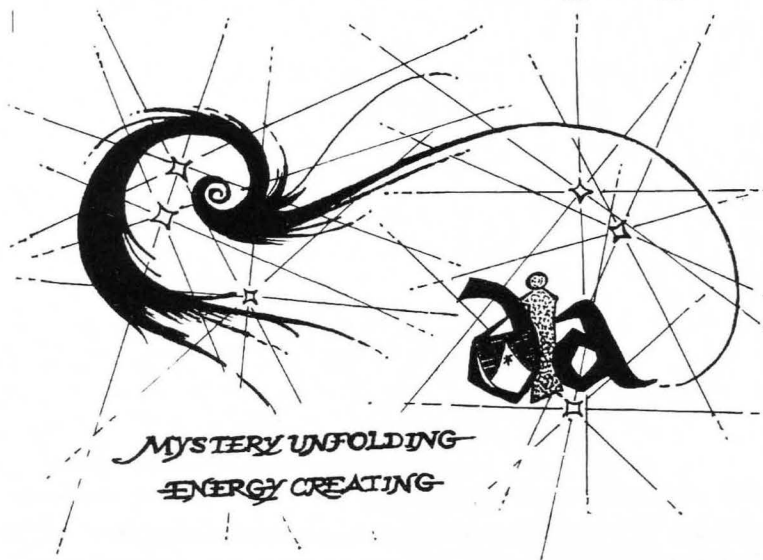


Cletus Wessels to Highlight Gathering 2001



In the preface to his book, **The Holy Web**, Cletus Wessels, OP states that he is “presenting a new vision that integrates the tradition of the Christian church with contemporary cosmology and the universe story.” Wessels wants people to appreciate the possibilities for a new vision of the church — one that integrates the tremendous knowledge explosion of the last 150

years. The crises of change — intellectual and cultural — experienced by our society are so profound that our survival as a society and a church are threatened. “New directions as well as new visions and symbols are emerging, and these can be best brought together and integrated within a new paradigm of the church.”

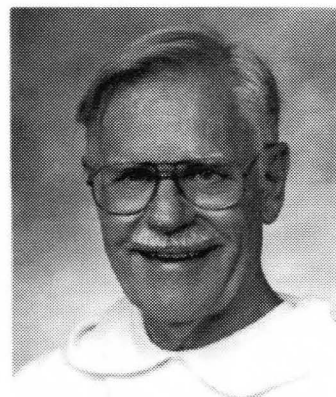
Who better to create the new directions, new visions, and new symbols than artists — specifically Dominican artists who are called to use art to preach! For this reason, Cletus Wessels, OP, Central Province, will be a key figure at the upcoming Gathering 2001 of the Dominican Institute for the Arts in Elkins Park, PA, June 25 - 28.

With Cletus to inspire us during these four days, the DIA shall focus on the vision proposed by the Planning Committee: *to provide a new form of creativity, inviting us to a deeper theological understanding and experience of how we, as artists, are becoming part of a dynamic and wondrous whole.*

The author of **The Holy Web** encourages us to reexamine the scientific world and to integrate our experience of church with the new cosmology. From this, surely, will come a new paradigm of the Christian Church. The world is much smaller than we thought; the universe is much larger than we dreamed; the earth and ALL its creatures — not just human beings — not just Christians — are related in a wondrous whole. As artists, we are crucial in participating in this process!

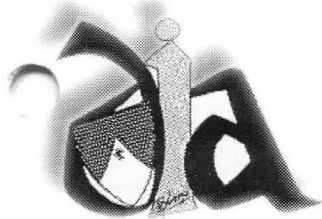
Make your plans to attend now!

Dominican Institute for the Arts



Cletus Wessels, OP
Vol. III No. 2 May 2001

DIA Newsletter



Letter from the President

Dear DIA Members,

La Primavera — Spring — had always been my favorite time of the year, especially in Italy, where Spring comes early and lasts long. There is something about the “first green” after the long winter’s night to spark nature’s individual and collective new birth. Somehow this season shows us the relationship of death-to-life, darkness-to-light, and the relationships of seasons. As Cletus Wessels, OP reminds us in **The Holy Web**, *we, as humans, and especially artists, need to search for ways to live in tune with the earth and the universe, not to control it, but to live in its beauty.*

The DIA board (the Representative Body) and the Planning Committee for the Elkins Park Gathering are most grateful for Cletus’ “yes” to be part of **Mystery Unfolding -- Energy Creating**. We truly believe, as does Timothy, the Master of the Order, that *every creation echoes the first creation* and that at this gathering we are creating something new — that it truly is an art work in progress. We trust in the creativity of one another to spark the creativity in us. Because of this trust, we are risking that the new green of the unknown will flourish into a thing of great beauty.

The enclosed registration form and schedule show that this Gathering is an unfolding whole. The balance of theological input, theological reflection, and creative action is so Dominican and so appropriate to the beauty of the location!

