

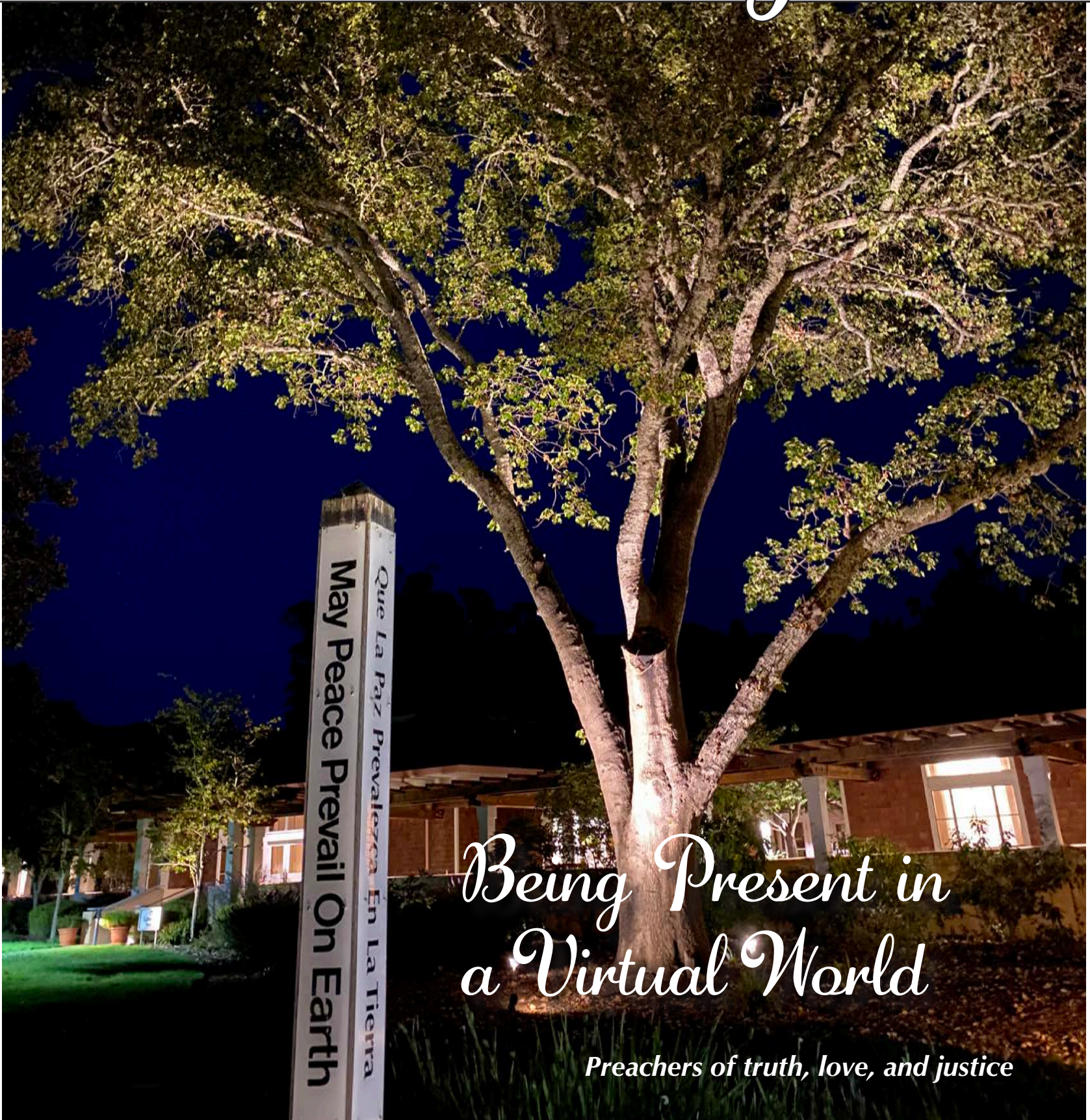


DOMINICAN
SISTERS
San Rafael

OP *Ignite*

A bi-annual newsletter for our friends, family, & community partners

AUTUMN 2020



May Peace Prevail On Earth

Que La Paz Prevalga En La Tierra

Being Present in a Virtual World

Preachers of truth, love, and justice



DOMINICAN
SISTERS
San Rafael

OP Ignite is a semi-annual publication of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael in circulation since 1985. Its purpose is to share information about our history, news of our current ministries, and our vision of the future in context of our mission. We welcome the opportunity to communicate with our friends and colleagues as well as with others who wish to learn more about our congregation of women religious and the Order of Preachers. We invite and appreciate your prayers of support.

Prioress General

Sr. Carla Kovack, OP

Council

Sr. Cathy Murray, OP

Sr. Barbara Green, OP

Sr. Abby Newton, OP

Sr. Margaret Diener, OP

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Dear Friends,

Gifts of Presence in a Virtual World, the theme of this Autumn edition of our newsletter, identifies a current means of relating, of being present to each other during the pandemic. We have learned to create bubbles of safety within our family, our local community, or with a small group of companions. Many without these communal bubbles, remain isolated and depend on a phone call or drive-by wave to connect with loved ones. In addition, many of us in the United States are privileged to have access to the technology to see, hear, and connect with each other in this alternative mode to that of physical presence. Zoom and Webinars offer multiple ways of connection using the internet. Though it is not the same, we have learned to adapt to a virtual world.

As I reflected on the meaning of "virtual," I went to the dictionary for a definition. It offered the words -almost, nearly or carried out by means of a computer. I asked the sisters in my local community of their understanding, and simply sat with the word and the reality of a virtual world. In the end, what emerged was a different construct. What is the opposite of the word virtual? Might it be real or actual? What do I understand when I use these words?

On December 6, 1850, Sister Marie Goemaere, having spent over three months traveling from the Monastery of the Cross in Paris, France, arrived in California. Thus, began the 170 years of Dominican Sister presence in the west. Mother Mary's presence and that of her new companions was real, planted in the very soil of the new state!

Over the years, this real presence evolved into the congregation of Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. Our actual presence of being vowed religious women living together as we integrate community prayer, communal living, and service becomes real in the lives of its members.

Virtual and real need not be opposites. Rather one (real) can nest within the context of the other (virtual). The intentional, mindful, grace-filled connections we make in this time of the pandemic can be real using the virtual technology of our day.

Our ministry is and has been a real presence. During the month of November when we remember the lives of sisters who have gone before us, I remember the kindness of Sister Pia with patients at St Joseph's Hospital, the attentiveness of Sister Agatha to special needs students at Our Lady of Mercy School, the knowledge of Sister Alicia checking out telephone lines that went dead in Dominican College. As you will read in this *OP Ignite*, notice that continued Dominican presence in which each sister's story is one of real presence. Today, technology assists us in moving beyond the boundaries of physical distance to continue to be a real presence that expresses the values of being Truth, offering Love and advocating for Justice. While we look forward to the time when we can gather for a big celebration with each other, in the meantime let us connect with each other letting our authentic, real presence to each other be strength for the journey in our alternative mode of virtual.



Sister Carla Kovack, OP

Sr. Carla Kovack, OP
Prioress General

Preachers of truth, love, and justice

Our Mission

We, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael,
commit ourselves to the mission of Dominic:
to proclaim God's Word in our world.

Called to discipleship through our vows of
poverty, chastity and obedience,
we follow Jesus according to the Dominican
apostolic life: we pray, study, celebrate, and live
out God's Word in community.

With our lives thus centered in the Lord, we seek
to extend His mission of truth and love in our
ministry, bringing the Gospel to bear
with depth and compassion
on the critical issues of our times.

Our Vision

We reverence and affirm the inherent dignity
of each person. We will work for
transformation of attitudes and systems
that deprive any person of dignity.

