

# a Gift to the Future

## ANNUAL REPORT



Dominican  
Sisters *of Peace*  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission

## FROM THE PRIORESS

### Sr. Patricia Twohill, OP

When I was considering the theme of this year's annual report, A Gift to the Future, I found myself drawn to the words of the apostle in the First Book of Peter: Chapter 1.

"He has caused us to be born again to a living hope."

A living hope. What a wonderful gift – a gift I see on display every day in our ministries around the world.

I see it in our learning centers, where adult learners grow their knowledge and improve their lives and the lives of their families.

I see it in our care centers, where our senior Sisters, our wisdom figures, offer their final and most important ministry – lifting the hopes of the world to God in prayer.

I see in our community outreach, where our Sisters preach Christ's love through caring for the needs of our youth and families. And I see in the ministries that we share with you in this year's annual report.



Our ministries, our growing congregation, and our service to God and God's people – supported always by your donations and your prayers – are a living hope for the future of our world.

Thank you for living your hope for peace by supporting our work for peace every day.

With gratitude always -

Sr. Pat Twohill, OP  
Prioress





High school students and Sisters  
worship together at a  
Kairos retreat in Great Bend, KS.

# A Gift to the Future

PEACE IN COMMUNITY





**Rising Youth student and Sr. Roberta Miller, OP, during a 2023 Rising Youth Fall session.**

In the fall of 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. Part of this is due to the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 140,000 children in the United States lost a primary and/or secondary caregiver to the pandemic, while thousands more suffered from financial instability and decreased quality of educational resources.

### **Martin de Porres Center**

Martin de Porres Youth Program Manager Mayra Betances saw this firsthand, not only with her three

teenaged children, but in her own life. "I am normally a very outgoing person," Betances said. "I have no trouble talking to people, asking questions – but after COVID, I found myself experiencing anxiety about social situations. It was just not normal for me – I can't imagine how it felt for young people."

Fortunately, Betances had a way to help at least a small group of young people cope with this sort of anxiety. Betances was planning the summer camps to be held at Columbus, OH, Martin de Porres Center, and decided to create programming that built confidence in those who attended.



**“After COVID, I found myself experiencing anxiety about social situations.”**

Martin de Porres Youth Program  
Manager Mayra Betances

The result was “What to Expect When You’re Adulthood,” a hands-on introduction to the skills that teens need as they progress toward independence. Each morning, teenaged campers took part in structured activities that simulated the challenges of the adult world. Campers learned to do laundry and iron, create a practical grocery list, apply for a driver’s license, complete a job application, or talk through a difficult issue with a family member. Afternoons were for fun, and campers took field trips, tried new sports like kayaking or bicycling, or learned to find ways to decompress through art and journaling.

This is the third year for the Martin de Porres camps, which are part of the Center’s Violence Prevention ministry. Largely supported by grants from CommonSpirit Health, the country’s largest hospital system and its second-largest nonprofit hospital system, the camps have also earned the attention and financial support of the City of Columbus.

## Heartland Center for Spirituality

On the other side of the country, teens in Kansas are dealing with the stress of young adulthood by strengthening their spiritual lives. Students at Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita, KS, are attending retreats at the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, KS, where they have the opportunity to meet with spiritual advisors at the Center and to worship with Sisters at the Great Bend Motherhouse.

High school juniors make three-day, two-night “Kairos” retreats at the Center. The retreats, named after a Greek word, that translates to “right time,” are designed to provide a meaningful and personal spiritual experience at a time when a young person is transitioning their faith to a more adult dimension.

### LIFE SKILLS

Campers practice real-world skills as they transition into adulthood.



### CONNECTION

Provide a place of spiritual and emotional safety, caring adults, and guidance.



### SPIRITUALITY

Retreats help students integrate Catholic faith into their daily lives.



Kapaun Mt. Carmel Chaplain Fr. Curtis Hecker says that the retreats have “changed the whole dynamic of the school...Kids who are carrying a lot of baggage, who have been on the edge of their faith or maybe even away from their faith, encounter the Lord tangibly, indisputably, and they come back different.”

Father Hecker says that the retreats give students permission to

**“Kids who...have been away from their faith, encounter the Lord tangibly, indisputably, and they come back different.”**

integrate their Catholic faith into their daily lives. “It’s become normalized to talk about your prayer,” he says.

Through camps, after-school programs and retreats, the Dominican Sisters of Peace and their ministries have provided what most medical professionals say is one of the best antidotes to anxiety and depression – connection. Just as community is an important part of our Dominican charism, it’s an important part of what we provide to young people – a place of spiritual and emotional safety, caring adults and friends, and guidance through the best and worst parts of life. Healthy young adults, a healthy Church, and peaceful communities are more than just our mission - they are our gift to the future.



