

VOCATION NEWS
FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE
October 2019



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Ever mindful that God is always present among us, Carl Jung noted that "Whether invoked or not, God will be present." We hope during these autumn days that you find time to enjoy the changing landscape and find God present in your comings and goings.

May God's peace surround you in your search to understand God's will for you.

Enjoy the plentiful news we have to share with you this month.

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

National Vocation Awareness Week

National Vocation Awareness Week is Nov. 3–Nov. 9, 2019 and it's a fitting time to check out this YouTube video, "[Millennial Nuns Share their Journeys to Becoming Sisters](#)." Hear the stories of four women who "decided to leave behind the 9-to-5 lifestyle" to become sisters. See our Facebook postings during this week for links to more videos and educational stories about vocations.

Emmaus Discernment Group

Join us for our next discernment group gathering on **Friday, November 11th at 7 p.m. EST**. We will be talking about managing relationships in community, led by Sr. June Fitzgerald. Her sister will be sharing what it's like to be a sister of a sister in religious life. If you are interested in joining this monthly discernment group, please contact Sr. Bea Tiboldi at btiboldi@oppeace.org or call or text her at 614-400-1255.

Mission Immersion Experience

Another event that you will surely want to attend is our **January 2020 Mission Immersion** program, which will be held in New Orleans. During this five-day experience of prayer, study, community, and ministry, we will be making a meal for families in need at Hotel Hope and we will also help with rebuilding a house affected by weather conditions in the area through the Nuns Build program. Click on the link [here](#) to see the flyer and contact Sr. Bea at 614-400-1255 or btiboldi@oppeace.org if you would like to register or if you have any questions about it.



A CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WOMEN *of the* **CHURCH**

Strength of the past. Hope for tomorrow.

Women of the Church Conference

by Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP

The weekend of October 18-20, Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP and Sr. Maidung Nguyen, OP attended the [Women of the Church Conference](#) at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana.

Different from the local Catholic women conferences organized by dioceses, this Women of the Church Conference was organized by the Catholic Leadership Women's Conference. Women from different states attended this event. Among the speakers were women holding leadership positions in universities, religious congregations, dioceses, or churches. These women of faith have wide visions and positive attitudes, dare to speak, to dream and to take actions to make the church a better one for everyone. For detailed information on this event and about the speakers, visit their [website](#).

Besides three keynote speaker sessions, there was a panel discussion, a banquet with a wonderful concert, and different breakout sessions covering various topics, such as the history of women in the church, the family, and peace and justice. I attended two breakout sessions about self-balance: "Flourishing in Ministry: Wellness, Restoration, and Essential Relationships" and "Don't Be Weary: Spiritual Practices for Busy Women of Faith." These



Cecilia González-Andrieu, Ph.D.
Theologian from Loyola Marymount
University



sessions deepened my awareness of my whole being and motivated me to balance my life for the sake of God's mission.

Attending this Women of the Church Conference, I saw myself as a part of a women's movement within the Church to make the church and society a better place to be. Sometimes we are at the front; sometimes we move to the back. No matter where we have been, we have never stopped influencing the church and we continue to do so at every opportunity.

We keep listening to the signs of our time, speaking and confronting authority. We keep equipping ourselves with education, faith, vision, and compassion. We continue to help the church become a more egalitarian church, which Vatican II defined. We, women of the Church, play critical roles in our church, as we have in the past, are doing now and will be doing in the future. Like other pioneering religious women before us, we will pass our spirit, torch, and legacy to the next generation.

Audience listens to
Keynote presentation
by Kerry Robinson



Kim Harris, D. Min and
Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP



Some of the women who gathered for the
Women of the Church Conference



Emily Sipos-Butler,
a conference Coordinator
and Sr. Maidung Nguyen, OP
with cardboard image of Pope Francis
at the conference





Dominican Preaching Colloquium

by Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP

While Sisters June and Mai Dung promoted vocations at the Women of the Church Conference, Sr. Bea participated in the North American Preaching Colloquium. She came back very energized as she reflected on her time there: “It was wonderful to be among ‘preaching giants’ and to reconnect with sisters, nuns, and brothers of our Dominican family. We were encouraged to be immersed in the Word of God and share God’s love ‘in a way that others know they have encountered Jesus.’ (Sr. Megan McElroy, OP) It was so good to learn techniques of evangelization in the way Jesus lived out the mission: through proclamation, witness, dialogue, liberation, encounter, table-fellowship, foot-washing, and crossing boundaries. We also brainstormed ways of fanning and carrying the flame of preaching.”

Being Signs of Courageous Hope: Religious Formation Congress 2019

by Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP

One of the things you will discover as you learn more about Dominicans is that we are always looking for ways to learn, to be stretched and to network with other religious for the sake of the mission. This past weekend, several Dominican Sisters of Peace had the honor of participating in a gathering of women and men religious involved in the formation/training of newer members of religious congregations.

This was a time of learning about ways to help new religious learn about intercultural living, how the Catholic Church is responding to the crisis on our southern border, and building resiliency skills for healthy religious life, among other topics. We also had the opportunity to celebrate our Sr. Helen Cahill, OP, who has spent almost 30 years helping in the area of religious formation. To read more about the congress, click [here](#). Here are a few photos from the event.



Sr. Ana Gonzalez responds to Fr. Bryan Massingale's keynote address.



Sr. Bea Tiboldi, Sr. Ana Gonzalez and Novice Ellen Coates



Sr. Ellen Dauwer, SC presents the Mary Emil Penet Award to Sr. Helen Cahill, OP



Dominican Sisters from around the country gather for a group picture.



Ask a Sister

Question: What advice do you have for those discerning vowed religious life?



Sr. Michelle Sherliza, OP: “Pray, be at peace, and talk to a Sister who loves being a Sister.”



Sr. Pat Dual, OP: “Be open, discern with someone who is a mentor or spiritual director, know yourself, your desires and your challenges, what you like and what you dislike. Discern how God connects with you and how you experience God.”



Sr. Robin Richard, OP: “Continually ask the Holy Spirit in prayer to guide you - even at difficult times.”



Sr. Roosie Loomis, OP: “Find someone, like a spiritual director or any of our Sisters, with whom you can talk about any of your questions. Ask your questions. Pray very hard. Stay with the process, and always trust the result.”

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 that the Holy Spirit will engender a new flowering of missionaries in the Church. 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
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Be sure to add our email address to your address book or safe senders list so our emails get to your inbox.

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