



*"I chose you, and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last. (Jn 15:16)*

## DOMINICAN SISTERS INTERNATIONAL



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Dear Sisters

Best wishes to each one of you for a blessed Advent. No doubt, a busy time of meeting our year-end deadlines and obligations; it is nonetheless an anticipation of the celebration of Christmas in the many ways that it is celebrated across cultures. Also, a season noted for enlivening our hope and unbridling our varied expressions of joy, generosity, goodwill and love, that are inspired by the chosen Scripture readings for the Advent and Christmas liturgies this season focuses our attention upon how God comes to us, lives and journeys with us.

I wish you peace and courage as you look to the year (2018) ahead for which you are already planning and I pray that Our Lord quickens the renewal that He has begun in each one of us.

You will find much information in the pages of this Newsletter (*reports of events, reflections, conversations, plans, aspirations, etc.*) that will help you to connect to members of our Dominican Family of sisters especially. Much of it represent the hope that inhabits us and a deep desire for solidarity and collaboration. On this same note, I would like to specially thank all

of you who generously responded to our appeal for extra donations last December. We were able to support the formation workshop in Zimbabwe, subsidize the ongoing formation of Junior sisters in Vietnam, finance the work of the Continental Coordinator for Europe and make a few needed purchases of equipment for our office. Our 2018 Project Budget reflects the commitment to supporting the junior sisters' formation in Vietnam, ongoing formation study tour of young sisters in Europe and their formation workshop in Rome.

During the month of October, Fr. Bruno sent out a letter inviting the participation of all members of the Order in "recognising the Dominican Month of Peace" with a focus upon Colombia. It is my prayer that we all be united through this Advent exercise for peace in Colombia and in our communities, missions and among us as members of the same family.

"May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him....."(Romans 15:13).

Sincerely yours  
Sr. Marie Therese Clement O.P.  
International Coordinator, DSI



**Do save the date in 2019!**

DSI's upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

At **La★Salle** Casa Generalizia, Rome

**12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

**GOD'S CALL**  
**140 YEARS KING WILLIAM'S TOWN DOMINICAN SISTERS**  
*South Africa, March 20th, 2017*



By: Sr. Sandra Becker, O.P.  
 Dom. Sister of King William's Town

Religious Life is a journey of following God's call to wholeness. It is a journey of finding a deeper truth leading to a new vision, and then having the courage to let it mould our lives and that of the Congregation and the people with whom we interact. Sandra Schneiders (New Wineskins p.186) expressed this very aptly when she writes "Our activity is not so much an earning - our way, as it is a cooperating with the Creator God in transforming history into God's reign of justice and love."

As Congregation we have experienced a number of marker events of God's guiding and transforming power, especially in the last two years, within the Congregation and as part of a wider Community.

The celebration of 800 years of the Dominican Order in 2016 started with a dream of one person and grew into a most memorable day bringing together more than one thousand people. Yes, dreams whether they occur while we are asleep or awake can be starter events carrying a

message which is intricately interwoven with our physical and/or spiritual reality. Many dreams have a very deep meaning connecting us to the source of all life, God. Such dreams show us the way into the future, because they challenge us to be open to see familiar things in new ways in order to perceive the message they hold. They are indeed starter events, because they initiate the development of a movement of God's presence with a past, a present and a future.

Last year's future has become this year's present and thus the celebration of Dominican life and mission continues. 2017 opened with a celebration of thanksgiving of 800 years of Dominican spirituality manifested in the preaching of God's Word into a world searching for meaning. Although this meeting celebrated a closure it opened the door to usher in a year of three major thanksgiving events.

The centenary of Mary's appearance to the children in Fatima certainly forms the centre of the year for thousands of people throughout the

Cont'd GOD'S CALL 140 YEARS KING WILLIAM'S TOWN DOMINICAN ...



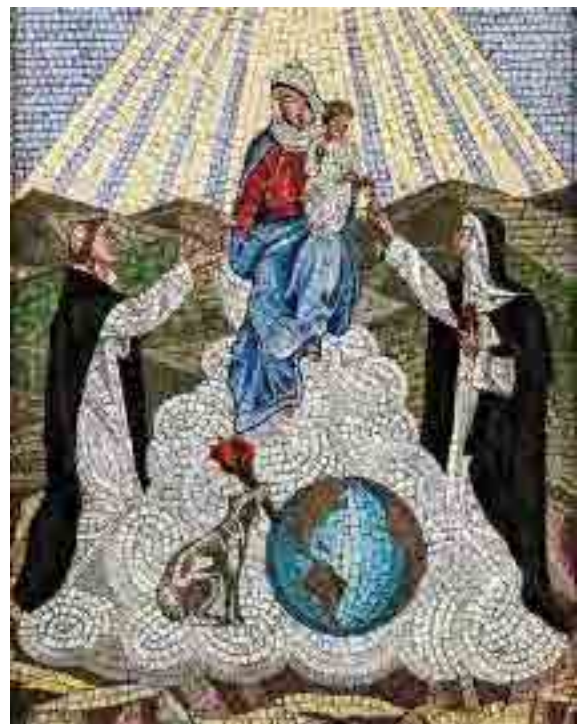
responding to the needs of the times. The reason for the somewhat chaotic situation is the creation of a Wellness Centre for the Deaf Community which will be a centre and outreach point for the many hearing impaired people where they can find the help they need and which ordinary facilities cannot offer them.

