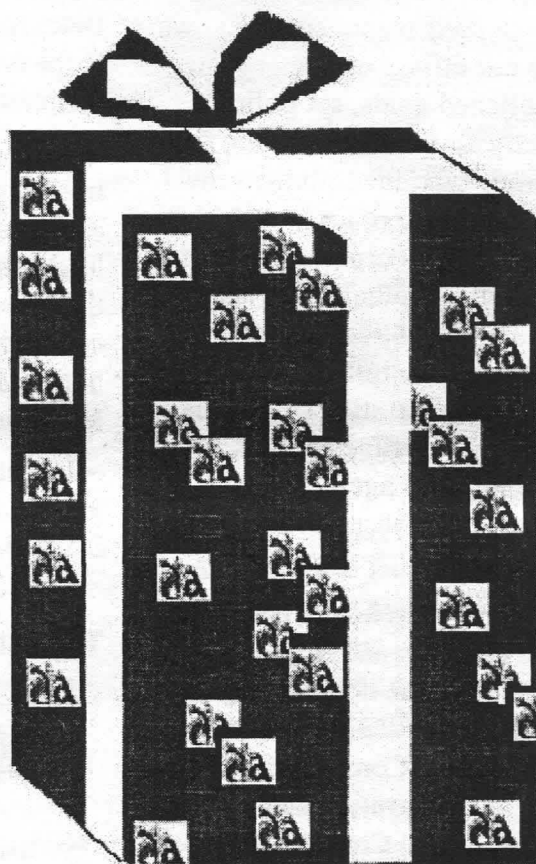


**The gift you
have received,
give as gift!**

Matthew 10:8b



**DIA Gathering 2002
Sinsinawa, Wisconsin
July 18-23, 2002**

**Studio Sessions, Slide Sharing
of Works, Coffee House, Gallery
Exhibits, Artist Work/Material
Display... see pages 4 and 5**

Letter from the President

At the 2000 DIA Gathering in Adrian, Michigan, we, the newly elected board, assumed our two-year terms. As a board we determined that our major goal for the term was to tend to the organization, so well begun by its founders. Since the first gathering in Oakland in 1997 and the gatherings in Mission San Jose, Sinsinawa, Adrian, Elkins Park and this year in Sinsinawa, dreams have flourished into a growing organization.

Because our superb, efficient, hard working planning committees for Gathering 2001 and the upcoming Gathering 2002 carried out their responsibilities, we were able to concentrate our efforts on the organization. A year ago we established goals, set policies and began to look carefully at our Constitution. We hired Sean Fox, the attorney who incorporated the Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC), to help us with the legal requirements for incorporation. With the expertise of board member Joella Miller, we studied every word of the Constitution and honored the spirit while rewording parts to fulfill the legal stipulations of incorporation in the state of Illinois where the DLC and the Parable Offices reside. Ann Willits agreed to be the registered agent and the registered office will be at 7200 West Division Street, River Forest, Illinois.

At this year's gathering, we want to honor your wishes to have a shorter business meeting, and at the same time accomplish all that needs to be done during the business part of the gathering. We are sending to each current member a copy of the old Constitution along with a copy of the proposed Constitution and by-laws. Everything that was in the original Constitution remains in either the new Constitution or in the by-laws. The changes reflect the requirements of legal incorporation and our desire that these documents grow with us into the future. In some cases word changes were made to better parallel the wording used in similar organizations: for example, using the term "Board" rather than "Representative Body" and "President" and "Vice President" rather than "Chair" and "Vice-Chair." Many items that were included in the original Constitution are now more properly found in the by-laws.

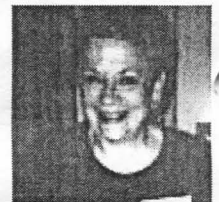
We invite and welcome your thoughtful responses to the proposed changes. We ask that you use the re-

sponse sheet enclosed with the Constitution to facilitate meaningful and concise discussion on the floor. The Constitution will then be presented for approval by the members in attendance.

