



SINSINAWA

# DOMINICAN VISION



Delicate  
Glass Work

## On the Cover

Recently, several Sisters from Sinsinawa Mound visited Glass Heritage in Davenport, IA, to view progress of the restoration work on the stained glass windows from St. Clara Chapel at Sinsinawa. "Seeing four of our stained glass windows being repaired was an educational experience," said Sister Mary Ann Mueninghoff, OP. "I was fascinated by the delicate work of water washing the panes, picking and replacing broken segments of glass, and the close attention to how natural lighting might be enhanced in St. Clara Chapel." Thank you for your generous donations to our St. Clara Chapel restoration project. It's not too late to make a donation! Use the envelope provided in this newsletter or donate online at [sinsinawa.org/donate](https://sinsinawa.org/donate).

*From left: Srs. Mary Margaret (Marie Antoine) Murphy, Mary Ann Mueninghoff, and Marilyn (Antonietta) Aiello view the restoration work on one of the stained glass windows from St. Clara Chapel with Mark Stoffer Hunter of Glass Heritage.*

# Treasured Relationships

## Donations Support Community Life

A lot has happened since that festive day in July at Edgewood College, Madison, WI, when our new leadership received the baton that was passed from the previous Leadership Council! One of the greatest experiences for me since has been getting to know (better) so many of our Sisters who live at Stair Crest, Muskego, WI (almost 100 Sisters); at Prairie View Manor, Footville, WI (13 Sisters); and of course our beautiful Sisters who are at St. Dominic Villa at Sinsinawa (the number varies!). Yes, there are Sisters living at Sinsinawa Mound. Definitely fewer than before, but there are 17 of us who live at the Academy Apartments. Each of our Sisters is a treasure chest of stories to tell from real life experiences. As I listen to them, I am in awe of who they are and how they have allowed God to direct their lives. I am so happy that we can have our Sisters live in places where they can continue to live Dominican life in community, enjoying each other and still being connected to the larger Sinsinawa family. Each place has generous and capable women who are responsible for seeing to the Sisters' well-being and helping them to live their best life in retirement. We are so grateful to all our benefactors and friends who help make this possible through your generosity and love of our Sinsinawa community. May our most providential God continue to bless each one of you abundantly!



Sister Christine Feagan, OP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Feagan OP".

Leadership Council



Since 1847  
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# Projects Move Forward

## Sustainability Guides Decisions

The Congregation is moving forward with several aspects of the planned renovation at Sinsinawa Mound. Here are some updates.

- Glass Heritage (GH) in Davenport, IA, is restoring four stained glass windows from St. Clara Chapel. Recently, several Sisters visited the GH studio to learn about the process and view the repair work in progress (see cover).
- Sinsinawa Bakery and Sinsinawa Book & Gift Gallery paused operations in February. Negotiations continue with Roux and Lucia, a deli and bakery in Dubuque, IA, set to open this spring to include the production and sale of Sinsinawa Bakery items. The Congregation plans to reopen Sinsinawa Book & Gift Gallery with the completion of the renovation.
- Negotiations continue with Tricon Construction Group of Dubuque on their possible renovation of the 1964 buildings as a senior living community and event center.
- As with most families who undertake the task of downsizing their belongings and living spaces, we have had to rehome some of our belongings. Antique and collectible appraisers helped us identify values, and several days of sales were held at the Mound to rehome pieces that were not kept for use in the Stone and Convent buildings. Other significant art or collectible pieces were gifted to museums and Catholic parishes so they can continue to be appreciated and experienced by a multitude of people and publicly foster the legacy of the Congregation. Items were also donated to area nonprofits that work with those in need.
- Relics from the altars in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound were removed as it will no longer be a consecrated chapel in the Catholic Church (see photo above).

Sinsinawa Mound is the home of our Congregation. Our Sisters continue to be present here. We look forward to welcoming visitors when we reopen our renovated spaces in 2025. To learn how you can support the renovation, visit [sinsinawa.org/missionforward](https://sinsinawa.org/missionforward).

