



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

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Fra Angelico Award 2026 Recipient

Sr. Mary Anna Euring, OP



Sr. Mary Anna Euring receiving the Fra Angelico award from her Prioress, Sr. Peggy McVetty at Amityville.

Congratulations, Mary Anna!



President's Message

Dear companion artists,

As we wind down this very hot and turbulent summer, we call to mind God's blessings for many gifts and mercies. We can be grateful for our own talents and abilities and the blessings they bring to others. We can savor the time spent on retreat or with our DIA brothers and sisters. We can be thankful for the rest and refreshment that we've experienced this summer. However, most of all, we can be grateful for our faith that is really one of Holy Hope.



I recently attended a retreat sponsored by the Paulist Fathers and directed by Fr. Steve Bell. He clearly outlined the differences between being optimistic people and of being faith-filled people of Holy Hope. Hope in the Christian sense, reaches well beyond just being optimistic. It entails a calling forth of God's presence and intervention in challenging times. It's a virtue that is based on scripture and theology. Holy Hope includes groaning. Groaning as a deep yearning for more as we seek the work and intervention of the Holy Spirit. Groaning as the deep work that is often required as we meet God and find our way.

I mention all this for a simple reason. Don't we, as artists, often experience holy hope in our efforts and work to bring our talents to artistic expression? Don't we often reach points where we groan and yearn deeply for the hand of God to guide us? Don't we, especially in these challenging times, groan to bring our message of God's love to an injured and suffering world in and through our expressions?

Holy hope can be our sustenance. Holy hope can enlighten and lighten our endeavors. So, it is my hope, as we move into the cooler autumn months that you experience such a Holy Hope that inspires you and your work as an artist preacher and a member of St. Dominic's family.

Peace and Holy Hope,

John Mascazine, OPA

Note from the Editor:

Directions for accessing the Membership Directory:

Each member with an email address should have received a copy of the Membership Directory.

If you did not, you can access it on the DIA website, www.diartsop.org.

How to become a member:

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Dominican Institute for the Arts can request a form for Membership from

Sr. Cheryl Liske, OP

15837 Avon Road

Detroit, MI 48223

cliske@adriandominicans.org

Either mail your request or email Cheryl at the above address.

You can also ask a present member who can get a form for you.



“Praising, Blessing and Preaching the Word of God through Art”

Br. Joe Kilikevich

We are all gifted with the call to be artists. Some are educated in the many processes involved in giving expression to this.

We are musicians, poets, painters, sculptors,

printmakers, dancers and many other ways to give expression to the artist within us. Believing that we are all made in the image and likeness of the Divine Artist, I have offered the skills and practices of artists to others in classrooms and in retreat centers. I have always considered this my way to preach as a Dominican friar. While having others produce museum quality art was not necessarily my purpose, I found that much of what was accomplished came close to it. Claiming oneself as an artist is no small accomplishment. For long after the high school or college art courses, one is given the opportunity to be an artist with one's life. The art of loving others continues to present itself as the art of friendship, teaching, parenting, ministering, writing, cooking, and so on. After a while one sees endless possibilities for showing up in our lives as artists. This



involves preparation, effort, making good choices, contemplation and prayer. The questions arise. What is being called for? How can I help others to see what may not be what they can see now? What needs to be considered so that good decisions are made? Does

what we do express truth and beauty?

Realizing that art is not just for the professionally trained artist, I chose to make my life the artwork I can bring to the world. And my Preaching as a Dominican has been about being an artist with one's life. Do your life beautifully, with kindness, justice, patience, compassion and forgiveness. As studio art becomes less possible for us, the art of being a living human being takes over and the precious time that remains offers our preaching, a preaching that is silent, hopeful and forgiving. Our motto still works. Praise, bless and preach.

-- Br. Joseph Kilikevich, OP

(Being your brother is a title I have always loved.)



Sr. Kathleen Voss, Memorial

Sister Kathleen Voss, our fellow DIA Member passed on July 24, 2026. She is well known for her beautiful computer graphics. May she rest in the arms of the Divine Artist.

Martha Bartholomew's "Seamless Garment"

Worn at the Eucharistic Celebration at the DIA, 2026

Martha Bartholomew is a fantastic fiber weaver, an amazing weaver of poetic words and a woman of her word. She sent this beautiful tunic to the DIA Gathering to accompany her insightful poetry about the Seamless Garment worn by Christ at his crucifixion. Rudolf Loewenstein, OP, was clothed in it at the Eucharistic Liturgy for the Dominican Institute for the Arts, This is one of Martha's poems about the Seamless Garment. Her whole presentation can be found in the Virtual Gallery of DIA for 2026, www.diartsop.org.

