

VOCATION NEWS
FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE
September 2019



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Dear First name,

The falling of autumn leaves is symbolic of the spiritual life of letting go of what holds us back from being grounded in God and being open to changes and transformations in our life. Autumn certainly shows us how beautiful transformations can be, even though we may resist change and find it difficult to let go of what hinders us from growing in our relationship with God and with others.

As you embrace this autumn season, we hope you find grace and peace in whatever transformations you find happening in your life.

May you find 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*



Come and See Reflection
by Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP

The “Come and See weekend retreat” is both a “Come and See” event and a “retreat.” Discerners came to see who the sisters are and what they do to promote their community’s mission. This event provided an opportunity for discerners to make connections with other discerners and our sisters, who journeyed with the discerners and were able to get to know them better. During this retreat, discerners and sisters also came with a spirit of openness and trust in God, with an

attentiveness to God's voice, and an openness to God, allowing God to work or stir up something within.

We were pleased with the diversity of the discerners and sisters who participated in this Come and See experience. Discerners represented several ethnicities, professional careers, and ages. We hope each discerner was able to bring something home with her and received affirmation about her call, whether to live as a religious sister, or as a married or single woman. She might decide to join this community, another community, or need more time for her discernment. This might be a time for her to establish a good connection with sisters or other participants. She might be touched by the grace of God for what she needs the most at this time. Based on the evaluations and the responses, we were pleased with the outcomes. You can learn more about this "Come and See" weekend retreat by reading [Sr. Bea's blog](#).

For me, what I saw during the weekend was a shiny thread of faith with multiple colors that God has used to create a beautiful canvas. On this canvas, each participant played a significant role. I also saw the authentic Eucharist living among us. Sisters and discerners received each other, shared stories, and were sent out to grow in their relationship with God. I praise God for this beautiful faith journey. It is a profound weekend.

If you are interested, you may come to more than one "Come and See" weekend retreat. If you have never attended, please consider coming at least one time. Our next "Come and See" retreat will be March 13-15, 2020 in Columbus.

Emmaus Discernment Group

by Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP

The Emmaus Discernment group resumed its monthly schedule. In September, we discussed questions about discernment, about living in community, and about religious life in general. We read three articles that served us as conversation starters. Since one of the articles introduced Annie Killian, our newest Candidate (the first phase after you enter religious life), we asked Annie many questions. Annie shared a bit about her discernment, what helped her in her discernment, and how it has been since she entered. She finds her greatest joy in prayer, in faith sharing, and in community life. She really enjoys the conversations at the dinner table, and how we make decisions mutually. For example, recently, the community where Annie lives decided to purchase produce from a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) on a regular basis. Her greatest challenge has been getting home by a set time for dinner (there are times when she needs to stop correcting her students' assignments so she can get home for dinner).

A few of the women who have been participating in these gatherings regularly could not join us in September because some were still on their way home from the Come and See retreat, and some had to catch up with work. We will see them in October. In addition, we welcomed a few new members. Sr. Bea found joy in seeing that the women truly walk this journey together, asking more and more questions each time, and the level of trust is truly amazing.

Our next discernment group gathering will be on Friday, October 11th at 7 p.m. EST. We will be discussing living the vows of obedience, celibacy and poverty as a Dominican Sister of Peace.

We are looking forward to seeing you again.



Regional Discernment Events

by Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP

Our Vocation team really gets around. This month, and next, our Vocation Ministers have or will have participated in events in the Dioceses of Columbus, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; and Boston, Massachusetts.

In Columbus, Ohio on September 12, we participated in the annual Columbus Diocesan Marian Dinner hosted by The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus. It was an evening of prayer, friendship, learning, and discerning about vocations for women. Sisters Bea Tiboldi and June Fitzgerald attended along with two discerners who were visiting our Columbus Motherhouse. Over 180 people attended this event, including approximately 100 women discerning a call to religious life. We had the opportunity to share the joys of our life with many women in attendance.

On October 2, Sr. June Fitzgerald will present “[Discernment 101](#)” to the [FIAT Discernment](#) group for women in the Archdiocese of Boston. This group meets monthly at several locations around the Boston area and draws students from Harvard, Boston College, Emmanuel College, and Boston University as well as professional women from the area. The meetings include prayer, a presentation on a topic related to religious life, time for discussion, and fellowship with other women in discernment.

In Louisville, Kentucky, we participate in “Planting Seeds,” a Diocesan Vocation Promotion network of Vocation Ministers from various religious congregations and the Louisville Diocesan Vocation Director. This fall, they will continue hosting dinners after Sunday Mass at Bellarmine University and the University of Louisville. These dinners bring students and religious together for food and fellowship after worship. Also in Louisville, the “Planting Seeds” group will be sponsoring an essay and poster contest about religious life. Student entries may be submitted between November 2019 and January 10, 2020. Winners will be announced in February.



Discerners and Sisters with Bishop Brennan at the diocesan Marian Dinner in Columbus.

Ask a Sister



We asked Sr. Diane Kozlowski OP (in photo, right) and Sr. JoAnn Hohenbrink OP (in photo, left) how they asked God for a sign to know whether their vocation was really God's call to religious life?

Sr. Diane shared: "I don't know if I asked for a sign, but I did have a lot of conversation. I talked with friends, I talked with Sisters who were in the community, and I prayed with a prayer group that I was a part of."

Sr. JoAnn said: "I talked to Sr. Diane [Kozlowski], because Diane and I were at the university at the same time, a year apart. Diane and I were in a group together, where young women talked about the possibility of vocations, and how to be part of a broader group, and how God is in our lives."

Pope Francis once said: "*Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer, and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.*" Our Sisters pray every day for those who are seeking to know God's will, for those who are discerning vowed religious life, and for those who are in formation. Be assured of our continuous prayers for you.

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.