alive and well. I am privileged to be there three-to-four times a week and am able to continually witness the vibrancy of our Sisters.

Friendship abounds among our Sisters. After Sister Helen (Marie Clara) Martin, OP, left Sinsinawa Mound to reside at the Villa, Sister Mark O’Loughlin, OP, went daily to visit her. Now Sr. Mark lives at the Villa, and she and Sr. Helen frequently enjoy each other’s company, telling stories of shared experiences or sometimes just sitting quietly. The friendship of Sisters Duchesne Maxwell, OP, and Marie Patrice O’Donnell, OP (1927–2019), was more evident than ever in the final days of Sr. Marie Patrice’s illness.

Fun enlivens many hours. In the evenings, one can usually find some inveterate card players like Sisters Mary (Ora) Fox, OP; Nora Ryan, OP; Estelle (Mary Cabrini) Wiltz, OP; and Mary Kent Pearson, OP, enjoying each other’s company and playing competitively, while Sister Genevieve (Mary Gertruda) Pinion, OP, is a faithful jigsaw puzzle expert.

Study continues to nourish our Sisters’ spirits. Opportunities abound for Sisters to engage in group study. Sister Kathleen Flood, OP, comes to the Villa once a week to lead a book club or to explore our common study materials. Sister Mary (Maria de Ricci) Paynter, OP, and Priscilla Wood, OP, delight Sisters with monthly presentations of poetry that always elicit thoughtful responses, laughter, and a strong desire for more.

Prayer is the lifeblood of the Villa. Our Sisters take seriously their ministry of prayer for others as well as trying to create a prayerful atmosphere for their daily common prayer. They are ready to praise God with an evolving understanding of creation, of God, and of their place in the universe.

Yes, the Villa is an amazing place. Yes, there’s vulnerability and physical limitations but also a vibrancy that permeates the atmosphere and gives this home aliveness beyond measure.
Sinsinawa Sweepstakes

Announcing Our Lucky Winners

The 2019 Sinsinawa Sweepstakes drawing took place at noon Tuesday, Oct. 8, at Sinsinawa Mound. You helped us raise over $101,000! We had approximately 16,000 entries and heard from 172 first-time donors. Sister Priscilla Wood, OP, drew the winning tickets while Philanthropy Office Manager Barb Brandt recorded the names of winners.

The winners include Linda Murphy ($5,000); Kay Leonard ($4,000); Sister Rosa Rauth, OP ($3,000); Catherine Taylor ($2,000); and Maria Korber ($2,000). Each of the following winners received $1,000: Rosemary Bauer, Mary Gladys “M.G.” Enderle, Colleen Yonda, and Kathleen Xenakis. We like to say “Relationship is at the heart of ministry.” Well, relationship is also in the hearts of those who support us. Our winners were friends, family, and former students and coworkers from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. We hold you all in prayer.

Generous donors helped us raise over $101,000!
Step Forward, Give Hope

**Sisters Walk for Alzheimer's Cure**

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa across southern Wisconsin participated in the “Step Forward, Give Hope” annual Alzheimer’s Awareness Walk in September. Sisters were joined by employees and friends at Sinsinawa Mound and St. Dominic Villa and at St. Elizabeth Manor in Footville. Funds raised by those who walked will benefit the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin in spreading awareness and conducting research.

Walkers at St. Elizabeth included (from left) Sisters Mary (Mary Ania) Schlehuber, OP; Sandra (Rosario) Schmitz, OP; Therese (Michaelita) Maher, OP; Joris Binder, OP; Bianca Madden, OP; Sheila (Johanna) Griffin, OP; and Constance Lennartz, OP.
Sisters Raise Awareness

Ending Human Trafficking

Our Madison (Wisconsin) Dominicans against Human Trafficking group includes nine Sisters and a friend who meet bimonthly for common study, prayer, and action. Our efforts have included:

Presence at Farmers Market at Edgewood High School for several Sundays. We have a booth with our materials and fact sheets about trafficking, and we engage in conversation with many who stop to talk. Some express surprise that we are talking about it happening in Madison. One woman interrupted me and said, “Wait, you are not talking about Southeast Asia but about Madison!”

Development of curriculum to be used for parishes with a variety of groups. We have adapted the curriculum that Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) created for Wisconsin. Using much of their presentation, we tailored it to various audiences with facts and figures about Madison. We have spoken to church groups from different traditions. In each case, people have left with a determination to make their voices heard.

