



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

## A Message from Pat Farrell, OP

Welcome to 2016! I repeat the wish that I included in a New Year's card to all of you, "May Earth teach us that there are no boundaries – no true East, no true West, so that we may set aside ours and welcome one another in Peace."

This month our Strategic Planning Team will begin setting goals and discussing ways to make the DSC viable, vital, and valuable for all of its members. The *Paris 2015 and Beyond* . . . committee will continue to find ways to engage all of us in addressing Climate Change, starting with a live-stream that is addressed later in this newsletter. And we continue to encourage collaboration in prayer, ministry, and just plain fun.



Judith Benkert, Diane Bridenbacker, and Pat Farrell

While in California for the Christmas holidays, I had the opportunity to address the goal of fun. There were three of us representing the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Mission San Jose, and San Rafael who experienced an inter-congregational, inter-galactic adventure. We went to see Star Wars! And not wanting to limit congregational participation, I was again able to bring participation in this event to sisters in Springfield, IL, on a trip there last week. Clearly, the force has been awakened!

Gratefully,

## Paris 2015 and Counting . . . becomes Paris 2015 and Beyond . . .



Pat Siemen and Elise Garcia

As you recall, Pat Daly, OP, Elise Garcia, OP, Margaret Mayce, OP, and Pat Siemen, OP, traveled to Paris to be part of civil society at the COP21 Climate Summit there on behalf of all of us. They kept us updated on the events and returned home with hope.

We are going to present a live-stream from Adrian on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM Eastern Time. The sisters will share some of their experience

with you, but will also offer us a challenge as we live into *Paris 2015 and Beyond* . . . At the end of the sisters' presentation there will be an opportunity for Q&A. To participate simply use the following link: <http://adriandominicans.org/LiveStream.aspx>. On the evening of the presentation, the Live Stream page will have a red bar at the top right corner of the window that says, "Ask a Question." When you click on it, a drop down window opens where you can post a question.

We also draw attention to the webinar being offered by Pat Siemen through The Center for Earth Jurisprudence at Barry University. Here is the link for registration: [http://earthjuris.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CEJ\\_Web\\_Series-Flyer-2016-FINAL-pdf-12-17-15.pdf](http://earthjuris.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CEJ_Web_Series-Flyer-2016-FINAL-pdf-12-17-15.pdf).



Pat Daly and Margaret Mayce

## Green Burials

I just love to discover ways that congregations are finding ways to care for Earth! During the DSC Area Meetings in 2014 as we discussed what Earth is asking of us, some sisters had questions about green burials. I am delighted to share a little news about that following my trip to Springfield for a meeting. Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP, said that the sisters met with representatives from a nearby mortuary and cemetery about the possibilities of offering green burials for the sisters. In fact it is the only cemetery in the state of Illinois that is able to offer that.

In addition, Anita Cleary, OP, who is part of Jubilee Farm, has been busy weaving shrouds for green burials. See the pictures below to see some of her work. The set-up at Jubilee Farm is impressive! Anita engages not only in weaving, but sometimes spins her own yarns. If you are interested in participating in a weaving retreat you can contact her at the farm.





**JUBILEE 800**  
**1216-2016**

### 800TH ANNIVERSARY

As mentioned previously, Cassie has been collecting dates and details of the many celebrations that Dominican sisters' congregations will be participating in to celebrate our 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If you would like to look for an event in your area, please go to our website through [this link](#), and if an event is missing or needs editing, please let Cassie know so that she can include it. Her email address is [opcomnet@domlife.org](mailto:opcomnet@domlife.org).

### Upcoming Chapters

This year there will be a number of congregations with Chapters. Prior to them, we will send out announcements so that you can keep the congregations in your prayers, starting with the Dominican Sisters of Houston who will be in Chapter from January 21-26. Later on you will hear about the Dominican Sisters of Adrian (February), Sparkill (March), Sinsinawa (April), Mission San Jose (July) and the Roman Congregation (April and August).

### Our Theologians and Scripture Scholars

Although we have shared news about our Dominican theologians and Scripture scholars in DomLife, news about publications by our sisters bears repeating.

- A fifty-eight volume collection, the *Wisdom Commentary Series*, is the "first scholarly collaboration to offer detailed feminist interpretation of every book of the Bible." The General Editor of the series is Barbara E. Reid, O.P., a Dominican sister of Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information, go to [this link](#).
- NRRO's winter newsletter featured an article by Margaret Palliser, O.P., a Dominican Sister of Sparkill, entitled "Aging into the Heart of Mercy." In the article she reflects on the "Dominican spirituality of aging" and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Preachers. To read the article, use [this link](#).
- Barbara Reid, OP and Laurie Brink, OP, a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, were interviewed for the Canadian Salt + Life television program entitled "The Birth of the Messiah." Here is [the link](#) for that program.

**May the Preaching Continue through our Members!**