## Historical Exhibits Coming



Barbara Brandt

Warm greetings and our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support. Since our last *Sinsinawa Dominican Vision* newsletter, you received our

spring appeal featuring the creation of a new exhibit here at Sinsinawa Mound that will honor the legacy of our founder, Venerable Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, and the heritage of our Sisters. This exhibit, which is one piece of a larger renovation, will be housed in the Stone building built in 1846 by Fr. Mazzuchelli. We invite you to be a part of this endeavor. By contributing to this project or the larger renovation of the Stone and Convent buildings, you are ensuring that our mission will continue long into the future. Our goal is to create an environment that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities and fosters spiritual growth, community connection, and inclusivity. For more information or to donate online, visit [sinsinawa.org/missionforward](https://sinsinawa.org/missionforward).

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P.S. Our Sinsinawa Sweepstakes 2024 mailing should have arrived in your mailbox in April. It has been redesigned and now offers more entries! Contact us for more info!

## Ulysses S. Grant Visits Sinsinawa

by Sister Mary (Maria de Ricci) Paynter, OP

It's not every day a former president of the United States visits Sinsinawa Mound. In 1878, the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa gladly received a visit to St. Clara Convent by Ulysses S. Grant, who served as President from 1869 to 1877. In her book, *Five Decades: A History of the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin 1849–1899*, Sister Paschala O'Connor, OP (1882–1955), detailed the exciting occasion. "From a reminiscence of Sister Angelico Dolan, OP (1860–1947): 'Perhaps it was during my third year at the Mound, 1878, that General Grant visited St. Clara. . . . The day was a holiday for us girls. . . . Several of us had secured permission from Sister Hilary Cox to go up to the observatory and have a party. . . . General Grant had come and would be going up to the observatory. . . . This was the most thrilling experience of our young lives.'" To read the full story, visit [sinsinawa.org/gengrant](http://sinsinawa.org/gengrant) online.



From left: Srs. Angelo Collins, Alice Ann (Roisin) Byrne, Ruella (Mary Des Neiges) Bouchonville, Terri Schell, Sarah Anne (Mary Ansana) Kaminski, Julie Rambin, Angela Tran, Christa (Claudian) Cunningham, Teresa Montes Lara, Mary McNulty, Paula Danforth, Elyse Marie Ramirez, Janet Welsh, Mary Ellen O'Grady, and Shingai Chigwedere

## Novices Visit Stair Crest

### 'Vocations Give Us Hope'

by Sisters Janet (Margaret Mary) Welsh, OP, and Mary McNulty, OP

Sisters from the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate (CDN) representing five congregations traveled to Stair Crest, Muskego, WI, home for nearly 100 Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. Stair Crest Prioress Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, greeted Director of the CDN Sister Elyse Marie Ramirez, OP (Springfield), and CDN Mentor Sister Maria Teresa Montes Lara, OP (Tacoma). She also welcomed novice Sisters Paula Danforth, Shingai Chigwedere, and Terri Schell (Peace); Julie Rambin (Sinsinawa); and Angela Tran (Mission San Jose). Sister Janet Welsh, OP, began a morning session of study with Edward Schillebeeckx's quotation, "Stories of the Dominican Order keep us together as Dominicans." Sr. Janet told a few stories about St. Dominic's life journey as he created a revolutionary evolution in the Church of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The novices shared how the stories of Dominic resonated with their journey of living Dominican life today. The afternoon session, a panel presentation titled "Pondering the Charism," proved to be the highlight of the day, inspiring the CDN novices as well as Stair Crest residents. The panelists wove together fruits of their contemplation: *Called to mission, which is rooted in study; supported in community, both traditional and new forms; powered by communal and contemplative prayer; and expressed in people of the Holy Preaching.*

From the novices: *It was powerful and inspiring to see and hear all of you, our Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, amid such transition. You are all going about mission. Mission is not only for people under 50 or 70 or even 90, and I think all the novices experienced a broadening of our understanding of what a life of ministry might mean, particularly in a Sister's later years.*

From one of the panelists: *It was a joy to have the novices from the CDN visit us. The presence of so many talented young women pursuing a Dominican vocation gave us hope for the future of Dominican religious life.*



# Sisters Making a Difference

## Beacons of Hope

**Sister Elizabeth (Maria Maddalena) Fiorite, OP**, was featured in the October-November 2023 issue of *Arbus* magazine in an article titled “Unseen Possibilities.” Twenty-five years ago, she called the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville, FL, to ask if her women’s



art group could meet there once a month to connect, create, write, and explore art and the gardens. After the staff agreed, Sr. Elizabeth said, “Oh, and by the way, there will be about 12 of us, and we’re all blind.” In that moment, the Women of Vision program was born and continues to thrive as they recently celebrated their silver anniversary. During artmaking, the women use a variety of materials such as clay, paint, and collage. They also enjoy touch tours and guided experiences throughout the museum and grounds. A book, *Never Losing Sight of Possibilities: The Women of Vision*, is currently being written about the group. Sr. Elizabeth was noted as a “tireless advocate for equity, inclusion, and camaraderie—social care and healing in its truest sense.” She said, “My yearning to create, whether in paint or words or music or cooking or teaching, can be pursued despite my impairments. For I am limited only to the extent that I choose to be. My creative journey continues.”