To expedite the election of the Board we have established a nominating committee to prepare a slate of names to be put forth as nominees. If you wish to nominate anyone, please use the enclosed form. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted. This process is common in other national organizations and meets the norms of the present Constitution which states in Article IV (1), "Only those members present at the national gathering shall be eligible to vote for a member of the Board."

I am so grateful to Barbara Schwarz, Jeanne Stickling, Ann Mrugala, Irene Mary Diones, Joella Miller, and Ann Willits for their dedicated and inspired leadership during these past two years. On behalf of them and myself I wish to thank you and the many congregations and friends who have so generously believed in us and our mission of the arts within the Dominican family.

~ Joeann Daley, OP
President
Dominican Institute for the Arts



To reach Joeann's web site:

1. <http://www.sinsinawa.org>
2. "about Dominicans" (middle of the left side bar)
3. click on "ministry"
4. scroll down to the bottom where you will find my name
5. click on my name link - there are two pages: artist and gallery
6. save as a book mark or a favorite place

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DIA Newsletter Vol. IV No. 2 May 2002



Report of Representative Board

Truly a working body, the Board attended to a full agenda at its spring meeting on February 16 at Regina Dominican in Wilmette, Illinois.

Constitution and By-Laws

Considerable time was focused on by-laws and Constitutional changes (revisions and rationale detailed in Joeann Daley's report.) The by-laws will be extracted from the text of the Constitution. The by-laws then can be amended as needed without the necessity of changing the Constitution.

Membership term

In the immediate future the membership term will be from January to December. This change will greatly simplify record-keeping.

Gathering 2002

By now you have received the forms necessary to complete for participation at the Gathering 2002 in Sinsinawa. Our thanks to Barbara Schwarz for her generosity of time and computer expertise in creating all the brochures which you receive. Her brochures give us a visual of the splendid work of the Planning Committee.

Reminder: All forms are to be returned to Jeanne Stickling.

DLC membership

The DIA is a member of the DLC (Dominican Leadership Conference.) Ann Willits as the registered agent, and Joeann Daley, as president, will sign the legal papers for the organization. DIA is not accountable to DLC in any way. The relationship offers DIA an outreach and connection with another Dominican organization.

Terminology clarification

To comply with legal language, the representative body of the DIA will be identified as "The Board"

and the Chairperson as "President." Legal counsel advises that the use of the term "committee" implies a working body that has authority to sign for binding, legal commitments. Therefore, in the future, "committees" will be identified as "commissions." The clarification of terms provides options for creating working groups as well as providing for a means to create future groups empowered with legal authority.

Tax exemption status

Joella Miller is in dialogue with Sean Fox, legal consultant, regarding legal requirements for tax exemption status. As soon as all information is available, a report will be made.

Envisioned needs for DIA growth

The Board reflected on the growth of the DIA since its beginning. In order for this growth to continue, the Board members recognize that at each stage of growth particular gifts and talents are needed. The question we asked ourselves was, "What skills does the DIA need from the DIA Board for the future?"

From our perspective it seems that if future hopes are to be realized, there will be a need for an Executive Director. The DIA will need financial stability, a fundraiser, and a legal format structure. There is a need to review how the Board functions at national gatherings: a tight business meeting and Board membership with broad geographic and congregational representation if possible. Travel expenses for Board members attending meetings should be appropriately assumed by the organization.

The above are reflections offered for your consideration. Your own thoughts regarding the future growth of the DIA are welcomed, as well as your reflections on other aspects of the organization.

~ Ann Mrugala, OP, Secretary

OOPS! A correction:

In the January 2002 DIA Newsletter, the caption for the awards photo accompanying Reid Perkins-Buzo's, OP, article should read, "Awards presented to Isabel Rafferty, OP, and Reid Perkins-Buzo, OP, for the Sinsinawa Dominican CD-ROM."

Visit our web site at www.diaonline.org

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Visit our web site at www.diaonline.org

Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002

Bring your gifts!

Share your talents!

Experiment – do something new!

