



**Chela Gonzalez, OP**

I am a member of the Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids, having entered in 2009 and made Final Profession on October 18, 2015. Prior to becoming Dominican, I have always been a promoter of ongoing formation in diocesan ministries, which include deacon formation, formation of seminarians, lay ministry, and parish catechetical leaders. It was in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe that I came to know the Dominican Sisters and Friars. I was most impressed at their love of ongoing formation (“*Study!*”). When I began to discern my vocation to religious life, it was my spiritual director (a Franciscan Sister) who told me that I ‘*was Dominican,*’ and thus, I began my vocational journey with the Dominican Family!

Since my entrance I have been an active member of Dominican Sisters Conference, Dominican Women Afire and Kaleidoscope. I am also a member of the *National Religious Vocation Conference* and the *Asociación de Religiosas Hispanas en los Estados Unidos* where I participated in *Encuentro* in San Antonio, Texas. I belong to the 2010 - 2011 Class of the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in St Louis, where I lived with four other novices (San Rafael and Adrian) and our two directors (Grand Rapids and Peace). One of my joys of being Dominican is belonging to the larger Dominican family! On occasions when I have run into Dominican Sisters of other Congregations (Adrian, San Rafael, Mission San Jose) promoting vocations at large conferences (NCYC, RE Congress, WMF with Pope Francis in Philadelphia), I have been known to get behind the booth and offer my support! I have most recently been assigned to Vocation Ministry for our Congregation.