

Margaret Galiardi, OP

It is no secret to any of us that as a global community we are on a great evolutionary journey, hence as women religious we find that we too are in the midst of great change. Despite our great faith and our best efforts at futuring, the way ahead remains uncertain if yet exciting. It is essential that as Dominican women we have a strong “container” for engagement and discernment nationally (with links to the world-wide Order) that we may choose wisely and offer guidance not only to ourselves but also to the world community in this time of transition. Dominican Sisters Conference under the leadership of Pat Farrell has great potential to continue its growth to serve us, the Church, and the whole Earth community in this regard. I allow my name to be placed into nomination for membership on the Executive Committee in the continuing hope that we may speak ever more faithfully and boldly as a clear voice for truth justice and peace.

Biography

Margaret is a Dominican Sister from Amityville, New York. Her ministries through the years have included teaching grade school, working in parishes and coordinating programs for homeless persons. She spent almost a decade working at the Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace in Manhattan, while residing in a convent that was also a shelter for women who were homeless, battered, or released from prison and their children. She served as Theological Curriculum Coordinator the lay leadership training program of the Diocese of Rockville Center, and lived in community with undocumented persons at the Oscar Romero Inn. She is a trained Spiritual Director and served as the Executive Director of the Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford, Ct.

In June 1995, Margaret was elected to the governing team of her Congregation as Director of Ministry. At the same time, she responded to an invitation to serve as the Co-Promoter of Justice for North America for the worldwide Dominican Order and as such served on the Dominican International Commission for Justice,



Peace and the Integrity of Creation. She has also been a long-standing member of Earth Council, a collaborative effort of the Northeast Dominicans.

Margaret has lectured nationally on ecological theology and spirituality, the “New Story and the Christian Story,” and the work of Thomas Berry. In addition, she has created numerous original retreats, workshops and lectures in response to expressed needs. She has published two books: *Encountering Mystery in the Wilderness: One Woman’s Vision Quest* and *Where the Pure Water Flows: The New Story of the Universe and Christian Faith*.

Margaret spent the 2009-2010 year in silence and solitude, living with Trappist Sister-Monks in their monastery on the Lost Coast of Northern California in the Redwood Forest.

Currently she is collaborating with Nancy Sylvester and the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue, has team taught a course on “Rights of Nature,” at Molloy a Dominican College in Rockville Centre New York, offers individual and group spiritual direction and lectures, workshops and retreats upon request.