



From the DSC Executive Director

Greetings Sisters,

As we welcome this Advent Season, we continue to wait with Joyful Hope in our broken world. In addition to the Advent prayer that you received earlier this week for "Paris 2015 and Counting . . ." I offer you this Advent prayer that was adapted from one found on the creighton.edu website – a source for so many reflections on our daily readings.

Gratefully,

Pat Farrell, OP

As We Begin Advent

Our brother, Jesus, we begin another Advent season, and hope that it will be a reflective time for us. Let us know ourselves blessed at every turn.

We look forward to the wonderful readings of this season, Jesus. We anticipate the week of the O Antiphons. But all around us are the signs rushing us past the waiting and onward to Christmas and the kind of celebration that equates spending with love.

We need your help to slow our world down. This year, more than ever – as we look around us at our broken world – we need Advent, these weeks of reflection and longing for hope in our Holy Darkness.

Jesus, this year, give us the courage to desire that longing. Help us to feel it in our hearts and be aware of the hunger and thirst for you in our own souls. You are not missing from our lives, but sometimes we lack the awareness of all of the places where you are present.

Be with us, Dear Friend. Guide us in these weeks to what you want to show us this Advent. Help us to be vulnerable enough to ask you to lead us to the places of our weaknesses, where we will find you, Emmanuel, loving us without limits.

Amen.

Dominican Sisters Delegation to Iraq

In the first few weeks of January 2015, there will be two small delegations (sisters and friars – 5 in all) travelling to Iraq/Kurdistan to visit with our Iraqi Dominican sisters and brothers there.

We ask that you prayerfully accompany the two delegations. May Christ our Light be a guiding presence and a beacon of peace for both the pilgrims and our sisters and brothers in the region.

Both the sisters and friars on this delegation request prayers and financial support. The donations will be shared among the Dominican Family in Iraq. Any checks should be made out to: **Dominican Leadership Conference** and sent to Pat Farrell, OP, 1326 Park Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305.

We also invite you to send Christmas cards. The delegates will hand-deliver these Christmas cards filled with your greetings of love, solidarity and peace. You may send them to any one of the delegates below:

- Dusty Farnan, OP, 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221
- Arlene Flaherty, OP, 496 Western Highway, Blauvelt, NY 10913
- Marcelline Koch, OP, 1237 W. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62704

Thank you for your solidarity and for your prayers for our family in Iraq. The Dominican friars who will travel prefer not to be mentioned by name publicly until after the trip has finished.



Win/Win Christmas Opportunity

Grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the Dominican Sisters Conference by your donation to the Christmas raffle.

I'd like to announce our very happy winners once more:

Patricia Carroll of Chicago

Gretchen Sill, OP,
of Grand Rapids

Connie Kelly, OP of Hope

The Lacordaire Community
of
Montclair, NJ

Paris 2015 and Counting . . .

As announced earlier this week, we are launching [“Paris 2015 and Counting . . .”](#) Why is the DSC encouraging a focus on Climate Justice? I read on the website of Voices for Earth – a ministry in which some of our sisters of Adrian are involved:

Why is the faith community concerned about global climate change?

It is a matter of justice.

- *Justice for poor people who will be most severely impacted by changing weather and rising seas, and who have the least capacity to adapt.*
- *Justice for future generations who will inherit an unstable climate and potentially catastrophic rises in sea level, migration of tropical diseases, and disrupted agricultural production.*
- *Justice for all of Creation that is threatened by climate change.*

We invite you to follow with us in the months to come – to pray with us – to act with us on behalf of all the communities of Earth. We recommend the DVD prepared by The Earth Council for our Area Meetings earlier this year. It is entitled Global Climate Change and the Praxis Cycle, and can be purchased from Amazon at this site: <http://www.amazon.com/Global-Climate-Change-Praxis-Cycle/dp/B00N194WTW/>.

As a sneak preview for January, Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we will be focusing on the connections between Climate Justice and Human Trafficking. Our hope is that our work now will lead bring us together as a Conference “standing as a clear voice for truth, justice, and peace” (DSC Mission Statement).