A strong reminder of the need for sharing and community building is the fact that St Vincent and Pridwin are no longer just adjoining schools but share facilities such as the sports facilities and the Auditorium where we enjoyed the meal.

The apostles had to walk to Emmaus to have their eyes opened and recognize Jesus. We walked a good distance from St Vincent Hall to the Auditorium to share a meal and reconnect with many guests who had come from far and wide even as far as Montebello and Harare. In addition it connected past to present.

world embracing all continents as she travelled the world in the form of the original statue of Fatima in Portugal. For the Dominican Family and more specifically for the KWT Sisters and the Dominican Brethren, who have recently celebrated their centenary of presence in South Africa, it has had an even deeper significance since Mary is the patroness of the Dominicans and also of South Africa – guiding, protecting, interceding, as she protects us under her mantle. With her unique presence centering the year she is the most realistic symbol of uniting past and future in the here and now, a symbol of continuity of our God given mission manifested in Our Lady handing Dominic and Catherine the rosary. This mission consists first and foremost in prayer and contemplation and then, flowing out of this special time with God, preaching in word and deed (*contemplata aliis trader*) so that we may pass on to others what we have received in prayer.

The celebration of 140 years of KWT Dominicans on 16 September was steeped in symbolism. The fact that St Vincent's School for the Deaf was a building site was a reminder that our life and mission too has to be always at the edge, in fact a building site of new ways of



The Jubilee Mass Celebrated by Bishop Duncan Tsoke and concelebrated by five of our



Cont'd GOD'S CALL 140 YEARS KING WILLIAM'S TOWN DOMINICAN ...



Dominican Priests – Martin Badenhorst, Lewis Tsuro, Emil Blaser Seboka Vincent Mokete and Mark James - most certainly formed the centre and highlight of our celebration. Together with the many Sisters of other Congregations, the Dominican Provincial, Fr Stan Muyebe and some Dominican Brothers, representatives of past and present schools as well as friends and benefactors, the Hall reverberated with more than 150 voices praising and thanking God for the gift of 140 years. Added to this joyful thanksgiving was the celebration of the Jubilee of Profession of six Sisters (Srs Dietmund and Megan 65 years, Sr Lauda 60 years and Srs Eva-Maria, Maureen Yenson and Ottilia 50 years). As a true shepherd of his people, Bishop Duncan in his homily expressed his appreciation and gratitude for all that the sisters have done in the past and continue

to do even now in spite of their reduced numbers.

The Heritage Centre made it possible for our visitors to connect with a more detailed history of our Congregation, and in this way supported the sharing of our history and spirituality in the two ppt presentations given by Sr Katy van Wyk (“Reflections and Quotations by Dominican women and men past and present”) and Sr Sandra Becker (“God’s Call - A Call to Mission in South Africa and Beyond 140 Years of KWT Dominican Sisters”).



Celebrations speak a unique language and this one spoke of unity, bondedness and being sent in the name of Jesus Christ.

It is with deep gratitude that I would like to thank Bishop Duncan Tsoke and each person who participated in our celebration. May we continue our journey united in the spirit of Dominic and Catherine. □





**FORMATION OF FORMATORS' WORKSHOP  
FOR THE DOMINICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
IN AFRICA**

*17th -30th April, 2017*

**DOMINICAN CONVENT, HARARE, ZIMBABWE.**



**“Woe to you if you do not preach the Gospel”**

By: Sr. Astridah Chibale OP  
Dom. Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart  
of Jesus

**Introduction**

The workshop started on 17th April, 2017 and finished on 26th April, 2017. Sr. Ethel Goronga, the Assistant Community Prioress of St Dominic's Convent, and by Sr. Rudo Matsika the Regional Prioress for Zimbabwe welcomed the participants.

Sr. Tariro, the Assistant Prioress General, on behalf of the Prioress General Sr. Kamfwa Mutale, officially opened the workshop by reading the letter From the Prioress General. In her letter, Sr. Kamfwa acknowledged Sr. Marie Therese Clement OP, Dominican Sisters International co-ordinator, Sr. Faustina Jimoh OP, coordinator Dominican Sisters Africa Coordinator and Br Stanslaus Muyebe OP, Vice Provincial South

Africa for supporting the effort to meet as Dominican Formators in Africa. Sr Kamfwa urged the participants to use the programme to deepen their love for their own formation and challenged them to form sisters and brothers who will respond to the needs of the church today and tomorrow and to support and guide them in upholding Christ's values and virtues in this day and age where the heresies of individualism and permissiveness are rife.

Participants expressed their need to learn more about formation and widen Horizon on various formation issues.

Working committees were formed for better management of the two weeks workshop and participants were invited to share their giftedness

## Cont'd FORMATION OF FORMATORS' WORKSHOP ...



*Dominican Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus*

by making the committees more creative and meaningful; this was indeed experienced to the full as evaluated at the end of the workshop.