Camper practices using a sewing machine.

## YOUR HELP BUILD BRIDGES AND FAITH IN OUR YOUTH

**\$50**

Provide one-on-one spiritual direction

**\$100**

Purchase supplies that teach life skills to youth

**\$200**

Cover the cost of a camp for a student



# A Gift to the Future

CREATING PEACE IN THE  
MIDST OF TURMOIL



Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau, celebrate the Congregation's Golden Jubilee.



**Sr. Rita Schwarzenberger, OP, was honored with one of the highest papal honors, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (For Church and Pope) on September 28 in Kaduna, Nigeria. This distinguished award honors her half century of ministry in the African nation.**

In 1956, the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, KS, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace, traveled to Gusau, Nigeria, at the request of Archbishop Matthew.

This was the beginning of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau, an independent foundation that celebrated its Jubilee Anniversary this summer.

The Dominicans were the first congregation of religious women to come to northwest Nigeria, and were charged with tasks of providing health care and education and promoting a Catholic presence. But after the Biafran Civil War, the Sisters had new goal – to build a congregation of indigenous Nigerian Sisters.

In the 50 years since this first Nigerian postulant came to the Dominican Order, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau, have grown into a national religious Congregation with two hospitals, two health clinics, 11 educational ministries, two farms, four social work ministries, an altar bread manufacturing facility, and two religious communities, including a postulate and a novitiate.

This dream began to take shape when the Congregation welcomed their first postulant in 1973.

While the many ministries of the



Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau have been important contributors to the lives of the Nigerian people, one of the Congregation's most important ministries is peacebuilding.

Like their namesake, Catherine of Siena, the Sisters serve in a time and place where greed, corruption and political and social upheaval can make it difficult for those with differing agendas to come together, much less work towards a common goal. While for decades, the African government has used inter-religious conflict to sow dissension among communities, the Sisters have gained the reputation of holy women dedicated to peace, justice, and service to the poor and marginalized, ministering across religious, ethnic, and tribal lines.

Just as important, the Congregation has taken active and specific steps towards peacebuilding.

It started within the Congregation, where Sisters, who came from different regions and tribes, largely operated in mutual distrust. As Sisters shared their feelings and learned about each other through workshops and dialogue, the Congregation became more productive AND more peaceful.

More than a decade ago, the Sisters began to present interreligious workshops and programs on diversity and conflict resolution. It was slow going, with relatively few people attending those early workshops. But their work and prayers prevailed, and even the

chief of Funtua, one of the areas where the Sisters serve, now encourages his Muslim followers to work with the Catherine of Siena Sisters.

Today, in the aftermath of contentious elections, government restrictions and the upheaval created by the pandemic, Nigeria is again a place of danger. The Sisters fear for their personal safety as well as the safety of those they serve. But as they celebrate 50 years of service to God and to the people of Nigeria, Prioress Justina Nnajofofor, a graduate of our founded ministry Ohio Dominican University, says,



"With all these things happening, parishioners are still coming to Mass in large numbers." Sr. Justina said that the strongest weapon the sisters have is prayers. "We pray every night inside the compound and sprinkle holy water around it," she said. "We put ourselves in God's hands and that has been so helpful."

Please add your prayers to ours as we lift our Sisters in Nigeria to God's care. Your donations help us to support the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau in their work to build a future of peace.

Parishioners attend the Eucharistic Mass for the Golden Jubilee of the Nigerian Sisters.



# YOUR HELP BRINGS PEOPLE TO THE GOSPEL



## Golden Jubilee

*Scan here to watch a video history of The Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau.*



**\$50**

will purchase flour to help feed the Sisters and to keep the altar bread factory running

**\$200**

pays school fees, supplies and uniforms for one student at a Congregational primary school

**\$1200**

will build a water well in a Nigerian village, changing the lives of an entire community



Sisters Terri Schell and Tram Bui (left)  
with Discerners during a Come & See Retreat  
at the Akron Motherhouse, September 2022..



# A Gift to the Future

## A GROWING COMMUNITY OF SISTERS



## A GROWING COMMUNITY OF SISTERS

# A Gift to the Future

There's an old saying in the Dominican Order – *"If you've met a Dominican, then you've only met one Dominican."* This is particularly true when it comes to our current "Formation" class – eight women from around the world, with widely varied career and educational experience. What they have in common is their shared dedication to following the voice of God in their lives – and the gift that each of them continue to be to our ministries around the nation.

