



Entering the Threshold
of the Cosmic Christ

Adrian, MI
July 2026

Image designed by Barbara Schwarz, OP



DOMINICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS 2026 Gathering

Entering the Threshold of the Cosmic Christ

Date: July 20-23, 2026

Place: Weber Retreat and Conference Center

Address: 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221

Contact: Elizabeth Slenker OP: 314-954-5677 - slenkerelizabeth@gmail.com

Registration fee: \$350 for all Artists - \$250 for Adrian Sisters and Associates (All single rooms)

If you have not paid your annual membership (\$35) please add it to your payment (\$385 total / \$285 for Adrian Sisters and Associates)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Preferred # _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Congregational Affiliation: _____

Special needs: food / accommodation: _____

Please make check payable to the Dominican Institute for the Arts.

Mail form and check to:

Elizabeth Slenker OP, Treasurer

9921 Benson Ave.

St. Ann, MO 63074-3606

If you have any questions Call Elizabeth: 314-954-5677

Or email her: slenkerelizabeth@gmail.com

If you need transportation from/to the airport – Please fill out the form on page 7

Select Workshops / Locations - (90 minutes session each / some have double sessions)

All the Workshops will be on Tuesday, July 21

Weber (WC)

- Psalms and the Creative Spirit** with Donna Nesbitt OPA - (limited to 8) **1:30 pm**
- Recorders** with Lornetta Hooks, OPA **1:30 pm and 3:30 pm**
- Making Mosaics from Our World's Broken Pieces** with Miriam Brown, OP **1:30 pm**
- Icons: Preaching or Propaganda?** With Cheryl Liske, OP (limited to 10) - **1:30 pm**
- JUST BE**

Adrian Art Center (AAC)

- Metal Smith** with Annemarie Kallenbach, AOP (limited to 8) **1:30 pm and 3:30 pm**
- Clay Creations** with Ann Marie Santen, OP (limited to 10) **1:30 pm and 3:30 pm**
- Glass Fusion** with John Mascazine, OPA (limited to 7) **1:30 pm**

Alternative 1 _____ Alternative 2 _____

WORKSHOPS DESCRIPTION & LOCATIONS

WORKSHOPS AT WEBER OR THE MOTHERHOUSE GROUNDS

Psalms and the Creative Spirit with Donna Nesbitt AOP (First 90 min session)

In this workshop participants will choose a passage of a psalm to illuminate. We will examine examples of ways to arrange the text and creatively enhance it. All materials will be provided, and no specific skills are required. Everyone is Welcome! **Maximum 8 participants**

Recorders with Lornetta Hooks, OP (two 90-minute sessions – come and go as you please)

For Beginners: How to assemble, produce tones and play a simple melody. For Advanced players: How to improve tone and pitch quality, Everyone welcome - beginners and advance players. If you have a soprano recorder, please bring it otherwise one will be provided. **2 to 20 participants.**

Making Mosaics from Our World's Broken Pieces with Miriam Brown, OP

(First 90 min. session)

In a retreat-like workshop, we will hold lovingly the image of our planet, suffer its cutting into disparate pieces, and in a prayerful process create designs of hope from the broken pieces. Who should sign-up? - Just bring your heart and God's creative healing spirit.

Icons: Preaching or Propaganda? With Cheryl Liske, OP (First 90 minutes) **8-10 participants**

This workshop will consist of both a presentation on the history and “why” of icons and a period of Lexio Divina/Visio Divina where participants will silently reflect on select icons and then share the fruits of their reflections with the other icon gazers. Sign-up for this workshop if you are curious about the history, traditions and abuse of icons as well as the myths that surround the use of icons in the church.

Location: New INAI gallery – **Adrian Dominican Sisters Motherhouse**

JUST BE: Sometimes it's good just to take a deep breath, relax with nothing pressing to do or be some place one is expected. Relax and take time with God, Enjoy the beauty of the grounds or take a rest.

WORKSHOPS AT ADRIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS (ACA)

Metal Smith with Annemarie Kallenbach, AOP (**double session, limited to 8**)

Create a copper piece of wearable handmade art. You will learn beginner skills, and use innovative techniques for applying textures with a rolling mill, bending with a press, achieving color and hand finishing. You can bring a small line print sketch or try an assortment of everyday items to achieve this beautiful treasure.

Clay Creations with Ann Marie Santen, OP (**double session – limited to 10**)

Working with clay is working with the ancestors. Areas of discussion will be on Christ's use of clay dust and spit to heal, plus a reflection by Sr. E. Michael Boyle on the healing of the man born blind. Next the lesson will include hand building techniques, and a demo of the wheel throwing. Student may choose to learn wheel, hand of free-style clay sculpture.

Glass Fusion with John Mascazine, OPA (First 90 min session) **Limited to 7 people.**

This is an introduction to glass fusing that allows participants to create a 4x4” finished glass piece/coaster, by designing, selecting, gluing, and fusing pre-cut and ground pieces of glass. Participants will select from an array of colors, textures, and shapes of various glass bits. No previous experience necessary.

