



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*

Sisters and Associates
in Mission

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

*We celebrate our Great Bend Mission Bazaar,
benefitting our missions for 107 years.*



From our Prioress



Sr. Catherine Malya Chen (right) and I cutting vegetables for snacks at the 2016 Great Bend Bazaar.

Dear Friends -

Our annual report is one of my favorite communication projects because it gives me an opportunity to recognize and thank all of those who have supported our ministries throughout the year.

The Apostle Paul expressed the need for working together so beautifully in First Corinthians 12:14, "For the body is not one member, but many." It takes many hands and many hearts to minister to those in need. The gift of your donations, combined with the gift of your prayers, allows us to continue to preach peace around the world. Your generosity helps us bring God's mercy and compassion to a world that is hurting, and we are ever grateful for your support.

In this year's annual report, we are featuring just a few of the people who support our work with their time, talent and treasure. I'd like to invite you to read about our ministries through the eyes of our benefactors, including:

- The McMullens, of Manhattan, KS, who have sponsored the building of six water wells in Nigeria, improving the quality of life for hundreds of families;
- Jeanette Moretti, who at age 87, tutors English at our Siena Learning Center in New Britain, CT;
- Susan, John, Joe, Ray, Rick, Dennis, David and Joey, who, despite having jobs, farms, and families of their own, volunteer their time and expertise to help us continue to manage the sustainable beef farm at our Motherhouse in St. Catharine, KY.

Like all of us, I hope that you, too, are grateful to your sisters and brothers in Christ who are partners in the mission of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. We pray for each of you, your families, and your special intentions daily, and are thankful for your prayers and your support.

With deepest gratitude,

Sr. Pat Twohill, OP

Sr. Patricia A. Twohill, OP
Prioress



Thank you!

**The gift of your time and your
donations allow us to share
Christ's peace.**

Great Bend Mission Bazaar

Thank you for 107 years of generosity and love.

The sun was not even up on November 11 in Great Bend, KS, but the line in front of the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse could stretch nearly a city block. Women with shopping bags, families with small children, travelers from as far away as Louisiana and Connecticut – all waiting to shop for the handcrafted gifts, embroidered tea towels, baked goods, jellies and more offered that day.

Inside, Sisters, Associates and friends of the Congregation joined to thank God for the work that had been done and to pray for a successful day ahead. And at exactly 7 am, the Dominican Sisters of Peace Mission Bazaar opened its doors.

The first documented Dominican Sisters of Peace Mission Bazaar was held in 1910 to raise funds to renovate the Sisters' hospital. Subsequent bazaars provided funds for a new Motherhouse and to build the Central Kansas Medical Center. Today, the Bazaar serves as the major fundraising effort for the Sisters' missions in Nigeria, Kansas and Colorado.

The annual mission bazaar requires a Congregation of volunteers. From Sisters, friends and associates who create the items to be sold, to the volunteers who prepare mountains of cinnamon rolls and oceans of coffee for Bazaar-goers, to volunteers who set up booths and help clean up after the day is done, the annual Mission Bazaar is a labor of love...love for the Congregation, love for the community of Great Bend, and love for those that benefit from the event.

One person who has become a fixture among the volunteers is Father Ed Ruane. Father Ed, a Dominican



Shoppers from as far away as Louisiana come to enjoy the Bazaar.

priest of the Central Province of Friars in Denver, CO, has traveled to Great Bend for several years to help out with the Bazaar.

“He literally goes from booth to booth, activity to activity,” says Sr. Elaine Osborne of the Great Bend Motherhouse. “But he seems to enjoy baking in our big oven, which is large enough for a person to climb into. That hot-and-heavy job requires a lot of lifting, so his help is much appreciated by our tired bakers.”

Others support the bazaar with their loyalty. Sr. Elaine remembers two ladies who attended the bazaar faithfully before moving out of state. They returned a few years later, explaining that their husbands return to Kansas every year for pheasant hunting season. Now they come along to make the Great Bend Bazaar a stop on the trip.

Families are a big part of the Bazaar, too. Moms, dads, kids and extended families enjoy the food, crafts, booths and more. “I remember one little boy who proudly showed me a toy he was carrying,” Sr. Elaine exclaims with a smile. “I bought this with my very own money!” he told me. So he was able to help support our missions as well.”