Film event at Edgewood College. One hundred and sixty people gathered Sept. 12 for the viewing of the film I Am Still Here. Mischa Marcus, the writer and producer, came from California and was present to interact with and address questions from the audience. People were profoundly moved and stunned by the story of a 7-year-old child abducted into trafficking and held in captivity until she was 16.

We on the committee are hopeful and committed to continuing this important work. We welcome others who are interested in joining our efforts. Pope Francis offers this quotation, which encourages the work we have begun: “Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that’s become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals but the foundational values of society.”

Fr. Mazzuchelli’s Home Restored

“Under budget, on time, and lovely.” When any long-term project can be described that way, it is a blessing. And so it was for the renovation of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli’s little house in Benton, WI, which he had built in 1852 and where he lived for the last 12 years of his life until his death in 1864.

Sister Diane (Mary Alana) Kennedy, OP, Promoter of the Cause of Fr. Samuel, saw in the house both a need and an opportunity to refresh and renew it, returning it to its original layout, focusing on the life and achievements of Fr. Samuel as well as his holy death that took place there. Sister Priscilla Wood, OP, the project manager of the house restoration, made a presentation to the St. Patrick Parish Council and pastor, Father Dave Flanagan, and the enterprise was wholeheartedly endorsed.

On Aug. 25 at the annual memorial Mass honoring Fr. Samuel at St. Patrick Church, Bishop Donald Hying presided and preached and blessed the house.
Sr. Mary Pat Honored

Wrapped in Quilt of Valor

Kim Mesch (left); Sister Mary Pat Marcos, OP (center); and Arline M. stand with the Quilt of Valor that was made for Sr. Mary Pat. The Quilt of Valor program intent is “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” Kim pieced the quilt and Arline quilted it. It was presented to Sr. Mary Pat in September. Sr. Mary Pat served in the United States Air Force.

Make a Donation!

If you are considering making a gift to the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, here is information you may need. To include the Sisters in your estate plan, our legal name is Sinsinawa Dominicans, Inc., and our federal tax ID number is 39-0816854. To transfer securities, please call the Office of Philanthropy at (608) 748-4411, ext. 283, or email philanthropy@sinsinawa.org for transfer instructions. To donate now, please use the enclosed envelope or visit us at sinsinawa.org/donate online.
Dominican Study Thrives in New Zealand

Sisters Laurie Brink, OP; and Betsy Pawlicki, OP, joined Dominican educators at the October 2019 Dominican Education Conference in Invercargill, New Zealand. The 160 participants included Dominican Sisters, teachers, and principals of Dominican schools from Australia, the Solomons, and New Zealand. Sr. Betsy (above) led workshops and Sr. Laurie (below) gave keynote presentations.

Heart Speaks to Heart

Former Sisters Gather at Sinsinawa

Those attending the October Heart Speaks to Heart gathering of former Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, postulants/candidates, and novices at Sinsinawa Mound included (front row, from left): Mary Mork, Rose Erin Sullivan Sisson, Krissie Koll, and Margaret Webinger; and Sister Priscilla Torres, OP. Middle row: Mary Dunlap Cannizzaro, MaDonna Thelen, Betsy Crannell, Joanne Cortese, Jim Cortese, and Mylene Augustin-O’Toole. Back row: Paula Eytais, Jackie Kelly, Pat Finnegan Brandt, Barbara Hammrel, and Joan Cavanaugh; Sister Pat Leahy, OP; Pat Linnehan, Joan Sheehy, and Mary Jane Alexander; Sister Mary Ellen Green, OP; Kathy White, Elinore Davis, and Patricia Donahoe; Sister Mary Ellen O’Grady, OP; and Nancy McCabe.

We renewed and enriched our relationships.
Sisters Making a Difference

Beacons of Hope

Sisters Martha Rohde, OP, and Elizabeth Dunn, OP, were recipients of Edgewood College’s Dominican Mission Award. They received the award at a ceremony held in October. The award recognizes alums who show commitment to social justice and a history of extraordinary volunteer service in the community, country, or world. They both currently minister at Hope Rural School, Indiantown, FL.

