

# DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE



## BUILDING BRIDGES



CHANGING THE LIVES OF  
OUR NEIGHBORS WITH LOVE  
ACROSS THE STREET  
AND AROUND THE WORLD



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

# Table of Contents

01

A Message from  
our Prioress

02

Hope Changes  
Lives

03

Welcoming the  
Stranger Helps  
Reunite a Family  
in Kentucky

04

A Gift of  
Inspiration

05

Finding  
Freedom

06

Living the  
Dominican  
Charism Helps  
Amplify God's Call

07

Creating a  
Culture of  
Community

08

Discovering  
Purpose





Dear Friends,

Have you heard of the “butterfly effect?”

In this theory, scientists contend that “A very small change in initial conditions can create a significantly different outcome.”

This gives your Dominican Sisters of Peace and our collaborators hope as we desire that the interactions we have with others – whether in teaching, in faith formation, at one of our ministries, or even in an everyday interaction – can create a significantly different – and better – life for someone else.

### The Butterfly Effect:

“A very small change in initial conditions can create a significantly different outcome.”

In this year’s annual report, I’d like to tell you a few stories about the special effect that our Dominican Sisters of Peace have had on the lives of those we serve. Sometimes the work of a Sister can change an entire community – like the work done by Sr. Gene Poore and the members of the Jamaican Collaborative.

For Sisters Janice Thome and Roserita Weber in Garden City, KS, their work changes a family, helping young parents care for their children with confidence and love.

And sometimes, the actions of our daily lives...how we speak, how we pray, and how we treat others...amplify the voice of God for another. Our story about Sisters Mary Vuong and Tram Bui is one example of how that can happen.

Of course, we know that we cannot change the lives of our neighbors on our own... it is only through the grace of God that our actions are magnified to make a difference. But with your support – your donations and your prayers – and the powerful love of Christ, our Sisters are blessed to play a part in advancing God’s Reign of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace.

We are grateful always for your friendship and support.

Sr. Pat Twohill, OP  
Prioress



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

# Hope Changes *Lives*



Four students graduate from Skills Training in Food Preparation. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, food preparation is among the fastest-growing occupations in Jamaica.



**“We have learned that the work of genuinely transforming lives requires a vision that provides hope to vulnerable people lacking resources and options.”**

***Sr. Gene Poore, OP***

According to a study by the U.S. Partnership on Mobility from Poverty, only about 16 percent of “persistently poor children” become successful young adults. In a nation like Jamaica, where more than 25 percent of youth live below the poverty line, that means that a significant number of young people may feel that they have no opportunity to move past the generational poverty that they experience daily.

But thanks to the work of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, young people at Riverton Meadows in Kingston, Jamaica, see a way out of poverty and towards a better life.

Sister Gene Poore has been involved with summer programs in Jamaica in since 1992. Ten years ago, she started working with youth in Riverton Meadows, a settlement built on and around a landfill in Kingston, as part of the Jamaican Outreach Collaborative. The Jamaican Outreach Collaborative is supported by grants from Common Spirit Health as well as donations from people like you.

“The Jamaica Outreach Collaborative was born out of a collective realization by people serving in west Kingston,” said Sr. Gene. “After many years of working in the area, we came to understand that the issues facing these impoverished neighborhoods were not





*Top: Sr. Gene Poore, OP, and a child at the Summer program at St. Pius X in Kingston, Jamaica. These camps offer children safe and enriching summer activities and healthy snacks and lunches. Middle: Our work in Jamaica helps create joy! Bottom: Thanks to a focus on infant wellness by the Jamaican Outreach Collaborative and other groups, infant mortality has dropped steadily in Jamaica.*

only complex, but deeply rooted. The resources and expertise that were required to solve these issues seemed greater than one organization could offer.”

“We have learned that the work of genuinely transforming lives not only requires collaboration by people in and out of Kingston, but a vision that provides hope to vulnerable people lacking resources and options,” she continued.

The Jamaican Outreach Collaborative offers a wide range of aid – from healthy mom and baby clinics to summer camps to funding of schoolbooks and supplies. But one of the most transformative aspects of this ministry is the skills training program provided to young people.

With unemployment in the double digits across the island, more than 70% of those unemployed lack remedial academic skills, and 90% lack the professional skills that would make finding employment possible.

For more than a decade, the Dominican Sisters of Peace and the Jamaica Education Fund have been supporting youth in high school, universities, and in law school. They have sponsored 30-35 young people annually to receive the training that will make them employable and offer a way out of poverty.