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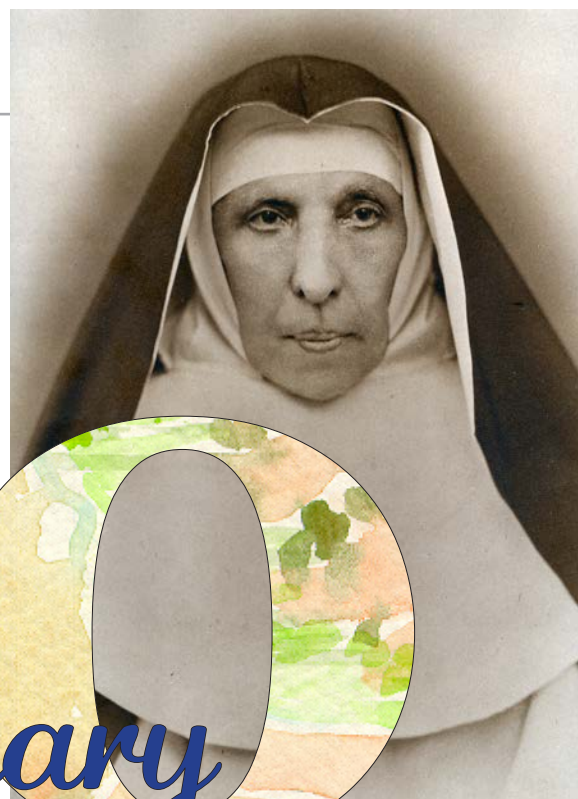
ABOUT THE COVER: *Twilight settles in over
the Administration Building in San Rafael.*
Photo by: Eileen Mize

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170th Anniversary

DOMINICAN SISTERS
San Rafael



The image of fire has long been an important symbol for the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. A prominent Dominican saint and Doctor of the Church, St. Catherine of Siena, once said, “Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire.”

These inspired words were even prophesied in a dream had by the mother of St. Dominic who founded the Dominican Order of Preachers. Shortly before she gave birth to her son, she dreamt of a dog running, with torch in mouth, igniting the world.

St. Dominic went on to share his light with the world, passing that proverbial torch, and igniting a fire within his followers including the foundress of our congregation, Mother Mary Goemaere. As a Dominican nun in France, she answered the call to meet the educational needs of her time when invited to the west coast of a young nation. Upon her arrival in 1850, she welcomed and formed the first women who joined her, creating the community that would become the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael.

With a long history of seeking truth and being a light to people and places in need, the Sisters minister in a multitude of ways—meeting people where they are. Education and health care are cornerstones of our legacy, and the impact of our schools and hospitals is remembered by many. We walk with those in need, we seek to foster a spirit of inclusivity through respect and understanding. Imbued with various cultures from the very start—as our founding and early Sisters included immigrants and Spanish-speaking Californios—our efforts to live interculturally within our own houses, our communities, and our world are explored. We strive to create forums for discovery—personally,

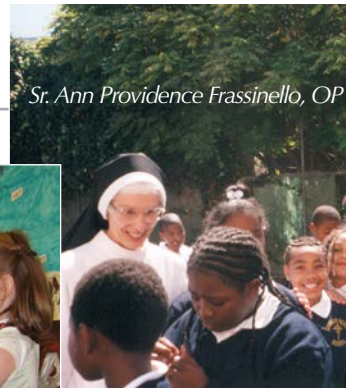
spiritually, and for others. Whether supporting efforts to explore interfaith dialogue and spirituality; serving those in need; or in seeking to understand various viewpoints by engaging others in conversations on challenging topics such as systemic injustice, we Sisters are committed to study, reflect, and act. Mother Mary set a solid example of “walking the walk.”

Acts of love and compassion aptly characterize the various ministries and interests of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. We share a deep love of and appreciation for all God’s creation and a strong commitment to protecting it for future generations. We Sisters celebrate decades of commitment in building and staffing schools—where fostering a love of learning and care for one another and for God’s creation seems almost second nature. Similarly, in our healthcare, hospital, and hospice ministry—we cherish all stages of life. We recognize the interconnectedness of things, and work to ensure a right relationship with Mother Earth. Whether taking care that our latest structure is LEED-certified; engaging in responsible investing practices such as participation in a creative financial collaboration with Morgan Stanley’s Climate Solutions Fund; or sharing a passion for sustainability through gardens, solar power, and implementation of the Earth Charter, we Sisters preach by our life. Educating and inspiring others along the way and living in hope that the seeds we plant today will benefit the generations that follow.

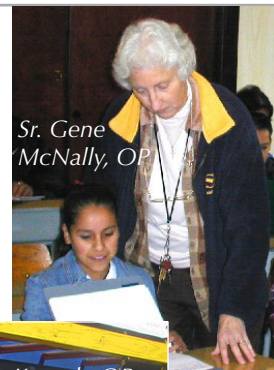
Inspired by the principles of Catholic social teaching, we encourage active engagement for social change; to be a voice for the voiceless. We take seriously our congregational vision



Sr. Joan Hanna, OP



Sr. Ann Providence Frassinello, OP



Sr. Gene McNally, OP



Sr. Carla Kovack, OP

Celebrating Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow

which states: “We reverence and affirm the inherent dignity of each person. We will work for the transformation of attitudes and systems that deprive any person of dignity.” Working with various community partners—our partners in ministry—to affect change, we Sisters aim to lead by example—taking a public stance in the sanctuary movement of the 80s by housing refugees; providing shelter and service for the homeless through our work with Homeward Bound of Marin; offering affordable housing options for those through our Rose Court community in San Francisco; taking leadership roles in various community action groups and councils, raising awareness in the fight against human trafficking, ensuring voting rights for all and for any number of environmental causes that threaten God’s earth. We provide resources and education opportunities through the regular communication efforts of our Co-Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation. We take inspiration from the selfless efforts of those working tirelessly in the areas of immigration rights and advocacy, jail ministry and restorative justice initiatives, as well as those providing services so desperately needed by those living in poverty. May our voices and actions inspire others to take action.

Listening to God’s call has been a hallmark of the Dominican Sisters—inspired by the life of Jesus, by St. Dominic, by Mother Mary Goemaere. Each year on December 6, we honor and celebrate her brave “yes” to that call. The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael—carry on her legacy through the lives we touch through our myriad ministries, outreach, and ever-increasing

community partnerships. Our commitment is strong, and the future evolves—bright with hope. As former Prioress Sister Maureen McInerney once said in an address to us Sisters, “God isn’t finished with us yet!”

At her installation as Prioress in September 2019, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP spoke about this moment in our history, “Thomas Berry stated, ‘the success or failure of any historical age is the extent to which those lives at that time have fulfilled a special role that history has imposed on them.’ Our moment in history is one of mystery and paradox. In many ways it mirrors the tremendous transitions in the time of Dominic. We observe a world in which distortion, violence, and division seem to be more powerful than truth, respect, and communion. We recognize that membership in religious congregations in the United States continues to shrink. We are members of a church in need of healing. We live in a world battered by natural disasters due to our misuse of the earth’s natural resources and led by leaders for whom the common good is a foreign concept. What does this time in history ask of us?”

