

VOCATION NEWS
FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE
May 2019



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

The month of May marks the end of some journeys and the start of others, especially for graduates who are completing milestones in their educational journey. Perhaps you or someone you know is experiencing a milestone in life that is cause for celebration? May your festivities be blessed.

We have two reflections to share in this month's newsletter about celebrations. One is the celebration of the perpetual vows of Sr. Bea Tiboldi and the other is Sr. Mai-Dung's reflection on Mother's Day.

We still have a few spaces left at our Pray, Serve, Reflect - Mission Immersion program, which will be held June 1-5 here in Columbus, Ohio. If you want to know about the experiences of other women who've attended our Mission Immersion event, you can read their testimonies below.

We welcome your suggestions for topics you would like us to present in this newsletter. Send us an email at vocations@oppeace.org. We look forward to hearing from you and knowing what you might find helpful in discerning where God is calling you.

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*



Mission Immersion Testimonies

"I liked having prayer together so that we could join together and be connected at the beginning and end of our day. It helped bring a sense of community to the group."

"I liked that there was plenty of free time for personal prayer or reflection or to spend time getting to know each other."

"I learned a lot of how to more effectively work toward peace and justice."

"I found the presentations, prayer, and reflection time helpful for processing

the work we did and connecting our local situation to global justice issues."

If interested in this experience, please contact Sr. June Fitzgerald at jfitzgerald@oppeace.org or call/text at 570-336-3991.

You can also click on the poster here to display our webpage for more information about this event.



Ask a Sister

Why would someone take the vows nowadays? Sr. Bea Tiboldi shares her insights.

At the beginning of my discernment, I didn't think of religious life in the light of the vows. That only became part of my discernment when I started to participate in a discernment group, and the vows were part of our conversations. At the beginning, I was focusing on trying to figure

out how I could follow God's call by sharing God's love with those most in need, and how I could share the immense joy that God filled me with. My desire to make a more peaceful world brought me to the Dominican Sisters of Peace. At first, taking the vows felt like 'part of the package-deal' that comes with religious life.

As I deepened my relationship with God, I recognized that taking the vows became my desire. Psalm 116 speaks to me a lot: "How can I thank the Lord?... I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call upon your holy name. My vows to you I will fulfill in the presence of all your people." When I prayed with this the first time, I was like Charlie Brown, exclaiming: "That's it!" That's exactly how I felt. I didn't know how I could express my gratitude to God. Reading Psalm 116, helped me put into words how I felt. I could go on and on; some people wrote books on the vows.

I'm going to highlight just one thought about each vow. The vow of obedience helps me to be more open to God, to my community, and to the needs of others, especially when I make decisions. The vow of poverty helps me to live in solidarity with the poor and to share things for the common good. By not being attached to a person or family, the vow of celibacy frees me to go where I can meet and serve the greater need. The vows help me to live out God's call and they help me to live out our Dominican mission.

How do you think of the vows at this time of your discernment?



A Mother's Day Reflection by Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen

On Mother's Day, we remember the love and care our Mom's have given to us. This year, my Mom is in the recovery process from surgery. Taking her to the hospital, staying next to her bed, and helping her with daily activities at home reminded me how much Mom has done for me and the whole family. Even during her recovery, she continues to reach out to people in my

family and relatives. Even though I keep reminding her no need to do so, her mind cannot be settled until everything is done. For example, when she was in the hospital, she wanted to make sure that someone was with my Dad because of his health condition. She asked me to call home and check on my cousins who had come to visit us, making sure they had a good time and were well fed. Later, at home, she helped me cook and did some light house chores even though she was still in pain.

Another impression I have of my Mom is her strong commitment to prayer. She prays with my Dad three times per day, watches Mass on the air daily and listens to a daily bible reflection on the radio. My parents are truly in the ministry of prayer. Being a witness of what she has lived out, I realize my Mom has become both an external and internal ambassador of love, care, and faith to each individual she meets and to the whole family including our extended family.

Yes, it is Mom who keeps family and relatives together and it is usually the Mom who nurtures the faith of the whole family. I suddenly remember this Vietnamese proverb: "Nghĩa mẹ như nước trong nguồn chảy ra," which means "love and care of Mom are like water stream never ended."

My Mom is not the only Mom who has such characteristics. I have seen similarities with other Moms too. For instance, when Moms travel or go shopping, their families are always in their minds. "Oh, this shirt is good for" or "my child...is doing....." They often talk

about their children, grandchildren, husband, etc. They truly bring their loved ones with them on their journeys wherever they go.

Most of the things Moms do are inexpressible and they are sometimes neglected by us. Without the many things that Moms do, family and society will fall apart, relatives won't have much connection and children won't have many good examples to follow.

Although Mother's Day has passed, I invite you to take time to reflect on the gifts your biological Mom and those you consider as Moms have given to you. Give thanks to God for your Mom and for her special gifts that God has bestowed on her. Send deep gratitude to your "Mom" in person or say a prayer for her in honor or memory of her.

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.



The Vatican's Pope Video

We join the universal Church and Pope Francis as we pray this month that the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent. You can listen to and watch this month's message [here](#).

Learn more about us via our website at www.oppeace.org or check us out on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

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



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Administrative Office: 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219