From four soldiers come whoever we are, intend to be whenever.
We become the artist we are intended to be whenever we accept the invitation to enter deeply into the life through creation, whether by writing, painting, dancing, weaving, throwing clay, composing music-any medium of life observed and lived in relationship.

Our expressions are the fossils of our inner experience.

One garment, four soldiers

Two Quakers were walking together

one morning: Were you faithful?

Did Thee yield?"

--Martha Bartholomew



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Artists as Preachers

— Donna Brunell OP

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, I was asked to organize an art exhibit to celebrate the many forms of preaching through the arts over the years by our sisters and associates.

Each was permitted to submit up to three original pieces of their own works of art or that of another whose works they hold in their possession.

The display was set up in the exhibition area at the back of the Mariandale chapel and open to the public from July through October. Visitors have been treated to an impressive variety of themes as well as art mediums!

Paintings, drawings, wood carvings, pottery, wall quilts, a linoleum block print, a liturgical dance video, hand drawn greeting cards, a book of calligraphy, photography, and stained glass were among the items on display.

Reactions of visitors on family reunion day, July 18, clearly proved that the arts provide a wonderful way to highlight the works of our Creator God.



Just a few of the many items on display!



Sr. Xiomara's Homily

Preached at the Eucharistic Celebration, July 22, 2026

Feast of St. Mary Magdalen, Patron Saint of the Dominican Order

This very beautiful preaching by Sr. Xiomara Mendez-Hernandez, OP, from the Gospel of John 20:1-18, is a refreshing exploration of Mary Magdalene's relationship with Jesus and the Apostles, her role as Apostle to the Apostles, as well as Patron Saint of the Dominican Order. This is a summary of her remarks. Her whole Homily can be found on the DIA Website, www.diartsop.org.

"On this great feast, we celebrate Mary of Magdala. As we hear in the Gospel today, she is the very first witness to the risen Christ and the one sent to proclaim the good news to the other disciples. She is also the patron saint of our Dominican Order

Last Sunday, I was talking to my good friend Arturo. I asked him, "Do you think Mary Magdalene was a prostitute? He smiled and responded: "This is what it is said about her, but I don't because I did not witness

it." Like Arturo, many people, for centuries only know Mary Magdalene as a woman "weeping inconsolably at Jesus' empty tomb", as a penitent, and as a prostitute, even today. What is the truth behind one of the gospel's most fascinating figures?

Mary Magdalene is present throughout the gospels, where she appears 14 times. The only woman mentioned more times than her in the New Testament is Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus.

The Bible only introduces her as a woman who Jesus healed by casting out 7 demons from her, indicating that she experienced a profound transformation before joining his group of disciples.



After that, Mary Magdalene, occupies a place of prominence not just among the women called to serve Jesus, but among all his disciples. Her presence among Jesus' most intimate circle marks her as one of the most influential people in the history of salvation.

She comforted Jesus and stood as witness to his final hours, even after most of the other disciples abandoned, denied, and betrayed him. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, she waits outside of Jesus's tomb while Joseph of Arimathea prepares Jesus' body; and John describes her as the person who discovers Jesus's empty tomb. Even more significant, Mary Magdalene

stands out as the first disciple to witness the resurrected Christ.

Furthermore, Jesus trusted Mary with being the first person on Earth to spread the good news: "Go to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17

Although the gospels only speak about Mary Magdalene's devotion to Jesus and affirm her status as one of his most beloved followers a great myth has spread about her.

What happened to Mary's real story? What happened with the full identity of Mary?

This popular misconception heavily influenced Western art and literature for over 1,400 years.

Speaking about art: How has Mary been represented or misrepresented through the arts?

Historically, Mary Magdalene's narrative was heavily distorted by tradition and art. For millennia, artists have been influenced by the misconception of her real story.

Every painting of Mary Magdalene, who usually is portrayed in seductive manners with exposed breasts and almost always dressed in red, both traditional symbols associated with prostitution. It wasn't until **July 22, 2016**, when the first official Feast of St. Mary Magdalene was celebrated. Pope Francis elevated her liturgical commemoration from a memorial to a major feast day, giving her the official title "Apostle to the Apostles" and placing her on par with the male apostles on the church calendar.

Today, Mary Magdalene is celebrated as a devoted disciple, a financial supporter of Jesus' ministry (*Luke 8:3*), and a passionate lover of Christ.

Mary's joyful proclamation became the blueprint for the Order of Preachers. As Dominican Artists, we have the responsibility to preach truth through the arts.