So as not to disturb the special rhythm of the event, committee reports and other general reports will be mailed out prior to the meeting. There will be a short official membership meeting on Thursday of the Gathering. This year we are inviting all members to participate in the nomination of persons for the Fra Angelico Award.

Our brother, Timothy Radcliffe, who is unable to attend the Gathering, sends his greetings through his pro-vicar, Kevin Toomey: *With every best wish for the artistic work of the Institute, and the delightful preaching it brings to our beauty-starved world.*

Joeann Daley, OP, President, DIA

From the Editor: If you like this issue, thank all the people who sent in so much good copy. If you want another good one, continue to do the same. The Post-Gathering issue will have a deadline of August 15. Please send in articles, comments, pictures, etc. Bring your camera to the Gathering, and think of the newsletter as you get shots, especially of the breakout sessions. Notice the new column, **What’s Doing?** This will be a regular feature. Please keep us posted on *your* latest creation or exhibit.

Summary of the Representative Body notes

by Barbara Swartz, OP

The meeting of the Representative Body (RB) at Regina Dominican in Wilmette, IL was chock full of coordinating actions and planning for the future of the DIA and its Gathering. The list below hardly represents the fullness of discussion and each decision’s related questions. The February 7- 8 meeting resulted in the following actions taken:

- Fra Angelico Award nominations opened to all membership. In a spirit of collegiality the RB felt nominations for the Fra Angelico Award should be opened to the whole organization and so in the gathering packet was enclosed a nomination form. Nominees must be DIA members. A sub-committee was formed to go through the membership forms and nominations and bring them to the RB, which will make the decision. When the decision is reached the Fra Angelico committee’s work will commence regarding the award. The deadline for nominations was May 1.
 - New membership. It is important to encourage congregational members who cannot make the gathering to renew their membership. Jeanne Stickling, OP receives all the new forms and monies.
 - DIA received a \$2,500 grant from the Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill. Discussion regarding its requirements and accountability ensued. A response was necessary and so a brochure for leadership would be developed to describe the DIA’s accomplishments to leadership teams and the Dominican Leadership Conference.
 - The Kathleen Harkins Memorial Fund was approved to assist in getting DIA on better financial footing and meet requirements of DLC listing. A brochure is in process.
 - We discussed the incorporation question and listing under DLC. Joella Miller is working on this.
- continued on p. 5, RB

Editor: Elaine DesRosiers, OP
DesRosiers.1@nd.edu

Staff:

Barbara Schwarz, OP, Board Liaison
Barbara Kelley, OP, proofreader
Rosemarie Hennessy, OP
Rosalie McAuliffe, OP
Carmelite Zibilich, OP

Logo design by Irene Mary Diones, OP
Masthead by Deborah Marie Butcher, OP

DIA Newsletter Vol. III No. 2 May 2001



Creativity of a New Art Form

has begun

"ENERGY CREATING -- MYSTERY UNFOLDING"

GATHERING 2001

June 25 -- 28
Elkins Park, PA



cut along line

cut along line

cut along line

cut along line

cut along line

ENERGY
CREATING

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Congregation/Province _____
Ministry Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____ Website _____

Fees enclosed:

Membership \$25 \$ _____
Gathering fee
\$275 (before May 30) \$ _____
\$300 (after May 30) \$ _____
\$300 non-member) \$ _____
Donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make check
payable to DIA

SEND THIS ENTIRE FORM TO
Jeanne Stickling, OP
701 Locust Rd. #2N
Wilmette, IL 60091

HOUSING FORM FOR THE DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE

750 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-2500 Emergency phone: 215-782-8520

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home): _____ E-mail _____

Arrival: Date: _____ Time: _____

If you are coming by air: **Arrival** at Philadelphia International Airport Date _____ Time _____

Departure City _____ Airline _____ Flight # _____

If you are driving: Are you willing to take people to and from the airport? _____

Room accommodations:

Please advise if you need special rooming needs: _____

Are you willing to share a room? _____ Please make arrangements with this person yourself
and list the name.

Note: This will only happen if there are over 84 persons attending.

Other needs: Please list special dietary needs (vegetarian, etc.)

Explain other needs: _____

DIA Membership Biography

In order to help us implement some of the mandates of the last Gathering, please complete this form.
Please submit a photo of yourself, too!

Please check the disciplines of the arts in which you are involved:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciator/supporter
of the arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting(oils) | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calligraphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Iconography | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting(watercolor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Illustration | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Video/film |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composition | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal work | <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/storytelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Printmaking | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric/weaving | <input type="checkbox"/> Music/voice | <input type="checkbox"/> Prose | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting(acrylic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |

Further explanation/clarification :

What is your ministry/professional area and training?

List published works/shows/permanent works:

List any special recognition for your work:

• The California Artist in Residency Program involved careful discussion as presented in the materials from Thomas E. Brandlin. The DIA board felt that while they supported the basic concept, the program belonged with the schools on a local level. The DIA as an organization was in no position to oversee such a project. For these reasons the seven board members present voted unanimously not to approve DIA's involvement in the project. Recommendation was made that Irene Mary Diones, OP take the proposal to the west coast communities as they see fit.

