



DOMINICAN  
SISTERS  
*San Rafael*

# OP *Ignite*

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

SPRING 2020

*Be Light  
for Others*

*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.

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Sr. Cathy Murray, OP  
Sr. Barbara Green, OP  
Sr. Abby Newton, OP  
Sr. Margaret Diener, OP

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring edition of *OP Ignite*. This spring, all of our lives have been turned upside down. I recall a letter I wrote to the sisters in the congregation in mid-march when I shared a metaphor I had read regarding our response to the then-emerging epidemic as being like a marathon, not a sprint. Since then I have realized that a race has an endpoint, and our COVID-19 response does not. Our way of life, as well as our worldview, has been permanently altered.



As with any major crisis we have the choice to fearfully react for our own safety and of those we love, or we can face the darkness head-on and discover the mystery of new life—that just may be the kernel to take away from this current traumatic event. Although the pandemic is awful with such suffering and death, how might we look for the light in the dark? How might we discover and affirm relationships beyond our kin? How might we appreciate the sacrifice of one's own safety for the common good such as our essential workers in hospitals, care centers, meat factories, fields, and supermarkets? How might we reflect on the systems and structures of the economy that has left the vulnerable without hope or justice? The coronavirus has left deep cracks in our safety nets.

St. Dominic lived in an era with major shifts such as going from an agrarian society to one centered in cities. Education, once kept alive in monasteries, arose in university settings. Dominic began a movement and an Order in which the Light of the Gospel was preached by going out to where the people lived and worked. At the end of Compline (Night Prayer), Dominicans pray the 'O Lumen ecclesia' in honor of our founder. He was a Light of the Church, and as his daughters, we look to his life as a template for continuing to be light to others.

Our Dominican sister, Catherine of Siena, was a light to those in her community of followers in 14th century Europe. During the deadly Black Plague which killed 60% of those living in Europe, her life of deep contemplative prayer overflowed into service of her neighbor. She, like Dominic, embraced a life that integrated quiet listening to God, who she often described as 'Fire,' in order to become a spark of change. As the Spanish Flu ravaged California in 1918, the Dominican Sisters walked toward the cracks created by this illness to serve the health care needs of their neighbors. They were recognized for love of neighbor by their sacrifices in service of the common good.

In this newsletter we share stories of Dominican Sisters, partners in ministry, and friends whose presence creates light, reflecting those treasured qualities of Dominic and Catherine. St. Catherine said that we walk with two feet: love of God and love of neighbor. Let us continue this journey of faith, seeking the light who is Christ alive in our hearts, and let us be light for others.

*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.

# IN THIS *Issue*

SPRING 2020



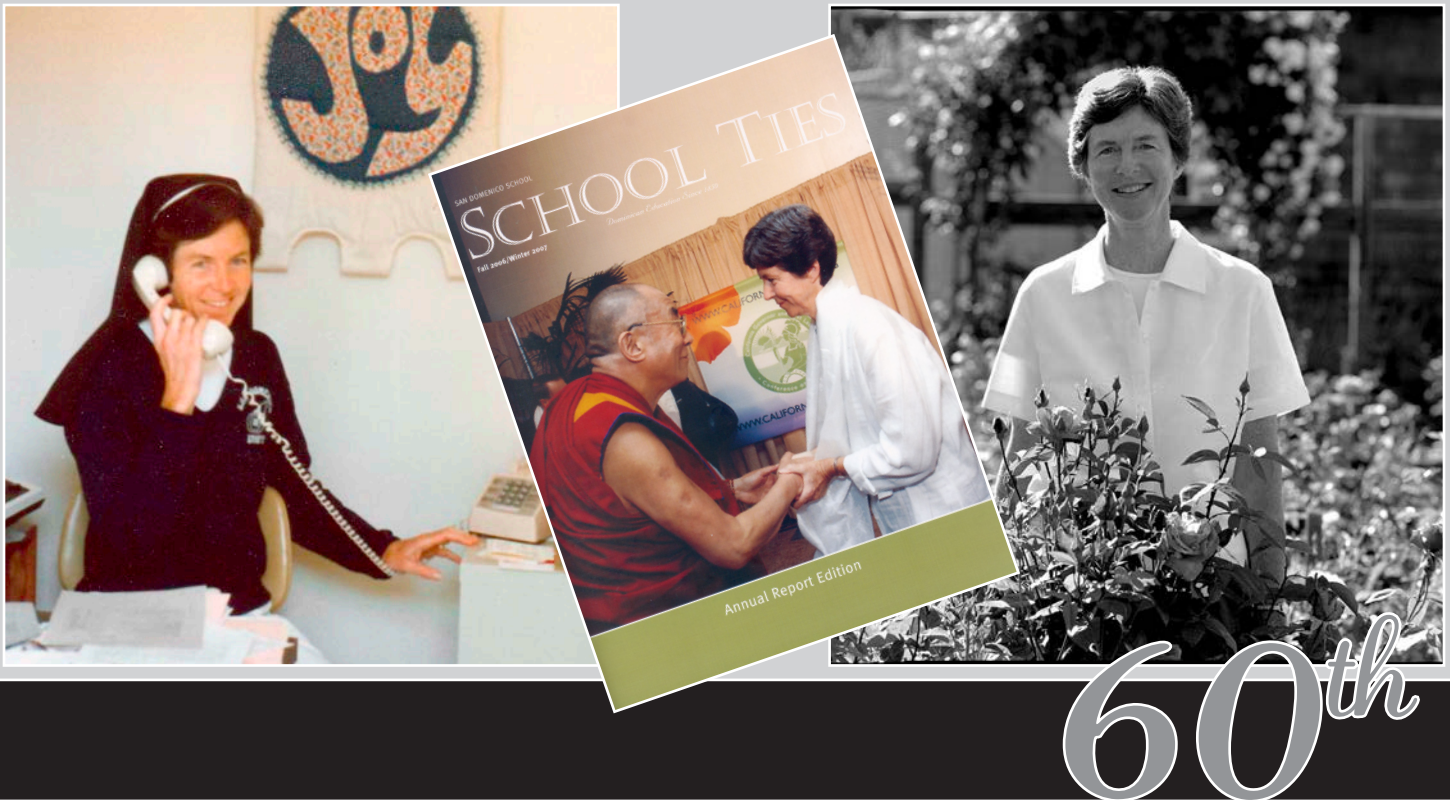
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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Rhododendrons in bloom near the porch of St. Margaret's Convent in San Rafael. Photo by: Eileen Mize





