DOMINICAN VISION

Sisters March for Justice

DOMINICANS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
Sr. Reg Takes on Larger Justice Role

The Dominican Family is pleased to announce that Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa Reg McKillip, OP, will serve as the new North American Co-Promoter of Justice and Peace for the Order of Preachers. Sr. Reg will assume this new role while she continues as our Congregation’s Peace and Justice Promoter. We thank Sr. Reg for her generous service on behalf of Dominican peace and justice efforts.

Pictured on the cover are (from left) Sisters Liz (Crescentia) Sully, OP; Kathy (Karel) Komarek, OP; and Reg calling for an end to military training for Central American armies at Ft. Benning in Columbus, GA. 2019 marked the 30-year anniversary of the murders of six priests and two women at the University of Central America in El Salvador.

It’s All about Relationship

One of the aspects of my job I enjoy the most is learning about the special relationships our donors have developed with our Sisters. One donor shared this recently: “Sister Edvarda Hugo [1891–1987] helped to change my life by her interest in me and believing I could do better in school at Visitation, Chicago. . . . I went from a ‘C’ student who hated school to an ‘A’ student. . . . Sr. Edvarda and I kept in touch over the years at Christmas time. . . . She was a true blessing to me.”

As we celebrate Memorial Day, it is a fitting time to remember and celebrate those relationships that have had a significant impact on our lives. While time flies by, our memories remain constant.

The Office of Philanthropy staff enjoys keeping you informed about our Sisters, who like to say “At the heart of ministry is relationship.” Whether the relationship just got started or has been present for decades, we are grateful for them all. I look forward to hearing more about your connection with our Sisters.

Kelly Myers
Director of Philanthropy

Can You Help Our Sisters?

The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa are doing everything we can to protect the health of our Sisters and employees at during the coronavirus pandemic. We ask you to send any unopened medical masks, gloves, and sanitizing wipes that you can provide to our Motherhouse at Sinsinawa. Address them to: Health Center, Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701. If you wish to receive an acknowledgment for tax purposes, please contact the Office of Philanthropy via email at philanthropy@sinsinawa.org or by phone at (608) 748-4411, ext. 273. We hold you all in prayer. Thank you.
Sister Kathleen (Mary Joseph) Hayes, OP, had a package waiting for her when she reached her office at Divine Mercy Parish (formerly Immaculate Conception), Faribault, MN, in early November. It was marked, simply, “Please give to the Dominican Sisters.” Inside, she found a handwritten note with an explanation for the remaining contents of the envelope. It read, “To Dominican Sisters, I Found This Billfold at the Rock Island Train Station in Faribault many year ago. I was hard up at the Time and Failed to Return it But am Returning it now, Please Do what you need to With it! Thank You I am sorry! There was 64.00 in it as now.”

The wallet and a small envelope were inside. Sure enough, there was $64 cash in the wallet. But to whom did it belong and why did the person return it to the Dominican Sisters? Sr. Kathleen investigated and found “Sister Romana Fiedler, Bethlehem Academy” [Sister Ann Fiedler, OP (1920–1975)], written on the small envelope. This contained a paper from July 3, 1961, to keep track of her personal budget and return it to her local superior. The wallet held the cash, a University of Illinois student identification card, photos, a library card, and two professional music education membership cards. In the small envelope were also several items that indicate that Sr. Romana was traveling between Faribault and Omaha. Did she make the trip or lose her wallet and envelope before she got on the train? Her notes and a half-used packet of meal tickets stamped “MUSIC WORKSHOP” imply that she may very well have been returning from a conference at Omaha. Other items in the small envelope were 4-cent stamps; handwritten directions for the train trip; mailing receipts for packages; another envelope with a mailing date of June 16, 1961; and two exemption certificates for “tax on transportation of persons.” Those were signed “Sister M. Cyrilla [Grogan, OP (1888–1972)], Treas.” who was the Faribault convent business officer.

