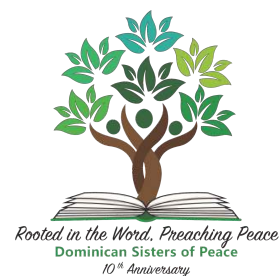


10 YEARS OF PEACE

BUILDING A PEACEFUL FUTURE



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE ANNUAL REPORT



CARRYING ON GOOD WORKS UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS



Cover: Sr. Tuyet Ngoc Tran, OP, working with the poor and the lepers in Vietnam.

FROM OUR PRIORESS



In April 2009, the Congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Peace began, formed by a merger of seven Congregations of Dominican religious women. In 2012, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of de' Ricci merged with the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

As we approach the celebration of our first decade, we rejoice in our strong ministries in education, healthcare, ecology, and spirituality, and take heart in the growing group of women God has called to join our ranks knowing they will add zest to the future of our Dominican Order.

Marking an anniversary may tempt us to look to the past, but as St. Paul reminds the Philippians, we cannot tell ourselves that we have reached our goal. While our past has borne much fruit, we are still running the race. We see before us a future full of hope as we continue to do our best to witness to Christ's peace and compassion.

We ask, "What do the world and the Church most need from us? What gifts from God are we called to share and with whom are we called to collaborate?" Then we move forward, with prayer and passion, to fulfill our mission.

Here are some of the ways that we are sharing peace today:

- In Akron, OH, our Sisters and Associates have created an interracial, interfaith organization that strives to honestly examine and move towards solutions of problems of race and culture.
- Our founded ministries at Albertus Magnus College and Ohio Dominican University are finding new ways to help first-generation students from underprivileged families earn the benefits of a great college education.



We have so much for which to be grateful, and we give thanks daily for our dedicated Sisters, Associates, and for wonderful supporters like you.

Please join with us in looking to the future with confidence asking God to continue to lead and guide us, and be assured of our prayers for you, your families and for your special intentions.

With deepest gratitude,

Sr. Patricia Twohill, OP

Sr. Patricia Twohill, OP
Prioress

GROWING OUR FUTURE, ONE SISTER AT A TIME

Like most religious congregations, the Dominican Sisters of Peace have welcomed Sisters from many nations. Unlike many religious congregations, the Dominican Sisters of Peace added three new Sisters to the Congregation this past year alone, as Phuong Thuy Vu was accepted into the Congregation as a Novice, and Sisters Ana Gonzalez and Margaret Uche made Temporary Vows.

A native of Vietnam, Phuong and her family immigrated to the United States in 1989. Sister Phuong holds a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and worked in customer service and information technology for AT&T in Dallas, TX before entering the convent. Sr. Phuong will spend two years in the Novitiate, after which time she may request to make Temporary Vows as a Dominican Sister of Peace.

Newly-welcomed Sisters Ana Gonzalez and Margaret Uche both made their Temporary Vows in July. Temporary Vows are a significant step in the journey to becoming a perpetually-vowed religious Sister.

Sr. Ana is a native of Mexico. She had her first experience with the Dominican Sisters at Loyola University New Orleans, from which she graduated in 2002; she also holds a Master's Degree in Communication from the University of Texas at El Paso. Sr. Ana serves as Coordinator of International Admissions at Albertus Magnus College, a founded ministry of the Congregation.

Sr. Margaret Uche, a native of Nigeria, studied nursing at the University of Houston. In 2011, she attended a retreat at the Dominican Motherhouse in Great Bend, KS, where she met many Sisters who had worked in her home country. Sr. Margaret ministers as a home health nurse in Western Kansas.



Photo 1: Sr. Pat Dual (left) and Prioress Pat Twohill (right) offer blessings over Sr. Phuong Vu (center) as she enters the Novitiate at the 2018 Assembly.

Photo 2: Sr. Margaret Uche (left) and Sr. Ana Gonzalez (right) celebrate their Temporary Profession.

Photo 3: Sr. Margaret Uche (right) and Prioress Pat Twohill (right) sign Sr. Margaret's Vows of Temporary Profession.

These new women in formation are a true blessing to our Congregation. Another positive sign for future growth is the attendance at our discernment retreats. Nine women spent a September weekend at our Kentucky Motherhouse, where they learned about the history of our Congregation, prayed and shared with our Sisters, and experienced the joy of living in community. We are grateful to God for continuing to call women to Dominican religious life.

As our Congregation continues to grow, we are experiencing a welcome problem – we are running out of rooms for our Sisters. In response to the growing need for housing, the Dominican Sisters of Peace have opened a “**House of Welcome**” on the east side of Columbus, OH, for those considering religious life.

During a recent retreat, Ellen Coates, a second-year candidate in our Congregation, had this to say about the future of religious life: “Thinking of ourselves as global congregations and working together, I really think that with the power in numbers, the power in diversity of thinking and of experience, the power of prayer, as well as the power of ministry, and creating peace, all together, that we can do more globally.”

With our growing Congregation of Sisters and our Associates, as well as the prayers and support of our friends like you, the future of the Dominican Sisters of Peace rests well in God’s loving hands.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As part of our St. Catherine of Siena Annual Appeal this spring, the Dominican Sisters of Peace invited our friends and supporters to send us their prayer intentions on special prayer request cards.

Our Sisters prayed over those cards at our St. Dominic Day Mass on August 8.



How can you help?

Our “Faith in the Future” gives support young women who are discerning a call to religious life.



Your gift of \$100 helps our Vocations team meet with young women around the nation to encourage religious vocations.

You and your intentions are in our prayers daily!

NORTHEAST OHIO RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BUILDS PEACE BETWEEN RACES, FAITHS

Nearly three years ago, a group of Sisters, Associates and Akron Motherhouse staff joined to help the local community learn to recognize, acknowledge and appreciate God's beauty in those around them. Today, the Northeast Ohio Racial Justice Committee of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates has been recognized as a leader in the fight against racism in their community.