And so now in 2020 as we gather on Zoom to celebrate 170 years of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael on December 6 in the midst of a global pandemic, on the heels of an awful wildfire season and contentious presidential election, and in a world that hungers for peace, we are mindful of Mother Mary’s prayer, “Of God Alone,” which translates to resilience. We are called to be resilient in our world today, in a way that promotes a peaceful and loving tomorrow. 🛡️



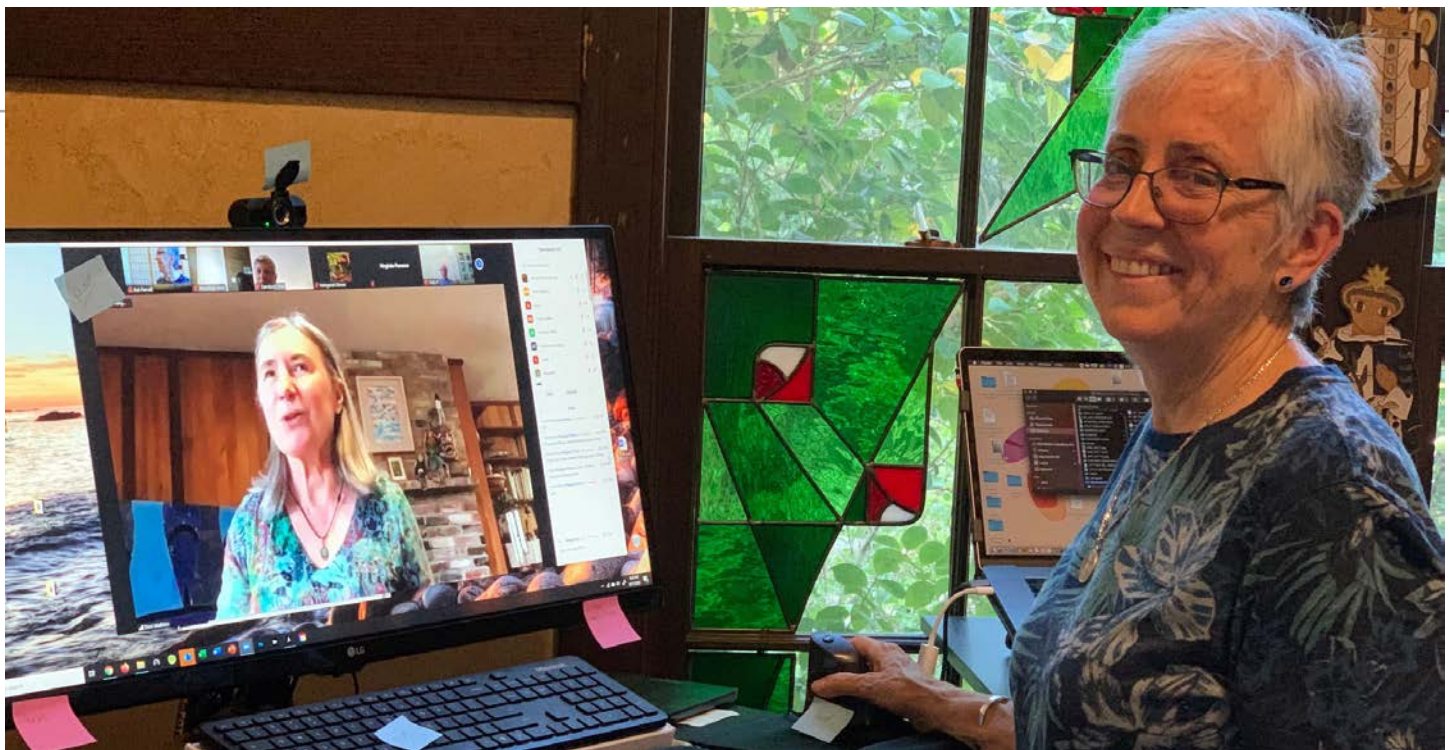
Refocus: Pandemic presents

The well-known, beloved, and typically booked-solid Santa Sabina Center, the Sisters' contemplative retreat center located on the east side of the San Rafael campus, has been a little quieter than usual lately despite celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Like businesses and organizations large and small around the world, Santa Sabina was forced to close its hospitable doorways in Spring 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic strict shelter-in-place orders went into effect.

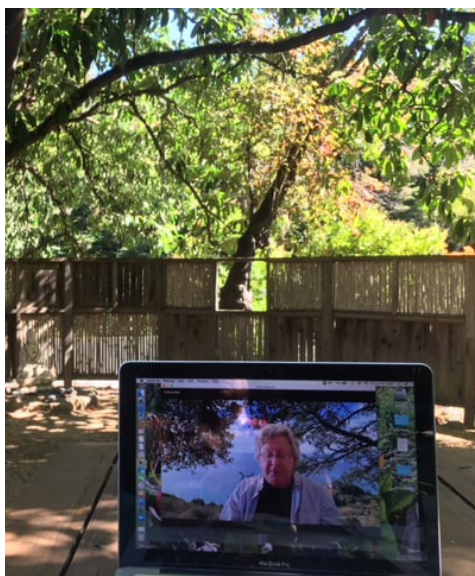
Since those early days in March 2020, Santa Sabina Center Director, Sr. Margaret Diener, OP has faced COVID-related challenge after challenge, yet she is fueled by a commitment to serve and the creative energy and possibilities that have emerged. Sr. Margaret remarked, "We know that with the immense challenges we are facing, spiritual support and sustenance are of utmost urgency. Figuring out a way to continue providing opportunities for our friends and community members to engage in the sorts of programs and activities we offer became our top priority. As Dominicans we are called to respond with care and compassion to the critical issues of our time, and meeting the spiritual needs during a time like this is critical indeed."

Thinking back to March 2020 there was the immediate need to cancel programs and events for the foreseeable future. It was difficult to have to furlough many of the staff given the non-occupancy rules the Center was facing.

Above: St. Patricia Farrell films Sr. Ruth Droege in preparation for Sr. Ruth's virtual program on *Teilhard de Chardin*, an event co-hosted by Friends of the Sisters and Santa Sabina Center.



OPPORTUNITY *to expand reach*



Top: Sr. Patricia Farrell facilitates a Zoom program with Devi Mathieu who leads a contemplative practice of listening and singing the music of Hildegard; Above: Santa Sabina staff member Kathy Geary; Lower: Zoom screen featuring presenter Fr. Joe Nassal, CPPS

Working with her associates, Sr. Raya Hanlon, Sr. Pat Farrell, and Kathy Geary, as well as the Advisory Board, whose members include Russell Delman (Chair), Carolyn J. Foster, Lynn Ireland, and Sisters Marion Irvine, Judy Lu McDonnell, and Gervaise Valpey, Sr. Margaret engaged in conversations via Zoom in the early days of the shutdown to discuss possibilities given the uncertainty of these pandemic times. First in the order of priority was paying the staff as long as possible, since early on we expected that we would reopen in May or June. Srs. Margaret and Raya completed a loan application for the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program. Succeeding in getting the loan, allowed the Center to pay its full staff through June. By late June, it became apparent that the closure would extend well into 2021. Sr. Margaret mounted a fundraising effort with all of those who utilize Santa Sabina, and the Center continues to rely on the generosity of its many benefactors.

Then came the transformation of the program itself. With the arrival of Sr.

Pat Farrell in June as the new hosting manager, the team was bolstered by her creativity and special gifts in preaching through social media, as well as her dedication to retreat ministry. Sr. Margaret noted, “I am so grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and experience, Sr. Pat has brought to our team. Together we have laid out a monthly programming plan that can deliver retreats to folks across the country, and even beyond our borders. Sr. Pat brings her personal ties to Dominicans across the country. Once we had the plan, we began the steep learning curve for integrating the various technological tools to deliver our new programming. The effort is not for the faint of heart! It takes four of us to support the delivery of every retreat to be sure everyone can find his or her way to the proper linkages.”

In July 2020, Santa Sabina hosted its first virtual retreat, a five-day contemplative retreat with Fr. Joe Nassal, CPPS, entitled “Making All Things New: Becoming a New Creation.” “We had a healthy enrollment for the

retreat; and the participants reported how helpful and prayerful they found their retreat time to be. One of the hallmarks of retreats here at Santa Sabina is the sense of caring for participants and their sense of community that builds over the course of the retreat. This happened during those five days; responses from the retreat participants was heartwarming,” noted Sr. Margaret.

Santa Sabina Center has an impressive calendar now offering a wide variety of online programs for the remainder of 2020-21. “Our virtual retreats provide various ways to enter the depths of contemplative quiet in one’s own home and the environment through Zoom. Fostering contemplative ways of being is at the heart of the Center’s planning and programming. We invite our participants to go even deeper and ground themselves in presence to the present moment. We continue to update our website as new information and new programs are available. We are in the midst of planning a very special offering entitled ‘Doorways to the Sacred,’ to introduce folks to the immense variety of spiritual traditions that enjoy the contemplative space and services of Santa Sabina. It will be a rare treat to meet some outstanding teachers from eastern and western spiritual traditions.”