• We have a Vision Statement. As directed by the membership the Representative Body revised and approved the vision statement. It reads: *The Dominican Institute for the Arts is a grassroots movement of Dominican artists. Through its leadership, mutual support and gatherings, the DIA promotes the arts as preaching: to proclaim the Gospel, live justice, nourish the soul, and celebrate the spirit.*

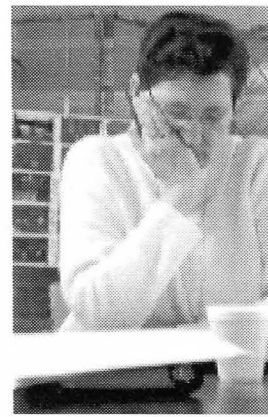
• Status of Committees. Functioning committees are the Planning, Newsletter, and Fra Angelico Awards Committees. "As we reviewed the functioning capacity of the designated committees, it has become apparent that some committees have not been able to operate at this time: Contemporary Dominican Artist Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Historical Committee (presently we have a volunteer archivist, Mary Cecile Quirk, OP, to whom we are grateful). The inability to function was largely due to the lack of focus, purpose, and ability to assume leadership responsibility for the process of operation. Therefore the Board recommends that further action by these committees be postponed until after the Gathering." This was the unanimous decision communicated to known members of those committees.

• Gathering in Elkins Park. Before meeting with the Planning Committee discussion ensued as to whether there should be gatherings every year or every other year. Should there be room in the constitution for a staggered transition to the board?

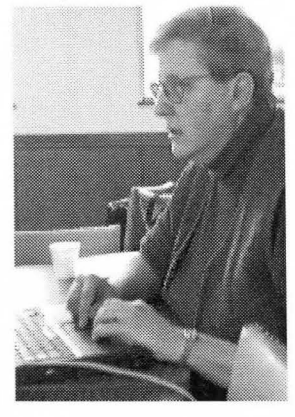
• Joeann Daley will conduct the business meeting at the 2001 Gathering. Information will be on the list serve before the Gathering. The joy was that several members were able to meet even if briefly with the Planning Committee as it did its wonderful work of preparing the Gathering.



Joeann Daley, OP



Joella Miller, OP



Barbara Schwarz, OP

Your Representative Body at Work!

Recommended Book List

This is a must for the Gathering 2001:

The Holy Web: Church and the New Universe Story

Cletus Wessels, OP (2000) Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10595

The Holy Web is a vision that integrates the tradition of Christian Church with contemporary cosmology and the universe story. Father Cletus Wessels' purpose for writing this wonderful book is to help the reader discover and intuit more deeply the new story of the universe and possibilities for a new vision of the church. Fr. Wessels has a beautiful way of weaving the thoughts and works of great thinkers such as Joan Chittister, Marilyn Ferguson, Diarmuid O'Murchu, Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme and many other scholars. Fr. Cletus has produced a book in true Dominican fashion, creating a web of knowledge from many great minds -- including his own.

Marry Your Muse: Making a Lasting Commitment to Your Creativity

Jan Phillips (1997) Quest Books, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270

This is a wonderful, award-winning book on creativity. In the presence of creating we are attempting to transform one thought into another, our experience into words, songs, or plays. Once we start work, a new energy arises as the piece takes on a life of its own, passing through us on its way to fullness. We become not so much creators as collaborators with this form, idea, new life that seeks expression. You will read how the Muse that Jan Phillips describes "is like an angel hovering and leading the artist to create, seeking to create through us, co-create, is full of grace and awesome beauty."

"Imagine yourself the vessel of transmission, the one chosen to birth the sacred in word, song, clay, image, or dance."

This is a book for every artist looking for the connection between spirituality and creativity. Enjoy!

Other books to be considered:

Fractals: The Pattern of Chaos:

Discovering a New Aesthetic of Art, Science, and Nature

John Briggs (1992) Simon and Schuster, New York

The Great Work

Thomas Berry (1999) Belltower, New York





In mid-discussion before three of her framed images are Adele Rowland, OP, Dominican artist who who represented the United States and Armando Ibanez, OP, the producer/director of the documentary video, *Dominican Artists Share Fruits of Contemplation*.

Adele Rowland Represents USA Dominicans at International Event

Adele Rowland, OP, was chosen the USA's delegate to the Convocation of International Dominican Artists, November 13 to 17, 2000, with its accompanying art exhibition from November 18 to December 3 at Santa Maria sopra Minerva, Rome.

The Convocation, inspired by Master Timothy Radcliffe, OP, was developed by Antoine Lion, OP, Promoter of Culture and Media for the Order of Preachers. Fifteen international artists from the fields of painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture came from 13 countries: Spain, Croatia, France, Italy, Nigeria, the United States, South Korea, Belgium, Japan, England, Canada, Mexico, and New Zealand.