Prayer and Presence marked the start and end the day. These were creatively done by different Sisters. Holy Mass was celebrated as well every day by Br Myke Mwale.

### **Theology of Formation**

Parameters for the discussion of the topic were clearly set by the working definitions used to appreciate the subject of theology, particularly in the context of religious formation. Formation, being another important concept, was defined too so as to hold a common understanding. Interactive discussions were held during the sessions around the definitions of theology and formation. Discussions on theology and formation were further guided by input based on the understanding and teachings of the Church pre-Vatican II and after Vatican II.

Br Myke encouraged the participants that

Theology which is a search for the meaning of God's word has to move from the book, from the head to the heart, as it is needed for our faith, and nourishes our faith.

Quoting Timothy Radcliffe OP who says 'Theology is not just an academic discipline, it belongs to searching for the Lord in the garden where people hunger for meaning of entry into the mystery of love and draws near' to what St. Catherine calls 'the first sweet truth'.

Br Myke, again quoted Timothy Radcliffe who says 'Formation is accompaniment of me as I respond to the threefold call from the Risen Lord who invites me to follow him and not to forget the mission of the Order and that of the church.'

When Br Myke asked the participants whether formators needed theology for formation, the answer in chorus, was 'yes'. Some reasons given

- Because It is a backbone to our being Formators

## Cont'd FORMATION OF FORMATORS' WORKSHOP ...

- Dominican history is rooted in the power of the gospel so we need theology
- It is our basis of the Dominican Pillars
- Formees also need theology because, it helps them to search for meaning and clarify their call and understand their formation better.

The invitation and challenge left was to take chances for theological study in whatever possible way.

Other input by Br Myke Mwale on different days were: Formation after Vatican II- the underlying message as shared by Br. Vincent once a Master of the Order is that the place of the Dominicans is in the Frontiers where one has to adapt, take up challenges and missions but all different as we are different.

The Formator's were reminded of the message in Vita Consecrata which invited them to appreciate the aspect of God the Formator and to allow God to form them so as to be God's instruments.

The sisters were invited to reflect on the purpose of Dominican formation and what elements of Dominican formation needed to be kept alive. Formation in silence and speaking the truth so as to impact the same for those in formation.

Another element that needed attention was Formation in Peace and Justice. Br Myke cited the suggestions from the Salamanca Congress that could be included in Dominican formation;- Joy and Hope, Joy and Suffering, Joy in Celebration, Joy in Formation and the spirit of Joy communities for which Dominicans are renowned; Four Pillars of Dominican Life; Re-engaging the Vows; The bad interpretation of the vows.

### Accompaniment and mentoring

Sr. Bernadette Helegwa OP looked at: Mentoring, Stages in mentoring, Qualities of the mentor that fits for an accompanier and Accom-

paniment vs Mentoring

Some highlighted and quoted John of the cross who said, "He who wants to stand alone without the support of a master and guide will be like the tree that stands alone in a field. No matter how many fruits s/he bears the passers-by will pluck before the fruits are ready."

Although Spiritual accompaniment has been in the tradition of the church, today the world is filled with people with individualistic tendencies yet for Dominicans, Community living is a value which needs to be upheld.

Formators were reminded that accompaniment was not spiritual direction, neither therapy, but help given by one Christian to another thus, the role of accompanying others was sacred. Sr. Bernadette highlighted the importance of the role of human intermediaries citing Andrew bringing Simon, Phillip and Nathaniel to Jesus.

### Psychology of formation

Sr. Letwina helped the Formators to look at some of the major challenges they face in vocational discernment, the ambiguity of the motivational system and the choice of vocation for each formee. Since the nature of a vocation involves reflection on the inner movements of the young people, where they are coming from and where they are heading to, it is imperative that Formators make appropriate decision conscious of dynamisms of psychosocial forces influencing the person's freedom to respond to God's call.

### Dominican Spirituality

Sr. Ferrera Weinzierl OP. Dominican spirituality is rooted in Laudare, Benedicere, Predicare; Veritas and in the sharing of the fruits of Contemplation; Preaching for the salvation of souls, therefore there is need for adequately preparation and study the traditions.





## Cont'd FORMATION OF FORMATORS' WORKSHOP ...

She highlighted some forms of prayer in the Dominican Tradition which are of importance like; the question, What do you seek?, bowing before the crucifix, at the singing of the Salve Regina; O Sacred Banquet, the Venia/prostration, the Rosary, to mention a few.

Since Dominican prayer is apostolic, Sr. Ferrera, challenged the Formators to further personal reflection on traditional prayers, gestures, and symbols and asked them which traditions they would want to reintroduce and why?

### Formative Communities:

Sr. Susan Mwamba OP and Sr. Felistas Chinginya OP looked at the importance of form-

ative communities, aims, goals/purposes of formative experience and Misconceptions of formative experiences. The call to live authentic Religious life is not an option for oneself and for the sake of those in formation.

The Formators appreciated the time they spend together as community at prayer, study and sharpening their tools for their apostolate as Formators.