May we be inspired by our sister Mary, who lived through a chaotic era, shared a close relationship with Jesus, generously supported his ministry; and moved by love, courageously preached the Good News with joy - even in difficult times!

Indeed, she deserves to be celebrated as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

DIA 2026 Metalsmithing Workshop

Lots of fun was had with the Metalsmithing class held at the Adrian Arts Center. Annmarie Kallenbach worked with the members to create some fantastic jewelry.

John and Mark made a donation to ACA for their gracious hosting of the workshops held there. John also holds membership in the ACA in order to facilitate our use of its facilities.



Excerpts from the Keynote address

Dominican Institute for the Arts, 2026



We were treated to a very special keynote at the gathering in July. Sister Gabi Williams took us on a journey, “Entering the Thresholds of the Cosmic Christ.” She said our story in the universe

is not isolated or accidental but is interconnected with all life, woven thread by thread into the great tapestry of all life.

This short summation by the Editor only touches on the wisdom of our fellow member, Gabi. To really appreciate the work that her research involved you can view the whole on the website at www.diartsop.org.

Gabi said to follow the footprints of the Cosmic Christ is to touch the artistry of the divine, awaken God's truth present in the Universe, that is not only around us but also within us. We are related very closely with all creation.

Gabi had some extraordinary insights. Some of her words invited us to seek Creation, not as scenery but a sacrament, a meeting place of two realities, ourselves and God; to see ourselves not as owners but as participants; to seek Christ not only as Redeemer of souls but as the radiant center of living Universe.

“Entering the Thresholds of the Cosmic Christ” is not just a human story but a cosmic story written across billions of years in the language of light and gravity. The cosmos is not about

looking outward into the vastness. It is about looking inward and realizing that the same creative force that spins galaxies also spins the thread of our compassion, our curiosity and our courage.

The cosmic story is still being written. We are its authors. Every act of kindness, every step towards understanding leads to the grand story as if the Universe is watching, not with judgment but with wonder at us.

Our challenge is the stewardship of our planet of our shared humanity of a fragile thread of consciousness that connects us to the cosmos.

Creativity is not separate from cosmology. Human creativity takes the cosmic process and turns it into symbols, stories, music, architecture, theology and myth. Creativity is the Universe becoming legible. Creativity is where cosmology stops being a set of equations and becomes wonder, reverence, meaning, vocation and worship. It is cosmology made human.

Scientists theorize the universe started with a Big Bang. Another theory is that the Universe started with a “Big Breath” (Jude Currivan). Nebulas swirled like dancers auditioning for an interstellar ballet. Galaxies formed shapes like sculptors experimenting with clay. Musicians all vibrations began as a cosmic UUMMM. The cosmos did not create; it preformed itself into existence. Our very DNA originates from stars and Stardust through the nuclear fission process.

Gabi used CS Lewis's ***The Chronicles of Narnia*** as the basis to explain the Cosmic Christ. Lewis' creativity is used to arrive at the fundamental truths in the cosmic heaven, not as an empty space of stars and planets but natural forces that are signs of God's glory, and not random debris.

Lewis' cosmic spirituality was seeing the universe as God's living Cathedral. Lewis didn't reject modern astronomy, he re enchanted it. His cosmic spirituality blends medieval imagination with Christian theology and a modern sense of vastness. For Lewis the seven ***Chronicles of Narnia*** are the seven cosmic faces of Christ.

Gabi defined our body as the universe, as cosmic. It is a living universe where every organ, cell, breath, mirrors the structure, rhythm and mystery of our stars. Your skin is the cosmic boundary; your heart is the center of the solar system. In your body your lungs are twin nebulae, vast clouds where breath becomes life. Your bones are the ancient constellations. Their memory, the stars hold ancient light. Your bones are the architecture of your inner sky. Your blood is the Milky Way, flowing through you. It moves in spirals, currents and tides, and connects every region of your inner universe with every other. Your liver is a forge transforming elements. Your stomach a volcanic world breaking down matter into energy. Your brain a galaxy of lightning, storms. Every organ is a world, and every world contributes to the harmony of the whole. Your nervous system is a consolation of light. Your nerves are star pathways, filaments connecting every corner of your cosmos. Your mind is the expanding universe; ever expanding, full of unseen forces, shaping your life's galaxies. Your thoughts and dreams, the cosmic background, echoes of everything you've lived. It is the infinite unfolding and always becoming. Your soul is the mystery beyond the stars. The soul is the silence behind your body universe. It is a part of you that is not contained by the cosmos but contains it. You are not in the universe you are the universe.

