



OCTOBER 2013

"The time of the falling leaves has come again. Once more on our morning walk we tread upon carpets of gold and crimson, of brown and bronze, woven by the winds or rains out of these delicate textures while we slept. How beautifully the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days! There are exceptions, of course. The leaves of most of the fruit trees fade and wither and fall ingloriously. They bequeath their heritage of color to their fruit. Upon it they lavish the hues, which other trees lavish upon their leaves. But in October what a feast to the eye our woods and groves present. The whole body of the air seems enriched by their calm, slow radiance. They are giving back the light they have been absorbing from the summer sun."

John Burroughs

Indeed, our eyes can feast upon the beauty of God's creation as it transitions into a new season. The light and color of these days are magnificent gifts of our good God to us. The line "how beautifully the leaves grow old" struck me forcefully as I contemplated the fact that each one of us grows older by the day. The participants at a liturgy or meal at each of our motherhouses are a wonderful example of the beauty of growing old (although it doesn't always feel beautiful). Just as it is our choice to take in the beauty of nature, it is our call to be grateful for the beauty of our aging while realizing that this is a transitional time not only for individuals but for our congregations. Where will this time lead us? Can we be open to the beauty that lies within?

Congratulations to Reg McKillip, OP (Sinsinawa and member-at-large nominee) and Sandra Delgado, OP (Grand Rapids and elected leader nominee) upon their election to the Executive Committee of the Dominican Sisters Conference. Their term of office began on October 1, 2013. Thank you to Carla Mae Streeter (Racine) and Rose Celeste O'Connell who were willing to be nominees in the member-at-large election process.

Thank you to Pat Farrell, OP (San Rafael) and Rose Celeste O'Connell, OP (Adrian) who have so faithfully served on the Executive Committee during these past three years during the initial phases of the formation of DSC. We are so grateful for all you have been and done!

Preaching from the Heart of Earth is the theme of this year's Elected Leaders Annual Assembly, which will be held at Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, October 27-30, 2013.

Sr. Linda Gibler, OP (Houston) who will serve as keynote speaker. To date there are seventy leaders who are registered to attend. Included in these days together will be prayer, liturgy, a business meeting and time to get to know one another.



The Regional Committee continues to meet via conference call as plans for the gatherings unfold. The committee last met on September 17, 2013. Facilitators and coordinators for each of the scheduled gatherings have been chosen. Training for facilitators will be offered soon. Please refer to "In the Loop" September issue for dates and times, which have already been set. The hope is to have the dates for groups that are members of the Alliance set sometime following discussion at the Elected Leaders Annual Assembly. Watch for these new dates. Wherever you are located, plan on attending one of these gatherings in order that we, Dominican women and Associates, may continue to be about the mission together.

Thank you to Joan Smith, OP (Blauvelt) for her design of the logo, which will be used for the Regional gatherings. The design correlates beautifully with our theme: *"Dominican Sisters Conference Regional Gathering: Weaving the Threads of Contemplation and Action"*. Beautiful job, Joan.

The Communicators of DSC congregations met on October 1, 2013 in Baltimore for a day together, to get to know one another, and some of us to meet for the first time! We began our day with prayer and continued with reports on domlife.org from Susan Oxley and I shared input from Mary Sue Kennedy, OP. In the afternoon significant time was given to updating what's going on in the Communication arena. All the Communicators were able to share how we are doing and what we envision, what are expectations are of the DSC and of each other. The exciting part of our time together was a general consensus of wanting to work together more effectively to move the mission of the DSC forward. Our meeting was piggy-backed with the NCNWR [National Communicators Network for Women Religious] Conference, so meeting and networking with 124+ other communicators was a bonus for all of us. [During the meeting a name change was voted in for the organization: CWR, Communicators for Women Religious]. - *Aneesah McNamee, OP*

The Finance Committee of the DSC meets every six weeks via conference call. The members of the committee are: Maureen Comer (Adrian), Pat Farrell (San Rafael), Margaret Mary Kennedy (Peace) and Kathleen McGinn (Amityville). This committee is a quiet force in the operation of the Dominican Sisters Conference. It is due to their financial advice that we are able to move forward in this area. The Committee makes recommendations regarding the budget, fund-raising and investments. We thank them for their commitment and for lending their expertise to DSC.

COMING UP

October 7	Finance Committee Conference Call
October 26	Executive Committee meeting in Adrian, MI
October 27	Alliance meeting in Adrian, MI
October 27-30	Elected Leaders Annual Assembly in Adrian MI
October 30	CDN Board Meeting in Adrian MI