Santa Sabina staff certainly look forward to the time when the Center can reopen its sacred space to residential and day groups. Hosting Manager, Sr. Pat Farrell, shared that the center is beginning to take “tentative” onsite reservations for 2021. In addition to offering their own programs, Santa Sabina not only sponsors its own retreats, but also hosts groups of other spiritual traditions and practices that are seeking a contemplative environment. Sr. Pat commented, “Having to close our doors in 2020 has been a challenge to say the least. We look forward to being able to welcome back guests to enjoy our beautiful grounds and amenities, and we also look forward to being able to welcome back our staff to facilitate these sorts of groups and events.”

While the time with empty facilities has allowed for flexibility in addressing maintenance issues such as repairs and painting, the staff is eager to welcome people back to the Center. Renewed by the possibilities that have been brought to light in the digital age of Zoom and other technologies, the Santa Sabina team hopes to harness some of that new zeal for retreat ministry by exploring hybrid models in the future. “Presenting programs online eliminates any geographic barriers in participating. We can cast a wider net and reach more people,” remarked Sr. Margaret. “It is amazing what can happen.” 🕯️



SANTA SABINA CENTER *Celebrates* 50 YEARS

Santa Sabina Center was built in 1939 as the novitiate for young women preparing to enter the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, but since 1970 the sacred space has served as a destination for spiritual seekers of all traditions. Its Dominican design and iconic Tudor-Gothic architecture were inspired by Mother Raymond O'Connor's visit to the Dominican Monastery at Stoke-on-Trent in England. Upon her return to San Rafael, Mother Raymond entrusted to the renowned architect, Arthur Constable, the work of designing the novitiate building. It is named after Santa Sabina in Rome which is Center of the Dominican Order whose monastic house is joined to the ancient Church of Santa Sabina on the Aventine Hill.

Over the course of these fifty years as a retreat center, our program offerings have expanded, yet the prevailing spiritual energy that is felt by guests is a constant that remains. During the current pandemic, the Center continues to feed the spiritual hunger of guests through online retreats and other virtual offerings which encompass meditational evenings and mornings, scriptural retreats, music, journaling, and writing poetry. Each program invites a deepening awareness of the primary revelation of the divine in our midst. The programs and staff alike continue to cultivate the Center as a place of study, prayer and community as they extend the ministry of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael in support of contemplative spiritual exploration.

As a gift from the Center, all are welcome in the Monday evening weekly meditations for peace. More information online. “Breathing with The Universe for Peace.”



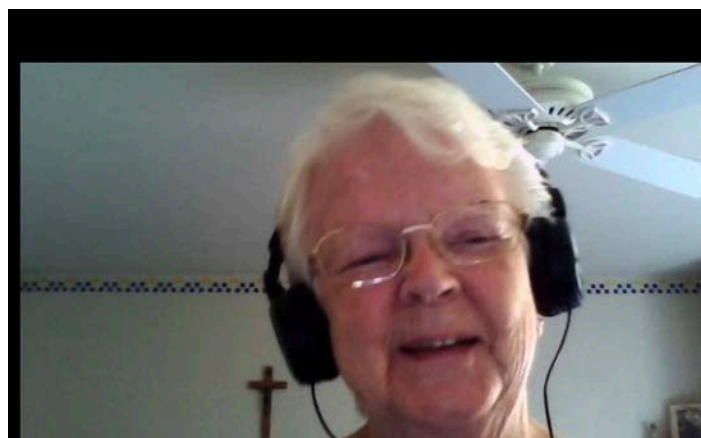
VIEW THE CALENDAR
of upcoming programs here:
www.santasabinacenter.org

SHARING *our* Truth



Poster Parade for St. Dominic's Day

St. Dominic's Day, August 8, 2020, looked a little different this year. Each community gather in their own shared spaces and tuned into an evening prayer service, but not before a late morning poster parade at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent. Local San Rafael Sisters were invited to create a posert celebrating St. Dominic's Day and then join in a walking parade as a special way of connecting with the Sisters at Lourdes. Masks, creativity, song, and a lot of levity brought smiles to the senior Sisters looking on through the convent windows. The sense of community was felt and appreciated, especially by the Sisters at Lourdes who hadn't had any visitors since the beginning of the pandemic.



Virtual Series on Dominican Spirituality

The Vocations Council has been getting creative about finding ways to connect with young people in the interest of vocation awareness. Vocations Director Sr. Cathy Murray teamed up with Sr. Patricia Simpson and offered a six-week virtual program this fall for young women entitled "Dominican Spirituality." Sister Cathy reports, "We used Fr. Don Goergen's book, St. Dominic: The Story of a Preaching Friar, and we were fortunate that Fr. Don Zoomed in for part of one session. We had eight people sign up. And, though not all attended each session, they all shared a love of Dominican spirituality, had much to share, and expressed their gratitude for an opportunity to get together virtually for this topic." Attendees came from New York, one from North Carolina, two from Los Angeles, two from the Bay Area, one from Elk Grove, and one from Santa Rosa. We will be hosting another series on Dominican Spirituality focused on St. Catherine of Siena, in the spring. Please keep the prayers for vocations going!

Pictured clockwise: Sisters Margaret Diener, Lorraine Amodeo, Susannah Malarkey, and Patricia Ottoboni line up for the poster parade; Sisters Patricia Simpson and Cathy Murray facilitate a Zoom program on Dominican Spirituality; Sisters gathered near the window at Lourdes Convent to enjoy the poster parade.

Presence & Nourishment in Times of Pandemic

BY SR. PATRICIA BRUNO, OP

Excerpted from “Sheltering in Place” from the monthly series, Stories Seldom Heard, May 2020*

Truly this is a very different time in our lives. Yet, in a very real way I feel more connected with all of you because of our isolation. A strange response? Perhaps not. Each of you is part of the Stories Seldom Heard Community – both far and near. Meeting you has made a difference in my life. Your lives, stories, and concerns are in my daily prayers. Presence can be experienced in a variety of ways.

Certainly “presence” during this “sheltering time” has been expressed by letters, phone calls, zoom meetings, face time, to name just a few examples. As Catholics, we miss the physical presence of our daily/weekly church community. Not being able to be physically present to celebrate the Eucharist together and receive the Body and Blood of Christ; not being able to visit with friends and chat about the activities of our days, and not being able to plan or evaluate the successes of our parish education programs and events, have deepened our appreciation of community. For many people, these voids have awakened or reignited a deep hunger for the sacraments. They also make us poignantly aware of how privileged we are. I say “privileged” because often, we take for granted the ease with which we can gather in prayer and celebrate the sacraments in our local parishes.

Our isolation has not only deepened our gratitude for the many gifts of life we experience every day, but also has opened our minds and hearts to those who are in need of daily bread to feed their families. Each day we hear of creative and conscientious business owners and ordinary people like ourselves who have pledged resources to help the larger community. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow we must continue to fill our parish food pantries, send dinners to our first responders and make regular phone calls to those who are living alone or ill. These are practical ways to nourish others and participate in the healing of those who are suffering as a result of our present situation. In a very real way, we become daily bread for others. Our actions and prayers become the bread that enables people to face each day.

Karl Rahner, a Jesuit priest and theologian, reminds us of the blessings that come at the end of the day when we live intentionally. He says when we begin each day, “even though it (the day) is bound to bring the same old strain and the same old burden... (with) the old Christian saying: in the name of God,” our eve-



nings will be filled with blessings. So perhaps after we pray our Morning Offering, we might continue our prayer “courageously, cheerfully, and with confidence: in God’s name. In the name of the strong God, who is the quiet strength of the weak....In name of the merciful God who desires our peace, patience, and friendliness...May all be done—both great and small—in the name of God” (3). May our evening prayer celebrate the movements of the Holy Spirit in each decision of the day. 🙏



*Sr. Patricia Bruno’s monthly “Stories Seldom Heard” series is available on our website:
www.sanrafaelop.org/category/stories-seldom-heard



Pictured l-r: Dominca Russell, SF socialite daughter; Sr. Dominga Russell; Gertrude Stein auto-graphed portrait addressed to Mother Raymond; Mother Raymond O'Connor, OP

Heritage & HISTORY

Where might the paths of writer, poet, novelist, playwright, art collector Gertrude Stein and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael intersect? As it turns out, Sr. Dominga Russell was the granddaughter of a good friend of Steins, and Mother Raymond O'Connor, OP welcomed a social call at the Motherhouse. It is supposed that Mother Raymond who was well-read, fluent in six languages, and deeply committed to study, would have relished a visit with such a notable author and art collector.

