



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts

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*Silver Threads from Gifted Hands
Preaching God's Word through the Arts*

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Dominican Institute for the Arts

In Memory of All the Dedicated Dominicans who Birthed it, Grew it, and Continue it



Members in attendance at the 2023 Conference celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the DIA:
First Row, left to right: Lornetta Hooks, Sr. Joella Miller, Sr. Donna Brunell, Pat Daly, Sr. Joeann Daley, Fran Belmonte, Sr. Irene Mary Diones, Mary Reinhardt, OP, Sr. Brigid Bray.
Second Row, left to right: Lynne Tustanowsky, Sr. Lisa Zuccarelli, Sr. Rosemary Asaro, Sr. Catherine Anderson, Sr. Jane Rudolph, Marty Washburn, Lea Koesterer, Sr. Nathalie Meyer, Sr. Elizabeth Lee, Joanne Orr
Third Row, left to right: Sr. Anita Smisek, Sr. Miriam Brown, Sr. Ann Marie Santen, Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, John Mascazine, Mare Wheeler, Annmarie Kallenbach, Jim Marchionda, OP, Sr. Mary Pat Ried
Fourth row, left to right: Sr. Anita Smisek, Br. Joe Kilikevics, Sr. Barbara Schwarz, Sr. Mary Brenda, Rufolf Lowenstein, OP, Mark Hanes, Sr. Liz Sully, Sr. Sheila Flynn



President's Message

A while ago, hours before folks set out blankets or beach chairs “to catch a few rays”, I was walking the beach literally surrounded by nature. To the north and south, there was sandy shoreline, to the west sea oats among the rocks and to the east ocean as far as the eye could see. My sole companion a sea gull

checking quahog (large clam) shells hoping for a tasty breakfast treat. Silently, announcing the dawn, shades of mauve and peach began to fill the ocean’s horizon. Sitting on my favorite praying/thinking rock, I relished the view.

Sunsets can be breathtaking, but I love to watch the dawn break. It speaks to me of a new beginning. Yesterday, I might have messed up but today God gives me another day to get it right and that includes my photography. So many times, I’ve ventured out eager to capture images of the beauty of nature with the results being far from noteworthy.

Over the years, some of you have shared with me stories about paintings completed and then immediately destroyed, a piece reduced to a mound of clay after spending hours at the wheel or a poem shredded.

Disappointment with the result of our art happens to all of us but a new day dawns and we have another chance to do it again as we, Dominican artist preachers, continue to preach God’s Word through our art.

As you all know, we recently gathered and celebrated 25 years as artist preachers. The anticipated excitement paled in comparison to the actual experience. If exhaustion is any indication of a successful event, this Gathering’s Planning Commission can attest that it was a glorious success.

During the Gathering, one of our members gave me some of her exquisite handmade greeting cards. One of these cards really hit home with me. It said: “Listen Honey—God didn’t promise it would be easy—He just promised it would be worth it.” Without doubt, the year’s long intense and detailed planning that went into our celebrating 25 years of preaching through our art was well worth it.

This issue of our OPalette is chock full of the happenings at the Pallottine Renewal Center. So, make yourself comfy, perhaps with your favorite beverage, sit back and enjoy reading all about it.

Take care of yourselves, have a blessed autumn and savor the colorful beauty it brings.

Peace,

Pat

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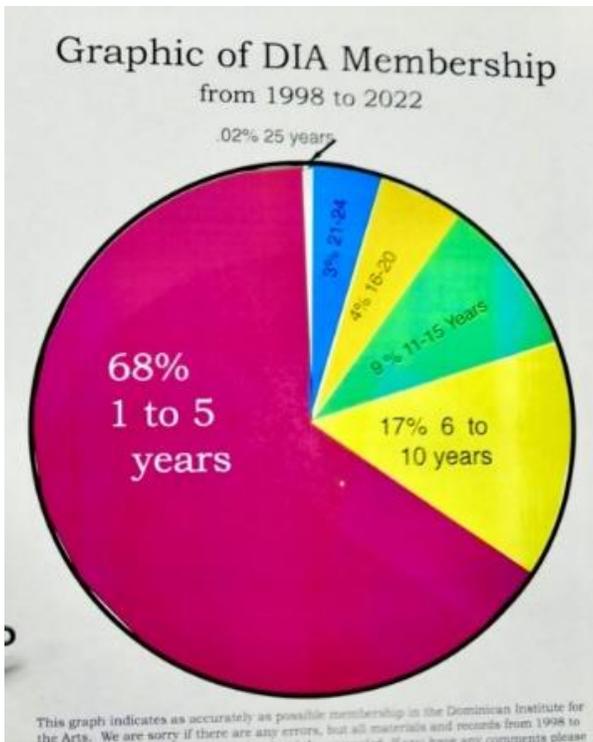


