



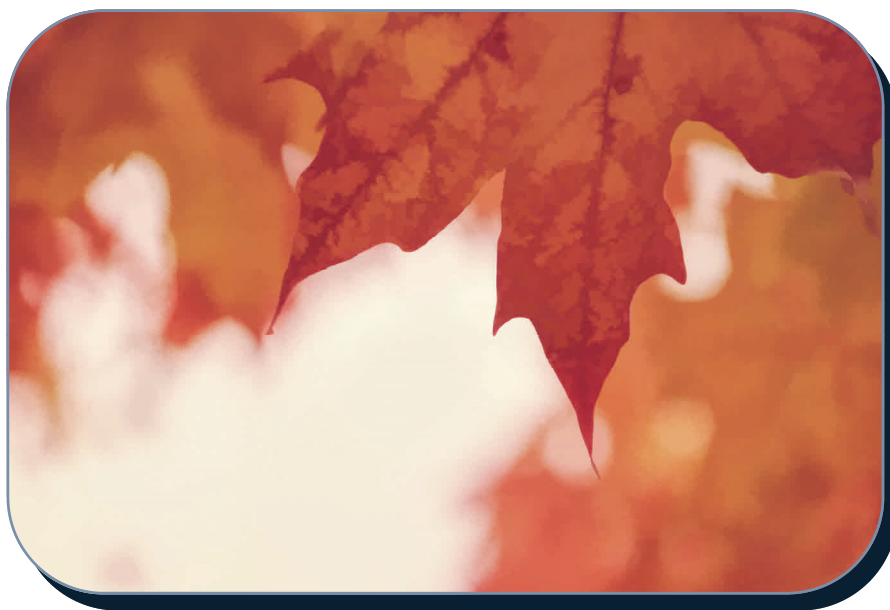
## Monthly Connections

*Pat Farrell, OP :: Executive Director*

## Dominican Sisters Conference

### Paris 2015 and Counting . . .

We just issued our November issue of *Paris 2015 and Counting . . .* and ask that everyone keeps both the outcome of the summit and the safety of our sisters in their prayers. Sisters Pat Daly, Elise Garcia, Margaret Mayce, and Pat Siemen leave for Paris this week – Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>. The hope of that summit is for a universal climate agreement. You can follow the happenings of the summit at the [COP21 website](#). Elise will be writing for NCR's *Global Sisters Report*, and we look forward to reading her insights. Margaret Mayce will be posting reports and pictures to the NGO's Facebook page. We invite you to visit us on Facebook at this [link](#) and share Margaret's posts with others. Please do not forget to "like" us.



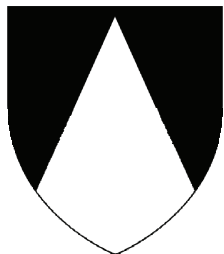
### A Message from Pat Farrell, OP

Happy Thanksgiving!

We have had our first snowfall of the year here in the Chicago area, and was it ever a memorable one! Apparently the biggest November snowfall here in 120 years! And since this will be my second winter, I am still a newcomer. Therefore, snow still makes me smile (especially since I don't have to shovel it!).

So this Thanksgiving I continue to be grateful for the gift of the four seasons, which are displayed so well in this part of the world. I am grateful for the wonderful staff I work with (Margaret, Susan, and Cassie). And I am grateful to be part of this graced mission with all of you!

Gratefully,




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## DomLife

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In last week's issue of DomLife, Susan let us all know about her work with Communicators for Women Religious (CWR). This is a wonderful opportunity for her, and one that she has diligently developed over the last year. We, the Dominican Family, have been blessed for her presence with us over the last seven years on DomLife. CWR has also been blessed by her commitment to the mission of the sisters, and will enjoy the ability to expand her work with them. We know that we have a friend at CWR! And she is still only an email or phone call away!

We now welcome Cassie Vazquez to a bigger role in the DSC office as the new editor of DomLife. As Susan mentioned in DomLife, Cassie has the education and background for this position. Please be sure to welcome her and send her newsworthy articles. While her background in library science has certainly taught her how to research, it is far better for the news to come from you! You can email her at [editor@domlife.org](mailto:editor@domlife.org).



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## 800TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrations of our Dominican 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have begun! Cassie has created a special calendar page on our website so that you may participate in events across the country. Here is the link to the page: <http://dominicansistersconference.org/800th-jubilee/>. If there are events, liturgies, and celebrations that you know of that are not listed, please let Cassie know by emailing her at [opcomnet@domlife.org](mailto:opcomnet@domlife.org).




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## DSC Staff Meeting

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Last week four of us, Susan Oxley, Cassie Vazquez, Margaret Mayce, and Pat Farrell, gathered in River Forest for our annual meeting. It was, to use Susan's words, "bittersweet" for we enjoyed our time together, but knew it would be our last gathering with Susan. She and Cassie spent significant time together on the DomLife transition. A highlight of our time together was our field trip to the McGreal Center. In all the years that Susan has been working for the DLC and the DSC, she has never had that opportunity. Thank you to Janet and all the staff for your warm welcome!

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## Strategic Planning

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Thanks to a generous grant from the GHR Foundation, the DSC is beginning a strategic planning process. Our first meeting will be on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Some of the things we will be discussing are:

- What is the DSC's role going forward?
- How is the three-year structure we voted on in 2009 and 2010 working?
- How can area meetings be accessible for sisters and associates in the diverse places they are located?
- How can we better speak on important issues with a Clear Voice?
- How can we encourage the participation and leadership of younger sisters and associates?

The members of the Strategic Planning Team are Sharon Casey (Tacoma), Margaret Galiardi (Amityville and DSC Executive Committee), Anne Lythgoe (Peace), Didi Madden (Blauvelt and Dominican Women Afire), Mary Murray (Sparkill), and Sharon Zayac (Springfield and DSC Executive Committee).

Assisting us in our process is Carol Crepeau, CSJ, who facilitated our Convocation. The selection committee (Sharon Zayac, Kathleen Klingen, Margaret Galiardi, and Pat Farrell) after interviewing several from a good list of possible coordinators, happily chose Carol and believe that she will be a good fit.

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### Our Facebook Page

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In addition to our DSC Facebook page ([here's the link](#)), we have also created a DLC/NGO page ([here's the link](#)) so that Margaret Mayce and the sisters going to Paris can keep us posted about the happenings at the Paris Climate Summit. We invite you to go to the links and "like" us. Please feel free to share anything you find there.