In April, 1935, Gertrude Stein and her life partner Alice B. Tolkas arrived in the Bay Area to set out on a series of lectures and visits with Bay Area literati, society members, and patrons of the arts. Having spent a number of her childhood years in Oakland, Stein was no stranger to the Bay Area and thus had many connections. Stein's dear friend and renowned author in her own right, Gertrude Atherton, was well-connected in San Francisco affluent social circles—the same circles her niece, Dominga, left behind; as she received the habit just a few years after being formally presented to society. In fact, Atherton had a reputation for being almost aggressively social, and seems to have taken it upon herself to escort Stein and Tolkas to each function during their visit—including Dominican.

The social call was documented in a couple of accounts. In his book, *Gertrude Stein Has Arrived: The Homecoming of a Literary Legend*, Roy Morris Jr. writes:

The indefatigable Atherton took them [Stein and Tolkas] on a rainy ferry ride to San Rafael to meet her granddaughter, a Dominican nun teaching at the convent school there. Atherton confided, a bit condescendingly, that she had spoken at the school a year earlier and had been astonished by the students' request that she talk about Gertrude Stein.

The following day, Stein and Tolkas continued on to Mills to lecture and continued on a tour of Oakland and Stein's childhood neighborhoods, at which time Stein famously (or infamously) said of her hometown, "There is no there there."

Another point of interest is in a letter from Carl Van Vechden, literary agent to Stein, dated March 12, 1935 (sent several months prior to her trip out west). He wrote from New York of a recent trip to California from which he has just returned:

"You will especially enjoy the Dominican Convent. Mrs. (Gertrude) Atherton has a granddaughter there. You must save up all the gossip for the Mother Superior who has a lust for the same."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope you've enjoyed this story from the archives—an interesting connection with a literary great and female icon. Sr. Dominga, the young sister visited by Stein and her group, passed away at a young age due to a brain tumor—even before she was able to make final vows. She is buried with the sisters in Benicia, as she was never not part of the congregation.



CONTACT THE ARCHIVES

If you would like to learn more about the San Rafael Archives or think you may have something to add to our collection, please contact our Archivist, Mr. Jack Doran, at archivist@sanrafaelop.org or 415.453.8303 ext. 110.



Finding Sanctuary in gifts of PRESENCE

Distance learning, evacuation from wildfires, hitting pause on the career button to be home with school-aged children—these are not uncommon challenges facing families today in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic. But one Fairfield, CA family is taking it all in stride with a great sense of resiliency and a unique perspective. Mother to two young students, Salomon (7th grade) and Yamila (9th grade), Leyla Teos has life experience to handle these challenging times as well as the presence to cherish the opportunities that arise. Life has been her teacher—and so have the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael.

At just nine years of age Leyla Teos began a journey that would alter the course of her life. Fleeing from her hometown of Usulután, El Salvador with her family to seek refuge from violence and political unrest of the 80s, she found herself in San Rafael with the Dominican Sisters. There were some unsettling stops along the way in Mexico and Los Angeles, but ultimately the family was able

to call the Sisters' former St. Thomas Hall home for a time, and settle into a new chapter of their lives.

Leyla's uncle, Juan Romagoza, (her mom's twin brother), an El Salvadorian doctor then living in San Francisco (having already fled the unrest in his homeland), was very connected with the growing sanctuary movement. Through his clinic work giving

Dominicans take risk for 'higher value'

By Beth Ashley
A senior feature writer

The huge old convent has sheltered refugees before.

In the years since World War II, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael have housed people who fled repression in Germany, Russia, Hungary and Vietnam.

Now the nuns are giving sanctuary in their convent to a family of political refugees from El Salvador, the last Catholic religious community in the country to do so.

Their action is consistent with church tradition, says Sister Raya, a dark-eyed former high school principal now serving at the convent. "The difference now is that our government doesn't like it."

Sister Raya speaks for the 230 women in the Dominican order when she says they thought long and prayerfully before sheltering their first refugees from El Salvador last May.

The sisters believe the refugees fled El Salvador because of its repressive political policies and might be killed if sent back. The U.S. government, which supports the Salvadoran regime, maintains the refugees seek safety in the U.S. for economic reasons, and classifies

See Sanctuary, page A7



Sr. Raya Hanlon talks with Leyla in the Marin Independent Journal photo that appeared in a 1985 article.

out free vaccines to refugees in San Francisco, he came to meet some of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael who through their various education and health care ministries were also taking note of this movement. In the name of justice, the Sisters took a very public stance in 1984 and joined the sanctuary movement, offering housing for the Teos family—Leyla, her younger brother, Jorge, and her parents, Morena and Solomon.

Leyla recalls Sisters Bernadette Wombacher and Susannah Malarkey

greeting them when they arrived and helping get the family set up in their new living quarters on the second floor of St. Thomas Hall, which at the time had Sisters living on the 3rd floor while classrooms a lab, and study hall occupied the first floor. Leyla and her brother were enrolled in St. Raphael's School and they would meet with the sisters after school for help with their studies. Sr. Anne Dolan, bilingual and recently living back in San Rafael at the time, often dined with the family and offered help with school. Sister Anne had just begun a job with the diocesan movement to aid immigrants coming from Latin America.

One Sister who stands out in Leyla's memory in an extra special way and really instilled a love of learning is Sister Robert Callan. "Sister Robert was my sweet patient tutor and happy mentor. I would meet her every day after school once I started 4th grade at St. Raphael's. At the time, I did not speak a word of English, I was 9 years old and as I remember we were the same height; she had a warm smile and the best contagious laugh. Although we couldn't communicate with words, I immediately felt comfortable with her. I would meet her at the Motherhouse, and she would be waiting for me, sitting down at this square table she had set up just for our lessons. By the end of the fall semester in 4th grade, I was communicating in English, and by 6th grade, I was competing in a poem recitation contest at school. She not only taught me English, she also transmitted to me the joy of learning."

After St. Raphael's Leyla went on to attend San Domenico School, thriving as a student and graduating in 1993. She attended Howard University in Washington DC where she earned a BA in psychology and then a PhD in physiology and biophysics. She put her hard-earned degree to work immediately at the National Institute of Health as a molecular biologist in clinical center research on Sjögren's disease, where she worked for 8 years. She then returned to California and worked for the Buck Institute in aging and heart research and most recently started a job with UC Davis doing stem cell and cancer research—then the COVID-19 quarantine happened.

Life changed, and priorities shifted. Leyla and her husband, Angel Urquiza, along with her mom and two children sheltered in place in their Fairfield home. Leyla is now taking the time to be present at home to assist with online schooling for her children. She shared, "After the realization that school in the fall was not going to start in person, and that the kids were going to be continuing online classes. I decided to be home with them and really teach them one-on-one. Being at an age where puberty is settling in

and socializing is essential for growth, I felt I needed to be nearby to help them deal with the quarantine. I'm glad I have the opportunity to be present. I feel truly honored to have the chance to be home; it is a true privilege nowadays. It also has allowed me to 'stop and smell the roses' and enjoy being present; since up until this point, my life has been a non-stop and rewarding ride."