**Sister  
Shingai Chigwedere**

**Novice,**  
Collaborative  
Dominican Novitiate,  
Chicago, IL



**Sister  
Paula Danforth**

**Novice,**  
Collaborative  
Dominican Novitiate,  
Chicago, IL

**Sister  
Terri Schell**

**Novice,**  
Collaborative  
Dominican Novitiate,  
Chicago, IL



**Sister  
Cathy Buchanan, OP**

**Temporary Professed,**  
Campus Minister,  
Albertus Magnus  
College,  
New Haven, CT

**Sister  
Tram Bui, OP**

**Temporary Professed,**  
Physical Therapist,  
Columbus, OH



**Sister  
Ellen Coates, OP**

**Temporary Professed,**  
Pastoral Associate,  
Southington, CT

**Sister  
Annie Killian, OP**

**Temporary Professed,**  
Assistant Professor  
of English,  
Ohio Dominican  
University,  
Columbus, OH



**Sister  
Phuong Vu, OP**

**Temporary Professed,**  
Administrative Assistant,  
Springs Learning Center  
New Haven, CT



## SR. PHUONG THUY VU, OP

A life of change  
grounded by one  
constant – God.



Sr. Phuong Vu, OP, fourth from left in bright blue, with DSOP Vietnamese Sisters.

Sr. Phuong Thuy Vu entered the Congregation in 2016. She made her first profession in 2020.

A native of Vietnam, Sr. Phuong moved to the United States when she was 23. She earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and has worked in various ministries since joining the Congregation.

She tells us that as a young person, her Catholic faith was almost a lifestyle. Sunday Mass, family rosary, and daily prayers were habits that she was born into. But throughout the many changes in her life – the arrival of six siblings, moving within Vietnam to escape Communist rule, then immigrating to the United States, learning a new language and a new culture – she always found peace in prayer.

***Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, Sr. Phuong was able to attend discernment events that led her to respond to God's call to consecrated life. She is preparing to make her Final Vows in 2024.***

### **Eucharistic Liturgy & Rite of First Profession of Vows**

*Sr. Phuong Vu made her  
First Profession in a  
Virtual Ceremony in 2020.*





**Sr. Ellen Coates, OP, receives her Dominican Shield from Prioress Patricia Twohill, OP.**

## **SR. ELLEN COATES, OP**

### **A Winding Road to God's Service**

India. Laos. Madagascar. Ethiopia. Sr. Ellen Coates' passport is a roadmap of her efforts to help the ill, the poor, and children around the world. But it took coming home to the Church to find her path to service as a Dominican Sister of Peace.

Sr. Ellen studied art history in college, and earned her Masters in Public Health from Boston University. She felt this was the best way to serve God and spent more than 20 years working with international aid groups to fight polio, encourage vaccine use, and improve maternal and child health.

After attending several silent retreats at Dominican Retreat in McLean, VA, Ellen began her road to discernment, and entered the Congregation in 2017.

Sr. Ellen's experience in public health became crucial during her Apostolic Novitiate, a period of time when women in formation integrate their canonical training into ministry. Sr. Ellen served as a contact tracer at the Ohio State University, and offered comfort and counseling to young people who were found to have the COVID-19 virus.

Sr. Ellen made her Temporary Vows in 2021, and is currently serving as Pastoral Minister in Southington, CT.

**Turning My "No"  
to a Grateful  
"Yes"**

*Scan here to read  
Sr. Ellen Coates' blog.*





## SR. ANNIE KILLIAN, OP

### A Search that Led to a Happy Coincidence



Sr. Annie with Fr. Scott Steinkerchner, OP, of the Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus; she served as PCYAC Leadership.

If you are driving to Ohio Dominican University, you might see Sr. Annie Killian riding her bicycle to her ministry as an Assistant Professor of English. Her active lifestyle makes one wonder how she could sit still to earn a doctorate degree in literature, but that desire for action helped lead Annie to religious life.

While studying English Literature, Annie found that spending most of her day reading left her off-balance. In her words, *"I needed to 'be a doer of the Word' (James 1: 22), not merely a reader."*

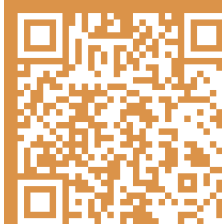
Joining a contemplative prayer group led her to realize she needed both contemplation and community to grow and flourish - to teach and learn, and also to work for justice and peace.

After beginning her doctoral studies at Yale, Annie began exploring religious life. By happy coincidence, the Dominican Sisters of Peace had recently opened a "House of Welcome" in New Haven, and Annie began to discern her calling in this intergenerational, multicultural community.

She joined the community in 2019 and made her first vows in 2022. She has continued to publish on religion and literature and served as a member of the leadership team of the Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus.

### Peacemaking and Creative Resistance

Scan here to watch  
Sr. Annie Killian address  
Albertus Magnus College.





