



Dear Friend of Las Casas,

Season of Harvest, *of* Giving Thanks

The Las Casas Board joins with all Dominicans as we celebrate 800 years of Dominican life. We are especially mindful of and grateful for all those who have served or are serving in ministry with Native/Indigenous People.

The Las Casas Board welcomed new board member Marie Michelle Hackett, OP (Springfield) at the annual meeting in April. Marie Michelle currently ministers as principal at St. Edward School in Chicago. Marie Michelle brings a wealth of experience having served in educational, administrative and leadership positions. She also was a member of the executive committee of the Dominican Sisters Conference. Marie Michelle was elected to serve as secretary. I am grateful for her willingness to respond to the call of leadership and service on the board. I also want to thank Marilyn Winter, OP (Adrian) for her many years of leadership and service on the board (see newsletter for more info). Marilyn has been a faithful board member through numerous board transitions and has served as treasurer. Marilyn will continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the board.

The newsletter shares some of the stories of the 2015-grant/scholarship recipients and helps bring to life how your support is passed on to those in need. Other information is also noted. Please read the newsletter and pass it on. It will also be posted on our website (www.domlife.org/lascasas).

Each spring, the board invites those serving in ministry with Native/Indigenous People to apply for grants and/or scholarships. Obtaining funds for programs and conferences can be a challenging part of the ministry. Among the most important work of the board is the ability to respond to these requests. Thanks to those who support us in prayer and with financial assistance, we were able to respond to the seven requests received. They represented Dominicans from the following congregations/provinces: Adrian, Grand Rapids, Mission San Jose, Peace, Springfield and St. Albert the Great Province.

Eight hundred years later, Dominican men and women continue to respond to ministry needs among Native/Indigenous People. Las Casas is able to provide grants and scholarships because of the generosity of those who respond to the annual appeal. I invite you to celebrate Jubilee 800 by joining in this effort. If you haven't donated in the past, please consider a donation this year. A gift may be given in honor or memory of someone. Thanks in advance for your generous response and prayers.

Pause and count your blessings this season of harvest and giving thanks. On behalf of the Las Casas Board and those serving in ministry, thanks for considering a donation.

St. Dominic, pray for us! St. Kateri, pray for us! Bartolomé de Las Casas, pray for us!



Diane Poplawski, OP [Racine]
President for the Las Casas Board

While attending the Tekakwitha Conference last July I had the opportunity to speak to people about their experience. Some of them have benefited from Las Casas grants in the past and I thought our readers might enjoy seeing and hearing about some of them.



One young man, Gabe, and his sister were there with former Board Member, Barbara Bogenschutz, OP (Springfield), who ministers with the Oglala Lakota Sioux. It was his first conference and he was greatly enjoying his association with other young people as they participated in the “Youth Group” sessions. He said he only knew two of the people before and was so happy to meet so many others. He was so glad he had come and is looking forward to coming again.

His sister, Mickie, found the people to be very friendly and welcoming and plans to help getting people to the conference next year.

The meals were shared family style and I met many former friends and people with whom I had worked. Twice I shared with different groups of women from the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeast Montana, who had been active in their circles and were part of the Diocese of Great Falls/Billings where I ministered. Some grants have gone to their area through the work of LeAnn Probst, OP (Peace).



A Diné woman from the Navajo Nation living north west of Gallup was attending for the first time. She has friends who are members of a Kateri Circle back home and hopes to join them. She greatly appreciated the Healing Service.

There were so many unexpected small exchanges extolling warm experiences. It was a great affirmation of the value this annual meeting has for so many – for them it is like a huge family reunion with support, witness and encouragement in Faith.

Marilyn A. Winter, OP [Adrian]



Images:
Barbara Bogenschutz, OP, Gabriel Hudspeth, Sante (Mickie) Hudspeth
Women from Northern Cheyenne
Tekakwitha General Assembly July 2016



Several years ago the Las Casas board decided to offer scholarships to Dominicans in ministry with Native Americans. Because I wanted to attend the Tekakwitha conference and needed additional funding, I applied for a scholarship. The money I received made it possible for me to fly to Alexandria, LA, where I joined several of our parishioners.

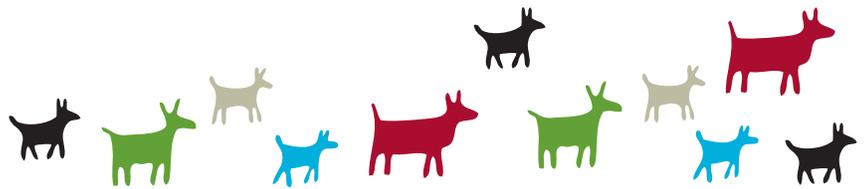
For me, one of the most powerful aspects of the conference is witnessing the faith of the Native Americans from all over the United States and Canada. The tribe or nation doesn't matter; it's the unity of purpose: to grow in faith. Some make tremendous sacrifices to attend, working to raise funds, dealing with physical limitations, traveling long distances.