The first two days the artists participated in a number of panel discussions covering a variety of topics such as their individual backgrounds and philosophy of art, the relationship of art to their religious grounding, and their integration into the secular art world.

The artists' works were hung in the gallery, resulting in an impressive exhibition. The opening of the show was attended by a large, interested crowd composed of Roman citizens and Friars. At the conclusion of the exhibition, a number of the works will remain in Europe to become part of the art collections of Santa Sabina, the Angelicum University, and the Vatican.

Adele Rowland represented the United States. Recipient of the first "Fra Angelico Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in the Arts," she has had international shows and awards for her work in photo collage. She is Resident Artist at Dominican University in California. She was accompanied on the trip by Sharon Cross, OP, first Councilor of the Dominican Sisters of San Raphael and knowledgeable herself in art.

The Dominican Friars in Rome, involved in a world-wide meeting of their Provincials, presented a secondary opportunity for Adele and Sharon since they were invited to stay at Santa Sabina, the Dominican world headquarters. As meals were shared with the friars, it was exciting to dine with Dominicans from as far away as Pakistan, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Japan. Individually and collectively, the Dominican friars could not have been more gracious. Especially appreciated was the unerring patience and kindness of Fr. Antoine. (Antoine attended the DIA Gathering in Adrian last summer.) Both this international Roman art experience and the Santa Sabina privilege intensified the awareness of Adele and Sharon of the strength, warmth, and spiritual power of the international Dominican bonds.

DIA member Armando Ibanez, OP is the producer and director of a documentary of this major event. The Master of the Order of Preachers endorsed Ibanez's 30-minute video with these words:

I wish to strongly recommend this video, "Dominican Artists Share Fruits of Contemplation," by Armando P. Ibáñez, O.P., of Pluma Productions. It presents an exhibition of Dominican artists in Rome in the autumn of the Jubilee Year. In the video they share why art is central to their preaching. The artists come from the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. They work in paint, stone, metal, wood, and cloth; through photography, architecture, and film. But despite this incredible diversity, one senses a shared passion to communicate the gospel through beauty. "Everyone responds to beauty," one of the featured artists says in the documentary. In a world that hungers for meaning, we can touch people's lives through beauty and invite them to share the good news of our faith. Art is a universal language, whether one is from Nigeria working with cloth or from Korea with paint. They are just some of the many artists who belong to the Dominican Family, and are heirs of an old tradition that goes back at least to Fra Angelico. It is my hope that this video, which is itself a lovely work of art, may help to open our eyes to the immense possibilities of preaching through art, so that we will support and encourage our brothers and sisters who are artists. In any case, I hope that you enjoy the video as much as I did.

Timothy Radcliffe, OP

Plautilla, a Model for Dominican Women Artists

Suor Plautilla Nelli, Painter (1524-1588)

by Catherine Turrill, Art Department, California State University at Sacramento

"Pray for the painter" (*orate pro pictora*), the signature inscription on Plautilla Nelli's large painting of the *Last Supper* in her convent's refectory, accurately expresses the mixture of piety and professionalism that distinguished this Dominican nun. The principal artist in a convent famous for its art production in the second half of the sixteenth century, Plautilla Nelli was also the first Florentine woman in history to achieve renown as a painter. Her convent, Santa Caterina da Siena, was administered by friars from San Marco, the home of two other famous Dominican artists of the Italian Renaissance, Fra Angelico and Fra Bartolomeo della Porta. In fact, Plautilla Nelli owned a large number of drawings by Fra Bartolomeo. These sketches and a jointed wooden mannequin, also acquired from the Dominican friar's workshop, were used by Plautilla when she needed models for her own compositions. Deprived of many of the opportunities enjoyed by secular male artists, she used all of the other resources of a professional painter of her day. She collected drawings, studied prints after works by famous masters such as Michelangelo and Raphael, and looked at paintings by other Renaissance artists in the churches of her native city, Florence. Her many paintings, the fruits of a career that lasted nearly three decades, served as an important source of income for her convent and won the admiration of her contemporaries.

Baptized on January 29, 1524, Pulisena Margherita Nelli was the second daughter of a well-to-do merchant named Piero di Luca Nelli. After their mother's death and their father's remarriage, Pulisena and Costanza both took the veil at Santa Caterina da Siena, a new Dominican convent overlooking the Piazza San Marco in Florence. Each girl was about fourteen years of age when she made her profession. Costanza, who took the name Petronilla, became a skilled scribe. Pulisena, who we know as Plautilla, also had a fine italic script and a good knowledge of Latin, but became an artist instead. We do not know how or where she learned to paint. She may have been self-taught, as one of her first biographers claimed, for none of the women who were present at Santa Caterina when she took the veil are known to have painted.

Why be a member of the DIA?

