



| Apple Blossoms. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 26, 2016

by **GSR Staff**,

Apr. 26, 2016 in **Visual Life**

"There is a reason why most motherhouse grounds had orchards — to make visible the growth in the Spirit in ourselves and in those to and with whom we minister."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Azalea in Bloom. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 19, 2016

by *GSR Staff*,

Apr. 19, 2016 in *Visual Life*

"With the propriety of a mansion planting
The pink and red flowers join in a communal bloom
Gladdening the heart and singing for joy!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Crocus Proclaiming Hopes of Spring. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 12, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Apr. 12, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"I stand poking out to proclaim, 'Hopes of Spring!'"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

SHARE

Check out our special series on the U.S. prison system and sisters who advocate for a change in policies. [Read it here.](#)



| A Snail's Pace. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 5, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Apr. 5, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"Why do we expect change to happen rapidly?
We don't really know the outcomes.
May we have the snail's patience."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Daffy Smiles. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 28, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Mar. 28, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"Oh, I wait for those daffy smiles
that let me know spring is really coming!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (5 thanks so far)

[SHARE](#)



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| Crosses. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 27, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Mar. 27, 2016 in [Visual Life](#).

"In a world with many crosses,
we believe in the One who raised Jesus from the Dead."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| "This is the Promised Land?!" (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 22, 2016

by GSR Staff,

Mar. 22, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

On the other side
Barbed wire
Refugee camps
Lines for water and food
The kinship kindnesses
Of those in between
The dark realities

Death
Fears
Waiting for a welcome
Hidden in the shadows
Longing simply for a home
And safety for children and families
Are they not our human family?

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

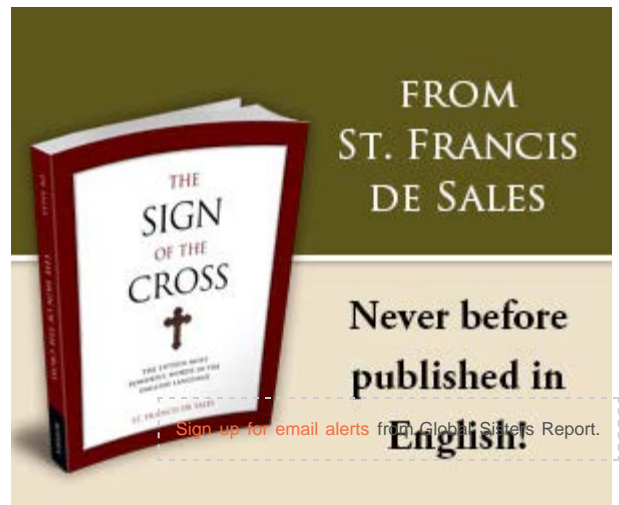
Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

 SHARE

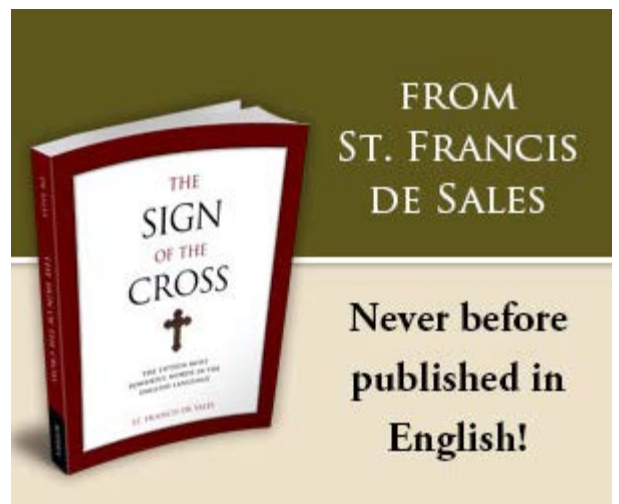


Preachers of Truth • Love • Justice

Advertisement



Advertisement



Advertisement

Also in Visual Life:
March 21, 2016
GSR Staff (Mar 21, 2016)

Also in Visual Life:
March 18, 2016
GSR Staff (Mar 18, 2016)

[Ministry](#) [Spirituality](#) [Trends](#) [Environment](#) [Equality](#) [Migration](#) [Trafficking](#) [Resources](#) [Letters to the Editor](#)

[Home](#) [About](#) [Why Sisters?](#) [Contact](#) [NCRonline.org](#) [Advertise](#) [Donate](#) [Search](#)

About Global Sisters Report

March 18, 2016

by GSR
Staff



Ice Daisies Playing in the Snow. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

Mar. 18, 2016 in

- [Visual Life](#)

"Never saw hide and seek
With daisies in the snow.
The joyful play reminds me to notice
And take time to play."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

[Say thanks](#)

0



| Migration - The New Exodus. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

February 24, 2016

by **GSR Staff**,

Feb. 24, 2016 in **Visual Life**

"One does not seek to be a refugee.
Desparation
Hunger
Violence
Safety
Are the driving force.

A sense of possibility
Moves people
In solidarity
Despite the cost of smugglers
The dangers of the journey
Fear for the little ones
In faith they move
With hope."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

 SHARE



Preachers of Truth • Love • Justice

Advertisement



Advertisement



Advertisement

Also in Visual Life:
February 23, 2016
GSR Staff (Feb 23, 2016)

Also in Visual Life:
February 22, 2016
GSR Staff (Feb 22, 2016)

[About Global Sisters Report](#)