The Gathering in Sinsinawa in July is really taking shape and we know you may want a short summary of these specific areas of interest. The studios are the sessions in which the lead artist directs participants to study and bring forth the fruits of contemplation in each of the following forms:

All Musician Jam Session will be a sharing time for anyone wishing to benefit from the group interaction.

Calligraphy/Illumination of Decorated Capitals is led by Janet Weyker.

Children's Music will be shared by Rudolf Loewenstein.

Graphic Design will be conducted by Jude Bloch.

Mixed Media Painting is directed by Alyce Van Acker.

Photography has Pat Daly sharing ways to use the unsuccessful shots.

Poetry has Armando Ibanez helping you to seek your poetic eye.

Pottery with Gayle Bogdanowitz uses slab creations.

Sketching will be an adventure in the abstract with Pat Lee.

Theater/Drama has Elaine Taylor leading the group in a performance piece.

Video Techniques is led by Mary Fran Gorman for those who want to enhance this area.

Weaving with Sarajane Seaver creates a usable treasure from recycled items.

Woodcarving is developing a piece "in the round" with Grace Dennis' assistance.

Many other ideas and activities will assist us all in using the "**Gift that has been given to us, so we may continue to give as gift to others**" (adapted from Matthew 10).

Special Notice About Gathering Registration – Two Clarifications

I.

In the mailing for the Gathering registration there are four **Music** sections listed. We regret that these were not listed specifically as **Children's Music** which will be held on Saturday and Monday and the **All Musician Jam Session** which will be held on Friday and Sunday.

Please indicate your preference. Some non-professional musically inclined may wish to join Rudolf for his group, as we have heard him do the presentations for all the members at previous Gatherings and enjoyed them. There will be a notice concerning this when you join us in Sinsinawa in July.

II.

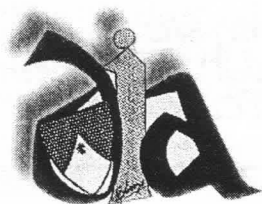
Both **Video Techniques** and **Graphics** will be held on Sunday.

1. Video Techniques
2. Graphics

Please circle the correct one on your registration form to let us know which you prefer.

P.S. Remember your choices will assist us in scheduling the studios, but you are not bound to that choice. We may yet be able to include a dance section.

Thank you for your patience with our omission of these important items on your schedules.
Hope to see you there. ~ Jeanne Stickling



Attend a panel presentation on art therapy!

The panelists are Elizabeth Slenker, Peg Gabik, and Barbara Kukla, all of whom have worked as therapists and completed extensive creative work in other areas.

Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002 Gathering 2002

Bring your gifts!

Share your talents!

Experiment – do something new!

The Fra Angelico Award – Who Will Win It?

The Fra Angelico Award is presented to a DIA member whose body of work has received national or international recognition by his or her peers. To date, award recipients have been: Adele Rowland, OP, Stephana Toomey, OP, James Marchionda, OP, Mary Peter Tremonte, OP, and Kathleen Harkins, OP.

The Board opened nominations for the award again this year. If there were artists in your congregation or province who met the requirements, they (the Board) asked you to place their names in nomination. If they were not members, the Board asked you to consider encouraging them to join the DIA. In your packet of materials for the Gathering you received a nomination form that was due April 15 for consideration by the Board who will determine the award winner. They thank you for your help.

Armando is Lead Artist for Poetry

Armando Ibanez, OP, has graciously agreed to assume the role of lead artist for the Poetry Studio in place of Kathy Lord who is unable to attend.

The description for the Poetry Studio now reads:

Explore with Armando Ibanez, OP, different forms of poetry. No grades—just fun. Bring a notebook, pen, your imagination and, if you wish, a favorite poem. Also, if you own or have access to a camera or a camcorder, it would be great if you could bring it. Armando will help you seek your poetic eye. Each session is limited to 12 participants.

**You definitely
won't want to miss
Saturday night's
entertainment!**

Pray as the artists do!