Gabi based some of her research on the work of Jude Currivan, a PhD distinguished scientist, cosmologist, planetary healer, teacher and author, an archaeologist specializing in ancient cosmology. She holds a degree in physics

focusing on cosmology and quantum physics. Currivan attempts to re-tell the history of the Universe not as a random mechanical accident, but as a meaningful conscious evolving whole. She argues that the universe is not a chaotic explosion but a finely tuned ongoing "Big Breath," arrhythmic, intentional, unfolding, rather than one Big Bang. Currivan traces the entire evolutionary journey with evidence of 13.8 billion years of story as a progressive deepening of complexity and consciousness using mathematics and physics. She explains that humanity is awakening to its role as Co-creators, and the ongoing evolution to why this story matters. Her work is a call to transformation. It offers a unitive worldwide view that dissolves the separation between sciences and spirituality.

Gabi's last part of her Keynote with us takes a journey entering the various chambers evolving deeper into the Cosmic Christ. Christ speaks and says to us, *"Hear this. Whatever you ask, I do not answer from afar. I answer from within you because the sanctuary you walk in now is the sanctuary I have placed in your heart."*

She refers back to the tapestry mentioned at the beginning of the keynote and says as the tapestry shifts you see a constellation forming around your personal thread, not of stars but of the lives of people you touched without knowing, moments where your presence altered the atmosphere, choices made that redirected the course of another; kindnesses that became turning points; wounds that when healed will heal others. Where you walk the sanctuary walks, where you speak resonance speaks, where you love creation heals. Christ says, *"You are not small in my cosmos. You are a living thread of my life."* Christ embraces you forever and in the breaking of the bread you shall know him.

This short excerpt only touches the surface of Gabi's brilliance. You can listen to the entire presentation at www.diartsop.org

Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP Receiving the 2026 Spirit of Molloy Award

Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP



The Office of Alumni Relations of Molloy University, in collaboration with the Alumni Association Board, is excited to share the 2026 Spirit of Molloy Award Recipients. These awards represent alumni who embody Molloy's core values and inspire us all through their leadership, service, and integrity.

As part of the Spirit of Molloy Reunion and Celebration on June 13, 2026, we honor those distinguished alumni who exemplify our core *values* in their work and life characterized by:

- Acting justly and with kindness in all our endeavors.
- Transforming our communities.
- Reflectively listening to ourselves, our God, and the signs of the times in our contemporary world.
- Searching for Truth and being open to each other's Truths.

FOUR PILLARS AWARD:

Inspired by the Four Pillars: study, service, spirituality & community.

Honors: An alumnus/a who truly *lives* the Molloy Mission and embodies all four pillars through their careers and charitable spirit. Barbara Schwarz was awarded the Four Pillars award.

Sister Barbara Schwarz, O.P., a Dominican Sister of Amityville and graduate of Molloy College's Class of 1972, has dedicated her life to faith, art, and ministry. A prolific artist working across many mediums including painting, clay, wood, mandalas, and digital art, she believes the arts allow people to encounter the deepest truths of the human heart.

In addition to her artistic work, Sister Barbara has served as a presenter, preacher, educator, and leader within the Dominican Institute of the Arts, where she received both the Spirit Recognition and the Fra Angelico Award, the organization's highest honor. Her work has been featured internationally through publications, conferences, podcasts, and collaborative ministry projects rooted in spirituality, healing, and justice.

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

The Artist's Retreat

By Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP



Left to right: Mark Hanes, Sisters Elizabeth Slenker, Joella Miller, Gabi Williams, Catherine Anderson, Rosemary Asaro, Nancy Murray, John Mascazine and Rudolf Loewenstien, OP.

For this experience, seven brave souls set out to explore the potential of making an artist's retreat responding to how we preach the Word of God through our Art. The group consisted of a musician, a stained-glass artist, an actress, a painter, a book writer and illustrator, an electronic technologist, and a card maker. For the Eucharist and evening meal we were joined by two Adrian DIA members.

The day began with prayer. Each person formulated a prayer in how to bring focus into the day and use one's art to preach God's Word. Then each person went off to work in one's specialty. In late afternoon we gathered for Eucharistic celebration, dinner, then a conversation about how each one spent the day.

It takes time to percolate ideas to create. Some had definite plans, others allowed the Spirit to work within. This took the form of walks in nature, view artistic displays, shopping, run errands, do good deeds, visit the residents in the campus housing facilities or get heavily involved in one's project.