**Sister Quincy Howard, OP**, was featured in the Jan. 22 edition of the *National Catholic Reporter* in



an article titled “Dominicans cite their charism for slight rise in vocations.” **Sister Julie Rambin** was also



pictured in the online article. Sr. Quincy said, “The Dominican charism is particularly timely. *Veritas*—the search for truth—the continued education of people and preaching. It’s badly needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Sr. Julie was pictured with four other women who together make up the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate class this year.

The **Sinsinawa Dominicans** were mentioned in a Nov. 7 article in Chicago’s *Beverly Review* titled “Neighborhood shines with little ‘s’ saints.” The author wrote, “I came across the name of my 4<sup>th</sup>-grader’s teacher recently when I was researching the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters for a St. Barnabas 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Her name was Sr. Marya Dugard [OP (1930–2022)]. . . . One of my memories of Sr. Marya was her love for saints. . . . She encouraged us to live like saints . . . which to her meant being kind, compassionate, and helpful to others even when it didn’t suit us.” The author is helping asylum seekers in the Chicago area and said we cannot turn our backs to them because “Our community—and Sr. Marya—are counting on us.”



**Sister Sheila (Brigidan) Fitzgerald, OP**, was featured in the Feb. 16 edition of the Dubuque (IA) *Telegraph Herald* in an article titled “Group planting seeds for sustainable ag.” The farmer-led organization Fields of Sinsinawa is working to establish an agricultural learning center at Sinsinawa Mound. She said this effort marks the continuation of the Sisters’ focus on promoting land stewardship and sustainability. “Our mission has always been education and outreach,” said Sr. Sheila.



## Generous Gift Given to Sisters

In a heartwarming gesture that echoes the spirit of compassion and community, a generous donation of a wheelchair-accessible 2022 Honda Odyssey van has been given to the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa by John Zimbrick. John's gift will undoubtedly enhance the lives of the Sisters and simplify logistical challenges. John's commitment to making a difference is evident in his meaningful donation and reflects a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the Congregation and a genuine desire to alleviate them. The Zimbricks have strong ties with the Sisters through Edgewood High School, Madison, WI. Thank you, John!



From left: Srs. Marie (Doris) Lucek, Marie Celeste Gatti, Christina Heltsley, and Mary Ann Nelson

## Sr. Marie Celeste Turns 100!

A surprise celebration honoring Sister Marie Celeste Gatti, OP, and her 100 years of life was held at Prairie View Manor, Footville, WI, on Feb. 12. Sisters and friends came together for a meal and party. Some friends and family joined via Zoom videoconference to wish her a happy birthday. She insisted on celebrating before her actual birthday of Feb. 14 as it fell on Ash Wednesday this year. Those gathered also watched a video in her honor to commemorate the occasion.



John Zimbrick (right) and his son, Tom

## May We Pray for Your Intentions?

Submit your prayers

- in the envelope provided;
- to [prayers@sinsinawa.org](mailto:prayers@sinsinawa.org);
- at [sinsinawa.org/prayers](https://sinsinawa.org/prayers);
- by calling (608) 748-4411, ext. 247.

## Sr. Christina Receives Award

Sister Christina Heltsley, OP, our Prioress, was honored March 14 with a silver medal Jefferson Award for “multiplying good” in California’s bay area. Award recipients and their stories were featured on KPIX CBS News. “She has embraced people and changed lives since she took over the St. Francis Center to serve low-income families 23 years ago,” said the emcee. “She’s transformed Redwood City’s North Fair Oaks neighborhood, which was run down and riddled with crime, drugs, and gangs. . . . She also started a small school.” The Jefferson Award program was cofounded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis over 50 years ago to honor those who put others first. Jefferson Award recipients are empowered to do more, while their stories of extraordinary public service inspire others to action. Sr. Christina is now eligible for a gold Jefferson Award at the national level.