As she reflects back on her time with the Sisters she easily recognizes that she is able to step into this new role because of what the sisters taught her and the example they set. "What I'm doing with my kids is what the sisters taught me. The sisters were the calm I needed in my life as a young person. They taught me to love learning and gave me that desire to always want to learn more. They provided such a bubble of love." It is this nurturing yet structured framework Leyla desires to create for her own children. During these uncertain times, Leyla is eager to be the calm for her children and set them up for success in their studies and in life—just as she credits the sisters being able to do for her. 🇺🇸



Opposite top: Leyla, her mother Morena, and her brother Jorge; Opposite lower: The Teos Family: Solomon, Morena, Leyla, and Jorge during their time in San Rafael in the 80s; Above: Leyla's children Salomon (7th gr.) and Yamila (9th gr.) engaged in distance learning

EXPRESSING *our Love*

Meeting MDA Students Online

Like teachers and students everywhere, back to school 2020 looked a little different. Sisters Annette Sheaffer and Ann Providence Frassinello have been Zooming to school with Mission Dolores Academy in San Francisco and are thrilled with how the students and staff have all risen to the occasion. Sister Annette shares that “the experience of doing Religion classes through Zoom is certainly exciting and very challenging. I am learning as I go.” Sister Annette also organizes all the liturgies, which have been online. “It was not easy to prepare the student readers for our first MDA Mass which streamed on YouTube in late September. I had to practice with them by phone, and they had to film themselves and send to the person who is putting all the pieces of the Mass together!” Sister Annette worked with Father Charlie Gagan, S.J. who both tackled new challenges to make the Mass of the Holy Spirit happen for the MDA community.

Sister Ann Providence shares, “I am blessed to be teaching two Religion classes.



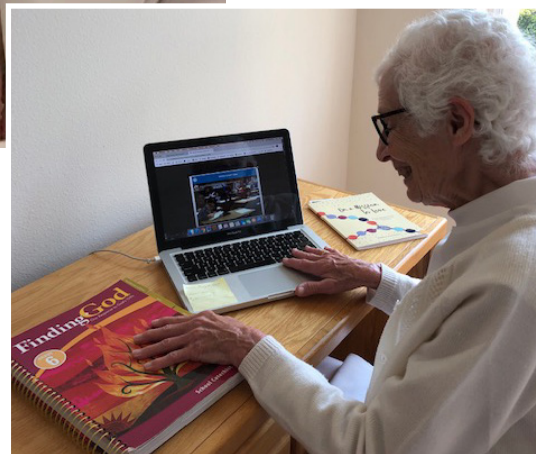
Class always begins with a Prayer, and the students readily participate, offer to read, answer questions, share their understanding, and read Scriptures from their Bibles. I feel that the learning/teaching is going well!

Both Sisters share that the main challenge is not really seeing and

being with the students; through the screen is just not the same. Although Sister Ann Providence is quick to add, “I observe that our students adapt very readily to this format. They are very accustomed to learning and completing assignments online, and I deeply appreciate the way that all of our teachers and staff are working together.”

To sum it up, Sister Annette says it best, “We just do our best to provide a loving and warm learning experience for the students. We depend on God’s help and the ongoing inspiration of the Holy Spirit!”

Sisters Ann Providence Frassinello (far left and below) and Annette Sheaffer embrace theme of the school year: “We are all in this together.”





Pictured here making sandwiches for Saint Dominic's Community Services are Sisters Cathryn deBack, Anne Bertain, and Ann Providence Frassinello.

San Francisco Ministries Continue to Meet Needs

Saint Dominic's Community Services, San Francisco has been in operation on a limited basis during the pandemic. Lima Center, for those who are without a home, has been open for a few hours four days a week. The guests line up outside (social distancing) and wear masks. They receive a bag of food—always sandwiches, along with other food items, sometimes even fresh hot food. Guests can either eat on the benches in the parking lot or take the food with them. When the weather changes it will be more difficult if people are still not able to be inside. St. Dominic's will keep the program going somehow.

The Sisters living at St. Rose Convent make about 120 sandwiches twice a week for the guests at Lima Center. Francisco, one of the employees at St. Dominic's (he also lives at Rose Court.) brings the sandwich supplies to the convent in the morning and picks the sandwiches up when they are ready. Sisters Cathryn deBack, Ann Providence Frassinello, and Anne Bertain are the usual sandwich crew relying on Sisters Bernice Garcia, Maureen McNerney, Judith Benkert, or Maggie Glynn when needed.

Besides the Lima Center, St. Dominic's Community Service has continued to help people in need with other services such as food bags for families, rent assistance, clothing, referrals for housing, medical, and any other critical need. The plans for the holidays will be very different this year. Instead of having the Christmas Store where families can pick out gifts for their children, gift cards

will be given. Pandemic or not, the needs in the community continue and even increase. The Sisters are grateful to be able to play a role in ensuring these needs are met.

Annual Alzheimer Walk Goes Online

On Sunday, October 4, 2020, Campus Ministry of Dominican University of California and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael held a mini-Alzheimer's walk via Zoom which was organized by Sr. Mary Soher, OP. DUC's student leader groups, the Siena Leadership Team, the Penguin Student Athletes Advisory Council, and the Dominican Nursing Students Association rallied students, staff, faculty, alumni, and family for a 30-minute challenge to walk and zoom in their local areas. The Dominican Sisters zoomed in to cheer on the walkers while Campus Ministry shared the 10 Warning Signs of the disease.

There were 96 zoom sites across seven states and over 40 cities. A great showing by our Dominican community!



"American democracy has never shed an undemocratic assumption present at its founding: that some people are inherently entitled to more power than others."

—JAMELLE BOUIE
American Journalist &



RACISM
ROOTS, RESOLVES, RESULTS

Systemic Racism sets tone for GATHER@GRAND



Our highly anticipated speaker series, meant to kick-off its fifth year of programing in March 2020, was abruptly put on pause when the COVID-19 pandemic shelter in place orders were levied. A reimagined event called Gather as if at Grand is now evolving and available online, and all are welcome. Embracing technology and a real desire to fulfill their vision to bring this important program to fruition one way or another, event organizers Sisters Barbara Green and Patricia Dougherty have been busy figuring our new ways of reaching their friends and followers.

Early in 2020, the Dominican Sisters announced a full line-up of Gather@Grand lectures, discussions, and film guides on the topic of racism, but we had to postpone and pivot due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent gathering restrictions. In a recent email to supporters, program organizer, Sr. Barbara Green shared, “even though gathering is optimal for this sort of event (it’s built into the name!), we feel our chosen topic of racism is so important and timely—possibly even more timely than our initial planned March kick-off—that we wanted to tailor our exploration of racism so that we can begin now.”

As Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, we embrace justice and compassion as core values that inform us in living our vision. Rooted in our Dominican heritage and traditions and in these guiding values, we commit ourselves to continued networking and collabora-

tion within the Dominican family and with others. Over the years, these programs have welcomed speakers on a wide range of topics to gatherings big and small such as Fr. Ron Rolheiser adult faith maturation, Sr. Corinne Floreck, OP on impact investing, Sr. Margaret Mayce, OP on serving at the United Nations, and Gordon Huether on loss and life through art—just to name a few!

The theme for the 2020 Gather as if @ Grand draws inspiration from the *New York Times Project 1619* and is intended to unfold over the course of a year or longer—with the hope that we will be able to actually gather at some point. Through a variety of mediums and options for self-guided study and more interactive Zoom presentations and discussions we are exploring why racism is present and how it happened (roots); what might be attempted that would make a difference (resolves); and how such efforts have



helped or not and might continue to make our common life richer, or not (results).

According to Sr. Barbara Green to program for 2020 was intended to be a little different in structure anyways. “Unlike previous Gather@Grand events, the design of this program is looser, less centralized, not dependent on physical presence, amenable to greater design at the participant level, as more choices are offered and individuals or groups may proceed as they design while keeping in loose connection with others gathering as if at a common site. We are maintaining the emphasis on three facets in particular: history, group work, film.”

On our website is a robust page of resources for study—books, articles, authors, podcasts, and more. We have hosted the first two virtual guided film discussions on *Amistad* and *Roots* (Season 1; Episode 1) and enjoyed rich dialogue and facilitated by Ms. Linda Pete. Our third discussion is scheduled for January 19 and deals with the PBS Documentary: *Reconstruction: America After The Civil War Revisited* (parts 1 & 2) which is available on YouTube. Film study guides can be found on our website under “Events.”