Sr. Kathleen knew she had to complete one task—return the items to the Archives at the Motherhouse in Sinsinawa. Archivist Sister Lois Hoh, OP, was just as puzzled by the package and its contents. We may never know the answers to the questions of this mystery, but we do know that someone was obviously helped by the contents of the wallet in 1961 and is grateful today.
Day of Reflection

Friends Gather in Arizona

The Sinsinawa Dominican Relationships for Mission (RFM) Team and Office of Philanthropy hosted a Day of Reflection at Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ, on Nov. 2. Sister Mary Ellen O’Grady, OP, and Sister Mary Ellen Green, OP, welcomed over 20 people for prayer, an information session, and lunch. Attendees were alums from our schools, a former Sister, colleagues, and friends.

We give thanks for our alums, friends

Maureen (Costello) Bayardi, Sr. Mary Ellen Green, Chuck Mitchell, Maureen Stepanek, and Dr. Lanny Astgen.

Maureen (Fiandaca) Harper, Rosanne Thompson, and Chris Puzauskas.

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Sisters at U.S.-Mexico Border

Assisting Immigrants

In January, Sister LouAnne (Cyrillo) Willette, OP; Sister Helen Marie (Helena) Raycraft, OP; and Mary Mendoza traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to assist immigrants there. Sr. Helen Marie reflected, “How did I experience God’s compassionate love at the border? As we made sandwiches and packed diapers and wipes, several women lamented on the sad political situation in that Juan Castro is about the only politician on either side of the border who has visited Matamoros recently. As we crossed the border with wagons carrying milk, sandwiches, diapers, and other essentials, I heard people shouting ‘Willie, Willie’ (Jesus, Jesus) because this Puerto Rican man from New Jersey knew everyone and was responding to their needs as best he could, even bringing stuffed animals for the children. The gratitude and expectant faces of the people mainly from Central America were so special as they welcomed what we were able to bring with us. There were young volunteers from Baylor University and Marywood College who gave their winter break time generously. There were medical doctors and interns from Philadelphia and nurse practitioners from the Bronx and Philadelphia willing to dedicate their time and energy. All of this spoke loudly to me that the Kingdom of God is in our midst.” Sr. LouAnne said, “The sight of the tents and people waiting in line to get supplies when we crossed the international bridge was heartbreaking. . . . Pope Francis asks four actions of us regarding immigrants: 1) welcome, 2) protection, 3) promotion, and 4) integration. Directors at the respite centers along the border have declared, ‘There IS room at the inn.’ We have lots to pray about and work toward.”
Sr. Laurie Authors Book

Review by Sister Rhonda Miska, OP

“Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure” (Sirach 6:14). In her newest book, What Does the Bible Say about Friendship?, Sister Laurie Brink, OP, proposes that our ultimate purpose is friendship with God, and that human friendships show us the way to developing that friendship with God.

Sr. Laurie explores friendship within family, especially between parents and children, through the lens of Jesus’ relationship with his mother, Mary. Sr. Laurie breaks open the Christian call to reconciliation and invites us to reflect on where we are called to practice forgiveness in our relationships.

Our experiences of trust, respect, care, passion, and fidelity within human friendships create a map for the mature, fruitful Christian discipleship, which is friendship with God.

What Does the Bible Say about Friendship? will be a valuable companion for any Christian seeking to learn more about friendship in Scripture as well as reflect on the meaning of their own friendships and their intimacy with God. The book is available through the Sinsinawa Book & Gift Gallery by calling (608) 748-4411 or visiting us at www.sinsinawa.org/gifigallery online.
Founder’s Day Celebration

Trinity High School Honors Father Samuel Mazzuchelli

Several Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and Associates were on hand in River Forest, IL, for Founder’s Day Mass and the missioning of Trinity High School’s new president, Laura M. Curley, in November. Each year, Trinity remembers Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, and notes the depth of his leadership in ensuring that women not only receive an education but also are given the opportunity to be confident leaders. As Trinity’s Founder’s Day Awardee Ella Eisman (class of 2020) noted, “Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli would take pride in the way his legacy has benefited and transformed the community. He would revel in the accomplishments of the student body, and he would be thrilled by every Blazer’s daring and visionary nature.”