## SR. CATHY BUCHANAN, OP

### An Unexpected Change in Direction

While in her canonical novitiate, Sr. Cathy Buchanan ministered at Kolbe House, a sanctuary for those impacted by incarceration in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

As a teenager, Sr. Cathy Buchanan was told more than once that “You’re going to end up in prison.” Cathy proved this prediction right, sort of ...she spent 27 years as a prison staff member, retiring as Chief of Prison. But her next career move was a surprise to almost everyone.

After decades of serving God as a CCD teacher and a pastoral minister, Cathy “*shut up long enough for God to speak*,” as she says, and began to discern her own path to religious life.

Cathy spent more than two years in discernment and visited five congregations – none Dominican. But given her interest in mission-driven work, her spiritual advisor suggested that she consider the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

She attended retreats, met with other discerners, and worked closely with her vocations minister. She entered the Congregation in 2020. Fittingly, while in her novitiate year in Chicago, she served in prison ministry.

Cathy made her Temporary Vows in August 2023, and currently ministers as the Coordinator of Dominican Ministries at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT.

### From Prison to Peace

Scan here to read  
Sr. Cathy Buchanan’s  
long and winding  
road to religious life.





## SR. TRAM BUI, OP

### In God's Time



Sr. Tram Bui, left, with Prioress Sr. Pat Twohill, OP, Fr. Michael Trainor and Sr. Cathy Buchanan at she and Cathy's First Profession.

Sr. Tram Bui is the second oldest of nine siblings born and raised in Vietnam. She is also a trained physical therapist ... a vocation that, by coincidence, brought her to religious life, took her away, and then brought her back to the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Tram was initially introduced to the Dominican Sisters of Peace through our Kentucky Sisters, where she also heard the call of God to become a healer through a career in physical therapy. Tram left the Congregation to earn her doctorate degree in physical therapy, but stayed in touch with her friend and Dominican Sister of Peace Mary Vuong.

A mission trip with Sr. Mary, an occupational therapist, seemed to be God's indication that Tram's time had come. She began to take part in

discernment activities, attending retreats and meetings with other discerners. In 2020, she moved into the new House of Welcome in Columbus, OH, and entered the Congregation as a candidate.

Sr. Tram made her Temporary Profession in 2023 and continues to use her vocation of healing to serve the Sisters at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, OH, as she follows her other vocation to serve God and God's people.

### First Profession of Vows

*Scan here to watch the Rite of First Profession of Vows for Sr. Tram Bui.*





**Sr. Terri Schell, middle, with Srs. Marguerite Chandler, OP, left, and Rose Ann Van Buren, OP, right. Terri ministered with both at the Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center.**

Seeking the divine in nature and community took Novice Sr. Terri Schell from the foothills and beaches of North Carolina to the forests of the Pacific Northwest US, and now to religious life with the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The middle child of five, Terri was raised in a faith-centered family. While earning an Environmental Science and Biology degree at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Terri became familiar with the language of the Earth and her creatures. She wanted to share the wonder she felt at God's creation with others, and worked at science camps, in sea turtle conservation, and aquarium education. Eventually she combined her faith life and her love of nature, working at Catholic camps and in parish ministry with the Archdiocese of Seattle.

## **NOVICE SR. TERRI SCHELL**

### Finding the Divine

***Thanks to your gifts and donations, Terri was given opportunities to study Pope Francis' Laudato Si and to visit the Congregation's ecology ministries at discernment retreats.***

She entered the Dominican Sisters of Peace in August of 2022. Terri ministered at the Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center until she moved to Chicago for her canonical novitiate.

### **Richness in the Mystery of God**

*Scan here to read  
Sr. Terri Schell's blog  
on living at the CDN  
in Chicago, IL.*





## NOVICE SR. PAULA DANFORTH

### Small Town Girl – Big Kingdom Goals



Left to right: Srs. Pat Dual, OP, Paula Danforth, Shingai Chigwedere and Terri Schell, at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in Chicago, IL.

By her own admission, Novice Sr. Paula Danforth is a small-town girl. She grew up in Fair Haven, VT, (population 2925) and lived with a Mercy Sister in Benson, VT, a village with more sheep than people.

Paula was introduced to the Congregation at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, NY. She was inspired by the Sisters and found herself wanting to be part of a community that both adapted to change and tried to create change in the world around it. Most of all, she was drawn to the joy of Dominican life.

Paula entered the Congregation in 2022, and put her degree in Business Administration from Castleton University to work in the Finance Office of Albertus Magnus College.

She also moved into the New Haven House of Welcome, living with other members of that multi-cultural, multi-generational community as part of her on-going discernment.

Sr. Paula entered the Novitiate in 2023, and currently lives and studies at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in Chicago.

