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## VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

### January 2021

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Dominican  
Sisters of Peace  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission

**Vocations Office**  
**2320 Airport Drive**  
**Columbus, OH 43219**

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We come to a new year with hearts full of hope, asking God to bless you and to give you what you need to find your path in responding to God's call in your life.

May you find time in solitude for prayer and reflection to deepen your relationship with God.

Peace and Blessings,

*Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP; Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP; Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP; Mary Ellen George, OPA*

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### 25th World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

In 1997, St. Pope Paul II instituted a day of prayer to praise and thank God for our vocations and for our mission. It's celebrated each year on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on **February 2nd**, which also happens to be Candlemas Day, when candles, representing the light of Christ, are blessed. May we all reflect Christ's light in the world. We invite you to pray for vocations next week. We share here two prayers. One for [vocations](#) in general, and another [prayer for your personal vocation journey](#). If you would like to pray for vocations more extensively, you can find more prayers [here](#).

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### Lenten Reflections

Follow us on Facebook and our webpages for the 40 days of Lent. We will be posting daily reflections with a highlight from a Scripture reading for the day, a reflection question, and an image with which you can pray.

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## Virtual Discernment Retreat: March 12-14, 2021

The Lenten season is a good time to reflect on how God is calling you. So, we invite you to join us for a virtual Discernment retreat, "***Following God Joyfully***," which will be held March 12-14, 2021. This online retreat is open to single Catholic women, 18-45 years old, at no cost. Come to pause from your busy life so that you can listen deeply to God's call in you and to pray to know your vocational call.

You will have time for prayer, presentations, personal reflection, group activities, and conversations with Sisters and other discerning women. You will have opportunities for fun and to laugh together through social times and games. A sister companion will walk with you during this retreat and offer spiritual guidance.

Presentations will include a theological reflection on following Jesus, getting to know who the Dominican Sisters of Peace are, and listening to Sisters' sharing stories of their lives and mission life in these times.

This retreat will be rich, vibrant, spiritual, and profound. If interested in this March discernment retreat, please click [here](#) for more information and to register or contact Sr. Maidung (pronounced as 'My-Zung') Nguyen at 405-248-7027 or [mdnguyen@oppeace.org](mailto:mdnguyen@oppeace.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

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## In a world where you can be anything . . . Be Peace, Build Peace, Preach Peace

During the weekend of January 8 - 10, 2021, the Vocations team welcomed seven discerning women to a Virtual Mission For Peace program.

The program centered around sharing how we live our Charism as Dominican Sisters and Associates of Peace. It was an uplifting experience of community, prayer, exploration, laughter, discussion, action, and transformation.

We began Friday evening by praying with the words of our founder St. Dominic and then explored how we share the love of Christ with others in all that we do and are.

On Saturday morning, Sr. Bea wove prayers for Peace with quotations from Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Then, Sr. Francine Schwarzenberger shared how we are called to **Be Peace** and how she lives this. She invited us to reflect on two questions, What does peace look

like? and Who exemplifies being peace? We also reflected on quotations from John Lewis and Edwina Gaetley.

Sr. Marguerite Chandler shared how she lives **Build Peace** through her ministry at [Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center](#). Afterwards, the women were invited to go outside and connect with the natural world while reflecting on the Encyclical, [Laudato Si](#). They were also encouraged to calculate their carbon footprint and to explore some of our Ecojustice resources on [Going Green](#).

We also had small breakout groups on how our Sisters & Associates are involved in working to eradicate human trafficking and to promote social justice.

In the evening, we shared the fruits of our contemplation and then joined together in Taizé style evening prayer.

The day was capped off with a social hosted by our Sisters in formation. Rumor has it, that the conversations went well into the night.

Sunday morning began with us attending Mass together via Zoom. This was accomplished by weaving parts of a previously recorded Mass with live readings done by the discerners, psalms sung by Sisters and a time of faith sharing facilitated by Sr. Jeanne Moore. Although we were physically scattered across the United States, there was a felt sense of communion among us all.

After Mass, Sr. Jeanne invited a panel of our Sisters (Sr. Cathy Hilkert, Sr. Robin Richard, and Sr. Esther Calderon) to share how they **Preach Peace** in their lives and ministries.