“Jamaica has a rigorous permit and certification process for workers in most trades – from bookkeeping to security to nursing to cosmetology. These licenses and permits are often too costly for the

young people of Riverton Meadows, so we help them pay for the training that they need to start their career,” says Sister Gene. “Many young people just lack the confidence and the family support to try to further their studies. The team on the ground that are funded by the Jamaica Education Fund offer guidance, academic reinforcement, and moral support. All of this has been done with the help of grants and donations from people who support our work.”

Students can choose from more than 20 areas of study to find the career path appropriate to their own interests and talents. Once complete, they can find employment in Jamaica.



**Krishane Watson**, a tutor at the Riverton Meadows Youth Centre, told the Jamaica Observer in a recent newspaper article that as a young student, he had desperately hoped to find a facility where he could take lessons and obtain extra help. As an adult, he vowed to help youngsters with education.

Krishane tutors more than 4 hours daily in math, English, and social studies classes. With the help of the Jamaica Education Fund, he plans to attend teacher's college and obtain formal education in math and accounting.

**Kerry Ann Masters** is a proud graduate of the St. Pius X Skills Training Centre in Cosmetology. She was unemployed after high school, but Junior Rowe, Principal, Riverton Meadows Early Childhood Education Centre, encouraged her to start thinking of her future and introduced her to the St. Pius X Skills Training Centre.



Kerry's family did not believe she would finish the ten-month program, but with encouragement and the help of the Jamaica Education Fund, she graduated with a certificate in Cosmetology and is awaiting her professional certificate. She is grateful to those who support the Dominican Sisters of Peace and the Jamaica Education Fund for giving her the opportunity for skills training.

The increase in trained medical professionals that has resulted from the Jamaican Outreach Collaborative has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. While many medical professionals were not available to serve at the Riverton Clinic during the pandemic, students in practical nursing rotated shifts at the clinic when their classes were interrupted by COVID-19.

Their training made them indispensable to the Riverton area during this time of crisis. The sewing center founded by the Jamaican Outreach Collaborative, which offers employment to Riverton community members, also played a part in protecting the community from COVID, refocusing output from school uniforms and medical slings to much-needed face masks.

**30-35** young people sponsored annually.  
**300-350** since inception



**20** areas of study to find the career path that suits them best



**30+** years of service in Kingston, Jamaica



**8** partnerships ensure the success of the JOC



“We are not offering a band aid, but an avenue for transformation for individuals and the neighborhoods in which they live,” said Sr. Gene. “Education, skills training, and the opportunity for employment are the only ways young people can break the cycle of poverty and provide for themselves and their families. They want to be – they need to be – part of building a stronger, safer, and healthier community.”

## HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

The Jamaica Education Fund was created by a generous endowment from Jacqueline Loughhead, an international educator from Michigan. Your legacy gift can change the world, too. To discuss how to include the Dominican Sisters of Peace in your estate planning, call Sr. Madeline O'Neill at (614) 416-1023.



# Welcoming the Stranger Helps Reunite a Family in Kentucky



In our 2018 annual report, we told you about a Congolese refugee family that was hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Peace at St. Catharine. Today, I am happy to give you an update on how our friends Sandrine, Philemon, and baby Lucas are today in 2021.

Sandrine was 31, her son Philemon was 15, and her youngest, Lucas, was five months old when the family came to live at the Motherhouse in St. Catharine, KY.



Both Philemon and Lucas needed immediate medical attention when they arrived. Philemon had an infection that needed extensive – and expensive – treatment. The Sisters at St. Catharine were blessed with financial assistance from hospitals in Bardstown and Louisville, as well as a donation of medication from a pharmaceutical company. Both boys also needed immunizations before Philemon could begin school.



The Sisters helped drive the family members to many doctors' appointments and babysat little Lucas when necessary. The Sisters also helped Sandrine obtain health care coverage and legal assistance for her little family.

But it wasn't long after Sandrine and the boys arrived that we found out that her family was not as little as we thought!

Sandrine and her partner had separated at the border, fearing that a family of seven

TOP: Sandrine, Baby Lucas, and Philemon during their time at the St. Catharine Motherhouse in 2018. Middle and bottom: Sandrine, a much-bigger Lucas, and twins Samuel and Sabrina with baby Jemina.



might be too hard to place in the refugee system. Fridalin, the father of all Sandrine's children except Philemon, the couple's twins, Samuel and Sabrina, and 13-year-old Sagesse had all been sent to Maine.