Deep gratitude to DSI who partially sponsored this training programme, to Sr. Faustina who encouraged the DSA members to participate and to the Prioress who sent their Formators to attend the Workshop. ▣



*Shared moments of the Workshop*



## MEETING OF DOMINICAN SISTERS OF EUROPE (DSE) HOW PLEASANT AND GOOD IT IS WHEN SISTERS GATHER IN UNITY!

*Oslo, 22– 25 September, 2017*

By: Sr. Agnes Lalu, O.P.

Dominican sister of Notre –Dame de Grâce



It was a beautiful sight to behold when Dominican sisters from Europe gathered on September 22 - 25, 2017 at Katarinahjemmet, Oslo, Norway. Structured through communal prayers, meals, studies and recreation, the week-end gathering was filled with an atmosphere of peace, gladness, openness, respectful listening, and positive warm regard. It was truly a powerful witness to the joy of being Dominicans! Spearheaded and organized by Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen OP, coordinator for Dominican Sisters Europe (DSE) and in collaboration with the Dominican Sisters International (DSI), the meeting was intended to explore possible ways of future collaboration among small congregations in Europe for the continuation of Dominican Life and Mission.

The group was comprised of the general prioresses and younger sisters of participating congregations from Austria, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden. The meeting started with Vespers followed by the keynote speech of Sr. Hedvig Deák OP. Through her talk on “Dominican Religious Life in Europe and the Anthropological Challenge”, Sr. Hedvig guided the sisters to reflect deeply on the beauty and meaning of Religious vocation amidst the many challenges besetting contemporary Europe especially that of secularization and the crises of organized religion and of religious life.

Invited to this gathering were three sisters from the Dominican Sisters of Peace, United States of America. Sr. Patricia Twohill OP, the General Prioress, together with Sr. Anna and Bea told their Congregation’s story: “Becoming Peace!” They narrated the experience of the coming together of eight congregations and shared some of the fruits of this union. Sr. Janine Bernard OP from Gramont, France also gave a testimony on how her congregation went through the process of fusion with the Roman Congregation of St. Dominic (CRSD). Sr. Marie Therese Clement OP, coordinator for Dominican Sisters International presented collaboration from a global perspective.



Small group discussions ensued after the presentations. Fr. Jean-Claude Lavigne, the moderator of the group, gave inputs and questions for reflection and sharing. The fruits of the sharing were then shared in the plenum. Establishing deeper ties by visiting and getting to know one another, networking, common study weeks with focus on liturgy and our common heritage, pilgrimages, leadership meetings were some forms of

## Cont'd MEETING OF DOMINICAN SISTERS OF EUROPE (DSE) ...

which the group hopes to engage in the future. The first necessary step towards fostering future collaboration for the continuation of Dominican Life and Mission in Europe has been taken! Everyone went home with a renewed hope for the future!



Special thanks to the Dominican Sisters Notre Dame de Grace for hosting the meeting, to the brothers of St. Dominic in Oslo for the use of their conference hall and to Sr. Marie Laetitia OP for her gift of language. □

## PREDICARTE V

*“For what she has done” Mc. 14, 9.*

*Honouring the Memory of Women’s Voices and Commitment to Preaching*

*Asuncion, Paraguay—20-24 September, 2017*



By: Sr. Valeria Nougés O.P.  
Hnas. Dominicas del Santísimo Nombre de Jesús  
Coordinator of Predicarte

PREDICARTE V, an Encounter of art and preaching of the Dominican Family of Latin America and the Caribbean was held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The participation of 22 people, laity, religious, friars and young people of the Dominican Youth

Movement (MJD), Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, the United States and Rome, created an experienced of community in which, the different dimensions of the Dominican charism were integrated and celebrated during the shared days.

Lead by Lilian Soto, this study occasion, provided

## Cont'd PREDICARTE V...



a deeper understanding of the history and reality of women in Paraguay and the struggle for their political rights. This presented topic opened up the debate and highlighted the situation of women not only in Paraguay but in our continent. Sister Valeria Nougues, O.P., Promoter for Preaching, CODALC, presented the theme: "Art, Place of Encounter, Transformation and Announcement." She

provided elements of understanding and analysis of the artistic experience and multiple forms and pastoral experiences in which we preach through art thus, making dialogue possible around personal experiences. Fr Orlando Rueda Acevedo, O.P., shared with great skill on the research that the Friars have been doing for several years on the iconic representation of Saint Dominic of Guzman and the theology that sustaining Dominic. His presentation opened occasioned a very deep analysis for the recognition of art as a theological and preaching space.



Each participant was able to share his/her artistic gifts and personal experiences during the exhibi-

tion of Works and the Artistic Show which this time, was held during the encounter with the Dominican Family of Paraguay on our visit to Bañado Tacumbú.

Through our workshops very afternoon, we focused on making art together. Adriana Contreras was in charge of the coordination of the community Mural to which everyone present contributed in depicting both what we wanted to express about women from the theme of our encounter and in helping with the composition and the painting. The mural was for a home for children which the Dominican Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament administer in the city of Luque.