Letter from the Editor

This issue will mostly highlight the proceedings of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Dominican Institute for the Arts held in Florissant, Missouri from July 25 to 28, 2023. This celebration highlighted the efforts, successes, and artistic productions of its members, past and present. – Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP

Membership Statistics

Over 570 members have been affiliated with DIA during its twenty-five years of existence. DIA was founded to present Dominican artists a forum to preach the Word of God through art. This graphic details how many members were with DIA and their involvement in this wonderful organization.



68% were members between 1 - 5 years.
17% were members between 6 - 10 years.
9% held membership between 11 - 15 years.
4% held membership between 16 -20 years.
3% have been members 21-24 years.
.02% have been members all 25 years. (We call these the long haulers).

Please send website submissions to: Sister Barbara Schwarz OP at Artafire@hotmail.com

25th Anniversary Pin Ceremony

The 2023 Twenty-fifth Gathering entitled “Silver Weavings from Gifted Hands,” had some “surprises” laced throughout the Gathering. One of the biggest surprises during the opening ceremony was when twelve members were called and awarded with a 25-year Anniversary pin commemorating their consistent membership since the beginning of the Dominican Institute for the Arts.



Pictured from left to right: Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP (Sparkill), Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP (Amityville) Pat Daly, OPA, (President of DIA, Peace Associate), Sr. Joeann Daley, OP (Sinsinawa), Sr. Brigid Bray, OP (Mission San Jose), Sr. Anita Smisek, OP (Sinsinawa), Sr. Mary Irene Diones, OP (Mission San Jose), and Sr. Mary Pat Reid, OP(Caldwell)

The pin is silver, with white enamel bas relief symbols surrounded by black lines.

Those who received the 25-year pin but could not be present are: Dominic DeLay, OP (Western Province), Sr. Janice Holkup OP (Adrian), Sr. Francetta McCann, OP (Grand Rapids), Sr. Jeanne Stickling, OP (Adrian), Sr. Nancy Ann Turner, OP (Adrian).

In her comments about the 25th Gathering, Sr. Barbara Schwarz said, “*I was really surprised by the pin celebrating 25 years of membership.*”

This was a well-kept secret that only two people knew about until the pins were handed out. That was a “surprise.”



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Fra Angelico Award

The Fra Angelico Award is the highest honor that the Dominican Institute for the Arts bestows on one of its members each year. The Fra Angelico Award is exemplary of Fra Angelico's dedication to furthering the Holy Preaching through Art. The Award Medallion was created by Sr. Phyllis Mrozinski. It is cast in bronze with a paintbrush worked into the design to hold the medallion in an upright position.

Criteria used to choose a Fra Recipient:

- The artist's work is of the highest quality in his/her field.
- Is highly honored in artistic circles.
- Exemplifies the ideals of DIA.

There have been twenty-eight recipients of the Fra Angelico Award. The first to receive this award was Sr. Adele Rowland. At the 2023 Gathering a video Adele's words of wisdom, created by Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP (Amityville) was shown. Adele's message echoes through the years to all those who pursue an artistic career.



Recipients:

1998	Adele Rowland, OP (San Rafael) at Mission San Jose;	Photographer, Photomontage
1999	Stephana Toomey, OP (Elkins Park now Peace) at Sinsinawa	Interior Liturgical Design
2000	James V. Marchiando, OP (Central Province) at Adrian:	Music, Composer, Vocalist
2001	Kathleen Harkins (Adrian) at Elkins Park	Drama/Actress
	Mary Peter Tremonte, OP (Houston) at Elkins Park [posthumously]	Sculptor, Liturgical Design
2002	Armando Ibanez, OP (Western Province) at Sinsinawa	Poet, Filmmaker
2003	Barbara Chinecek, OP (Adrian) at Sparkill	Interior Liturgical DesignerV
	Rita Schlitz, OP (Adrian) at Sparkill	Interior Liturgical Designer
2004	Adele Myers, OP (Sparkill) at Racine	Fresco Relief Designer
2005	Thoma Swanson, OP (Peace) at Adrian	Painter, Advocate for the Poor
2006	Phyllis Mrozinski, OP (Grand Rapids) at Mission San Jose	Sculptor
2007	Joeann Daley, OP (Sinsinawa) at Racine	Printmaker, Mixed Media
2008	Dominic DeLay, OP (Western Province) at Columbus	Film Maker, Director, Writer, Vocal
2009	Martha Bartholomew (Sinsinawa Associate) at Convent Station	Weaver of Fabric and Words
2010	Elizabeth Michael Boyle, OP (Caldwell) at Grand Rapids	Poet
2011	Anita Smisek, OP (Sinsinawa) at Springfield, IL	Composer, Musician, Vocalist
2012	Magdalena Ezoë, OP (Adrian) at Oakland	Musician, Composer, Painter
2013	Barbara Schwarz, OP (Amityville) at Columbus	Multi-Media, Electronic Graphics
2014	Alice Van Acker, OP (Adrian) at Adrian	Painter
2015	Elaine DesRosiers OP (Peace) at Great Bend	Media Specialist, Painter
2016	Elizabeth Slenker, OP (Sparkill) at Racine	Painter, Stained Glass, Writer
2017	Janet Wright, OP (Adrian) at Adrian	Watercolorist
2018	Nancy Murray, OP (Adrian) at Adrian	Dramatist
2019	Sheila Flynn, OP (Eastern Australia & Solomon Islands) at St. Louis	Multi Media
2020	Irene Mary Diones, (Mission San Jose) at Racine	Multi-Media, Musician
2021	Joe Kilikevici, OP (Central Province) at Racine	Multi-Media
2022	Geraldine Mueller, OP (Caldwell) at Racine Via Zoon	Multi-Media, Designer
2023	Nancy Ann Turner, OP (Adrian) at St. Louis	Weaver, Advocate for the poor



Nancy Ann Turner, OP
2023 Recipient

More information about the Fra Angelico Recipients please visit the diartsop.org website under Fra Angelico recipients.

The Spirit Award

In 2006 the DIA Board formulated the Spirit Recognition Award. This Award is presented to a DIA member who embodies the spirit of the Dominican Institute for the Arts and has rendered significant services to DIA in the spirit of its mission. Each year one member is chosen to receive this award based on how the person has been a loyal, supportive, and active; has the DIA spirit; and is an unfailing giving member. The Spirit Award is given to someone who is always willing to help in any way s/he is able; and never fails to give encouragement and support to other members.

Sr. Irene Mary Diones announcing the recipient of the Spirit Award to Sr. Andre Marie Fujer for 2023



Recipients of the DIA Spirit Award:

Year	Location	Person	Congregation
2006	Mission San Jose	Joeann Daley	Sinsinawa
		Elaine DesRosiers	Peace
		Mary Fran Gorman	Springfield
		Barbara Schwarz	Amityville
2007	Racine	Dominic DeLay	Western Province
		Irene Mary Diones	Mission San Jose
		Mary Pat Reid	Caldwell
2008	Columbus	Rudolf Loewenstein	Oxford Province
2009	Convent Station	Pat Lee	Amityville
		Kathy Rhody	Western Chapter
		Elaine Taylor	Peace
		Kathleen Voss	Adrian
2010	Grand Rapids	Jude Bloch	Grand Rapids
		Pat Daly	Peace
2011	Springfield	Paula Marie Jarosz	Racine
		Mary Ellen Paulson	Racine
		Jeanne Stickling	Adrian
2012	Oakland	Janice Holkup	Adrian
2013	Columbus	Carol O'Connor	Peace
		Colleen Gallagher	Peace
		Thoma Swanson	Peace
		Janet Wright	Adrian
2014	Adrian	Elizabeth Michael Boyle	Caldwell
2015	Great Bend	Elizabeth Slenker	Sparkill
2016	Racine	Barbara Kukla	Racine
2017	Adrian	Mary Boyce	Maryknoll
2018	Adrian	Lorraine Ferguson	Hope
2019	St. Louis	Anita Smisek	Sinsinawa
2020	Covid Hiatus		
2021	Zoom	Liz Sully	Sinsinawa
2022	Racine	Miriam Brown	Sinsinawa
2023	St. Louis	Andre Marie Fujer	Mission San Jose