In April of 2019, thanks to contributions from our supporters and friends, the Congregation was able to reunite Sandrine, Fridalin, and their children in a rented home in Louisville, KY. We left them in the sympathetic care of Kentucky Refugee Ministries in Louisville, but we do miss them a great deal. Baby Lucas got his first teeth and learned to walk at St. Catharine and brought us all great joy. Philemon taught us a great deal about what life as a teenager is like. The whole family made us aware of a big world outside St. Catharine.

I am happy to report that Sandrine and her family have gotten on their feet despite many challenges. Fridalin works hard to support his growing family, and he and Sandrine welcomed baby Jemina on July 4, 2020.

In September 2020, the family of one of our Sisters gave us a generous donation to help Sandrine and Fridalin and their children. We made sure that their car was in good running order, helped with rent, and had enough to make sure that the family had a merry Christmas.

Sandrine tells us that life in America has had its challenges, but that she and her family feel blessed by the opportunities they have in their new home. She is grateful to the Dominican Sisters of Peace and to our friends and supporters for helping her, Fridalin, and their children find their way here in Kentucky, and become self-sufficient members of their neighborhood, schools, and community.

We are grateful for your support which has helped us follow Christ's command in Matthew 25: "do for the least of our sisters and brothers, as we would do for Christ."

**Sr. Rose Marie Cummins, OP, has remained in contact with Sandrine, and wrote this story.**



*We were happy to see the family reunite, but sorry to see them go. Here, Philemon gives Sr. Elaine DesRosiers a goodbye hug.*

# A Gift of *Inspiration*



**“I was beyond thrilled to learn about Aurelia’s community efforts... this showed me that she also had a loving and generous heart that seeks to bless others.”**

***Sr. Margaret Mary Kennedy, OP***

Many of us are familiar with the parable of the Ten Talents. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells of a man who, prior to departing on a trip, gives three servants a small amount of money. Upon his return, two servants had doubled the money given to them, and the Master honored their efforts.

Jesus used this story to highlight the importance of faithful stewardship – using our gifts wisely for the benefit of the church and the people around us. At the Springs Learning Center in New Haven, CT, Sr. Margaret Mary Kennedy’s stewardship of a gift from the Yale Community for New Haven Fund not only helped many families, but impelled two learners to find their own way to help.

Aurelia Yocupicio moved to the United States with her husband Carlos in 2010.

The mom of two works at the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration, where in 2019, she was an Assistant Teacher in the Pre-Kindergarten Class, working with Spanish-speaking students.

Aurelia was interested in learning English to advance at work and to be more active in her parish, community, and her sons’ schoolwork. A fellow teacher at told her about the Springs Learning Center, and Aurelia registered for ESL classes.

Like so many teachers and child-care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine, Aurelia’s job suffered in 2020. Money was tight while the Family Academy was closed for COVID-19. When Sr. Margaret Mary Kennedy received the Yale grant, it was to help families just like Aurelia’s.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

Your donations help us purchase materials for learners and tutors, but we also need more volunteer tutors to help learners like Aurelia. You can volunteer in person or online, like Sally, who works with a learner from her home in the U.K., Daniel, who tutors online from Jamaica, and Mia, who works with an Ohio learner while living in Belize.

“The Yale Community grant allowed us to assist our learners in many ways,” said Sr. Margaret Mary. “We were able to supply tablets and hot spots to help our learners continue to study remotely. We were also able to distribute grocery gift cards and help our learners pay rent, utility, and medical bills. The Yale grant was a tremendous blessing.”

The grant was more than a blessing to Aurelia – it was an inspiration. As local quarantines began to loosen and her own family finances improved, she partnered with another learner to collect food and other resources to help neighbors in their neighborhood.

“I was beyond thrilled to learn about Aurelia’s community efforts,” said Sr. Margaret. “I knew from her work at the Learning Center that she is focused and determined, but this showed me that she also had a loving and generous heart that seeks to bless others.”

“I have been so blessed by the staff at the Springs

Learning Center,” Aurelia says. “After two years, I understand English much better, both in speaking and in reading. I have even learned computer skills in the Center’s Evening Classes, which are taught by a tutor from Albertus Magnus College.”

This school year, Aurelia will start a new job at the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration – serving as the Assistant teacher in the English preschool. We are grateful for her dedication to her studies and her community!



*Springs Learning Center learner Aurelia Yocupicio shared the blessings that she received from the Dominican Sisters of Peace*

## HOW WE ASSISTED OUR LEARNERS THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



### Technical Assistance

Supplied tablets and internet hot spots to help learners continue their studies remotely



### Food Assistance

Collected food and grocery gift cards to distribute to learners and their families



### Bill/Rent Assistance

Contributed funds to help our learners pay rent, utility and medical bills

# Finding *Freedom*



**"Selene has a great spirit! She is determined and has great potential."**

***Yahaira Rose, OPA***

When Selene, an immigrant from Mexico, married Luis and moved to Ohio, she thought her dream of normal life in America had begun.