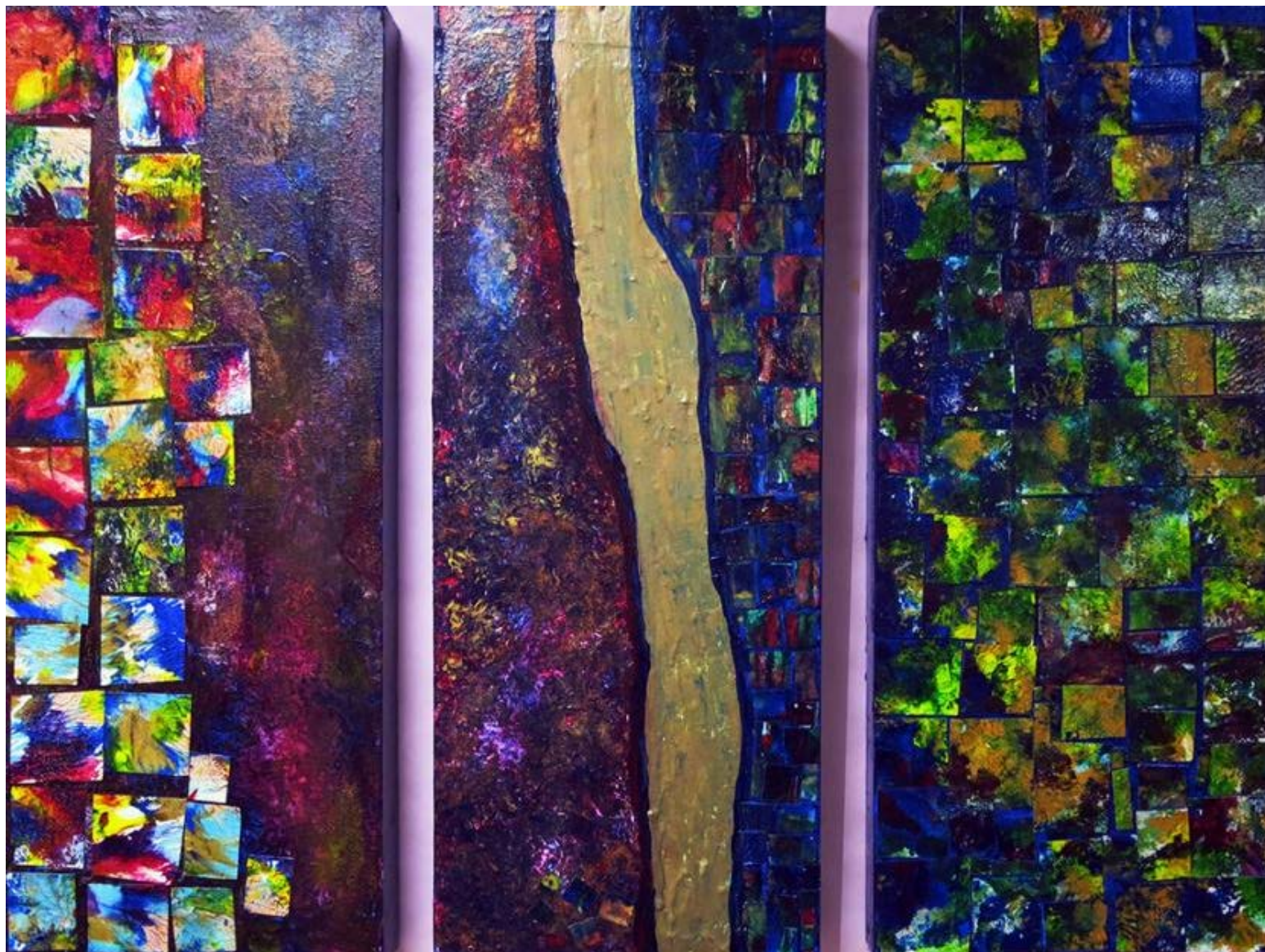
[Mission](#)

[FAQs About Sisters](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

National Catholic Reporter publications: ncronline.org | celebrationpublications.org.

Copyright © 2016 The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company | 115 E. Armour Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64111 | 1-800-444-8910 1-800-444-8910 FREE



| Passing through the in between. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

February 17, 2016

by GSR Staff.

Feb. 17, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"We are ever in between
what is and what is yet to be.
Let us believe in the crossing."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Footsteps left behind. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

February 4, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Feb. 4, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"Where do you come from?
Where are you going?
Footsteps to nowhere.
What do your footsteps leave behind?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| Dialogue. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 27, 2016

by **GSR Staff**,

Jan. 27, 2016 in **Visual Life**

"Face to face we begin to be together as one."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Frosted wonders. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 19, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jan. 19, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"I leave you color
As winter's chill surrounds.
I leave you hope
In glory yet to be revealed.
Warm yourself
In the true colors of loving."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Can you C? (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 14, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jan. 14, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"Can you see the way the world is headed?
Can you stop the tides that seek to destroy?
Can you and I see how we play a part
and make a change for the sake of earth our home?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Winter Circle. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 7, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jan. 7, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"Winter brings us full circle to discover what is central in our lives."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

[+](#) SHARE



| Fern Christmas Forest. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 4, 2016

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jan. 4, 2016 in [Visual Life](#)

"A forest of ferns stand as witness
like miniature Christmas trees.
How does your life stand as witness to Jesus Christ?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far) [SHARE](#)



| Love Sustains. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 24, 2015

by GSR Staff,

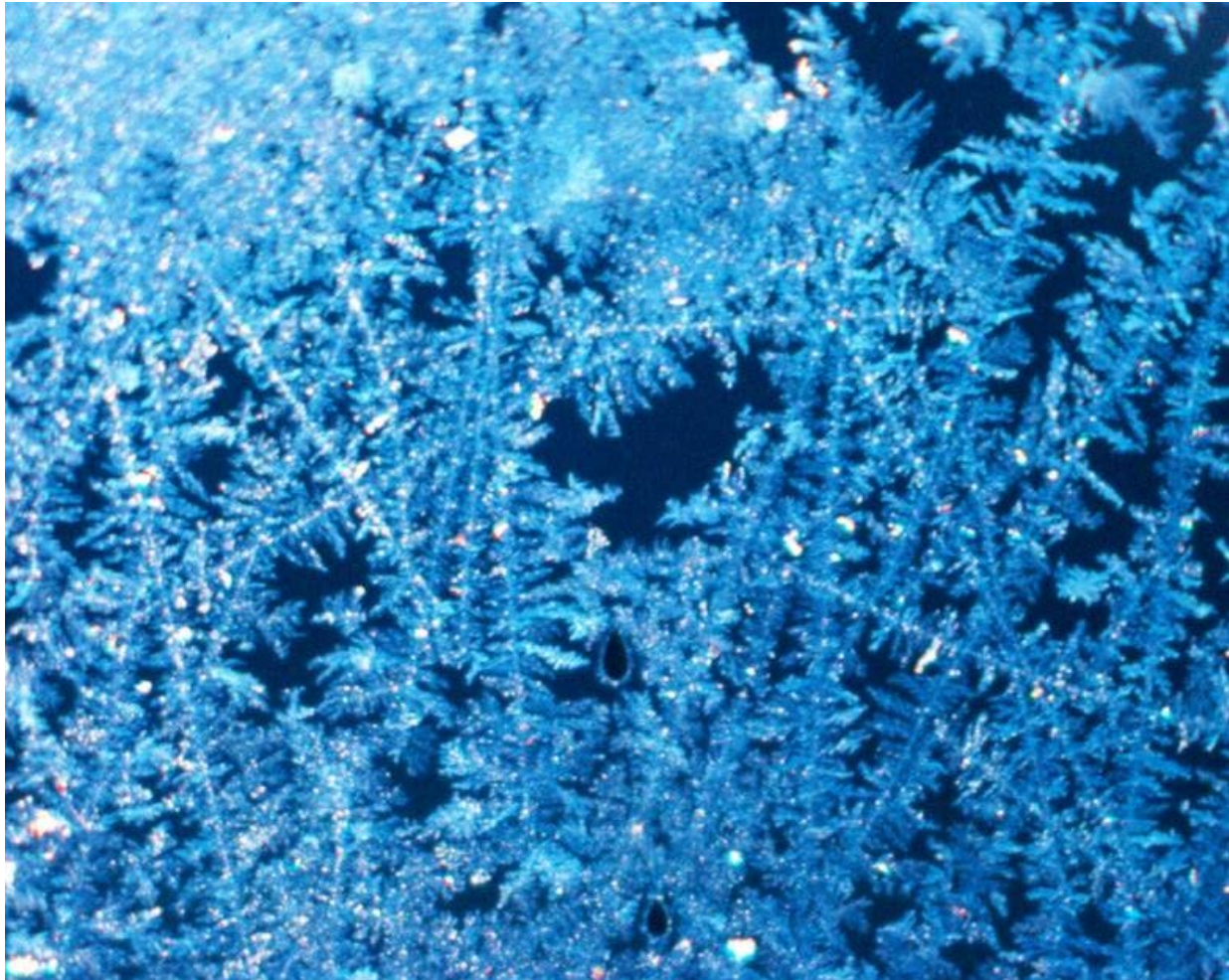
Dec. 24, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Joseph was not a passive witness to the birth of the child.
Mary and Joseph peered in each others' eyes
And knew a love that sustained them.
Let us fill our celebrations of Christ's birth
with love that sustains our family of Earth!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (2 thanks so far) [SHARE](#)

[Sign up for email alerts](#) from Global Sisters Report.



| Crystal Beauty. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 21, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Dec. 21, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"One at a time the crystals form
And the collective beauty fills our windows.
How can anyone say one person doesn't make a difference in
the collective atmosphere of being we call Earth?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

SHARE

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Refugees. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 10, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Dec. 10, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Living in overcrowded tents,
Dependant on others for aid.
We ask not for a kingdom but for a home!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far) [SHARE](#)

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Floral Mandala. ((Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 2, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Dec. 2, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Circling round the beauty brings us deeper into the center.

