

Aug newsletter 2010



REKNOWNED DOMINICAN PREACHERS



Sr. Ann Willits OP, a Dominican from Sinsinawa, WI, has served on the congregation's leadership team and has been a high school administrator / teacher. She has been co-director of the Parable Conference which offered multiple preaching opportunities for U.S. Dominicans. Ann is also an author, poet, humorist and storyteller. Her delivery tends to take the simple "stuff" of life and make it extraordinary. Her diverse audiences find laughter and fancy in her words yet have an experience of meeting the many faces of God. With ease and humor she incorporates the Dominican Charism and Call in her full-time preaching.

Jim Marchionda OP is a Dominican priest, preacher, composer, conductor, singer and instrumentalist offering workshops, retreats and concerts throughout the world. His unique ministry combines preaching with a professional career in sacred music. He has served on the Chicago Dominican Province leadership team. Composer of over 100

BRING THEIR ART TO ANNUAL DIA GATHERING 2010 – GRAND RAPIDS



sacred music compositions, he publishes his work through World Library Publications.

Ann Willits OP and Jim Marchionda OP will be the DIA's keynote speakers and will facilitate a day of reflection for Dominican artists and others July 28 – 29. These two have long been a vibrant pair of Dominican Preachers offering retreats and conferences that build up spiritual strength through the thoughtful and joyful delivery of Gospel truths. Their topic: *feel the flame – catch the fire – burn with peace!*, will be introduced Wednesday evening with the opening session and explored more thoroughly on Thursday (Includes an afternoon at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.)

The evening and day-long experience is not limited to Dominican artists but to all who appreciate the arts. The fee for the July 28 – 29, 2010 retreat/reflection is \$100. Contact Sue Tracy OP at 616.774.0843 or using "DIA" in the subject line. (Those registering for the DIA Gathering from July 28 – 31 have already registered and paid for the retreat/reflection experience.)

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK AWAITS YOUR ARRIVAL IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN!!

DIA members attending Gathering 2010 in Grand Rapids will spend a breathtaking afternoon at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park with the added attraction of Dale Chihuly's exhibit. Some call it a "glass act" but Chihuly, a most celebrated glass artist, simply calls it "A New Eden". Michigan's premier outdoor sculpture venue plays host to fifteen hand-blown glass sculptures, made up of over 5,000 individual multi-hued pieces of color.



Grand Rapids art appreciators are ecstatic over Chihuly's second show coming to the area. He seems doubly pleased to return, "I'm happy to be coming back to Frederik Meijer Gardens. The outdoor show will enable me to exhibit my artwork in some unique and beautiful locations throughout this magnificent garden and sculpture park. It's an honor to exhibit with so many great artists. I think the park is fabulous."

Viewers will be entranced with color-filled, light-enhanced *Chandeliers*, glass *Towers*, floating *Spheres*, *Reeds* rising from the earth, the *Sun*, the *Moon* and a rowboat full of glass. These works will catch the eye both indoors and outside. The Gardens also owns a *Chandelier* and cacophony of colorful flower-like shapes that adorn the ceiling of the dining area.

Joseph Betcherer, Meijer Gardens' chief curator and vice president, is quoted in the May edition of *On-The-Town* magazine, "This exhibition celebrates one of the world's foremost glass artists and his much-anticipated return to Meijer Gardens. Specifically created for this exhibition, Chihuly's sculptural glass infuses his expression of nature with the stunning landscape of our grounds."

Steve LaWarre, director of horticulture at the Gardens adds, "Horticulture and sculpture are fully unified in this exhibition. The landscaping incorporates our natural terrain in addition to the large-scale expression of bold colors, textures and patterns complimentary to Chihuly's work." The exhibit will provide an artistic ambrosia that will invite the artistic soul to simply soar. PS: Bring your camera.

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park is a world class park with world class attractions located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is a community and area treasure with many aspects of the arts on permanent and traveling displays. Listed below are some of its major attractions:

- Sculpture Park
- Gallery Collection
- Garden Trails
- Horticultural Exhibits
- Conservatory Collection
- Sculpture Exhibitions
- Interactive Children's Garden
- Outdoor Concert Stage

BRING & SHARE YOUR ARTIFACTS THAT SPEAK OF PEACE

Liz Sully OP – Board Chair

The High Museum in Atlanta currently has a special exhibit of antique cars. There is something about design, color, shape, shadows . . .

The plants this Atlanta springtime have been riotous in design, color, shape and shadow. Each one attempting to outdo the other.

