



# OPPEACE NEWS

how we minister in times such as these

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## A QUICK LOOK

Next Steps in Formation

Open Farm Day

Ministry Updates

## Next Steps in Formation

By Dee Holleran

May is a month for graduations...for moving from one stage of life's journey to another. At the Dominican Sisters of Peace, we are also celebrating our Sisters in formation as they travel their journeys to religious life. "Formation" is a process of several steps, including study and ministry, that a woman takes on her way to becoming a Dominican Sister of Peace.

Candidates Cathy Buchanan, who entered our House of Welcome in New Haven, CT, in June 2020, and Tram Bui, who entered the Columbus, OH, House of Welcome in December, have been approved to enter the Novitiate. While at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in Chicago, they will study at the Catholic Theological Union while continuing to deepen their understanding of Dominican Life and Mission.

After completing her Canonical year at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate, Sr. Annie Killian will visit the Columbus, OH, community before beginning her Apostolic year of the Novitiate and a two-year Fellowship at Notre Dame University.

Sr. Ellen Coates, who has been ministering as a COVID-19 contact tracer at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, as part of her Apostolic novitiate, will profess her first vows later this summer. She joins Sr. Phuong Vu, who took her first vows in December, in this commitment. Sr. Margaret Uche has been approved to renew her temporary vows and will continue her ministry as a home health care nurse in Wichita, KS.

Sr. Ana Gonzalez will make Perpetual Profession this summer. She will continue her ministry as Coordinator of International Admissions at Albertus Magnus College and as an animator with the Vocations Team.

# Open Farm Day

From the Great Bend Tribune, Great Bend, KS

The Sisters and Staff at Heartland Farm, an organic farm owned by the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Pawnee Rock, KS, were delighted to welcome local friends back for Open Farm Day in late April.

In order to facilitate social distancing, guests were asked to register to visit the different parts of the Farm and to take part in hands-on activities. What started as a way to ensure guest safety became a new way for friends to enjoy the many activities the Farm has to offer. The smaller groups visiting each area, including the alpacas, the high-tunnel greenhouse, and the chicken yard, had a more intimate opportunity to enjoy the serenity that life on the Farm has to offer.

Sr. Jane Belanger says that since the beginning, the 80-acre farm's mission has to been to demonstrate good stewardship of the land and the planet, through sustainable agricultural practices and through sharing the land with others. She hoped Saturday's event would help educate visitors on those practices, and to encourage them to carry on those practices, as well.

For more information on the farm and its programs, visit their website at <https://heartlandfarm-ks.org/>.



## Ministry Updates

### **The Martin de Porres**

Center in Columbus, OH, has received a large grant from the Columbus City Council to help fund the Center's violence prevention program, Dare to Live in Peace. Director, Yahaira Rose, Youth Coordinator, Mayra Betances, and Sr. Roberta Miller will coordinate eight weeks of summer programming to help youth learn new ways to build peace.

### **Summer Break**

Summer is right around the corner, and like many publications, the OPPeace News will take a printing break for the months of June, July, and August. We will still send an email version of this newsletter. You can sign up for emails from the Dominican Sisters of Peace by completing the form at the bottom of our website at [OPPeace.org](http://OPPeace.org). We will also feature a link to the newsletter on our home page.

We so appreciate your response to our newsletter these past months! We love sharing the work of our Sisters and our ministries, and we are always grateful for your prayers and support.



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