What is important in our lives?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

[SHARE](#)

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Turkey at Attention. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 26, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Nov. 26, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Stand in plain sight, and they may not see you!"

Say thanks (8 thanks so far)

SHARE

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Leaves Holding Fast. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 10, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Nov. 10, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Leaves hold fast
Soon to drop all but their legacy.
What footprints will we leave on the Earth?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far) [SHARE](#)

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Shell Mandala. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 2, 2015

by *GSR Staff*,

Nov. 2, 2015 in *Visual Life*.

"Bless the waters that quench the thirst of the land.
Bless the people who suffer raging storms.
Bless those who use water wisely tending the future."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Milkweed going to Seed. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 17, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Nov. 17, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"How do we disperse the seeds of the Gospel?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (1 thanks so far)

SHARE

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Harvest. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 26, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Oct. 26, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"When the harvest is plenty, why are so many people left hungry?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| The Sunlit Silent Cloister. Walking in Remembrance. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 22, 2015

by GSR Staff.

Oct. 22, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"The light fills as does the silence
As the footfalls of prayers now and past
Fill the air"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Walking in Remembrance. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 19, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Oct. 19, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Those who go before us light our way.
We remember them with each step we take."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)

SHARE

We're hiring! Learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| Autumn Leaf (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 15, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Oct. 15, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"The glory yet to be revealed comes in the dying."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (121 thanks so far)

SHARE



| Marsh at Sunset. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 13, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Oct. 13, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Colors paint the marsh
And I, like the heron, was lucky enough to see it."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Roses in the Morning Dew. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 6, 2015

by *GSR Staff*,

Oct. 6, 2015 in *Visual Life*

"Seasons change —
But like the morning dew
Cling to all that is good and beautiful
Praise God!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com





| Sometimes. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

September 30, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Sep. 30, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Sometimes all one can do is pray!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Waiting to Set Sail. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

September 17, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Sep. 17, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"The boats bob waiting
For those with the courage to set sail.
Live the dreams."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (1 thanks so far)



| Jesus Asleep on the Bench outside Sts. Peter & Paul, Detroit, Michigan. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

September 2, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Sep. 2, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Do we ignore the commonplace plight of the homeless or sit pondering why and what to do?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Wise Woman Speaks. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

August 27, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Aug. 27, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Sophia Wisdom

Wound with the turnings of time and space

Wound with the experience of the center hollow

Hallowed by God's presence.

May we have the courage to act on your words.

May we learn from you."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| The ripe fruit of summer. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

August 24, 2015

by *GSR Staff*,

Aug. 24, 2015 in *Visual Life*

"There is nothing like homegrown tomatoes.
Store bought, taste it.
The love and care of tending makes all the difference."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (7 thanks so far)





| The Holy One. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

August 7, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Aug. 7, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Spiraling Blossom. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

August 4, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Aug. 4, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"The daily unfolding has a beauty of its own
As time slowly blossoms into full flower."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (2 thanks so far)





| The Color of the Day. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

July 31, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Jul. 31, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Simplicity —
Colors
Faded
And our beauty?"



| Life Below. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

July 23, 2015

by GSR Staff.

Jul. 23, 2015 in Visual Life

"So much happens beneath the surface of our daily existence
Our depths are filled with color and God life
Waiting to be revealed. Can we take the time to look?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (121 thanks so far) [SHARE](#)

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).



| The Ripple Effect. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

July 14, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Jul. 14, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Can we even know
what ripples our lives make?
Can we help each other see?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (79 thanks so far)

[SHARE](#)

We're hiring! GSR is looking for a [new editor](#) to lead our team. Also, learn about our exciting [new internship program](#).

Don't miss a thing!




Sign up for
GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT
EMAIL UPDATES

Advertisement

"The HEART forms itself according to what it LOVES." - Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger

How is your HEART calling you?



School Sisters of Notre Dame

Advertisement

An invitation

to join the conversation
to discover your gifts
to build community
to serve



Catholic Volunteer Network
Where faith and service meet

From Service Sisterhood

www.CatholicVolunteerNetwork.org/Exploring-Your-Vocation

Advertisement

Also in Visual Life:
December 2, 2015
GSR Staff (Dec 2, 2015)

Also in Visual Life:
December 1, 2015
GSR Staff (Dec 1, 2015)

Ministry Spirituality Trends Environment Equality Migration Trafficking Resources Letters to the Editor

Home About Why Sisters? Contact NCRonline.org Advertise Donate Search

About Global Sisters Report
Mission
FAQs About Sisters
Employment Opportunities

National Catholic Reporter publications: ncronline.org | celebrationpublications.org.

Copyright © 2015 The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company | 115 E. Armour Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64111 | 1-800-444-8910 1-800-444-8910 FREE



| Woman Refugee. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

June 22, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jun. 22, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Carrying a pack -lost hopes and dreams
A labor of love.
The woman sets out for new horizons.
Strength and faith lead the way."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

June 20 was [U.N. World Refugee Day](#).



| Make Way for the Blooming. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

June 11, 2015

by *GSR Staff*,

Jun. 11, 2015 in *Visual Life*

"God calls us to notice:

Here I am

Make way.

I am with you!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| The Garden Gate. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

June 1, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jun. 1, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"All is prepared in welcome. Will you come and celebrate the fountain of all life?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (0 thanks so far)





GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| Immersion. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