We were able to practice Ñandutí weaving (*Paraguayan embroidered lace*) with the assistance of the craftswomen Griselda and Fatima Gonzalez, and learn Paraguayan dances in an effort to appreciate the culture. Dance Professor, Viviana Segura offered a Dance Therapy workshop which we all enjoyed allowing us to connect our bodies and express encounter with others through movement. Sister Valeria has guided us to make our "Dominguitos," the puppets, that each one wanted to take to be able to share in our various missions with young people, children and adults.



One night we sang accompanied by the beauty of the music of the Paraguayan Harp enjoying, together with the Maestro Martin Portillo who made us tremble with the mastery of his art.

On September 23, we moved to Bañado Tacumbú, where we met with the Dominican Family of Paraguay. Fr Pedro Velarde O.P. introduced us to the reality of Bañado with their organizations and action for life and hope. Together with them, we painted another mural and offered



### Cont'd PREDICARTE V...

painting workshops with Professor Silvia Escurra, music and maracas workshops with Professor Lucrecia Ávila and again a session of Dance Therapy with Viviana Segura. After lunch we enjoyed the artistic show where music, poetry and dance made us forget time and enter a spiritual atmosphere where life together is shared and enjoyed.

Every day we celebrate our lived experiences in the liturgy animated by each of the countries present and by our sisters from Chile who accompanied us with their music. "Predicarte" is an experience from art and for art, because we understand that this is where the human spirit is led by the Spirit of God and thus becomes image, shape, colour, word, sound, movement, and expression of the mystery of God who lives in us.

Fr. Orlando Rueda enthused us with the desire for the Latin American Predicarte to spread to other continents where we began to dream the predicarte - Rome 2019 together. There, we will meet to continue nurturing each other from the life transformed in its multiple forms that beauty wishes to express.

We are deeply grateful to the organising team Guadalupe Borello, Adriana Contreras and Brigitte Loire and to the entire Dominican Family of Paraguay, who welcomed us and set out to make our meeting possible. Every moment shared will be engraved in the living memory of the heart, because it has touched the deepest part of our being and that is why we want to share it. □



## 2017 INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE (IDCJP) MEETING *Geneva, Switzerland* *Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, 2017*

By: Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, O.P.  
International Promoter of Justice  
and Peace-DSI



The **I**nternational **D**ominican **C**ommission for **J**ustice and **P**eace or IDCJP is the Commission created by the Curia of the Dominican Friars to support, sustain and animate the justice and peace work and advocacy of the Dominican Order. There are 19 appointed members of the Commission representing the five global Regions/Continents of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean and North America and the five branches of the

## Cont'd MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN COMMISSION OF JP

Dominican Family; Friars, Nuns, Sisters, Lay and the Youth. These encompassing representation of the members of the Commission clearly manifest the integral role and the constitutive element of justice and peace spirituality in our Dominican life and preaching.

We started with a visit at the UN-Geneva office of Fr. Mike Deeb, and tour and orientation of UN-Geneva facilities. For two days the group had the chance to sit and listen at the on-going 36<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council. It was indeed a learning experience to listen to discussions on resolutions on various issues on human rights. The Commission members took time to reflect and share on what we have heard and seen at the Human Rights Council session. We realized that while the discussions were good, sound and relevant, the national interest of each country remains the prevailing priority over the common good and or universal good.

We then travelled by train to Estavayer-le-Lac, where we stayed at the 700-year-old Dominican Monastery for the rest of our IDCJP meeting. Fr. Mike and Sr. Celestina Veloso took turns in moderating our meetings. Regional JPCC Promoters of every region and JP Representative of each branch of the Dominican Family gave a report of their justice and peace works, challenges, barriers, hopes and action plans for a more animated, efficient and effective justice and peace promotion and advocacies.

The group has taken note to strengthen understanding and application of the Salamanca Process for the Brothers and Sisters, especially for Major Superiors, those in the Initial Formation and On-going Formation and Renewal Programs.



We will continue to support existing justice and peace ministries on migration, refugees and human trafficking. We hope to provide workshops to respond more effectively to the UN 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To take the opportunity to

make our Dominican UN presence a tool for a more effective justice and peace work on the ground. There were global issues, among others, that concerns us like: 'the sovereignty of the state', massive corruption and impunity, 'constructive approach' to tackling human rights violations, crisis in democracy.

The group also discussed some challenges that JPIC Promoters encountered in the execution of their roles and functions such as: the call to giving greater importance and attention to communication between Promoters and Major Superiors and/or among Promoters themselves; the fact that most Promoters have other full time apostolates besides their justice and peace work, the lack of funds to support programs and activities and that some congregations do not have yet JPIC Promoters.

The days of togetherness, discussions, prayers, reflections and planning kept us inspired and united in our goals to strengthen and make justice and peace indeed the indispensable dimension of our life of preaching and to share our action plans, the fruits of this experience, with the Dominican Family and others with whom we work. □

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP**  
*The Art of Visual Storytelling*  
**Dominican University, Ibadan, Nigeria**  
*16-20 October 2017*



This media communications workshop was organised under the leadership of Sr. Faustina Jimoh, DSI's Continental Coordinator for Africa. Sponsored by the USA Solidarity Fund for DSI congregations in developing countries, the workshop was designed to assist sisters of the continent to develop needed skills in media communication within their respective congregations, among DSI congregations and to enhance their competences in the preparation of small publications such as flyers, brochures, newsletters etc.