“We are so grateful for the efforts of the volunteers who have helped us make the Bazaar a success for more than 100 years,” Sr. Elaine says. “Their efforts have helped us support the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine in Nigeria, an indigenous Congregation which is now independent and flourishing; the poor who come to Kansas and Colorado for a better life; and the Dominican Sisters of Peace Benincasa Fund, offering emergency assistance across the country. Our volunteers and Bazaar visitors show so much love, and they help us be peace, build peace, and preach peace at home and around the world.”



The Bazaar is a family event.



Acting as God's Hands

Sr. Mary Vuong shares her mission experience in Jamaica.

"Just when the caterpillar thought that the world was over, it became a butterfly."

I use this phrase in my email signature because, as an occupational therapist, I get to be part of such amazing transformations every day. As a Dominican Sister of Peace, I use my skills and God's help to help people regain mobility, build their strength, and reach for their full potential.

I was recently blessed to visit young residents at orphanages run by Mustard Seed in Jamaica. Many of the residents – children, teens and young adults – suffer from a combination of illnesses including HIV, mental retardation, Downs Syndrome and physical disabilities like: muscle contractions, limited limb mobility, blindness and deafness. Accompanied by my friend, Tram Bui, a physical therapist, we spent five days meeting with the children and their care givers to help them improve quality of life and quality of care.

We began our trip at Martha's House, where we met with 10 children with HIV. Each of these young people has joint deformities in limbs and/or trunks. We spent our first day meeting with them individually to determine their needs, then talking to care givers about the challenges they faced in caring for the children.

Some of the obstacles were severe - Sean, who is blind, and Kadian, who is both blind and deaf - are both so sensitive to new stimulation that they scream when they are touched. This makes physical therapy, or even basic care, very difficult. We provided sensory tape, a vibrating pillow, and texture samples to help the children learn to tolerate new stimuli, and were grateful to see positive results by the second day of our visit.

We tried to find ways to make the individualized therapy for each young person effective and fun. Torrie was unable to sit up on her own because of weakened muscles in her core. Her exercises with us involved reaching for treats and giving me "high fives" to incorporate some of the core strengthening exercises in ways she enjoyed. We were able to use similar exercises to help other children, and it was wonderful to see them encouraging each other, especially when a task was hard and the child wanted to give up.



Sr. Mary Vuong ministers to children in Jamaica.

The second goal of our visit was to help train the caregivers so that they could avoid injury and fatigue during their work day. Some of the children require total assistance to get out of their wheelchairs, and because of their physical challenges and construction of their custom wheelchairs, transfers can be difficult for the caregivers. We worked with the caregivers on techniques to protect themselves and the children during transfers. Other new skills included massage and trigger point release methods to help them prevent or heal work-related injuries.

Outdated or out-grown equipment was a common problem. We did not have the funds to replace wheelchairs and other therapeutic supplies, but we filled our bags with cushions, bed pads, splints, foam and other materials for "creative remodeling."

We were able to replace the broken-down wheelchair that had served as a shower chair in the facility. The new chair, which can be rolled into the shower, is designed so the caregivers can give the children better, more hygienic showers. We also supplied a hand held shower hose, grab bars and non-skid tub mats to make the shower space safer.

I was constantly struck by the children and caregivers' joy and care for one another, in spite of their hardships. There is so much more that I wish we could do for these children. Many of them need new wheelchairs or splints, and most of them would benefit greatly from more therapy.



The Dominican Sisters of Peace depend on the generosity of benefactors like the Conrad Hilton Fund, and like you, for our mission of peace, healing and hope. Thank you for helping Sr. Mary and all of the Dominican Sisters of Peace preach the Gospel of Peace around the world.

Sisters Experience the Richness of Mexico

Sr. Ana Gonzalez shares her experience in Mexico as a novice.



Back row, from left, Sr. Margaret Uche, Brother Michael Joseph Groak, Student Brother Nick Reynolds, Sr. Ana Gonzalez, Candidate Ellen Coates. Front row, from left, Candidate Phuong Vu, Sr. Cathy Arnold, Fr. Gonzalo Bernabe Ituarte Verduzco, OP, Sr. June Fitzgerald, and Martha Elena Welsh Herrera and Pablo Romo Cedano of Casa Xitla.

I was not really sure what to expect when I was told that I, along with other members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, would be attending an immersion experience in Mexico. I can tell you, however, that each of us - Sr. Margaret Uche, Candidates Ellen Coates and Phuong Vu, and Ministry of Formation Team Members Sr. Cathy Arnold and Sr. June Fitzgerald, were profoundly touched by the experience, and will be ever grateful for this opportunity.