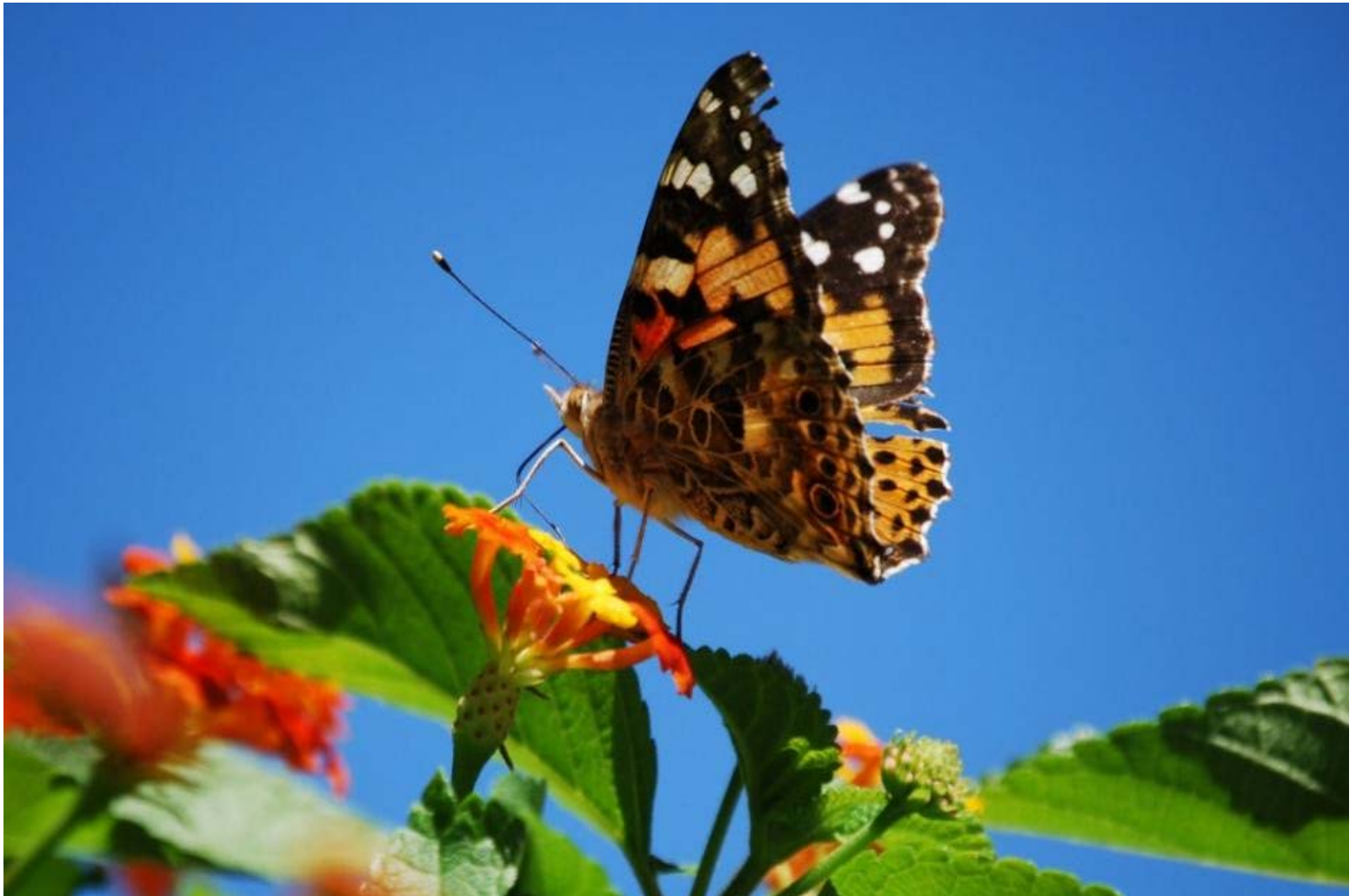
May 27, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

May. 27, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Be immersed in the dance of the trinity and all will be well."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Anticipation. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

May 11, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

May. 11, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"What will help us to fly?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (1 thanks so far)





| Field of Daffodils ((Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 31, 2015

by **GSR Staff,**

Mar. 31, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"VanGogh's 'Starry Starry Night' gives way to starry starry day as daffodils proclaim springtime!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| This Earth Moment is in Our Hands. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 17, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Mar. 17, 2015 in [Visual Life](#),

"Climate change can only be stopped by our changing."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Ice Melt. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

March 10, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Mar. 10, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"The ice lace gives way to ice melt
And the disappearance into nothingness?
No, ice melt can transform into life waters.
All are connected."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



Go to Elizabeth Johnson's Article and you will find Barbara Schwarz OP's "Jesus and the Bent Over Woman." You will also find stories from of Dominican Sisters like our Dominican Delegation and our Iraqi Sisters and Elsie Garcia on the rights of nature and Christin Tomy from Sinsinawa. There are many stories from sisters all over the world.



Contents:

Introduction by Mary Lou Nolan

Forward: The global sisterhood, nowhere and everywhere
Joan Chittister

Behind the Headlines

1. Bearing witness, being church: Dominican sisters in Iraq
Dawn Cherie Araujo
2. Education stems Ebola's spread
Dan Stockman
3. African tradition blends with religion to illuminate path to forgiveness
Melanie Lidman
4. The multiplication of energies
Jan Cebula
5. Catholics respond to migrants' humanitarian crisis
Dan Stockman

Sisters Speak

6. Our shelters are ready and waiting
Janet Gildea
7. African sisterhood: A Nigerian experience of church life
Caroline Mbonu
8. A nun on the run: Seven things running has taught me about prayer
Christin Tomy
9. Jesus and women: 'You are set free'
Elizabeth Johnson
10. In search of answers . . .
Dorothy Fernandes
11. Contemplation, a call to all
Nancy Sylvester

Reaching Out

12. Scripture scholar sister's trailblazing journey of teaching, compassion
Retta Blaney
13. Italian convents act as safe houses in trafficking portal
Megan Sweas
14. The Selma effect: Catholic nuns and social justice 50 years on
Carol K. Coburn
15. Through underprivileged ethnic groups, nuns get close to God
Joachim Pham
16. Sisters of Mercy help contemporary society accept death as a part of life
Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans
17. Create a farm, anchor a community in life
Joyce Meyer
18. Changing a broken system
Suzanne King
19. Rights of Nature a natural fit for women religious
Elise D. García
20. Laying down new cornerstones in Detroit
Claire Schaeffer-Duffy
21. 'Nazareth Workshop' sews together fabric and workers' lives
N.J. Viehland
22. A ministry at the top of the world
Dawn Cherie Araujo
23. Easter hope for South Sudan
Chris Herlinger



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter



We are now one. Please celebrate with us!

Dear Readers,

We are very happy to mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of *Global Sisters Report*. Thank you for your comments, your story ideas and your participation in this wonderful community.

Please help us celebrate by sharing *Global Sisters Report* with friends and family!

Click [here](#) to read an anniversary message from Mary Lou Nolan, our managing editor.

[Forward to a Friend](#)



In the past year, we published:

- 1,275 articles, written by
- more than 200 people, writing from and about
- nearly 40 countries!

[Explore Global Sisters Report](#)

We have an eBook!

On the Ground is a compilation of 23 of the finest reports and columns published during *Global Sisters Report's* first year.

This title is available for \$8.99 from Apple, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other eBook providers.

We are proud of our eBook and hope you will give it a read!

[Learn more](#)



[Forward to a Friend](#)



Jesus and women: 'You are set free'

By Elizabeth Johnson



Barbara Schwarz, OP, "Jesus and the Bent Over Woman," acrylic on canvas, 2014. (Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y. Schwarz's gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com)

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues

44 of 121

9:31 AM



| Munch Munch Crunch Crunch. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 27, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Apr. 27, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"The monarch caterpillar focuses
on what feeds its growth.
What feeds our growth?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Flowerfall. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 20, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Apr. 20, 2015 in **Visual Life**

Arching overhead
Blossoms flowerfall into spring.
What are our overarching creative ideas
That will bring new life?

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| A Snail's Pace. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

April 14, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Apr. 14, 2015 in **Visual Life**

"Why do we expect change to happen rapidly?
We don't really know the outcomes.
May we have the snail's patience."