The 18 participants came from 6 African countries (Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). They were from congregations native to the continent as well as those of missionary congregations in Africa. Fr. Eric Salobir, General Promoter for Communications and Fr. Kenneth Nkadi, Registrar at the newly licenced Dominican University, Ibadan, facilitated the workshop while Sr. Marie Therese Clement, DSI's International Coordinator provided interpretation services.



The participants expressed much gratitude for the time though short, spent with one another in mutual sharing, learning and making new discoveries. Many spoke of the benefits derived from the workshop in aid of their apostolates, their work in the areas of vocations promotion, preparation of their congregations' newsletter,



## Cont'd COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP ...

publications on websites and other forms of communication.

The workshop content focused upon the use of the communication media as a means of evangelisation. Telling a story through photography, video clips and print were all explored through dynamic interactive instruction, practical exercises, field trips, group work and participant presentations that made for a rich and varied 1<sup>st</sup> experience for many in the group. How to write effectively for the web, social media, for newsletters, flyers etc. became easier with practice against the focused instructions guidance and feedback from the two facilitators. The tutoring in photography that both enhances, and on its own, reveals a story, was according to the workshop evaluations done by participants, the highlight of the week-long endeavour.

The sisters look forward to the next workshop sometime next year, especially that the week together though intense, did not provide them with sufficient time to work with internet applications of communication and in-studio editing and publishing.

In addition to the workshop content, Sisters. Marie Therese and Faustina made a brief presentation on the mission of DSI and how the sisters might participate in the life of DSI and collaborate with one another. They emphasized the collaborative initiatives that may be undertaken among different congregations within the same country and across the continent at large. According to Sr. Marie Therese in response to a question about how to collaborate, *"If only we could be deliberate in our thoughts to be inclusive of one another the naturally occurring moments of collaboration would not be missed, but be evident and the beginning of such efforts would not seem so foreign to us at all."*

*The workshop came to a close with expressions of gratitude to the facilitators, the organisation team, the Friars of Ibadan who so warmly welcomed the workshop and the participants. Special thanks were given to DSI and the congregations of the USA for making this well needed workshop possible. It is hoped that the photos and this brief account give readers a real sense of how beneficial this workshop was to each one.*

*Thank you!*

**Participants to the Communication Workshop**

1. Marie Dominique Tshika  
Cameroun/ Dominican De Annunciation
2. Silatchom Marie Clare  
Cameroun/ Missionnaires Dom. du Rosaire
3. Josepha (Electa) Ngo Ndzeta  
Cameroun/ Dominicanes De La B. Imelda
4. Jareen T. Aquino  
Tanzania/Maryknoll
5. Astrida Banda  
Zambia/Dom. Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus
6. Musara Chipenzi  
Zambia/Dom. Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus
7. Fadzai Caroline Mafita  
Zimbabwe/Dom. Miss. Srs. of Sacred Heart of Jesus
8. Terry Sacco  
South Africa/ Dom. Srs. of St. Catherine of Siena, King Williams Town
9. Christiana Ikhane  
Nigeria/Dom. Srs. of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau Nigeria
10. Emmanuela Okafor  
Nigeria/Dom. Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Gusau Nigeria
11. Angela Dike  
Nigeria/Dom. Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
12. Anurukem Jacqueline  
Nigeria/Dom. Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
13. Anthonia Nwabueze  
Nigeria/Dom. Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
14. Rosemary Okolie  
Nigeria/Dom. Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
15. Grace Nga Awono  
Nigeria/ Dom. Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Pompei
16. Marysylvia Ezenwankwo  
Nigeria/ Dom. Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Pompei
17. Anthonia Eneanya  
Nigeria/Sisters of St. Louis

Cont'd COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP ...



*Instructional Learning*



*Group Presentations*



*Field experiences*



*Group Work*



## YOUNG SISTERS – EUROPE, ENGLISH SUMMER COURSE

### *A Community Summer Ministry in Sion Hill Dublin - Ireland, 2017*

By: Sr. Edel Murphy, O.P.

Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Catherine of Siena,  
Cabra

A Community Summer Ministry in Sion Hill, 2017 In October 2016 the meeting for the Dominican Sisters of Europe Council was held in Ireland. The co-ordinator for Europe in DSI was present. Her name is Sr Else-Britt, a Dominican from Norway. Also present were Srs Franziska from Vienna, Barbara from Italy, Marie-Lourdes from France, Agnes as secretary from Norway and myself from the English speaking zone. Sr Lucia from Budapest was unable to attend. It was at that meeting that the need for an English course was voiced and I was asked to consider facilitating it.

A new year began and in 2017 from mid June to the beginning of August the Sion Hill community had the pleasure of welcoming five Dominican sisters from Europe. The community in Muckross Park gave hospitality to one sister from Germany who had booked into a course in the city centre and came at a later date.



