



**May 2013**

***Much has been going on with the Dominican Sisters Conference that is behind the scenes so I will begin to update you once a month on some of the happenings with DSC in its collaborative efforts during this exciting time of formation of the conference.***

### **SO...WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**WIN-WIN Opportunity**, our fundraising project had its first drawing for \$75.00 on May 1st. with the winner being Sr. Margaret Charles from Caldwell. Sadly, Sister Margaret Charles died quite suddenly. The money has been sent to St. Catherine Healthcare in Caldwell.

If you haven't yet had a chance to get your name and donation in you still have time as there are four drawings left after May 1st. There will be three more drawings for \$75.00 on May 24th, June 7 and June 25th. On June 28th there will be the drawing for the grand prize of \$200.00. Don't wait—get it in today for the Opportunity to WIN!!! You can still donate for a chance!!!!

Financially we are ahead of last year's fundraising but are still short of our goal so please take this opportunity to help your DSC and, perhaps, walk away with a bit more cash just as summer vacation approaches.

**Region/Area Planning Committee** which consists of Sharon Casey (Tacoma), Pat Daly (Caldwell), Arlene Flaherty (Blauvelt), Connie Kelly (Hope), Ginny King (Adrian), Krissie Koll (Sinsinawa Associate), Margaret Mayce (Amityville) and Lucianne Siers (Grand Rapids) met on April 23, 2013 via a conference call. This group has been in the planning phase for the regional/area gatherings that were part of Design 2. Just to refresh your memory, Design 2 called for:

- Year I (2011) Elected Leaders Assembly
- Year II (2012) National Convocation
- Year III Regional/Area gatherings

The region/area gatherings will be geographically designed to accommodate clusters of people in a given area. These will be set up by the already existing groups of the Alliance, OP West and Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration (Northeast). The number and location of the meetings will be designed to accommodate the needs of the region. Many of these meetings will take place between October of 2013 and May of 2014. Those encompassed by the Alliance grouping will, more than likely, have their gatherings scheduled at a later time.

### ***Suggested Format for the Regional/Area Gatherings***

**The OPSCC (Northeast Dominicans) Earth Council** has offered to design the morning session as a follow-up to the question asked at the Convocation, "What is Earth asking of us?" They will use, as resources, Dominican women from other areas of the country who have expertise in this area as well as suggested printed material and audio-visual materials. The time together will consist of prayer, some input (technologically), process and movement toward action, locally, nationally and internationally.

The afternoon will allow time for conversation regarding the Mission Statement of DSC, the future and vision of DSC, and brainstorming on the question, "where do we go from here as the Dominican Sisters Conference"?

***Be on the look-out for dates and locations for these gatherings and mark your calendars!!!***

**THE SURVEY MONKEY** which was sent to you in April has given us some good material to work with. 366 persons responded to it and we thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Some have voiced that they simply did not have the time to do it. Well, the survey is back by popular demand and can be found at **<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YNVS8DC>**

So, click on the link and get started. Your input is very important to us.

***The survey will be closed again on May 30, 2013.***

**The Elected Leaders Annual Assembly Planning Committee** has been meeting and planning for the next gathering of Elected Leaders who will meet October 27-30, 2013. Sisters Gene Poore (Peace), Kathlyn Mulcahy (Springfield), Corinne Sanders (Adrian) and Mary Sue Kennedy (Adrian) have planned a wonderful conference whose theme is "Preaching to the Heart of Earth". Linda Gibler, OP (Houston) will be giving the keynote address and will turn our attention to listening and responding to the Heart of Earth. The leaders will also have time to pray together, plan together, attend to business matters and get to know one another. The meeting will be held at Weber Center on the campus of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian.

**By-Laws for the Dominican Sisters Conference** have been in process for the past two years under the guidance of the Elected Leaders. I am happy to announce that we now have by-laws that we can use to incorporate as a 501c3 organization and will begin that process.

**Elections for the Executive Committee of the DSC** occurs each year according to the by-laws and structure. A member of the Executive Committee is elected for a three year term and can be re-elected for a second term of three years. Soon an election committee will be formed and they will be contacting potential candidates to take part in the election to be held late in the summer. One of the members has to come from elected leadership and one who is part of the membership base. In a slight adaptation of words of John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your conference can do for you but what you can do for your conference!!!". What are the gifts you have to offer as a member of the Executive Committee? If you would be willing to be on the Executive Committee please contact Mary Sue at sisters@domlife.org.

**The Dominican Sisters Conference Website** is constantly being updated by Aneesah McNamee, OP, our communication and technology staff person. Don't forget to tune in to the latest updates and news at [www.dominicansistersconference.org](http://www.dominicansistersconference.org). There is also news about the wider Dominican Family on [domlife.org](http://domlife.org) which is published every two weeks. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be please contact Susan Oxley at [domlife.org](http://domlife.org). Click on to this site for the latest news from our NGO representative at the UN, Margaret Mayce, OP. She has been on the road and has much information in her updates!

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