Pictured from left are Srs. Suzanne Schuman, Patricia (Mary Agnetis) Dillon, Janet (Margaret Mary) Welsh, Judith (Marie Franz) Seiberlich, Mary Ann (Marie Miguel) Casey, Roberta Popara, Judith Schaefer, and Colleen Settles; Associate Maudette Carr; Srs. Erica (Caterina) Jordan, Mary Ann Mueninghoff, and Mary Catherine (Marie Louis) Rice; and Associate Rita Cutarelli.

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.
Room Dedicated to Sr. Kathleen

In November, St. James School in Madison, WI, honored Sister Kathleen (Janetta) Loughrin, OP (1943–2019), who served as principal and teacher there for 25 years by naming the school's resource room after her. St. James Pastor Monsignor Tom Baxter unveiled the renovated resource room as the Sister Kathleen Loughrin Resource Room. “As a longtime friend and coworker with Sister Kathleen, we gather to dedicate this beautifully renovated school resource room to her memory,” he said. “With great faith, love, and dedication, she guided our school as principal for 22 years. She was a woman who poured her heart and soul into directing faculty and students to make great strides in learning and to become dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ, eager to work with him in creating a better world.” Sister Judy (Alacoque) Aubry, OP, represented the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa at the blessing and dedication ceremony.

Marquardt Hired to Manage Mound

Sisters Plan for Future

The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa (Sinsinawa Dominicans, Inc.) entered into a contractual agreement with Marquardt Management Services (MMS) to manage general operations at Sinsinawa Mound effective Feb. 17, 2020.

Sinsinawa and Marquardt share many of the same values. Both are faith-based, mission-driven, and not-for-profit organizations that desire to promote the well-being of those served. Both hope for a meaningful and successful environment for employees, expect quality of service in operations, and are based in Wisconsin. MMS also manages St. Elizabeth Campus (manor and nursing home) in the Janesville, WI, area where more than 20 of our Sisters now live as a vibrant Dominican community.

Marquardt is a leader in their field with 40 years of experience, managing three continuum of care communities, affordable housing residences, and other home health and hospice services.

Over time, the services of MMS are expected to allow the Sinsinawa Dominican Leadership Council and Treasurer to focus more on our congregation mission and to be less directly involved with Mound operational responsibilities. This is especially important as we look to the future and realize that fewer Sisters will be available for all congregational responsibilities.

Sinsinawa Mound and St. Dominic Villa are closed to visitors and guests until at least June 15 in order to help prevent the spread of coronavirus and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Sister Erica Jordan, OP, and Sister Judy Seiberlich, OP, were featured in the Feb. 14 edition of Wisconsin's Kenosha News in an article titled “CUSH to host youth adult leadership training workshop.” Srs. Erica and Judy are part of Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH) in Kenosha and are working to help young adults become the next generation of leaders. Sr. Erica explained how they will be offering training for youth to become community leaders and accomplish goals around the issues they care about. “Our young people are our hope for a better future. Providing them with organizing skills and strengths to become effective leaders is a gift to them and will impact all of us, especially in making our community and world more just and equitable,” said Sr. Erica.

Sister Christina (Margaret Christina) Heltsley, OP, was featured in the Feb. 17 edition of California's Mercury News in an article titled “Bay Area: Living at the intersection of rich and poor.” The article details how experts say the area of Redwood City and Atherton has one of the most extreme income gaps between the poor and the wealthy than anywhere else in the state. Sr. Christina is the executive director of St. Francis Center and helps provide low-income residents with affordable housing and other services. “Most people here are not only working, but they’re working two or three jobs each to make ends meet,” she said. “Our clients navigate things I never had to think about.” Sr. Christina was also mentioned in a Feb. 10 San Francisco Chronicle review of the book Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America. The book examines the U.S. housing crisis in San Francisco, and the review notes that “budding South Bay real estate mogul Sr. Christina Heltsley is a ‘value’ investor a la Warren Buffet who snaps up frowsy pre-gentrified properties to ‘remove them from capitalism’ then pays down their ‘moral mortgage’ by letting them to tenants who would otherwise be priced out of spiraling rents.”