Our Keynote Speaker



Gabi Williams, OP
Dominican Sister of Oakford USA.

Gabi, got into painting as a way to reconnect with what she learned at the U.S. Assembly on Cosmic Spirituality. While organizing things at home, Gabi stumbled upon a note with a list of dreams, and one stood out: "Paint to Enjoy." That moment hit home for her. Just think about painting the stars to express the Spirituality of the Cosmos – that's how Gabi's journey started twelve years ago. Over the years, many wonderful individuals who admired her Cosmic Art have encouraged her to join the Dominican Institute for the Arts (DIA).

It took a while to make that leap. She owes a special thank you to a Sister from another congregation who continually urged her to join the DIA. Although that Sister is neither an artist nor a member, people like her are true gems, offering support and understanding to those looking to step into a bigger, more beautiful creative community. "Being part of this circle of incredible artists brings amazing joy." she said.

DIA GATHERING 2026 AGENDA

Monday, July 20 – Thursday, July 23, 2026

MONDAY, July 20
Noon – 1 pm: Planning Team & Board Arrive Planning Team needed to check participants in...
3 – 5 pm General Membership Arrives
5:00 pm Dinner (Dining Room)
6:30 pm Welcome – John Mascazine
Opening Prayer, Introductions (Adrian Sisters) Virtual Gallery, Awards & Social
TUESDAY – July 21
7 – 9 am Breakfast (Continental – Weber)
9:00 Morning Prayer -
9:30 – 10:30 Keynote (part 1) Gabi Williams (Intro. By Barbara Schwarz)
10:30 Break
11 – 11:45 Keynote (part 2)
11:45 Instructions Re: Workshops
12:00 Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 pm WORKSHOPS
3:00 Break
3:30 – 5:00 pm WORKSHOPS (Continued)
5:15 pm Nominations for the Board & Looking Ahead
5:30 pm Dinner
WEDNESDAY – July 22
7 – 9 am Breakfast (Continental – Weber)
9 am Morning Prayer -
9:30 – 10:30 Elections & Business Meeting
10:30 – 10:45 Break
10:45 – 11:30 Business Meeting Continued
11:30 – 12:00 Group Photo
12:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 pm Sharing Our Art
2:30 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 4:00 Choir Practice & Liturgy Preparation
4:00 Liturgy
5:30 – 6:30 Dinner
6:30 GALA / Social / Coffee House Style Talent Sharing
THURSDAY – July 23
7:00 – 10:00 Breakfast / Departures
10:30 Artist Retreat Begins

DIA Market Place

Please fill out the following for reserving a spot in the Marketplace

Name: _____

Congregational Affiliation: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Preferred # _____

Email: _____

1. Artists will be responsible for own artwork and materials
2. Each Displayer is responsible for setting up one's own work. Please have your request for a spot by June 15. After deadline displayers will be accommodated on a "space available: but is not guaranteed.
3. You may ship your items for the Marketplace addressed to yourself, clearly market DIA. **Do not mail anything before July 13, 2026.**
Mail to:

**YOUR NAME & DIA
c/o Beverly Woodbury
Weber Retreat and Conference Center
1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221**

Virtual Gallery

DIA Members are invited to submit five pieces of art plus a photo of the artist. Please include the title of the works and your name. Email your work in JPG format to:

Sr. Barbara Schwartz, OP
At: Artafire@gmail.com

If in two days you do not receive a confirmation of the receipt of your material from Sr. Barbara, please resent it to her at the above email address.
Please have your work sent to Barbara by June 1, 2026

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

Program/Meeting: _____

While in Adrian I will be staying at (please circle) Weber Regina Other _____

Special assistance used while traveling. Please specify: _____

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

(please make sure that your cellphone is turned on and working so that the driver can communicate with you)

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE FROM _____

Initial flight

1) Airline _____ Flight # _____ Departure Time _____ AM/PM

If you have a nonstop flight, proceed to line 4. If not, please provide information regarding your connecting flight on lines 2 and 3.

2) My initial flight is scheduled to arrive in _____ at _____ AM/PM
Airport Time

3) My connecting flight: _____ is scheduled to depart _____ AM/PM
Airline, Number

4) Arriving airport _____ Arrival Time _____ AM/PM

DEPARTURE (FROM ADRIAN TO THE AIRPORT)

DEPARTURE DATE _____ AIRPORT _____

Airline _____ Flight _____ Time _____ AM/PM

Please return this form at least 15 days prior to your arrival date to:

Transportation Services 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive Adrian, MI 49221-1793

Directions for arrival:

- Go directly to baggage claim area (lower level); go outside and wait at the curb facing the traffic. **McNamara Terminal:** Go to baggage door 5. **Evans Terminal:** go to baggage door 4. Doors are marked on the outside of the terminal.
- All arrivals: Drivers will display the "ADRIAN" sign.
- Drivers are not allowed to park the car at the curb or leave the car. If you do not flag the car down in time it will take another 4 to 5 minutes for the driver to get back to the terminal.