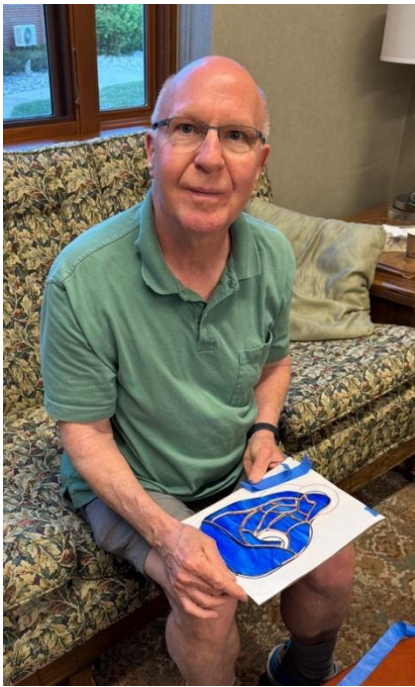
When we came together in the evening, ideas were exchanged, we shared what we had done for the day, inspired each other, and gained new insight into how to use our creativity for God's honor and glory. There were several collaborative works that resulted from these very positive exchanges. There was no pressure to complete anything, just let the Holy Spirit inspire and move one to produce impressive, on-going works, awe each other with what was produced, enjoy the humor of the experience- live, laugh and love.



Rudolf's piece given to the caterer



Catherine working on a design



John working in stained glass

We shared:

John spoke about his project with foiling with stained glass. He had used left over pieces from other projects to use to create sun catchers. He used prisms, lots of blue glass, and created a beautiful scene of the nativity.

Rudolf worked on a crocheted afghan that he gave to the caterer who prepared such wonderful meals. He also divined musical compositions as he worked on the afghan.

Elizabeth created a poem that had been rattling around in her head about a Christmas story. She wanted to put it to music, but suggestions were made to create it into a book. This story has a different bent to it about those who may have helped Mary as she gave Jesus birth, including other humans and animals. She also worked on illustrating and writing a new book.



Elizabeth enjoying the Labyrinth

Catherine used the Neurogenic system of a subconscious random scribbling and then evolving it into an art piece. What she had was very beautiful, rounded and soft. She worked it with watercolor pencils. She also showed us a beautiful flower she had made.

Gabi is working on a painting interconnecting Catherine of Siena with a heavenly constellation. She wants to use one of the images from the Hubble or Webb telescopes as well as the very interesting face she found of a woman who comes to pray in her church. She worked the woman's image in pastel. When she gets it to where she wants, she will transfer it to a canvas interposing the facial image with the interstellar image.

Nancy Murray has many different and diverse projects. Thursday, she took Gabi to the migrants' camp clinic for health care. Gabi was most impressed with all the respect Nancy was given by the doctors and interns who were there to administer medications.

In one morning prayer Elizabeth read from the Book of Genesis of what God had fashioned on the seven days and how good all Creation was in God's eyes. She invited the attendees to take the word, C R E A T I V I T Y, and formulate words during the day of that spoke of the act of creating and how it applied to one's art.

At evening prayer these were shared:

C: create, care, conduit

R: reposition, reach, re-organize, response

E: experiment, embroider, explain, endeavoring

A: Attend, aiding,

T: Thanksgiving, treasuring

I: in the manner, initiating

V: viewing, validating

I: in time, imagining

T: try new things, taking time,

Y: you, yield

Our discussions centered around claiming one's artistic talent. The importance of creating is much more important than one's qualifications. A trained artist struggles just as much with a blank canvas as does a self-taught artist. We delved into the spirituality of artistic work, and how what comes from the soul is so important.

From one idea others grow. The retreat members gained a lot of interconnecting ways in which to approach art. Suggestions, and lots of ohs and aahs surrounded everyone's contributions. The consensus was that the pace of the retreat, the time one could spend committing to what they pleased, and the leisurely pace of the day was greatly appreciated. Of course, lots of naps get squeezed in between the work.

Our prayers asked for seeking, working, inspiration, wisdom and emotional connections encountered in one's art.

Save the Date

An Invitation to the DIA from Dr. Phyllis Chapell, MD, MS, FAAHPM

Dominicans Connect is an enrichment program organized by a team of Dominican Associates and Sisters that has been offered on Zoom for the past several years. The program is for vowed Sisters, Committed Associates, Dominican Family members, Discerners/Candidates, and Seekers.

Dominicans Connect is hosting a panel discussion, *Preaching Through the Arts*, on Tuesday, April 13, 2027, featuring three Dominican artists who share the fruits of their contemplation and preach through their art.

I have been invited to join two visual artists to discuss my contemplative process for creating and preaching through liturgical dance, and to share a few examples of my dancing.

I have found two videos of my liturgical dance; neither is of high quality. I have been able to find the video of my very first dance. May my presentation be a blessing.

With kindness,

Phylliss

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