Membership in the Dominican Institute for the Arts has its rewards. Membership

- offers reduced conference fee
- provides opportunity to exhibit and showcase one's art
- supports collaborative Dominican artistic projects
- offers potential for mutual support and connections with Dominican Artists
- continues the treasured preaching tradition of Fra Angelico into the 21st Century
- receives DIA Newsletter

There is no suggestion that any art other than fine sewing was produced at the convent until long after Plautilla's arrival there, and the first recorded paintings were all by her hand. Furthermore, her immediate success as an artist seems to have encouraged the other nuns. Within a few years of the beginning of her career, the convent saw the development of a true workshop, in which over a dozen nun-artists were actively engaged in the production of painted and sculpted images of the Madonna, Christ Child, saints, and angels. Whole sets of Nativity figures in plaster and papier-mâché were sold by the convent in the late 1500s and early 1600s. According to one contemporary writer, the figurines made by the nuns at Santa Caterina could be found throughout Italy, from Naples to Milan.

Not surprisingly, all of the recorded paintings by Plautilla Nelli depict religious subjects. Her sincere and direct approach to the sacred themes appealed to contemporary taste, which often preferred works of art that were "modest, simple, and gracious," to use the words of one sixteenth-century writer. In addition to the Last Supper mentioned earlier, she also painted several large altarpieces for convent churches in Florence, Pistoia, and Perugia as well as smaller images of the *Annunciation*, *Madonna and Child*, and *Crucifixion* for the cells of Dominican nuns and the homes of Florentine citizens.

Of the over thirty paintings recorded in the convent archives and contemporary literature, only a handful are known today. However, now that we are beginning to learn more about this extraordinary woman and her artistic career, other works may be rediscovered.

The first book in English on her, published in Italy last year, includes a list of most of her known paintings and illustrations of several of them. Edited by Jonathan Nelson, it is titled *Suor Plautilla Nelli (1523-1587): The First Woman Painter of Florence* (Fiesole: Cadmo, 2000).

Editor's note: Pauline Quinn, OP put us in touch with this author.

Request from a Dominican Student:

HAS YOUR LIFE AS AN ARTIST BEEN INTEGRATED INTO YOUR LIFE AS A VOWED RELIGIOUS?

I am completing my Master's Program in Art Therapy at the College of New Rochelle, NY. I am seeking responses from those vowed religious who are artists to share with me their thoughts about: HOW YOUR EXPRESSION OF YOUR LIFE AS AN ARTIST HAS BEEN INTEGRATED INTO YOUR LIFE AS A VOWED RELIGIOUS. *I have other questions surrounding this one.* If you would be willing to help me answer some of these, it would be most helpful. Please E-mail me at MYBILOCHE420@AOL.COM to participate. **Don't delay. I have a deadline!** Peg Byrne, OP



Nancyann Turner displays her weaving

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit has been a successful endeavor for 75 years. Thousands and thousands of meals are served to Detroit's poor and low-income families each month. Recently, the leadership of the Soup Kitchen has expanded their mission to include nourishing the spirit, also—and with a special emphasis on the children.

Nancyann Turner, OP developed the program of art therapy to serve the east side neighborhood children and their families. Numerous research papers confirm that creative activities and art expression are a strong deterrent to violence within a person and within a neighborhood. Through the arts, many children have learned to express anger, hope, grief and joy in constructive and positive ways. Art Therapy programs throughout the country have helped scores of people enhance their communication skills, improve their self-knowledge, process their feelings and increase their self esteem.

The children have a large, well-equipped studio in which to work. Four art groups are held after school each week for both younger children and older children. In addition,

Nancyann works individually one night a week with children who have suffered a severe trauma, loss or violence. She uses quite a few therapeutic themes of feelings and issues related to the children's families, schools, friends and neighborhoods.

**All children ... are our future
and our hope. What we teach
them of beauty and creativity
in the art studio is creativity
and beauty for their whole life.**

Nancyann Turner

Time is also given to special seasonal projects that help build community and respect for each other. To commemorate Easter, mothers, grandmothers and aunts joined the children for the making of Easter Breads. Crosses of life and creation, designed by the children, adorned the walls of the dining rooms during the days before Easter. Easter eggs were decorated and baskets were arranged by the children, and then shared with their families.

The initial art studio program has now expanded to include a children's library, tutoring, counseling, a children's choir and a Children's Peace Garden. Part of the Art Studio program has

included many activities in the Children's Peace Garden. To commemorate Earth Day, the children planted petunias and marigolds in recycled largesse shoes that have been gathering dust at the Soup Kitchen Warehouse. New flower pots at the various doors of the Soup Kitchen will be designed and planted by the children in the various arts programs. Finally, in late May, a blessing and dedication of the Children's Peace Garden will occur with the children leading the prayers, dances and songs. Nancyann stresses that all children—whether in city or suburb, tenement or townhouse, are our future and our hope. What we teach them of beauty and creativity in the art studio is creativity and beauty for their whole life.

