



Monthly Connections
Pat Farrell, OP :: Executive Director
Dominican Sisters Conference

A Message from Pat Farrell, OP

Autumn has arrived in the Mid-West again – and a beautiful one it is. I am hoping that it is so wherever you are right now. And on this National Chocolate Day (October 28th), I thought I'd share, both an Autumn poem from Mary Oliver, and some chocolate autumn leaves – both are favorites of many.

Song for Autumn, by Mary Oliver

*In the deep fall
 don't you imagine the leaves think how
 comfortable it will be to touch
 the earth instead of the
 nothingness of air and the endless
 freshets of wind? And don't you think
 the trees themselves, especially those with mossy,
 warm caves, begin to think*

*of the birds that will come – six, a dozen – to sleep
 inside their bodies? And don't you hear
 the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
 the everlasting being crowned with the first
 tuffets of snow? The pond
 vanishes, and the white field over which
 the fox runs so quickly brings out
 its blue shadows. And the wind pumps its
 bellows. And at evening especially,
 the piled firewood shifts a little,
 longing to be on its way.*

Gratefully,



DSC Annual Raffle

Certainly all of us enjoy a little extra spending money this time of year, either to donate to our favorite cause, or to use for gifts as (dare I say it?) Christmas approaches. So please go to dominicansistersconference.org for your tickets. The prizes are listed there, and the drawing is on November 15th. We appreciate your support of the Dominican Sisters Conference through your contribution.

DSC Elected Leaders Meeting

The Elected Leaders of the DSC Congregations met in St. Louis from October 6 to October 8. The sisters found the opportunity to be with other leadership teams helpful. Jamie Manson, our speaker, was engaging and gave us some very challenging questions. The sisters enjoyed an evening at Aquinas Institute of Theology, where we were invited for “wine and cheese.” Joye Gros prepared wonderful liturgies, which are available on the private pages of our DSC website. Also available there are other presentations and powerpoints from our days together.



I am grateful that we continue to take our conversation about Earth Justice forward. In particular, Pat Koehler, OP, Pat Daly, OP, and Eileen Alexanderson gave us an excellent presentation about Climate Investment. We look forward to hearing more about future options for our congregations.

Our novices at the CDN were invited to join us for Eucharist on Saturday evening. So it was a special treat to read Sister Ana Gonzalez’s reflections on her experiences that evening. You can find this, along with pictures at <http://collaborativedominicannovitiate.blogspot.com>.

DSC Futuring

Our conversations regarding the future plans for the DSC continue. We are grateful for the generosity of the sisters who have offered their time for this important work in the areas of Financial Viability, Structure, and Heritage Pilgrimages. You will surely be hearing more from us during the year. You can see who our members are on our [Committees page](#) of our website.

May the preaching continue through our members!