In 2016, the team launched a series called "**Building Racial Harmony**" to combat racism – the current common study of the Dominican Sisters of Peace community. The series aims to change cultural attitudes by educating people about the issue of racism, including its systemic nature; how it is perpetuated via micro-aggressions, implicit bias, and white privilege; and how it impacts the everyday lives of people of color.

The committee has established the Akron Motherhouse as a safe place to dialogue about the sensitive issue of racism and as a center of prayer for the elimination of racism. Some of the series' participants have said that the prayer services and conversations have been effective in enabling them to see the reality of racism and challenging them to uproot it from their lives and society.

"I have gained a greater level of understanding of people who were not in my circle for many years of my life. I now know about the trauma that is part of just being black in America. The storytelling has been so powerful," said Sr. Cathy Arnold, OP. "The series has encouraged me to continue gathering more information that will help me see ways to help dismantle systemic racism and to keep building relationships with people who weren't in my circle before."



Above: Dominican Sisters of Peace Racial Justice Committee Members attend the 39th Annual Bishop Cosgrove Justice Dinner and Silent Auction. Left to right: Sr. Barbara Catalano, OP; Pat Schnee, OPA; Sr. Valerie Shaul, OP; Celeste Williams, Sr. Cathy Arnold, OP, and Colette Parker, OPA.

Much like Sr. Cathy, Associate Pat Schnee grew up in an environment where the people in her circle looked like her. Although she was brought up to believe that racism is wrong and that everyone is beautifully and perfectly made by God, Pat said the “Building Racial Harmony” series has broadened her horizons.

“I realize that I have experienced a very small slice of life. The series has affected my brain by giving me data, information, and statistics. I might never have learned about things like white privilege or that racism could be internalized,” said Pat.

“It never occurred to me that a (black) mother in a constant state of stress, precipitated by systematic racism, is a reality that impacts infant mortality,” Pat continued. “What has affected me in my gut is hearing from individuals whose lives have been different than mine.”

Pat, Sr. Cathy, and other members of the committee hope that the “Building Racial Harmony” series will equip participants to help inspire and build a community, a nation, and a world where all people are equally valued and appreciated.

“The series has been a great way to educate people and help bring them to a greater understanding that we all can make a difference in moving toward racial justice,” said Sr. Cathy. “God willing, in time, there will be some structural changes.”

Last year, the Catholic Commission of Summit County honored the committee for its work to combat racism with the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Leadership Award. The award, named for the bishop emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, is given to individuals or groups working to promote social justice, peace, and human dignity. The Catholic Commission is a social action arm of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Cleveland.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace work across the country and around the world to build peace. Your prayers and your support make that work possible, and we thank God for your friendship every day.

How can you help?

Foster open dialog among those in your circle, and widen your circle to those who might be excluded or marginalized. It’s as easy as saying “Hello” to someone new.

hello

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Peace Center in New Orleans has a new tool to help young people in Gert Town strengthen their reading skills and create a stronger future. The Peace Center Little Free Library was donated by a club at St. Mary’s Dominican High School, one of our founded educational ministries.

Peace Center volunteer Kyle Waters assembled the free library structure, and held a contest to determine the color scheme for the structure. The proud winner was Bequan Jones, shown here beside the Little Free Library after it was completed.

Neighbors from around the community are using the new Peace Center Little Free Library!



DOMINICAN LEARNING CENTER ANSWERS NEED FOR SPANISH- SPEAKING GED CLASSES

More than one-half million immigrants live in the state of Ohio – immigrants who contribute to the state’s strong workforce, high-performing schools and vibrant church communities. But there was not one GED course available for Spanish speakers in Ohio – until the Dominican Learning Center (DLC), a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, opened its first Spanish GED program in the spring of 2018.

“We knew there was a need for this program,” said DLC Director Lisette Mendoza. “Many immigrants who come to Ohio have the educational experience to pass our GED test, but more than 15% of Ohio’s immigrant population does not speak fluent English. Their knowledge – and their potential – is locked inside. Offering them the opportunity to earn their GED in their native language opens a world of opportunities for our immigrant neighbors to improve their lives and the lives of their families.”

So with the need established and the benefit understood, the team at the Dominican Learning Center went to work.

The first task was simplifying the GED curriculum.

“We work with many adult learners who have been out of school for a number of years, or who have learning disabilities that require special instruction,” Mendoza explained. “Many of our Spanish-language GED students have actually completed high school – they really just need a review of the topics and help understanding the mechanics of the test itself.”

The second challenge was finding a schedule that would accommodate the needs of these adult learners.



DLC Director Lisette Mendoza welcomes Columbus, OH, Mayor Andrew Ginther to the Dominican Learning Center as part of a tour with the Latina Mentoring Academy.

“Scheduling is one of our biggest obstacles,” said Sr. Shawn Fitzpatrick, a Dominican Sister of Peace and Tutor at the Dominican Learning Center. “Most of our students are parents, most work one or two jobs, often in the service industry, and transportation can be a real challenge.”

Most of the GED classes are taught by Dominican Sisters of Peace who have retired from the classroom, and now volunteer their time at the DLC. Working with Director Mendoza and two fully bi-lingual instructors, the Sisters created a 12-week program with Saturday classes to allow the busy students to fit their studies in between child care and work.

The result? When Mendoza advertised the first Spanish GED Class at the Dominican Learning Center last year, the ten available spots were filled in just a few hours – and the phone hasn’t stopped ringing yet. More than 30 people were on the waiting list for the next class in September.



