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

May 2020



**Dominican
Sisters of Peace**
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

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

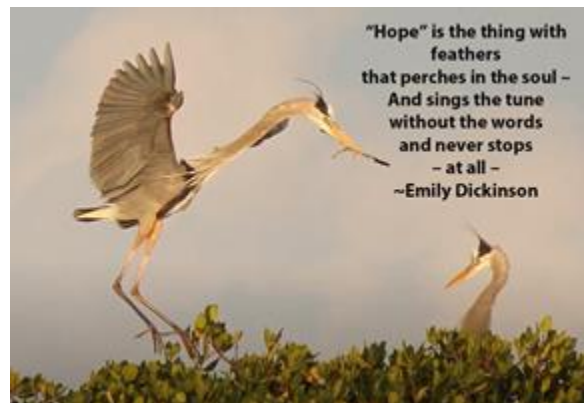
Dear Mary Ellen,

Peace and blessings as you continue to live through this pandemic! We 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*



Meet Our Newest Candidate

In March, Cathy Buchanan was accepted as a Candidate to enter formation with our congregation. She will enter in a few months. Until then, she continues to live in New Jersey and minister as a Pastoral Associate. Recently we asked her about her discernment journey, the things that helped her in the process and how she made the decision to apply to enter the congregation.

What helped you in your discernment?

Prayer and spiritual direction are two of the biggest tools that have helped me in my discernment. My spiritual director has a great gift in helping me to understand the spiritual life, has introduced me to new ways of prayer and in being aware of God's presence in my daily life. She is a great reflective listener, she knows me very well and served as an objective voice in my discernment.

How long have you been discerning?

I've been discerning religious life for a long time but most recently in "active" discernment for about two years. I spent the first year in prayer to help know God's will for my life and to better understand where God might be leading me. By "active" discernment, I mean acting on the promptings of God from my prayer, and by contacting religious communities and spending time in conversation with their vocation directors. I also began to visit communities and learned about their community life, prayer and ministries first hand.

How did you discern?

Part of my discernment was to dedicate a year to visiting different religious communities and looking for opportunities to attend discernment events. I studied the community's charisms and missions to see if I felt my gifts might fit with these communities. And then I prayed for God's guidance to help me choose the best community for me.



Of all of these things, what was most helpful to you in making a decision and why?

The most helpful for me in making a decision was meeting the Sisters and hearing their stories about how God called them. In each Sister I encountered, I heard something in their story that resonated with my story. It was then that I didn't feel so different and I began to envision myself in religious life. I used to think you had to be perfectly holy to become a religious Sister but the Sisters helped me realize no one is perfectly holy and what was necessary was to constantly strive to do the next right thing each day.

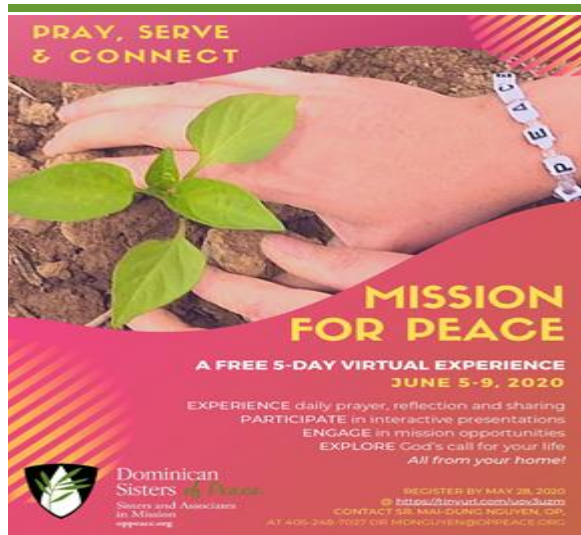
I witnessed the joy of the Sisters, their passion for ministry and for those they serve. These insights confirmed for me that this was the community God was calling me to.

What advice would you give to a woman who is just beginning her discernment journey?

Give yourself the time and tools to make a good decision. Make time for retreats, prayer and spiritual direction. Visit communities, learn about their spirituality and ministries and prayerfully reflect on your own gifts and passions. Trust God to help you make a good decision.

Your favorite scripture quote?

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24: 32)



Virtual Mission for Peace Registration Still Open

Excitement is building for our virtual Mission for Peace program. Nine women have registered and there's still time for you to register if you do so by May 28th.

Participants in this five-day virtual event will have the opportunity to study and pray with Dominicans Sisters of Peace, to take part in interactive discussions and presentations, and to engage in online and at-home mission opportunities. You

will have time for individual prayer and reflection, journaling your experiences, group

prayer, and time to reflect on your service experiences while exploring the connection between faith and mission.

Each day, we will have three Zoom sessions. The 90-minute **morning** session will include prayer and an interactive presentation on a topic. The one-hour **afternoon** session will focus on yet another interactive presentation followed by personal time for activities, reflection, or study. We will regather for two hours in the **evening** to share our experiences of services and other activities associated with the day's presentation, to pray together, and to reflect on God's presence in our lives.

Participants will have opportunities for personal phone conversations with presenters or sisters on the Vocation team if they wish. Presentation topics include cosmology, ecology & care of creation, ministry to the marginalized, and immigration and social justice issues. Click [here](#) for a schedule of the program.

Here's what past participants said about their program experience:

"... I found the presentations, prayer, and reflection time helpful for processing the work we did and connecting our local situation to global justice issues... I enjoyed our conversation and found that I got to know OP Peace better..."

"... I can now see all opportunities that are available to me and I have the inspiration to pursue them"

" ...God's creation really came alive within me. I don't know where I'm headed but I'm one step closer than I was before..."

We look forward to sharing this time with you, whether you have been in discernment for some period or are just beginning to discern where God might be calling you.

While we strongly encourage participants to join the whole program, we recognize that some of you may be able to join us for only a few sessions. We welcome you to join us as you are able. Click [here](#) to register. Don't hesitate to contact Sr. Maidung (405-248-7027, mdnguyen@oppeace.org) if you have any questions or concerns.



Marian Virtual Retreat

Ten discerners and four women in formation, along with sisters and associates from the Vocations Team and Houses of Welcome, gathered together to pray in the companionship of Mary on May 17, 2020, as part of our Marian Virtual Mini-Retreat.

Click [here](#) to read more about the retreat.

Peace in a Time of Pandemic.

In these uncertain times, many of us need a break--from bad news, from fake news, from close quarters and daily briefings.

So here are a few positive gems from us to you. The first is a [prayer](#) from our Prioress Sr. Pat Twohill and a [video](#) of Sr. Anne Lythgoe who shares how creating pottery is a prayer for her. May these resources help you to come to a calmer place in your heart and your spirit.



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 deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire 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
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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