"Our creative work with the children is sacred; it is holy. These children are the signs of spring, the face of Christ and the miracle of Resurrection. Through the arts we plant and sustain alternative seeds of new life. With the imagination we augment hope for each child who struggles with violence and addiction, indifference and disrespect, hunger and homelessness. Teaching a child to create does make a difference in lives mired with chaos, neglect or violence."

"It is a privilege to create an art studio with and for the children of Detroit's east side. Through the arts we are connecting with families, schools and neighborhoods. Through the arts we are preaching; we are teaching; we are creating, and we are praying."

§§§§§

**"The Arts remain a major priority for the Dominican Order in our Preaching
of the Gospel. Therefore, go forth and create." Timothy Radcliffe, OP**

The Providence Project

by Jeanne Stickling, OP

In mid-November, 2000 Carol Kimas, S.P. from Terre Haute Indiana, called to discuss with me the possibility of producing a number of sculpture pieces for the Annual Formation and Leadership Conference of the Sisters of Providence. The 12 communities were to meet in March in the Kingston, Ontario Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. They were to focus on the Women of Providence's desire to face the racism in their own lives and in the lives of the candidates seeking to join the various communities.

The logo for the conference was "Providence, the Heart of our Story within the Womb of God." After seeing some sample drawings, I spent the rest of November and most of December just thinking about how this could actually be represented in sculpture.

I tried to work up a few prototypes. Carol liked them very much! She showed me the logo for the meeting. Once I saw it, I knew exactly what was needed and what could be done with the concept. The final design became real to me, and production was underway.



Jeanne Stickling holds one of the globes

All of the sculpture pieces are globes with round heads attached. The wheel-thrown globes are then cut to open the center, and a pre-formed heart is inserted. The largest piece sits on a 3"x3" wheel-thrown base and is a total of 12" high by 8" wide. I also made six centerpieces, each about 5" x 6". These were intended to be made without the base on the larger sculpture. After trimming the bases, I cut the center pieces on two sides so all those seated at each table could see the heart in the center. The two-sided heart, created from previously molded forms, was made hollow to lessen the weight of the sculpture.

Much of the coloring follows the design of the logo: blue centers and white exteriors. I stained the hearts with blue to highlight the continents that had been carved on them. Because of the many risks involved in the glazing process, I decided to use proven glazes rather than risk making costly mistakes.

All in all, it has been a wonderful experience. Since I had often made sets of functional pottery, I was pleased that most of the pieces were similar—a result that surprised and delighted Carol.

March 1 we gathered bubble wrap and packaging peanuts to box the sculptures for the trip to Canada. Packing supplies were provided by the women of Regina Dominican where I live and have my pottery studio, and by many other friends who contribute such things regularly to my ministry. Carol provided six boxes and six Sisters, who each carried a box on the plane. Naturally my prayers went with them that they might succeed in transporting their precious cargo.

Jeanne Stickling is an Adrian Dominican potter/sculptress. She has been a member of the DIA since 1998. Her pottery and sculptures are on display at the Regina Dominican Convent, 701 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL. She can be E-mailed at <SJSclay@aol.com>.

AN INVITATION



Celebrate Creativity — "The Cosmic Spark"

A Retreat for the Artist in Everyone

September 27 - 30, 2001

Mary Southard, CSJ and Esther Kennedy, OP

"It is in the interaction that creativity happens." (Mary Southard)

"The Creator is the One who sings us into Becoming." (Esther Kennedy)

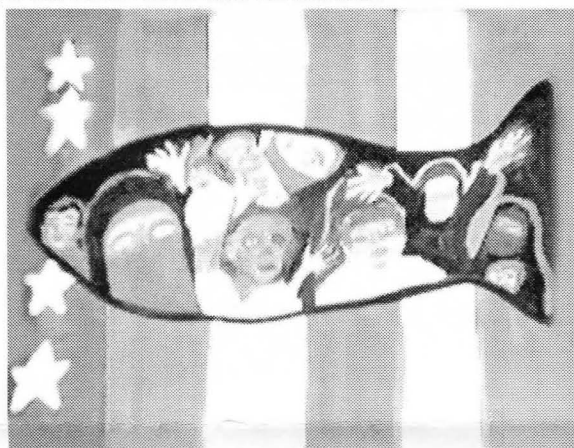
Our universe and our brilliant planet are wondrous manifestations of the Creative Life Force. The artist attuned to this profound energy and engaged in relationship, ignites and is ignited by the Cosmic Spark. Together, during this retreat, we will free up the archetypal energy of the Creator and will experience ourselves in the unfolding Divine adventure. Within our circle of relationship, our own unique creativity will be painted, sculpted, danced, sung, body gestured, prayed and then offered in ritual to the One who is the source of the creative Fire.