I was responsible with giving daily class to our five sisters in Sion Hill, with a huge amount of help and support from the community. Their daily routine included class, community prayer and mass, conversation at meals and elsewhere with the sisters, each had community responsibility either in the sacristy, wash up after tea, the garden/ house cleaning in 47 Mt Merrion Ave. Excursions were a weekly event and included visits to Trinity library, Tallaght Parish, the Chester Beatty Library, Siena Convent, Wicklow, walks, swims in the sea, the movies, an Irish culture night, to name just a few. We shared our history and they shared theirs during a culture night of their food, prayer and song! Study was also timetabled by themselves and their confidence in speaking english improved day by day. The sisters included- Srs Angelika, Filomena, Benedicta, Marta and Kristina (who came later) from Budapest (two different communities) and Sr Jordana from Prague. The ministries in which they are engaged in at present in their own communities are varied from those who are full-time students in theology and canon law, two of the sisters teach catechesis and one sister is director of a hostel for girls who are at university which also includes helping the young students with their studies in the evening time. Two sisters are finally professed and three are in temporary vows.

It was a privilege being with these sisters for six weeks of the summer, the final week and a half I left to the generosity of my community for reasons beyond my control! What was so rewarding being with these Dominicans from Budapest and Prague was how they engaged with



## Cont'd YOUNG SISTERS – EUROPE, ENGLISH SUMMER COURSE



each sister in the community, wanting to learn from the wisdom of those who have given so much already to Dominican life. I have always found it an inspiration to be with our Dominican sisters in Europe as they seem to integrate their

study into their daily lives, not having it as something special or apart but an element alongside prayer, community and mission. Their energy and enthusiasm for Dominican life was a blessing and gave us a lot of hope. I am grateful for the hospitality of the community in Sion Hill, the generosity of Sr Martina and her team for allowing us have Merrion Ave, and the privilege of being on Dominican Sisters Europe Council. The Summer of 2017 was a memorable one.

Their sense of hope in looking out and encouragement of each other to continue the mission of Saint Dominic as Dominican women in Europe who are joyful is a gift. I am grateful for what they share with all whom they met and their desire to learn from all who have lived this life and those of us who still do. ■

## DOMINICAN U.N. REPRESENTATIVE VISITS IRELAND

*“The world’s problems are now soul size”*

*21-30 October, 2017*

By: Sr. Fionnuala Quinn O.P.  
Dominican Vocations Team  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin

While it is well known that the Vatican is a member state of the U.N. it may come as a surprise that many religious orders also form a part of the body of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their role is advocacy. The representative of the Dominican Leadership Conference of the U.S. at the United Nations, Sr. Margaret Mayce was a guest speaker of the Dominican family in Ireland recently. Sister Margaret is a Sister of St. Dominic of Amityville, NY.

In her address Sister Margaret spoke to the important global agenda for the current refugee and migration crisis. She highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially targeted at transforming our world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. They cover such critical areas as,

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well- Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Intra-structure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for The Goals.

**Cont'd DOMINICAN U.N. REPRESENTATIVE VISITS IRELAND**

The areas aim at ending the poverty around the agenda items *to leave no one behind, and reach the farthest behind, first*, as well as the absolute importance of empowering women.

Sr. Margaret encouraged all to act, saying, ‘any one act done with great intention, ripples out and affects the whole’. She emphasised the inter-connection of all that is and that the global village is a present-day reality.

In summary it could be said, that all of us are called, to building relationships and collaborating in the mission of preaching the Gospel for the sake of a more just world order.

The time is now!

Sr. Margaret was a guest speaker with the Dominican Sisters, the Dominican Justice Office, Lumen Centre, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, the Ennismore Retreat Centre in Cork and the annual



Sr. Margaret Mayce O.P. along with Srs Eileen O' Connell, Marie McHugh and Fionnuala Quinn at a Justice Symposium in Dublin, October 21, 2017.

Conference for Young Religious held at the Emmaus Retreat Centre in Swords, Co. Dublin. □

**DOMINICAN SISTERS EUROPE**  
*Coordinating Council Meeting, Rome*  
 23-26 October, 2017

By: Sr. Agnes Lалу, O.P.  
 Dominican sister of Notre –Dame de Grâce



The Dominican Sisters Europe Coordinating Council gathered from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 for their yearly meeting. The coordi-

nating council consists of the continental coordinator, Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen OP and her councils from the different language zones: Sr. Franziska Madl OP (AGOP), Sr. Lúcia Petres OP (DSE-CE), Sr. Marie-Laure Larcher OP (Groupement Fraternelle), Sr. Barbara Bonfante OP (USMID). It was the first time that SEDEP was represented through the presence of Sr. Maria Ferrández OP. Sr. Edel Murphy OP from the English-speaking zone was unable to attend. The national coordinator and her council updated one another on the status of DSI and the regions/language zones respectively.

They discussed and organized various activities and plans of action centered on collaboration and geared towards establishing deeper bond and

**Cont'd DOMINICAN SISTERS EUROPE, ROME**

unity among apostolic Dominican sisters in Europe. Previous events/activities were also evaluated.

