

**VOCATION NEWS**  
**FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE**  
**February 2020**

---



Dominican  
Sisters *of Peace*  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission

**Vocations Office**  
**2320 Airport Drive**  
**Columbus, OH 43219**

---

Dear First name,

As we enter into this Lenten season, we invite you to embark on a reflective journey of spiritual growth as presented in this video [here](#) from our community. Our Sisters talk about the power of communal prayer, placing our gifts at the service of others, living a contemplative life, and other topics that you may find uplifting and helpful in your spiritual quest and thirst to know God.



The Vocation team wishes you a fruitful and blessed Lent.

Peace and Blessings,

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

---



## Lenten Message

Our Prioress, Sr. Pat Twohill, OP offers a Lenten message that we want to share with you [here](#).

As Sister Pat says in her reflection, our days go by much too quickly. We are blessed with the season of Lent, when we are called to slow down and redirect ourselves towards the Lord. How are you planning to turn your life more

towards God?

The Dominican Sisters of Peace have some ideas that will help you to observe the Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving in your life. Please click here to visit our special website feature, [Lent Day by Day](#).

Over these 40 days of Lent, may we deepen our relationship with the Living God in prayer; see Christ's face in those with whom we share alms, and become more sensitive to our hunger for deep union with God as we fast.

---

## What do you Gain or Receive from Lent?

*by Sr. Mai Dung Nguyen*

During Lent, we focus on giving alms and praying. One day, a young adult asked me, "Sister, I am curious what you give up for Lent?" I replied, "Tell me first what you want to gain during Lent?" He responded, "What do you mean '*gain*'?"

"Charity, praying, and sacrifice are all good Lenten practices," I replied, "But, we should gain something from these practices, not for recognition or honor, but for our spiritual growth and faith journey." I gave him three examples to think about and to consider which one(s) demonstrated the Lenten spirit:

- One day, I saw a man drop a box of left-over pizza on the ground for a homeless man lying on the street. The man used his leg to push the box closer to the homeless man and when he did this, the homeless man opened his eyes and the box. After checking the box, he closed his eyes, closed the box, and put it aside.
- One time, a group of teenagers sorted food for the poor at a parish. They stood straight and without bending their knees, dropped apples and veggies from a high point. Someone asked them, "Tell me, do you eat bruised apples?" "No!" they replied. "So, why do you want the poor to eat the bruised apples if you drop them from such a high point?"
- Another time when I was recuperating in the hospital, one person shared with me, "I have prayed in front of the Eucharist for more than 25 years every day, but I did not

really recognize the real meaning of the Eucharist until recently. Now, I am deeply aware that being with you here is the way to share my daily Eucharist.”

Doing charitable works or praying are good Lenten practices. However, we need to ask ourselves if we have spent time reflecting, learning, and gaining understanding from these practices. Do our practices help us to respect each other, to love, to show compassion, to appreciate others, or to be open to God’s ways? Or, do we just want to put God and others under our perspective box or our own assumption?

Jesus fasted and prayed to do God’s will. When we engage in our Lenten practices, I hope we **gain** something for our faith journey so that we can respond wholeheartedly to God. Can we say, “Yes, Here I am, Lord” or “Lord, I am open to your guidance. Lead me to where you mean for me to be and mold me to be an instrument of your Peace.”

---

## Emmaus Discernment Group

by Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP

Drawing from the experience of the two disciples when they were having conversations on their way to Emmaus and Jesus appeared to them, we encourage women in discernment to live out their discipleship by walking with one another as they walk their journey with God. We meet online once a month, on a Friday evening between 7:30-9:00pm EST.



Our Dominican spirituality is lived out in a life of prayer, study, ministry and life in community. The Emmaus group is a good opportunity to pray together, to learn about religious life as well as to learn about a topic related to discernment, to hear about ministries through which Sisters respond to various needs, and it’s never too early to be there for one another.

According to Sr. Melanie Svoboda, SND, there are three ways for building a friendship. First, by giving friendship a chance to be born. The second, by developing our ability to listen. Third, “by becoming a more interesting and upbeat person. This means, we take a real interest in the larger world (...) we read, we ask questions, we learn, we try new things, we keep our curiosity alive.” (*Traits of a healthy spirituality*, p.23) The Emmaus group is a good way to practice community life even at the early stages of discernment.

We re-started this group last academic year. Topics we have included in the past are: discernment, what are the vows and living the vows, stages of discernment, prayer and deepening our relationship with God, managing friendships, living peace and our sense of mission for peace and justice, Dominican prayer life and spirituality, and broadening our images of God. We are looking forward to discussing these future topics: Inter-congregational relationships for the mission, and interfaith opportunities (March 2020), Spirituality and ecumenical context as a source of ministry (April 2020), and Ministries, and how someone is missioned for a ministry (May 2020.)

If you haven't been part of this group yet but would like to give it a try, please contact Sr. Bea at [btiboldi@oppeace.org](mailto:btiboldi@oppeace.org) or call/text 614-400-1255.

---



## Ask a Sister

by Sr. Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP

### How is a Sister assigned to live in a certain community?

In the beginning, when you are in the formation process of becoming a Sister, you will be assigned a community to live with so you can learn about community life. We also want to expose you to different communities so you can get to know more Sisters.

After your final profession as a Sister, you can decide where you want to live and with which community. You will make this decision in consultation with the congregation's Leadership team and the community with whom you want to live. This arrangement is done through a mutual discernment process. During this process, Sisters in the community or from the Leadership team may give some suggestions for you to consider and then the final decision will come from the Prioress. In some cases, the Leadership team needs to be involved early in the discernment process, and this is done with care and respect for you.

---

## Nun Fun

If you've ever wondered whether and how Sisters celebrate the holidays, these pictures capture the joy and fun Sisters at the Columbus Motherhouse had dressing up in costumes for Mardi Gras. Everyone enjoyed this festive celebration.





## 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@opeace.org](mailto:vocations@opeace.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 cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal human smuggling and human trafficking, may be heard and considered. You can listen to and watch this month's message [here](#).

---

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)

---



Be sure to add our email address to your address book or safe senders list so our emails get to your inbox.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Dominican Sisters of Peace and Ministries](#)

Administrative Office: 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219