**Each morning of the Gathering begins with prayer.
Each prayer service will reflect the spirit of a different art form.**

**Hear Ann Willits speak on
“The Spirituality of the Artist”**

The Artist Articulator: People of the Holy Preaching

"What is an artist articulator?", people asked me as the first National Convocation of the Federation of Dominican Sisters USA began. At the end of the event, however, when I presented my work at the banquet with the assistance of musician Carol

Artery, the liturgical dancers, and the Dominican Collaborative Novitiate, it became clear to all of us. The articulator's role is to be a mirror of the convocation proceedings as another form of the holy preaching. The word was the convocation and my art was one of its exegeses and preachings.

To be the artist articulator for the first convocation was a

privilege. I found in the deep listening, a well of creativity that gushed forth with joy. My work was rooted in a deeply contemplative space that led me to create 20 pieces, several poems, and to script its presentation. As my prayer continued, the art seemed to point to ongoing movements of the Spirit in the gathering almost before they happened. Sometimes it took me by surprise.

However, I experienced tension about its presentation, namely, how to share the work with 420 people without audiovisuals, without talking away its power. Since the visual arts speak for themselves, having the dancers carry the works around enabled the art to preach to all seated at the tables. My script was merely a reflection on the process of their creation and the music a memory of the experiences. In the process I again knew the power of our holy preaching as artists.

Sisters affirmed again and again that I had captured what they had felt and had summarized their memories of the process. But more important to me was that Sisters from all over came to me looking for "our" artist — the solidarity of the gathering had made us truly sisters to each other!

Note: Articulation of the convocation can be found on my website at www.artafire.org.

~ Barbara Schwarz, OP

Letter from the Editor

As one of the participants at this momentous occasion, the first National Convocation of the Federation of Dominican Sisters USA at the Hilton Airport Hotel in St. Louis from April 18-21, 2002, I was able to observe the DIA in operation on many levels. Our most visible presence was Barbara Schwarz, OP, in her role as artist articulator. During every event, Barbara's head and hands could be observed in a high state of activity, creating mandelas, drawings, paintings, prose and poetry, all of which reflect the true spirit of the convocation. (See article on this page.) Her display of these creations during our banquet was a highlight of the Convocation. DIA members were leaders of breakout sessions. (See next page.) Many Dominican artists, some of them DIA members, others *potential* members, thrilled us with their music and displayed their work for sale. You would have been very proud!

The next newsletter will feature Gathering 2002, but there will be room for your personal input. The *What's Doing?* column awaits your report and photo. Or think about submitting a major article or essay.

The deadline is August 15!

~ Elaine DesRosiers, OP, editor



Barbara Schwarz, OP, creates a mandala as art articulator.

DIA Members Presented at Dominican Federation Convocation

The Dominican Federation hosted its first conference in St. Louis in April. At this memorable event, entitled "People of the Holy Preaching," 420 Dominican women celebrated their role as preachers of the Order. Four DIA members were among the 20 scheduled to lead breakout sessions.

- Mary Irene Walker, OP: "White Buffalo Woman to Lakota Nation"
Come, hear and tell the stories, travel the sacred journey in the circle of life, for many of the tribes' elders have now unlocked the forces of Native values and traditions to Native and non-Native alike, that can transform our entire planet!
- Rose Marie Hennessey, OP: "Is Teaching Never/ Ever/Always PREACHING?"
Teaching all these years and now it's called

"preaching?" When did I stop teaching to begin preaching? Who am I in the classroom? Is any or all of this really Dominican?

- Elaine DesRosiers, OP: "Preaching Through Drama"
Elaine invites you to share the experience of preaching in a way that people remember the message long after they've heard it. By dramatizing the message, she will both explain and demonstrate how this can happen. The audience will have the chance to participate in and to practice skills in, preaching through drama and storytelling.
- Anne Lythgoe, OP: "Preaching and Technology" (Anne's session was cancelled because of a family emergency.)