At the end of the program, the discerning women shared some of the fruits of their reflection, which included a variety of creations, including some drawings and a poem. Shared below is a poem and drawing from two of our discerning women.

## The Longing

The longing in my heart, on my tongue, in my  
soul

I long for your healing love to permeate the  
world

O my Jesus, you alone can break through the  
barriers, the riot gear we have put up around  
our hearts

I know you weep as I do when you see your  
creation destroying itself, where will it stop?

Lord, show me what I can do, thank you for  
the gift of disputation

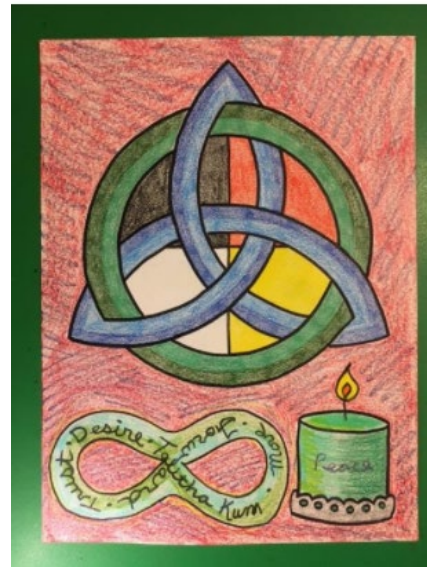
I do not have it in me to lose hope, for I truly  
believe nothing is impossible for you, God.

Keep thirsting for us and inviting us lovingly,  
yet urgently into your bosom.

For you alone can give us the grace to make  
things better, to be better, to be peace,  
build peace, and preach peace.

The longing in my heart, on my tongue, in my  
soul

It will be joyfully filled!



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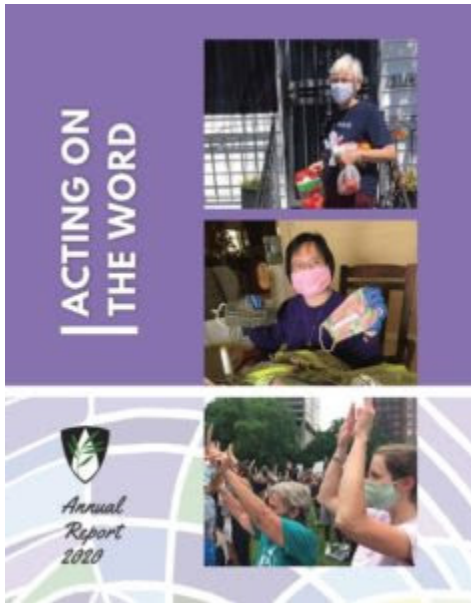
## Ask a Sister

### What if I am uncertain about being a Sister for the rest of my life?

Nobody knows what the future holds, whether you are married, single, or engaged in religious life. If you trust God, God will lead you into a future full of hope. God will provide more than what you need to be faithful to this call. Be courageous, have an open mind and heart, and trust in God without fear.

The Constitutions of the Dominican Sisters of Peace remind us that fidelity to our vows is sustained by constant and faithful prayer. (#7) Give yourself time to embrace this call and time for it to grow within you. With God's grace, everything is possible.

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## Acting on the Word: Annual Report 2020

Click [here](#) or on the image to the left to read our annual report, which is filled with news and stories about those who work with our Sisters, those who have benefitted from the work that our Sisters do, and those who have supported our Congregation since its founding in 2009.

We hope that you find these stories as interesting and thought provoking as we have.

We also hope and pray that as we truly listen to the voices around us, we will seek Truth, find Peace, and strengthen the ties that bind us as one in

Christ's body.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one of the foundations of our life and we invite you to share your prayer requests with us. Please send them to [vocations@opeace.org](mailto:vocations@opeace.org). Please also keep us, our congregation, and your fellow discerners in prayer.



## The Vatican's Pope Video

We join the universal Church and Pope Francis as we pray that the Lord may give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions and not fight each other, and praying for one another, open ourselves to all. You can listen to and watch this month's message [here](#).