



# OPPEACE NEWS

how we minister in times such as these

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## A QUICK LOOK

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Religious Life

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## Show Me The Way: A Retreat for Women Discerning Religious Life

Laughter echoed in the Akron Motherhouse as five women who are considering religious life as a Dominican Sister of Peace gathered for our Come & See retreat this past weekend. What a joy to see their (masked) faces! This, our first in person retreat in two years, took extra effort on the part of retreatants, Ministry of Welcome - Vocations team and the Sisters and staff in our Motherhouses but it was worth it to be together "in real life." With strict COVID protocols in place, including testing, masking, and maintaining appropriate physical distance from each other, we were able to have a blessed retreat.

The four pillars of Dominican Spirituality formed the framework for the presentations, conducted in person and on Zoom. Sr. Linda Lee Jackson shared about the Pillar of Prayer, Sisters Maura Bartel and Ana Gonzalez explored the Pillar of Study, Sister Joanne Caniglia shared her deep love of the wide Dominican mission of service and Sisters Annie Killian and Mary Vuong shared their experience of Community, especially as they have recently established a new local community in South Bend, IN. We all felt a deep sense of connection, love, support and encouragement.

This retreat was truly a hybrid event, with five women in person at the Akron, OH, motherhouse and a sixth woman joining virtually from the St. Catherine, KY, motherhouse. In both locations, retreatants enjoyed the beauty of the motherhouse grounds, open areas, farm animals, chapels, community rooms and heritage exhibits. More Sisters joined us Saturday for an online social, including our sisters in formation in Indiana, Illinois, Connecticut, Louisiana, and Ohio.

From the opening prayer on Friday evening until we closed the retreat with the Dominican Blessing, we felt the prayers and support of our Sisters. Our locations might have been more than 300 miles apart, but the distance was made much shorter by the Spirit of God uniting us in a common quest – to discover God's plan and path for our lives.



# Hurricane Ida Strengthens Relationships in NOLA

Like so many residents of New Orleans, our Sisters and ministry staff are recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida, which hit August 29, 2021. We are blessed to report that our two ministries in the area, The Peace Center and St. Mary's Dominican High School, suffered no major damage.

More than 40 states sent utility trucks to help with recovery, and St. Mary's Dominican High School volunteered its parking lot as a staging area for these efforts. The school re-opened with in-person and virtual classes on September 13. Thankfully, St. Mary's Dominican had done a great deal of work to make the campus more weatherproof after Hurricane Katrina.

The Peace Center, located in the urban area of Gert Town, missed much of the storm's wind that caused so much damage. Sisters Pat Thomas and Suzanne Brauer have been working with their friends in the senior communities near the Center to assist with fans, food, and other necessities.

Sr. Dot Trosclair, Director of the New Orleans Archdiocesan Spirituality Center, and her staff of 11 have been offering a listening ear and prayers for those who have experienced damage from the storm. She has many stories about the sadness that her neighbors have experienced. ***"The gift of being a Director during this time is the gift of listening to others,"*** Sr. Dot says. ***"It takes us out of our own worries and expands our vision of things. It makes prayer fruitful because we can pray for them, and even when it is dry it becomes purposeful."***

We continue to pray for the people of New Orleans and our Sisters who live and minister in the city as they recover from this storm.



## Associate Updates



The Dominican Sisters of Peace are pleased to welcome Cecelia Amendolia, known by all as Ceil, as the new Director of Associates for the Congregation. Ceil has been affiliated with the Dominican Sisters of Peace since 1969, and has been active in our New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia retreat houses. Ceil will office at her home in Florida, but she has been on the road welcoming new associates, conducting retreats and celebrating recommitments.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace have more than 750 Associates around the nation and around the world. Associates help to run our ministries, like Ann Axman at the Heartland Spirituality Center, manage ministry efforts, like Activities Director Gaye Reissland in Columbus, OH, and work for the Congregation as staff, like Donna Medley in St. Catharine, KY.



Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Sisters and Associates in Mission