The program, appropriately named “Inside Mexico,” is a seven-week “immersion experience” that combined classroom instruction in language, Mexican history and culture, and social justice issues, with excursions into the countryside that brought these topics to life.

The goal of the Inside Mexico program is to provide a comprehensive look at Mexico and the Central American immigrant reality – essential for those of us who will work with immigrants in the United States. The justice-centered program helped each of us to shake our pre-conceived notions of Mexican and Latino immigrants, and to become more compassionate ministers of Christ’s Gospel to the growing Latino community in the United States Catholic Church.

The program exceeded our expectations by providing world-class instruction in language, history and culture as well as experts in migrant rights and justice, community engagement and activism, companioning family members of the disappeared, and much more.

As Mexico’s only non-profit center dedicated to peace, human rights, the arts, spirituality, and environmental sustainability, Casa Xitla was the ideal site for this program. My Sisters and I were able to reflect contemplatively in this beautiful setting.

Nearly 35% of our American Catholic Church are Latino or of Latino descent. The presentations I experienced in Mexico opened my eyes and heart to the needs of this community, and I believe will make us more loving and more effective ministers to all who come to our country and to our Catholic Church.



Classroom discussions were brought to life with visits to Mexico City communities.



How can you help?

Support the formation of a new Sister with your gift of \$250.

Thank you.



Giving is a Family Affair

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.
- Proverbs 22:6

The book of Proverbs says “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”

Donald (DJ) and Judy Jenks, life-long residents of the Oxford/Lake Orion, MI, area, are a perfect example. Their childhood years were touched by the education that they received from the Dominican Sisters of Oxford and the Sisters of St. Joseph – Judy was taught by the Dominican Sisters in grades 8-12, and DJ was taught by the St. Joseph Sisters from age 10 to 13. Today, they credit that education for their love of God and their dedication to their Catholic faith, and each week they support our Motherhouse in Oxford, MI.



Sr. Joan Marie Jereb, OP, with Judy and DJ

“The Sisters taught us that prayer and trust in God are the guardian forces in their lives,” Judy says, “while our faith has been a blessing and strength to us throughout our lives. We’ve enjoyed good times, when we had everything we needed, and hard times, times when we had lost everything. It was those times that we realized what was really important – our love for each other and our faith in God.”

This faith is reflected in everything that Judy and DJ do. They share a strong prayer life, and their home includes many beautiful religious articles. DJ works with the neighboring parish of St. Joseph to manage their round-the-clock adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and keeps watch himself in the very early morning hours two days a week.

These examples of faith in their daily lives have influenced their children and grandchildren, all of whom are practicing Catholics.

The Jenks’ love of the Church and the Oxford community is truly a family affair. DJ and Judy often join the Sisters for daily and Sunday liturgy. “We are so grateful that the Dominican Sisters of Peace here in Oxford are so friendly and welcoming,” Judy says with a big smile. Some of the grown children’s families regularly attend Sunday liturgy at the Oxford Motherhouse, too. DJ and Judy’s son, Brian, and his wife Kim, who own J & S Builders in Oxford, also make regular donations to the Sisters.

Brian often tells his mother, “It is the wonderful example of you, Mom and Dad, that motivates us to be generous with others.”

We are grateful to DJ and Judy, and the three generations of the Jenks family that have honored their education by our Sisters with their presence and support.



How can you help?

**You can support our retired sisters
or a sister in ministry as they strive to
preach the Gospel with their lives.**

Sharing the Gift of Life

“We know that water is necessary for life; we love giving money for wells because it is a gift that just keeps on giving.”

These are the words of Lacy McMullen. She and her husband are members of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan, KS. The McMullens have sponsored the building of six wells in Nigeria over the past few years. They have also partnered with other parish families in this small, mid-western town to build wells in other parts of Nigeria so desperate for clean, safe water.

Sr. Rita Schwarzenberger, OP, a Kansas native and director of Hope for the Village Child in Nigeria, has visited the church a number of times, telling the members about the community’s need for clean water. Parishioners of St. Thomas More have generously donated \$1,200 for each well, for a total of more than \$7,000.



A Nigerian community celebrates drawing water for the first time from a donated well.

“Building these wells is hard work, said Sr. Rita. “Each one is dug by hand, lined with concrete rings to stabilize the well and keep it from collapsing, and then fitted with a hand pump to make accessing the water easier for the women of the community, who have to carry the water back to their homes.”

“When the well is completed,” she continued, “we send the



A young boy drinks water from a new well in his community, donated by Kansas parishioners.

donors pictures of ‘their wells’ with some of the members of the local community. We also try to send a photo of the water source that the community was using before the well was dug, which in many cases might be a dirty pond or muddy river.”

