



OPPEACE NEWS

how we minister in times such as these

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A QUICK LOOK

Virtual Bazaar Born
God Is Still Calling
Thanks for Your Patience

Virtual Bazaar Born

By Dee Holleran

More than 25 years ago, the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Great Bend, KS, opened their doors – literally – to a new fundraising opportunity. They were seeking a way

to supplement their donations to the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine, Gusau, a Nigerian congregation that resulted from the Great Bend Sisters' long-time presence in the Diocese of Sokoto.

The Sisters made use of their talents in cooking, baking, and crafting, and the Annual Great Bend Holiday Bazaar was born. Every year the event draws hundreds to the Motherhouse to buy pies, canned goods, hand-made items and more. The funds go to the Sisters in Nigeria as well as to the economic poor in Kansas and Colorado.

As COVID-19 swept the country last year, the Great Bend Sisters faced a dilemma. How could they maintain their largest fundraiser safely?

Thus the virtual bazaar was born.

Instead of piling tables with homemade goodies and crafts, the Sisters worked hard at finding raffle prizes and even harder at selling raffle tickets online. They used mail, email, social media, word of mouth – putting every communication tool available to work.

While the Bazaar made about \$12,000 less than in 2019, raffle ticket sales were up by \$20,000. **“People really wanted to support our Bazaar,”** said Dominican Sister of Peace Judith Lindell, **“because all of the funds go to help those in need.”**

We are grateful to everyone who donated or who purchased tickets for the Dominican Sisters of Peace 2020 Bazaar. Your generosity helps us be the hands of Christ in a world that needs His love.

God Is Still Calling

By Dee Holleran

God is still calling women to religious life and to our congregation. In 2020, the protocols for preventing the spread of the virus presented new challenges for our Welcome and Vocations Teams. But like so many of our ministries, our Sisters took advantage of technology to hold virtual events and to communicate with active discerners and Sisters in Formation.

Just as important, the Formations team was able to continue with the important and meaningful rituals that are part of the formation process. These events usually take place during large congregational gatherings, but as our Sisters stayed in their communities to slow the spread of the virus, video technology was the solution. Our Sisters in formation were open, and we moved forward with modified virtual ceremonies, witnessed in person with their local community, with the congregation, and with family and friends joining virtually. Holding such ceremonies virtually, these women in formation have demonstrated two necessary characteristics of women in religious life—openness and adaptability.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace have seven women in formation. Cathy Buchanan and Tram Bui were welcomed into the congregation with their local convent communities in New Haven, CT, and Columbus, OH, respectively. Canonical Novice, Sr. Annie Killian entered our Collaborative Dominican Novitiate (CDN) in Chicago, IL. Our second-year novice, Sr. Ellen Coates returned to Columbus, OH from the CDN in August 2020. Sr. Phuong Vu professed her First Vows in a beautiful Mass in New Orleans, LA. Having made her First Vows. Sr. Phuong joins Sr. Ana Gonzalez and Sr. Margaret Uche in this last phase of formation before Final Vows.



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Thanks for your patience!

The Dominican Sisters of Peace depend on the US Postal Service to deliver our printed communications. The well-publicized internal issues at the USPS, as well as the devastating effects of COVID-19, have caused many of our materials to arrive much later than intended.

Please be assured that we are doing our best to deliver communications to you in a timely fashion. We appreciate your patience as we adapt to the changes in the world around us.

If you would like to help us save printing costs and ensure timely delivery of our materials, please give us your email address. There's a form for that on our website at OPPeace.org.