### Paula Eats Worms

*Scan here to read  
Sr. Paula Danforth's  
blog on living at the  
CDN in Chicago, IL.*





**Srs. Shingai Chigwedere and Paula Danforth arrive at the House of Welcome in New Haven, CT.**

## **NOVICE SR. SHINGAI CHIGWEDERE**

**A Seed Bears  
Fruit**

In 2013, Zimbabwe native Shingai Chigwedere traveled to Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day. Shingai was not a young teen at World Youth Day—she had been a human resources professional for more than a decade. But she heard a call from God to “*do more with the Catholic Church*,” and that was the seed of now-Novice Sr. Shingai’s discernment.

Sr. Shingai eventually transitioned from corporate to church ministry, working in the Human Resources department of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She had found a way to serve the church, and integrated her faith more closely into her life and career - but even this did not fill her longing to do more.

Through lots of prayer and spiritual guidance, Sr. Shingai found her direction, and began to discern her path to religious life.

Sr. Shingai was impressed with the cultural diversity of the women she met at the Dominican Sisters of Peace. (The Congregation’s members hail from nine nations.) She was also impressed by the union that created the Congregation – when eight religious communities, responding to the needs of the day, made a big change to better serve the world.

After entering the Congregation in 2022, Sr. Shingai ministered in the Dominican Mission office at Albertus Magnus College. Today, she is attending the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in Chicago with Sisters Terri and Paula.

### **Truth will Spring from the Earth**

*Scan here to read Sr. Shingai Chigwedere’s blog on living at the CDN in Chicago, IL.*





A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a tan cap with 'Friends of Pine Country Park' and a dark jacket over a blue shirt, is smiling and holding a black tray of native plants. He is wearing a tan work glove on his right hand. The background shows a wetland area with water, grass, and trees under a cloudy sky. Other people are visible in the distance.

# A Gift to the Future

**PEACE WITH  
THE EARTH**

On Earth Day, volunteers planted native plants in and around Shepherd's Corner's newly constructed wetland.



Deep in the rolling hills of Kentucky, you'll find an unexpected factory. But it's not an automotive plant, a paper mill, or even a distillery.

### **St. Catharine Farm**

Behind the green and white sign for St. Catharine Farm is a factory hidden in plain sight, where tens of thousands of gallons of oxygen – the most basic need for human life – is pumped out annually. The average tree produces 260 gallons of oxygen every year, and just two mature trees can fulfill the oxygen needs of a family of four for 12 months.

**St. Catharine grounds, including the farm and land protected in the easement.**



The one hundred and twenty acres of old growth forest at St. Catharine Farm are an important oxygen production facility, and now that the Farm has been placed into a land trust with the Bluegrass Conservancy, it will continue producing for centuries to come.

### **Crystal Spring Preserve**

But that's not the only benefit of placing land into a trust – and St. Catharine Farm is not the only land that the Dominican Sisters have protected in the last year. In late 2022, Crystal Spring Ecology Center, a 36-acre natural oasis in Plainville, Massachusetts, was placed into trust with the Wildlife Trust, a Southeastern Massachusetts organization dedicated protecting land and providing access to nature for the people of the Bay State.

Both St. Catharine Farm and the former Crystal Spring Ecology Center, now Crystal Spring Preserve, feature natural wetlands.



These wetlands act as habitat for a variety of reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates, many of which are endangered species.

Just as important as the production of oxygen in our forests, wetlands serve as important natural “water purifiers.” As much as 90% of soil sediments, which can carry pollutants, can be filtered as water passes through wetlands.

Of course, St. Catharine Farm is also still a working beef farm. But rather than taking a “factory farm” approach, Farm Manager Danny Ray Spalding and the Dominican Sisters of Peace have worked with the University of Kentucky to find ways to raise healthy food while maintaining the health of the land. No artificial chemicals like antibiotics, steroids and hormones are used when raising beef at St. Catharine Farm. Cows are allowed to graze in the pastures and woods on the farm.

### **Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center**

Shepherd’s Corner Ecological Center, an ecological ministry in Blacklick, OH, has taken another approach to creating an ecology that provides not only for the health of the land, but also for the health of the community. The team at Shepherd’s Corner, working with Mad Scientists LLC, an environmental consultant in Westerville, OH, created two emergent marsh wetlands and a new prairie space on three acres of ground previously used to produce hay.

**Sr. Tram Bui harvesting crops during a Mission Retreat at Heartland Farm in Kansas.**



Construction of the wetlands area began in March 2023, and throughout the year, as rain has filled the space, staff and volunteers have planted native marsh and prairie plants, shrubs, and upland buffer plants.

Indigenous wildlife like insects and invertebrates are taking up residence in the newly created wetlands, and soon, it will be a natural part of this oasis just miles from the metropolitan area of Columbus, OH. As the prairie area begins to fill in, Shepherd's Corner will add accessible walkways and paths. It's expected that as the wetlands area becomes established, it will be a learning center for students from local schools and universities as well as a space of relaxation for Ohio

residents and refreshment and renewal for our planet. This new wetland ecosystem will clean and filter water, sequester carbon, refill groundwater stores, and provide a refuge for countless species.