Thank you for allowing me to experience a deepening of my own faith.

LeAnn Probst, OP [Peace]



Images:
Clara makes change for a customer at a fund raiser.
Annie and Mina filling orders at a fund raiser.



DOMINICAN friar Bartolome' de Las Casas worked in Latin America in the 16th century and was featured in the August 12, 2016 edition of *Commonweal*. The article is entitled: "Catholic Cuba: From Las Casas to the Castros." by Alejandro Anreus.

Sympathy

The Las Casas Board
extends sympathy to

The Family and Friends of

Robert Johnson
Father of Las Casas Board Member
Mary Therese Johnson, OP

Earl Littleman
Long-time friend of Las Casas

*May they rest in peace as they are
welcomed home by the Great Spirit!*



BIBLES Made a Difference: Flathead Reservation

Thank you to Las Casas and donors for the grant received. Your generous support has greatly supplemented our religious education budget. Through the grant we were able to purchase religion textbooks and bibles for our children, junior high and high school youth.

These resources were especially appreciated one evening in particular. That day our talented junior high youth leader who also serves as an ambulance driver was called for an emergency ambulance run just at the moment we were gathering for our Wednesday evening junior high youth ministry session. That meant that I as director of religious education would need to substitute for the session. Needless to say, I was not prepared to lead a session with our junior high youth. As I looked around the room at the resources available I spotted the Junior High Bibles that we purchased using the grant from Las Casas.

I acknowledged to the youth that I was not expecting to lead them that evening and was not prepared. Then I pulled the Bibles from the shelf. The St. Mary Press junior high bible is exceptionally suited for that age group. It has age appropriate pictures, stories, imaginary interviews with characters in the bible,

side bars of pertinent and interesting facts and other attractive features.

The youth turned immediately to the sections of interviews with scriptural characters. They took over the tasks of assigning the interviewer and the personality being interviewed. As soon as we finished reading the interview with one scripture person, they were begging to read about another person. I could hardly elaborate on any one particular historical event and comment on the religious meaning before they

had chosen another person they wanted to study. Their interest and excitement made the session move quickly and I felt that even though it was an unprepared session, religious truths had been taught.

“... we were able to purchase religion textbooks and bibles for our children...”

The success of that Wednesday evening is credited to the books that were made possible from the Las Casas grant. Other valuable resources are the Catholic Church History texts purchased from St. Mary Press. Again these books are age appropriately designed with images, interesting facts, and anecdotes that capture the students' attention. These history books are written from a perspective that illustrates the causes behind the historical events and assist the reader to comprehend current realities through an understanding of their root causes. Exploring the history of the Catholic Church from this perspective enhances the study of history that our youth receive in their public school classes. Our exploration of negative events in Church history as interpreted by Catholic

historians helps our youth to objectively comprehend history and retain a sense of loyalty to their Catholic Church. They come to understand that even though humans in the Church make mistakes and sin, the Holy Spirit is always with the Church guiding its members to salvation in Christ. The texts augment the messages that youth leaders wish to convey. They are valuable tools for catechesis with youth.

Margaret Hillary, OP
[Grand Rapids]



ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA FEAST DAY – JULY 14
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH – NOVEMBER



Scholarship Program

Dominicans in ministry with Native/Indigenous People, or preparing for this ministry, may apply for a scholarship (up to \$500) to be used for:

Basic Directions for Ministry with Native Americans Institute

Annual Tekakwitha Conference

Completed applications are accepted annually and must be received by March 15th.

Applications are available on the website:
www.domlife.org/lascasas

On the Move

Native American youth have many of the same challenges that face youth today. They also have some special challenges that can hold them back. Living on our reservation - which is located in a very rural and poor area - can limit their ability to see beyond the reservation lines. As a result, it definitely limits the intellectual and social experiences available to our young people. In an attempt to address this reality, each spring the staff at Mission Grade School schedules a three-day field trip to Bozeman, Montana for our fifth and sixth grade students. The students are enriched in so many ways by this trip. Once the snow begins to melt, you can hear the children getting excited: "How many more days until our trip?" "Where will we go? What will we see? I can't wait!"

They do, indeed, see and experience so much!

- A visit to the Museum of the Rockies
- Time at Montana State University
- Lewis and Clark Caverns
- Let's not forget the extra FUN "things" such as swimming, bowling, and some shopping.