Left: Sr. Shawn Fitzpatrick and DLC Director, Lisset Mendoza with graduate. Top: Sr. Robin Richard with learners. Bottom: Volunteer with a learner.

Of the six women in the first class, four have passed their GED tests, and all have received promotions or pay raises at their jobs. But one of the most popular benefits of the GED program is the adult learners' new ability to help their own children with their school work.

"These adult learners are now better able to support their families, financially, academically, and emotionally," Mendoza says.

Of all of the successes that we have seen from the Spanish GED program, perhaps one of the most moving is from a woman who did not graduate.

This student stopped coming to class, and when she called Director Mendoza to withdraw, she told her, "I had no hope in my life. I was poor, my husband was abusing me – I truly had no hope. But this class showed me my own strength, and has given me the confidence to leave my abuser and start my life again."

"We believe that education changes lives," says Lisset Mendoza. "Whether it's a new job or a new life, education is key to a successful future, and we are blessed to help change lives every day."

How can you help?

Your gift of \$35 can help to pay a student's annual fees at the Dominican Learning Center and support our ESL and GED programs.

* Our Pathway to a Brighter Future: OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS, Richey A. Piiparinen, Center for Population Dynamics at Cleveland State University, March 2018

LESSONS FROM 600+ YEARS OF SERVICE



Left: Sr. Vincent de Paul Hutton, 107, Sr. Columba Casey, 100, and Sr. Paschala Noonan, 100. Right: Sr. Edwina Devlin

“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?” Job 12:12

The Dominican Sisters of Peace can answer these questions from Job with a resounding “Yes.” Four of our Sisters reached the grand age of 100 this year, while two others celebrated 104 and 107 years. Each of these women of God has a special piece of wisdom that we can use in our own lives.

“Honor God with all of your heart and all of your strength.”

Sister Vincent de Paul Hutton served as an educator and administrator for more than 50 years, shaping young hearts and minds in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and West Virginia. Today, at 107 years old, she serves in a ministry of prayer and presence at the Sansbury Care Center in St. Catharine, KY. While her hearing and eyesight may have waned, St. Vincent is still able to genuflect as she comes to the Chapel for Mass, honoring the God that she has served for more than 65 years.

“I never worry – I just trust in the Lord.”

Sr. Edwina Devlin was cared for by the Sisters of Charity when her mother died at a young age. As a result, Sr. Edwina learned to place her trust in God and in God’s people – and gave her life to them when she entered the Dominican Sisters of Peace in 1932. She served as a teacher in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York, and as a missionary in Peru. She celebrated her 104th birthday at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, OH.

How can you help?

Remember our Sisters in your prayers. Your gift of \$125 supports a day of care for our retired Sisters at our long term care centers in Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan.



Sisters Alvina Miller, 100, and Teresita Huse, 100, celebrating their birthdays.

“No prayer is more powerful than a mother’s.”

Sr. Alvina Miller’s mother prayed for her soon-to-be-born child to be “someone special.” “I always wanted to be a Sister,” Sister Alvina says. “I attribute my vocation to her prayers.”

Sister Alvina spent many years teaching in Kansas, Colorado, and Oklahoma. She also served as a librarian and as a pastoral minister. Today, at 100 years old, Sr. Alvina lives in the Great Bend Motherhouse, where she serves as the Convent’s librarian.

“Life is an adventure!”

Sr. Teresita Huse joined the Dominican Sisters of Peace when she was just 15, and her life has been one of satisfying work, community and world travel.

She ministered as an educator in Kansas and Oklahoma, as a librarian, and in parish ministry. She caught the travel bug in 1969 when she visited New Zealand, Australia and Alaska. She has also visited the Holy Land, taught English in Japan, and traveled to Korea and India. Travel is more difficult at 100 years old, so Sr. Teresita stays busy working to raise support for the Sisters’ missions in Nigeria.

“Remember the past, but plan for the future.”

If you have a question about the Dominican Sisters in Kentucky, **Sr. Paschala Noonan** can probably give you the answer. She served as a teacher, a medical professional, and Director of Catholic Charities in Brooklyn, NY, and is also the author of *Signadou*, a history of Dominican Sisters in Kentucky, the first congregation of Dominican Sisters in the United States. Sr. Paschala was also instrumental in the planning of Sansbury Care Center, a nursing home for religious and lay persons located adjacent to the St. Catharine Motherhouse.

“Life is about those that we love.”

When **Sr. Columba Casey** joined the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Kentucky, she was far from her family in Nebraska. She says she used to cry when they came to visit – not because she wanted to leave, but because she wanted them to stay. Sr. Columba served as a teacher and principal in New York, Kentucky, Illinois, and Nebraska before she retired in 1989. After leaving education, she ministered to the sick and to grieving families at the Veteran’s Home and at hospitals and funeral homes in Grand Island, NE. Today she leads a life of prayer and service in St. Catharine, still with her longtime friend, Sister Paschala.

We are all blessed by the wisdom and love of these Sisters, and by your donation to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, which helps provide for the care of our retired Sisters across the country.

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES GATHER FOR STUDY, CELEBRATION



“All the Lord’s followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone.”

Acts 2:1-2

It was with this passage from the Book of Acts that **Sr. Patricia Twohill, OP**, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, opened the Congregation’s 2018 Assembly, held July 12-15 at Ohio Dominican University. Over the course of the four-day gathering, Sisters in Columbus and across the country, connected by a live webcast stream, welcomed new Sisters to the Congregation, and practiced the pillars of their Dominican life: prayer, study, community and ministry.

In separate ceremonies throughout the weekend, the Congregation welcomed **Sr. Phuong Vu** as a Novice; temporary-professed **Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP**, renewed her vows; and **Sisters Ana Gonzalez, OP**, and **Margaret Uche, OP**, made their first profession, taking the vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience.

