
VOCATION NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

October 2020



Dominican
Sisters *of Peace*
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Vocations Office
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Columbus, OH 43219

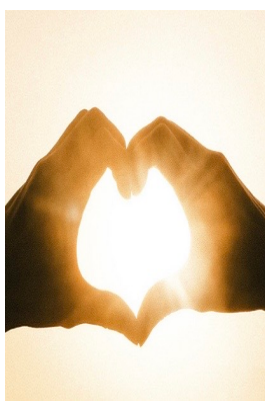
Dear Mary Ellen,

As we approach this historical election next week, we pray for peace. May peace reign in our hearts, among our neighbors, and in our nation. As votes are cast and people stand in lines, we pray for everyone's safety. And once the results are known, we pray to work for peace always. May the God of hope be with us.

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



National Vocation Awareness Week: November 1-7, 2020


It's coming! It starts on All Saints day, and it goes for a week. Pope Francis says: "Every vocation always requires an exodus from oneself in order to center one's life on Christ and on his Gospel." If you have ever played with the thoughts of religious life, or if you have questions that you would like to ask, join us for a "Meet and Greet" online. Click [here](#) for more information, or text/call Sr. Bea Tiboldi OP (614-400-1255) with any questions.

**Waiting
in Joyful
Hope**

Free Online Advent Discernment Retreat

NOVEMBER
29 | 2 - 5 PM EST
Catholic Single Woman,
age 18-45

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 Dominican Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates
in Mission
opeace.org

Contact: Sr. Maidung Nguyen, OP
at mdnguyen@opeace.org
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Waiting in Joyful Hope: A Free Virtual Advent Discernment Mini-Retreat

We live in extraordinary, unusual circumstances with so many uncertainties and challenges. Like the people in ancient times waiting for their Messiah, we wait in hope and longing for how life will unfold in our times. For many of you, you may hope for clarity indiscerning your vocation. Waiting is an act of trust in the unfolding of God's plan for us and hope grows from this waiting and trusting.

Advent, of course, is a time for waiting, trusting, and hoping that our God will bring new light into the darkness of life. Let us wait in joyful hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. **We invite you to join us for an Advent mini-retreat: "Waiting in Joyful Hope" on the first Advent Sunday, November 29, 2020, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm EST.**

This mini-retreat will give you time to ponder and explore the meaning of Advent as you wait in joyful hope for where God is calling you. Come to pray, listen, and share hope together. You can register by visiting our website at opeace.org.

My Journey of Preparation for First Vows by Sr. *Phuong Vu*

As an apostolic novice, I currently live in community with three perpetually professed sisters and engage in full-time ministry at St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans. My apostolic year is one of actually living and practicing what I learned during my canonical year of the novitiate, where I focused on prayer, formation in Dominican religious life, the study of the vows, theology and the lived experience of intercultural, and inter-congregational community life.



After four years of living with the Dominican Sisters of Peace, I now understood what it is to live as one family with joy and peace. Besides having a deeper relationship with God, I find that this way of life, in this congregation, is the best fit for me. It is where I feel that I can become my best self. Confident of this, I requested permission to profess my first vows of obedience, poverty and celibacy for three years. My request was granted before the pandemic and I was full of joy, anticipating a celebratory Mass of profession surrounded by my Dominican Sisters, family, and friends.

However, COVID-19 has reframed every aspect of our lives, including the celebration of my first profession of vows, which was postponed for a few months. I came to realize that I may not be able to celebrate my vows with my Sisters at the Columbus Motherhouse because of safety precautions. Now, I will be celebrating my vows on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, with my Dominican family at the high school where I minister.

Looking back on my years of formation for religious life, I have learned how important it is to have a clear awareness of myself. I asked myself the questions "Why am I feeling so dark? How do I find joy, peace, and trust to make my life commitment in this uncertain time?" I prayed this psalm, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23 grounded me and helped me overcome the darkness and worry I was feeling about how the future would unfold, and eventually, I began to feel at peace. I believe that God journeys with me and comforts me during this difficult time.

I learned from my vow class that "living the vows must begin from the present moment, even before publically professing vows." The vows of obedience and poverty remind me to pray with God, to let go of control and to listen to the community for the common good. At first, the stay-at-home order here in New Orleans was extremely challenging, but over the months, I have become grateful for the unexpected blessings. Staying home, I have had more time to pray, to spend time with the Sisters in my community, and to connect with others in different ways. This is how God is calling me to practice living the vows. I am living each moment fully, knowing myself, and creating healthy relationships with the Sisters and others. I am so aware that all three vows weave together in these circumstances, giving me a new way to celebrate my profession of vows in peace.

