



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

Volume 27, Number 3 – Fall 2025 – www.diartsop.org

DIA Gathering, 2025 Attendees



Back Row, left to right: Xiomara Hernandez-Mendez, Mark Hanes, Lornetta Hooksa, Cheryl Liske, Elizabeth Slenker, Ann Marie Santen, Janet Wright, Anita Smisek, Rudolf Loewenstein, Elizabeth Sully, Barbara Schwarz, Gabi Williams, Miriam Brown

Middle Row: John Mascazine, Carol Ann Elya, Jane Rudolph, Sue Schreiber, Chela Gonzalez, Joeann Daley, Irene Mary Diones, Donna Nesbitt, Cathy Johnson-Paine, Elizabeth Lee, Nathalie Meyer, Joella Miller

Front Row: Bridget Bray, Nancy Murray, Catherine Anderson, Rosemary Asaro, Christine Cunningham, Nancyann Turner, Grace Dennis.



John's President Letter

Summertime greetings to everyone in my Dominican family of artists, supporters, and friends. As the bright days of summer shorten and the temperatures moderate, we prepare and turn our attention and energies indoors. Hopefully autumn will be a time to refocus and reflect, most especially, on the way the master artist "re-paints" nature.

Our most recent gathering was a wonderful celebration of our gifts. Looking ahead, next year's gathering will again be held at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI from July 20-23, 2026. The theme will be: **"Entering the Threshold of the Cosmic Christ."** I invite you to reflect on how your art calls you beyond daily routines and local environments. How does doing and contemplating art push us to appreciate God as "universal" and fully present?



I know that in my own life, art calls me to reflect on and contemplate the mysteries that exist well beyond our physical surroundings. Beholding or participating in great art can move us beyond our present experiences, concerns, fears. I need art retreats from time to time. There are moments (and days) when I *have* to hear great music, or watch beautiful dancing, or touch beautiful fabric / sculpture, or ponder a beautiful image, etc. Such experiences re-energize me. I hope the months ahead will do the same for you.

Blessings to all of you,

John Mascazine

John Mascazine latest glass infusion creations



Liberation



Doves in Flight

Joeann Daley's Keynote Address

Sr. Joeanne Daley gave a wonderful presentation of her life of art as the Keynote speaker for the 2025 Gathering. She noted her work for using art to build up an impoverished, struggling community of Anaconda, Montana through art and by creating an art center that has lasted to this day.

Joeann also took us through her experience building of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the migrant workers in a camp called Endeavor. This shrine is near Portage, Wisconsin. This work accomplished over sixty years ago has been made into a park with the shrine as its focal point. Sr. Joeann has spent her life creating innovative art which others would have found too daunting a task. You can hear her full keynote address on the www.diartsop.org website as well as her introduction by Sr. Miriam Brown, OP, a longtime friend of Sr. Joeann. In late July after the Gathering Sr. Joeann went to the site for the dedication of this new park which you can see in the following pictures and explanations.



Former Sister Lucan (Kathleen Broderick) and Sister Gratiana (Joeann Daley, OP on the ladder) made for the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Endeavor, WI in 1964. It has reopened with beautiful landscaping in July 31, 2025.





Suzi Ellington, Father Dale Grubba and Joeann Daley OP at the reopening of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine at Endeavor, WI on July 31, 2025.



Redeveloped Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in July, 2025



Dedication of the new park at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe built by Sr. Joanne Daley and companions.



New Pavilion built on the grounds at the shrine in 2025.

Congratulations Sr. Joeann. Could you have ever imagined that a piece of art created over sixty years ago would have the influence on a community as is your work on the shrine. An artist never knows the impact a piece of art will have, how many it will influence or how long it will last.



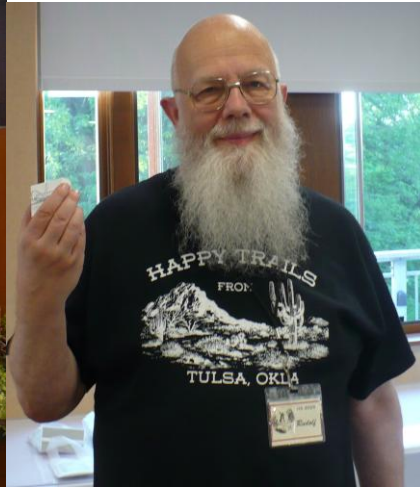
Newsletter Staff

OPalette Editor: Elizabeth Slenker OP (Sparkill) – slenkeree@yahoo.com

OPalette Layout: Donna Brunell OP (Hope) – dbrunellop@gmail.com

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

Awards at the Gathering



Twenty-five year pin Ceremony. This year's recipients were Sr. Nancy Murray and Barbara Kukla. Liz Sully and Rudolf were given their pins that they had earned last year.