Sister Christin Tomy, OP, was featured in the Mississippi Valley Conservancy 2019 Annual Report: The Land Solution in an article titled “A model of collective sustainability at Sinsinawa Mound.” Sr. Christin and Sinsinawa land stewardship employees explained a wide variety of land-use initiatives at Sinsinawa including cooperative farming, grazing, solar power, oak savanna restoration, old growth forest planning, and partnerships with others.

Sister Mary Margaret (Marie Eugenie) Pazdan, OP, was honored by Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO, in October. She was presented with a plaque in recognition of her 36-year tenure as biblical studies faculty and now professor emerita.

Sister Quincy Howard, OP, was featured in a Nov. 25 article titled “Hope and Action at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice Advocacy Day” on the Ignatian Solidarity Network’s website. Sr. Quincy emphasized the importance of taking action through the political system while maintaining a focus on humanity with the group. “You’re not [in Washington, DC] to talk politics, you’re here to speak the truth,” she reminded them.
She Is with God

**Remembering Our Deceased Sisters**

Up-to-date Sister death notices are posted on our website [sinsinawa.org/obits](http://sinsinawa.org/obits)

**Sister Marie Janet Meis, OP**, died Dec. 25, 2019. Professed in 1945, she taught in the following schools: St. Sabina, Chicago; St. Mary, Portage, WI; St. Brendan, Chicago; Sacred Heart, Omaha, NE; St. Richard, Omaha, NE, where she also served as principal; and All Saints, Los Angeles. She ministered as principal at SS. Peter and Paul School, Wheat Ridge, CO, and served the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation as codirector of the Dominican Education Center, Sinsinawa, WI, and secretary for and assistant to the Western Province team. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Lucille (Mauricio) Gardner, OP**, died Dec. 30, 2019. Professed in 1955, she taught in the following schools: St. James, Ventnor, NJ; Visitation, Chicago; St. Peter, Anaconda, MT; Holy Trinity, Bloomington, IL; St. Barnabas, Chicago; SS. Peter and Paul, Kingfisher, OK; and Asherton Independent, Asherton, TX, where she also served as curriculum coordinator and superintendent. Sr. Lucille was principal at Rosary School, Oklahoma City, OK, and St. Patrick/St. Alphonsus, Lemont, IL, as well as counselor at Sun Valley School, San Antonio, TX. She served as consolation minister at St. Matthew Parish, San Antonio, TX, and volunteered there and at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, WI, bringing her compassionate presence to all she encountered. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Florence (Roderic) Miller, OP**, died Jan. 13, 2020. Professed in 1945, she taught in the following schools: St. Raphael, Madison, WI; St. Mary, Portage, WI; St. Bernard, Peoria, IL; Our Lady of Mercy, Bronx, NY; St. James, Kenosha, WI; St. Robert, Shorewood, WI; Holy Name, Kansas City, MO, where she was also principal; St. Thomas, Freeport, IL; Immaculate Conception, Waukegan, IL; and Most Pure Heart of Mary, Mobile, AL, where she was also finance officer. Sr. Florence served as director of arrangements for the Dominican Education Center, Sinsinawa, WI; buyer for the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa; tutor and finance officer at St. Joseph School, Muskogee, OK; and director of the Mass Bread Department at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, where she also volunteered. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Jan Brynda, OP**, died Jan. 23, 2020. Professed in 1955, she taught in the following schools: St. Clement, Sheboygan, WI; St. Anne, Wausau, WI; Blessed Sacrament, Madison, WI; Annunciation, Green Bay, WI; St. Rose, Cuba City, WI, where she was also principal; and St. Bernard, Wauwatosa, WI. She served as principal at St. Mark, Peoria, IL; associate superintendent of schools for the Office of Education for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Fort Wayne, IN; and pastoral associate at Holy Cross Parish, Champaign, IL, and St. Jane de Chantal Parish, Chicago. Sr. Jan ministered at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Chicago, as education consultant for the high school; at St. Benedict Parish, Blue Island, IL, as director of adult faith formation; and at Dominican University (DU), River Forest, IL, as academic advisor, instructor, and supervisor of student teachers. She volunteered at the Sr. Mary Nona McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies, DU. May she rest in peace.
Sister Ann (Michaud) O’Hara, OP, died Feb. 2, 2020. Professed in 1950, she taught at the following schools: Incarnation, Minneapolis; St. Joseph, Tuskegee, AL; St. Gall, Milwaukee; St. Raphael, Madison, WI; St. Dennis, Madison, WI; St. John Vianney, Janesville, WI; St. Jerome, Columbus, WI; Visitation, Kewanee, IL; and St. Joseph, Baraboo, WI. Sr. Ann served as pastoral minister at St. John the Baptist Parish, Johnsburg, IL; the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa; and Resurrection Life Center, Chicago. She shared her gift of being present with people in the tender moments of life and celebrated the joyous moments with delight. May she rest in peace.