Those whose generosity has helped to build these wells are happy to know, as Lacy says, that theirs is truly a gift that keeps on giving. And for the people of the communities where these new wells are located, the benefits of reliable, clean water are seen in improved sanitation, easier access to water and healthier families. They continue to bless the generosity of the people who have helped give them water - the gift of life.



How can you help?

**Your donation of \$1200 will
build a water well for a village
in Nigeria.**



Providing Hope for the Future in New Orleans

Volunteers Make Ministries More Effective

According to a recent study by the Urban League of New Orleans, unemployment for black men in the Queen City is more than 50%. Positive male role models can be hard to find in this area that is still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina. Over the past year, however, a partnership between the Dominican Sisters of Peace and a local college service group has offered boys and girls attending the New Orleans Peace Center a glimpse of a brighter future.

This past year, Srs. Pat Thomas, Ceal Warner and Suzanne Brauer have partnered with *Men on the Move* from Xavier University. This group of students, whose motto is “We put the MEN in MENtorhsip,” is committed to promoting education and responsibility to local African American youth.



Srs. Pat Thomas, Suzanne Brauer, and Ceal Warner at the Peace Center in New Orleans.

The members of Men on the Move have chosen to fulfill this commitment by working with the after-school homework help program at the Peace Center. On any given afternoon, you can find them bent over a table next to a child reviewing math homework or spelling words, or outside shooting hoops and playing games with the children.

“These men are more than just volunteers or tutors,” says Sr. Pat. “They are great role models. These are strong, intelligent men working to improve their own futures by getting a quality education, and working to improve the future of the community by setting a positive example.”

The Men on the Move have also given the Peace Center afterschool group a glimpse of a positive future by hosting them on a field trip to the campus at Xavier University. The



Members of Men on the Move and children from the Peace Center tour Xavier University.


children toured the science building, the chapel, the new campus art building and the library, and shared dinner at the Student Center.

“It really is more than just the homework help,” Sr. Pat explained. “It’s the love and attention that these men give to the kids in the afterschool program. These children watch the door all afternoon and can’t wait for them to arrive. The relationships that have been built are really special.”

Part of the Center for Student Leadership and Service at Xavier, Men on the Move focuses on mentoring and tutoring middle and high school young men while teaching self-awareness and providing role models for African American youth in New Orleans.



Children at the Peace Center enjoy the friendship of the Men on the Move.

 ***If you would like to volunteer with one of our ministries, please visit our website at opeace.org and click on the Volunteer button.***

A Winding Path Leads Home for Novice Ellen Coates

Welcoming New Sisters to Religious Life

India. Laos. Madagascar. Africa. Ellen Coates' passport is a virtual roadmap of her efforts to help the ill, the poor, and children around the world. But it took coming home to her roots in the Church to find her true path to service as a Dominican Sister of Peace.

Ellen received a degree in art history in Chapel Hill, NC, but her life took a dramatic turn when she decided to earn her Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University. "The desire to serve God had a lot to do with the public health career I chose," she said.

She spent more than 20 years working with international aid groups, including USAID and UNICEF, managing public health projects to fight polio, encourage vaccine use, and improve child health.

Ellen met another bend in the road in 2013, when she began to see God's hand moving her towards more dedicated service. Her mother invited her to attend several silent retreats in McLean, VA, and in that reverent space, Ellen began to hear God's voice. Later she met with Sr. Agnes Bernadette Gott, OP, and began her journey towards becoming a Dominican Sister of Peace.

"In the silence and stillness of retreat, Ellen pondered what God might be asking of her," Sr. Agnes recalls. "On one retreat Ellen signed up to chat with me, and she hesitantly spoke out loud her persistent question... could God be inviting her to become a Sister? We listened and shared, and felt that God could definitely be putting the question on her heart."

Formation Minister, Sr. Cathy Arnold, says that retreats are a common "first step" in the discernment journey. "Spending time in prayer and contemplation in a retreat setting provides an atmosphere conducive to hearing God's Spirit within one's self," Sr. Cathy says. "Our vocation team leads two "Come and See" retreats each year. Women who attend these retreats consider questions such as: 'What do you want of me, O God?' 'How do you want me to serve you?' 'What is my deepest desire?' 'What are my gifts, strengths, weaknesses, and dreams?'"

Taking time to listen to the still, small voice within, and then sharing the fruits of that contemplation with a spiritual guide, help to give clarity and focus to the person discerning," Sr. Cathy concluded.