## Sister Gervaise Valpey, OP

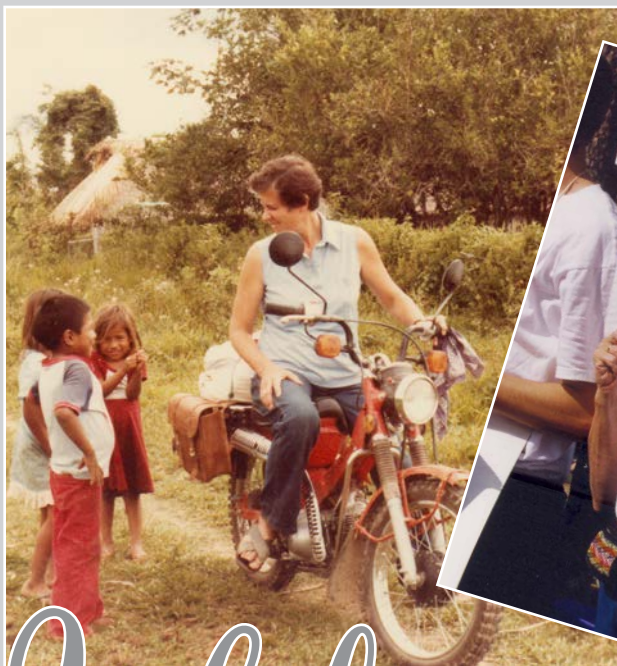
As a curious and life-long learner, consummate teacher, and seeker of truth, Sr. Gervaise Valpey, OP models the rewards that come from really listening to one’s self, reflecting about the world and one’s role within it, and fostering meaningful relationships with others. Sustained by her faith, inspired by the teachings of Jesus, and blessed with what she refers to as much opportunity, Sister Gervaise bears witness to and marvels in the connectedness of things—goodness in people, beauty in nature, connection to God and to science. Now in her sixtieth jubilee year as a Dominican Sister of San Rafael, Sister Gervaise reflects on her journey—one that has been full of grace.

Born and raised in Stockton and the product of a Dominican education, Sister Gervaise has spent the last sixty years primarily in the ministry of education. From being a dorm sister and teaching 4th grade at Dominican Convent Lower School on the San Rafael campus, to joining the 1965 relocation to San Domenico at the end of Butterfield Road in San Anselmo, one might say Sister Gervaise loves to build—programs, buildings, coalitions, committees. She would be the first to tell you that the rewards of any of these efforts lie in the lasting relationships created.

Guided by the Holy Spirit and crediting many mentors along the way, Sister’s journey has been about saying “yes” and responding to needs that arose around her. Whether it was repurposing underutilized dorm space for an early education

program or securing its funding and the appropriate model of instruction for young students, Sister has an innovative spirit and an inspiring willingness to try. Grateful for the Dominican value of interdependence, she confidently walks in the footsteps of St. Dominic, and like him, her preaching is by her life.

As her role at San Domenico shifted more to leadership in the form of Upper School Principal—a position once held by a dear friend and mentor, Sr. Maurice Powers—and then ultimately to Head of School, Sister’s continual study of and reflection on her place in the world and the connectedness to all God’s creation, led her to deeper explorations on the topic of sustainability. Compelled also by the teaching and learning experiences, she visited and grew inspired by places like Genesis Farm, Integral Urban House in Berkeley, the Farallon’s Institute, and ultimately met UC Berkeley professor Sim Van der Ryn, former state architect and a world leader in the field of sustainable architecture. He worked with Sister Gervaise and faculty to lay the foundation for a sustainability program at San Domenico—thus, the Garden of Hope was born in 1994. For Sister Gervaise the garden and sustainability program are a source of pride, and she is nourished by observing the myriad lessons learned by students in the garden. “The program is continually evolving and adapting to the needs of the students. Students in grades pre-K-12 are each learning as they grow and develop about the cycles of life, death, and res-



# Jubilee

## Sister Judy Lu McDonnell, OP

With an independent spirit, an aptitude for science, and a curiosity about the world, Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell spent her formative years in Stockton, living out a childhood that would shape her future in ways she couldn't have imagined. Influences were all around her. The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael served as her teachers. The only girl in a family of boys, young Judy possessed a nurturing instinct toward others always tutoring and volunteering. She attended daily mass and found inspiration in a Sunday talk given by a medical missionary and imagined a future as a Medical Missionary doctor. In her budding spirituality, she embraced a devotion to Mary and the rosary. It was in high school and at the urging of a close friend that she began to feel called to religious life. She sought spiritual counsel, prayed, and ultimately joined the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael adopting the ring motto "By the grace of God I am what I am." (1 Corinthians, 15:10). Indeed, God's grace has led Sister Judy Lu through her sixty years as a Sister.

Initially missioned to teach high school science and religion, Sister Judy Lu fueled her curiosity by earning an advanced degree. It was during that time she began to hear the words "ecology" and "sustainability" and the interconnectedness of things. She shifted from chemistry to biology and delved into the life sciences. She brought her enthusiasm to her Vallejo classroom, eventually teaching a new science peppered with the writings of the spiritual mystic Teilhard de Chardin. The 60s brought about

much change in society and for Sister Judy Lu.

Citing safety concerns in the science lab, she was one of the first in the congregation to adopt a modified, shorter habit. She witnessed teenagers drifting from the church and sought to reach them spiritually in new ways—have you ever been to a guitar mass? "I delved deeper into theology and spirituality...something was stirring during my time in Vallejo because of the youth and how they were looking at church differently." Those stirrings led to more reading and reflection. "I started reading about liberation theology and learning about the third world. I read about Maryknoll Missionaries and was feeling called to explore more."

After more than a decade as a teacher and with the blessing of the Council, Sister Judy Lu was off to the jungles of Bolivia during the politically tumultuous 80s. "I fell in love with the place, finished language school, and landed in a colony with the Quechua, an indigenous group of farmers who spoke their own dialect." She lived in a hut on her own for 8 years as the other Missionaries sought more urban opportunities. "It was very rustic. I got around by bicycle through the mud or hitching rides on trucks. It wasn't for everyone, but I loved every minute of it. I learned my Spanish by teaching the Quechua to read and write in Spanish." She developed a passion for literacy that stays with her today. Applying her teaching skills and science background she worked with the women to educate them in health and nutrition.

... continued on the inside back cover





During the 1918 Spanish Flu, sisters in Vallejo aided in converting their newly constructed school building at St. Vincent's into a temporary Navy hospital and provided nursing support. (San Rafael Archives)

A.

**SISTERS AT THE CONVENT MAKE JACKETS AND GAS MASKS**

*Oct. — 1918.*

SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN ORDER AT ST. VINCENT'S CONVENT DOING NOBLE WORK

Under the direction of Sister Eulalia, sixteen sisters, members of the Dominican Order at St. Vincent's convent are doing wonderfully noble work in assisting the Red Cross, according to announcement made today. Yesterday seven dozen masks and a number of pneumonia jackets were turned out and will be turned over to the local Chapter. The Dominican sisters have been doing this work for the past year and have much to the work of the Red Cross. Under Sister Eulalia

# A Legacy of Responding

Nov. 1918

Mother Louis, Dominican College, San Rafael.

Nov. 4, 1918

B.

Dear Mother Louis:

It is impossible for me to thank you and the Sisters of the Dominican College adequately for the splendid work which they did in assisting the Community in the Influenza epidemic. Their devotion and influence accomplished a great deal among the poor people with whom they worked. While at the Hospital the nurses could not say enough of the good influence of the Sisters as well as the hard work they did so cheerfully; In the name of Marin Co. Chapter A.R.C. will you kindly express gratitude to them for their help and accept for yourself thanks for having co-operated so finely in our effort to help the suffering.

Very Sincerely, Margaret Foster  
Chapter A.R.C.