It has been an on-going practice of the Coordinating Council to take turns in hosting their meetings. This year was Sr. Barbara's turn to offer hospitality. She belongs to the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena.

Her community at Via Degli Artisti 17, Rome graciously opened their home as venue for the meeting. Sisters in the coordinating council participated in the community's Eucharistic celebrations, prayers and meals.

Aside from hard work, the council spent time walking and visiting some historical edifices and beautiful churches in Rome! ▣

**UNION OF DOMINICAN MAJOR SUPERIORS, ITALY (USMID)***Rome, 13-14 October, 2017*

By: Sr. Marie Jean Mouton-Brady  
President of USMID



As happens each year, the Union of Dominican Major Superiors of Italy (USMID) have the joy of gathering during the month of October. Even if it is becoming difficult at times, for some Congregations to be present as such annual encounters for varying reasons, (overbooked calendars, challenges of diminishment) this time of sharing and information exchange is always appreciated by the sisters who are able to participate. Besides on our 1st Meeting day, this October we benefited from the presence of Sr. Marie Therese Clement, and Sr. Else Britt Nilsen who presented Sr. Cecilia Espenilla who recently arrived in Rome to assume the DSI Position of In-

ternational Promoter for Justice and Peace. This type this type of encounter affords is the opportunity of a wider embrace of reality outside of our local context.

This year we had two objectives based upon a theme that the council had proposed after the evaluation of our last assembly *"Evangelize by caring for the human"*

- Exchange among us so as to better know one another and to share the things that we hold dear: Each year we welcome new participants since there constant leadership changes in member Congregations. This is also a time for information exchange in subjects such as



## Cont'd UNION OF DOMINICAN MAJOR SUPERIORS, ITALY

annual retreats that could be shared by all, activities of interest to us, general chapters scheduled during the course of the year and many other things. Informal moments of exchange and sharing are also **given** a place of importance.

- Take time for common reflection on current subjects; we have asked Fr. Riccardo Lufrani, OP to help us to reflect on the following” understanding of change in this area so as to preach the Kingdom of God.” From expatriation caused by transhumanism to the construction of the “Christian society”. A Conference which was realistic and inspired hope and in fact gave rise to rich reflection among us.

Our next encounter is open to all Dominican Sisters in Italy as is the case each year from 27-30

December in Rome. This encounter will carry the theme “Dominicans in communication”. Various Presentations will be offered by Fr. Bruno Cadore, Master of the Order, Ms Barbara della Rovere who works at the office of Communication at Santa Sabina, two sisters who will provide a biblical introduction to the theme and hopefully someone from Colombia who will help us to experience the celebration of the month of Peace more concretely. To reinforce our family ties, we also envisage an afternoon visit to the Church and Convent of the Minerva.

In the coming months, we should be having a second formation Workshop in collaboration with the Friars of the Three Provinces in Italy.

May the Lord bless these initiatives and may this Kingdom Come!

### PAST EVENTS

Oct. 10

#### SEDEP - MEETING OF DOMINICAN SISTERS VI (Madrid)

Theme: “Praise, Bless and Preach, Together and ... revolt?” towards a common vision as Dominicans.

Nov. 10 – 12

#### CODALC: DOMINICAN WORKSHOP OF JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF BOLIVARIAN ZONE

This workshop was conducted by CODALC AND CIDALC. The participants were around 60 from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

December

#### USMID CONFERENCE

The Conference of the Union of Dominican Major Superiors, Italy will take place from December 27 to 30, 2017 Venue: the Headquarters of the Passionists in Rome. Theme: “Dominican life and media.”

Jan. 5-7, 2018

#### DSE: DÜSSELDORF MEETING (English/French)

This Meeting will be held in Katarinahjemmet in Oslo 2018 on the Theme “Human Dignity-Catholic Social Teaching.” The Speaker will be Sr. Helen Alford OP. Sister of St Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal

## Cont'd... UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar. 12-23, 2018**

### UN-NGO COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women takes place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from **12 to 23 March 2018**.

**Theme:** Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and empowerment of rural women and girls". (See below)

**Apr. 26-30, 2018**

### DOMINICAN SISTERS EUROPE (DSE)

DSE Invites final professed sisters to participate in a Dominican Pilgrimage in Paris (French/English).

**Theme,** At the origin of the Order in Paris. Presence of Dominicans-Pilgrimage in the Latin Quarter

**Requirement:** Good walking shoes

**Length:** 5 days inclusive of travel but 3 full days for the pilgrimage



DSI is now inviting two sisters per continent to participate in the Commission on the Status of women with Sr. Margaret Mayce, UN-NGO Representative who organises and facilitates the sisters' participation each year.

Please contact your respective Continental Coordinator by Wednesday, December 20, **2017** if you are interested.

Sr. Faustina Jimoh	- Africa	<a href="mailto:fausty_1@yahoo.com">fausty_1@yahoo.com</a>
Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen	- Europe	<a href="mailto:e.b.nilsen@mf.no">e.b.nilsen@mf.no</a>
Sr. Gene Poore	- North America	<a href="mailto:gpoore@oppeace.org">gpoore@oppeace.org</a>
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