In his welcome to the Assembly, Ohio Dominican University President Dr. Robert A. Gervasi referred to the theme of the event, **Lift Every Voice: Being Peace in a Global Community**, reminding all that as Dominicans, we are all one community striving to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The opening ritual illustrated the damage that “fake news,” or untruth, does to our public conversation, focusing on the importance of welcoming every voice into study and contemplation.

The theme of “Being Peace in a Global Community” continued with the second day of the event, when **Sr. Joyce Meyers, PBVM**, international liaison for Global Sisters Report, and **Gail DeGeorge**, the editor of Global Sisters Report, discussed their personal experiences in intercultural living. The two presenters gave many examples of how those experiences exposed implicit bias, and how each has worked to overcome those issues.

Sr. Joyce also discussed the importance of recognizing the value of indigenous Sisters around the world, treating them as collaborators and equals.

Friday afternoon's panel discussion included Sisters and Associates of various ethnicities who shared their positive and negative experiences related to race and ethnicity, and then took questions from the audience.

Sisters gathered to hear reflections from Leadership and engage in governance discussions Saturday. Associates met for a discussion of the Congregation's ongoing study on racism, including a presentation by **Bishop F. Josephus Johnson**, organizer and senior pastor of The House of the Lord in Akron, OH.

Saturday evening was dedicated to celebration, as eight Sisters marked their Jubilees as Dominican Sisters of Peace. **Sisters Cathy Arnold and Sue Zemgulis** celebrated 25 years and **Sisters Suzanne Brauer, Gemma Doll, Mary Catherine Hilker, Rosemary Loomis, Sue McMahon, Barbara Rapp, and Valerie Shaul** celebrated 50 years of consecrated life at a dinner, followed by stories and other joyful festivities, including a performance by the Bakhita Dancers.

The Assembly closed with a Mass on Sunday morning.

We are grateful to these organizations that supported these days of prayer, study and community:

- Atlanta Consulting Group
- Diamond Hill
- Bricker & Eckler LLP
- Institutional Automated Systems
- Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP
- PNC Bank
- Manning and Napier
- Kenwel Printers
- Bartha Audio Visual
- Ohio Dominican University
- Matesich Distributing Co
- Sodexo, Inc. & Affiliates

Opposite: Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates gather at Ohio Dominican University for the 2018 Assembly.

Top: Speakers Gail DeGeorge and Sr. Joyce Meyers, PBVM

Middle: Associates' group photo

Bottom: Srs. Gene Poore and Gemma Doll



NEW PRESIDENTS, NEW PROGRAMS BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE



Left: Jeanne Dennison, Albertus Magnus Board (left), Sr. Pat Twohill (center) and Dr. Marc M. Camille. Right: Sr. Margie Davis honored as Distinguished Alumni by Dr. Robert A. Gervasi

Our schools are shaping the future every day, one student at a time. We are particularly proud of our two colleges, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH, and Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT. Both of these schools are looking forward to a bright future with new leaders and new ideas to strengthen the educational options they offer to traditional and older learners alike.

Ohio Dominican University officially installed **Dr. Robert A. Gervasi** as the University's 16th President at a ceremony on Friday, April 27, 2018, in Alumni Hall. The inauguration was the highlight of a weeklong celebration that included a lecture on Dominican Saint Catherine of Siena, an Inauguration Mass officiated by the Most Reverend Bishop Frederick F. Campbell D.D., Ph.D., an all-campus reception, and an alumni reunion.

The Congregation also celebrated as Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT, inaugurated **Dr. Marc M. Camille** as its 14th president on May 4, 2018. The four-day inaugural celebration centered on the Dominican pillars of study, prayer, community, and service, featuring an art show, Mass, and a day of service in the New Haven community.

"We are so blessed to welcome two such outstanding leaders to our founded ministries at Albertus Magnus College and Ohio Dominican University," said Sr. Patricia Twohill, OP, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. "Both Bob Gervasi and Marc Camille bring a wealth of experience from their past service in education and business and are committed to innovation that will make these institutions ever more responsive to the needs of today's students."



Both schools have responded to the Congregation's call for innovation.

2018 marks the first year of Ohio Dominican's "Panther Promise" program. The Panther Promise aids low- and middle-income families by paying the difference between ODU tuition and any federal student aid, state grants, merit scholarships and other aid for students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant. More than 30 Panther Promise students started classes at Ohio Dominican this fall, and the program is expected to expand in 2019.

In cooperation with sister Catholic school University of Dayton, Ohio Dominican is also offering accelerated Law and Engineering Master's programs, allowing students to complete these programs in as little as five years. Students will also receive discounted tuition for their Master's programs as part of this new partnership.

Albertus Magnus has been recognized in U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Colleges guide for 2019, adding to the College's previous U.S. News rankings for Best Online Bachelor's Programs, Best Online MBA Programs, and Best Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA). This honor underscores the college's ongoing efforts to create value for traditional and adult learners.

Albertus Magnus is also the first private college to partner with the New Haven Promise scholarship program, which offers financial assistance to all qualifying city resident students.

Albertus Magnus College contributes up to \$20,000 annually to Promise scholars for up to four years, making a quality education more affordable for local families.

This commitment to low-income and first-generation students will be strengthened by a recently announced Department of Education Title III grant of nearly \$2 million. The grant will help Albertus implement academic advisement and mentoring that is embedded in both the curriculum and co-curricular activities, providing additional support to students.

How can you help?

Encourage the young people in your life to consider Ohio Dominican University or Albertus Magnus College when planning their college career!



ECOLOGY CENTERS FEED TODAY, PROTECT FOR THE FUTURE



Left: Girls identifying plant species. Right: AJ the llama at Shepherd's Corner



Love the world as no one has thought to love it. (Rainer Marie Rilke, adapted)

Just a few weeks ago, a report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change painted a grim picture of our climate's future, including wide-spread food shortages.