Just over 100 years ago the Spanish Flu of 1918 made its mark on history and so did a flourishing congregation of women religious forming schools and founding hospitals in our young state—not the first time Dominicans set fear aside and rolled up their sleeves.

**The 1918 Epidemic**

On October 17, 1918, the Board of Directors met five days ahead of its scheduled meeting. The influenza epidemic was raging, and already the Hospital was overcrowded. More serious than that, though, around the clock, caring for the sick. Much more nursing personnel was needed and the Board acted to enlist the aid of Sisters throughout the County. The meeting adjourned with no further business being discussed.

Many of those afflicted owed their lives to the loving care they received from the Sisters who without thought of their own welfare fought valiantly against the virulent disease. The grim battles of World War I fought in the trenches were matched on the home front by the battle against the worst "flu" epidemic in history. The face masks worn by the populace were small protection against the virus and by the time it was brought under control in 1919, more than 200,000 people had lost their lives.

C.



Clippings from the San Rafael archives provide a glimpse of life for the sisters during the 1918 Spanish Flu. A: headline from a Vallejo newspaper

B: a local Red Cross thank you note to Mother Louis acknowledging service of the sisters and their college students

C: excerpt from a history pamphlet from St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton.



*Sr. Abby Newton walks through St. Joseph Medical Center with CEO Mr. Don Wiley and Bishop Cotta who offered a blessing on all.*

# WITH LIGHT *to the needs of our time*



*Lourdes Convent Administrator Sr. Mary Kieffer masks-up to distribute palms to the other sisters' communities from her porch for Palm Sunday.*

ensuring that those most in need were tended to.

The new decade of 2020 began with all the hopes of a new year, laying plans for celebrations and new preaching opportunities—and then all the headlines turned toward something called coronavirus (or, COVID-19). This respiratory disease was getting closer to home and claiming lives in its path. Highly contagious. No treatment. No vaccine. A lot of unknowns. As the urgency to protect the public intensified, an unprecedented shelter-in-place order was mandated across Bay Area counties taking effect on March 17, 2020, and shortly thereafter, throughout the state. At first it was said to be a couple of weeks so as to give our medical care centers time to prepare—to “flatten the curve.” Things like “hospital surge,” “wash your hands,” “social distancing,” and “stay home,” were common place. New protocols were put into place in the administration building with some staff working remotely. Protecting the most vulnerable of our senior sisters and staff at Our Lady of Lourdes Con-

vent took center stage along with the procurement of scarce personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfecting supplies. The shelter in place order was extended once through May 4, and then extended again through May 31 (at time of printing). Schools shifted to distance learning models while non-essential businesses were forced to close their doors. Young and old were thrown into a virtual world of using digital platforms for work meetings, social gatherings, education, and spiritual activities.

Our sisters responded, guided by the Easter message of hope which served as a beacon. Centered and grounded by their Dominican spirituality, the sisters called on their faith and the Easter message of hope as they engaged with their communities in new ways and through a new lens. Answering requests for prayers, motivating students and others through video and social media messages and instruction, connecting with each other and being in community through online platforms, figuring our new ways to experience Mass, and





Sisters Gervaise Valpey, Marion Irvine, and Brigid Noonan send messages of support to San Domenico students learning from home.

reaching out to those beyond our immediate community were just a few of the themes that filled the days of shelter-in-place.


Their concentrated time together brought individual house communities together in stronger ways for shared prayer as the time at home allowed for deeper reflection. Several of our preachers shared beautiful poignant Easter reflections (found on our website) relative to the pandemic such as Sr. Ruth Droege’s “A Humpty Dumpty Easter” about finding peace in the fragility that comes with social isolation as inspired by the teachings of Teilhard and Rahner; Sr. Patricia Bruno’s “Stories Seldom Heard” about calling on the Holy Spirit to ignite our compassion; while Sr. Pat Farrell’s “OPreach” online posts inspire with apt words of wisdom and beautiful imagery. Sr. Patty Riley led a portion of the SF Archdiocese’s virtual rosary rally.

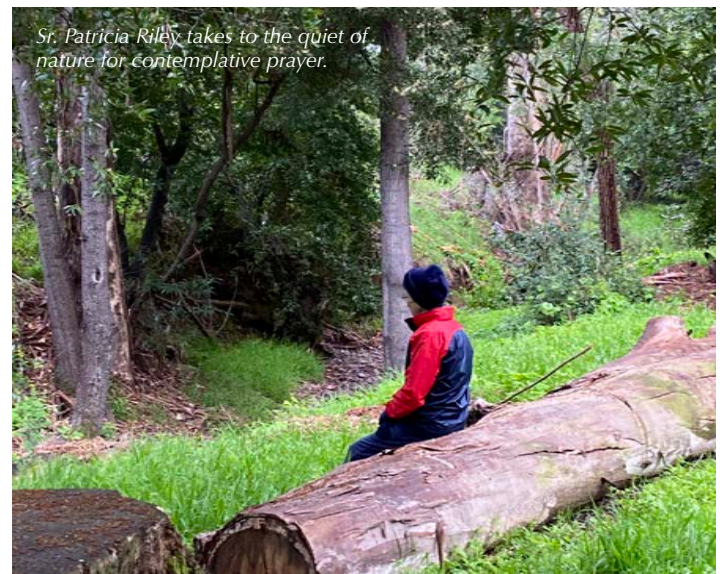
Opting to view the pandemic as an opportunity provided a framework for innovation while providing the stability of forward movement. Leading from the frontlines, Sr. Abby Newton in her role as Vice President for Mission Integration at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Stockton invited Bishop Myron Cotta to confer a special blessing to all over the hospital PA. The Bishop entrusted all—patients, staff, and physicians—to God’s healing care. In her first chapter as Administrator of Lourdes Convent, Sr. Mary Kieffer calls on her hospital background to ensure health and safety of all sisters and staff, critical during shelter-in-place. Our justice promoters, Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell and Ms. Lyn Kirkconnell didn’t miss a beat shifting their advocacy and outreach work to mobile platforms and inspiring an even greater need for social justice amidst pandemic times. Sr. Margaret Diener and the Advisory Board at Santa Sabina Center are reimagining retreats for a virtual

and digital landscape and responding to a collective need for contemplative time in the community. Sr. Cathy Murray moved her vocation ministry online with team meetings and outreach while also bringing her career skills of community health to bear on her work with the leadership team.

There were much needed moments of levity and creativity too. Sisters in San Francisco took breaks from Catholic Charities efforts and Lima Center ministry work and participated in a made-for-social-media sing-along led by Mr. Tony Bennett of “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” each belting out the words from their respective balconies at noontime on a Saturday. The beauty of nature provided solace for many—long walks and quiet contemplation among the trees, gardens to tend to. Sr. Pat Ottoboni, Sr. Diane Smith, and others enjoyed nature photography. Sr. Anne Dolan discovered the many online resources of the public library, while Sisters Pat Simpson, Katherine Hamilton, Abby Newton, and Sue Allbritton engaged in “lawn preaching” with weekly inspirational messages created in community and displayed for the neighborhood to enjoy.

