

Collaborative Dominican Novitiate



2014-2015





Kelly Moline
Dominican Sisters of Springfield

Place of Birth: Apple Valley, Minnesota

Birthday: April 23, 1982

Previous Ministry: Retirement Community Activity Director, Hospice Volunteer, Cursillo and Koinonia retreats, Springfield Young Adult Ministry

Area of Study: Gerontology and Psychology

Fun Fact: Went Skydiving in 2012 in Arizona

A little over five years ago I moved to Springfield, Illinois, from St. Louis, Missouri, to be the activity director at a retirement community. I remember driving around town looking for apartments and while going past our motherhouse, I thought, “Oh! There’s a convent in town, Springfield must be in good hands!” Little did I know I would be calling that place home soon. I first met the Springfield Dominicans through the Springfield Area Young Adult Mass, where one of our sisters ministered. I met another through a Koinonia retreat and still another through a program I hosted where I was working. After experiencing a Come and See weekend and a few casual nights of pizza and conversation, it was getting harder to ignore the Spirit’s stirring within me. While on a Cursillo retreat, in the wee hours of the morning, I heard that “still, small voice say, ‘Come and Follow Me to the Springfield Dominicans.’” It was a spirit of JOY and hospitality that attracted me to this community, and it is the love of my sisters that propels me as I journey forth this year.



Christin Tomy
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

Place of Birth: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Birthday: January 24, 1988

Previous Ministry: ESL Tutoring, Social Justice Outreach, Social Work, L’Arche

Area(s) of Study: Spanish, Peace & Conflict Studies, French

Fun Fact: I enjoy peanut butter & banana sandwiches, strong coffee, and spontaneous dance parties (preferably all at the same time).

A few years ago I knew virtually nothing about Dominicans, nor did I know that a place called Sinsinawa even existed. I first met our Sisters at a discernment retreat co-hosted by four women’s communities in the area. Although the Dominican charism was a mystery to me, I was totally drawn by the deep and evident JOY of the Sisters, by their commitment to justice and lifelong learning, their communal, Gospel-centered lives, and their diversity. This all resonated with me, and I wanted to be a part of it! In my time as a candidate, my love for our Sisters and the charism has only grown. I have been embraced just as I am, and at the same time I’m challenged to grow with the Sisters - and our entire Dominican family - to discover and become my fullest self. That is the gift of discernment into which we all live, and what a gift it is! I’m excited to continue this journey at the CDN.



Maria Chuc Thi Vu
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

Place of Birth: Hanam, Vietnam

Birthday: January 16, 1973

Previous ministry: Catechism Formation for teenagers; Teaching: Catholic youth, Catholic students, R.C.I.A., Religious Formation and temporary vowed religious; Novice Mistress; Catechism Office of Diocese staff.

Areas of study: Diploma of Nursery at Hanoi Nursery College, Hanoi, Vietnam; Bachelor of Theology and Graduate Diploma in Theology at Melbourne College of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia; Master of Divinity at Jesuit Theological School at Berkeley, CA.

Fun fact: I drove a motorbike very fast when living in Vietnam.

Life is full of meaning, balance and interest for me. I always enjoy socializing and friendship. I love to be with friends and others when working, chatting, sharing, singing, eating, hiking or relaxing. I have met many good, talented, and interesting people. I love my family, friends, and communities. We have much fun and valuable times. However, sometimes I must be alone or I want quietness and solitude. I also enjoy those moments very much. I like to be alone in the church when there is no one there. I love nature, landscapes and monastic life. For twenty years, I have been very interested in Scripture, spirituality and religious life. This gave me experiences, which led me to an interest in the Church and social justice issues. Living the faith helps me understand who I am. It leads me to be clear about who I want to be, what I can contribute, and where I belong. These things led me from Lovers of Holy Cross Sisters in Hanoi to the Dominican Sisters of Mission of San Jose.



Joye Gros, O.P.
Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sisters and Associates in Mission

Place of Birth: Memphis, Tennessee

Birthday: September 17, 1946

Areas of Study: BA in English, Elementary Education–Siena College, Memphis, TN; MRE–Seattle University; D. Min.–University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL

Ministry: elementary and adult education/formation, parish ministry, facilitation and retreats/adult spiritual development, lay ministry training, congregational leadership.

Fun Fact: For vacation this year, I went to Ireland.

I am a Dominican Sister of Peace. I was attracted to the Dominicans by the peaceful joy, passion for mission and a connection of deep faith and life I saw in the sisters. Most of my ministry has been in some form of education and/or formation. I have participated on various boards: CDN, WELLSTREAMS; Center for Feminine Spirituality, Saint Agnes Academy-Saint Dominic School and the national board of the Religious Formation Conference. I am beginning my 5th year as Co-Director of the CDN. I find it a profound and sacred privilege to journey with those discerning the call to Dominican life. Feeling blessed by my call and commitment, I want to pass on the gifts that have been given me.



Megan McElroy, O.P.
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids

Place of Birth: Royal Oak, Michigan

Birthday: July 5, 1963

Areas of Study: Master's in Theological Studies; MDiv with a focus in Word and Worship; currently working on DMin in Preaching

Previous Ministry: Pastoral ministry, high school education, formation

Fun Fact: Next summer I will be walking the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain

I was born and raised in Royal Oak, Michigan, and recently celebrated my silver jubilee of religious life with the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. These years in religious life have taught me to trust that God knows what God is doing. I was a novice at the CDN when it was located in Manchester (1989-1990) and have very fond memories of the gift of that year. It was in that experience that I became deeply rooted in the Dominican Family and discovered a love for preaching. When I first entered, I knew the OP stood for Order of Preachers but had no idea how I would come to feel so alive in the preaching mission. I frequently contribute to the monthly podcast preaching, a daily dose of Dominican preaching, at www.word.op.org. In addition to preaching, I enjoy golfing, walking, playing cards or board games, movies, and spending time with my nieces and nephews. My hope for this year is that the novices and co-directors will all learn from each other and grow more deeply in our love of Dominican life and our commitment to the preaching mission of the Order.



To Praise, To Bless, To Preach