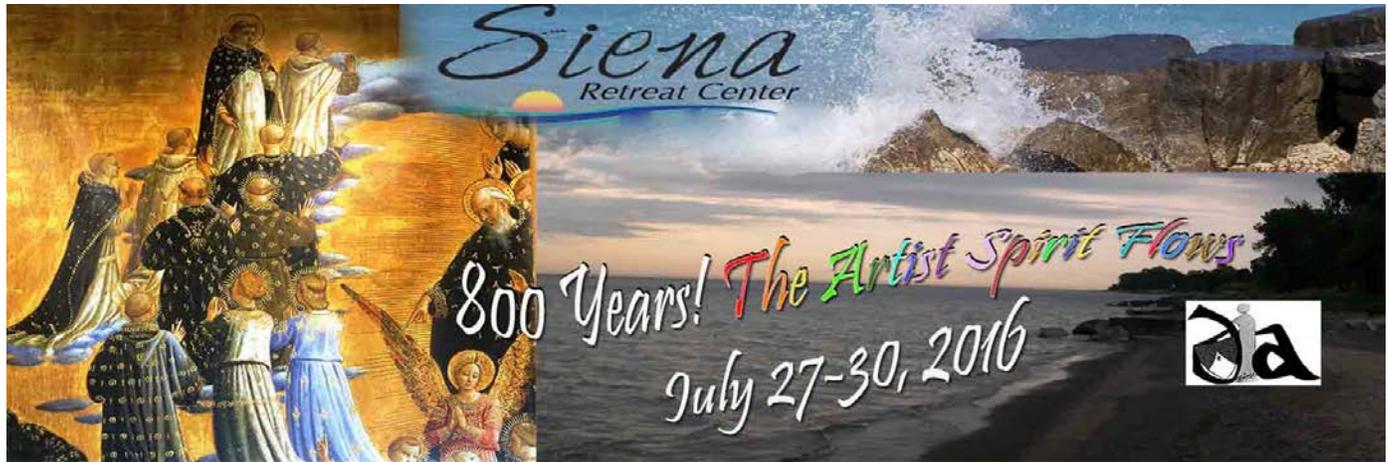




*Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts*

*Winter Newsletter 2015 Volume 17 Issue 1*



## 800 Years! The Artist Spirit Flows

The 2016 DIA Annual Gathering at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. (July 27 – 30, 2016) promises to be a memorable one. Celebrating 800 years of preaching will thread itself throughout our days together. The Planning Commission (Miriam Brown, Pat Daly, Paula Marie Jarosz, Barbara Kukla, Mary Ellen Paulson and Mary Pat Reid) met at the Retreat Center in mid- November and the Artist Spirit truly flowed during our time together! Theme, Prayer and Liturgy, Keynote Speaker, Studios/Workshops, Gala Entertainment and Trivia Contest were all settled while we met. The Gathering Logo is in the artistic process. Siena Retreat Center welcomes us with private rooms and baths, climate control throughout and the beauty of Lake Michigan in the forefront.



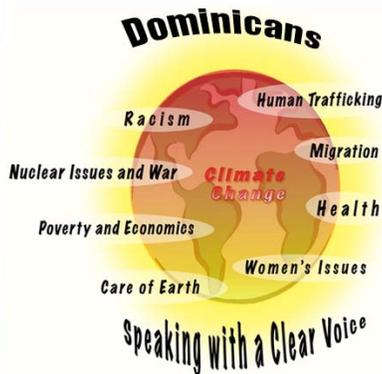
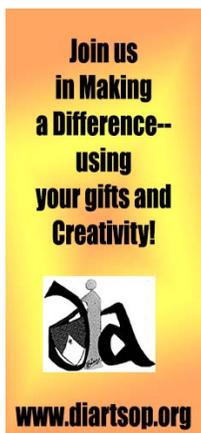
Our Keynote Presenter will be Adrian Dominican Barbara Cervenka OP who is a gifted and acclaimed watercolorist whose work has been exhibited around the country and abroad. She has an MFA from the University of Michigan and taught for thirty plus years at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Siena Heights University in Adrian. Barbara co-founded Con/Vida, a non-profit organization that helps foster cultural understanding through the popular arts of Peru and Brazil. As a member of the History Committee for the LCWR, Barbara helped organize the traveling exhibit "Women and Spirit: Catholic

Sisters in America". You can find more about Barbara by googling her where you can also view her artwork and portrait photography.