The Spirit Award was given to Sr. Rosemary Asaro, in appreciation of all the behind-the-scenes work she does for DIA. Elizabeth entitled Rosemary our go-fer – Honey-do lady.



The Recipient for this year was Pat Daly, who was not able to be present at the Gathering. We have heard the criteria for someone receiving the Fra Angelico Award. Sr. Elizabeth Slenker presented what she holds as the "Ideals" of the Dominican Institute for the Arts.

1. Authenticity
2. Inclusion
3. Truth
4. Faithfulness to the Four Pillars
5. Generosity



Others may have a different set of ideals and this might be a good discussion to have of what we as members of the DIA hold as our ideals. You can read the whole presentation on the diasartsop website.

Workshops at the DIA Gathering

This year the Members of the DIA had the opportunity to have a Poetry workshop with Cathy Johnson-Payne and/or Sacred Movement with Sr. Xiomara Hernandez-Mendez. These workshops were well appreciated.

There was also the opportunity to attend classes at the Adrian Art Center. This had been arranged by Annemarie Kaltenbach for the group. Three double session classes were given, Metalsmithing with Annemarie, Glass fusion with John Mascazine, and Clay works with Sr. Ann Marie Santen. Following are some of the photographs with these workshops.



Cathy Johnson Payne leading the workshop in Poetry



Sacred Movement with Sr. Xiomara



Metalsmithing: Objects made were pendants of silver, and copper bracelets



John's class in glass fusion



Sr. Ann Marie's class Praying with clay

Poetry Page

“For Times Such as These”

(Cathy wrote this poem at the Gathering as it touched her heart.)

Artists see new horizons
Crossing thresholds and creating milestones
Weaving together people, town, and work
Rooted in faith and abounding in love.

Crossing thresholds and creating milestones
From mills to harbors, from gardens to tapestries
Rooted in faith and abounding in love
The Beloved community is strengthened.

From mills to harbors, from gardens to tapestries
Weaving together people, town, and work
The Beloved community is strengthened
As Artists see new horizons

Abuse of power unravels the threads of community
Greed hordes the gifts.
The variety of voices is silenced
While fears hover in the air.

Greed hoards the gifts
Earth's beauty is desecrated
While fears hovers in the air
The Belovedness of most is undermined.

Earth's beauty is desecrated
The variety of voices is silenced
The Belovedness of most is undermined
As abuse of power unravels threads of community.

So again and again, Artists hear the call
Gathering to listen and to dream and to hope
Seeing yet more new horizons
Risking new thresholds to Belovedness.

Gathering to listen and to dream and to hope.
Calling on deeply rooted resilience
Risking new thresholds to Belovedness
Trusting Spirit's abundant and tenacious courage.

Calling on deeply rooted resilience
Seeing yet more new horizons
Trusting Spirit's abundant, and tenacious courage
Again and again, Artists hear the call.

Rev. Cathy Johnson-Paine - July 22, 2026 ©

The Feast of St. Mary of Magdalen is on July 22.
Martha's feast is July 29. Martha Bartholomew
was inspired to write for the Marthas and
Marys:

3 Ms

M for Magdalen –Martha-Me?
Love without measure
Live without Blame
Here-in and where-as
Bright Stars beam
 Shoots of Everlastingness!
Dispel or Despair?
 Collusion or Collision?
Re-spell lines half forgotten
 Or lazy, latent latitudes?
Eclipse - Entice?
 Invite! Demand!
Awake thou that sleepeth!
Here! Hear! Feel!
The Poet prods – promises – propels
Note – Again – Bright shoots
Some are shy –
Begin to bloom
What do you hear? Here!
Whispering – entrusting the Secret –
 The Secret is - - - -
Hello Spring - Summer
 Autumn – Winter
 Winter again?
Maybe we can build another
 Snowman or Snowperson?
I am she!
Magdalen -Martha – and Me?!!

Martha Bartholomew 2025

Notes from the Business Meeting

At the business meeting a lively discussion was held in which Sr. Elizabeth Slenker led the group with questions on the direction DIA needs to take in the future. After each question was asked the participants had “table talk” in which they could discuss their thoughts about the questions. If there is any one subject that peaks your interest as you read this newsletter, and you have some ideas about it, please send your ideas to Sr. Elizabeth Slenker at the address given in the Board information.

These are:

1. How do we promote DIA?
2. How do I make a difference as an artist in my community/Community?
3. The Nature of the Artist is to see things in a different way. How do I see?
4. How do I as an artist collaborate with artists of other disciplines?
5. If we are to invite others to join, what are the benefits of belonging to DIA – to myself and to the person I am inviting?