Education is so important for the future of our youth that attend Mission Grade School. It is a path that can lead them into a promising future. Experiences, like this trip, are education "on the move."

Thank you, Las Casas, for giving our students this opportunity.

Christine Ferrar, OP [Sparkill]



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha October 21, 2012

*"Lily of the Mohawks"
Algonquin/Mohawk*

Born: 1656, Ossernenon, NY
Died: April 17, 1680
Venerable: January 3, 1943
Beatified: June 22, 1980

Feast Day: July 14

Patron of the environment and ecology



Artwork ©Tisket. Used with permission
Tekakwitha Conference ~ www.tekconf.org

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
Pray for us!

www.domlife.org/lascasas



APPRECIATION to Marilyn Winter, OP

The Las Casas board gathered in prayer to give thanks for Marilyn Winter's years of service to the board. Marilyn has served since 2002. She served as treasurer and coordinated the scholarship committee.

For the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha on October 21, 2012 in Rome, Marilyn was

privileged to represent the Las Casas Board by carrying a candle next to the relic in the procession.

Over the years, Marilyn has worked with seven Native American tribes in both the Green Bay Diocese and Great Falls/Billings Diocese. Marilyn looks forward to the Tekakwitha Conference each year and always brings interesting information back to the board.



L to R: Mary Therese Johnson, OP, Diane Poplawski, OP, Marilyn Winter, OP, Nathalie Meyer, OP, Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Gloria Glynn, OP



“The

‘Way of Las Casas’ required that the dignity of the person or group served be respected at all costs.”

~ *Las Casas Board Handbook, V. Philosophy*

Tekakwitha Annual Conference

July 19 – 22, 2017

Rapid City, South Dakota

The Tekakwitha Conference National Office

2225 North Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA 71303

email: tekconf@gmail.com

www.tekconf.org • 1.844.483.3900

Basic Directions

in Native American Ministry Institute

ORDINARILY JUNE OF EACH YEAR

check website to confirm dates

Sioux Spiritual Center

20100 Center Road

Howes, South Dakota 57748-7703

605.985.5906

www.rapidcitydiocese.org/basic-directions-native-ministry



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Las Casas is grateful
for the generosity of our
Financial and In-Kind Donors

July 1, 2015 through June 2016
We regret any errors or omissions.
Please report discrepancies to:
lascasasop@gmail.com

Claire Anderson
Anonymous
Patricia Burke, OP (Springfield)
Dominican Sisters of Adrian
Dominican Sisters of Amityville
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Oakford
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dominican Sisters of Racine
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Dominican Sisters of Springfield
Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
Dominican Sisters of Tacoma
Friars, Western Dominican Province
Pat Mahoney, OP (Caldwell)
Aneesah McNamee, OP (Adrian)
LaVerne Poplawski
Joyce Roach, OP (Tacoma)
Sisters of St. Anne
Mary Stauder, OP (Grand Rapids)

In Honor of:

Adrian Dominican Jubilarians 2016
Marilyn Winter, OP
Grand Rapids Dominican Jubilarians 2016
Nathalie Meyer, OP
Kathleen Kane, OP & Margaret O'Doherty, OP
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Racine Dominican Jubilarians 2016
Diane Poplawski, OP
Sinsinawa Dominican Jubilarians 2016
Mary Therese Johnson, OP

In Memory of:

Robert Johnson
Earl Littleman
Las Casas Board
Virginia Hanrskor, OP (Ossining/Hope)
Mary Mitchell, OP (Ossining/Hope)
Barbara McCarthy, OP (Hope)
Connie Kelly, OP (Adrian)
Marilyn Francoeur, OP
Thomas Meyer
Rev. Richard Vanlente

Contributions to support
Las Casas and Dominicans
in ministry with
Native/Indigenous People

\$100 \$200 \$300 \$500

Other \$ _____ Anonymous

My contribution is made [please print]

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Thank you!

Check payable to: Las Casas
Contributions are tax-deductible
to the extent allowed by law.

Mail donations to:

Las Casas
c/o Diane Poplawski, OP
5635 Erie St.
Racine, WI 53402-1900



Las Casas
c/o Diane Poplawski, OP
5635 Erie Street
Racine, WI 53402-1900

Las Casas Board

L-R:

Marie Michelle Hackett, OP [Springfield]

Nathalie Meyer, OP [Grand Rapids]

Gloria Glynn, OP [Sinsinawa]

Kateri Mitchell, SSA [Sister of St. Anne]

Mary Therese Johnson, OP [Sinsinawa]

Diane Poplawski, OP [Racine]

not pictured: LeAnn Probst, OP [Peace]