Barbara will share with us her presentation "Fra Angelico, Preaching Through Art" which outlines our Dominican brother's development and contribution as an artist.

Revise to read: The Planning Commission studiously reviewed the Great Bend Gathering Evaluations and both added and retained features in direct response to these evaluations. New workshops are entitled: "Sculpting for Dummies, Sense-Ability" and "Aromatherapy." Returning favorites will include sharing our art at small tables and Trivia Night. (For the latter, brush up on Dominican Saints and Blesseds.)

As Dominicans who preach through our art, the Artist Spirit flows through each of us. Please give this concept some thought and join us in Racine so that you can share your thoughts with us. Looking forward to being with you in Racine.



## FURTHERING JUSTICE THROUGH THE ARTS

The Dominican Institute for the Arts seeks to help the Order further its justice issues. We invite all Dominican Youth, Young Adults and all the Dominican Family to submit your personal artwork, videos, poetry, to join with us in one voice for these issues on our website and beyond. **This includes YOU!**

Work must be original and if a YouTube it must abide by copyright laws. We reserve the right to choose what appears on our website. Share this invitation with members of the Dominican Family as well as DIA members. To submit your work and support the preaching in action for others, please send it or the links to [diartsop@gmail.com](mailto:diartsop@gmail.com).



## A Reflection on "Alleluia" A piece by Adele Meyers OP

Inspiration

A glance of light

on floor or wall

can be a call

to something more.

A sound, a hush

a rush of wings

and sudden Presence

fills a hollow.

Then brush

or pen

or instrument

obeys one wordless summons:

"Follow."

E. Michael Boyle, O.P.



## Sheila Flynn, O.P., Initiates Collaborative Project: “Art for Justice”

As her contribution to the 800<sup>th</sup> Dominican Jubilee, DIA artist Sheila Flynn, O.P., has

launched an inter-continental “Art for Justice” Program for Dominican Schools in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Her purpose is to raise awareness around justice issues through the medium of the visual arts. Project outcomes will comprise a body of student art work that will become a traveling exhibition to the various participating schools. Sheila has already orchestrated collaboration between Dominican schools from “Down Under” and those in South Africa. This “Common Ground Dominican Student Conference” will convene in Brisbane in July and from there extend to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and New Zealand.

A member of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, Sheila Flynn has been for fifteen years Director of the Kopanang Community Trust, a women’s support center in Tsakane, South Africa. In July, Sheila will join Biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine and spiritual writer, Ronald Rolheiser as keynoters for the Catholic Secondary Principals of Australia annual conference.



## COLLABORATIVE GRANT

Since Dominican Collaboration is important, we thought there should be a grant to foster the process of collaboration through the arts. And so for the first time we are posting the possibility of a grant to do just that.

As a board we were looking to see how we could encourage and create new ways to grow as a Dominican Entity. This grant is one of the ways.

## PURPOSE

To further our Dominican Life and Mission, and our goals of Preaching through the Arts, the DIA Board will award 1 Grant of \$500.00 to a Project which qualifies.

## GRANT REGULATIONS

- 1) The project demonstrates Preaching through the Arts
- 2) The project involves 2 or more members of DIA.
- 3) The project is new, not part of an existing project.
- 4) The project may be multi-disciplined.
- 5) The project should be completed in 1 year.
- 6) On completion, the recipient(s) will give a short presentation on-line or at the next Gathering.
- 7) The application for the Grant must be in by March 1, 2016 by SNAIL MAIL ONLY
- 8) Send the application to Sr. Mary Pat Reid, OP, 1 Ryerson Avenue, Caldwell N.J. 07006

To get an application, contact Mary Pat Reid OP or go to the member pages of [www.diartsop.org](http://www.diartsop.org) and download a copy. There is a committee of board members reviewing applications.

**HAVING A SHOW, WINNING AN AWARD,  
PUBLISHING, OR DOING SOME SPECIAL  
PROJECT TELL**

**Elizabeth Michael Boyle OP at**  
[emichael@caldwell.edu](mailto:emichael@caldwell.edu) and  
[diartsop@gmail.com](mailto:diartsop@gmail.com) .