But Luis isolated her at home, did not allow her to buy food or clothing for her children and abused her.

Selene was just beginning to learn English and having no one to talk to other than Luis, who belittled her efforts, she felt even more alone. She knew that this was not what she wanted her life to be, but she didn't know where to turn.

Her daughter, then in primary school, came home with an answer one day. "Mom, my friend belongs to this group, Proyecto Mariposas. It's all moms and daughters like us... learning to speak English and learning to get along in our new country. I want to join – and I want you to join, too!"

That is how Selene met the Dominican Sisters of Peace Associate Yahaira Rose, founder of Proyecto Mariposas and Director of the Martin de Porres Center, a community outreach and retreat center. Meeting Yahaira was the beginning of Selene's new life.

The moms and daughters in Proyecto Mariposas gather regularly for food, learning, and fun, creating a community of friends with not just a common language, but an immigrant experience much like Selene's own.

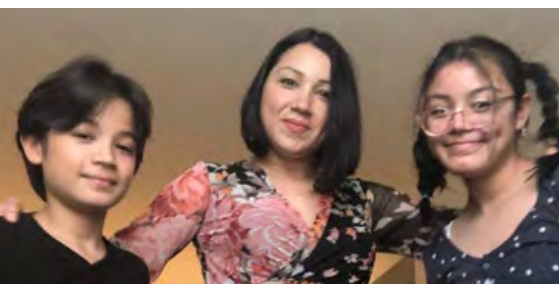
"I thought I was the only person in Columbus who spoke Spanish!" Selene says. "Meeting these people was a gift!"

Selene learned that the sadness and isolation that she was feeling was not normal. She met with a therapist who serves the families of Proyecto Mariposas as well as Rising Youth, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace that offers academic assistance and violence prevention services for local Latinx youth.

She also registered for classes at the Dominican Learning Center. Adriana Johnson, ESL Program Coordinator at the Center, says "Selene was so focused! She wanted to pass all four GED tests as quickly as possible - and she accomplished her goal.



*Selene finished her GED studies at the Dominican Learning Center in just four weeks. She is now studying for the citizenship exam.*



*Selene, son Alex, left, and daughter Keysha, right, have a safe place to live and a brighter future thanks to our Columbus, OH, ministries, supported by donors like you.*

## THROUGH DSOP PROGRAMMING, SELENE OBTAINED:

- ✓ GED
- ✓ New Job
- ✓ Safe Home
- ✓ Citizenship

She also wants to motivate others and promote our program. She even meets with our current learners to motivate them."

Ultimately, Selene determined that the healthiest thing she could do for her family was to get Luis out of their lives. It was ugly and difficult, but her newfound determination was bolstered when her son, Alex, came to her after she called the police to keep her husband from assaulting the two of them. "Mom, I am so proud of you," he said. "You did what you had to do – you kept us all safe."

It took Selene just four weeks to obtain her GED at the Dominican Learning Center. She has a new job, her children live in a safe place, and she is studying to obtain her US citizenship through a program offered by the Martin de Porres Center.

Yahaira Rose says, "Selene has a great spirit! I love working with her and her kids. She is determined and has great potential. I can't wait to work with her in other capacities and celebrate her successes in our community."

"God has been so good to me...he is truly my best friend," Selene says. "My friends at my church, Yahaira, the ESL teachers at the Dominican Learning Center, the lawyer I met through the Martin de Porres Center – they helped make my life better. I have my kids, my place, my job, and I hope that I can be brave for the next woman who needs help... that I can be the friend that I found by coming to Proyecto Mariposas, to Yahaira, and to the Dominican Sisters of Peace."

## HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

The Dominican Learning Center, Rising Youth, and the Martin de Porres Center are part of our Violence Prevention Initiative funded by CommonSpirit Health. You can help support our efforts to build peace with your donations or by volunteering.





# Living the Dominican Charism Helps Amplify God's Call



*A mission trip to Jamaica with Sr. Mary Vuong, OP, shown above, helped Sr. Tram Bui hear her own call to a religious vocation. This trip was possible thanks to the generous support of the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters and our donors, like you!*



**“Sr. Mary's example showed me that working with the body could also strengthen the soul, and that the work that I love is a form of preaching that I could offer to God as a religious Sister.”**

***Sr. Tram Bui***

As religious Sisters, we have all heard God's voice in different ways. For some, it was a still small voice. For others it was an event that made us see our life's path. And for Sister Tram Bui, currently at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in Chicago, IL, it was the example of another Sister who not only offered her a path to a profession, but eventually led her to her religious vocation.