With Sr. Agnes' help, Ellen continued on the path of her own discernment. "Ellen continued praying and listening to that inner voice, and eventually came to an inner peace. It was an invitation from God that she felt she must pursue. The Holy Spirit led Ellen to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, where she felt at home. This is where she can place her life and her gifts at the service of God's people," Sr. Agnes continued.



The first phase of her journey transitioned into the next when Ellen began her official candidacy program on Sunday, February 19, 2017, at the chapel of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT.

"I am becoming a Sister because I want to know God better with other women who are living God's Word and trying to do the right thing in the world," Ellen said. "I want to know why I am here, and to be an example to others."

As she continues with her discernment, Ellen will also continue her vital work for world health, work that helped her begin to see her call to the religious life.



Candidate Ellen Coates, right, is welcomed into the Congregation by Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien, OP.

 *The Dominican Sisters of Peace are grateful to donors and volunteers who make retreats like the ones that Ellen attended possible.*
Thank you for helping us welcome new Sisters to religious life. 

Diversity is a Hallmark of the Dominican Community

Lay Associates Committed to Charism



Associate Dale Coski, Denver, CO.

The charism of the Dominican Sisters of Peace is lived out in many ways by the Congregation's nearly 650 Associates.

Within that diversity, each Associate gives of her/himself by sharing his or her time, talent, and treasure.

Associate Dale Coski, of Denver, CO, was drawn to the Dominican Sisters of Peace by the love and lightheartedness of the Sisters who embraced her after she was struck by a car in the line of duty as a police officer. That accident left her with quadriplegia.

"It is important for me to support the work of the Sisters and to support the Sisters who are retired because they accepted me and showed me unconditional love," Coski said. "When I contribute to the community, it's a way of keeping a connection to the Sisters and the good work that they're doing. Their examples have encouraged, inspired, and influenced me to work on justice issues."

Much like Dale, Andrew White of Columbus, OH, was drawn to the community because of strong relationships with Dominican Sisters of Peace who are committed to "contemplating the truth and sharing the fruits of that contemplation," he said.

Andrew felt called to be an associate with the Congregation because its mission is in full alignment with his personal beliefs and commitment to preach truth and work toward building a peaceful, just society.

As Director for the Center of Student Involvement at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, OH, one of the Congregation's founded ministries Andrew finds himself in the perfect position to share the community's message of peace and hope with college students.

"For me, it is not a job. It's a ministry that gives me an opportunity to give back what was given to me through the work of the Sisters," Andrew said. "I am able to use my gift - the ability to build relationships as a way to help young people build community and strong support systems within the Ohio Dominican and Dominican Sisters of Peace communities."

Jane Brown, an Associate in St. Louis, MO, agrees with Dale and Andrew that her own commitment as an Associate fuels her desire to live life daily as a person of peace. Each Associate finds it important to share a spirituality that reflects the love of the Risen Christ.



Associate Andrew White (center), with students from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, OH.

"Being an Associate is just who I am. There is a deep sense of joy being Dominican," said Jane. "We are called to live and preach the word in different ways, wherever we are in the world. We are called to share whatever gifts we have been blessed with to strengthen our Dominican community and to strengthen the body of Christ."

 *How can you help?*

Explore becoming an Associate. Visit opeace.org or contact the Office of Associates at 330-835-5688.

Giving Is Its Own Reward

Empowering Adult Learners through Literacy



Siena Learning Center Tutor Jeanette Moretti.

It's a scientific fact – giving feels good. Generosity reduces stress, fights depression – it's even been shown to increase one's lifespan. If you need an example of this, look no further than Siena Learning Center in New Britain, CT, and one of its most enthusiastic volunteers. Meet Jeanette Moretti, who has been tutoring there for about seven years. She started when she was 80 years old.

"I became a tutor at Siena Learning Center because my work at a local bank had caused me to be very involved in the community," said Jeanette. "I retired at 62, and immersed myself in local politics and nonprofit organizations. This work made me more aware of the many needs in our area. Being a lifelong resident of New Britain, I wanted to give back. I felt like I still had something to offer at 80. I was strong in English language skills, so I decided to teach English. I found Siena through my local parish bulletin and liked the thought of the affiliation with the Dominican Sisters of Peace. My mother's name was Domenica so I thought it was a natural fit."

