
VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

March 2020



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Dear Mary Ellen,

We are grateful that we can still connect with you, especially during these very difficult days of sheltering in place and loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We care about you and hope you are doing well.

Let us join our hearts in prayer for all those serving our brothers and sisters in the service professions, as we say [this prayer](#) from America magazine.

Also, the Dominican Sisters of Peace offer you a special selection of [videos](#) designed to help bring you peace in this time of uncertainty.

In these final days of Lent, we invite you to reflect on the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving by viewing these videos by our Sisters in our [Lent Day-by-Day](#) series of reflections.

May your Holy Week reflections deepen your faith and give you pause for reflecting on God's love for us in the dying and rising of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

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





March 2020 Come & See Retreat Cancelled Amid COVID-19 Crisis

by Sr. June Fitzgerald, Vocation Director

We made the difficult decision to cancel our Come & See retreat, scheduled for March 13 - 15, out of an abundance of caution as the Coronavirus began to spread through our country. We struggled with the decision to cancel it and brought the question to prayer. As I placed the flyer in front of the altar and sat to pray, I called to mind all of the women who were planning to attend the program, the sisters who were preparing testimonials and our Vocations team as they fine-tuned our schedule, prepared our retreat

booklet and wrote prayer services and talks. I could imagine the communion of Saints and saints gathered around all of us and I felt confident that God was with us no matter what our decision regarding the retreat.

Turning to scripture, I opened my Bible to the prophet Jeremiah 29:11 and read, “For surely I know the plans for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” I did not stop there. I read the entire chapter 29 and could see God’s faithfulness, guidance, consolation, challenge, and promise. Jeremiah is speaking to a people exiled and assuring them that God is with them, will bring them back, and will give them more than they had before. It is a consoling story and it is one that we can reflect on as we wonder about this time of quarantine and separation from the people and activities that usually occupy our time and focus.

God is calling us to faithfulness. In verse 13 we read, “if you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.” Inspired by this promise, I encourage you to seek God with all your heart--to spend more time in prayer, reflection, and reaching out to others who need a word of encouragement. Your voice, virtual presence on FaceTime or a card may be just the thing someone needs to lift their spirits and be reassured of the support and love they need to get through this. We will get through this together.

If you're looking for a retreat to begin Holy Week, we would like to invite you to a [virtual Palm Sunday retreat](#) this coming Sunday, April 5th from 2 to 5pm ET. Please contact me (jfitzgerald@oppeace.org or 570-336-3991) for more information and to register.



Stations of the Cross

As we enter into Holy Week next week and reflect on the Stations of the Cross, we see two acts of kindness extended to Jesus as he carried his cross. First, Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross and then Veronica wipes the face of Jesus of his blood and sweat. These acts of kindness speak of the compassion we are capable of especially during troubling times. Whatever cross we may be carrying or have yet to carry, let us turn to Jesus on how to carry our crosses.

For your Holy Week reflection, we offer you this link [here](#) for praying the Stations of the Cross. You may want to write your own reflection on one of the stations as a spiritual practice during this week.

Strengthening Your Prayer Life

If you are looking for a few resources to enhance your prayer life, we invite you to check out these free Dominican resources:

- Listen to reflection on the daily reading preached by Dominicans at <http://word.op.org>.
- Read some daily and weekly preachings (in English and Spanish) at <https://www.preacherexchange.com>, and find many other helpful resources for spiritual reflection.
- Be inspired and encouraged with a weekly reflection on God's Word in a series of preachings by our Dominican Sisters of Peace at <https://oppeace.org/news/wednesdays-word/>.

Master of the Order

Dominican Sisters of Peace are part of the worldwide Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans. The Master of the Order, Father Gerard Francisco P. Timoner III, OP wrote a [letter](#) to all of us during this time of quarantine. It is a letter of encouragement, hope and solidarity. We hope you find meaning in it for yourself.





Pursuing Justice

You might have heard that our motto is to “*Be peace. Build peace. Preach peace.*” But have you ever wondered, how Dominican Sisters of Peace keep up with justice issues as a congregation?

Each week, Sisters and Associates receive an update on justice issues affecting people in our country. As a new citizen of the U.S., I like receiving these this news because the updates don’t just list justice issues, but many times there is a link to a House Bill law or other links to further studies that can help me gain a better understanding about these concerns.

We are providing you with a link to these justice updates, so that you, too, can follow these updates and take action if you wish to. When you click on the link, you will see this week’s updates, as well as past updates.
<https://oppeace.org/news/peace-justice-weekly-updates/>



How a Sister Chooses Her Ministry

by Sr. Mai Dung Nguyen

We are often asked how a Sister chooses her ministry. In the past, when congregations were engaged in the same ministry, such as teaching, nursing, or social work, a sister would be expected to minister in that particular ministry. Today, our congregation is engaged in a variety of ministries and each

sister has the freedom to discern how best to use her gifts for the needs of the congregation and the world.

Women who enter our congregation come with particular talents, gifts, interests and education. Some are already actively engaged in a profession, such as teaching, physical therapy, pastoral ministry, or counseling. All of this is taken into consideration when a sister is discerning how best to serve.

Sisters search for the ministry in which they want to be involved and discuss this interest with appropriate congregational leadership, friends, and other trusted mentors. Sometimes, the congregation invites a particular Sister to serve the congregation itself in administration, leadership, vocation ministry or in another ministry, such as caring for our senior sisters. As we do take a vow of obedience, final approval for a chosen ministry must come from the Prioress before a Sister accepts her new ministry. You may be interested to know that many sisters are involved in a variety of ministries over their lifetime.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration in New Haven

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day around the country was more subdued this year. However, the wearing of the green, sharing of traditional Irish fare such as Soda Bread, Corned Beef, Cabbage and the quintessential "Irish Coffee" went on albeit in full consideration of safety measures. Here are a few pictures of our sisters at the House of Welcome in New Haven, Connecticut and our Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky.



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 together for the sick, for the people who are suffering. 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
Mai-Dung Nguyen, OP -- mdnguyen@oppeace.org
Bea Tiboldi, OP -- 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.

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