In his encyclical on ecology, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has said that climate change is real and mainly "a result of human activity." The Dominican Sisters of Peace believe that our actions, and yours, as our friends and supporters, can help combat climate change and heal our planet.

***With your generous financial support, we will continue to gift the future with a healthier, more productive and peaceful planet.***

## YOUR HELP



### PRESERVES AND RESTORES THE ENVIRONMENT

**\$50**

Feeds an alpaca at Heartland Farm for two months.

**\$200**

Provides local students the opportunity to study at Shepherd's Corner

**\$100**

Introduces native marsh and prairie plants

**\$500**

Builds accessible walkways over prairie land

**The Dominican Sisters of Peace believe that our actions, and yours, as our friends and supporters, can help combat climate change and heal our planet.**



## SACRED SPACE FOREVER PROTECTED

### 120 ACRES OF FOREST

50K+ trees offset the carbon footprint of 84 people/year

### 3 WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

millions of gallons of water naturally filtered of pollutants

### WILDLIFE HABITAT

home to a large variety of native threatened or endangered species

Main Barn

Prairie Mound

Restored Wetland

### 15,000 FEET OF TRAILS

scenic vistas that add to the beauty of our landscape



# A Gift to the Future

USING  
MODERN  
TOOLS TO  
PROCLAIM  
THE GOSPEL



Sr. Rita Schwarzenberger, OP, speaks to a group of American students from her home in Nigeria.



## Tech in Vocations

It's Sunday night at the Dominican Sisters of Peace House of Welcome in Columbus, OH. In one of the meeting rooms, a large television is warming up, and Sr. Bea Tiboldi, in white ear buds, is checking her notes while the Zoom video screen in front of her begins to fill with women's faces. Continuing education? Zoom happy hour? No, this is a prayer group of women who are discerning their call to religious life, ready to deepen their spiritual life with St. Dominic's Nine Ways of Prayer.

This is the present – and the future – of religious life. As Sisters age and travel becomes more difficult, more Congregational business, and even Sisters' ministries, are taking place in the

virtual space – and the Dominican Sisters of Peace are leading the way.

Of course, virtual evangelization is nothing new... it's been going on since 1940, when Bishop Fulton Sheen appeared on the world's first broadcast of a Catholic religious service. Social media entered the vocations space in the 20-teens, and Sr. June Fitzgerald told Global Sisters Report that *"Social media allows the discerner to interact with us at a pace and distance that they find comfortable ...They can post, respond, send a message — or simply read, observe and learn."*

Today, the Dominican Sisters of Peace maintain a number of social media sites, including

**Video conferencing allows Sisters and discerners from around the country to meet face to face.**



### Small Group Sharing

Sr. Kathy Goetz

Margie

Facebook, Twitter (X) and Instagram pages for both the Congregation and the Vocations team. The Congregation also just launched a newly-designed website that highlights the Sisters' ministries and offers women in discernment numerous resources in a variety of media.

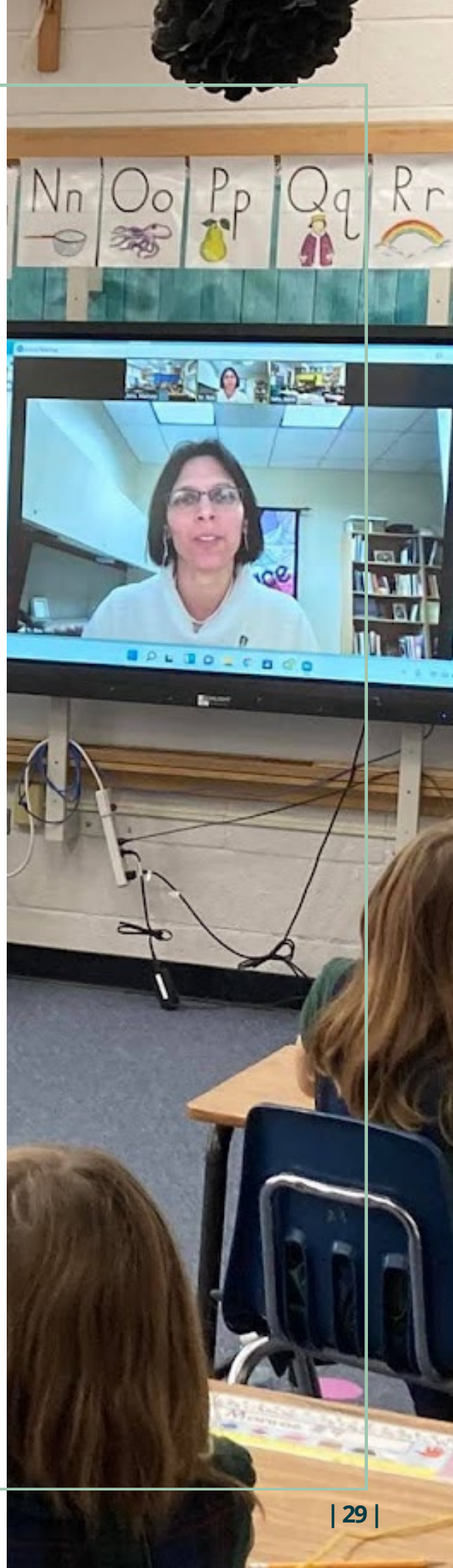
Once a woman is ready to become more active in her discernment journey, online groups like the Discernment prayer group and the Emmaus Discernment group provide a supportive presence and create a community of discerners.