In the face of this frightening news, The Dominican Sisters of Peace work to live gently on Earth and teach others to honor God's creation. As part of our Congregation's commitments, our Sisters and Associates advocate for and support actions that reduce the impact of climate change.

But this dedication to Earth is more than theoretical – it has a practical purpose and outcome. Each of the five ecological ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Peace are working farms that feed the poor in the communities that surround them while caring for Earth, which sustains them.

In the words of Sr. Charlene Moser, Co-Director of the Congregation's Office of Founded Ministries, "The idea is not to extract as much as possible from Earth, but to care for it."

Sr. Jane Belanger, OP, a member of our staff at **Heartland Farm** in Pawnee Rock, KS, says it like this: "We farm with a passion for addressing ALL of the hungers of our world."

The 80-acre Heartland Farm has been managed organically for 30 years, and features four gardens, including a "high tunnel" garden structure that extends the growing season and naturally protects crops from pests, disease and weeds.

The Sisters at Heartland Farm also tend to a herd of alpacas, raised for their warm fleece as well as their organic compost, which the Sisters and volunteers use to nourish the farm's soil.

Charming four-legged creatures seem to be a fixture of the Dominican Sisters of Peace ecological centers. Shepherd's Corner in Blacklick, OH, is home to Alejandro Amigo (A.J.) Llama and a flock of sheep, as well as chickens and native birds who find shelter in the farm's expansive hay fields. "A.J. is one of Shepherd's Corner's ambassadors," said Sister Marguerite Chandler, OP.

At Shepherd's Corner, all vegetables are grown without the use of chemicals, and 65% of each year's crop is donated to local food pantries. The Farm conducts many educational activities in its historic barn, powered by solar panels.

More than a farm, Shepherd's Corner is an ecological education center in Central Ohio. Guests from local schools, churches, and universities visit the 160-acre Center to learn about a rich diversity of habitats, including field, forest, wetland, woodlands, and a riparian, or floodplain corridor.

The Congregation's other Ohio ecology center, **Crown Point**, near Akron, OH, is building a bright future for organic farmers across the region. Crown Point is one of the few Ohio organic vegetable farms where interns can work on the land to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for eventually managing their own production-scale organic vegetable farms. Crops produced at Crown Point also help to support the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

Crown Point also partners with Edible Kent, a non-profit that provides free fresh produce in urban food deserts in Kent, OH.

Beef is often criticized as a drain on the environment, but thoughtful farming practices can help to mitigate the damage that cattle farming does to the Earth. The Dominican Sisters of Peace have raised beef for close to 200 years at the **St. Catharine Farm** in central Kentucky. The Farm partners with the nearby University of Kentucky to adopt the most ecologically sound technologies for raising natural, antibiotic, steroid and hormone free (ASH-free) beef using crops grown right on the farm. The Farm is true to our Dominican heritage by serving as a living teaching laboratory for other farmers interested in raising cattle using sustainable technologies.

The rolling hills of the farm are home to bulls, cows, and calves on 640 acres that include pastures, woodland, a creek protected from erosion and run-off by diversion ditches, and a stand of fruit trees that feed a growing colony of honey bees.

Crystal Spring, in Plainville, MA, is the only ecological center of the Dominican Sisters of Peace not farmed by the Congregation, but rather, preserved as a place to enjoy the beauty of creation.

"The prairie, the plains, forests, deserts, waters, estuaries, the night sky – these are no longer backdrops to communication with the Divine; they are what we contemplate," says Sr. Barbara Harrington, OP.

Crystal Spring is a combination of oak and pine woodland protected in part by a conservation easement. Some of the land is leased to a farmer who uses permaculture practices patterned after natural ecosystems to allow for long-term diversity, stability, and resilience.

Crystal Spring brings the community onto the farm both to work the crops and to take classes on ecology and sustainable agriculture.

The dual goals of feeding the poor and teaching the community to care for the Earth are essential to all ecological ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. "The Dominican Order is devoted to both service and study," Sr. Charlene Moser explains. "What better way to serve our world than to feed the hungry, as Christ did, and to study and help others learn how to protect God's creation? These are ministries that both secure the present and protect the future."

How can you help?

Find your own way of preserving creation – by saving water, reducing your use of fossil fuels or turning off lights. You can also donate to the ecological ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, helping to care for our animals and provide fresh produce to the poor in our communities.



HELPING OUR NEW NEIGHBORS BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

To ensure the safety of our Sisters and of the family featured in this article, the family members are identified by aliases.

They stand out in the St. Catharine Motherhouse - the tall African boy, his petite mother, and his round-cheeked baby brother in the dining room full of older women. Most of the women do not speak the family's languages, but they are welcomed with wide smiles by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, who are hosting this family of asylum seekers.

Asha Bobolo and her sons, 15-year-old Mosi and seven-month-old Eshe, have been living at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in St. Catharine, KY, since late August.

How can you help?

Pray for asylum seekers around the world, and help those in your community.



“Given recent actions by the current administration, a number of individual Sisters were concerned about the plight of refugee families, said Sr. Rose Cummins, OP. She has worked with immigrants and refugees throughout her ministry and spearheads the effort to host and care for the family.

One of the Commitments of the Congregation is to promote justice through solidarity with the marginalized, especially women and children. This effort to care for refugees and asylum seekers is a natural outgrowth of this commitment.

“It’s been a long road,” said Sr. Rose. “It began with an email from a Sister of Mercy who wrote about a shelter in Austin, TX, overcrowded with refugees from around the world. The shelter was looking for religious congregations to host asylum-seeking families.”

Sponsor organizations must commit to providing not only shelter, clothing, and food, but also legal assistance, medical and psychological care, assistance in obtaining a work permit and employment or appropriate education, and culturally respectful religious opportunities.

