



DOMINICAN SISTERS IN COMMITTED COLLABORATION

Amityville * Blauvelt * Caldwell * Hope * Sparkill

NEWSLETTER

ANTICIPATING FALL, 2014

AUTUMN DAY

Lord: it is time. The huge summer has gone by.
Now overlap the sundials with your shadows,
and on the meadows let the wind go free.

Command the fruits to swell on tree and vine;
grant them a few more warm transparent days,
urge them on to fulfillment then, and press
the final sweetness into the heavy wine.

Whoever has no house now, will never have one.
Whoever is alone will stay alone,
will sit, read, write long letters through the evening,
and wander along the boulevards, up and down,
restlessly, while the dry leaves are blowing.

- Rainer Maria Rilke

(December 4, 1875-December 29, 1926)

translated by Stephen Mitchell

Dear Sisters and Associates,

The summer was truly immense and huge with many events plus myriads of comings and goings. This issue of our newsletter highlights the collaborative events and celebrations of the summer. It also features coming events, which invite your presence and participation.

Enjoy "a few more transparent days." Let us hear from you with your suggestions to further Dominican life and mission.

Didi Madden, OP, Promoter of Justice

Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, Promoter of Collaboration

Haiti



Jeanne Shary, OP (Sparkill)



Didi Madden, OP (Blauvelt)

The people of Duval Roche and Cuvier welcomed us back again this summer for two weeks in early July! It was wonderful connecting with friends from our previous trips and meeting new people. This year our weeks were filled with teaching, working and playing with children of Cuvier, and developing a plan for water access in the village of Cuvier.

Twenty-seven young adults graduated from the “Enstiti Fle lavi a” with expanded knowledge on health, child development, human sexuality, and community development. It was a spirited group that learned lots and made important connections with each other.

In the afternoons we spent a few hours with about 150 children in a camp co-hosted by us and the local Baptist church. It was high energy, lots of play and song, and then a hot meal for everyone.

Evenings were spent with young adults learning English or computer skills. Always a challenge as we were often without electricity!

We are now working with the men’s leadership group to develop 3 wells for the village of Cuvier. Water for drinking and cooking is needed...more importantly agricultural wells are needed. (This year 90% of the crops were destroyed by drought.)

Another trip is planned for July 2015! If you would be interested in being a member of the Spirit Haiti team, please contact: Didi Madden (opscjp@gmail.com); Val Lordi (rara777@optonline.net) or Jeanne Shary (jeannebean70@hotmail.com)



Val Lordi, OP (Sparkill)

Congratulations Jenn!

On Saturday, **August 9, 2014**, Sister Jenneifer Schaaf professed first vows at St. Dominic's Convent, Blauvelt.



(Left to right – Catherine Howard, OP and Jennifer Schaaf, OP)

Dominican Family Build



During the week of **August 17-21**, twenty sisters, associates and young people from Amityville, Blauvelt, Sparkill, and Sinsinawa participated in the first ***Dominican Family Build***. We all came together to help the people in the Rockaways try to rebuild their homes and their lives.

We worked at three different sites during the week: two in Brooklyn and one in Far Rockaway. We hung dry wall, mudded, and did a lot of sanding. It was hard work but thankfully the weather, which wasn't too warm, cooperated and all was done in a great spirit of collaboration and fun!

The spirit of family was very evident, as we worked together during the day and then went back to the places where we were staying to share a meal and gather for prayer and reflection on our days. Pat Hogan, OP (Sparkill) brought along a great group from her parish as well as other sisters. The associates, young people, and other friends from Amityville were also there to lend a hand in the project. And of course our own Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, the Promoter of Collaboration also joined us.

Many thanks go to those who put us up for the week and those who provided meals for us after a hard day's work. Thanks so much for the great food! To all those who donated financially to assist us in this build, our sincere thanks to you too! Hope to see you all next year.

Gina Fleming, OP (Amityville)

Dominican Women Afire

The Oblate Center in San Antonio, TX, welcomed 130 Dominican Sisters 59 and under or 10 years or less finally professed from **Thursday, August 28 – Sunday, August 31**. They were joined by nine Sisters who served as *Sister Companions* for the weekend; our Dominican Ancestors, Catherine of Siena (Nancy Murray -Adrian) and Antonio Montesinos (Jim Barnett – St Albert), plus Sisters who assisted with facilitation, liturgy, translation, and technology and a professional graphic recorder. There was great representation from the Northeast: 8 Sisters from Amityville, 5 Sisters from Blauvelt, 2 Sisters from Caldwell, 3 from Hope, 5 from Maryknoll, and 2 from Sparkill.

Those assembled engaged in “conversations of consequence”, blurred congregational boundaries, built relationships, connected with peers, played well together, prayed well together, and moved to action. The sisters are bringing home to you their experience, but in the meantime visit the website and “friend” the Facebook page to feel the **sparks** of the weekend.