Trina McCormick, OP and Ursula Ording, OP, (DIA member) of Adrian will host this special event at Springbank Retreat Center, where they have ministered for the last 15 years. They also invite you to consider the one-, two-, or three- month Sabbatical Programs emphasizing Creative Arts, Creation Spirituality, and Native American Spirituality. For more information on these programs, check website www.springbankretreat.org, or contact Springbank Retreat Center, 1345 Springbank Rd. Kingstree, SC 29556 <springbank@mindspring.com>.

What's Doing?

•Barbara Exhibits in Brooklyn and Beyond

Barbara Schwarz, OP had several works in the St. James Basilica Cathedral Juried Show in Brooklyn March 28 to April 1. Her **Icon to the Iraqi War** provoked discussion over its haunting eyes and clearly was a justice preaching. Her strappo (acrylic monoprint) **Lady in Blue** was also well received. Barbara has joined the local arts council and is part of a series of rotating shows in banks, offices, and libraries. She will have her work shown in over 12 locations during the next year, with possibilities of sales without commission. (Check into your local arts councils!) Barbara also completed an artist articulation journal of the Chapter acts of her Amityville Congregation called **The Preaching Continues**. The full-color, 24-page booklet went to membership in a special celebration last November.



Barabara Schwarz's Icon to the Iraq War

•Seventh Decade Brings More Time for Art

Twenty-four paintings by DIA member **Alyce Van Acker, OP**, were on exhibit at the The Fine Line Creative Arts Center Gallery in St. Charles, IL from March 1 — April 12. Speaking of her works in the exhibit entitled **Outpourings and Ponderings**, Alyce reported, "Thanks be to God, in my seventh decade I am able to spend more time painting, going to museums and galleries, perusing books and magazines about arts and artists. From my earliest years it has been my desire to be actively involved in the arts. Color captivates me. I'm continually learning more about it because each painting is a journey of discovery. Often I work on paintings from my window, especially when the weather prevents one from being outdoors. More often a phrase from Scripture will startle creative musings and inspire me to begin a painting. I love to experiment."

• Can't You Just Hear Amy's Songs?

Talented musician and composer, **Amy McFrederick, OP**, has recently produced new songbooks, tapes, and CDs. **Come, Risk the Sacred Journey** and **I Will Take the Fire/Yes, I Believe** are now available. Her **Amo Christum Collection, Vol. I** is available in songbook; tapes and CDs will be ready in the Fall of 2001. E-mail <amyop@juno.com> for more information.

• Joeann's Work Reflects Her Life

March 3rd marked the opening reception for **Joeann Daley's** exhibit : **A Sense of Place -- A Sense of Self** at the Monroe Arts Center/Freher Gallery in Monroe, Wisconsin. Inspired etchings, monoprints, collages, and lithographs are all included in the exhibiton. Joeann's prints are a direct reflection of her travels from the farms of Wisconsin to the mountains of Montana, as well as to the historic towns and art-filled cities of eastern and western Europe.

At the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum in Milwaukee in February and March, Joeann presented **Il Soggiorno Italiano**, a threefold event: (1) a collection of prints and collages, the deeply personal body of work chronicling Daley's six-year sojourn in Florence and subsequent visits to Italy over a 20-year period, which inspired and informed her art and her life; (2) The Life of the Print, a talk and etching demonstration; (3) lunch with the artist in the gallery featuring her work.

Dedicated to Making Movies with Values, Pluma Pictures is Launched!

Executive producer/director **Armando P. Obanez, OP** of Los Angeles reports the recent creation of a new non-profit production company, **Pluma Pictures**, to produce movies with solid Judeo-Christian values. "Our immediate aim is to begin production on our first movie by late this year or early next year," Armando said, adding that the company will produce both films for the big screen and movies for television. Dr. Tom Hedberg, vice president of the company and a psychologist, said that there is a tremendous need for movies with good values. People are searching for and need films that address issues, such as personal and communal responsibility. "And Pluma will be striving to do just that," he said.

• Senior Sisters' Art Works Displayed in Washington

Clare Gleeson, OP and **Pat Spangler, OP** each had an art piece selected to be displayed in the new headquarters of the *American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging* in Washington D.C. The AAHSA wants to showcase senior artwork to encourage art programs in communities and to stimulate appreciation of senior expression and creativity. The letter of notification stated: "Your artwork is among 200 exceptional pieces chosen from among 700 works submitted by senior artists from all across the nation. Your talent, enthusiasm, and generosity are an inspiration to AAHSA and a tribute to senior artists everywhere." To be eligible, entries had to be completed while the artist was a resident of an AAHSA member facility. The Dominican Life Center in Adrian, where Clare and Pat live, meets this criteria.

