



Monthly Connections
Pat Farrell, OP :: Executive Director
Dominican Sisters Conference



A Message from Pat Farrell, OP

It is such a blessing and privilege to have the opportunity to serve all of you, the members of the Dominican Sisters Conference. So many times when I travel to motherhouses, visit sisters of other congregations, participate on collaborative committees, and most recently attend the DSI Assembly, I reflect on the charism and life that we share. Certainly I am a Dominican Sister of *San Rafael*, but wherever I go, I am welcomed as *Sister*. The bonds of friendship with sisters I work with are as strong as those with sisters of my own congregation.

Certainly, I am immersed in collaboration. Everyone else is not so lucky! So I am always grateful for the glimpses of sisters who discover the delight of that Dominican connection with a sister who is not in their circle. This used to happen through the Parable Retreats, but it also surely happens through gatherings at convocations and those of Dominican Women Afire.

I recall the story of one my own sisters who attended her first convocation in October. When the results of the Adrian sisters' Chapter of Elections was announced, she became very excited because she knew them (Pat Siemen and Elise Garcia), because we had blessed the delegates who were going in our name to the Paris Climate Summit. Last month I was touched by comments of some of the 100+ sisters who participated on the Zoom Conference follow-up to our Embracing Emergence gathering in Blauvelt. This new technology is allowing us to stay connected in new ways.

As you'll see in this issue, we are looking for nominees for the Executive Committee. I think it's a great opportunity to serve this wonderful family and to build relationships that last a lifetime. Collaboration is messy . . . and it's worth it!

Gratefully,

Elections to the DSC Executive Committee

It's that time of year again – the time to nominate sisters for the Executive Committee of the Dominican Sisters Conference. On Monday we sent out an email encouraging you to nominate yourself or others to the possible slate of nominees. We have an inspiring and fun video, entitled *Top Ten Reasons to Be Nominated for the Executive Committee*. It's on our [website](#) and we encourage you to watch at this link: <https://vimeo.com/166415095>. Information about the work of the Executive Committee and the timeline for the nomination/election process is on our homepage.

Dominican Sisters International

Dominican Sisters International held its 8th General Assembly at the Salesianum in Rome from April 28 to May 5. There were close to one hundred prioresses (or delegates) in attendance from around the world. Sr. Marie Therese Clement, OP, was especially pleased with the decisions made by the body that help give her and her council direction over the next three years. The theme of the Assembly was “Perfectae Caritatis: Sent to Preach the Gospel of Mercy,” and during this time of celebrating our 800th Anniversary, the preaching of the sisters was superb!

Our very own Barbara Reid, OP (Grand Rapids), gave the keynote. Unfortunately, the Salesianum did not have a means of making video recordings. The text of her talk can be found [here](#). An audio will be available online before long.

We also received some very moving reports from sisters ministering in zones of conflict: Iraq, Nigeria, Venezuela, Ecuador, South Africa, Haiti, the Philippines, Bangui, and Albania. We have family in many troubled parts of our world.

It was a privilege to participate in this assembly. If you didn't see the video when it was sent out through the list serve, here is a link that will give you a sense of the spirit of our days together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aQGnzjQaEk>. Besides the prioresses and our keynote speaker, you should know that the DSC was well represented at the assembly.

- Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, served as one of the facilitators who helped us all to stay on track,
- Rose Marie Riley, OP, was there as the outgoing Continental Coordinator for North America, and has done a great job in helping Marie Therese Clement, OP, in her transition to the role of International Coordinator of DSI,
- Gene Poore, OP, was there as the incoming Coordinator for North America (and we wish her well!),
- Margaret Mayce, OP, who made an address, always hoping to strengthen the bond between our sisters throughout the world and the work of the UN.
- And yours truly, who helped with technology and made an address on collaboration in the U.S. (And then there's that video that I emailed to you a couple of weeks ago.)



At DSI – Mary Ellen O’Grady, OP, Pat Farrell, OP, and Margaret Mayce, OP

We Have Family in *Nigeria*

During the DSI Assembly we listened to presentations from sisters serving in zones of conflict. **We Have Family in these places.** Over the next several months in *In the Loop*, we will include a short piece about one of those places, and try to include something from the sister’s presentation.

We begin with Nigeria. Faustina Jimoh, OP, the Continental Coordinator for Africa used no PowerPoint or video. Yet we listened with rapt attention as she told us of an angry mob, inside the compound, approaching their residence with petrol and stakes. Fortunately, the police arrived just in time to disperse them.

I invite you to listen to her presentation. Here is the [link](#). It is well worth sixteen minutes of your time. We are already aware of Boko Haram. Faustina also addresses the problem of marauding Fulani herdsmen.



Iraq Coordinating Committee

The Iraq Coordinating Committee continues to meet monthly for conversation and plans to support our sisters in Iraq. This month part of our discussion was Sister Maria Hanna’s very moving talk at DSI. It is important for us to keep this issue before our legislators. They receive four anti-immigrant communications to every one that is supportive of opening our borders to refugees. The Dominican Sisters Conference is sending a letter this week to President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Harry Reid asking them to find a way to help the suffering people of Iraq who are displaced from their homes. A copy of that letter and Maria Hanna’s talk are available [here](#).



IRAQ - Nazik Matty, OP (speaking) and Maria Hanna, OP, next to the facilitators at the DSI Assembly, Marie Laetitia Youchtchenko, OP, and Mary Ellen O’Grady, OP

Detention Center at Broadview

Every first Friday morning at 7:15 there are Dominican sisters who gather with the Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Office for Immigrant Affairs & Immigration Education of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and other members of the religious community in a vigil to stand in solidarity with those being deported from the detention center in Broadview, IL. On other Fridays of the month the vigil is centered on the rosary.



Detention Center - Dot Demsey, OP, (green jacket) and Joann Fleishaker, OP, (blue hat) both Adrian Dominicans, during prayer at Broadview



Detention Center - Ester Mrutu, MM, a Maryknoll novice leading part of the interfaith prayer at Broadview

May the preaching continue through our members!