Another component to the study of the topic of racism is small group work. “Because of the pandemic, we couldn’t offer this option to the public,” explained Sr. Barbara. “We have a group of interested Sisters who reside in the same “bubble” who have opted to engage in this facilitated discussion format, and we are having frank and honest conversations about bias and white privilege. I would highly encourage others to select a film or book from our extensive resource list online and form a discussion group within your own circles.”

Sr. Barbara adds, “In time, when it is safe, we will sponsor seven sessions of presentations by Mr. Mick Chantler who will re-present facets of US history that tell us a story we have likely not studied before. These are, in a sense, the linchpin of what’s on offer, and so we will not dilute them but wait until they can be scheduled for some live and present participants. In some ways, this re-examination of U.S. history is the basic frame of the whole project.”

While the program has had some twists and turns, Sr. Barbara is pleased with the response and participation. “Clearly this is a topic that resonates today, and I am grateful that the Sisters are able to provide this avenue for discovery and dialogue.” 🏡



Opposite: Sr. Barbara Green, event organizer. Top: Sr. Patricia Dougherty at the Zoom controls of the first Virtual Film Discussion with moderator, Linda Pete. Above: Ms. Denise Lucy, Business School Professor at Dominican University of California with Sisters Barbara Green and Patricia Dougherty discussing program plans and promotion.

ADVOCATING for *Justice*

Investing in Community Partnerships



In the spring of 2020, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael were selected as the City of San Rafael Citizen of the Year and as such received a generous gift from the city. While a wonderful gesture, the monetary gift was immediately re-allocated by leadership to support one of our San Rafael based community partners, Canal Alliance, who are hard at work addressing the most urgent needs facing our immigrant neighbors.

“Serving our local community and ensuring welfare for all has long been a commitment of the Sisters, and we were honored to put this gift right back into the community in a way that benefits one of our many community partners, said Prioress Sister Carla Kovack, OP. “We used to be a steady presence in schools across the area in teaching and administration, so it is nice to be able to continue to impact the education of young people this way, given that many of our Sister teachers are now retired or engaged in other ministries.

The gift supported the purchase of Chromebooks, which were distributed to students in

the Canal Alliance’s University Prep (UP!) college access and success program. Sara Matson, Director of Development for the Canal Alliance, remarked on the impact of such a gift. “As students had to transition to online learning, many lacked access to the internet and didn’t have computers at home. With the donation from the Dominican Sisters, UP! staff members were able to address the digital divide for students in our program by providing Chromebooks to all students who needed them. We also received donated hotspots, which we were able to provide to students who lacked access to the internet. As a result, UP! was able to help students access online tutoring, social-emotional learning, and leadership development to complete the Spring 2020 school year and continue to do so now in this fall semester. In total, we’ve purchased thirty Chromebooks over the last six months, some were distributed to students who needed them in the Spring to complete the semester online, and others have now been provided to newly enrolled students who started with UP! this fall.”

The impact of gifts such as the Sisters’ is felt especially now as the organization is navigating the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges facing the Latino immigrant population they serve. Ms. Matson continued, “The support of the Dominican Sisters was very much appreciated and also helped us to increase the capacity of our program to serve more students. This fall we are serving 93 students in middle school and high school, up from 74 students last year.”

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael are grateful that they had this opportunity to make a difference, and look forward with hope to witnessing the achievements of the students in the UP! Program. Perhaps the creator of an important future vaccine lies within their student body!



Getting Out the Vote

From ongoing postcard writing efforts and weekly social media education campaigns offered as a “Countdown to Election” to hosting the Northern California Town Hall for Spirit-filled Voters presented by Nuns on the Bus, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael engaged their communities in Election 2020.

Our faith teaches us that we have a responsibility to participate in politics out of a concern for, and commitment to, the good of the community. Through the framework of our commitment to Catholic social teaching and our congregational vision in which “We reverence and affirm the inherent dignity of each person,” it is through informed voting that we work for the transformation of attitudes and systems that deprive any person of dignity.

Sr. Anne Bertain said that when Sr. Joan Hanna promoted the idea of writing postcards, the sisters in her community took it on as a way “to encourage people to vote, not how they would vote. The sisters felt this project was one way to help remind people to vote.”

Our Co-Promoters of Justice Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell and Ms. Lyn Kirkconnell created weekly themed messages for social media about the importance of being a multi-issue voter offering sites



NETWORK Lobby Executive Director Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS leads a Zoom Town Hall.

and resources for consideration.

On October 11 we were thrilled to be able to virtually host Sr. Simone Campbell and all the Nuns on the Bus as we held a Town Hall on Zoom. With nearly 100 spirit-filled voters signing in for the virtual town hall, we enjoyed an engaging time together.

Prioress Sister Carla Kovack, OP offered the welcome and opening prayer:

In the name of so many religious leaders, I welcome all of you who have journeyed west to the Bay Area to be part of this gathering. If you have ever physically flown in or out of the Bay Area and have enjoyed a window seat, you look down and see that it is water that touches each location surrounding our beautiful Bay. One hundred and seventy years ago this December, Archbishop Alemany arrived with Mother Mary Goemaere in this very place to establish a local church after a three-month journey from Europe. Today, we got here with a click of a mouse! Today, the many cities that sprung up on the edges of this large body of water are connected by bridges; the Golden Gate Bridge being the most notable. In Pope Francis' recent encyclical, he calls us to build bridges—“bridges of dialogue, bridges of encounter.”

On Election Day itself, the Sisters and staff participated in a Day of Prayer with 170 other Dominican congregations. May our prayers for peace and unity be answered.



U.S. Dominican Sisters and Morgan Stanley Launch Climate Solutions Funds Integrating UN Sustainable Development Goals on the Fifth Anniversary of Laudato Si'

Five years ago, an unusual partnership between U.S. Catholic Sisters and a global Wall Street investment firm emerged from a commitment the Dominican Sisters made at a 2015 Conference to “develop an appropriate strategy to promote investment in climate solutions.” June 18, 2020, marks the fifth anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si' (the second encyclical of Pope Francis which focuses on care for our common home), and so it is appropriate that the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael join fifteen other U.S. congregations of Dominican Sisters (an international order of preachers founded by St. Dominic in the 13th century) in announcing the launch of a strategic investment initiative in collaboration with Morgan Stanley to address climate change, especially as it affects marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by global warming.



Preaching with their pocketbook, so to speak, the Sisters collectively committed \$46,650,000 to the initiative, seeding Climate Solutions Funds that have attracted more than \$130,000,000 in capital investments.

Dominicans around the world have long been engaged in addressing issues related to poverty and Earth's degradation, and by extending these efforts to Wall Street by proactively investing in marketplace climate solutions that hopefully will have a catalyzing impact for the common good of people and planet, is inspiring. Prioress of the San Rafael congregation, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, has been an avid proponent of this idea since its inception. “I believe using the resources with which we have been blessed can be translated into real moments of preaching. These funds have a significant impact on how businesses can be both profitable and

good for the earth.”

The commitment to seek such a partnership between congregations of women religious and Wall Street, made prior to the Paris Climate Agreement, was the fruit of a yearlong faith-praxis cycle of study, contemplation, and action (a cherished Dominican process) developed by the Earth Council of northeast Dominican congregations that had engaged Dominicans throughout the United States. A Sisters’ Climate Finance Taskforce was formed, reaching out to more than three dozen financial institutions in search of a manager that would develop financial products addressing climate change and integrating the UN Sustainable Development Goals. “We found that manager in The Graystone Consulting Group of Morgan Stanley,” said Caldwell Dominican Sister Patricia Daly, OP, a longtime corporate-responsibility advocate, who played a leading role on the taskforce and in forging the partnership. “This marks a new moment of collaboration in the world of finance. May this milestone spark a new movement of integrated climate solutions that are responsive to Pope Francis’ moral call to humanity in *Laudato Si’* to care for God’s creation and God’s people,” she said.