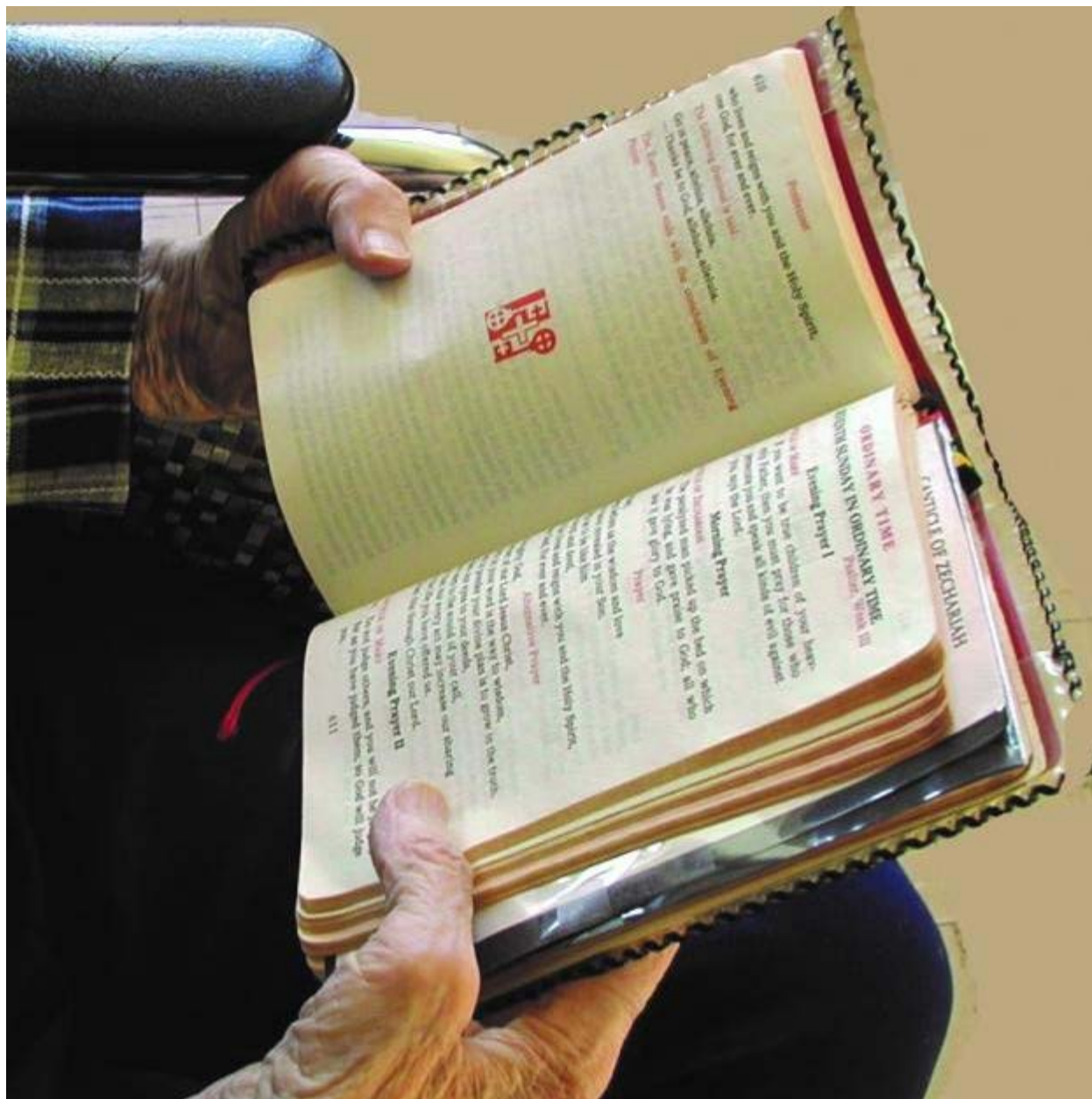
- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| Old Hands Praying Office. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

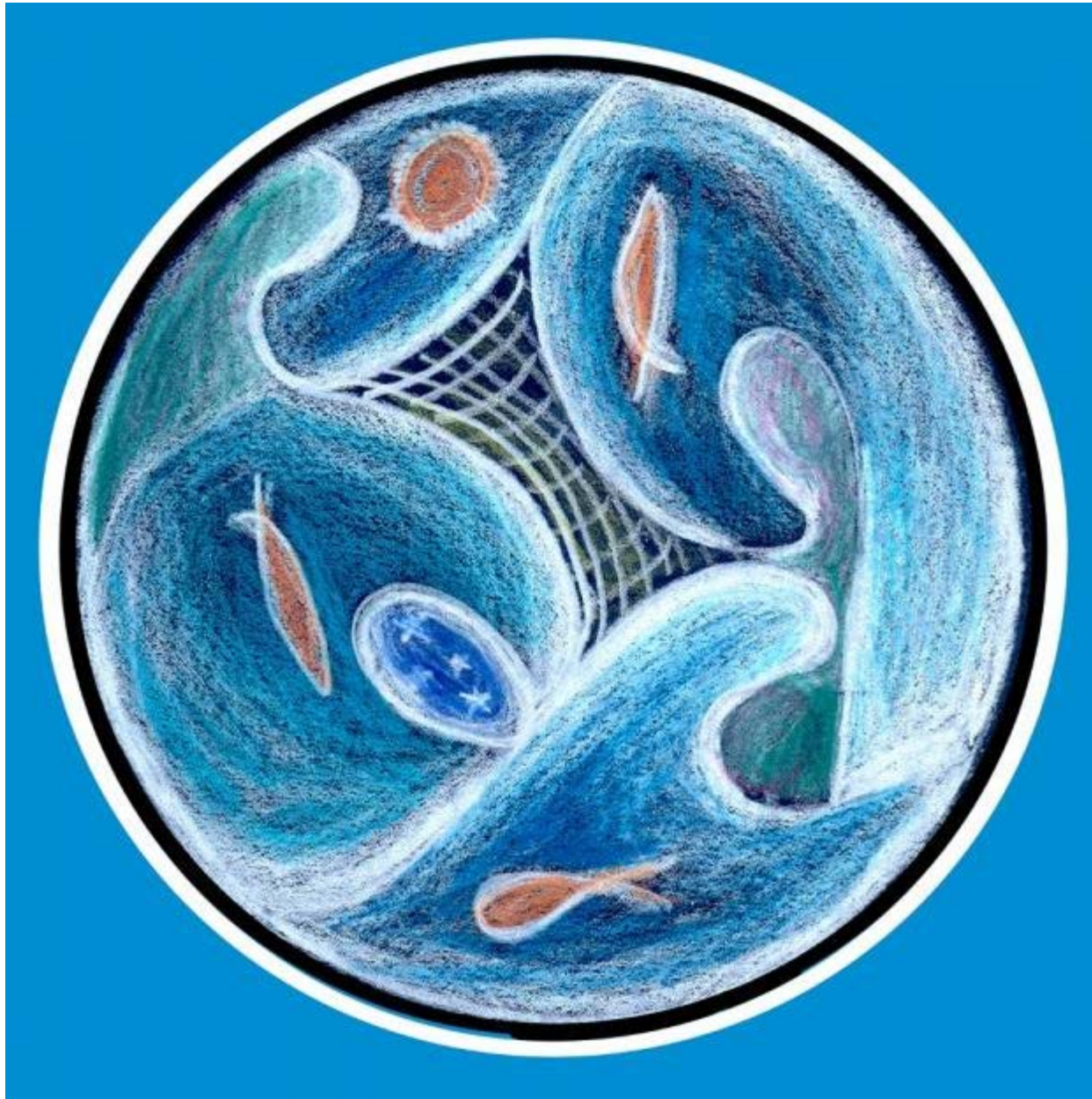
February 24, 2015

by GSR Staff,

Feb. 24, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Sometimes the only thing one can do is pray!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Casting Nets. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

February 19, 2015

by **GSR Staff**,

Feb. 19, 2015 in **Visual Life**,

Jesus called, 'Cast your nets on the other side!'
As disciples perhaps we too are called to recognize
'the other side' may actually bring us life.