Sister Mary Howard Johnstone, OP, was recognized by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin Oct. 3 as a 2019 Faithful Servant Honoree during a Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. The Honorable Paul Dedinsky of Milwaukee County Circuit Court said, “No doubt when I began working at the Milwaukee Children’s Court Center in 1993, I learned from the best of the best Guardian ad Litem in Milwaukee: Mary Howard Johnstone. . . . She would be the one appointed to handle the most difficult cases. With great intelligence, wisdom, legal acumen, understanding, compassion, and love, she would go about her work undertaking legal representation of the most impoverished, vulnerable children in our community.” Colleague Gary Mahkorn said Sr. Mary Howard always demonstrated a sense of profound dedication to the protection of children. “She never let her huge heart stand in the way of doing what was right in assuring that the most vulnerable little ones in our community were safe and cared for. Although subject matter in the district attorney’s office was often stressful, Mary Howard brought her sense of humor to the job, which made those days for the rest of us a little more bearable.”

Sister Patricia Rogers, OP, was featured in an article in the Sept. 12 edition of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s Catholic Herald titled “Dreams drive Amani neighborhood forward.” The story describes how the Sinsinawa Dominicans began the nonprofit Dominican Center nearly 25 years ago. “I think the most impactful thing that will always be with me is the first Sisters who came here, they just wanted to be present with the women in the area and learn from them,” said Sr. Pat. Over time, they asked the women in the neighborhood what they needed and learned of their dreams of earning GEDs and understanding how to manage their finances. The article stated the success at the Dominican Center is not defined by the number of GED certificates earned but by the continual transformation of lives in the neighborhood.

Sister Margaret McGuirk, OP, was mentioned in an Oct. 11 Commonweal article titled “Love and Attention in El Paso.” Sr. Margaret and several other Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa ministered with immigrants at the border between Mexico and the United States recently. “The Sisters in El Paso know well the intractability of poverty, disease, and violence. That does not keep them from working to relieve them,” reported Lynda McDonnell. “Margaret had noticed how many immigrants wore shoes shredded by their journey. Her quiet appeal to parishioners in Minnesota raised $5,000, enough to buy 250 pairs of new shoes. Her request this Christmas will be humbler still: money to buy [immigrants] socks and underwear.”
She Is with God

Remembering Our Deceased Sisters

Up-to-date Sister death notices are posted on our website sinsinawa.org/obits

Sister Jeremiah Farrell, OP, died May 8, 2019. Professed in 1954, she taught in the following schools: St. Basil, Chicago; Blessed Sacrament, Madison, WI; Annunciation, Green Bay, WI; Blessed Sacrament, Sioux City, IA; St. Joseph, Dubuque, IA; Dominican, Whitefish Bay, WI; Bethlehem Academy, Faribault, MN; Regina, Minneapolis; and Queen of Peace, Burbank, IL. Sr. Jeremiah served at St. Dominic Villa, Dubuque, IA, in the culinary arts and as activity director and at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, in the transportation department. She ministered as kitchen manager at Christ House, Washington, DC, and adult education director and teacher at Marillac Social Center, Chicago. May she rest in peace.

Sister Joan (Victoriana) Pardell, OP, died June 4, 2019. Professed in 1953, she taught in the following schools: St. Rose, Cuba City, WI; St. Mary, Dixon, IL; St. Thomas Aquinas, Milwaukee; and Our Lady of Mercy, Bronx, NY. Sr. Joan ministered as principal at St. Mary, Portage, WI; St. Joseph, Baraboo, WI; and St. Patrick, Ottawa, IL. In Ottawa, she also served as pastoral minister at St. Patrick Parish and St. Mary Parish. May she rest in peace.

Sister Jeanette (Guinevere) Landuyt, OP, died July 3, 2019. Professed in 1950, she taught in the following schools: St. Albert the Great, Minneapolis; Visitation, Chicago; Holy Rosary, Minneapolis; and St. Mary, Freeport, IL. Sr. Jeanette served as principal at St. Thomas, Chickasaw, AL; Incarnation, Minneapolis, where she also served as assistant principal; and St. John Vianney, Spokane, WA. She shared her knowledge of education working with diocesan Offices of Education as assistant superintendent for the Diocese of Madison (WI), education consultant for the Diocese of Green Bay (WI), associate superintendent for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph (MO), and director of personnel and curriculum for the Diocese of Rockford (IL). Sr. Jeanette served as director of personnel for the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation while living in River Forest, IL; as a family caregiver in Peoria, IL; and as supervisor of student teachers at Dominican University, River Forest, IL. She devoted time to study and research as well as volunteering with seniors learning computer skills in Peoria, IL, and in the Archives at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, WI. May she rest in peace.