Leading the congregation with compassion (*which is contagious!*) through unprecedented times, Prioress Sr. Carla Kovack has worked with her council and ministered to the spiritual needs of the sisters, advocated for the health and safety of all the sisters and staff with new and evolving workplace guidelines and policies, created video messages to bring a voice of hope and calm to our community, and used her technical prowess to instruct Sisters on Zoom, leading an invitational guided reflection to both instruct and to provide connection.

We are called to be a light for others, and this global pandemic brings with it some dark days for many. May our messages of hope be a beacon for those who need it most, and may the brighter days ahead bring about renewed faith, deeper relationships, and greater regard for our planet and all of God’s creation. [Written by Eileen Mize] 



Sr. Patricia Riley takes to the quiet of nature for contemplative prayer.



# SHARING *our* Truth



## Celebrating Easter During COVID-19

With live-streaming Mass, make-shift living room altars near the TV, and palm branch alternatives, the 2020 Easter season saw creativity and technology play an increased role in the sisters' communal prayer. As we entered the second half of Lent, blossoms broke forth in the garden, while the shelter-in-place orders took affect and kept the Sisters at home. No longer able to go to Mass or even invite a celebrant in, online platforms such as YouTube and Facebook Live offered solutions, while our own gardens offered solace and substitute greenery for those unable to access palms. The new-found time provided an opportunity for deeper attentiveness to daily prayer. Throughout the more intimate Easter celebrations we became Church for each other. We experienced the joy of Easter by seeing the risen Christ through service to others. While much was sacrificed in terms of traditional rituals and the inability to all gather together, the time for prayer and quiet reflection gave us hearts of gratitude for all the frontline workers and health care providers working tirelessly for the greater good. Though physically apart, we felt the solidarity among all our sisters and beyond as we were filled with the hope that is Easter.

*Pictured clockwise: Sisters Annette Sheaffer, Anne Bertain, and Catherine deBack select palm branches from their SF garden for use on a Palm Sunday at home; Sisters Cathy Murray and Patricia Simpson hold out the "Shine" tealight give-away and (right) Sr. Katherine Hamilton talks about vocations to a visitor to our booth at the LA Congress expo.*

## Vocations Team Attends LA Congress

"Live Mercy, Be Holy." was the theme for the 2020 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. Our Vocations Team of Sisters Cathy Murray, Katherine Hamilton, Patricia Simpson, and Brigid Noonan along with Director of Communica-

tions Eileen Mize joined forces with the Mission San Jose sisters and staffed a booth at the expo to share with others about the call to religious life and to ask everyone to pray for vocations. We had several little trinkets to share including a LED tea light candle to convey a message of light and being light for others. Our prayer is that the light we shared though our time at the Congress and in our booth may touch the heart of another.







## Sisters Named City of San Rafael 2020 *Citizen of the Year*

On Monday, March 2, more than two dozen Sisters filled the City of San Rafael council chambers to show their support for a friend of the congregation for whom they understood to be the newly named Citizen of the Year. When Mayor Gary Phillips took the microphone to make the much-anticipated announcement, the sisters sat excited, pleased with their secret-keeping capabilities. Imagine the surprise when Mayor Phillips announced that the honor goes to the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael! What a delightful ruse and wonderful honor.

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael stand on the shoulders of giants and are grateful to founder, Mother Mary Goemaere, OP, who arrived in California from France in 1850 and set up the first community of women religious with early locations that included Monterey, Benicia, and San Francisco with a primary focus on education. Our origins in San Rafael began with the leadership of Mother Louis O'Donnell (1887-1929), who with tremendous faith, generous donations, and pledges of financial support arranged for the construction of a new Victorian-Renaissance style building in San Rafael in 1889 which became Dominican College of San Rafael. With such firm and rich foundations in the community, the Dominican Sisters are committed to living out their mission to bring the Gospel to bear on the critical issues of the times; constantly expanding their ideas of where and how they could best be of service to God's people. Today the Sisters can be found not only in schools and hospitals, but also in parishes, social service agencies, day programs for those without homes, and prisons. The Sisters minister as spiritual directors,

chaplains, retreat leaders, artists, physical therapists, professors, peace and justice promoters, and tutors. We go where God leads us.

The *Catholic San Francisco* highlighted the Catholic social teaching accolades in a congratulatory article. "The sisters' involvement in social justice issues from immigration to affordable housing to advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community has been a 'beacon of inspiration and hope for all,' according to the proclamation issued by the City of San Rafael. The proclamation detailed how the sisters have been models of respectful leadership. 'In an age where incivility permeates all levels of society, the sisters have shown us what it means to be thoughtful, patient, and understanding.'

"The sisters' 'quiet determination' has improved individual lives and the community as a whole, it said. "They are silent warriors who continue to persevere, selflessly pursuing their vision statement: 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."

"We are humbled by this honor to be named San Rafael Citizen of the Year and share this recognition with all our community partners, and most certainly with those whose shoulders upon which we stand," remarked Sr. Carla Kovack, Prioress General.

*(l-r) Vice Mayor Kate Colin, Councilmember Maribeth Bushey, Sr. Mary Kieffer, Mayor Gary Phillips, Sr. Raya Hanlon, Sr. Cyndie Cammack, Prioress General Sr. Carla Kovack, Sr. Margaret Diener, Sr. Pat Simpson, Councilmember John Gamblin, Sr. Susan Allbritton, Sr. Maureen McInerney, Sr. Patricia Boss, Sr. Sue Pixley, Sr. Joan Hanna, Sr. Diane Smith, Sr. Cathy Murray, and Sr. Emmanuel Cardinale [Photo by: City Clerk, Lindsay Lara]*





# Heritage & HISTORY



## 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](mailto:archivist@sanrafaelop.org) or 415.453.8303 ext. 110.

The late Sr. Samuel Conlan makes local headlines as the Dominican University’s athletic center turns 20 this spring. Honoring traditions and a sense of place, several Sisters were on hand to celebrate the anniversary of Dominican University’s Conlan Center in late February at a special event.

Named in honor of Sister Samuel Conlan, OP, Dominican’s fifth president and retired professor of English, the recreation center was the first new campus building in 37 years and was officially dedicated on April 29, 2000. Sr. Samuel is not so much remembered for her athletic prowess, but for her faithful leadership and deep commitment to the students of Dominican. The University wanted to honor her contributions to the school by bestowing her with the naming right to a building slated to be a thriving student center developing young men and women of character, grit, and commitment—something she always worked to instill in her students, whether in English class or around campus. Sr. Samuel made her mark on the DUC campus and in the hearts of all her new her.

*Pictured clockwise: The late Sr. Samuel Conlan, OP, fifth President of Dominican University of California; The Conlan Athletic Center; Attending the 20th Anniversary Celebration in late February 2020, Sisters Patricia Dougherty and Lorraine Amodeo join Sr. Marion Irvine—who shares a special connection with the Athletics program as a member of their Hall of Fame. She was inducted in 2008 for her record-setting running career.*



Top: 2019 St. Joseph's Medical Center bridge with 120th anniversary photo montage. Below: the late Sr. Gabriel Lally making her hospital rounds; a 4+ decade leader credited with building up St. Joseph's and for the wisdom to hire current CEO, Mr. Don Wiley, many years ago.



## Sharing Our Light

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, as early pioneers of our great state of California, laid plenty of literal and figurative foundations for two main pillars of any thriving community—education and health care.