Born in 1979 in Binh Gia, Vietnam, Tram is the daughter of Nghiem and Hanh Bui, and has four sisters, Teresa, Kieu Anh, Phuong, Lyly, and four brothers, Hoang, Tai, Trung, and Thanh. The family immigrated to America in 1997 and settled in Houston, TX, in 2005, where she attended Christ the Redeemer and Our Lady of Lourdes churches.



*Sr. Tram helps Sr. Robin Richard, OP, decorate cookies at the Columbus House of Welcome.*

"I have set  
you an  
example that  
you should do  
as I have  
done for you."

**John 13:15**

"I have met and known many sisters, including Sr. Mary Vuong, who is an occupational therapist. We met at the Motherhouse in St. Catharine, KY." Sister Tram tells us. "I was touched to see how tenderly Sr. Mary and the nursing staff cared for the elderly sisters and how they made a difference in their lives." Tram was so inspired by what she saw that she chose to continue her own studies in physical therapy, earning a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Texas Tech University Health Science Center in 2010. She served as a full-time physical therapist at a short-term stay skilled nursing facility in Houston.

When Tram returned home to Texas, she remained in contact with Sr. Mary. Sr. Mary was planning a trip to Jamaica to offer therapy to children suffering from physical disabilities, and Tram was invited to join in the mission service trip.

The children at Mustard Seed orphanage suffer from a combination of illnesses including HIV, mental disability, Down Syndrome, and physical disabilities including muscle contractions, limited limb mobility, blindness, and deafness. Sr. Mary and Tram brought new tools and training to the staff of the orphanage to help them better manage the care of these young people and to help each child reach their full potential.

"Watching Mary with these children opened up something in my mind and my heart," Tram says. "To see the joy and the love that she brought to this place, making therapy not just useful but fun. Her example showed me that working with the body could also strengthen the soul and that the work that I love is a form of preaching that I could offer to God as a religious Sister."

Tram came to live at the Columbus, OH, House of Welcome in 2020 and entered the Congregation as a candidate in December of the same year. She and her sister candidate, Cathy Buchanan, entered the Novitiate in August.

"Meeting the Dominican Sisters of Peace has made me feel very much at home – welcomed to the Community," Tram says. "I am blessed to experience the joy and caring that they have shared with me."

To Sister Mary Vuong, preaching through therapy is just another way to bring peace... creating comfort in the body to bring comfort to the soul. She is happy to see her friend Tram enter the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

"I am so happy that Tram has found her calling as a Dominican Sister of Peace," Mary says. "I have found a life that brings me joy, community, and a very special daily walk with God...I am blessed to be able to share it with my friend."

The Dominican Sisters of Peace have six women currently in various stages of formation and ministry. These women have come from various walks of life and careers as varied as international public health, medieval literature, and law enforcement. But each of these women were touched by an example that made God's call real to them – and each now serves to preach Christ's gospel in her own way.

What example do you set in your life? Are you welcoming to those who question? Your encouragement of religious vocation may help a woman hear the call of God for herself.



*Left, Sister Mary Vuong, second from left, with friends at her final profession, including Tram Bui. Right, Sr. Ellen Coates, Sr. Pat Dual, OP, Sr. Tram, and Sr. Margie Davis, OP, share a meal at the Columbus House of Welcome.*



### HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

Your donation to the Dominican Sisters of Peace helps to support Sisters of all ages...from women in formation at our Houses of Discernment and Welcome to our retired Sisters in our Motherhouses and Care Centers around the nation.

# Creating a Culture of Community



**"We help them solve one problem at a time, and little by little the stress begins to lessen. Everyone is happier when there is peace in the home."**

*Sr. Janice Thome, OP*

Moving can be difficult on a marriage. In fact, a study by American Van Lines shows that 64% of couples say that moving is more stressful than a divorce and can cause long-term damage to a relationship even if it survives.

Sisters Janice Thome and Roserita Weber in Garden City, KS, know this to be true. Garden City is home to a large meat-processing facility, and many families from around the United States, or from across the border, move to Garden City for a chance at a better life.

"There are many reasons this is so stressful," says Sr. Janice. "This is already a move of desperation: families can no longer pay their bills, and poverty is a huge cause of stress. Most leave family and friends, sacrificing their emotional support systems. They have great hopes

that the move will bring financial stability and the answer to their struggles. Unfortunately, this big move is sometimes a gamble that does not pay off quickly enough.