Sister Vanna Rauth, OP, died July 5, 2019. Professed in 1943, she taught music in the following schools: St. Raphael, Madison, WI; Holy Angels, Omaha, NE; St. James, Rockford, IL; St. Gall, Milwaukee, WI; St. Joseph, Baraboo, WI; Annunciation, Green Bay, WI; St. James, Ventnor, NJ; Blessed Sacrament, Sioux City, IA; St. Patrick, Ottawa, IL; and All Saints, Los Angeles. Sr. Vanna ministered as a hospital chaplain at St. Mary Hospital, Pierre, SD; Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown, CT; St. Catherine Hospital, East Chicago, IN; and Providence Hospital, Sandusky, OH. She served as liturgy coordinator and pastoral minister at Our Lady of Refuge Parish, Bronx, NY, and seamstress at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, WI, and St. Dominic Villa, both
Dubuque, IA, and Hazel Green, WI. She simultaneously taught piano to elementary students at Holy Family Center and ministered as chaplain at the Health Center, both Apalachicola, FL. Sr. Vanna wrote in her autobiography that “musical ability was her talent, but that serving the sick was her gift.” May she rest in peace.

**Sister Marie Patrice O’Donnell, OP**, died July 26, 2019. Professed in 1947, she taught in the following schools: Visitation, Chicago; St. Mary, Champaign, IL; St. Clement, Sheboygan, WI; St. Cajetan, Chicago; St. Matthew, Milwaukee; St. Thomas Aquinas, Chickasaw, AL; SS. Peter and Paul, Wheat Ridge, CO; and St. Cecilia, Omaha, NE, where she also served as librarian. She loved to pray. If Sr. Marie Patrice said she would pray for you, you could count on it. She made rosaries while watching Nebraska football. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Dolores (Theodosius) Grasse, OP**, died Aug. 2, 2019. Professed in 1957, she taught and served as librarian in the following schools: Sacred Heart, Omaha, NE; Newman, Wausau, WI; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile, AL; and St. Mary, Cheyenne, WY. She served as librarian at Bishop McGuinness, Oklahoma City, OK, and Dominican, Whitefish Bay, WI, and taught at St. Clara Academy, Sinsinawa, WI, and Newman, Mason City, IA. Sr. Dolores ministered at Edgewood College, Madison, WI, as assistant registrar, registrar, director of data processing, and manager of administrative computing. She then served the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation as secretary of the congregation, secretary, and volunteer in the Archives and Liturgy departments. Her hobbies included knitting, crocheting, and sewing. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Mary (Mary Henry) Montgomery, OP**, died Oct. 29, 2019. Professed in 1957, she taught at Resurrection, Minneapolis; St. Mary, Piscataway, MD; and St. Patrick, Rockford, IL, and served as director of religious education at St. Mary Parish, Pecatonica, IL, and principal and adult education coordinator at St. Rose of Lima School and Parish, Baltimore, MD. Sr. Mary shared her zeal for the Gospel and the people of the Church as director of elementary education and cosuperintendent for the Archdiocese of Baltimore (MD); superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Madison (WI); executive director of Sinsinawa Mound, Sinsinawa, WI; and director of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Dubuque (IA). She spearheaded projects to share the history of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Susan Ostrowski, OP**, died Nov. 15, 2019. Professed in 1979, she taught in the following schools: Our Lady of Refuge, Bronx, NY; Hope Rural, Indiantown, FL; Epiphany, Chicago; St. Peter, San Francisco; Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville, CA; All Souls, South San Francisco, CA; and Holy Family, Redwood City, CA. Sr. Susan was a master teacher and could guide students through any learning challenge. She was cherished for her simplicity of spirit, generosity, and disarming sense of humor. May she rest in peace.
The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa unveiled a new congregation logo in December, featuring the familiar, traditional Dominican shield with a modern edge. You can expect to see this new look on the congregation website, social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), letters, and anywhere Sisters are building relationships and conducting business. The updated logo better represents who the Sinsinawa Dominicans are today as Catholic Sisters working with others as they continue to build a holy and just Church and society.

While the black and white shield remains the central element of the logo from the founding days of the Congregation in 1847 and the Dominican Order in 1216, blue and green pathways have been added to illustrate the Sisters’ commitment to boldly confront injustice with truth whether that be in the form of calling for social justice and an end to systemic racism or by caring for Earth, our common home. “We are a hopeful, forward-moving Congregation, and we wanted that reflected in our logo,” said Prioress Toni Harris, OP. “The movement of the pathways, each leading beyond the previous one, illustrates our itinerancy and dynamism. We make profession and then set out to partner with others in preaching and teaching the Gospel as we encounter the emerging realities of our world.”