# Sisters Grateful for Dominican Life

## Sister Margaret (Benet) McGuirk, OP

**What is your current ministry and/or what ministry has been your favorite over the years?** Pastoral minister at Incarnation Parish (Minneapolis) focusing on newly arriving immigrants.



*Sr. Margaret McGuirk*

**What do you love most about being a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa?** Being together in prayer, mission, community—going where the work is great and difficult.

**What has been your most poignant or memorable moment through the years?** Working with Parable and leading groups of Dominicans through Central America.

**What is the best advice you have either received or given?** Walk in joy and gratitude each day.

**What is something about you that you are most proud of or that not many would know about you?** Every morning of my life as a Dominican, I spend a half hour in meditation/contemplation.

**Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?** My mother, Marguerite McGuirk, because she loved me unconditionally.

## Sister Patricia Rogers, OP

**What is your current ministry and/or what ministry has been your favorite over the years?** Volunteer for PeppNation and Hunger Taskforce.



*Sr. Patricia Rogers*

**What do you love most about being a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa?** The bonds of affection we have for each other, our prayer life, social justice work, and our love of celebrations.

**What has been your most poignant or memorable moment through the years?** The death of our Sisters and the moving of our Sisters from Sinsinawa Mound.

**What is the best advice you have either received or given?** God can and will provide.

**What is something about you that you are most proud of or that not many would know about you?** I am most proud of the community work done in the Amani neighborhood in Milwaukee.

**Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?** Sister Marie Monica Kenney, OP (1922–1992), who was my reflector when I entered. She was a very good listener.

## Make a Donation

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 contact the Office of Philanthropy using the information on p. 2. To donate now, please use the enclosed envelope, visit [sinsinawa.org/donate](https://sinsinawa.org/donate), or scan our Venmo (left) or Sinsinawa (right) QR codes.





# Ukrainian Connection

## Learning New Languages

by Sister Mary Ellen Green, OP

Yuliana Krupa is 35 years old, single, and works in a bank in the city of Kyiv, Ukraine.

Every Friday morning at 8 a.m. (Central), I connect with Yuliana via FaceTime. It is 4 p.m. in Kyiv. This conversation is one of the highlights of my week. The topics of our conversation are like those of my own everyday life: religion, politics, food, transportation, traditions, etc. At the end of the hour, we both reluctantly say goodbye and wish each other well as we return to our ordinary lives.

She is grateful for the opportunity to perfect her English so that her post-war job opportunities will be enhanced.

Our friendship has been made possible through a program called ENGIN, a nonprofit organization changing the world one conversation at a time. They connect English-speaking volunteers ages 14 and older with motivated young Ukrainians ages 9 to 35 for online speaking practice and cross-cultural exchange. Through simple, weekly videochat conversations, volunteers like me help young people enhance language skills, offer friendship and emotional support, and introduce them to a new culture.

Check out their website at [ENGINprogram.org](http://ENGINprogram.org) and consider volunteering for this worthy cause.



## Sr. Toni Appointed Co-Promoter of Cause

In November, Sister Toni Harris, OP (above, right), joined Sister Judy Schaefer, OP (above, left), as Co-Promoter of the Cause of Venerable Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP. “Together with our prayers, we hope to move the Cause forward,” said Prioress Christina Heltsley, OP. “Thank you to all who have worked on the Cause thus far and to Srs. Judy and Toni who will forward the Cause now.”



## Wearing Blue for a Cause

Peace and Justice Promoter Sister Reg McKillip, OP, asked Dominican Sisters and Associates of Sinsinawa and coworkers to wear blue Jan. 11 to stand in solidarity with those who have been trafficked and to raise awareness on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. “We are called to fight human trafficking wherever it exists,” she said. *Pictured are (from left) Srs. Kate (Fernanda) Theis, Linda Surette, and Margaret Sheffield wearing blue.*

*Sr. Mary Ellen Green FaceTimes with Yuliana Krupa.*





# The Legacy of Our Land

## Fields of Sinsinawa Group Begins Work

by Sister Sheila Fitzgerald, OP

Over the years, I have heard many of our Sisters say, “The land at Sinsinawa will carry our legacy into the future.”

Our Congregation has a wonderful opportunity for collaboration to ensure that our mission is alive and well into the future at Sinsinawa: **Fields of Sinsinawa—A Farmer-Led Learning Center.**

The words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* remind us of our responsibility—“**The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the common good of all**” (#95).

