



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

A Message from Pat Farrell, OP

February has arrived, and so has Lent. The sun is shining a little bit earlier each morning, and our recent spell of warm weather reminds us that Easter and spring will be here before too long. Nonetheless, the weather forecasters predict more cold and snow. So we await Easter and spring in hope.

With that in mind, I'd like to share with you a poem that we used in our prayers when the Futuring Committee and the Executive Committee met this month, "It Takes Courage to Be Crocus Minded."

Gratefully,

*Lord, I am, by nature, rose-minded,
 even when I have studied the situation here
 and know that there are wrong things that need
 righting, affirmations that need stating,
 and I know also that speaking out may offend –
 for it rocks the boat.*

*Well...I'd rather wait until June, maybe later;
 things will work themselves out,
 and we won't have to make an issue of it.
 Lord, forgive.*

*Wrongs don't work themselves out.
 Injustices and inequities and hurts don't just dissolve.
 Somebody has to stick their neck out,
 somebody who cares enough to think through
 hard ground because they believe
 and have something personal
 and emphatic to say about it.*

*Me, Lord?
 Crocus-minded?
 Could it be that there are things
 that need to be said,
 and you want me to say them?
 I pray for courage.*



Strategic Planning for the DSC

Our Futuring Committee met for three days in February to begin work on a plan that will guide us over the next three years. We are building on our Mission Statement and goals as we seek to find ways to further our preaching through the use of technology, to provide means of and resources for online study, and to offer a Convocation that will make use of technology, reducing our carbon footprint and costs. We will keep you up to date on our progress as our plans proceed.



Futuring Committee left to right – Sharon Zayac, Sharon Casey, Didi Madden, Margaret Galiardi, Mary Murray, Carol Crepeau, Cassie Vazquez, Pat Farrell, and Anne Lythgoe

Save the Date in Chicago for an Evening with Dominicans

Elizabeth Dreyer, PhD, will be giving the St. Catherine of Siena Lecture at Dominican University this year. It is entitled *Catherine of Siena: Accidental Theologian* on Tuesday, April 19th at 7PM. The St. Catherine of Siena Center of Dominican University and the Dominican Sisters Conference are co-sponsoring the evening and invite Dominican sisters and associates in the Chicago area for prayer and refreshments beforehand. We will get details out at a later date. Please save the date in your calendars!

Upcoming Chapters

Presently the Dominican Sisters of Adrian are in Chapter. Please keep the sisters in your prayers! We will let you know of the results of their elections when they are announced. The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill (March), Sinsinawa (April), Mission San Jose (July) and the Roman Congregation (April and August) will also have their chapters this year. We will send out prayer reminders the week before each of them.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (EC) held its annual meeting in River Forest this month. Among other agenda items, the committee reviewed the DSC's finances and discussed the Convocation. The work of the Futuring Committee gave the EC such great energy that they were able to make some excellent contributions to the plan.

May the preaching continue through our members!

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