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Passing Through. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

February 12, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#).

Feb. 12, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"A stone portal reminds us of where we have been
Passing through will take us to new places.
Do we have the courage to move on?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| An old hand at the Rosary. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 20, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jan. 20, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"The mysteries rang true in daily life as bead by bead she prayed for a broken world."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Lamentation. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

January 8, 2015

by [GSR Staff](#).

Jan. 8, 2015 in [Visual Life](#)

"Tears flow and so too the anger at loss.
Peace seems a question.
Can we trust God with our anger and pain?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| First Snow on the Trees (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 9, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#).

Dec. 9, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"Winter blankets us with time to remember and tell the stories that sustain."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Ice Dancing (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

December 11, 2014

by *GSR Staff*.

Dec. 11, 2014 in **Visual Life**

"A puddle frozen shows the rhythm of life frozen in time."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Evergreen. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 25, 2014

by **GSR Staff**,

Nov. 25, 2014 in **Visual Life**

"The winter promise of life to come – evergreen!"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Just Us Chickens. (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 27, 2014

by GSR Staff.

Nov. 27, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"Our fears hold us back. It is sometimes like an unwritten agreement not to recognize our gifts or how loved each person is by God. How can we help each other to know who we are is a blessing?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (3 thanks so far)





GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

A project of National Catholic Reporter

MENU



| Cracked (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

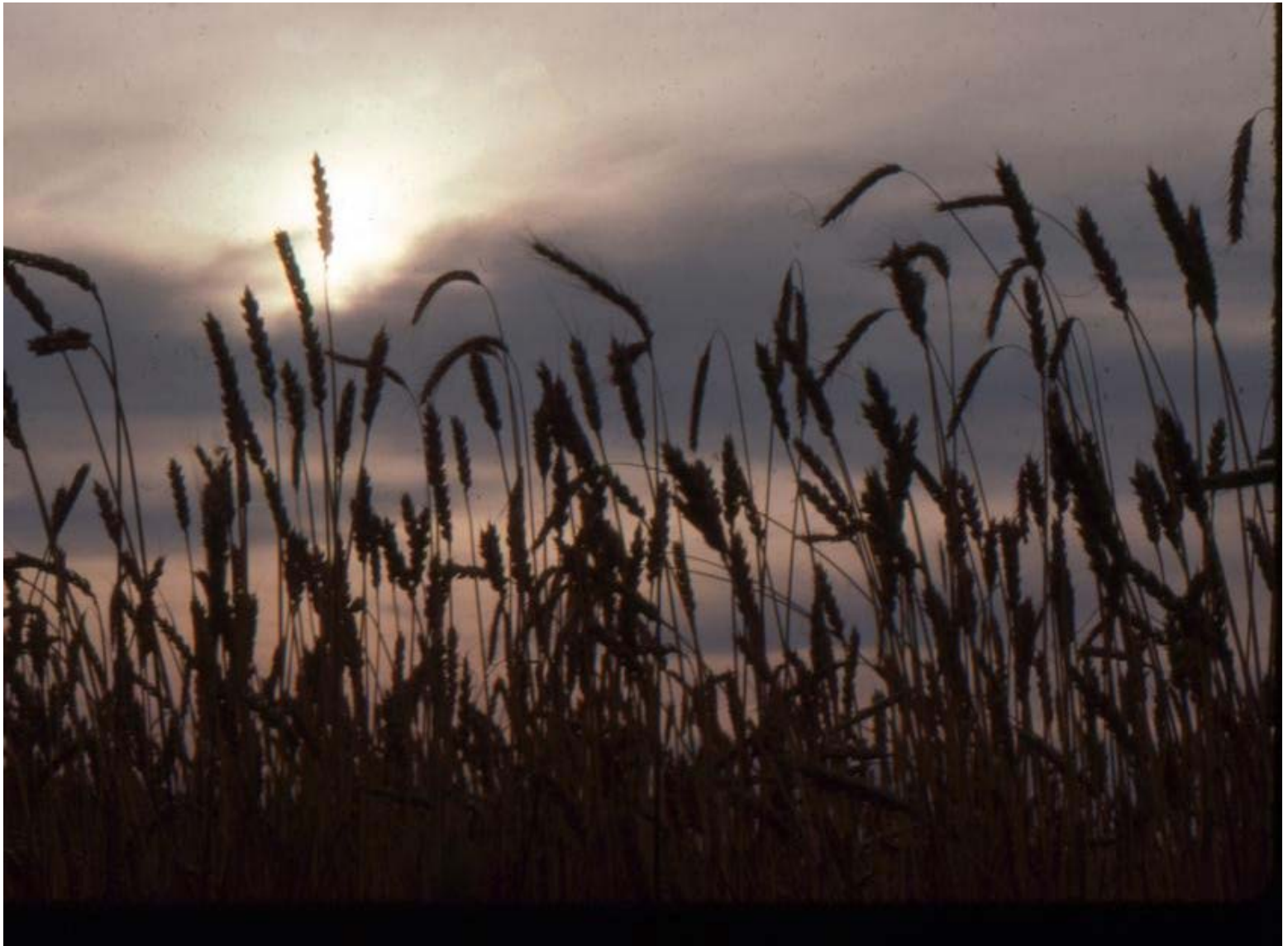
November 18, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Nov. 18, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"Try as we can to fill the cracks in our hearts, we must open ourselves to God to do the heavy lifting."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Harvest Time (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 7, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Nov. 7, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"When the harvest is plenty, why are so many people left hungry?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Remember (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 30, 2014

by *GSR Staff*,

Oct. 30, 2014 in *Visual Life*

"Live life to the full."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Autumn Leaf (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 20, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Oct. 20, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"The glory yet to be revealed comes in the dying."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (3 thanks so far)





| "Heads Bowed Remembering." (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 9, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Oct. 9, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"Losses remembered. The promise of new life hangs in the balance."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| "Searching for the Truth," painting by Barbara Schwarz, OP, Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y. (artafire.homstead.com)

July 8, 2014

by GSR Staff,

Jul. 8, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair."

- C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, Book I: "Right and Wrong As a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe," Part V, "We Have Cause to Be Uneasy" (1952)



| Barbara Schwarz OP, "Spirit Over the Waters," a painting of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose. Schwarz is Dominican Sister of Amityville, NY. Her art site is artafire.homestead.com.

