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## VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

November 2019



Dominican  
Sisters *of Peace*  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission

Vocations Office  
2320 Airport Drive  
Columbus, OH 43219

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Dear Mary Ellen,

We hope you enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving! As we enter into this Advent season of waiting and anticipation, we pray that you will know the gifts of peace and joy in your hearts today and always.

May you be open to all the blessings God wants to give you as you search to understand God's will for you.

Peace and Blessings,

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

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### Ask a Sister

*by Sister June Fitzgerald, OP*

**Question: How do Sisters celebrate Thanksgiving?**

With gusto!

Thanks for asking. We celebrate it with gusto! Some Sisters visit family, friends or other convents while many of us celebrate together with community.

Here is a little glimpse of how the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate, my community, and other communities within our congregation celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Prayer**



We began the day with prayer and Mass at our parish and then we had a Thanksgiving prayer service before our meal. We closed the day with prayer as we gathered in the chapel for Vespers. Some communities have a special Holy Hour of Adoration to thank God for the abundant blessings received.

### Cooking/Decorating

Just like most people, we pulled out the "good china" and set the table with care using our best tablecloth, napkins, centerpieces and extra chairs for our guests.

Then, we rolled up our sleeves, and the cooking began. As you can see from our pictures, we sliced, diced, sautéed, baked, stirred and worked together to make the feast a great celebration.

### Community

Thanksgiving Day would not be complete without lots of community time. At our House of Welcome in Columbus, the Sisters played a rousing game of "Heads up" that included charades--those pics are classified. Then, several of the Sisters help to serve meals at a local outreach center. The Dominican Novitiate welcomed other Sisters from the St. Louis area for an "extended community" dinner. After dinner at the House of Welcome in New Haven, the Sisters enjoyed the story, Gracias, narrated by Sr. Ana Gonzalez, and acted out with puppetry by her brother, Hector, who lives in the area.

Now on to the celebration of Advent.





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## Walking in St. Paul's Footsteps: A Pilgrimage Reflection

*by Sister Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP*

Last month, I joined 22 people on a pilgrimage to Greece and the Greek Isles, walking in the footsteps of St. Paul. Everything about St. Paul came alive in front of me.

As I traveled those days, I saw St. Paul walking endlessly on roads. Visiting Agora where he preached and was imprisoned, I felt his presence and his powerful witness of faith there. Then, coming to the river where St. Paul baptized people, I looked at the gently flowing water that holds so many historical stories of faith, perseverance and persecution. I could not believe that I was on the site where the first Christian church was established in Greece.

During the trip, viewing the historical Roman places and the Christian churches there, I felt the energy of St. Paul preaching and helping newly-formed Christian communities live out their faith. At the same time, I visualized the suffering Paul faced—rejection, criticism, frustration, and even being in prison for months.

How could he live with all these challenges and yet still preach? Two things came to my mind when I considered this question. First, he was able to say 'Yes' to the vocation that God was calling him to "adopt" in his new faith in order to be a preacher of the Resurrection of Jesus. Second, the support Paul received from the Christian community around him gave him the strength and encouragement to preach salvation to the Gentiles.

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20). Yes, St. Paul could move mountains because of his faith, and we can do difficult things too because God is on the journey with us, same as with Paul.

How much do we open our hearts to God and consider the vocation that God has called us to and to grow in that faith?



Group picture right where St. Paul preached in Athens.



Sr. Mai-Dung standing next to foundation in Agora where St. Paul preached in Corinth.



St. Paul's prison in Filippi.



Sitting at the river where St. Paul baptized people.





## Blessed – Broken – Given

by Sister Bea Tiboldi

**Blessed - Broken - Given:** this was the theme for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) that Sr. June Fitzgerald, Candidate Annie Killian, and Sr. Bea Tiboldi attended last week. In several readings or reflections, we heard the Emmaus story as the people on the journey encountered Jesus. When young people stopped by our booth, we asked them what they liked the most about this conference.

Some said, the concert and music really brought them alive about their faith. Others said they liked Eucharistic adoration the most - especially that the songs were picked perfectly, helping participants enter into a deeper "prayer-mode." Others said it was nice to be with "others" who are excited about their faith, which to name that number, it's not just a few people, but 20,000 people! Others mentioned they liked the break-out sessions on various topics.

Not everything at NCYC was serious though. If you google or search YouTube for NCYC, you might see young people walking around in hats shaped like a cow, cheese, piñata, crown, horse, clown fish, shark, bacon, or flying pig, etc. Personalized clothespins were used to tag someone unknowingly, symbolizing 'Clipped for Christ' game. T-shirts with various messages, silicone bands, and pins were also a hit. A message on a t-shirt caught my eyes during one of the Mass celebrations: "Anyone who has truly experienced God's love doesn't need much time to go out and proclaim it. So what are you waiting for?" (Pope Francis) This message would sum up my feelings about this conference. Anyone who was there was on fire about their faith in Christ, and I am praying they go out and share that faith with one another.

We were all encouraged by Brian Greenfield, one of the emcees of the 2021 NCYC, to bring a friend to the next conference. I think they will. See you there in 2021.





Shepherd's Corner

Ecology Center  
Dominican Sisters of Peace

### Maggie Francesca Llama

At the end of October, Shepherd's Corner, one of our ecology centers, welcomed a new llama, **Maggie Francesca Llama**. **She came to us from McFarland's Llama Farm** as Maggie but the farm staff decided to add Francesca to her name as a way to celebrate the special connection that St. Francis of Assisi had with all of God's creatures. Maggie only had a few days of training to get familiar with her new surroundings before she took on her ministry full-time: watching over the flock of sheep. Next time you are in the Columbus, OH area, plan to visit Maggie and the sheep.

## Global Sisters Report

Have you heard about Global Sisters Report (GSR)? This is a resource that you will surely want to frequent for news and information about Catholic sisters and their work. GSR is an online news magazine, launched by The National Catholic Reporter (NCR), that features news and commentaries by women religious on such topics as environmental issues, economic inequality/poverty, social justice issues, and spirituality. Sisters also share their perspectives on the changing landscape of religious life and offer reflections on their ministry.



[GlobalSistersReport.org](http://GlobalSistersReport.org), presents a realistic portrait of Catholic sisters in a changing world and so we want to encourage you to check out this dedicated resource about women religious.

Just last month, GSR introduced a new feature, [GSR in the Classroom](#), “to help students learn about the varied missions and ministries of Catholic women religious — and religious life — around the world.” If you teach in a parish or school, you will find this free resource a welcome addition of lessons for use with Catholic middle and high school students and in faith formation programs.

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### 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](mailto: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 that a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Middle East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together. You can listen to and watch this month's message [here](#).

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Learn more about us via our website at [www.oppeace.org](http://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](mailto:jfitzgerald@oppeace.org)  
Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP -- [mdnguyen@oppeace.org](mailto:mdnguyen@oppeace.org)  
Bea Tiboldi, OP -- [btiboldi@oppeace.org](mailto:btiboldi@oppeace.org)



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Administrative Office: 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219