

NOVEMBER 2013

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates vision for tomorrow."

> Melody Beattie Make Miracles in Forty Days



We enter this month of November the one whose message consistently tells us to be grateful. It is such a simple task and, yet, one that, in our busy lives, we may neglect to do. A grateful heart helps us to be in the present by noticing what we have and stopping to acknowledge it. Gratitude has the power to change your mood almost instantly from negative to positive. We have much to be grateful for as Dominican women who have been gifted so abundantly by our good God!!! So, take time today to be grateful and each day this month so that we may: make sense of our past, live in peace today and create the vision of tomorrow.

Elected Leaders Annual Assembly

Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan was the site of a lively gathering of the Annual Assembly of Elected Leaders from the Dominican Sisters Conference from October 27th through October 29th. "Preaching from the Heart of Earth" was the central theme of this assembly.

Sr. Linda Gibler, OP, led the participants in a day of presentations and reflective time looking at "What Is Earth Asking of the Elected Leaders of the Order?" Her topics included: Earth as a source of Wisdom, creation as a book of divine revelation, praying with creation, diminishment through



Earth's perspective and preaching as if Earth mattered. This day spent with Linda was one of challenges and affirmation and, indeed, assisted all present to more clearly understand how "Preaching from the Heart of Earth" is essential to the life of being a Dominican.

Business was at the heart of the agenda for the second day which was facilitated by Christine Matthews, OP. This included: looking at the history of DSC in order to learn from it so that we may move together into the future; looking at our Vision, Values and Viability as we continue to develop as a conference; studying our finances; viewing the plans for our Regional Gatherings; reviewing reports from our NGO/UN representative (Margaret Mayce, OP), our North American DSI representative (Rose Marie Riley, OP) and the North American Justice Promoter (Lucianne Siers, OP). All of this was interspersed with table and large group discussion.

An important part of each day was our prayer together, mealtime gatherings and socials each evening. The time culminated in a liturgy with Carolyn Wolfbauer's marvelous preaching.

A big thank you to all who planned and participated in this superb time together!



Elected Leadership Assembly gathered at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan photo by aneesah \cdot op \cdot 2013

Convocation 2015 It is hard to believe that it has now been over a year since 650 Dominican Sisters and Associates gathered at the Westin Hotel for DSC's energizing and enthusiastic Convocation. And now it is time to begin planning again. A Convocation Committee composed of those who volunteered at the end of the last gathering will have their initial meeting to begin planning for the next Convocation which will be held at the Westin Hotel in Wheeling, Illinois, from October 1-4, 2015.

The committee is composed of: Rose Celeste O'Connell, OP, [chairperson] Kathleen Donnelly, OP, Margaret Galiardi, OP; Marie Michelle Hackett, OP; Mary Hopkins, OP; Mary Lach (Associate); Aneesah McNamee, OP; Roberta Popara, OP; Ruth Poochigan, OP; Anneliese Sinnott, OP. Sr. Carol Crepeau, CSJ, will facilitate the meeting. Let us all pray for these women as they gather to look at how we will be together for the next Convocation.

The committee will meet November 12th to the 14th at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

DSC website/Amazon.com Have you checked out the DSC website lately? There is always new information on it so it is worth keeping updated about DSC. While it was mentioned earlier, this is a reminder about the Amazon logo which appears at the bottom of the home page of the website. If you are planning to purchase something from Amazon please go to the website and click on the logo which will take you to Amazon's regular site. Then order as you normally would. When we do this, DSC gets a small percentage of the cost of your purchase. So...you not only make your purchase but you donate to DSC. We invite you to do this as you think of your Christmas gift purchases.

www.dominicansistersconference.org

scroll down to the bottom of the home page and you will find the AMAZON logo

Transitions for DSC As you are well aware, I will be leaving the position of Executive Director at the end of this year and Pat Farrell, OP, will be assuming the position on January 1, 2014. To that end Pat and I met October 24th and 25th to begin the process of this transition by going over many details that are involved in the day-to-day running of DSC. Time was spent looking back at what has happened in the three years of DSC's existence and looking toward the future. It looks as if a smooth transition is in process and DSC will be in good hands!!!

COMING UP

November 4, 2013 November 12-14 November 18-20 Conference call with the Regional Gathering Committee Convocation Planning Committee (Farmington Hills) Staff meeting with Pat Farrell, OP (Farmington Hills)



Autumn Splendor - reflection time on the back deck of Weber Center photo by aneesah • op • 2013



- Until next issue ... my Best , Mary Sue

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