We believe in the common good of all. We believe we are called to act on behalf of the whole of creation. In partnership with the land at Sinsinawa, we

are accepting challenges to address many of the root causes degrading our Earth home—climate change, loss of biodiversity, food and water insecurity, soil depletion, and destruction of ecosystems. We address these issues by the choices we make in how the land at Sinsinawa is administered for the common good.

Though we can identify many discrete issues, clearly caring for the soil beneath our feet is paramount. Healthy soil means healthy food. Healthy food means healthy people. Healthy people work to assure a healthy planet!

We have been nurturing partnership and collaborative projects over the years. Much good work is being accomplished through these efforts.

The seeds are now being planted for **Fields of Sinsinawa**. We are counting on all the components needed for growth. Your continued support and prayer for this endeavor are essential!

## Stay Connected with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa



[sinsinawa.org](http://sinsinawa.org)



[facebook.com/sinsinawa](https://facebook.com/sinsinawa)



Video streaming [sinsinawa.org/live](http://sinsinawa.org/live)



[instagram.com/sinsinawa](https://instagram.com/sinsinawa)



Email prayer intentions to [prayers@sinsinawa.org](mailto:prayers@sinsinawa.org)



[youtube.com/sinsinawadominicans](https://youtube.com/sinsinawadominicans)

# She Is with God

## Remembering Our Deceased Sisters

Up-to-date Sister death notices are posted on our website at [sinsinawa.org/obits](https://sinsinawa.org/obits). Memorials for our deceased Sisters can be made by using the center envelope or by visiting our website at [sinsinawa.org/donate](https://sinsinawa.org/donate).



**Sister Jeri (Mary de Paul) Cashman, OP**, died Dec. 9, 2023. Professed in 1967, she taught at St. Rose School and Martin Luther King School, both Milwaukee. With a team from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Sr. Jeri formed Christian communities in

San Rafael parish, Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she also served as special education teacher at Cochabamba Rehabilitation Center. Sr. Jeri served as pastoral minister in the Diocese of Chilpancingo, Mexico, with a team on behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago, ministering with 23 communities in Santiago Apostol parish in Quechultenango. She was the justice and peace campus minister at the University of Illinois at Chicago and at the University of Minnesota Newman Center, Minneapolis. As a social worker, she worked with Latino families in Hennepin County and at the Family Enhancement Center to Prevent Abuse, Minneapolis. Sr. Jeri served the Congregation as the advocate for life and mission. May she rest in peace.

emy, Fernandina Beach, as teacher and then as principal. She was serving as principal at Hope Rural School, Indiantown, since 2015. May she rest in peace.



**Sister Ann (Caitlin) Willits, OP**, died Jan. 26, 2024. Professed in 1958, her ministry was dedicated to teaching and preaching. Sr.

Ann taught at Bethlehem Academy, Faribault, MN, and was a high school principal at O’Gorman, Sioux Falls, SD, and Regina, Minneapolis. She served on the Leadership Council of the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation from 1973 to 1982. Sr. Ann led retreats and parish missions all over the United States and abroad. She was codirector of the Parable Conference for Dominican Life and Mission for 21 years and an itinerant preacher for 20 years while she developed programs, retreats, and parish missions to address the needs of the contemporary Church and world. May she rest in peace.



**Sister Martha Mary (Alfonsa) Rohde, OP**, died Jan. 23, 2024. Professed in 1966, her ministry was dedicated to education. In Illinois,

she taught at St. Thomas More School and Immaculate Conception School, both Chicago. In Wisconsin, Sr. Martha Mary taught at St. Joseph, Baraboo, and served the Congregation as Motherhouse prioress and assisted living prioress at Sinsinawa Mound, Sinsinawa. In New Jersey, she ministered at St. James, Ventnor, as teacher and principal. In Florida, Sr. Martha Mary taught at St. Andrew, Cape Coral, and then served as assistant principal. She ministered at St. Michael Acad-



**Sister Mark O’Loughlin, OP**, died Feb. 4, 2024. Professed in 1954, her ministry was dedicated to teaching, counseling, and

social work. She taught in the following schools: St. Mary, Cheyenne, WY; St. Dominic, Washington, DC; Trinity, River Forest, IL; Newman, Wausau, WI; and Visitation Grade and High Schools, Chicago, where she was also counselor. Sr. Mark served as counselor at SS. Faith, Hope, and Charity School, Winnetka, IL; St. Viator High School, Arlington Heights, IL; and Weber High School, Chicago. May she rest in peace.



