



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

A Message from Pat Farrell, OP



Here we are in the midst of Lent. I've decided to, as I've done the past couple of years, share a poem with you. The following poem is by Edwina Gately, and entitled, "Let Your God Love You." This Lent - this year let us both love and be loved.

Gratefully,

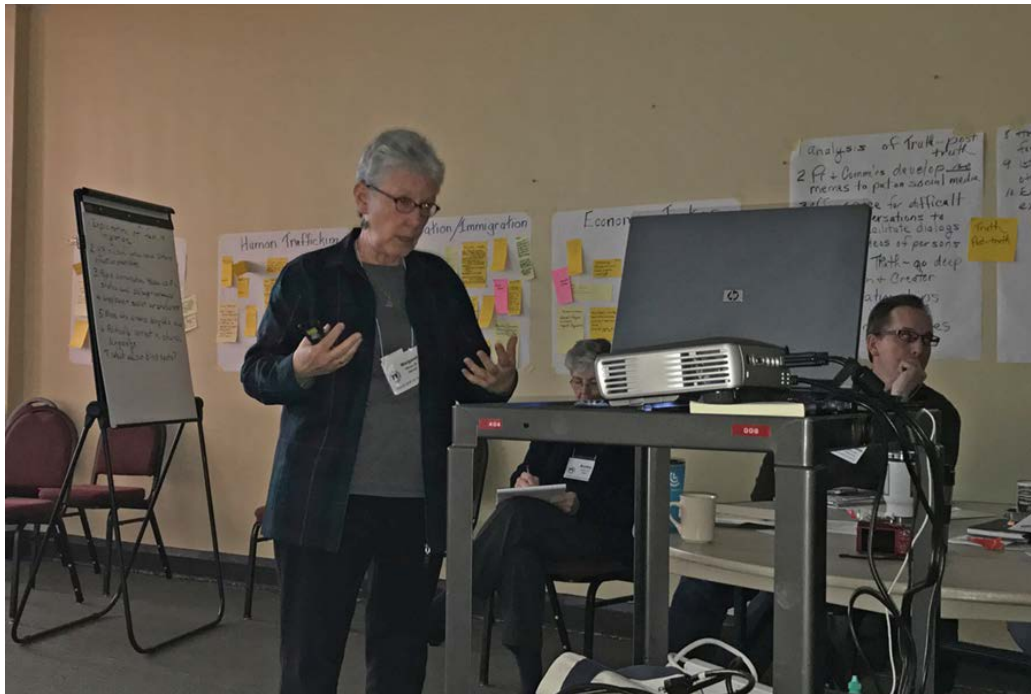
*Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty.
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.*

*Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you With an enormous love,
And only wants To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.*

Let your God—Love you.

Promoters of Justice Gather in Chicago

Many of you probably read Marcelline Koch's [article in DomLife](#) last week about the gathering of Dominican Justice Promoters in the Chicago area. This was my second experience of gathering with this group, and again I walk away inspired by the enduring hope, commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication of these sisters and brothers. They truly carry the hopes of our congregations and provinces for a more just and peaceful world.



Margaret Mayce, updating the promoters on the U.N.

Our conversations regarding updating our Dominican Call to Justice were exceptional, and helped to strengthen the bonds among us as sisters and brothers.

As we talked, I recalled that many of you in your responses to the DSC Survey, hoped for improved relationships with our brothers. The time spent with our Justice

Promoters gave me hope that this could be so. Of course, that is something that no organization can orchestrate. It is up to us to invite, to show up, and to listen, love, and laugh.

Following the gathering of Dominican Justice Promoters, I had the opportunity to attend the National Convocation of JPIC Promoters for Congregations of Women Religious at the same location. Three of our Dominican sisters were presenters there. Bernadine Karge (Sinsinawa) gave a presentation on migration, refugees, and asylees; Jamie Phelps (Adrian) spoke on racism and our call to communion; and Nancy Murray (Adrian) provided an evening performance entitled, *Rooted in Love*, an enactment of the life of Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN. It was a wonderful gathering! Both were wonderful gatherings!



Jamie Phelps presenting

Commission on the Status of Women



Every March Margaret Mayce shepherds an international group of Dominican sisters to the events at the U.N. during the Commission on the Status of Women. The Dominican Sisters of Hope are always the gracious hosts at Mariandale in Ossining, NY. This year's Commission, which was in session from March 12-24, focused on the economic empowerment of women in a changing world of work. Now, all have returned to their homes, in Nigeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, Colombia, Mexico and Ireland. We look forward to hearing about the experience! Until then, here is a photo of a wonderful group of Dominican women.

Paris 2015 and Beyond . . .

Perhaps you have noticed that we have concluded the wonderful study series on *Laudato Si'* which was offered to us by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. We want to let you know that we have not been idle on this subject.

On April 21st, the eve of Earth Day, we will begin a Climate Change Novena to Catherine of Siena. The novena will end on April 29th, which is both the Feast of Catherine of Siena, and the day of the Climate March. Our prayers will support those who are attending the march – a wonderful way to participate from afar.

Stay tuned! You will hear more about this in the days to come.

Preaching Truth Today

In many conversations within Dominican circles these days, there is a great deal of distress expressed regarding a lack of civil discourse and what has come to be called a post-truth-

era. Once upon a time we used to simply call an untruth a lie. Now we have created the oxymoron of “alternative facts.”

One might say that the scandalous name-calling and lies and are now worse than ever. But have you ever been to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield? Have you read about the vitriol hurled about by the presidential candidates in 1800? And recently I saw a poster with the words, “Honor the treaties,” and I thought to myself, we’ve always played fast and loose with the truth in this country. Think about it. Our country is built on broken promises. I wonder how Colin Powell feels about “alternative facts?” We can all come up with examples.

The difference today is that, with the lightning fast speed of the media, it is in our faces immediately. The barrage is constant, and we are overwhelmed.

Veritas – our Dominican motto. Certainly that doesn’t give us a corner on the truth. It does, however, call us to be truthful and to speak the truth – to preach the truth. So rather than languishing in the state of being overwhelmed, we share in the experience of the prophet Jeremiah who said, “then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” (Jeremiah 20:9)

Because we are compelled to preach, the DSC has been collecting a number of articles from sisters about Preaching Truth Today. We’ve had some conversations with NCR, and hope that some of these will be published in both Global Sisters Report, and in a new column started by the paper. And whether or not they are published by NCR, the DSC will be publishing them online so that they can be shared by you with your friends, families, and those with whom you minister. Hopefully you will share them on social media, so that they will receive a wider readership than simply our members.

In addition, we will be sharing videos of sisters addressing this issue online. So stay tuned and hear more as Dominican Sisters continue to preach truth to power, as did our sister Catherine.



DSC Survey

Thank you for your tremendous support in completing our survey. We had over 500 responses! That is a great number!! After our Executive and Futuring Committees have

had an opportunity to review and analyze the data, we will be sharing it with you.

May the preaching continue through our members!