## 2016 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE FRA ANGELICO AWARD

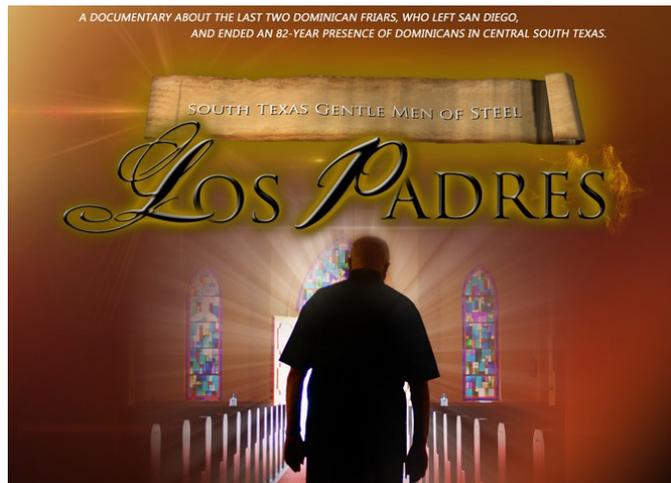
(Use separate pages to  
nominate multiple people)

The Fra Angelico Award gives special recognition to members in the Dominican Family represented in the DIA who have distinguished themselves in some area of the arts. We look for candidates in the different fields who have received the recognition of their peers for excellence in their discipline. Please take this opportunity to consider DIA members who qualify for this honor. Your input is very important. DIA Board Members make the final determination.

Mail/Email **by March 1<sup>st</sup>**: Barbara Schwarz OP  
41 Union Ave, Amityville, NY 11701  
[diartsop@gmail.com](mailto:diartsop@gmail.com)

### ***“The Spiritual Connection”* Nurses the Soul**

April 2016 marks a second decade for Mary Ellen Robertson, RN, OPA Grand Rapids, as editor and publisher of *The Spiritual Connection*, a newsletter which provides spiritual nourishment to people of different faiths in many walks of life. Bi-monthly until two years ago, *The Spiritual Connection* is now issued five times a year. Assisted by her husband, Mary Ellen chooses a theme, writes an original reflection, assembles prayers, poems, and creative contributions and disseminates each collection both by email and in hard copy. Each issue invites the subscriber into a “mini-stillness.” Like every good preacher, Mary Ellen herself is first audience and beneficiary of the work. Between issues, she maintains her own “connection” with the Holy Spirit by carrying a notebook in which she jots down inspirations. Fellow nurses, recognizing the spiritual needs of those in the profession, have several times awarded Mary Ellen grants to support her work. Mary Ellen now plans a book assembled from the “best of” her twenty year treasury.



### **Armando Ibanez O.P. Captures Multiple Top Honors**

Armando Ibanez, O.P., one of DIA’s founding fathers, combines historic journalism, poetic text, and cinematic craft in his award-winning documentary: *South Texas Gentle Men of Steel, Los Padres*. In the prestigious International Independent Film Awards competition, the film captured Gold Awards in three categories: Directing, Documentary Feature, and Animated Visuals. Written, produced, and directed by Armando at Texas A&M University where he is currently an Assistant Professor of radio, television, and film studies, the script

chronicles the impact of the Dominican friars from Spain on the history of South Texas. The work pays special tribute to friars Retorillo and Rodriguez who ended an 82-year Spanish Dominican presence in central South Texas last year when they returned to Spain.



Armando’s timely, socially conscious film also celebrates the ministry of Dominican men among Mexican- American migrants in their struggle against poverty and discrimination. According to criteria for the competition, “The IndieFEST Film Awards recognize film, television, videography, and new-media professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and . . . contribute to profound social change.”

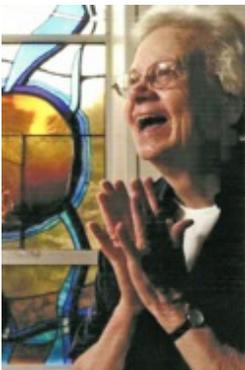
## IN REMEMBRANCE



**Stephana Toomey, O.P. (1930-2015)-1999 Fra Angelico Award Recipient: Liturgical Design**

“About four months before her death, I was in Columbus so I went to see Stephana at Mohun Care Center. Having just come back

from the hairdresser, she looked as elegant as ever in her wheelchair with her beautifully-set white hair and pastel blouse. Aware of her memory loss, I chose to ask her about what was dear to her—DIA. Her eyes lighted up at the mention of it. When I asked if she remembered receiving the Fra Angelico Award, she smilingly nodded ‘Yes.’ Then I told her that the award this year went to me; she looked at me and said audibly, ‘I am so proud of you.’ You can imagine how pleased I was to hear that from Stephana.” (Elaine DeRosiers)