Sisters Attend Preaching Colloquium

The Dominican Preaching Network held its third Dominican Colloquium at Weber Center on the campus of the Adrian (MI) Dominican Sisters Oct. 16–19. The focus was “Evangelization across Dominican Generations.”

Fifty-seven participants from the United States, Canada, Germany, and the Philippines reviewed how different generations of Dominicans often look at realities and possibilities from different vantage points. The Dominican Preaching Network is worldwide with three centers: Aquinas Institute in the United States; the Institute for Pastoral Homiletics in Cologne, Germany; and the Institute of Preaching in Manila, the Philippines. The goal is to build an international network of relationship to promote preaching in the Church.

Father Tony Gittens, CSSp, professor emeritus from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and Ann Garrido, professor of preaching at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, were the presenters. Fr. Tony reminded us of God’s mission that is found in the evangelization mission of Jesus and our mission in the Church. Ann spoke of the essential aspect of listening across generations and gender.

The group spent the last part of the event dreaming of ways to bridge the gap between generational groups, ways of fostering an equality of preaching between brothers and sisters, and ways of supporting younger members of the Dominican Order in their preaching education. Rich liturgical prayer enhanced the days with friars, Sisters, and a Dominican Associate sharing the preaching.

Sister Roberta Popara, OP, commented, “We came away personally enriched but mindful of our Congregation and the wider Dominican Family, assured that the preaching charism burns brightly.”

Sister Marcia Holthaus, OP, added, “It was a treat to meet with Dominican men and women from across the spectrum of the Dominican Family. . . . As I look to the future, I live in hope that we continue our efforts to work together, to hear the various voices of each part of the family, and keep broadening our circle of influence on the wider Church.”

Stay Connected with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa!

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Email prayer intentions to prayers@sinsinawa.org
Antiracism Efforts Important

The Antiracism Transformation Team (ARTT) for the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa met at Sinsinawa Mound in November. They embrace the vision of becoming antiracist and multicultural by intentionally dismantling our racist structures, practices, and procedures. They collaborate with others who challenge racism in the world and work to transform it into a holy and just society for all.

Those in attendance included (front row, from left) Srs. Pat (Mary Patricia) Leahy and Margery (Geraud) Race; Associate Candy Krepel; and Srs. Peggy Ryan and Deb Bomyea. Middle row: Associate Rita Bruce; Srs. Marie (Doris) Lucek, Betty (Erica) Kugi, Joan (Marie Herve’) Duerst, and Carolyn (Dionis) Croft; Associate Jana Minor; and Sr. Mary McNulty. Back row: Sr. Rosetta Marie (Oranda) Brown; Associate Delana Stephens-Bowen (1949–2020); and Srs. Nancy (Florentius) Hubeny, Judith Seiberlich, Mary (Paulos) Kremer, Pat Rogers, Roberta Popara, Erica Jordan, and Monica Obouagwina.

Our Mission

As Sinsinawa Dominican women, we are called to proclaim the Gospel through the ministry of preaching and teaching in order to participate in the building of a holy and just Church and society.

Our Leadership Council

Prioress Toni Harris, OP
Vicaress Pam Mitchell, OP
Councilor Colleen Settles, OP
Councilor Elizabeth Pawlicki, OP
Councilor Patricia Beckman, OP
Councilor Angelo Collins, OP