Following are crypt notes of the conversations that were voiced after each question. These are ideas that surfaced. They are presented as ideas, not as a polished document as the ideas need to unfold as we move forward.

Collaborative work in DIA

Musicians, poets, artists

Emerging thresholds

Ask expectations of the group- no agenda

Surprise workshops

Tel Talk: Designers to international meeting; send best designers

New product never done

Promoting DIA:

Invite one person

Design Brochure to give to interested people

Ones to reach out to:

Dominican Preaching; High school & College students

DIA give invitation to insert other groups into the organization

Open up to other Congregations and laity: Keeping a Dominican flavor

Work up a presentation to introduce those attending the High School and college preaching conference.

Submit a presentation

Zoom with Associations

Become familiar with the National Association of Associates

Ask to present at the annual DSC

If we are to recruit or invite:

What are the benefits

Use Social media

Partner the new first timers to be accompanied by one of us

Bend over backwards to make the new members feel welcome

DIA Artists at the DSC

What about an art articulator?

Put in art form what we saw

Communicate with other artists:

Dancers, art therapists, music therapists; invite them

Make the time because it is important

What about reaching out to the friars?

Ask the question, “What has DIA done for me?”

Promote our Mission Statement more.

Honor artists, promote art as preaching

Embrace the radical amazement of being co-creators

Have a sponsorship for the DIA

Speak about a place for artists to flourish

See about having different places to hang up DIA work, sponsor individuals.

Board Members for 2025-26



Left to right: John Mascazine, President; Sr. Rosemary Asaro, Secretary; Rudolf Loewenstein, OP Member at Large; Sr. Nancy Murray, Vice President; Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, Treasurer/Membership; Sr. Xiomara Hernandez-Mendez, Member at Large; Mark Hanes, Member at Large

Board Information:

John Mascazine, President
PO Box 433
Dublin, OH 43017
614-565-4822
twineducation@yahoo.com

Sr. Nancy Murray, Vice President
821 Vine Street
Adrian MI 49221
(H) 517-266-8491 (C) 517-902-9618
nmurray@adriandominicans.org

Sr. Rosemary Asaro, Secretary
705 E. Siena Heights Drive #3
Adrian, MI 49221
517-263- 7665 c. 313-804-6495
rasaro@adriandominicans.org

Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, Treasurer & Membership
9921 Benson Avenue
St. Ann, MO 63074-360
314-954-5677
slenkeree@yahoo.com

Members at Large:

Mark Hanes
PO Box 433
Dublin, OH 43017
614-578-0840
mhcommerce@gmail.com

Xiomara Hernandez- Mendez
12032 Griffing Blvd.
Biscayne Park, FL 33616
517-990-2720
sisters@domlife.org

Rudolf Loewenstein
St. Dominic's Priory
Southampton Rd
London, England NW5 4LB
Phone: 020-7482-9219
rudolf.loewenstein@english.op.org

Memorials

Barbara Kukla, OP, a Racine Dominican has been an active Member of the Dominican Institute for the Arts for twenty-six years. In 2016 Barbara was awarded with the Spirit Award from DIA for her efforts in being the point person for all the behind the scenes work she did to make the yearly Gathering a wonderful time together. Barbara worked as an Art Therapist with many different groups throughout her professional life. In an article about her work she is quoted as saying, "Art is a wonderful way of getting people to share what they are feeling inside, and being able to express those feelings is part of the healing process. It works for people of all ages, and you don't have to be a skilled artist to reap its benefits." Barbara also worked with the Racine Sisters in enabling those with health challenges to practice their skills as artists. We will miss your sweet smile, Barbara. May your gentle work continue through what you have given those whose lives you so effectively touched throughout your ministry.



Mary Pat Reid, OP – Authentic, Generous, Talented, Caring, Confidant, Available, Dependable, Gentle, Unassuming... There are not enough words to describe Sr. Mary Pat Reid, a Caldwell Dominican. Mary Pat was one of the original members of DIA, holding membership since its Founding in 1998. Mary Pat served on many DIA Boards and Planning Committees. If there was a job to do, she would volunteer.



Mary Pat is known for her excellence in many art disciplines, from calligraphic skills to pottery to healing arts. She was a person you could ask to do anything, and it would be done with care and skill. Mary Pat lived the values of the DIA, preaching the Word of God through her art. Many may not have noticed her because she moved quietly and peacefully among us. Mary Pat left us suddenly and we will all very profoundly miss her. Our dear Mary Pat you are a gift, a present, and a great example. Surely Heaven is a much better place because you are now there.

