

Collaborative Dominican Novitiate



2017-2018



CDN Novices



Rhonda Miska
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

Rhonda is a first-year novice with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. She is originally from Middleton, a suburb of Madison, Wisconsin. Rhonda studied at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she was active in the Newman Center Catholic Student Ministry. After graduating, she served as a Jesuit Volunteer in rural Nicaragua and then spent 11 years living and working in the Eastern part of the United States.

Though she had thought of religious life on and off since childhood, she began to discern in earnest in 2013 after having had several formative experiences of ministry and intentional community as a young adult. Rhonda was drawn to various aspects of Dominican life including study, preaching, and the global nature of the Dominican family. She returned to her native Midwest to continue the discernment journey in 2015, and in August 2016 began candidacy with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters. She spent her candidacy year living at Sinsinawa and ministering at Clarke University as an adjunct professor in the Religious Studies Department and with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, as a Spanish-language legal interpreter with immigrant children.

Rhonda is grateful for the prayer, encouragement and support of many during this intensive year of formation and discernment.

Gina Scaringella
Sisters of Saint Dominic of
Caldwell

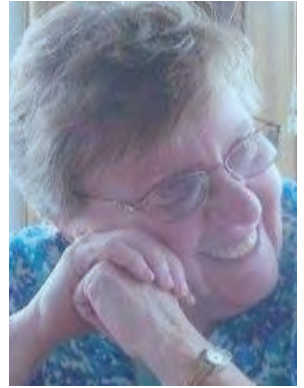


Gina is a longtime resident of Caldwell, New Jersey, who has known and loved the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell since childhood. She is a first-year novice with this congregation. The sisters' joy, accessibility, and passion for preaching the truth of God's love have drawn Gina to discern with them. Additionally, she finds great meaning in their reliance on contemplation to enliven their apostolic works.

Gina is an alumna and former faculty of Mount Saint Dominic Academy, one of the Caldwell Dominicans' sponsored works. She also attended elementary schools where the Caldwell Dominicans ministered. Gina's Jesuit education at Georgetown University taught her that the deepest desires of the heart are God's desires, too. She has sought to share this truth through ministries such as RCIA, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and retreat ministry.

Gina earned an MA in Italian from Rutgers University, where she again encountered the Dominican family—this time, through campus ministry. She has taught foreign languages and spent many years as an editor. Gina is grateful for the chance to grow in the charism of an Order that has guided her spiritual formation since her earliest years.

CDN Directors



Joye Gros, OP
Dominican Sisters of Peace

Joye is a Dominican Sister of Peace. She is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, where she first met the Dominicans. She was attracted to the Dominicans by the joy, passion for mission, and the connection of deep faith and life she witnessed in the sisters.

She holds a BA in English and Education, an MRE from Seattle University, and a DMin from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. Her ministries mostly involved education and/or formation. As a pastoral associate, she facilitated grief groups and coordinated outreach programs and services ministries. Joye worked for the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, teaching and facilitating theological reflection. She was an Educational Associate with the Center for Development in Ministry, Archdiocese of Chicago. She helped design and implement the Institute for Spiritual Leadership program in the Diocese of Joliet. She served in congregational leadership for 13 years. She has participated on various boards and is currently the co-chair of the Religious Formation Conference Board of Directors.

Joye is beginning her eighth year as co-director of the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate. She finds it a profound and sacred privilege to journey with those discerning the call to Dominican life.



Megan McElroy, OP
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids

Megan was born and raised in Royal Oak, Michigan, and joined the Dominican Sisters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1988. Her years as a Dominican preacher have shaped her to live in authenticity.

She was a novice at the CDN when it was located at the convent at Kennedy High School in Manchester, Missouri (1989-1990). It was in that experience that Megan became deeply rooted in the Dominican Family and discovered a love for preaching. She will be graduating this year with her DMin in Preaching, having completed her thesis, "The Hidden Charism of the Order of Preachers: An Initial Investigation into the Preaching of Dominican Nuns."

In addition to preaching, Megan enjoys golfing, walking, playing cards or board games, and movies.

She looks forward to this last year of formation ministry at the CDN with deep gratitude for all the women who have walked the path of novitiate life with her and Joye. She prays and trusts that our faithful God will continue to bless the participating congregations of the CDN with new vocations, so that the charism of the Order will continue to flourish and be made manifest in a myriad of ways.



To Praise, To Bless, To Preach