June 5, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jun. 5, 2014 in [Visual Life](#), [Spirituality](#),

[For Celtic Christians] "The Holy Spirit was symbolized by the wild goose. Doves were docile and delicate, but the wild goose was untamable, free, and unpredictable. Instead of a soft coo, the wild goose was noisy and raucous. And it seemed always to be on the move — on a pilgrimage ordained by the Lord Himself. Jesus said that those Christians who were led by the Spirit were like the wind — you don't know where it comes from and you don't know where it's going. A Christian who follows the wild goose is wild and free themselves. They have lives that are less than predictable. They live life to the full (John 10:10). They are wild and free, untamable either by society that would bind them with lies or by religion that would chain them with duty and obligation."

- from [Flight of the Wild Goose](#) by Bill Tenny-Brittan



| A wheelbarrow of gathered roses. (Barbara Schwarz, OSF)

June 2, 2014

by GSR Staff,

Jun. 2, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will blossom like flowers."

- Thích Nhất Hạnh

Say thanks (20 thanks so far)

[SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [...](#)

Don't miss a thing! Sign up for our [weekly email updates](#).



|"Salsify" [Tragopogon porrifolius] (Barbara Schwarz, OP)

May 29, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

May. 29, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"May there be a little light in our darkness, a little faith in our doubt, a little joy in our sorrow, a little life in our dying, a little hope in our sadness, a little courage in our fear and a little slow in our hurry."

- Macrina Wiederkehr, posted on the Facebook [page](#) of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross Green Bay, Wis.

Say thanks (10 thanks so far)





| Barbara Schwarz OP, "Spirit Over the Waters," a painting of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose. Schwarz is Dominican Sister of Amityville, NY. Her art site is artafire.homestead.com.

June 5, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Jun. 5, 2014 in [Visual Life](#), [Spirituality](#),

[For Celtic Christians] "The Holy Spirit was symbolized by the wild goose. Doves were docile and delicate, but the wild goose was untamable, free, and unpredictable. Instead of a soft coo, the wild goose was noisy and raucous. And it seemed always to be on the move — on a pilgrimage ordained by the Lord Himself. Jesus said that those Christians who were led by the Spirit were like the wind — you don't know where it comes from and you don't know where it's going. A Christian who follows the wild goose is wild and free themselves. They have lives that are less than predictable. They live life to the full (John 10:10). They are wild and free, untamable either by society that would bind them with lies or by religion that would chain them with duty and obligation."

- from [Flight of the Wild Goose](#) by Bill Tenny-Brittan



| "Searching for the Truth," painting by Barbara Schwarz, OP, Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y. (artafire.homstead.com)

July 8, 2014



| "Heads Bowed Remembering." (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 9, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Oct. 9, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"Losses remembered. The promise of new life hangs in the balance."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



| Autumn Leaf (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

October 20, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

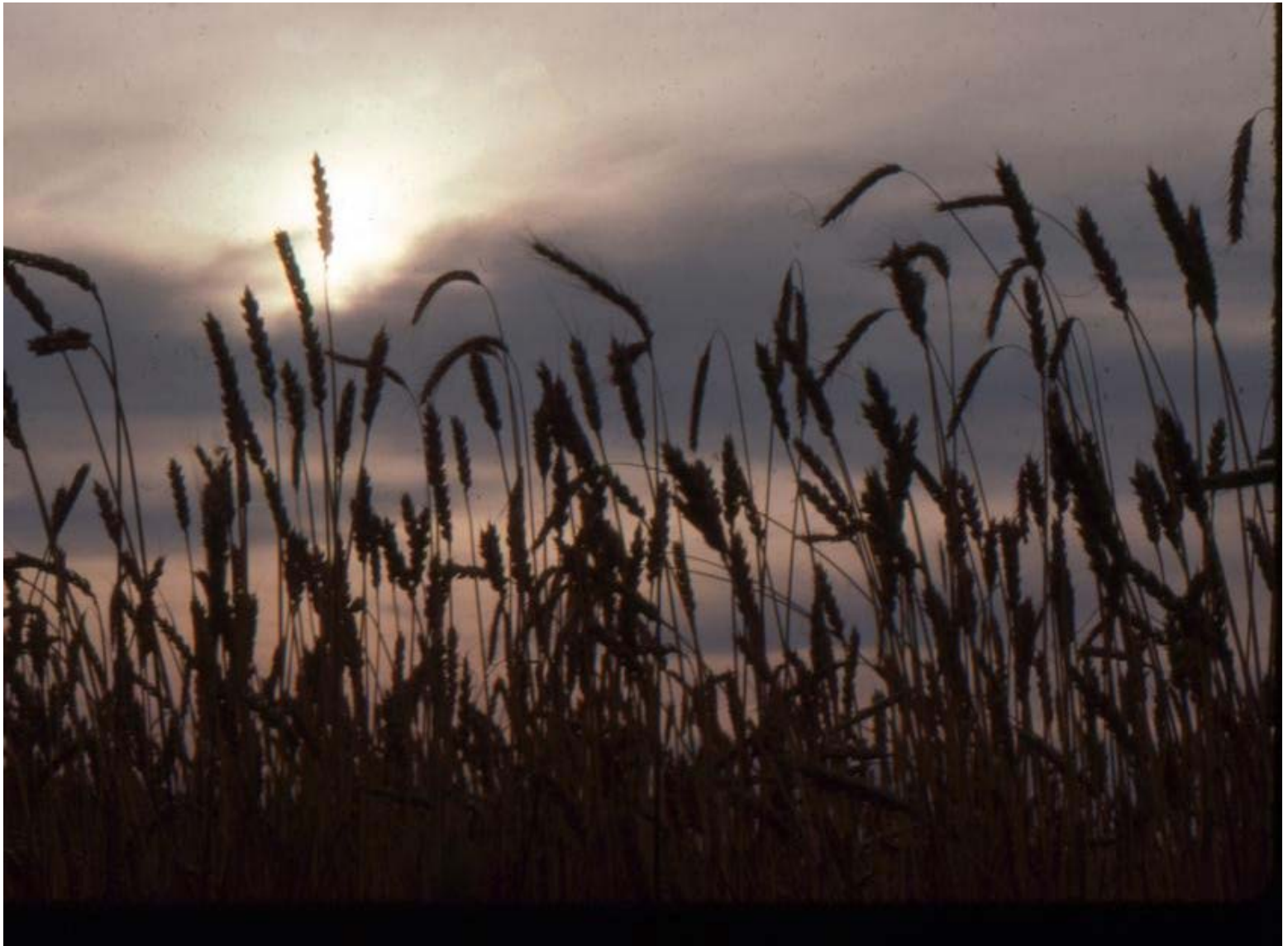
Oct. 20, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"The glory yet to be revealed comes in the dying."

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com

Say thanks (3 thanks so far)





| Harvest Time (Barbara Schwarz, OP, of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, N.Y.)

November 7, 2014

by [GSR Staff](#),

Nov. 7, 2014 in [Visual Life](#)

"When the harvest is plenty, why are so many people left hungry?"

- Barbara Schwarz, OP, whose gallery in the Ministry of Preaching Through the Arts of the Sisters of St. Dominic can be viewed at artafire.homestead.com



Easter hope for South Sudan

by Chris Herlinger,

In a country effectively at war, incongruities about matters of peace and war are revealing.