One evening I parked the "antique" car I drive under a tree. I noticed the hanging branches above were filled with a profusion of fluffy, frilly pink blossoms. During the night the temperature dropped and the blossoms released their hold. In the morning

the car was totally covered in pink flowers. Nothing at the High Museum Antique Car Exhibit could match it.

Judy Cannato, in **Radical Amazement**, writes of the need to slow down, to take time, to witness the beauty around us of which we are a part. A car in bloom did that for me. It was an unrepeatabe work of art which Holy Mystery wrought and which I now carry in my mind's eye. Our Summer Gathering is almost upon us. You are invited to bring your thoughts and art fashioned around the theme of Peace to our Summer Gathering. May the sharing of it drop like pink petals on all of us.

REGIONAL RECRUITMENT

Appropriately, on the first day of Spring, 2010, DIA leadership coaxed a few new buds to life at the headquarters of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Ossining, New York. At the invitation of Lorraine Ferguson OP, Hope's recently appointed Promoter for the Arts, Lucianne Siers OP and fellow board members, Ann Eigenbauer OP and Mary Reid OP engaged in dialog with Hope artists about their work and that of artists in the five Dominican Congregations of the Northeast.

DIA's favorite themes were sounded as they encouraged each other to think of themselves as artists, to promote the arts in their respective communities, and of course, to support other Dominican artists by joining the DIA. Although we have not yet tallied the number recruited to the DIA roster, we do know that many new faces were early registrants for the annual Artist Retreat at Mariandale. Perhaps others will want to try a regional meeting of Dominican Artists. If so, let our newsletter editor know so it can be highlighted in OPalette and on our website.



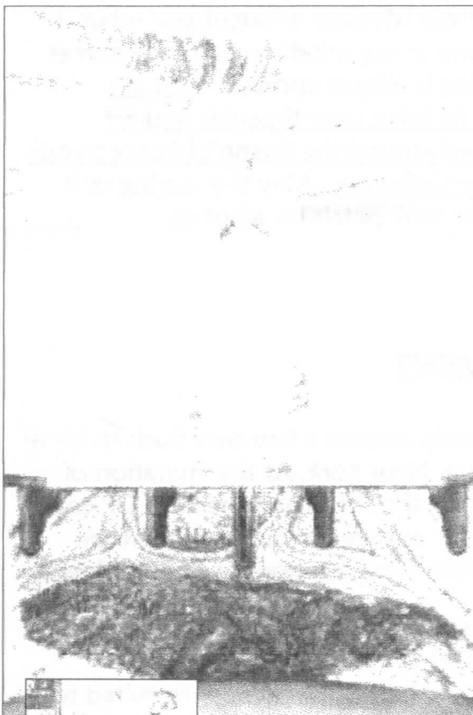
Standing l - r: Monica Socinski OP (Hope), Mary Pat Neylon OP (Amityville), Mary Pat Reid OP (Caldwell), Connie Kelly OP (Hope), Lucianne Siers OP (Grand Rapids), Donna Brunell OP (Hope), Ann Eigenbauer OP (Sparkill)

Seated l - r: Joan Smith OP (Blauvelt), Lorraine Ferguson OP (Hope), Linda Rivers OP (Hope), Diane Dupea OP (Hope), Barbara Anderson OP (Hope)

FEATURE:

Reflection by Elizabeth Michael Boyle OP

This is my second reflection on Adele Myers OP latest work which graces Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Old Tappan, New York. My first attempt flowed (pun intended) from two assumptions: 1) that the church and the artist were located overlooking the Hudson River and 2) that the artist intended to preach an eco-theological homily in mosaic



Fortunately before getting very far with my narrow pre-fabricated sermon, I consulted Adele! “In creating the design, there was no intent to preach about the

environment — although that is of utmost interest to me.” Adele chose water, she explained, as the “cleansing, grace-filled sacramental” through which Our Lady of Lourdes brought physical and spiritual healing to thousands.

When I got out of the way and let the water speak for me, it became a silent prayer to the Mother of the Word Incarnate to heal the theological wounds which fester into doubt, arrogant triumphalism, or a terrible fear of all religion.

Then the image of the clean, refreshing water surrounding the conventional statue of Mary became my prayer to the Queen of Peace for reconciliation at all levels of our violent world. When I let the water wash away all my assumptions, and speak to me, it fulfills Adele’s primary desire: “Just to create a pleasing, meaningful design.”

“Beauty is truth, truth beauty.” When we let art be itself, there is no need for preaching.

(The editors regret the quality of the photo depicting Adele’s mosaic work.)