



From the DSC Executive Director

Loving Autumn Leaves!!!!

Though this is certainly not my first experience of Autumn in the Midwest, it is certainly a very special experience this year to have a beautiful maple tree right outside my bedroom window! The streets of River Forest are lined with a delightful variety of trees that let go of their leaves with a colorful flourish.

This breathtaking color is only on the trees (and on the ground) for a seeming brief moment. I was in California for community meetings for a

week, and on my return I see that the Autumn leaves are almost gone. Welcome, barren branches.

We continue to ask the question, especially as we lead up to Convocation 2015, "What is Earth Asking of Us?" Perhaps *one* request Earth has is for us to simply let go, and to express our gratitude for all the ways Earth has blessed throughout the year.

Gratefully,
Pat Farrell, OP

Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord of all blessing,

Let us know ourselves blessed at every turn.

Blessed in the autumn sun and leaves

Blessed in the rain and shafts of sunlight

Blessed in the moving stars

Blessed in silence

Blessed in sleep

Blessed in our family and our friends

Blessed in conversation

Blessed in music, blessed in singing voices

Blessed in the cry that pierces the heart

Blessed in the smile of strangers

Blessed in the touch of love, and in laughter

Blessed in pain, in darkness, in grief

Blessed in the desert and on the mountains

Blessed for the food on our tables
and all of your gifts and graces to us.

Lord, of all blessing, we bless you.

Amen.

Convocation 2015 News

From October 24th to 25th, the Convocation Planning Committee met at the Westin Hotel in Wheeling, IL, to continue planning for the DSC Convocation in October 2015.

This was a very fruitful meeting in which we were able to clarify our plans. We want this gathering to assist us in **Speaking with one Voice** as Dominican Sisters, or as the Mission Statement expresses it, “Standing as a clear voice for truth, justice and peace.”

We also look forward to the preaching of our sisters and associates – both in the pulpit and in Table Preaching, as the theme of our Convocation is:

Preaching the Word: The Dominican Imperative Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow

And our preaching will not be something we leave behind at the Westin Hotel. We anticipate an action to take, to celebrate, and to take with us as we go.

We look forward to seeing you in Wheeling, so if you haven't already marked your calendars, please do so!

Your Convocation Planning Committee,

Carol Crepeau, CSJ (Facilitator)
Kathleen Donnelly (Sparkill)
Pat Farrell (San Rafael)
Margaret Galiardi (Amityville)
Mary Hopkins (Sinsinawa)
Marie Michelle Hackett

(Springfield)
Elaine Jahrsdoerfer (Amityville)
Mary Lach (Adrian Associate)
Aneesah McNamee (Adrian)
Rose Celeste O'Connell (Adrian)
Roberta Popara (Sinsinawa)
Ruth Poochigian (Sinsinawa)
Anneliese Sinnott (Adrian)



Win/Win Christmas Opportunity

There is still time to send in your raffle ticket for our drawings. You can win \$100 or \$200 for your Christmas shopping and help support the DSC at the same time.

Entry tickets are with this newsletter and available online!

National Catholic Sisters Week

Is Coming!

The Second Annual National Catholic Sisters Week is scheduled from March 8-14, 2015. Last year, Mary Soher, OP, (Adrian) as Co-Director helped create a weekend event at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN. Pairs of college-students/sisters from all over the country were invited to the university encouraged to create time in their schedules to share their stories. Mary has announced that a similar event is being scheduled for March 6-8, 2015 – **Watch for Details!**

Mary is also encouraging all of us in each of our

congregations to plan our own events for that week. There are resources to assist us on this website which can be shared: <https://www2.stkate.edu/ncsw/participate>. You can find prayers and intercessions for the seasons of Advent and Christmas; other seasons will be added in the coming months. There are also engagement ideas for Parishes, Schools, Colleges & Universities, and Religious Communities.

Your events can be posted National Catholic Sisters website if you simply forward your events to Mary Soher at her address: mpsouer@stkate.edu.

**We are grateful for this way of
sharing our joy in being
Catholic Sisters as well as our
Dominican Way of Life!**