



# OPPEACE NEWS

how we minister in times such as these

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## A QUICK LOOK

Sisters Serve the Needs of the Day

DRCC to Launch Sanctuary

Ministry Updates

## Sisters Serve the Needs of the Day

By Dee Holleran

Since the early days of the Order, Dominicans have responded to the needs of the day. Dominican Sisters of Peace follow that tradition by ministering to those suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic with the help of Sisters on the Frontlines grants from the Leadership Collaborative, in collaboration with Catholic Extension, through the generosity of GHR Foundation.

Sr. Kathy Broussard, OP, in New Orleans, LA, is a death penalty mitigation specialist for the Capital Defense Project of Southeast Louisiana. Her Sisters on the Frontlines grant helped support two families whose loved ones are imprisoned and facing the death penalty.

*“It’s hard enough to see your loved one facing the death penalty – these families should not have to worry about their next meal or their safety,”* Sr. Kathy says.

In St. Catharine, KY, Sr. Janie Keenoy is a Chaplain at the Sansbury Care Center. In late 2020, when COVID-19 tore through rural communities, Sansbury staff rose above their own fears of getting the virus to courageously and lovingly care for residents.

Sr. Janie was able to use her Sisters on the Frontline grant to help two frontline caregivers who contracted COVID-19 and whose families suffered financial hardship. She helped pay utility bills and provided grocery gift cards to help these families while the staff members recovered from the virus.

To read more about our Sisters on the Frontlines, visit our website at [OPPeace.org](https://OPPeace.org).

# DRCC to Launch Sanctuary

By Dee Holleran

The Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, NY, has been a busy place during the pandemic shutdown. While programming has been mostly virtual, the center has been making upgrades to the property thanks to a generous grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation of New York City. The Foundation provides grants for organizations supporting vulnerable New Yorkers, including the disabled, the elderly, veterans, and former inmates.

The Dominican Retreat Center will use the grant to help launch a spiritual sanctuary for seniors, persons with disabilities and 12-step group members. *“The Sanctuary,”* Center Director Sr. Sue Zengulis says, *“is not a specific space, but the opportunity to grow in their own faith life without the worry of finances and logistics.”*

According to Sr. Sue, many people who might benefit from the center programming have limited access because of lack of transportation or income issues.

Under the current COVID restrictions, the grant has allowed the center to grow its virtual capacity and to improve the quality of its virtual events to extend spiritual programming to those who are confined to their homes due to Covid-19. After the restrictions are lifted, the Center will be able to offer scholarship and transportation assistance so that retreatants can attend programs in person. Upgrades within the facility, like more comfortable seating and more universally accessible spaces, will make the Center more comfortable for seniors.

*“We love opening the Center virtually,”* says Sr. Sue, *“but we are eager to welcome old friends and to become a new favorite place for spiritual refreshment to those in our area. We are so grateful for this gift that has helped us to become a more welcoming space.”*



If you would like to donate to the ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, visit our website at [OPPeace.org](http://OPPeace.org).



## Ministry Updates

The **St. Catharine Motherhouse** and **Sansbury Care Center** have received grants from Serving Our Aging Sisters (SOAR). The Motherhouse purchased special carts to keep meals warm when delivered to Sisters' rooms, which has been important during the pandemic. Sansbury was able to purchase a therapy tub.

**Sr. Rachel Sena** was recently featured on the Catholic Extensions website for her work helping to feed indigenous people in Arizona. Read about her in the STORIES section of [catholicextension.org](http://catholicextension.org).

The **Dominican Learning Center** and the **Martin de Porres Center** in Ohio have helped four learners obtain their US citizenship in the past four months.



Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Sisters and Associates in Mission