Once it was determined that the Congregation could meet those needs, Sr. Rose and the other Sisters were presented with three families that needed sponsorship. “We felt that a young mother might be a good fit,” Sr. Rose said. “I believed that a baby would bring new life to the house – so the decision was made with the blessing and support of the Sisters.”

It took several weeks for the family to arrive. As Asha told Sr. Rose, the family was simply dropped at a Laredo, TX, bus station with an address. They did not have enough funds available for the bus fare and had to beg for money at the bus station to buy their ticket to Kentucky. The Sisters had no means of communication with them before they arrived.

Once the family arrived, they moved into a small section of the Motherhouse. The Sisters have faced several challenges in their efforts to host the family, including a serious language barrier and need for medical attention.

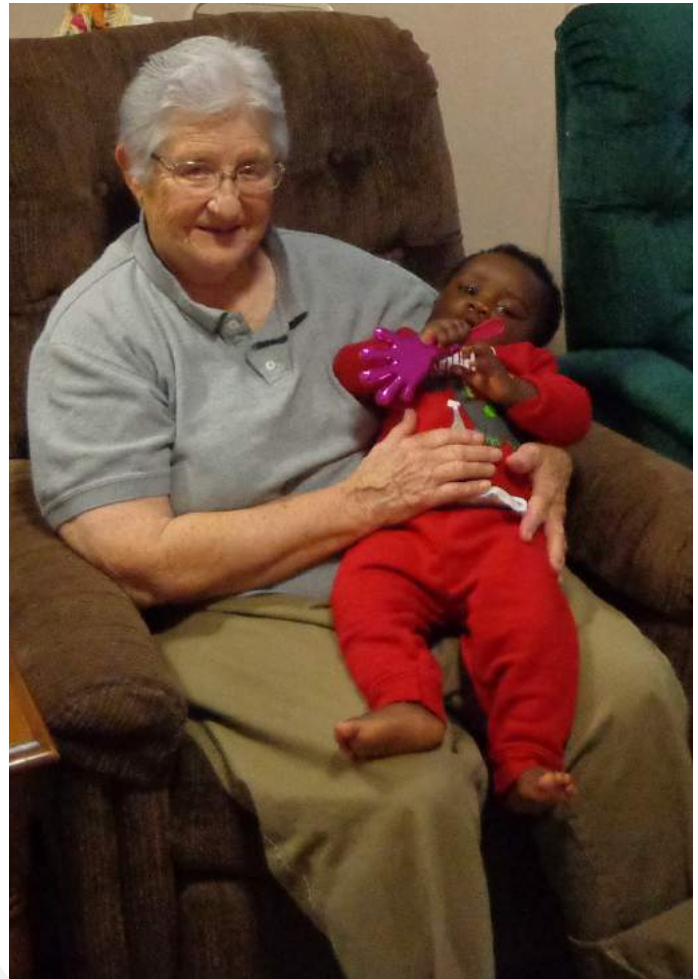
“Mosi and his mother were separated for years,” Sr. Rose explains. “They each speak a different language – and they cannot communicate well with each other. Mosi speaks Portuguese and his mother speaks Lingala. Each time mother and son go to a hospital, a lawyer or doctor, they must each have a separate translator.

“Mosi’s school has helped him with an iPad that translates so that he can attend classes,” Sr. Rose says. “We are working with an attorney through Kentucky Refugee Ministries who is helping us attain work authorization for Asha and Mosi, and the family is applying for political asylum. The attorney is not as expensive as a private lawyer, but we still have legal fees to absorb.” The Sisters are also working to obtain Social Security numbers for all three of the family members.

Various charities, including the Catholic Health Initiative, have helped the Sisters obtain quality healthcare for Asha and her family, but it has not been easy.

“Our rural location has been a challenge in this ministry,” explains Sr. Rose. “Attorneys, translators and in-network health care all require travel – and that requires money as well.”

Finally, there are the day-to-day needs of a growing family – food for Asha, baby Eshe, and Mosi, who at 6’6” has a healthy teenage appetite. Everyone in the family needed clothing when they arrived, and winter clothing will be necessary soon. Diapers, baby formula and baby food are another major expense.



Baby Eshe is a favorite of the St. Catharine Sisters, shown here with Sr. Marilyn Pierson.

“We have been blessed with offers of help from other churches and organizations,” Sr. Rose said.

“We continue to do the best that we can to help Asha and her boys thrive in their new home.”

Like our ministries in education, social justice, and ecology, this new ministry of asylum will create a brighter future for a family in need. The Dominican Sisters of Peace are grateful for your support of our work to build peace in our communities and around the world.

SIENA LEARNING CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Since the late nineteenth century, Polish immigrants have been settling in New Britain, CT, to find work in its many manufacturing facilities. By the 1930's, one-quarter of the city's population was of Polish descent.

Today, nearly 20% of the population of New Britain is foreign-born, and more than 40% are Polish. And while New Britain's Little Poland neighborhood offers a welcoming place to enjoy their culture, these new residents still need a place to learn a new culture and a new language. Since 2008, the Siena Learning Center, run by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, has been that place for immigrants of all nationalities.

The Siena Learning Center marked its tenth anniversary in September 2018. The Center was also honored with a Proclamation from the Mayor of New Britain, Erin Stewart, who attended the Anniversary celebration.

Dominican Sisters of Peace Virginia Bruen, OP, Director, and Cornelia Conklin, OP, Assistant Director, welcomed Congregational members, members of the Center's Board of Directors, volunteer tutors, and most important, adult learners and their families to celebrate 10 years of service to New Britain and its residents. The Siena Learning Center serves more than 150 learners a year with English as a Second Language (ESL) training.