Maltese DIA member Marius Zerafa, OP Lectures at Smithsonian on Caravaggio: The Man and His Art



Detail of Caravaggio's *St. Jerome* which Zerafa recovered after a theft.
© MJ Publications Malta

Foremost among the late 16th and early 17th century painters working in Rome was the enigmatic Caravaggio, whose dramatic style became a key element in the development of baroque painting. Renowned scholar Marius J. Zerafa explores this revolutionary artist's outstanding body of work within the context of his anguished life. Drawing upon recently discovered documents, Dr. Zerafa begins by tracing Caravaggio's early days in Rome, where his many successes – including the famous *Calling of St. Matthew* and *Bacchus* – provoked violent criticism, not only because of his controversial realistic style, but also because of his scandalous public behavior and run-ins with the law.

Caravaggio fled to Malta in 1608, where he was actually received as a celebrated artist and was made a Knight of the Order of St. John. The extraordinary paintings of the next several years were among the greatest of his career and include the masterpiece *The Beheading of St. John the Baptist*, which still graces the Oratori di San Giovanni (now the St. John Museum) in La Vallenta, Malta.

Marius J. Zerafa, former director of museums in Malta, was instrumental in a major effort culminating in the recovery and restoration of several of Caravaggio's masterpieces.

Zerafa conducted the evening seminar on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ring Auditorium, Hingham Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.

After the seminar, Ambassador George B. Saliba hosted an informal reception featuring Maltese food and wine. The event was co-sponsored by the Smithsonian and the Maltese Embassy.



Marius Zerafa,
OP

An Essay: Painting as Prayer

~ Elaine DesRosiers, OP

Friends and associates who dropped by my former office or my home frequently asked me, "When do you have the time, with your busy schedule, to do all this painting?" I teasingly replied, "The answer is *two* words." When they can't guess, I smile and say, "Tuesday night."

It began in 1982 when I enrolled in an oil painting class at the South Bend Art Center. Since then, I've dedicated each Tuesday night to painting. At times I think back to my youth in downtown Boston when I would go every Tuesday night to the Novena at St. Cecilia's Church. It was there that I met Fr. Vincent Mackay who introduced me to the Kentucky Dominicans where I've found my niche for over 52 years!

My Tuesday nights are sacred — just as they were then. At first the painting class was a way to bone up on the artistic talent I knew I had since childhood. But in time, it became more than that. I began to understand the spiritual nature of the painting experience. Frederick Franck says in his book, *The Zen of Seeing*, that there is an artist within each one of us, for if we are created in God's image, it can only mean that we are created "creative." God, after all, is creator.

Mulling over these very impressive words, I had help

from Kathleen Fischer Hart. In her book, *The Inner Rainbow*, she says that artists share in incarnation, the embodiment of spirit in matter. Spirit must be embodied in matter — in words, stone, music, paint, poetry. We cannot understand our experiences of joy and pain, fear and courage, belief and doubt, she says, until we find expression. In my case, it didn't have to be oil painting, it could have been some other form of artistic expression, but I like painting. I decided to stick to the one form.

I found painting to be a way of celebrating. Benedictine Brother David Stendl-Rast, a famous teacher of prayer, taught me once that to celebrate means to stop and consider. When we celebrate, we stop and consider the importance of life. "Stop" focuses on the purpose. "Consider" focuses on meaning. To celebrate is to single out for consideration. An example David gives is this: A biologist stops and dissects a flower — and grasps the purpose of the flower by studying the pistil and stamen and discovering its reproductive powers. A child picks a flower, looks at it, smells its sweet fragrance, and grasps the meaning of the flower as she considers it. Together they "celebrate" the flower.

(continued on pg. 12)

The First Day of Spring

*The winter long dreaded has passed,
Cool night and mild days went fast.
I walked every day, not much pain to pay.
Counting months, days, and hours to the last.*

*Easter's early this year, so they say.
Nature's slowly progressing that way.
Buds are forming, earth is thawing
Getting dressed for that glorious day.*

*The hymns that we sing are not new.
Allelu! Allelu! Allelu!
Christ is Risen, gives new vision.
God's love spreads to all, not a few.*

~ Laurene Alflen, OP ©2000

Many members now have personal websites.

**Please send your URL to the *DIA Newsletter* so all
of us can learn about your artistic endeavors.**

**Send it to your editor at
desrosiers.1@nd.edu. who
will publish it in the next issue.**

What's Doing?