The city of Stockton in the San Joaquin Valley is one such community having benefited from the sisters since its earliest days. It was said at an anniversary celebration a decade ago, "... [that] summer, a formidable force— some say divine— entered post-Gold Rush Stockton, probably by horse-drawn wagon: Dominican Sisters of San Rafael."<sup>1</sup>

It was Mother M. Joseph Dillon and Sister Evangelist Falls, a pioneer's daughter new to the order, who first arrived in Stockton in 1876 at the request of Stockton's Roman Catholic pastor, Father William O'Connor, who was in search of school teachers. It was twenty years later that Father O'Connor further engaged the sisters in ministry work at a time when Stockton physicians were urging him to include a hospital in his plans for a home for elderly men—and it was the sisters who ultimately also answered that call. Thus, the foundation for St. Joseph's Home and Hospital was laid—today known as St. Joseph's Medical Center.



Founding administrators St. Mary's High School in Stockton, Sr. Colette Standart, OP and Fr. Xavier Harris, O.F.M. with students as pictured in the 1958 Cauldron yearbook.



The servant-leadership style and work ethic of the sisters along with their commitment to community, fostered a lasting infrastructure for a health care and education ministry which has served generations of people who call the San Joaquin Valley home. Although much has changed in more than a century, and while the Stockton classroom walls of St. Agnes Academy (later, Annunciation School) or St. Mary's High School could share stories of the sisters who have come and gone over many, many decades, the legacy of those lessons are evident and celebrated to this day as the sisters continue to bring the Gospel values to bear on critical issues of the times.

Fast forward to the sisters' presence in Stockton in 2020. Sr. Abby Newton, OP, serves as the Medical Center's Vice President for Mission Integration and Sr. Katherine Hamilton, OP coordinates multiple programs through the Community Health Department. Both also serve on the board of St. Joseph's Foundation of San Joaquin. Along with Sisters Abby and Katherine, St. Joseph's Convent in Stockton is home to Sisters Patricia Simpson and Susan Allbritton who also volunteer at St. Joseph's and various other non-profits. In addition, Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell (a member of the Medical Center's Community Council) and Ms. Lyn Kirkconnell, Co-Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of

Creation, call Stockton home, volunteer at St. Joseph's, and are visible activists for justice—serving on many local and county civic committees and coalitions.

St. Joseph's Medical Center has been studying demographics and future trends in the greater Stockton area, and their research forecasted a physician shortage in the not so distant future. Recognizing an urgent need for long-term sustainability, the Medical Center, supported by St. Joseph's Foundation, launched a campaign in 2018 to fund a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program at St. Joseph's Medical Center, a program which aims to attract, train, and retain the best and the brightest in the medical field across many specialties in order to secure a home-grown physician workforce for California's Central Valley. The largest need is in the primary care areas of Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics, and Gynecology, and the specialty areas of General Surgery and

## in STOCKTON since 1876

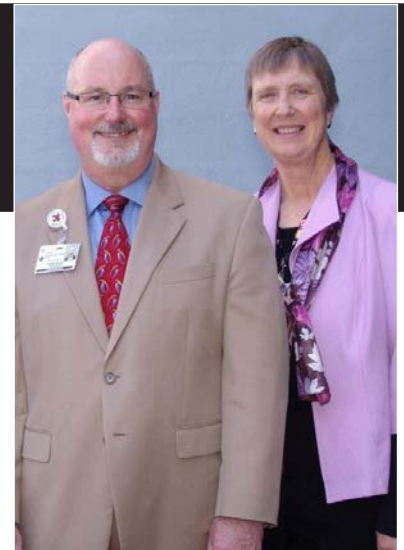
Psychiatry—with a targeted expansion timeline of five years. Their research cited evidence that doctors who train in a community are more likely to lay down roots in that community.

The Foundation's ongoing campaign is well aligned with the sisters' eager desire to bring about lasting, systemic change for good. As such the Dominican Sisters were grateful to be in a position to play a significant role in advancing the campaign into the second phase, allowing for the addition of more specialties and moving the program closer to the goal of accreditation with twelve programs. For Sr. Abby Newton, OP, investing was an easy decision. "The commitment of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael to the future and the next generation—whether in education or in healthcare—has always been an integral part of our mission. We care deeply for the communities we have served and continue to serve. Our support of St. Joseph's vision of a robust Graduate Medical Education program is the cornerstone to improving quality of care and patient safety and ensures the health of all who call Stockton and San Joaquin County home."

Plant seeds, provide the right nutrients, have faith, and one day reap the benefits. Investing in efforts that work to ensure

that residents of the greater San Joaquin Valley will have access to the health care they deserve provided by physicians with community roots for decades to come is a win-win for the sisters, and they are pleased to continue to nurture those seeds planted over a century ago.

So while the mode of the sisters' involvement in education in Stockton may look a little different that the four classroom walls of St. Mary's High School or the playground of the Annunciation School, the foundational efforts to meet the basic needs of the people and help a community thrive are very much at the heart of how the sisters choose to share their time, talent, and treasure. And if these current times of a global pandemic have taught us anything, it is that compassion, community response, and health care are essential. 🙏



Sr. Abby Newton, OP with St. Joseph's Medical Center CEO Mr. Don Wiley

## EXPRESSING *our Love*



Sisters Diane Smith, Joan Hanna, Lorraine Amodeo, Emmanuel Cardinale, Susannah Malarkey, and Anne Dolan gather with students and Fr. Bob Haberman (left, back), Director of Campus Ministry Sr. Mary Soher, OP (left, front), and Ms. Giulia Welch, DUC Assistant Director of Global Learning (right, front) before the students embarked on their service trip.

### **A Spiritual Connection with University Students**

Two recent opportunities provided an excellent way for Sisters to interact with Dominican University students. Several Sisters ministered to students through the Busy Persons Retreat organized by Campus Ministry. Through a series of thirty-minute meetings, students get some quality reflective time in a flexible schedule that fits their busy student lives. Our Sisters help students use those precious minutes in dialogue about the Dominican ideals of reflection, study, community, and service.

“Alternative Spring Break” trips for students in early spring benefited from Sister prayer partners. Ten students with Sr. Mary Soher, OP on their LaBamba trip examined border issues with the following groups: Unified U.S. Deported Veterans group; El Faro: Church at the Border, at Friendship Park on the Mexico side of the wall; Border Angels (water drops near Jacumba Springs); Safe Harbors Network (an organization that places families of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers waiting for their court dates); Franciscan Sisters at Casa de Los Pobres; and a presentation from the US Customs and Border Patrol. They visited our own Sr. Gene McNally, OP and her ministry in Tijuana where they helped host a small carnival for the children. The Sisters met with the students prior to leaving and were with them in solidarity throughout their journeys through prayer for their service, their learning, and their health and safety.