NOTE If there is a problem or change in your plans, please call the Transportation Office, **517- 266- 3731** during office hours Monday-Friday 7:30 am-4:00 pm. If there is no answer or you are calling outside of office hours, please call **517-266-3989**.

DIA Gathering 2026

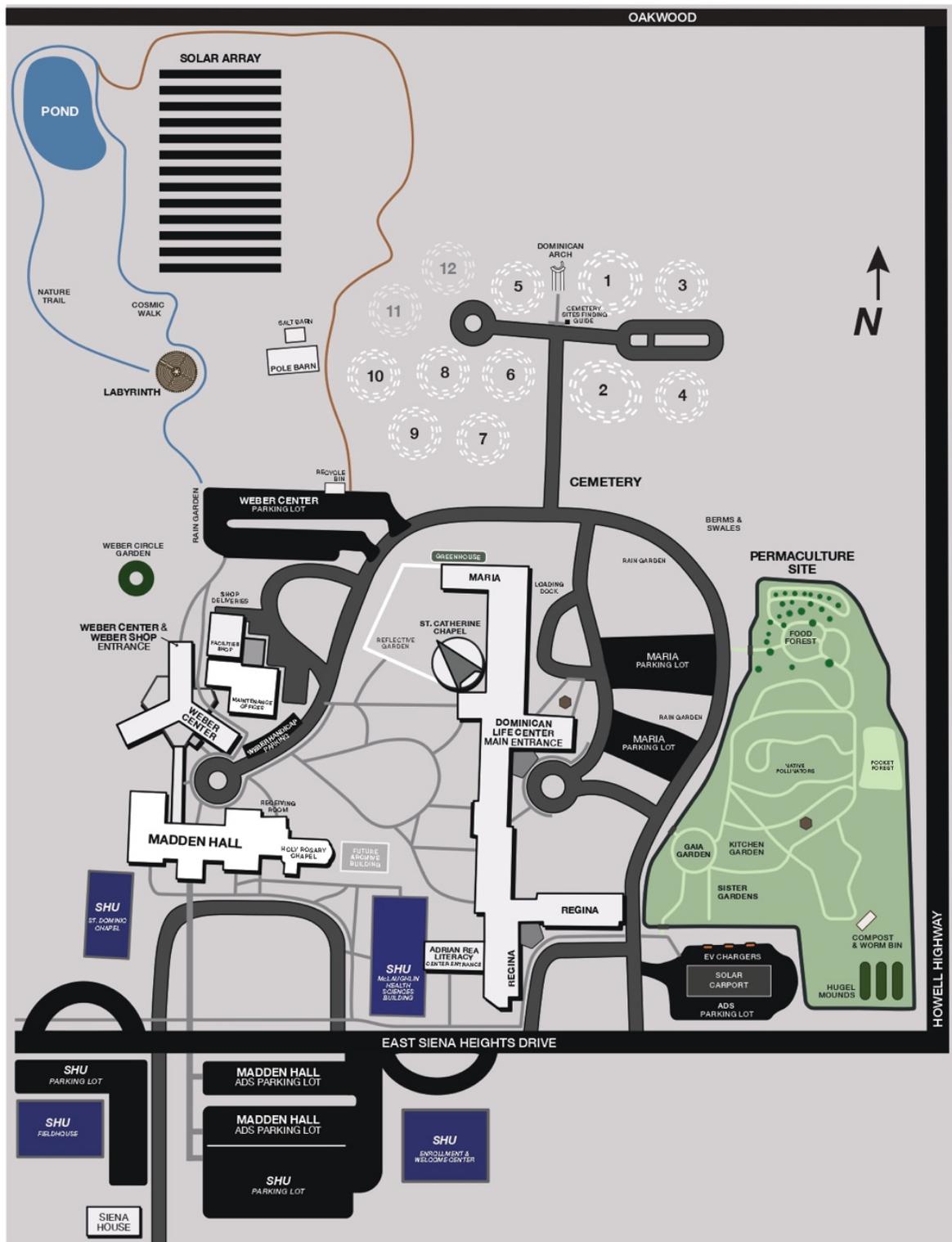
CHECKLIST

- Membership fee → (due February 2026)
- Registration form & fee → (due June 15, 2026)
- Workshop reservation → (due June 15, 2026)
- Special needs → (due June 15, 2026)
- Flight information → (due June 15, 2026)
(Please make sure you fill out the flight information paper in registration packet page 7)
- If you are driving, please let us know the time to expect you.
- Marketplace reservation → (due June 15, 2026)
(Ship to Weber by July 13)
- Virtual Gallery Entries → (due June 1, 2026)
- Scholarship Assistance → (by May 1, 2026)
- Tuck that little piece of art → Pack what you wish
in your bag you wish to share to share. Don't forget!

Please send all information and payment to:

Elizabeth Slenker OP, Treasurer
9921 Benson Ave.
St. Ann, MO 63074-3606 - slenkerelizabeth@gmail.com

Adrian Dominican Sisters Campus Map



NOTES