A column dedicated to highlighting the DIA members' latest achievements in art

Wright Exhibits "Drama in Nature"

Watercolors by Janet "J.J." Wright, OP, are on exhibit this spring. This show is part of the Exhibiting Featured Artists program at the Community Center in Birmingham, Michigan. Wright will show 16 pieces in watercolor and watercolor/gouache. Janet has a studio in Redford, Michigan, where she spends all her available time painting.



Mrozinski Sculpture Unveiled at School

St. Thomas the Apostle School in Grand Rapids has unveiled a bronze outdoor sculpture to honor the 73 years of service the Dominican Sisters have given to the school. Principal David Faber promoted the project for a permanent remembrance of the Dominicans who taught at the school. *Dominican Sister and Child* was created by Phyllis Mrozinski, OP, of the Grand Rapids Congregation, who spent four months sculpting the three-foot-high statue. The 150-pound sculpture – a sister walking hand-in-hand with a young girl and holding her other hand on the shoulder of a young boy – is in the school's new outdoor habitat, a garden-like learning center which includes a greenhouse, student-tended fish pond, flowers and pathways. Once the rough cut of the statue was made, Mrozinski covered it with layers of clay to shape the detail into a mold. Liquid bronze was poured into the plaster mold. The bronze casting was made by Alchemist Tye Studio in Kalamazoo.

Millionth Circle Calendar 2003 includes Schwarz's work

Some of the work of Barbara Schwarz, OP, will again be in the next Millionth Circle calendar. Because of the many orders last year, pre-orders for the calendars are being taken by e-mail at artafire@hotmail.com or at the web site www.artafire.org (\$15 plus shipping & handling). *The Millionth Circle is an international volunteer organization of women, acting on the same principle of expanding consciousness that buoyed the earlier global initiative to end the arms race. The Millionth Circle Movement is designed "to create equality, sustainable livelihoods, preservation of the earth, and peace for all."* See www.globaleduc.org or email millioncircles@earthlink.net.

ANNOUNCING!
FIRST ARTISTS GATHERING, CARACAS, VENEZUELA
AUGUST 5-10, 2002

"Every well-achieved work of art allows Christians to experience once again their freedom in the Holy Spirit. This Spirit never ceases to reveal, in new and surprising ways, through the course of time, the inexhaustible truth of God made man and world; and makes absolute beauty irradiate its new light through the polychrome stained glass windows of the world." (Hans Urs von Balthasar)

Subject: ART AND PREACHING

Invitation: The gathering is open to all in the Dominican Family: sisters, laity, contemplative sisters, and friars, both professionals and amateurs. Quota: a maximum of 50 people.

Venue: The meeting will be held at Santa Rosa de Lima College which belongs to the Congregation of Dominican Sisters from Granada in Caracas, Venezuela.

Address: Avenida Eraso, Sector San Roman. Urbanizacion Santa Rosa de Lima, Chacao.

Goals:

1. To share the experiences of the different artistic expressions of each country in the missionary field
2. To reflect on the question of Preaching through Art shared with other people
3. To provide artists with tools to heighten Preaching through Art
4. To create some kind of association for those Dominican artists in the region

Daily Schedule:

- 1st Day: Poetry, Literature, Songs
- 2nd Day: Painting, Drawing, Photography
- 3rd Day: Sculpture, Pottery, Handicrafts
- 4th Day: Dances, Corporal Statement, Puppets
- 5th Day: MCS, Cinema, Audio, Video, Music

The works done during the second and third days will be displayed throughout the course of the meeting.

The registration deadline is June 15, 2002.

Cost of the meeting: Registration: US \$ 20. Accommodations: US \$ 25. Meals: US \$ 80 per person. This covers the whole stay and includes breakfast, morning snack, lunch, evening snack, and dinner.

Registration form: Each participant must complete and forward, on time, the registration form with all the information required and the details of her/his curriculum. Ask Sr. Elaine DesRosiers, OP, DesRosiers.1@nd.edu for a form.

