

DECEMBER 2013

Advent Is a Time of the Attentiveness

“Nothing worthwhile in life is sudden. We wait for birth. We wait for love; we wait for life to reveal it’s meaning, year-by-year, experience-by-experience. Waiting is the law of life, the measure of love ... To wait for another person is to be willing to be alone with that person. To wait for someone is to say that the present doesn’t begin until that person arrives. To wait together with a person or persons is to form community, a community of hope with them and to affirm the need for people. Waiting is a priceless value to the togetherness of those who are waiting for life, experiences and the Lord, Jesus.”

Dawn Without Darkness
 Anthony Padovano



UPWARDS
 Sulamith Wülfing
 German Artist and Illustrator,
 1901-1989

Advent is about attentiveness to God in our midst. It is not just a waiting but openness to that reality that what we wait for is already here. As we begin yet another Advent the word attentive calls out to us and says, “pay attention, be aware, I am already in your midst”. Christ is born each day in hearts that are attentive and open.

At this time of year it is so easy to be distracted, to be busy, to be immersed in preparation for Christmas, but we can still be attentive. Perhaps we will do some Christmas shopping in the busy, hectic stores for someone we love, or do some baking or attending holiday gatherings. Maybe it is in the midst of these activities that we must allow Advent to take place—to allow Jesus to be born again and again in the persons and events that we encounter with our attentiveness.

May this wonderful season of anticipation and birth find you attentive to all around you! May your Christmas season bring you peace, joy and love!



Regional Gatherings

It won't be long now until we begin our Regional Gatherings. On January 11, 2014, the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt will host the first gathering at their Motherhouse. The morning gatherings are open to anyone interested in the topic *"what is Earth asking of the Order"*, so please feel to invite family, friends or colleagues. The afternoon session is open to Sisters and Associates as we look at how and who we are together.

Not long ago your communicator for your congregation sent out the latest material from the Regional Gathering Planning Committee regarding *"What Is Earth Asking of the Order?"* If you have not read this yet it can be found on the website's homepage and is well worth your while as a preparation for the Regional Gatherings.

The full listing of those sites that are scheduled is on the Dominican Sisters Conference website. This can be found at www.dominicansistersconference.org. Please make sure you mark one of the dates on your calendar. Every single one of us has a gift to bring to DSC!

McGreal Center

Last month I had the privilege of attending the McGreal Center Board Meeting as one of its members. Under the fine direction of Janet Welsh, OP, and the superb facilitation of Judy Jewison, OP, fourteen of us gathered at Dominican University to look at where McGreal Center has been and where it can go.

I found myself wondering how many of our Sisters and Associates even know about McGreal Center. So...here is a bit briefly:

The Mission of McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies promotes the research and writing of the history of the Dominican Family in the United States. Through the collection and preservation of historical documents, the McGreal facilitates opportunities for scholarly research relative to the Dominican Family's significance in the Order of Preacher, the church and the nation.succeeded

This center, founded by Sr. Mary Nona McGreal, OP (died 2012) and ably succeeded by Janet Welsh,OP, has its early roots in Project Opus begun in 1985 and has evolved into a center located at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. There one can find archives filled with wonderful historical documents that tell the story of the Dominican Family in the United States.

The Center is a place worth exploring if you are ever in the area. If you are unable to make to the area make sure you look them up on their website at www.mcgrealcenter.org.

DOMLIFE

Susan Oxley, the editor of Domlife, will have surgery next week followed by a time of recuperation.

There will be no new issue of Domlife until January 9, 2014. *We wish Susan our prayers and blessings during this healing time.*



A FOND FAREWELL

As I begin the process of packing up the files and furnishings here in Farmington Hills, Michigan, I am reminded of so many of the wonderful persons and events that have been at the heart of my ministry as Executive Director of the Dominican Sisters Conference during these past 39 months. I leave with gratitude in my heart for all that has been over these years and offer a heartfelt thanks to so many of you who have been a great support during this time. I leave knowing that DSC will be in the capable hands of Pat Farrell, OP, and offer her the blessings of all of us as she embarks on this time of ministry in a conference filled with so many wonderful people.

Thank you to each one of you for all you have done and been during these three years. I have been blessed by you.

Mary Sue

COMING UP

December 5	Finance Committee Conference Call
December 5	Regional Gathering Conference Call
December 12	Executive Committee Conference Call

have you checked out the website lately?
www.dominicansistersconference.org



MAY YOU HAVE

The Spirit of Christmas

WHICH IS PEACE

The Happiness of Christmas

WHICH IS HOPE

The Essence of Christmas

WHICH IS LOVE

All of us here at the DSC
wish you and yours a
Blessed and Holy Christmas!

We are scattered across the
country, but united in
vision and mission!

Thank you for your continued
support of the
dominicansistersconference



Christmas Card

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