"We are finding that this online group has given these women a real opportunity to walk this road together," Sr. Bea Tiboldi said. "They are building trust with each other and with us, and this has led to more questions and deeper, more meaningful conversations."

### Tech in the Congregation

Since 2009, the Leadership Team has used webcasts to connect with sisters and associates for regular updates and special meetings. Sr. Anne Lythgoe, OP, the Leadership liaison for Communications and Technology said, *"The pandemic made zoom calls and webcasts a basic necessity and our sisters were quick to learn how to use it to stay in touch and integrate the technology into their ministries."*

**Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP, meets with students virtually at Holy Name Catholic School, Winfield, KS, February 2022.**





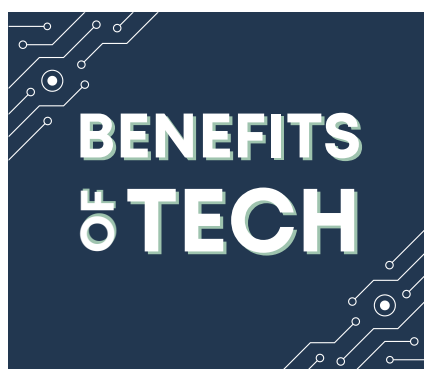
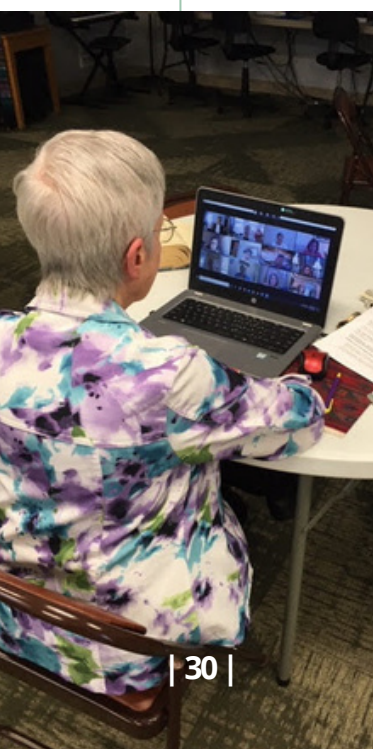
But technology offers another benefit: a reduction in our carbon footprint. In keeping with our commitment to treasure and reverence Earth, we have reduced our travel to meetings by plane and car.

Take a recent interactive meeting attended by 205 Sisters. Eight Sisters from New Orleans attended virtually. This saved eight airline tickets, or the carbon impact of a compact car for 12 months. Just as important, those Sisters did not have to leave their ministries, or stay overnight in a hotel, or even leave their homes. Multiply that by the more than 100 Sisters who would have traveled to this meeting, and the ecological impact of the thoughtful use of technology becomes obvious.

## Tech in our Ministries

Technology has also helped our Sisters in ministry expand their preaching beyond their geographic locations. Sr. Mary Vuong, OP, conducts occupational therapy online. Both the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, KS, and the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, NY, offer online programming. Tutors at our learning centers meet virtually to help new arrivals learn to read and write English. And around the nation, Sisters offer spiritual guidance via zoom, bringing hope and healing to those in need exactly where they are.

In 1216, St. Dominic and his friars left the monasteries to preach God's word - finding a new way to spread the Gospel. Following in the footsteps of our founder, we continue to find new ways to spread God's word while caring for God's precious creation, Earth. It's one of our gifts to the future of the Church and of the world.



### EXPAND REACH

Our ministries have been able to expand their preaching beyond geographic locations.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Reducing our carbon footprint.

### INCREASED COLLABORATION

Allows discerners to interact with us at a pace and distance that they find comfortable.

### MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP

Webcasts connect sisters and associates for regular updates and special meetings



Scan here for our Commitments.