Just days before the beginning of Holy Week, I heard an anti-war song – let's call it an anti-war ballad with rap-like energy – playing on loudspeakers in a courtyard at a Catholic radio station.

[Read more](#)

Welcome to Global Sisters Report!

by Mary Lou Nolan,

It's an exciting day for GlobalSistersReport.org, our first. We're glad you are here, and we hope you find our reporting about Catholic sisters and the commentary from them as compelling as we do. Here's how we got here and where we plan to go.

[Read more](#)



Jesus and women: "You are set free"

by Elizabeth Johnson,

[Read more](#)

Jesus and women: "You are set free"

globalsistersreport.org /column/speaking-god/jesus-and-women-you-are-set-free-1186

by Elizabeth Johnson



Barbara Schwarz, OP, "Jesus and the Bent Over Woman," acrylic on canvas, 2014.

Part one of a two-part series.

There is a powerful scene in the gospels that shows in a flash how life-giving the encounter between Jesus and women can be. As Luke tells the story:

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, and a woman came in who had been crippled by a spirit for 18 years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began to praise God. (Luke 13:10-13)

Notice the setting: a holy place where the community gathers on the Sabbath day. Notice, too, the position of Jesus: front and center, the famous teacher instructing the group. It is a solemn moment. The woman slips in quietly. She is nobody important. For almost two decades she has moved through

the world stooped over, crippled by a terrible handicap, a pitiful figure in the eyes of her neighbors. Unless she makes a great effort, all she sees as she moves through her life is the ground or the floor. Now she just wants to listen and pray.

But Jesus notices. He could have gone on with his teaching, but, as we are told in other stories, a feeling of compassion wells up in his heart. He stops mid-stream, turning full attention her way. In front of the whole assembly he calls her forth, reaches out, and his powerful words and healing touch bring strength to her twisted spine. "Woman, you are set free!"

Imagine how it felt to stand up straight, to lift up her head, to look around and see faces instead of the ground. A new way of life opens before her. And this woman knew whom to thank. She praises God for showing her such tender mercy through the kindness of this prophet and teacher, Jesus of Nazareth.

Christian women today read this story as a revelation of what their relationship with Jesus can bring about. Bent over by many forces, they find his powerful compassion a spur to liberation, enabling them to stand up straight. Women scholars are discovering that there are many scenes like this in the New Testament that show Jesus' love for women, his concern for their well-being, and his freeing effect on their lives. But over the centuries the power of these stories has often been ignored because the men who preach and teach usually do not appreciate the suffering that women bear. What are some?

Burdens

Society: Consider these U.N. statistics: women, who form half of the world's population, work three-fourths of the world's working hours; receive one-tenth of the world's salary; own one percent of the world's land; form two-thirds of illiterate adults; and together with their dependent children form three-fourths of the world's starving people.

To make a bleak picture worse, women are subject to domestic violence at home and are raped, prostituted, trafficked into sexual slavery and murdered by men to a degree that is not reciprocal. Regarding education, employment and other social goods, men have advantages simply by being born male. Racial and ethnic prejudices add further disadvantage to women, as does class privilege that disrespects women who are poor. Every culture has different dynamics. But it is always women who are regarded as of least value.

This situation, called *sexism*, or prejudice against women because of their sex, is rampant on a global scale. To point this out is not to make women into a class of victims but to underscore statistics that make clear the struggles women face in society because of their gender. In no country on earth are women and men yet treated in an equal manner befitting their human dignity.

In 1995 the United Nations held a conference on women in Beijing, China. An historic event, it was the first gathering attended by women from every nation in the world. On that occasion Pope John Paul II wrote a *Letter to Women* strongly supporting the conference's agenda of social equality:

As far as personal rights are concerned, there is an urgent need to achieve real equality in every area: equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advancement, equality of spouses with respect to family rights and the recognition of everything that is part of the rights and duties of citizens in a democratic state. This is matter of justice, but also of necessity. (Letter to Women at the Beijing Conference, July 1995, par. 4)

This was a most welcome letter, putting the Catholic Church squarely in league with women's struggle for justice. The movement to obtain equality for women in law and culture is actually a movement for social justice in accord with Catholic social teaching. This in turn is based on the truth that women, like men, are created in the image and likeness of God, and should live with the dignity befitting all human persons.

However, there are problems in the church itself that the pope did not address.

Church: Christianity took shape in the culture of the Roman Empire where elite men held power over lesser men, women, children and slaves. This social structure, called patriarchy (rule of the father), is a pyramid-shaped arrangement where power is always in the hands of a dominant man or group of men. As the church grew and became established, its leaders adopted this pattern for its own internal life. Within this system, some men may be very respectful of women and even love them. But women are of necessity placed in unequal, predetermined roles. Men teach and decide; women listen and obey.

The church reflects this inequality in all of its aspects. Sacred texts, religious symbols, doctrines, moral teachings, canon laws, rituals and governing offices are all designed and led by men. Even God is imagined most often as a powerful patriarch in heaven ruling the earth and its peoples. In turn, this sacred patriarchy justifies the rule of men over women in family and the wider society.

While the histories are different, a similar pattern afflicts all the world's religions.

Theology in women's voices

In view of these burdens, women theologians today are discovering that the power of encounter with Jesus is liberating. His words to the first-century woman echo down through the centuries: "Woman, you are set free."

The fact that there are women theologians noticing this at all is a startling development. For 2,000 years almost all Christian theology has been done by men. After the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) opened the study of theology to lay persons in the church, many women began to be educated in this field. The work of theology, as Anselm of Canterbury famously defined it, is "faith seeking understanding." The goal of this thinking is to shed light on faith's meaning so it can be lived more vibrantly, more lovingly.

Women bring to this work a new perspective, asking questions that arise from the life experiences – and suffering – of women. This type of theology is commonly called *feminist* theology, from the Latin *femina*, meaning woman. It sees faith with women's eyes. It sees what is wrong or missing in the way faith has been presented insofar as it ignores or burdens women. And it searches the tradition for powerful liberating elements that can transform life today.

The vision which guides feminist theology is the one that Jesus preached, centered in his frequent use of the symbol "the kingdom of God." This reign of God brings about a new form of community where people live in mutual respect with each other and the other living creatures of the earth. The goal is not reverse discrimination, a community where women dominate men; this would just continue injustice in a new form. Rather, women dream of a new heaven and a new earth, with no one group dominating and no one group being subordinated, but each person cherished and participating according to his or her own God-given gifts, in genuinely reciprocal relations. With this hope, the work of feminist theology today emphasizes a new appreciation of the meaning of Jesus Christ for human beings who are women.

[Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ, is the Distinguished Professor of Theology Fordham University, New York City, N.Y.]

Editor's note: This essay is being shared on GlobalSistersReport.org in two parts. It originally was published in Bosnian as "Isus I Žene: Uspravite Se!" in the special 2012 issue (*Isus iz Nazareta: U Perspektivi Medureligijskog Dijaloga*) of the Sarajevo-based Franciscan journal *Svjetlo Riječi*. Johnson was asked to address the topic of women amid essays about the meaning of Jesus Christ in a pluralistic, multi-religious society (Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and atheist).