With support from the Congregation, I am enthusiastically entering a new phase of my life: my vowed life. I will have a simple ceremony for my first profession, but I feel at peace because I put others' safety beyond my desires and I know that I am not alone. I trust that God will provide me with all that I need.



Collaborative Dominican Novitiate

Novice Annie Killian reflects on stewardship and creation in her [blog](#) while at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate (CDN) in Chicago. You can read the blogs of other CDN novices [here](#) for a rich flavor of their life and experiences.

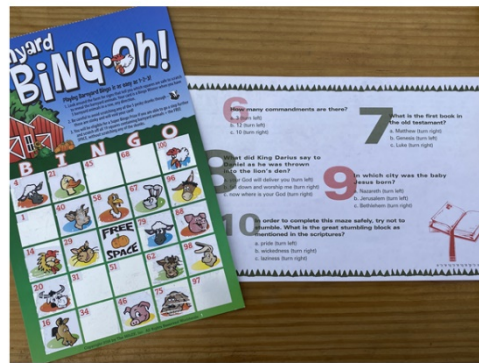
The CDN is where novices from Dominican congregations live together in community to study Dominican life and to develop a richer prayer life. The canonical year is intended to give novices time to delve more deeply into religious life and the community's charism, to understand the meaning of the vows, and to explore prayer forms more intimately.

Ask a Sister by Sr. Bea Tiboldi

How do Sisters celebrate birthdays?

One way Sisters celebrate birthdays is by praying by name for those who have a birthday that day during our Morning Prayer. We pray in thanksgiving for their life and presence among us & for God's blessings on them. Beyond that, it really depends on one's local community how someone celebrates life.

Let me share how we celebrated my last birthday. Being a twin, I send a message to my twin first. I do it when I go to bed, since he is six hours ahead of me. This way, when he gets up, he can see a message from me. Then, I am ready to celebrate with my community.



I love playing games and spending time laughing as we play Pictionary or Heads-up (similar to charades). In my local community, during this pandemic, games have become a weekend "routine" with Rummikub or Mexican train.

Since my birthday was early in the Fall, I chose to go to a corn maze ([The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek](#)). This may not sound exciting, but it was really fun. As we walked the maze, at each 'milestone,' there was a bingo game. To "mark" our success at the correct space, we had to scratch off the corresponding field, which in return revealed a farm animal surprise. To find our way through the field, we each had a 'direction' card that had ten questions. We had to respond to these questions in order to know which direction to take. We each chose a card with different themes--Halloween, TV and music, American history, and Scripture--so that even if one of us got the answer wrong on our card, someone else might have a correct answer on their card, and then we could head in the right direction (...mostly.)

After walking the maze, we enjoyed hot, homemade apple cider. We also played the duck race, where a little rubber ducky sits in a half of a plastic pipe, and we had to pump water in it; the water moved the ducky forward. We fed the goats, pet a few animals, and at the end, we picked our pumpkins. Click [here](#) to see the entire list of the family activities one can enjoy at this farm.

Then, we drove to my favorite restaurant, Mi Mexico, and enjoyed a delicious meal. At home, we enjoyed the traditional "Happy birthday" song and the homemade pineapple upside down cake (my favorite.) Click [here](#) for pictures of the day.

Dominican Sisters Conference: Futuring Conversations

Our Congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is one of 18 congregations of apostolic Dominican Sisters who belong to the Dominican Sisters Conference in order to network and collaborate on various projects. The Congregational Leaders in the Conference meet each year, and in 2020, they invited 100 younger Dominican Sisters to engage in conversation with them about the future of Dominican Life and Mission in the U.S. The scriptural image of Visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, provided a context for our meeting and discussions. The "older" leaders see themselves as the Elizabeth's and the younger sisters identify as the Mary's in the story of the Visitation.

Ten Dominican Sisters of Peace, representing the "Mary's" in our congregation, attended the conference. Over the course of two days, we reflected and dreamed about ways we can continue to grow and live our Dominican apostolic life. Although, held entirely on-line, it was a lively, prayerful and intimate time. The gathering saw Sisters and guests throwing air kisses, lighting candles, dancing and praying in the electronic "cloud" of a zoom call.

In addition to the serious conversations during the day, there were times to gather in virtual break out rooms for social time. Here is one such group, enjoying each other's company:



During our meeting we celebrated our connection as Dominican Sisters and members of the worldwide Dominican Order. Our legacy is one that began with Dominic's vision of lighting the world on fire with the Word and it continues today in our lives, ministries and outreach. We commit ourselves to continuing that legacy and to reaching out, inviting others to join with us in this adventure.

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 by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church, without falling into forms of clericalism that diminish the lay charism. 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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