"It can take time for that anticipated job to come along. Sometimes the pay is better, but not enough. Sometimes the family faces new challenges in housing or healthcare. Without the support of family and friends, relationships start to break down. The wife complains to the husband, the husband blames the wife and the entire family suffers from the emotional abuse, which can, sadly, turn to physical abuse."

This is where the Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence can make a difference. The ministry of Sisters Roserita and Janice is to be present to

## HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates minister in 22 states and Nigeria. Your year-end gift will help us strengthen families and communities. Your legacy gift can change the world, too – to discuss how to include the Dominican Sisters of Peace in your estate planning, call Sr. Madeline O'Neill at (614) 416-1023.





*Top Left: Sr. Janice Thome helping Hilda sign forms. Hilda was injured in an accident more than 20 years ago and has lost most mobility on her left side. Top Right: Sr. Janice delivered much-needed food to a local family. Bottom: Sr. Roserita in an unusual but necessary ministry...giving driving lessons!*

persons in need, helping them find the resources they need, if available, and to create a way to help them if it is not. One of the Sisters will meet with a family to find out what they need: help with utility bills, food assistance, buying medications, filling out applications, driving instruction, transportation to appointments, applying for medical cards, or managing Medicare. When the person gets assistance for their most pressing issue, they can begin to focus on other, longer-term goals.

“It’s a process,” says Sr. Janice. “We help them solve one problem at a time and little by little, the stress lessens. There is less stress between the couple and in the family. Everyone is happier when there is peace in the home. One family that I visited every week for months has had no physical abuse for eight years. It is a miracle to see a family regain its health.”





*Sr. Roserita Weber delivering a check to help a local woman who lost her job during COVID pay her utility bills.*

## WAYS OUR SISTERS OFFER THEIR PRESENCE:



**Listening Ear**



**Transportation Assistance**



**Family Check-Ins**



**Teen Parent Educator**



**Resource Guidance**

As the ministry began, Sister Roserita was surprised to be asked to teach a woman how to use the state driver's license manual and to help her practice driving. This very practical ministry has been a necessity over the years as women were left at home without transportation while their men worked. Sister Roserita considers it "freeing the imprisoned," as she counts the more than 400 students she has helped to obtain their licenses. When Medicare began Part D-drug

coverage in 2006, she took training on the program and has since helped many people to acquire medication plans and handle other Medicare issues.

Sr. Janice also is a Teen Parent Educator with Parents as Teachers for the Garden City School District. In this role, she helps young parents understand the development of their child in all areas during the important period from pregnancy to age 3. She visits these new parents monthly to share information and help practice parenting activities and loves to see young families experience positive outcomes. As parents become more confident in their abilities, the stress of parenting as a young adult is less likely to affect their baby.

"One of my greatest joys is when I can help a teen mom or dad name the ways they are doing well for their child," says Sr. Janice. "This releases them to parent yet more positively. When I can help a young family parent with love and confidence, I know I am positively affecting the lives of future generations."

**Your donation, as well as your support of the Great Bend Raffle, help our Sisters around the world provide physical and spiritual assistance to God's people.**

# Discovering *Purpose*



*Cassidy Rinker says that her time at Heartland Farm helped her make wonderful friends.*



**"My time at the Heartland Farm community set my life on a new course."**

***Cassidy Rinker***

Cassidy Rinker, 27, was living in Madison, WI, and working a job that paid the bills... but was not interesting or fulfilling. The stress of the pandemic made it worse. But when her sister Lindsay Fisher, 37, approached her with an idea, she wasn't sure it was the best next move.

Travel to Kansas?

For six weeks?

To care for alpacas?

With a bunch of nuns?

Lindsay had learned to love alpacas on a college trip to Peru and Cassidy tried to be enthusiastic about an opportunity for her to pursue this dream. And the more she thought about it, the more she felt her sister's excitement. She needed to jump-start her life. Maybe this was the leap that she needed to take?

She quit her job and accompanied her sister to Pawnee Rock, KS, where the Dominican Sisters of Peace own a sustainably-managed farm and tend a herd of 15 alpacas.

"I didn't know anything about farming," Cassidy says. "I had lived in cities most of my life, and I was absolutely lost. But the Sisters welcomed me with open arms."

Sr. Jane Belanger, a longtime member of the Heartland Farm community, took Cassidy under her wing. "She was a great mentor, and she knows – and does – everything, from handling the plants to using the machines on the farm," Cassidy says. "I have never seen a woman with so much go-get-it-ness."