**Adele Myers, O.P. (1925-2015) – 2004 Fra Angelico Recipient: Stained Glass, Sculpture**

“When I first met Adele, she told me that her first grade teacher at Resurrection School in Brooklyn was Sister Gerald Vincent and

that, even at that early age, this sister inspired her to be an artist. When I told her that Sister Gerald Vincent is now 101 years old and very alive at Sansbury Care Center in Saint Catherine Kentucky, Adele wrote her teacher a note and sent a small piece of her art work. A very delighted Sister Gerald Vincent responded to her student. This encounter was a sweet moment for both of them.” (Elaine DeRosiers)



**John Vianney Norris, O.P. (1926-2015) DIA Archivist-** “Although 69 years of Dominican life took her on journeys from a one-room school house in Kentucky to the cultural capitals of

Europe, Jean Vianney never lost the accent which identified her as a native New Yorker. Nor did she lose the sense of humor with which dictated the wish that a Milky Way and a can of Coca Cola be buried with her mortal remains. As an artist she is best remembered for the lovely paintings which now grace the walls of Sansbury Care Center where she died. (Elaine DeRosiers)



**Barbara Chenicek, O.P. (1933-2015)-2002 Fra Angelico Recipient**

“Although thirty years intervened between my two encounters with Barbara Chenicek, it was my privilege to have spent three very

full days of conversation just six weeks before her sudden death. In the mornings, I interviewed her with Rita about the 43-year history of INAI Studio; at noon she prepared and served our luncheon, as beautifully arranged as a still life painting. At 4:30, over a glass of wine, we stopped talking about work and shared personal stories about everything else. Barbara shared her plans for Rita’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party and for the book combining poetry and art which would be her “retirement project.” When my visit ended and we promised to keep in touch, it felt like the beginning of an important friendship. It still does.” (E. Michael Boyle)

***Are you on our website gallery?  
DIA members can submit info digitally  
to be included in our online gallery. See  
Our Member Page for more details.  
[www.diartsop.org](http://www.diartsop.org)***



## Celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> with Dominican Movies, Music & Magic

Celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dominican Order by going on **pilgrimage** in June with Dominican friars and DIA members Dominic DeLay and Daniel Rolland in the lands of St. Dominic: Spain, southern France, and Italy. For more information, visit [www.torch3m.org](http://www.torch3m.org), where you can also sample or buy Dominic's **new music CD**, Maintain the Light, which takes you on a musical Dominican pilgrimage of sorts.

### From the Archives, can you remember?

See photos on our website and links.



## Reflections from the President



A lot has happened since our Gathering in Great Bend. In a short period of time we lost Sisters who were significant to us at DIA as Fra Angelico Recipients and as archivist. It makes one realize how precious our times together are. It makes every gathering count as we learn from each other and encourage each other. I hope you will join us in Racine this summer.

Memberships continue to come in and we welcome back persons whom we have missed like Barbara Cervenka and Isabel Rafferty. We also have some new members as well. If you haven't sent in your membership, we hope you will do so soon. As we have received the forms we see the many ways DIA members collaborate with different groups, parishes, and their congregations/province.

You may have noticed another attempt at outreach in collaboration with the Dominican Family in terms of furthering justice and peace. (See page 2 for details.) I know you do work on the issues for congregation groups. It would be nice to share both the invitation and your work in those areas.

When we hear from your about your shows, poems and other events we try to post them and get them to Domlife. We want to brag about you! You are important to us.

Share your stories. Send your pictures (digitally). Tell the history of times spent together as artists. Who influenced you? We are preachers who together can create change in how others see the world. How will you do your part? Send your ideas and stories to [diartsop@gmail.com](mailto:diartsop@gmail.com) for the web or [emichael@caldwell.edu](mailto:emichael@caldwell.edu) for our newsletter.

Let our preaching through the arts continue!

# DIA Board 2015-16

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*Have you let your  
congregational or provincial  
communicators know if you are  
in our online gallery?*



See us at [www.diartsop.org](http://www.diartsop.org)

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**Send Collaboration Grant Forms:**  
Mary Pat Reid OP  
[marypreid@gmail.com](mailto:marypreid@gmail.com)

**Send Membership Forms with  
Payment to:**  
Barbara Schwarz OP  
555 Albany Avenue  
Amityville, NY 11701

*The 2016 DIA  
Gathering will take  
place at the new retreat  
center at Racine, WI  
from  
July 27 - July 30, 2016*

*Looking forward to  
seeing you there!*