Reference: For further questions, to request application, or to submit application form, contact Joana O'Shanahan, OP, (Argentina/Ireland) who is the coordinator of CODAL, the Conferacion de hermanas dominicas de America Latina y El Caribe.

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Bulletin Board

CLAIM your right as a DIA member!

You received a copy of the Constitution and by-laws? Right!

And it had a response sheet enclosed? Right!

Please take the time and effort to read these important documents carefully and let the Board know your thoughts by returning the response sheet before the Gathering.

Join the Fra Angelico Celebration

Join in a tribute to the vocations of artist and religious at the "Windows to the Divine" Fra Angelico Celebration of Art and Spirituality in Denver, Colorado, in November 2003. The celebration will include a live auction, awards, and an art exhibition and sale, featuring the works of over 50 Colorado artists. The event is sponsored by the Colorado Dominican Vocation Foundation (CDVF), a non-profit organization established to provide spiritual and financial support for the Dominican Novitiate in Denver, Colorado. The celebration, held every other year at the Denver Center for Performing Arts, is a unique event that offers an opportunity to artists and people of all faiths to acknowledge and articulate the close unity between art and spirituality. The art exhibition, "Windows to the Divine," is a juried art show. The proceeds of all sales are divided between the artist and the CDVF. For the 2003 show, the CDVF invites DIA members to inquire about possible submission of their work to the jury. The CDVF would like to feature the works of Dominican artists in a special section of the show. If you would like more information, please contact the chair of the event, Shannon Robinson, at (303) 702-1722 or: sar.pc@att.net.

College artwork sought

Announcing a display of artwork by college students. If you know of interested artists who qualify, please contact Fr. Vincent, OP, at the Dominican Priory at River Forest, Illinois, at (708) 771-0740 for details.

**TWO
important dates!**

**DIA GATHERING 2002
will be in
Sinsinawa JULY 18-23, 2002.**

**DIA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
is AUGUST 15, 2002.**

Why be a DIA member?

Membership in the Dominican Institute for the Arts has many rewards:

- it offers reduced conference fees
- it provides an opportunity to exhibit and showcase Dominican art
- it supports collaborative Dominican artistic projects
- it offers potential for mutual support and connections with Dominican artists
- it continues the treasured preaching tradition of Fra Angelico into the 21st Century
- it includes the DIA Newsletter
- it ensures listing on the web site directory and ListServ

YES! I want to join the DIA!

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....
E-mail.....

Congregation/Province.....
My artist interests are.....

Annual membership begins in January.

Fee is \$25. Make check payable to DIA and send to:

Dominican Institute for the Arts
c/o Jeanne Stickling, OP
701 Locust Road #2N Wilmette, IL 60091

(continued from pg. 8)

Painting as Prayer

Whatever I paint, I celebrate. I have celebrated many of the experiences of my life: Vietnam, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Siena, Fanjeaux, and even the Great Wall of China. I have refreshed my spirit with paintings of my mother, of my New England and Kentucky heritage, of places in Indiana. The images are not always happy ones, however, because what I stop and consider reflects *life*, and life can sometimes be difficult.

On the Lands of Dominic tour, I learned a great lesson from Ann Wilitts, OP. In Siena, when preparing us for the trip to Florence, Ann told us about Fra Angelico and his life as an artist. He never preached a word in public, but nevertheless he magnificently preached by his frescoes in San Marco. The preacher within me responded so intensely that I remained in Siena instead of going to Florence. I wanted to spend the day sketching scenes of my beloved Siena. (I had been to Florence before, so the sacrifice was not that great.)

Even though most of the subjects of my paintings are not outwardly religious, I feel the sense of the sacred about my work. Painting is sacred to me because I feel connected with the Creator. Art, as creation, is associated with prayer. Art is, in fact, a form of prayer. Kathleen Hart says that art is the freedom to be ourselves before God, letting go of older forms of prayer which may have lost their meaning for us. The Tuesday Novena at St. Cecilia's is no longer a viable prayer form for me, but my Tuesday nights of painting are.

Note: Since my retirement, I paint on Thursday afternoons.

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