Jeanette explains that she has found volunteering as a tutor a self-serving act. "Working as a tutor is mutually rewarding," she said. "When my Learners say thank you, I also thank them. I find it fulfilling to help them by sharing my knowledge – and it's fun! When my Learners are empowered by an expanded knowledge of language, it feels wonderful for me and for them."

Many of the Learners at Siena Learning Center are immigrants who cannot read or write in English. Jeanette knows that what she is teaching them makes a real difference in their lives. "My Learners are often at a disadvantage while at work, or applying for a job, and even at the doctor, because they can't fully and freely communicate. I feel good knowing that I am helping them with not just reading, but by imparting wisdom and important skills for life."

More than giving her time and talent, Jeanette also financially supports the Learning Center. "I receive so much joy working at the Center that I want to give back. Because I teach there, I also know that the items that are supplied to the Learners for free, like books and resource materials, are not free for the Center. I am enough of a business person to know that a nonprofit cannot continue its good work without contributions."

The results of the work done at Siena Learning Center can be amazing, Jeanette says as she talks about one of her first Learners. "She told me that if it was not for Siena, she would not have had anything," Jeanette said. "The reward for my time with this Learner is that she went on to attend a community college and is presently working as a medical professional. She made a better life for herself and her family."

As the daughter of an Italian immigrant, Jeanette explains that she understands how immigrants suffered and struggled to learn in a new country. She recalls, "I worked with my mother when she studied for citizenship, and I remember our joy with her achievement."

Jeanette feels so strongly about the good that Siena Learning Center does in the community that she joined their Advisory Council. "I am helping Siena with introductions to the community and opening doors," Jeanette said. Starting with the human connection between Tutor and Learner, Jeanette has moved to assisting Siena Learning Center build new connections that will help to improve the lives of more people in the New Britain area.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace sponsor three adult learning centers with the belief that education is the key to success, improved quality of life and empowerment.



If you want to explore volunteer opportunities at one of our learning centers or offer support in another way, please visit opeace.org.



Advisory Council Brings New Ideas to St. Catharine Farm

Time and Talent in Action



St. Catharine Farm in St. Catharine, KY.

In the rolling hills of Central Kentucky, there is a unique piece of Catholic history. The St. Catharine Motherhouse and its attached farm was the first mission of Dominican Sisters in the United States, founded in 1822.

Today, the Motherhouse and Sansbury Care Center are home to 82 Dominican Sisters of Peace. Looking out of the window from the Motherhouse, a visitor will catch a glimpse of St. Catharine Farm. The Farm boasts 150 Angus beef cows, acres of grain crops, and a newly-renovated greenhouse expected to provide fresh produce to the residents of Sansbury Care Center throughout the winter months. All beef on the Farm is produced without the use of antibiotics, steroids and hormones, using innovative and sustainable farming techniques.

St. Catharine Farm beef is antibiotic, steroid and hormone free, so you can enjoy delicious beef without harmful hormones or other chemicals.

Raising food is not the only mission of the Farm. In true Dominican fashion, St. Catharine Farm's stated mission is show respect to the Earth and to teach others to do the same.

Farm Manager Danny Ray Spalding has been a driving force behind the Farm for nearly 34 years. Starting as a farm hand in high school, he now manages the Farm for the Sisters.

Running a beef farm is a pretty big job – and sometimes the work of today leaves little time to plan for tomorrow. In 2012, St. Catharine Farm put into place a plan to provide for long-term growth and sustainability. Part of that plan was the establishment of a Farm Advisory Council.

“Danny Ray considered a number of people in the area who he knew had a background in beef production and other aspects of farming,” says Sr. Charlene Moser, Founded Ministries Liaison. “We have been blessed with an active, engaged group of farm and business professionals that has really helped to broaden our thinking.”

Retired Assistant County Attorney and farmer Susan McCain serves as the Council Chair. She says, “I didn’t have clear expectations for my role on the council because I didn’t know much about the Farm’s management structure. But I have found the quality and the professional diversity of the members to be outstanding.”

Diversity is a key word when describing the Farm Council. Before studying law, McCain worked for Eli Lilly and as an extension agent for the University of Kentucky. Council Vice-Chair John Settles is Washington County Judge Executive, and a beef farmer himself.



St. Catharine Farm raises Angus beef using natural, sustainable methods.

Council member David Sandusky is a Purchasing Manager for ATI Forged Products, and owns a beef farm in neighboring Marion County, and Ray Johnson is an owner/operator of an excavating company and a beef farmer. Both Joey Spalding and Joe Carpenter are members of the Springfield-Washington County Rescue Squad. Joey is also a loan officer, member of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation Board and a father of four, while Joe is a retired USDA Soil Conservation Technician and father of three.