<https://sites.google.com/site/dominicanwomenafire/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominican-Women-Afire/263211587209447>



We Remember and Celebrate Our Sisters and Associates Who Have Died.

Sister Marie Thomas McGuire, OP	May 29, 2014	Sparkill
Sister Louise Synan, OP	June 4, 2014	Hope
Sister Rosemary Giebel, OP	June 27, 2014	Amityville
Sister Charlotte Tighe, OP	June 28, 2014	Amityville
Carol Lassonde, Associate	July 5, 2014	Blauvelt
Sister Virginia Mohr, OP	July 9, 2014	Hope
Sister Prague Maria Fortier, OP	August 10, 2014	Amityville
Sister Clare Patrice Farrell, OP	August 27, 2014	Amityville
Sister Catherine Deevy, OP	September 2, 2014	Blauvelt

OPSCC Leadership Meeting in Caldwell

On Wednesday, September 3 the OPSCC Leadership Teams met at the Caldwell Motherhouse. The new Leadership Team from Hope was welcomed as the meeting began with prayer and congregational updates. Time was spent looking at the collaboration among us and the hope for more to come as well as a real desire to further involve membership. Great appreciation was offered to Mary Ellen as she plans to move to a ministry with her Sinsinawa congregation. Mary Ellen has coaxed us, pushed us, moved us and certainly brought many together. In our OPSCC, the challenge is to continue the good she has begun among us.

Mary Ellen will return to Wisconsin at the end of October. At the December meeting of the OPSCC Leadership, the responsibilities for a Promoter of Collaboration will be reviewed and following the meeting, the opening will be published.

Eileen Gannon, OP (Sparkill)

Upcoming OPSCC Events

Please visit the OPSCC webpage for our common calendar at www.opscc.org

Please join us for a Dominican Study Day with Nancy Sylvester, IHM
Conscious Evolution...A Trajectory of Hope for Religious Life

Saturday, October 18, 2014, Sparkill Motherhouse

9:30am Coffee and/10am Presentation – 3:30pm

(Bring your own lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided)

4pm Liturgy in Sacred Heart Chapel - Preacher: Jennifer Schaaf, OP

Cost: \$20 per person

Registration is required through the OPSCC Office

OPSCC Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

In the midst of our Summer movie nights, letter writing, discussion groups, and presentation on justice, we have witnessed the escalation of war, terrorism, displacement of people, surge in unaccompanied minors crossing borders, political polarization and natural disasters. We have also witnessed the outpouring of financial support for the ALS foundation, participated in emotional and financial for our Sisters and all Christians in Iraq, and part of activism of gathering our political will to work for solutions to climate change.

As Dominicans, we need to hold both the painful and hopeful pieces of our world in our hearts, prayers and discussions. At a time when the political communities, nations, ethnic groups move toward greater polarization, we have a particular call to move beyond these places of separation so that the unity of God's creation can be active and alive in the world. It is a challenge! It means overcoming our fear, pushing beyond our prejudices, and expanding our worldviews. It means constantly re-working how we think, act, and speak so that we foster unity and respectfully challenge what hinders it. It is about being justice as much as we do justice.

Thankfully we are not alone! We are one of many groups that are seeking to live and act from the place of unity, respect, understanding, and positive activism. Good companions are necessary in this walk of justice and they are a gift of Spirit to enliven, expand, and deepen our work.

I look forward to the unfolding work of justice with you! The Justice Committee, after a summer break, is meeting Sunday, September 7th to plan upcoming events and activities...so here is to our next steps...may they be bold, true, and blessed!

Didi Madden
Promoter of Justice

Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities.

Pope Francis

The heart that
breaks open can
contain the
whole universe."

— Joanna Macy

The needs of
our world are
many...

Opportunities
for action!

Unaccompanied Minors Collection Drive

Donations of toiletries, school supplies, coats, clothing, shoes, and toys will be collected during the month of September for refugee children and young adults. Please consider making a donation of funds so that we can purchase goods for donation. Donations can be sent to:

Dominican Sisters, OPSCC Office
496 Western Highway, Blauvelt NY 10913.

Purchased goods will be delivered to First Friends in Kearney, NJ for distribution.



Dominicans will be in the People's Climate March!

Sisters and Associates of the OPSCC, friends and family, and people from our various ministries will be participating in the March on September 21st. We join with thousands upon thousands of people marching to let world leaders know that our policies and actions must change so that Earth can be protected from today forward.

If you would like to walk:

- contact your Justice Representative
- check the website
(www.opscc.org)
- sign-up at peoplesclimate.org/march/

Support the March participants through prayer, writing letters to your representatives, talking to your family and friends about the importance of protecting Earth.