

VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

August 2018



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Dear First name:

As August comes to a close, we give thanks for this season of warmer, longer days to enjoy God's creation of outdoor life. We hope you've been able to enjoy nature walks, music in the parks, barbecues, picnics, and whatever activity lifts your spirits.

We are looking forward to our **September 7-9, 2018 Come and See Retreat** in St. Catharine, Kentucky. There's still time to register for this free weekend retreat and we have been delighted with the response of so many interested attendees. Don't miss out on sharing this discernment opportunity with others.

In this newsletter, read about our new novice, Sister Phuong Vu, and about three programs we've participated in over the summer months.

May you find love, hope, and inspiration in your comings and goings. May God's peace surround you in your search to understand God's will for you.

Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP; Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP; Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP; Mary Ellen George, OPA



New Novice

In August, one of our candidates, Phuong Vu, became a novice and now begins a two-year process of immersing herself in the Dominican charism of prayer, study, community, and ministry. She resides now at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate (CDN) in St. Louis, Missouri with two other novices, one of whom is from the Dominican Sisters of San Jose and the other is a Maryknoll Dominican Sister. This novitiate was established in 1988 by 15 Dominican Congregations and now serves 22 Congregations of apostolic Dominican Sisters in the United States.

You can learn about the life of the novices at the CDN through their monthly blog, which can be accessed via this [link](#).

National Black Sisters' Conference Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Sr. Pat Dual, OP

In the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on April 4, 1968, the Civil Rights Movement took a chaotic and deadly turn in Black communities and in U.S. cities across America. It was in this climate during April of 1968 that the first meeting of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in Detroit took place and was attended by one young Sister with vision. She was Sr. Martin de Porres, RSM. After attending this meeting, she knew that black Sisters must also become involved in working for racial justice and equality in America. The result was the birth of the National Black Sisters Conference (NBSC). The first meeting took place in Pittsburgh, PA during the summer of 1968. The Black Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) and the National Black Sisters Conference were founded to address the issues of racism in black life and to help the Catholic Church become more relevant in the lives of Black people and in the struggle for justice.

The first National Black Sisters Conference included 150 black women religious from 79 national and international congregations coming together for the first time. During the 50 years that followed, as they continued their mission, they became a source of support for each other, for the African American community and the wider Catholic Church. NBSC is now a national organization with 150 sisters and



associates who find that the original NBSC mission continues to be relevant in 2018, fifty years later. Their website <http://www.nbsc68.com/> and [Facebook](#) page offers photos and videos with more detail.

I have been part of NBSC only officially since 2005 when I first entered religious life. But I learned about them early during my discernment of religious life. In 2002, a sister invited me to a black Catholic women's gathering sponsored by NBSC. It became a pivotal moment in my discernment to become a religious sister.

The National Black Sisters Conference celebrated its 50th Anniversary in New Orleans in July. I was honored to be part of this historical gathering, as we honored the past and planned for the future. Its vision is still relevant in the 21st century and to me personally: "We as black women religious continue to stand at the forefront in the struggle for justice, giving witness to the saving truth of the gospel and the mission of Christ's Church on earth."

Marian Days Festival and Pilgrimage

Last month seven of us attended the 41st annual Marian Days Festival and Pilgrimage in Carthage, Missouri. This annual event brings together more than 100,000 Vietnamese Catholics with their families, friends and fellow Catholics along with the many people from the surrounding area. It is a time for prayer, fellowship with family & friends from Vietnam, celebration of the Holy Eucharist, opportunities for the sacrament of Reconciliation, workshops and presentations for all ages and special activities for youth and young adults.

We attend not only to participate in many of these activities such as the processions, workshops and Mass but also to reach out to others and share the good news of religious life. Several of our sisters originally met our congregation at Marian Days and are now on the "other side of the table" welcoming women who are considering religious life.

To give you a better flavor of the event, here are some pictures we took of our time there.



Life Commitment Program

by Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP

This summer, I participated in the Life Commitment Program, which is a week-long program that helps prepare one for taking perpetual vows and also helps one to live a life with the evangelical counsels (obedience, poverty and celibacy) joyfully. The program provided opportunities to gain a deeper understanding on living the vows more intentionally, and it also provided opportunities to get to know others who walk the same journey of discernment. It helps to know that we are walking this journey together. As one of the attendees says on [this video](#), we were a diverse group but we



came with the same intention to the program and we are in this together.

The week had a balanced schedule, which included, prayer, lectures, discussions, personal reflection, and leisure (playing games, beach volleyball, and touring Kansas City, Missouri). I came home renewed and energized about living out God's call as a vowed religious, and I am grateful for the experience this program provided.

Shown below are some photos of our group's time together in Leavenworth, Kansas. For more photos, click on this [link](#).





PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is one of the foundations of our life and we invite you to share your prayer requests with us. Please send them to vocations@oppeace.org. Please also keep us, our congregation, and your fellow discerners in prayer.

Learn more about us via our website at www.oppeace.org or on Facebook and Twitter

You can also contact our Vocation Ministers:

June Fitzgerald, OP -- jfitzgerald@oppeace.org
Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP -- mdnguyen@oppeace.org
Bea Tiboldi, OP -- btiboldi@oppeace.org



The Vatican's Pope Video

We join the universal Church and Pope Francis as we ask Jesus that any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity. You can listen to and watch via this video [here](#).



Check us out on Facebook. You'll find us by searching for *Vocations: Dominican Sisters*

of Peace.

Our daily posts offer you information on a wide range of topics about prayer and social justice issues, holidays and observances, inspirational quotes from Pope Francis and other noteworthy individuals, and stories about our sister's ministries. Don't hesitate to let us know what you think about a posting in the Comments section. We'd love to hear from you!

God Calling?? Blogs

Every Thursday we post a reflection on a variety of topics for our God

Calling?? blog. You can read our blogs by viewing our [homepage](#), and clicking on "News and Blogs" on the far right side of the menu bar. In the pull-down menu, you will see our God Calling?? blog and other blog series that we encourage you to read so that you can become familiar with what's important to us and what we're thinking about.



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Administrative Office: 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219