Although this effort was initiated well before the outbreak of COVID-19, the global pandemic has underscored the link between climate change and ecological degradation and the health and wellbeing of people, especially those most vulnerable. “Every day, and especially during a pandemic, we are called to respond to the question ‘what is the earth asking of us?’ I believe we can make a significant difference in terms of the climate crisis and related climate social justice issues by pooling our resources and investments. We preach by the way we live, and we hope this approach to healing our earth will inspire others to consider how they might examine their resources and put them to work for the care of God’s creation,” shared Sr. Carla Kovack.

Leaders of sixteen congregations of Dominican Sisters across the country, representing nearly 3,500 Catholic Sisters from Washington to New York, Texas to Michigan, and a few right here in the Bay Area, are participating in this collaborative initiative in partnership with the Chicago office of Graystone Consulting Group, a women-led institutional consulting practice which is part of Morgan Stanley. The Sisters’ anchor investments in this initiative have attracted additional investors, providing a pool of more than \$130 million for investment in climate solutions that integrate the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals on water, sanitation, food security, energy, and related challenges facing economically impoverished communities.

The initiative, five years in the making, has attracted numerous other investors. Séamus P. Finn, OMI, Chief of Faith Consistent Investing of the Oblate International Pastoral (OIP) Investment Trust, said, “The OIP Trust is excited by the opportunity to join the Dominican-Climate fund and was especially

attracted by the insight and innovation that is at the core of the fund’s approach. The vision for the fund is grounded in the transformation of the current financial system and gives priority to people, planet and sustainability.”

Lisa Zuckerman, Vice President of Treasury and Strategic Investing for CommonSpirit Health, said, “CommonSpirit Health is a long-standing socially responsible investor, and we are grateful for opportunities with like-minded investors that align with our values and create healthier communities. We seek strong social returns as well as financial returns. With its focus on climate change, the Climate Impact Solutions Fund helps address a pressing global health issue,” she said, adding, “When we can meet our financial goals, we are able to spread our healing mission to more people.”

It was two years ago, on June 18, 2018, that leaders of the sixteen congregations gathered at the global headquarters of Morgan Stanley on Times Square to celebrate the inauguration of the initiative with their anchor commitments. The Sisters were hosted by officers from Morgan Stanley’s Institute for Sustainable Investing and Graystone Consulting Institutional Consultants Kristina Van Liew and Linda Stephans.

San Rafael’s Sr. Pat Farrell, OP, who served as Executive Director for the Dominican Sisters Conference through the course of this project’s development, is thrilled to see this collaborative project come to pass. “I was honored and privileged to stand with representatives from the participating congregations under the flashing Time Square Morgan Stanley marquis bearing the name “Dominican Sisters” two years ago. And today, as this fund is officially launched and publicly announced, I am excited and delighted to celebrate a significant moment of collaboration in climate solutions. As women religious, our sum is certainly greater than our parts, and it is truly gratifying to see the work of all our partners come to fruition.”

The participating Sisters note that their integrated approach to climate finance echoes the call Pope Francis issued in *Laudato Si’* for “an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature” (139). The initiative is aligned with efforts that Catholic Sisters around the world have undertaken for years to address issues related to poverty and ecological degradation. These include support for affordable housing and healthcare, education, microenterprise, community development, as well as clean water, land conservation, renewable energy, Earth literacy programs, wetlands restoration, and advocacy for climate agreements and programs serving people with low incomes, among others. 🌱

Pictured on the previous page: Sister Patricia Farrell (left) with _____ and _____ in New York City in 2018 for the launch of Morgan Stanley’s Climate Solutions Fund.



Thank You

Since our founding in 1850, we have been sustained by our faith in God and by the loving generosity of people like you. Your prayers and thoughtful gifts have supported us in our mission of service to God's people. With deep gratitude for the generous support we continue to receive from our friends, families, colleagues, and partners in ministry, we faithfully hold you all in our thoughts and prayers. **What follows is a list* of those whose gifts were received between May 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020.**

Anonymous
Mrs. Mary Abeyta
Sandra Affonso
Cathleen Alamillo
Sandy Alfonso
Chari Allread
Mr. John Arata
Michelle Arbios
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Armijo
John Arruda
Kathleen Atwood
Catherine Bain
Marion Baker
Roberta and Tom Bandy
Judith Barrett
Laverne Barrett
Mr. Thomas Basile
Mrs. Suzanne Beach
Nelida Belarde
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Pamela De Villaine

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 Richard and Victoria Murphy
 Mr. John Murray
 Irene Myers
 Tom and Jean Nelson
 Thanh Nguyen
 Sister Brigid Noonan
 Larry Norton
 Miss Kathleen O'Donnell
 Mr. Thomas O'Donnell
 Robert and Maria O'Farrell
 John and Renee O'Neill
 Mary O'Reilly
 Peter and Serena O'Sullivan
 John Omernik
 Mr. Albert Pagni
 Mr. Robert Parnow
 Ann Pearman
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perasso
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 Mrs. Mildred Burris Peterson
 Susan Peterson
 Yolanda Peterson
 Joy Phoenix
 Maria Teresa Poblete
 Min and Louie Poblete
 Karen Poligono
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 Patric and Mary Powell
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 Peloquin, Mary Catherine
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 Mrs. Virginia Wallace
 Barbara Wander
 Robert and Maryanne Warwick
 Mrs. Deborah West
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wharton
 Mr. John White
 Gerard Wombacher
 Mr. William Yoakam 



First Friday Mass REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

Prayer is fundamental to Dominican life. For many years we have enjoyed being with our friends and family in prayer through the *First Friday Mass* Remembrance Program. The gift of prayer is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

On the first Friday of every month, the Sisters pray especially for our collected list of names. Although a gift is not necessary, any gifts received through the Mass Remembrance Program are used specifically to care for our Sisters at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent. **Contact us at 415.453.8303 or CommunityRelations@sanrafaelop.org for information/materials.**

**We make every effort to assure all donors are properly listed in our report. If your name was inadvertently left out or listed incorrectly, we apologize. Please contact the Administration Office at 415.453.8303 or email develop@sanrafaelop.org to advise us of this error. Thank you.*



*Loving God,
You created all people
in your image.
We thank you for
the astonishing kaleidoscope
of races and cultures
in the world.
Enrich our lives by
ever-widening circles of friendship,
and show us your presence
in those who differ most from us,
until our knowledge of
your love is made real
in our love for all your children.
We ask this in the name of
your Son, Jesus Christ,
who loves unconditionally.
*Amen.**

YOU ARE INVITED!

to our virtual celebration

170

Anniversary

December 6, 2020

4-4:45 pm

Join us on Zoom!

All are welcome! Readers should have received an email invitation. If not, please contact us at communityrelations@sanrafaelop.org to ensure we have your current email address. You may also access registration information at www.sanrafaelop.org under "Events." Please register to ensure you receive the Zoom link.



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If you have address corrections,
please contact
communityrelations@sanrafaelop.org
or call 415.853.8303

Shine with us!



Sr. Emmanuel Cardinale, OP leads a prayer for peace around the peace pole in front of the Administration Building in recognition of the United Nations World Day for Peace on Sept. 21.

In Need of Prayers?

Our First Friday Prayer program is a great way to enlist the prayer support of the Sisters. Do you need Mass cards or would you like to learn more?

Please contact Sr. Emmanuel Cardinale, OP at
415.453.8303 ext. 117
or develop@sanrafaelop.org

Truth

Vocation Ministry

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about a call to religious life or partnering with us in vocation ministry?

Please contact our Vocation Director,
Sr. Cathy Murray, OP at 415.453.8303 ext. 103
or cathy.murray@sanrafaelop.org

Love

Take Action for Justice

We advocate for social justice everyday, but on Thursdays we highlight one particular timely cause with a clear call to action. Want to learn more about our #justiceOPportunity Thursdays?

Contact Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell, OP or Ms. Lyn Kirkconnell
at 415.453.8303 ext. 115 or
justicepromoter@sanrafaelop.org
Or, simply follow @sanrafaelop on social media

Justice



Join the conversation!
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