## NEW LIFE IN THE LORD

Remembering  
our Sisters who  
have entered  
eternal life



### **Sr. Sue McMahon, OP**

*May 12, 1942 - January 6, 2023*

### **Sr. Marie Melnick, OP**

*August 15, 1931 - February 6, 2023*

### **Sr. Theresa Damicone, OP**

*February 6, 1934 - February 13, 2023*

### **Sr. Cathleen Ryan, OP**

*January 24, 1929 - February 24, 2023*

### **Sr. Regina McCarthy, OP**

*August 26, 1936 - February 26, 2023*

### **Sr. Ruth Hamel, OP**

*May 11, 1959 - March 27, 2023*

### **Sr. Margaret Scullin, OP**

*June 2, 1926 - June 28, 2023*

### **Sr. Agnes Imelda Frohnapfel, OP**

*February 13, 1923 - July 1, 2023*

### **Sr. Eleanor Fabrizi, OP**

*July 11, 1931 - July 5, 2023*

### **Sr. Mary Brennan, OP**

*September 17, 1935 - July 6, 2023*

### **Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien, OP**

*December 23, 1930 - August 22, 2023*

### **Sr. Kathleen Andrews, OP**

*November 1, 1936 - August 31, 2023*

### **Sr. Blaise Flynn, OP**

*May 12, 1945 - September 14, 2023*

### **Sr. M. Karen Chevrier, OP**

*March 27, 1928 - October 1, 2023*

### **Sr. Arleen Kisiel, OP**

*November 13, 1947 - October 6, 2023*

### **Sr. Malya Carusi, OP**

*December 23, 1919 - October 7, 2023*

### **Sr. Lorraine Torres, OP**

*January 6, 1933 - November 20, 2023*

### **Sr. Jacqueline Baum, OP**

*September 20, 1934 - November 20, 2023*

### **Sr. Tuyet N. Tran, OP**

*May 26, 1949 - November 21, 2023*

### **Sr. Josepha Buckley, OP**

*October 16, 1923 - November 30, 2023*

### **Sr. John Marie Charniga, OP**

*June 7, 1935 - December 16, 2023*

### **Sr. Patricia Hennessey, OP**

*July 13, 1932 - December 19, 2023*





## OUR MINISTRIES

# Get Involved

**Dominican Sisters of Peace** - [oppeace.org](http://oppeace.org)

**Albertus Magnus College**, New Haven, CT - [albertus.edu](http://albertus.edu)

**Cedar Park Place Senior Housing**, Great Bend, KS -

[mercyhousing.org/mountain-plains/cedar-park-place/](http://mercyhousing.org/mountain-plains/cedar-park-place/)

**Crown Point Ecology Center**, Bath, OH - [crownpt.org](http://crownpt.org)

**Dominican Academy**, New York, NY - [dominicanacademy.org](http://dominicanacademy.org)

**Dominican Learning Center**, Columbus, OH - [domlearningcenter.org](http://domlearningcenter.org)

**Dominican Retreat and Conference Center**, Niskayuna, NY - [dominican-spiritual-life-center.org](http://dominican-spiritual-life-center.org)

**Heartland Center for Spirituality**, Great Bend, KS - [heartlandspirituality.org](http://heartlandspirituality.org)

**Heartland Farm**, Pawnee Rock, KS - [heartlandfarm-ks.org](http://heartlandfarm-ks.org)

**Lourdes Senior Community**, Waterford, MI - [lourdesseniorcommunity.org](http://lourdesseniorcommunity.org)

**Martin de Porres Center**, Columbus, OH - [martindeporrescenter.net](http://martindeporrescenter.net)

**Mohun Health Care Center**, Columbus, OH - [mohun.org](http://mohun.org)

**Ohio Dominican University**, Columbus, OH - [ohiodominican.edu](http://ohiodominican.edu)

**Our Lady of the Elms School**, Akron, OH - [theelms.org](http://theelms.org)

**Peace Center**, New Orleans, LA - [thepeacecenternola.org](http://thepeacecenternola.org)

**Sansbury Care Center**, St. Catharine, KY - [sansburycare.org](http://sansburycare.org)

**Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center**, Blacklick, OH - [shepherds corner.org](http://shepherds corner.org)

**Siena Learning Center**, New Britain, CT - [sienalearningcenter.org](http://sienalearningcenter.org)

**Springs Learning Center**, New Haven, CT - [springslearning.org](http://springslearning.org)

**St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School**, Memphis, TN - [saa-sds.org](http://saa-sds.org)

**St. Catharine Farm**, St. Catharine, KY - [scfarmkentucky.org](http://scfarmkentucky.org)

**St. Mary's Dominican High School**, New Orleans, LA - [stmarysdominican.org](http://stmarysdominican.org)

Follow us on social media!