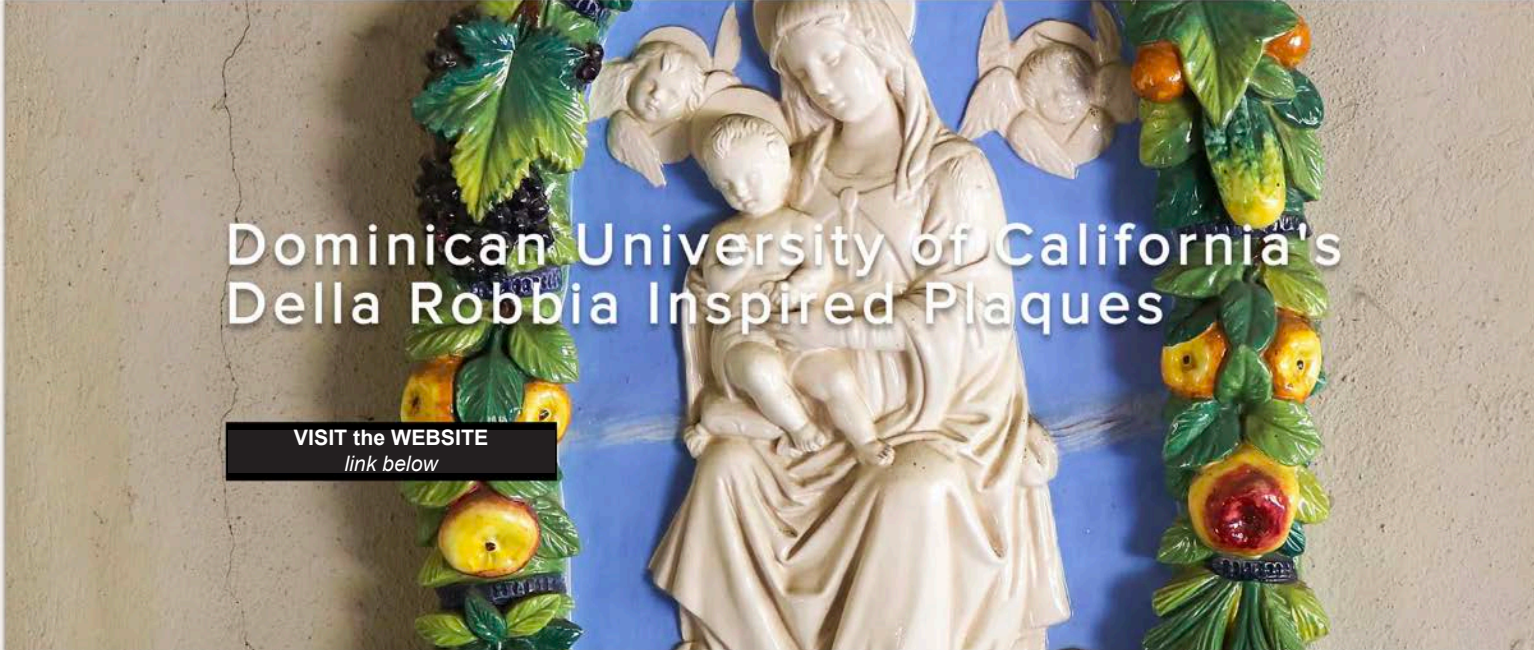
Recently retired San Rafael Archivist, Sr. Pat Corr helped research Della Robbia artwork on campus for DUC art history students.

### **Documenting a Tradition of Della Robbias**

Earlier this year Dominican University (DUC) students in Dr. Leslie Ross’ “Renaissances in the Global World” art history course, researched and studied the iconic Della Robbias found around campus—an Italian glazed ceramic art form long admired by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. Luca della Robbia was an Italian sculptor from Florence who was renowned for his colorful, tin-glazed terracotta statuary.

Perhaps on account of the sisters’ appreciation of beauty and connection





## Dominican University of California's Della Robbia Inspired Plaques

VISIT the WEBSITE  
link below

to Italy, they were drawn to the plaques many decades ago and collected/were gifted many over the years. These Della Robbias continue to adorn the college campus and convent grounds, and the collection continues to inspire. The piece that once hung on the old St. Thomas Hall moved to San Anselmo when San Domenico moved from the San Rafael grounds in 1969, thus starting a San Domenico tradition involving Della Robbia art.

DUC art history professor and department chair Dr. Ross, a long-time friend of the sisters, saw an opportunity with the collection found around campus. She created what she called a “serious and lengthy experiential research project that involved participation from all students in the class.” Students were asked to research and describe the sculptures found only on college campus buildings, document their findings, and present it all through a student-created website.

With assistance from Sr. Patricia Corr, OP, retired archivist for the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, plus information provided by Sr. Margaret Diener, OP, and Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, students gained some perspective on the origins of the collection, as well as some lessons regarding the biblical and religious scenes depicted on each piece, which they needed for their website content.

Lessons in art, communication, and collaboration abound. Graphic Design and Art undergrads, Terise Camasura and Peter Hoo, helped build the della robbia website by doing research on the history of the replica plaques from the Renaissance era that they realized had been under their noses for years. “Usually when you’re walking through campus, you’re going to class and you’re not paying attention,” Peter admits. “I’m paying attention now.

I know the history.” “I had seen the plaques, but I didn’t know what they were. I knew it was something special,” Terise says. “It’s exciting to know that people can see the website now, and see the history and maybe add to it.”

Be sure to read about these special pieces on the student-created website: <https://dellarobbiaweb.wixsite.com/duocsculptures>

*Thanks to Mr. Dave Albee, DUC Director of Communications and Media Relations for his contributions to this article.*



*DUC Art History Professor and Art Department Chair Dr. Leslie Ross poses with some of her students who created the Della Robbia history website. Check out the link below.*

VISIT: <https://dellarobbiaweb.wixsite.com/duocsculptures>





## Beacon of Hope

*Article contains excerpts from A Place to Call Home: Convert the convent, invite families to stay with permission by the Global Sisters Report; March 2, 2020 as written by Monica Clark*

On November 10, 2017, a mother and her two young daughters moved into the renovated area connected to Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, and became the first residents of what is known as the Yellow Hallway—a five-bedroom yellow-painted wing of Lourdes’ skilled nursing facility for aging sisters. This milestone marked the culmination of a two-year effort by the sisters and their project collaborator, Homeward Bound of Marin, to secure the city’s permission to alter the convent’s use permit and ready the space.



A second single mother and her daughter joined the young family that day as well. Both of the young mothers and their children lived there for more than a year, and today two other single mothers and their sons are the residents.

The road to occupancy was fraught with legal battles, but the sisters persisted in their quest for the truth and justice. Ultimately the sisters were granted a two-year temporary use permit on May 15, 2017. The occupancy permit was given on Oct. 26, 2017, and the two families moved in two weeks later. On December 16, 2019, the city council voted unanimously to extend the permit in perpetuity.

As reported in the *Global Sisters Report*: “Offering hospitality within their convents is not new to these Dominican Sisters. During the 1980s, when Central Americans were fleeing to the United States to escape civil war violence, they shared a portion of their motherhouse convent with a family from El Salvador.

That kind of security is what the Yellow Hallway has become for the women they now house.

‘The Yellow Hallway gave my daughters and me an opportunity to live in a safe place,’ the sisters’ first resident, wrote in an email to GSR. ‘We felt secure and, for the very first time in years,

I was able to have restful nights without worries, knowing the Dominican Sisters were close by and that the Dominican University has a security guard.’