**Sister Mary (Matthias) Toeckes, OP**, died Feb. 14, 2024. She made profession with the Poor School Sisters of St. Dominic at Kettle Falls, WA, in 1958, who became the Dominican Sisters of Spokane in 1986 and merged with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa in

1995. Her ministry was dedicated to nursing and chaplaincy. Sr. Mary served as staff nurse at Holy Family Nursing Home, Spokane, WA, and nursing supervisor at Holy Family Hospital, Spokane, and Mt. Carmel Hospital, Colville, WA. In Chewelah, WA, she served at St. Joseph Hospital as director of nursing; at DominiCare; and ministered at the hospital as director of pastoral care and chaplain. Sr. Mary also served as director of pastoral care at Mt. Carmel Hospital and director of nursing at Pondera County Hospital, Conrad, MT. She served in elected leadership for the Dominicans of Spokane. May she rest in peace.



**Sister Mary Kent Pearson, OP**, died Feb. 19, 2024.

Professed in 1954, her ministry was dedicated to teaching, administration,

religious education, and pastoral ministry. In Wisconsin, she was principal at St. John Vianney, Janesville; St. Dennis, Madison; and St. Jerome, Columbus. She taught at Sacred Heart, Reedsburg, and served at the Motherhouse, Sinsinawa, as director of property and as director of housekeeping. In Illinois, she taught at St. Philip the Apostle, Northfield; St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Sabina, Chicago; and Visitation, Kewanee. Elsewhere, she taught at St. Dominic, Denver, and St. Albert the Great, Minneapolis. In Iowa, she served as assistant administrator at St. Dominic Villa, Dubuque; as associate pastor, pastoral minister, and coordinator of religious education at St. John the Baptist Parish and as pastoral minister at Holy Family Parish, Peosta. May she rest in peace.

**Sister Mary Ellen (Marie Alphonse) Gevelinger, OP**, died March 13, 2024. Professed in 1963, her minis-



try was dedicated to education and administration. In Illinois, she taught at Queen of Peace High School, Burbank; and Trinity

High School, River Forest. Sr. Mary Ellen ministered as dean of students at St. Thomas the Apostle High School and Unity Catholic High School, both Chicago. She was executive assistant to the president at Rosary College (now Dominican University), River Forest. In Minnesota, Sr. Mary Ellen taught at Bethlehem Academy, Faribault, and served as principal at Regina High School, Minneapolis. She was director of personnel and planning for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office of Catholic Schools. In Wisconsin, Sister Mary Ellen taught at Newman High School, Wausau, and served as professor and later as president at Edgewood College, Madison. She also ministered as Vicaress (2000–2006) and then Prioress (2011–2016) of the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation. May she rest in peace.



**Sister Mary Lois (Thomaselle) Carey, OP**, died March 19, 2024. Professed in 1951, her ministry was dedicated to education and

spiritual care. In Illinois, she was a teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle School and St. Sabina School, both Chicago. She was principal at Visitation School, Kewanee, and St. Thomas School, Peoria Heights. Sr. Mary Lois also served as principal at Our Lady of Refuge School, Bronx, NY. In Iowa, she taught at St. Joseph the Worker School, Dubuque. In Wisconsin, she taught at Queen of Peace School, Madison. In Oakland, CA, she taught at Bishop O'Dowd High School, was administrator and spiritual director at Spiritual Growth Center, and served as support staff at the School of Applied Theology. Sr. Mary Lois was also a volunteer at the Dominican Ashram, Adrian, MI, and assistant to the prioress at the Dominican Center, Spokane, WA. May she rest in peace.



**Dominican Sisters  
OF SINSINAWA**

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Second Sunday of the Month

6:00pm - 7:00pm (CT)

Conversation & Prayer

Dominican Essentials Prayer Community Study Preaching

For single women 19 - 45

To Praise  
To Bless  
To Preach

For more information  
rfm@sinsinawa.org

## 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 Christina Heltsley, OP  
Vicaress Julie Schwab, OP  
Councilor Elizabeth Pawlicki, OP  
Councilor Christine Feagan, OP  
Councilor Judith Schaefer, OP  
Councilor Jeanne Tranel, OP