• New Preaching Through Drama

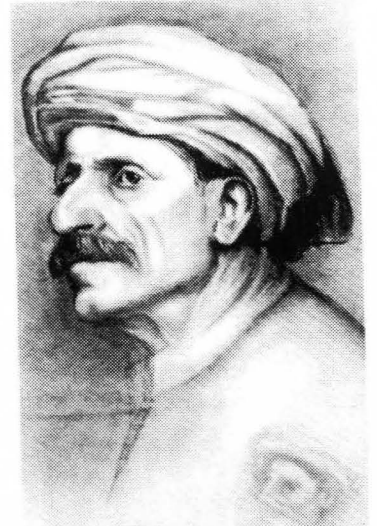
Continuing to find new ways of preaching through the arts, **Elaine DesRosiers, OP** has "written, directed, produced, and starred" in a 40-minute, one-woman dramatization of the **Life and Gospel Mission of Jesus**. Portraying Jesus, the Woman at the Well, and Mary Madgalen, Elaine has presented this in four states 13 times since October. An audio version will be featured on *Voices That Listen*, the Chicago radio program produced by Maureen Gallagher, OP of Adrian. The presentation is suitable for various audiences from elementary school through senior citizens because both the script and the title can be adapted.

• **Painter's Drawings Uncovered at the Mound**

Catherine Wall, OP (1867—1938), Sinsinawa Dominican artist, is best known for her exceptional talent of copying the old masters housed in major European museums. Over 50 of Sr. Catherine's oil paintings are part of the Sinsinawa Mound permanent collection. Copying the old masters, however, was not her only talent. A portfolio of her original drawings, circa 1905, was uncovered during a recent renovation at Sinsinawa. The sensitive, strong drawings confirm her considerable talent as an artist.

• **Sinsinawa Attendee Produces Play**

Carole Ryan Sullivan's interactive comedy, **Uncle Jake's 90th**, which had its premiere production by Main Street Players Theatre Company last June/July had 14 sold out performances. In this play, Uncle Jake's rather eccentric family and friends throw a surprise party for him for his 90th birthday, and the audience participates as the invited guests to the party. It evoked lots of laughter, but also occasional tears. After the play Sullivan received positive feedback including many introspective conversations about the nature of family relationships. Carole is now preparing to submit the script for consideration for publication. She is getting the word out that the play is available for groups to perform. Carole attended the 1999 DIA Gathering in Sinsinawa.



Drawing by Catherine Wall, OP



One last look at

What to Expect at Gathering 2001: *Energy Creating, Mystery Unfolding*

The DIA invites and encourages everyone to come and experience a new story, new cosmology. Bring your Muse, music, free spirit, dancing shoes, any supplies you feel comfortable working with, even though supplies will be provided. The work we all create *will be* the gallery.

- a charming setting — Elkins Park Retreat Center
- a program — Open Space Schedule
- a resource — Cletus Wessels, OP
- a community — a Dominican Family which lifts you up and affirms the creativity with which you were called



Monday — June 25 -- 3:30 pm -- welcome -- introduction -- social -- a Cosmic Walk

Tuesday — June 26 -- Energy Explodes -- Muse encouraging everyone to go from one art form to another -- meditations -- theological input from Cletus Wessels -- theological reflections -- social and quiet time

Wednesday — June 27 -- Continuation of ***Energy Creating, Mystery Unfolding*** on contemplation, additional theological input, Eucharist. The creative mystery unfolds into a beautiful celebration and the coming together of all art forms, creating a new cosmos.

Thursday — June 28 -- Closing by Cletus Wessels, OP and DIA Representative Body, Fra Angelico Award, Personal Cosmic Walk, evaluation, lunch, departure

Questions about Gathering 2001? Call Lucianne Spiers, OP 502-456-6487 < Lsiers6720@aol.com >

THE FOOLISH-WISDOM OF GOD

by Ann Mrugula, OP

God: *I think I shall make myself known to the people
of planet earth.*

Angel: *Really! Oh, what utter foolishness and so
whimsical! Are you about to play clown?*

God: *Ah, so it may seem.*

Angel: *How then shall this be done?*

God: *I have a plan — a salvation plan. Gabriel go.
Spill my Mystery into earth's time finite and
measured.*

In a cosmic moment the Angel first made known
God's salvation plan to a maiden. The maiden
named Mary listened, greatly troubled by the
foolish-wisdom of God.

*How can this be done? I am a virgin.
How can this be done?*

*Oh, Mary, fear not, the Holy Spirit
shall come upon you
and God's power shall rest on you.*

In her solitude the Maiden pondered and prayed. Silently,
slowly a Fiat swelled within her interiority like yeast giving
fullness to bread.

*Oh, how sweet the Bread! How deep the surrender!
O God, let it happen as You say.*

So it happened. In an hour of earth's moments,
Jesus was born.

Our God became *Emmanuel*.

Then in earth-time measured and finite,
Christ suffered, died, and was buried.

O, how Divinity lamented, singing songs of *resurrection!*

O Death, where is your sting?
THE SACRED CLOWN IS RISEN.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, what a surprise! What incredible love!
The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom!

(c)2000

GRAND RAPIDS MI 49504-5560
733 BRIDGE ST NW
JUDE BLOCH OP
*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 495



Return Service Requested

1257 Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221-1793



Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Adrian, MI 49221
Permit No. 300