The current effort grew out of a community discussion on how to respond to Pope Francis’ call for mercy. Sr. Patricia Simpson, administrator at the Lourdes convent from January 2010 through August 2019, had an ‘unexpected, surprising idea’ to redirect the Yellow Hallway into housing for a family in need. Only one sister was living in that corridor at the time, and there was room for her in another wing of the building.

Initially, Simpson hoped to offer hospitality to refugees fleeing Syria or another war-torn country, but she soon realized that the community was ‘not in a place to take on the full commitment of refugee sponsorship.’

Instead, she and a small committee of other sisters ‘moved on to the next right answer’: offering a home to two unhoused women and their children. They presented a proposal to Mary Kay Sweeney, executive director of Homeward Bound, the primary provider of shelters and services for homeless families and individuals in Marin County.

Sweeney was enthusiastic about collaborating. The sisters are

## YELLOW HALLWAY 3 years later

active partners with Homeward Bound and were early supporters of the agency’s Oma Village, a supportive housing program of 14 small rental homes in nearby Novato.

In the partnership, the sisters provide and maintain the space for two families, and Homeward Bound selects the residents from among the women living in their family shelter. Homeward Bound continues to provide the women with counseling and case management support for up to a two-year stay at the convent.

Once the initial city approval was given, the sisters and Homeward Bound worked quickly to modify the space by converting two bedrooms into a kitchen/dining area, designating another room as a playroom, and installing two private entrances. Homeward Bound, the sisters, and donors provided all the furnishings.

One Saturday in August 2017, a group of sisters, all wearing freshly purchased yellow T-shirts, painted each of the five



*Pictured opposite—Top: Mary Kay Sweeney, executive director of Homeward Bound of Marin, left, and Sr. Carla Kovak, OP, Prioress General of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, stand in front of Lourdes Convent, which has a private entrance to the Yellow Hallway on the right side of the convent porch. Lower: Sister Patricia Simpson, instrumental in bringing the initial project to fruition pictured in the completed Yellow Hallway in November 2017. Above: Sister Pat Simpson and her team of sisters clad in yellow, tackle the painting part of the project in 2017.*



bedrooms. It gave them a concrete way to show their support, Simpson said.

‘All these women are doing everything they can to survive,’ said Sweeney, who has headed up Homeward Bound for the past 20 years. ‘It is wonderful to offer them an opportunity with the sisters, who are so calm and mission-driven.’

Sweeney said the project ‘laid the foundation’ for a second Homeward Bound residence in the unoccupied convent of St. Patrick Parish in neighboring Larkspur. After gaining approval from the San Francisco Archdiocese, Homeward Bound reached an agreement with the parish in 2018 to lease the 12-bedroom convent for 35 years. It had been vacant for several years after the Adrian Dominican Sisters left the parish school and a social service program for women with drug and alcohol addictions moved out.

In December 2018, 12 unhoused seniors, some of them chronically homeless, moved into the convent, now called King Street Senior Housing. Homeward Bound raised \$1.3 million to repair and renovate the space. There was no opposition from neighbors once they had assurance the residents would be senior adults who would not be parking cars in their already crowded downtown neighborhood. The Larkspur City Council gave full approval.

Sweeney said the two convent conversions are positive examples of what dioceses and religious communities might do with unused space, including rectories where, in some cases, one priest lives in a building with several suites.

Sr. Joan Hanna, community liaison to the women in the Yellow Hallway, said it has been a privilege to collaborate with Homeward Bound.

‘To walk with these women as they intensely move forward

has awakened my understanding of how difficult their lives have been,’ she said. ‘We don’t know their stories, but we realize they have struggled, been traumatized, and at times are very fragile.’

[...]

Now that the winter rains have ended, the sisters expect to once again hear children’s voices in the garden shared by the families and the Lourdes community.

The sisters living in the Lourdes convent ‘have come to trust the integrity of the program with Homeward Bound,’ said Prioresse General Sr. Carla Kovack. Homeward Bound has created a ‘culture of respect, hope and empowerment in which our collective creativity finds a positive direction forward.’”

The partnership between the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael and Homeward Bound of Marin on the Yellow Hallway illustrates the power of working together, creativity, and investing in our community, and we hope that our story can serve as an inspiration for others to seek out creative opportunities for impact in your own communities. 🏡



*Sisters Joan Hanna and Emmanuel Cardinale pictured in front of the Yellow Hallway residence annex of Lourdes Convent. The two serve as liaisons between the residents and the congregation.*



# ADVOCATING *for* Justice

## Learning from Victims of War



Victims of war face myriad issues, including long-term medical effects that get passed down to subsequent generations—and there is a social justice issue there. Motivated by an effort to “remember the horror, honor the survivors, and learn from the past,” Sr. Mary Kieffer, OP had a unique opportunity to act in her prior ministry as the Vice President of Mission Integration for St. Mary’s Medical Center in San Francisco.

According to research published in a recent Catholic Health Care online publication, “Both in and outside Japan, hibakusha (Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivor groups) suffered for years with limited medical assistance. Doctors in Japan noticed a higher incidence of leukemia among survivors versus the general population as early as 1947. Yet treatments for many of the ailments that arose because of the bombings were not covered under Japanese health care laws, and terms of the San Francisco Peace Treaty prevented victims from suing the United States for damages. Survivors also faced discrimination as the lack of research led to fears of the effects of radiation on future generations.”

Sr. Mary headed a team responsible for hosting a 3-day annual event, held last fall, for the purpose of aiding and honoring the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings with a medical mission team from Japan who were researching the after effects of the bombings that ended World War II by meeting with and conducting exams and studies of survivor groups. The hibakusha were very receptive to the medical mission and grateful for the opportunities to tell their stories. Sr. Mary hopes that medical missions such as these can continue and that they work to “repair damage, physically, and emotionally.”

“[The bombing] was a defining moment for the Japanese people,” said Sr. Mary. Given the dwindling number of survivors and the end to research on their children, some fear that awareness of the medical dangers from nuclear weapons will wane. As a Dominican Sister of San Rafael and part of a congregation with a corporate stance against nuclear weapons, Sr. Mary feels this is very much a social justice issue and that it is imperative that St. Mary Medical Center and others continue work and support in this area. “It’s almost an antiwar statement,” Sr. Mary said of the medical mission. “You have to keep these memories alive so you don’t forget and don’t repeat the past.” (Source: Catholic Health Care website publication; February 2, 2020 by Kathleen Nelson)



## Restorative Justice Ministry

Sisters and community members gathered in Lourdes Chapel one January morning for the Archdiocese of San Francisco’s Annual Memorial Mass honoring victims of homicide. Hosting the first of four Masses to be held throughout the Archdiocese during the week-long observance, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael welcomed Julio Escobar, Director of the Archdiocese’s Office of Restorative Justice Ministry and his associate, Melissa Vlach (pictured left and center above with Sr. Patty Riley), to provide context and background for the importance of remembering with special tributes to Bay Area victims of violent crime and their families as well as survivors of violent crime.

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael have a long tradition of commitment to restorative justice. Sr. Patty Riley, OP, a former volunteer in Julio Escobar’s office helped to organize the event. Other Bay Area Memorial Masses were held at Missionaries of Charity Chapel; Sisters of the Presentation Mother House Chapel; and the Marian Oaks Life Center. Throughout the year, please continue to remember in your prayers, our brothers and sisters who have died by violence, all affected family and friends, and also those involved in these crimes.