*Cassidy learned to tend the animals and to grow food using sustainable farming practices while at Heartland Farm.*

"I fell in love with the farm...with the quiet beauty of the land, and the rhythms of the weather and the crops and the animals," Cassidy said.

Cassidy also spent a great deal of time with Sr. Imelda Schmidt, who has lived on the farm for a total of 14 years.

"Sr. Imelda was so compassionate...she spent hours just listening to me talk about my old job and my old life. She didn't tell me what to do – she just pointed to things I might consider and let me find my own way," Cassidy said.

Cassidy signed up for an organic farming apprentice program and asked to remain at Heartland Farm until November to continue her training. Sr. Jane went one step further, hiring Cassidy to apprentice with the new Heartland Farm Assistant Manager.

According to Sonali McDermid, an assistant professor at the department of environmental studies at New York University, organic farming can boost yields over conventional farming because it relies less on water and chemical inputs. Cassidy will be part of a growing movement to feed more people while caring for Earth.

"The next few months will be an amazing learning opportunity," Cassidy said. "My time with Sr. Jane, Sr. Imelda, and the community here at Pawnee Rock literally set my life on a new course, giving it new meaning, new purpose, and wonderful new friends."

## HOW CAN YOU HELP BUILD A BRIDGE?

All three Dominican Sisters of Peace ecology centers practice and teach sustainable farming practices. Your gift to the Dominican Sisters of Peace helps us teach others how to feed a hungry world while caring for Earth.





(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)



(8)



(9)



(10)

## Formation Ceremonies

We are blessed by God with wonderful women who are joining religious life and the Dominican Sisters of Peace. From top left, **(1 and 7)** Sister Ellen Coates took her Temporary Vows, **(2, 3 and 10)** Srs. Tram Bui and Cathy Buchanan entered the Novitiate, **(4, 6 and 8)** Sr. Ana Gonzalez made her Final Profession, **(5)** Sr. Margaret Uche renewed her temporary vows, and **(9)** Sr. Phuong Vu made her Temporary Vows.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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## Associate Commitments






We are blessed to welcome not only a new Director of Associates, Cecelia Amendolia, (3) center left, but also new Associates and new commitments. From top left, Associate ceremonies in Memphis (1), Akron (2, 3, 4 and 5), and New Orleans (6).











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**Dominican Sisters of Peace** - [opeace.org](http://opeace.org)     





**Dominican Sisters of Peace: Vocations** - [opeace.org](http://opeace.org)   


**Albertus Magnus College**, New Haven, CT - [albertus.edu](http://albertus.edu)     


**Ohio Dominican University**, Columbus, OH - [ohiodominican.edu](http://ohiodominican.edu)     

**Dominican Academy**, New York, NY - [dominicanacademy.org](http://dominicanacademy.org)   

**Our Lady of the Elms School**, Akron, OH - [theelms.org](http://theelms.org)   

**St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School**, Memphis, TN - [saa-sds.org](http://saa-sds.org)    


**St. Mary's Dominican High School**, New Orleans, LA - [stmarysdominican.org](http://stmarysdominican.org)  




**Dominican Learning Center**, Columbus, OH - [domlearningcenter.org](http://domlearningcenter.org) 


**Siena Learning Center**, New Britain, CT - [sienalearningcenter.org](http://sienalearningcenter.org) 


**Springs Learning Center**, New Haven, CT - [springslearning.org](http://springslearning.org) 


**Mohun Health Care Center**, Columbus, OH - [mohun.org](http://mohun.org)

**Sansbury Care Center**, St. Catharine, KY - [Sansburycare.org](http://Sansburycare.org) 


**Crown Point Ecology Center**, Bath, OH - [crownpointecology.org](http://crownpointecology.org)   


**Heartland Farm**, Pawnee Rock, KS - [heartlandfarm-ks.org](http://heartlandfarm-ks.org) 

**St. Catharine Farm**, St. Catharine, KY - [scfarmkentucky.org](http://scfarmkentucky.org) 



**Shepherd's Corner**, Blacklick, OH - [shepherdscorner.org](http://shepherdscorner.org) 

**Dominican Retreat and Conference Center**, Niskayuna, NY -

[dominican-spiritual-life-center.org](http://dominican-spiritual-life-center.org) 

