VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

June 2020



Vocations Office 2320 Airport Drive Columbus, OH 43219

Dear Mary Ellen,

May the winds of change propel you to make new discoveries and to embrace whatever direction the Spirit leads you. We continue to pray that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

May you find time in solitude for prayer and reflection to deepen your relationship with God.



Peace and Blessings,

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



As we pray for victims of violence, especially our sisters and brothers of color, let us commit to addressing our own racial biases and make our voices heard to eradicate racism so that injustice does not grow because of our silence. The Dominican Sisters of Peace offer their support in declaring that Black Lives Matter and that racism is a sin. See the congregation's statement here on the death of George Floyd.



Virtual Mission for Peace

Seeds Planted & Growth Experienced

Twelve women participated in our fiveday Mission for Peace program, zooming in from eight states--Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia. We enjoyed

presentations by 16 of our Dominican SIsters of Peace, who also zoomed in from across the country and one from Nigeria. Presentation topics included cosmology, ecology & care of creation, ministry to the marginalized, and immigration and social justice issues. We also learned about our Sister's ministries to Catholic Native Americans, to immigrants on the Texas-Mexico border, and about our mission work in Nigeria. You can read more about this program from Sr. Bea's blog.

Click here to read testimonials from this event.



On Becoming a Dominican Sister

by Annie Killian

I became a novice with the Dominican Sisters of Peace on Saturday, June 13. A reading from Colossians heralded my reception into the novitiate: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Col.

3: 12). During my year as a candidate, I observed the Sisters habitually practice these virtues. Soulfully compassionate, they uphold those who suffer through their prayer, ministries, and advocacy. They remain humble about their vocation, always seeking to learn and do more for God's people. And their commitment to bearing with one another gently and patiently is attested daily in their communal life.

One word from this Colossians passage particularly touched my heart: "kindness." Such a simple word, and yet it speaks beautifully to the meaning of becoming a Sister. *Kind* comes from an Old English word signifying what is natural, innate, hereditary, and genuine. Humankind shares a common human nature. Our kin are the people to whom we are related by ancestral heritage. We feel a sense of kinship with those who have similar interests and experiences as we do. By extension, we tend to be kind, benevolent, and affectionate toward our kin - and any others we feel akin to.

This semantic range gives the word *kind* deep theological significance in early English religious writing. Christ became one of humankind, taking on our nature to redeem us. As members of Christ's body, we are all kin to one another, united by our sharing in the Eucharist. Jesus showed us the greatest loving-kindness possible by suffering death that we might have eternal life.

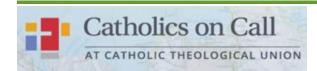
Click here to read more.

Weaving as Prayer and Ministry

In these uncertain times, we invite you to set aside time to pray in whatever way you are best able to connect with God. This may be by reading scripture, taking a walk through nature, engaging in music or some art form, or some other experience.

We invite you to view this <u>video</u> about how Sr. Barbara Rapp, OP finds weaving serves as prayer and ministry for her.





Free Online Retreat: July 20-24

Direction for Your Life in

Uncertain Times

Catholics on Call is holding a five-day online retreat for young adults (18-40) who are discerning how God is calling them during this challenging season.

Each speaker will be uploading content, and the director of liturgy will prepare prayer experiences. All of these opportunities can be accessed *asynchronously*, as each person's schedule permits during the retreat week. Speakers for the retreat will be—

Stephen Bevans, SVD, Catholic Theological Union Milton Javier Bravo, Commonweal Magazine Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Manhattan College Mumbi Kigutha, C.PP.S., Sisters of the Precious Blood Carolina Perez Palacio, University of St. Thomas

There will be three times as a whole group over the Zoom platform for prayer, small group breakouts, and large group discussions. Those synchronous elements will take place at 7:00pmCDT on July 20, July 22, and July 24. They will last 60-90 minutes.

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Click this link to find the registration page.



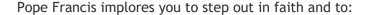
If you're interested in learning more about how sisters across the globe are ministering to refugees, check out "Seeking Refuge" from the Global Sisters Report (GSR) website. You will find a

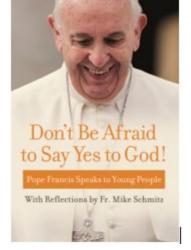
wealth of information from GSR about the many ways sisters minister to God's people around the world.

Book Review: Don't Be Afraid to Say Yes to God!

Pope Francis speaks boldly with love and encouragement to all who are discerning God's call in their lives. "Don't Be Afraid to Say Yes to God!" is an apt title for this compelling book written by Father Mike Schmitz.

The writings, homilies, prayers and addresses of Pope Francis are organized into chapters exploring major themes of discernment and exploring God's call in your life. Each excerpt is paired with reflection questions for you to use to explore the topic further, to take to prayer and reflect on how it relates to your life and journey.





"Put on Christ!" in your life, and you will find a friend in whom you can always trust: "Put on Christ," and you will see the wings of hope spreading and letting you journey with joy toward the future; "Put on Christ," and your life will be full of his love; it will be a fruitful life."

-Homily, World Youth Day, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 25, 2013.

I found this book helpful and recommend it for anyone discerning his or her vocational call. It is available from the Word Among Us Press at http://www.wau.org or from your vocation minister.

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 all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus. 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 -- <u>ifitzgerald@oppeace.org</u>
Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP -- <u>mdnguyen@oppeace.org</u>
Bea Tiboldi, OP -- <u>btiboldi@oppeace.org</u>







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Dominican Sisters of Peace and Ministries

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