Seventeen countries are represented at Siena. Learners speak many languages, with Polish the first language of roughly 70 percent.

When the Siena Learning Center opened its doors in New Britain, there were 24 learners. Now, 10 years later, the center actively instructs 147 learners, with more on a waiting list, and has a total of 60 volunteers.

What makes the Siena Learning Center special is its one-to-one teaching approach and the flexibility it offers its learners. "Many of our learners work low wage jobs with restrictive hours," says Sr. Virginia. "Working with a tutor, however, our learners can find a way to fit their studies into their schedules."

"Many of our learners are unemployed or underemployed because of a language barrier," Sr. Virginia continues. "They want to work, and to provide for their families, but their inability to speak English makes it easy for them to be exploited by employers. In addition, many have faced violence because of the current political climate. By helping our learners learn English, we also help them build confidence. This translates into better job opportunities and greater involvement in their communities. Here at the Siena Learning Center, we build contributing members of our community."



Siena Learning Center Director Sr. Virginia Bruen (left) with Marzena Chabowska, a learner at Siena Learning Center and New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart at the Siena Learning Center's Tenth Anniversary Celebration on September 29, 2018.

2018 JUBILARIANS



Left to right: Sr. Cathy Arnold, OP; Sr. Susan Zemgulis, OP; Sr. Valerie Shaul, OP; Sr. Barbara Rapp, OP; Sr. Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP; Sr. Rosemary Loomis, OP; Sr. Suzanne Brauer, OP; Sr. Gemma Doll, OP

We are blessed with an active and talented class of Jubilarians in 2018! Silver Jubilarian Sr. Cathy Arnold, OP serves as Co-Director of the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in St. Louis; Silver Jubilarian Sr. Sue Zemgulis, OP is the administrator of the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, NY; Golden Jubilarian Sr. Valerie Shaul, OP, serves as the Mission Group Coordinator for the Akron, OH Motherhouse; Golden Jubilarian Sr. Barbara Rapp, OP, manages donor relations in our Advancement office in Columbus, OH; Golden Jubilarian Sr. Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP, ministers as a Professor of Theology and Preacher at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN; Golden Jubilarian Sr. Rosemary Loomis, OP is the Manager of the Congregation's Springs Press in Columbus, OH, and is the published author of several children's books; Golden Jubilarian Sr. Suzanne Brauer, OP, serves on the staff of the Peace Center in New Orleans, LA, and Golden Jubilarian Sr. Gemma Doll, OP, is a member of the Congregation's Leadership Team in Columbus, OH. Not pictured is Golden Jubilarian Sr. Sister Sue McMahon, OP, in ministry of Prayer and Presence at the Lourdes Nursing Home in Oxford, MI.

We are grateful to God for these women, who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of God and preaching peace.

NEW LIFE IN THE LORD

We remember our Sisters who have entered eternal life over the past year.

Sr. Charles Francis McOsker, OP
June 13, 1924 - July 13, 2017

Sr. Ann Bell, OP
May 13, 1927 - July 24, 2017

Sr. Carmen Aragon, OP
April 18, 1930 - August 14, 2017

Sr. Irene Hartman, OP
December 17, 1921 - August 17, 2017

Sr. JoAnn Lamantia, OP
July 17, 1941 - September 26, 2017

Sr. Patricia (Pat) Marie Sigler, OP
August 31, 1934 - October 18, 2017

Sr. Lois (Rita Claire) Pineau, OP
January 14, 1932 - November 29, 2017

Sr. Margaret (Mary Ronald) Sunic, OP
November 27, 1924 - December 5, 2017

Sr. Teresa Orozco, OP
October 18, 1941 - December 12, 2017

Sr. Francine Ashoff, OP
September 2, 1922 - January 9, 2018

Sr. James Grace Richmond, OP
June 13, 1925 - January 19, 2018

Sr. Imelda Murrin, OP
August 29, 1925 - February 8, 2018

Sr. Elizabeth Anne Heery, OP
November 16, 1934 - March 8, 2018

Sr. Mary Irene Lolli, OP
April 27, 1925 - April 1, 2018

Sr. Martin Damien Miquelon, OP
April 25, 1933 - April 16, 2018

Sr. Mary O'Hara
October 3, 1940 - May 1, 2018

Sr. Thomas Joseph Nacy, OP
October 13, 1926 - May 1, 2018

Sr. Lucille (Lucilla) Winstel, OP
January 3, 1922 - May 6, 2018

Sr. Gertrude (Trudy) Tanner, OP
April 22, 1940 - May 19, 2018

Sr. Marie Loyola (Coletta) Ernst, OP
February 18, 1923 - May 22, 2018

Sr. Mary Jordan Langenhennig, OP
November 14, 1934 - May 25, 2018

Sr. Catherine (Kay) Burland, OP
November 16, 1934 - July 12, 2018

Sr. Corinne Staub, OP
April 29, 1928 - August 9, 2018

Sr. Philomena Hrencher, OP
October 24, 1923 - September 14, 2018

Sr. Mary Sarita McEneaney, OP
July 3, 1930 - September 29, 2018

Sr. Margaret Therese Baranek, OP
April 7, 1931 - October 7, 2018

Sr. Mary Carmel Lectora, OP
January 6, 1922 - October 12, 2018

Sister Elaine Marie Carey, OP
May 15, 1924 - October 26, 2018

Sister Mary Carla Golom, OP
July 24, 1931 - October 27, 2018

Sister Elaine Osborne, OP
December 12, 1938 - October 28, 2018

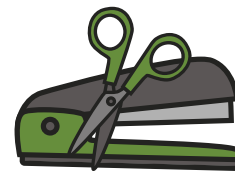
WHAT DOES YOUR GIFT DO?