Dennis Morgeson is the Washington County Extension Agent for Horticulture, and Rick Greenwell was the Washington County Cooperative Extension Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent for nearly 50 years. Sr. Charlene Vogel and staff members Donna Medley and April Donathan round out the group.

What this team has in common is a love of the land and a desire to see the Farm succeed, both financially and in meeting the mission of the Congregation.

“It gives me a sense of pride to see the commitment everyone shows in ensuring the Farm succeeds,” says Council member David Sandusky. “The improvements made have been great for the cattle, great for the environment and great for the people who work the Farm.”

Serving on the St. Catharine Council is not just an honorary position. Members of the St. Catharine Farm advisory council meet quarterly, but they also participate in the activities of the Farm, from Field Days to exhibit farming technologies to meetings with consultants from the University of Kentucky, various contractors, and others working on projects on the Farm. As busy as each of the volunteers are, they find time to help Danny Ray and the Dominican Sisters of Peace identify innovative technologies to care for the cattle and the land.

“The members of the Council have made some of the major projects easier to complete by providing their support and expertise,” says Farm Manager Danny Ray Spalding. “In particular, they have been very involved in helping secure the grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for the new feeding barn.”

Is working with a religious organization different from working with a business? Yes and no, the Council members say. Council member Ray Johnson tells us “It’s really not different at all, since I try to live my religion every day.” Susan McCain says, “In a business setting, the goal is the ‘bottom line’. From a practical perspective, a religious community must address those obligations, but must also honor its mission and ministry.”

In the end, the true goals of those who serve on the St. Catharine Farm Advisory Council are the same as those of the Farm itself – to honor the land, to feed the hungry, to educate those around them about the benefits and importance of sustainable agriculture while raising healthy, nutritious beef. The members of the Council offer their time and talents to help us meet those goals. In the words of Council Member David Sandusky, “I think that God is proud of these people, and of the improvements being made on the Farm.” We would agree, and we are grateful for their dedication to our mission and our success.



Rick Greenwell (back to camera), Susan McCain, Danny Ray Spalding, Donna Vroom and Alice Black from Mission Advancement, and Sr. Charlene Moser, Founded Ministries Liaison meet at St. Catharine Farm.



*If you are in Kentucky,
stop by and visit
St. Catharine Farm!*



Leaving a Legacy

What makes a person choose to remember an organization in a way that will last beyond their lifetime? For Bexley, OH, resident Regina Stefanik, it was a belief in the good works of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and the mission of the Congregation that moved her to include the Congregation in her estate planning and will.

“Why wouldn’t I remember the Sisters?” Stefanik said. “I am appreciative of all the peace and justice activities of the Congregation. To be associated with a community that is like-minded and like-hearted is very important to me.”

Stefanik first became acquainted with the Congregation through Sister Eleanor Lang, now deceased, when they worked together on peace and justice issues in the Columbus, OH, Diocese. Her knowledge of the Congregation grew as she attended programs offered by the Martin de Porres Center, one of the Sisters’ outreach centers. As she continued to learn about the work of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, she came to believe in what they do as a community. “Their respect for diversity and community is important to me,” Stefanik said.

Six years ago, Stefanik felt moved to become an Associate, a lay person in mission with the Sisters, because the mission of the Congregation touched her heart. Including the Congregation in her will was another way she could continue to support their mission.

“I am grateful for the work of the Sisters,” Stefanik said. “In my youth, I was very involved with racial justice and this has been a lifelong concern of mine... racism is still a big issue for me. My work with the Sisters has also helped to increase my sensitivity to immigration, and I appreciate the work being done by the Sisters with women who are trafficked.”

We are grateful for Regina and others like her who support the work of the Dominican Sisters of Peace with their time, talent and treasure.



Regina Stefanik, OPA, Bexley, OH

Sisters Behind the Scenes

If you’ve heard a cheerful voice on the phone or received a thank you letter for your donation to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, then you have been touched by one of our Sisters Behind the Scenes. **Srs. Mary Daniel, OP, (left), Barbara Rapp, OP, (center) and Madeline O’Neill, OP, (right)** take care of our friends and benefactors by managing our donor database and sending out heartfelt thank yous.



How can you help? 

Remember the Dominican Sisters of Peace in your estate planning.