**Heartland Center for Spirituality**, Great Bend, KS - [heartlandspirituality.org](http://heartlandspirituality.org) 

**Martin de Porres Center**, Columbus, OH - [martindeporrescenter.net](http://martindeporrescenter.net)

**Peace Center**, New Orleans, LA - [thepeacecenternola.org](http://thepeacecenternola.org)  

**Lourdes Senior Community**, Waterford, MI - [lourdesseniorcommunity.org](http://lourdesseniorcommunity.org) 






**Cedar Park Place Senior Housing**, Great Bend, KS -

[mercyhousing.org/mountain-plains/cedar-park-place/](http://mercyhousing.org/mountain-plains/cedar-park-place/)






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***Find, follow and LIKE  
our ministries!***





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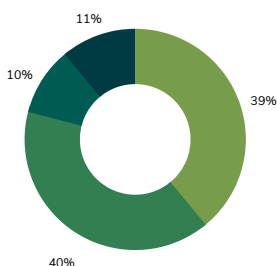
## Remembering Sisters Gone to God

As Sisters received their vaccines and we could again come together safely, we gathered to honor our Sisters who died during the pandemic quarantine. Shown here are ceremonies at St. Catharine in Kentucky (1, 3 and 5), Akron, OH (6), and Great Bend, KS (2, 4 and 7).

# Financial Report

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 | JULY 30, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**

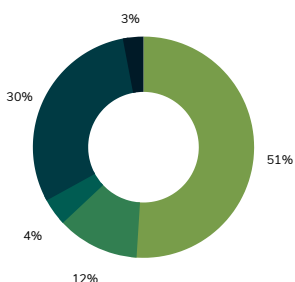
Financial donations given to the Dominican Sisters of Peace can be directed for use in any of four areas: Sisters' Ministries, Overseas Missions, Retirement, or the General Fund (to be used as needed). We are grateful for all contributions, which enable us to continue our mission of preaching the Gospel in word and deed to those in need. The Dominican Sisters of Peace, Inc., is a nonprofit, charitable, faith-based organization that is exempt from federal and state taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.



## DONOR GIFTS

General Fund - 39%	\$794,977
Sisters' Ministries - 40%	\$811,785
Overseas Missions - 10%	\$204,607
Retirement Needs - 11%	\$220,927

**Total Gift Income - \$2,032,296**

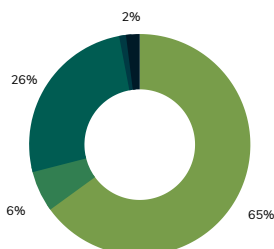


## INCOME

Sisters Compensation - 51%
Gift Income - 12%
Property Rentals - 4%
Gain on Sale of Assets - 30%
Other Income - 3%

As of June 30, 2021, Sisters Compensation includes income from 42 Sisters compensated for full-time employment outside the Congregation.

Other income includes sale of products, capital goods and royalties.



## EXPENSES

Motherhouse/Assisted Living/Skilled Care - 65%
Administrative Costs - 6%
Supported Ministries - 26%
Formation, Vocation, Justice - 1%
Fundraising Expenses - 2%

There are 381 vowed members.

### Audited Financial Statements

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, the Dominican Sisters of Peace were audited by the firm of Kerber, Eck, Braeckel, Springfield, IL. Audited financial statements are on file in the Finance Office, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH. For more information, contact CFO Joseph Scott, CPA, at (614) 416-1064.



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## Ecological Ministries

Our ecological ministries use methods that are gentle on the land to help feed our Sisters and neighbors. From top left, (1) Shepherd's Corner, Columbus, OH, conducts a burn to reinvigorate the grasses at the labyrinth, (2) Heartland Farm, Pawnee Rock, KS, plants winter crops in a high tunnel, (3) St. Catharine Farm, St. Catharine, KY, acts as a living laboratory for local farmers, (4) Heartland Farm donates firewood to needy families, (5) sheep at Shepherd's Corner greet visitors.



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# Acknowledgements

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. Madeline O'Neill at (614) 416-1023 or email [madeline.oneill@oppeace.org](mailto:madeline.oneill@oppeace.org).

Editorial team: Alice Black, OPA, PhD, Sr. Madeline O'Neill, OP, Dee Holleran, Ashley Apollonio-Hairston. Printing by Kenwel Printing, Columbus, OH.

We gratefully acknowledge those who contributed to this issue. We are dedicated to your privacy and never sell or share your personal information. For address corrections, please call us toll free at (855) 677-3223.

Thank you for reading our 2021 Annual Report. We are blessed to share our work with you. If you would like to see a full list of those generous donors who supported our ministries over the past year, please email us at [info@oppeace.org](mailto:info@oppeace.org).

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**We are grateful for your prayers, friendship and support.**