Andre Marie Fujer, OP
2023 Recipient

Our Musicians

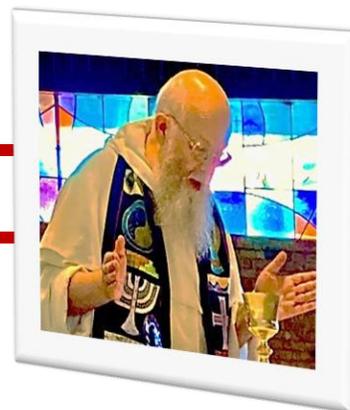
Sisters Irene Mary Diones, OP (Mission San Jose) and Anita Smisek, OP (Sinsinawa) added much to the Gathering with their inspirational music. Sr. Elizabeth Slenker provided the guitar and keyboard. Anita compiled a music book of Dominican composers. Before each session of the Gathering, the participants would be guided in singing one of the songs by these composers. The Eucharistic Celebration featured the music of Magdalena Ezoë, OP, from her “Mass in Honor of All Saints.”



Compositions in Anita’s compiled Music:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sr. Magdalena Ezoë, OP (Adrian) | “As Morning Dawns” |
| | “I Will Praise you/ Forever I Will Sing” |
| | “Mass in honor of All Saints” |
| | “Great God of All Wisdom” |
| | “Come to Break Bread” |
| Adrian Dominicans | |
| James V. Marchionda, OP (Central Province) | “Joyful Friar N. 2” |
| | “Caterina da Siena” |
| Cecil Steffen, OP | “O Wondrous Hope” |
| | “Sound the Praises of St Dominic” |
| | “Give Thanks” |
| Robert j Dvorak | “Dauntless Dominic” |
| Sr. Jo Ann Timmerman, OP (Sinsinawa) | “A Long Loving Gaze” |
| Feargal King | “Dominican Magnificat” |
| Sr. Mary Fran Fleischaker, OP (Adrian) | “Family of Dominic” |
| Pietro Arcivals, OP | Hymn for 800 th Jubilee “Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare” |

Musicians Lornetta Hooks. Floutist, Jim Marchiando, Clarinetist, and Rudolf Lowenstein, OP (English Province) also added to the celebration with their beautiful instrumental accompaniment. Kudos to Sr. Anita and the music she was able to generate with her determination and perseverance in working with us all through the years and never faltering in her quest to preach the Word of God through music.



Gathering Workshops

Each year several workshops are given for the attendees. Most of these workshops are generated from requests of the members who identify areas in which they are interested. This year's workshops ran the gamut from highly technical skill building to fun loving ways to recycle disposables. Workshops presented were:

All Hands-on Tech



Styro-Art



Beading and Meditation



Sharing the Creative Process



Supporting the Aging Voice



**The “WOW” Moment –
Capturing the Sacred through Photography**



Just Be

Prayer Time

DIA Attendees were treated to beautiful prayer services each day. The Opening Ritual, the first evening was conducted by John Mascazine and Mark Hanes. They took the theme “Silver Weavings from Gifted Hands” and prayerfully reflected quotes from well known personalities from different walks of life set to music and slides to set the tone for the Gathering.

Some of the reflections:

We don't accomplish anything in this life alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.

—Sandra Day O'Connor

The tapestry of life continues to be woven. Occasionally a chance arises to repair an older, tattered piece of the weave. Something happens to jolt our awareness back in time to an event that resulted in tears and rips. With new, more mature vision, we see the circumstances in present time and have compassion for the unclear events of the past. While the new experience is being woven into the design, the old rip is simultaneously being repaired. All is well.

— Bessie Senette

We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.

—Maya Angelou

On a clear day we can see forever and ever. We know where we came from and why we are here on earth and where we ultimately are going. The threads woven into the fabric of our lives are beginning to create a beautiful tapestry. —Marilyn S. Bateman

***My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.***

***I cannot choose the colors
God weaveth steadily.***

***Oft' times God weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget God sees the upper
And I the underside.***

***Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly***

***Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why. —Author unknown***

When we embrace the many parts of our experience, we discover a magnificent creation. Every moment is but a thread, a thread of consciousness embracing the very essence of life. Some threads are brilliant and dazzling while others are tattered and torn. When looked upon in isolation the tattered threads look inferior. Yet when woven together by the wondrous hands of the Creator, the light magically blends with the dark. As joy coalesces with pain, God creates the magnificent tapestry that is life. — Debbie Milam



In the morning Sr. Irene Mary Diones, OP, led the group in a beautiful reflective prayer on Growth and Gratitude:

Sr. Irene Mary worked into her prayer the theme of hands. In her prayer she states: *The continuing journey of DIA has brought us to this time of "Silver Weavings from Gifted Hands." We have acknowledged, supported and encouraged each other's gifts. We have been enriched by diverse creativity. We have been inspired and challenged to look with eyes that recognize the Creator, the One Divine Artist who continues to expand the blank canvas of our minds and hearts and fill it with myriads of colors and beauty. Let us continue to create! Let us renew our dream..... God of Beauty may our energy, creativity, accomplishments, hopes and visions as artist-preachers continue to move and connect with you in your spirit as our Divine Artist."*

One question asked in the prayer has profound contemplative implications over which to ponder:

"How many are the wonderful things that have happened to us for which we give thanks?"

