



**in the LOOP** monthly connections from the desk of  
*Mary Sue Kennedy, op. :: executive director*  
**dominicansistersconference**

**June 2013**

*“Be all that God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”*  
*St. Catherine of Siena*

As you will see in the letter from the Executive Committee, I will not be renewing my contract which expires in December, 2013. It is too early to say farewell but I felt I wanted to say something. There is so much potential for this organization of the Dominican Sisters Conference, especially potential to make a difference in our world. This is the mission to which we were called when the Dominican Leadership Conference and the Federation of Dominican Sisters came together to form this new entity. While I will not be as intricately involved in the future, my commitment to this vision will remain ever strong. I invite you to ponder your commitment to this call and to join me in prayer that, together, we will be all God meant us to be so that we will set the world on fire.



**WIN/WIN Opportunity**, new winner is Sr. Irene Francis Fair from Newburgh NY. Congratulations Sr. Irene Francis!!! The next drawing will be held on June 7, 2013. You can still donate your \$15.00 per ticket as there are three drawings left (June 7th for \$75.00; June 21st for \$75.00; and June 28th for \$200.00). If you care to donate in exchange for a raffle ticket please go to: [www.dominicansistersconference.org](http://www.dominicansistersconference.org)

**The Executive Committee Endorsed A Statement** written by John Gehring, the Catholic Program Director for Faith in Public Life (a strategy center for the faith community advancing faith in the public square as a powerful force for justice, compassion and the common good). The report is written specifically in regards to threats to the Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. Bishops' anti-poverty initiative. These threats come from well-funded critics who are opponents to the bishops' social justice campaign who create a culture of fear around faith-based community organizing. To quote John Gehring, “the groups use guilt-by-association...and are part of an increasingly aggressive movement of Catholic culture warriors who view themselves as fighting for a smaller, purer Church.”

When we read the report, we felt that it was important to spend time with it as well as to discuss it among ourselves in regard to endorsing it as a group. At the conclusion of the discussion we decided, as the Dominican Sisters Conference Executive Committee, to endorse the statement. We discerned that it was important that we speak to the justice of the issue for the sake of the mission.

The five recommendations that signers endorsed were:

- *Lay Catholics concerned about protecting the church's social justice witness in public life should redouble their commitment to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development through donations, letters of support to bishops and volunteering.*
- *The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops should consider convening a series of public dialogue sessions with a diverse range of anti-poverty experts, social justice advocates, theologians, philanthropists and community organizers with the goal of strengthening CCHD partnerships and finding common ground.*
- *Catholic bishops and diocesans staff should resist the influence of pressure groups like the American Life League that are hurting faith-based community organizing.*
- *While Catholic Church funds should never go to organizations that directly advocate for causes opposed to Catholic teaching, more prudent assessments are needed before CCHD cuts vital funds to effective organizations that empower low-income communities simply because of associations with other groups or coalitions.*
- *At a time when the working poor have fewer advocates and income inequality is rising, Catholic-funded organizations should not be isolated*

**The Executive Committee** met by conference call on May 13, 2013. One of the first items on the agenda was a discussion of the results of the survey in which those who completed the survey spoke of the desire for collaboration and resulting action as a central goal of the conference. There is also a desire for a majority to speak as one voice especially against injustice. It is our hope that this can happen as a result of the planned regional/area meetings.

There was considerable discussion in regards to planning for this year's elections (one from leadership and one from membership at large) so members are being approached to become part of an Election Committee. Now we need good candidates!!!

The following is the role description for the Executive Committee:

- *to conduct the general business of the DSC according to its mission, purpose, and role;*
- *to act for and on behalf of the DSC between meetings of the membership to engage elected leadership and members in the identification of goals and objectives of the DSC;*
- *to appoint and oversee the work of the Executive Director of the DSC;*
- *to approve, the agenda of the annual meetings; and*
- *to present the annual budget for approval by the elected leadership.*

Currently the Executive Committee meets once every six weeks or so by conference call and twice a year in person. Expenses are covered by DSC.

Do you know someone who you think would make a good Executive Committee member (or maybe yourself)? Let us know about that person by e-mailing Mary Sue at [sisters@domlife.org](mailto:sisters@domlife.org).

**domlife.org** is an on-line newsletter, which comes out twice a month and offers articles about happenings involving Dominicans (Sisters, Friars, Associates, Laity, Dominican Volunteers, College and High School Preachers as well as other affiliates of DSC). It is a wonderful tool to learn of what is happening to the Dominican mission in the United States as well as tidbits from Dominicans around the world. Susan Oxley, editor of Domlife, is willing to put you on her mailing list if you would like to get regular updates of Domlife. Please contact her at [editor@domlife.org](mailto:editor@domlife.org).

### **Meetings Coming up in June**

June 5, 2013	Conference call for the Elected Leaders Assembly Planning Committee
June 13, 2013	Conference call for the Regional/Area Planning Committee
June 24, 2013	"JoinMe" conference for DSC Staff

*- Until next issue ... my Best to you, Mary Sue*