## Voting Rights and Women’s History

Dominican University Professor of History, Sr. Patricia Dougherty, OP, kicked off a 4-part speaker series—Voting Rights Celebration: 19th Amendment to Voter Inclusion in 2020. The program was offered by Marin County Library earlier this year as a way to celebrate the ongoing struggle for universal voting rights, voter inclusion, and the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, though many remained disenfranchised. Sr. Patty’s talk, “Votes for U.S. Women: The 72 Year Struggle” discussed the fact that it took 72 years from the first demand for the vote in the 1848 Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls, New York until the 19th amendment was ratified in August 1920. Her slide lecture looked at the origins of the suffrage movement in the abolition movement and the experience

and activities of women who devoted their energy and lives to the struggle for the vote. She also, on the eve of the March Primary Super Tuesday, delivered a lecture on votes for women to Rotary Club of Central Marin.

Sr. Patty’s passion for women’s history and the right to vote comes from a family of strong females and what she cites as “the opportunity to learn about the amazing things women accomplished despite societal obstacles and hurdles.” Sr. Patty continues, “In addition, my knowledge was enriched by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer seminar on the ‘Woman Question in Western Thought’ taught by Karen Offen at Stanford University. Women’s history is so rich and yet still not well known.” 2020 is an election year—so get out and vote.

## Justice in an Election Year

Our #justiceOPportunities are curated weekly by Justice Promoters Sr. Judy Lu McDonnell and Ms. Lyn Kirkconnell. Social justice issues are always top of mind for Dominicans, and we invite you to join us in understanding the issues.

It bears reminding that a couple of our #justiceOPportunity Thursday posts this year have centered on themes related to voting, and as we get closer to the fall election, we will share more. **Please follow our #justiceOPportunity posts on social media (@sanrafaelop on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter) or in the Social Justice section of our website.** As you read up on the candidates and contemplate the issues, we ask that you consider your research through the lens of scriptures. As Catholic Christians we vote through the lens of Scripture values and the social teaching of the Church. We will share resources related to this.

### Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: A Prayer for Civility

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where uncivil words prevail,  
 show me how to model love.  
 Help me remember the God-given dignity of all  
 and invite others to do the same.  
 Show me how to build bridges and not walls  
 and see first what unites us  
 rather than how we diverge.  
 Let me seek to understand  
 before asking to be understood.

Give me a listening heart filled  
 with empathy and compassion.  
 May I be clear in sharing my own position and  
 respectful and civil in describing those of others.  
 Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.  
 May I invite all to charity and love.  
 Lord, help me to imitate  
 your compassion and mercy.  
 Make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Amen.







# 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 November 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020.**

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# Jubilarians

*Sisters Gervaise Valpey (r) and Judy Lu McDonnell (l) celebrating their 60th Jubilee*

*continued from page 2*

urrection, if you will, and applying those lessons to their own lives. Engaging students in the study of our local ecosystem teaches many lessons—patience and waiting for your seed to grow into a seedling, and so on. Seeing the students translate their learning to the larger community gives such hope for the future.”

Reflecting today on the people, the opportunities, and the inspirations along the way, Sister Gervaise looks toward the future. Acknowledging some correlations between her memories of the post-Vatican II climate for women religious and ensuing radical changes and our current global coronavirus pandemic, Sister ponders what opportunities lie ahead as we forge into a new normal. “What might Church look like? What might our congregation look like? What might school look like?” She recalls what the mystic scholar Fr. Thomas Berry, whom she met years ago at a Santa Sabina Center program says, “we are not a collection of objects, we are a communion of subjects, and we are all one.” She wonders, “How are we going to grasp that?”

For Sister Gervaise, the answer starts with love. “Love for others. Love for our Earth. Love for all people. Loving them enough to work toward justice for all people. There is such inequality today—we need to learn how to work with people most in need—really see them. I pray that after this pandemic that our eyes are opened wider.”

Emerging from this 2020 pandemic, Sister Gervaise should feel very much at home in building mode. It is time to create anew—to take the lessons learned, the essence of what defines the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael as preachers of truth, love, and justice, and search for new ways to be light to others. Sister Gervaise is ready to say “yes” to the opportunity and move where the Spirit takes her. 🇩🇪

*continued from page 3*

She motored around the jungle to neighboring villages delivering lessons and love, easily making life-long friends along the way. Spurred by a desire to raise consciousness about women’s rights in a richly patriarchal society, Sister Judy Lu pushed literacy agendas, helped women organize in and among villages, planned empowering speaker events, and planted the seeds of feminist theology—creating the Center for the Promotion of Women in the late 80s, which is thriving today as the Rebellious Collective. Continuing to grow in her studies, intrigued by a budding eco-feminism movement, she was then missioned to Brazil to create something similar. After a total of eighteen years in the southern hemisphere, she was called back to California.

Fast forward to the late 90s in an era of social security and immigration reform, she was called to her hometown of Stockton to assess growing needs in the Laotian and Latino immigrant communities, given her language skills and experience abroad. After completing the necessary training, she co-created with Lyn Kirkconnell (who had served as a missionary with her in South America) the Transcultural Health Outreach Program at Catholic Charities in Stockton that led to the creation of the Legal Immigration Program of the Diocese of Stockton to address the immigration needs of countless individuals.

Since 2008, Sister Judy Lu has served as the Co-Promoter of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation within the congregation. “We work to inform, to provide a faith-based lens of judgment, and to promote actions for justice locally, nationally, and internationally.” Sister Judy Lu never stops learning or advocating for others. Every day brings new challenges, and she is quick to study, reflect, and act, bringing the Dominican values to light in a world in need. She thinks toward the future and to new ways of helping, assisting, empowering, educating, and how to encourage the talent pool within the congregation to bring more light to the world—especially during the current pandemic.

Earnest in her justice efforts to this day and involved in more committees and coalitions as there are Zoom/Skype hours in the day, Sister Judy Lu is fueled by her spirituality and a desire to empower others. As she reflects back on what she calls “the unexpected gifts” along the way, she feels contentment. “I have been able to be open, my stubbornness got me through anything. I am so surprised that so many opportunities came along that I could move right in and out of—all these opportunities that I never could have imagined. Nothing like what I was thinking when I entered the convent at age 17.” Sister Judy Lu lives and breathes what it is to have God’s grace flow through us—there is no knowing what is around the next turn. Just lean in, and enjoy the ride! 🇩🇪

## St. Catherine of Siena PRAY FOR US



*Eternal Trinity  
In your light  
I have been able to taste  
and see  
your own fathomed depths  
and the beauty  
of what you have created.  
You are the light giver.  
By your light  
you have made me know your truth.*

(D167)

### 2020 Jubilee Mass & Reception

*Originally scheduled for July 18, event plans have been changed and modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates will be emailed.*

To ensure you are on our email list, please contact Sr. Emmanuel Cardinale at 415.453.8303 ext. 117 or [develop@sanrafaelop.org](mailto:develop@sanrafaelop.org)



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or call 415.853.8303

*Shine with us!*



**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 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 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 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!  
@sanrafaelop