The second day, Sr. Miriam Brown, OP, created an enriching service based on the earth elements of air, fire, water, and earth. About each element we prayed:

"We are Dominicans: Preacher-and-Praise-Flames."



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A Walk Down Memory Lane

The Walk Down Memory Lane brought us back to the founding of the Dominican Institute for the Arts. Sr. Joella Miller, OP was instrumental in putting together the Constitution for the DIA, in her special expertise on the Legalities of Organizational Structure. She told the story of how she was recruited by Kathleen Harkins, OP, her very good friend, who coerced her into helping with the legal documentation to establish the DIA as a federally tax-exempt organization.



The Gathering participants reminisced about remembered fun stories that had happened during some of the various Gatherings. Members who had been involved in the previous stories told of anecdotes that had impressed them. There were some who had never been to a Gathering, and the impression they had about this group can be found in the delight and enthusiasm of Sr. Donna Brunell, OP

first time attendee, enjoying Rudolf, OP, a long-time member.

The best storyteller, however, was Pat Daly, OPA, who is a walking encyclopedia of information about the oral history of the DIA. Thanks Pat, for the great stories and memories.



Liturgical Celebration



On the last day of the Gathering we celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy with instrumental music and beautiful multiple part singing. Thanks to Jim Marchionda, OP and Rudolf Lowenstein, OP for concelebrating as well as joining the musicians with their musical talent, and to Barbara Schwarz, OP, for her inspirational preaching.

The Offertory Procession symbolized the various talents of our Dominican Artists:

Woven cloth: offered for those who have become integral threads in the fabric of our lives.

Paint, brush, and blank canvas: reminiscent of Catherine of Siena who stated that she was God's palette upon which God could paint whatever God wished, that we too, will be open to what God chooses for the canvas of our lives.

Pottery: Jeremiah visited a potter's house. The potter shaped the clay into useful objects. We pray that we, too, would be pliable in the hands of the Divine Potter.

Torch: Long a symbol of the Dominican search for Truth, that we will be the flame of Truth that will never be extinguished.

Books: offered as a symbol of the words we speak and write so the words we use to speak and write will be of kindness, love, and Truth.

Music & Dance: Reminds us to listen to the song within us that only we can sing, and dance to our heart song through life's journey in rhythm with God's design for us.

Fra Angelico Award: We ask God's blessing on the twenty-eight recipients of this highest honor of the Dominican Institute for the Arts.



Bread & Wine: We offer the fruit of earth, the work of human hands, God's gift to us in Holy Eucharist, that we continue to preach God's word as members of the Body of Christ through our art.



Gathering Ambiance

Down Memory Lane

Pat Daly, OPA Peace Associate and President, went through her files of photos and selected over 250 photos from past DIA Gatherings. Not only did she select photos but identified each person and the year of Gathering in which the photos had been taken. The photos were displayed on boards that covered one whole wall of the Conference Room. During the breaks Participants reminisced about all those who were no longer in this world, and those who were not able to attend, all the memories the photos invoked the fun and laughs conjured in the memory. A lot of time was spent perusing these photos. Thanks Pat, for the memories.



Left: Sr. Sheila Flynn reminiscing about long term friendships. Right: Sr. Irene Mary Diones, and Catherine Anderson taking a trip down memory lane. Liz Sully in the background.

Table Decorations



Sr. Ann Marie Santen, OP (Sparkill) took the art disciplines and made memorial themes for each one. The first one shows a music theme. A lot of time and effort was put into the making of these timely and artistic renditions capturing the theme of each. In the second photo Sisters Liz Sully, OP (Sinsinawa) and Elizabeth Lee, OP (Mission San Jose) examine one of these intricately designed works of art. Each time one examined these table pieces, another piece of information was gathered from the work. Thanks, Ann Marie, for all the effort put into making this a memorable celebration of twenty-five years.