New Life in the Lord

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

Sr. Anne Regis Hartnett, OP

April 2, 1925 - July 3, 2016

Sr. Ann Bailie, OP

March 28, 1929 - July 4, 2016

Sr. Teresa Wolfe, OP

August 14, 1922 - August 7, 2016

Sr. Helen A. Walter, OP

September 21, 1918 - August 27, 2016

Sr. Mary Bernadette Deeney, OP

June 26, 1925 - September 29, 2016

Sr. Lelia Horkans, OP

September 12, 1928 - October 10, 2016

Sr. Nancy Caroccia, OP

October 9, 1929 - October 14, 2016

Sr. Barbara Jean Pelak, OP

February 18, 1950 - October 15, 2016

Sr. Helena Sause, OP

April 27, 1942 - October 26, 2016

Sr. Mary Ellen Boyle, OP

February 9, 1932 - November 1, 2016

Sr. M. Louise Werner, OP

November 17, 1916 - November 5, 2016

Sr. Lucille Mary Rachan, OP

December 13, 1920 - November 28, 2016

Sr. Ruth Anne Rezek, OP

July 20, 1932 - December 11, 2016

Sr. Marie Granger, OP

April 8, 1929 - December 16, 2016

Sr. Doreen Newton, OP

October 21, 1922 - December 29, 2016

Sr. Ruth Caspar, OP

May 3, 1935 - January 2, 2017

Sr. Deirdre Cotter, OP

September 9, 1926 - January 3, 2017

Sr. Lillian Kapelewski, OP

August 29, 1926 - January 5, 2017

Sr. Juliana D'Amato, OP

March 9, 1930 - February 20, 2017

Sr. Johanna Eberly, OP

April 27, 1929 - March 9, 2017

Sr. Lorraine Ryan, OP

November 24, 1931 - March 23, 2017

Sr. Martha Starrett, OP

February 11, 1931 - March 29, 2017

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Myers, OP

March 4, 1935 - May 6, 2017

Sr. Iliana Valdes, OP

February 17, 1944 - May 16, 2017

Sr. Laetitia Anne Campbell, OP

January 15, 1928 - May 19, 2017

Sr. Mary Martin Weaver, OP

January 26, 1925 - May 28, 2017

Sr. Marie Martha Turowski, OP

February 27, 1923 - June 4, 2017

Sr. Ruth Schirtzinger, OP

April 16, 1944 - June 6, 2017

Sr. Rose Miller, OP

August 7, 1925 - June 11, 2017

Sr. Petrona Stockemer, OP

September 22, 1918 - June 25, 2017

Sr. Dorothy Sarachene, OP

August 19, 1934 - June 29, 2017

Jubilarians 2017



Back row, left to right: Sr. Mary Riley, OP; Sr. Anne Kilbride, OP; Sr. Marilyn Mihalic, OP; Sr. Mary Ruth Leandres, OP; Sr. Marietta Miller, OP; Sr. Carole Hermann, OP; Sr. Nancy Ames, OP

Front row, left to right: Sr. Patricia Cusack, OP; Sr. Rose Ann Van Buren, OP; Sr. Charlene Moser, OP; Sr. Maria Emmanuel Martinez, OP; Sr. Joye Gros, OP

At a point in their careers where most people would be receiving a gold watch, these Sisters are celebrating 50 years as Dominican Sisters and are still in ministry across the country.

Among this year's class of Golden Jubilarians are teachers, tutors, and college administrators, health care professionals, ecologists, administrators, and spiritual counselors. We are grateful for the contributions of those who have dedicated their lives to preaching peace.

 *How can you help?*

Say thank you to a Jubilarian by donating in her honor to the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Founded Ministries' Milestones

Your Generosity Sustains our Ministries



Springs Learning Center, New Haven, CT –
Celebrating 15 years



**Crystal Spring Center for Earth Learning,
Plainville, MA - Celebrating 25 years**



Shepherd's Corner, Blacklick, OH –
Celebrating 25 years



Mohun Health Care Center, Columbus, OH –
Celebrating 60 years



Dominican Academy, New York, NY –
Celebrating 120 years



St. Catharine Farm, St. Catharine, KY –
Celebrating 195 years

Thanksgiving Table Prayer

Loving God, bless us as we gather for this Thanksgiving feast.

We are grateful for this day and for the opportunity to be with those we love.

Thank you for the gift of yourself and for helping us to recognize the great love you have for us that we see in nature and through family and friends.

Thank you for the many blessings we experience in our daily lives.
May your love pierce the darkness of our world and bring the light of your love to all as we say together:

*Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive
from your bounty through Christ, Our Lord.*

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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