We are grateful for your gifts to support the Dominican Sisters of Peace, our ministries, and our Sisters in mission and in retirement. Here are some of the ways that we use your gifts to continue to preach peace.



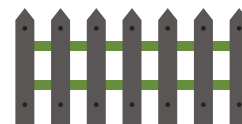
Your **\$25** gift provides personal items and a hot meal to a woman rescued from human trafficking.

Your **\$50** gift changes the life of an adult learner by purchasing a year's fees and supplies for one student at our learning centers in Columbus, OH, New Haven, CT, and New Britain, CT.



Your **\$100** gift helps pay for a child to attend our Summer Peace Camps in Ohio, Kansas, and Louisiana.

Your **\$250** gift helps keep the alpacas from wandering away by installing fencing at Heartland Farm in Pawnee, KS.



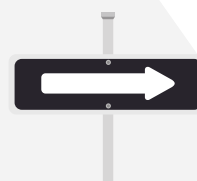
Your **\$500** gift provides a place of serenity and religious counsel for a young woman considering her call to a religious vocation.

Your **\$1,000** gift renews the license for software that our learning centers use to provide online classes to supplement individual tutoring.



Your **\$2,500** gift purchases an electric wheelchair for a retired Sister at one of our Health Care Centers.

Your **\$5,000** gift will help build a walkway at our Columbus, OH, Shepherd's Corner Ecological Center to allow wheelchair-bound visitors to visit with our llama and sheep.



TAX REFORM IMPACT

Jesus told the Pharisees to “Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.” We are grateful to our friends who do both – supporting our nation through their tax obligation and supporting the Dominican Sisters of Peace with your prayers and donations.

Knowing the effect that the changes in the tax code may have on you, our donors, the Dominican Sisters of Peace have reached out to Eugene J. Logan, a non-profit tax expert at Columbus, OH, Schneider Downs, for a few tips to consider as you continue to support our ministries.

Please do not consider the information below as tax advice, but rather, a few things to bring up when you meet with your own tax professional. Mr. Logan advises that you may want to consider consulting your tax expert earlier than usual to be sure that you have time to consider all of the changes that have taken place under the new law.





Under the new tax code:


- **You must itemize your tax return to deduct your charitable contributions.** The good news is that you can now deduct up to 60% of your adjusted gross income for cash donations. Long-term stocks and property are deductible up to 40% of your AGI.
- **Many people are choosing to donate through Donor Advised Funds, or DAF's, that allow the donor to receive a tax deduction immediately, but make their donations at a later time. You can recommend the Dominican Sisters of Peace.**
- **If you are planning to make a major gift through your estate, you may want to consider the timing of that gift. The Gift and Estate exemption, which allows a donor to give a significant gift without creating a tax burden, has increased by nearly 200% - but that increase is only in place until the year 2025. Talk to your tax professional to determine the best way that you can optimize your gifts to positively affect your tax burden.**





These are just a few things to consider as you plan your gifts to your favorite charities in the years to come. We so appreciate how you carefully consider the best ways to maximize the impact of your family's resources as you support our ministries, and we know your tax or investment advisor will offer you just the right advice before making your donations.





GET INVOLVED





**Do you want to get more involved with the Dominican Sisters of Peace and our ministries?
Visit us online and find out how!**

Dominican Sisters of Peace - opeace.org    

Dominican Sisters of Peace: Vocations - opeace.org 





Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT - albertus.edu    

Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH - ohiodominican.edu    

Dominican Academy, New York, NY - dominicanacademy.org    

Our Lady of the Elms School, Akron, OH - theelms.org    

St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School, Memphis, TN - saa-sds.org  

St. Mary's Dominican High School, New Orleans, LA - stmarysdominican.org    

Dominican Learning Center, Columbus, OH - domlearningcenter.org    




Siena Learning Center, New Britain, CT - sienalearningcenter.org

Springs Learning Center, New Haven, CT - springslearning.org

Lourdes Senior Community, Waterford, MI - lourdesseniorcommunity.org


Mohun Health Care Center, Columbus, OH - mohun.org


Sansbury Care Center, St. Catharine, KY - Sansburycare.org


Crown Point Ecology Center, Bath, OH - crownpt.org   

Crystal Springs Center for Earth Learning, Plainville, MA - crystalsprings.org




Heartland Farm, Pawnee Rock, KS - heartlandfarm-ks.org 

St. Catharine Farm, St. Catharine, KY - scfarmkantucky.org 


Shepherd's Corner, Blacklick, OH - shepherdscorner.org  

Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, Niskayuna, NY - dominican-spiritual-life-center.org 

Heartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend, KS - heartlandspirituality.org  

Martin de Porres Center, Columbus, OH - martindeporrescenter.net   

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, Ponchatoula, LA - rosaryville.com  

Dominican Sisters of Peace Retreat Ministries, Oxford and Waterford, MI - stmarysretreathouse.org 

Peace Center, New Orleans, LA - thepeacecenternola.org



**Do you have a donor-advised fund?
Please recommend the Dominican Sisters of Peace to your fund manager!**

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gentle and generous God,

Thank you for the beauty and wonders of your creation.
These gifts are a sign of your life-giving presence among us.

May the light of your love open wide our hearts
in gratitude for our family, friends and benefactors.

Accept our thanks and bless all
with abundant peace.

Amen.

**The Dominican Sisters of Peace are eternally grateful for your gifts of time, prayer and support.
We remember you daily in our prayer and our Eucharistic celebration.**

This report is an annual publication produced for donors, benefactors, friends, and family of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. We have made every attempt to be accurate and complete; if you notice an error or omission, please accept our apologies and alert us to the mistake by calling Sr. Barbara Rapp at (614) 416-1021 or email brapp@oppeace.org.

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We gratefully acknowledge those who contributed to this issue.

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We are grateful for your prayers, your friendship, and your support.

