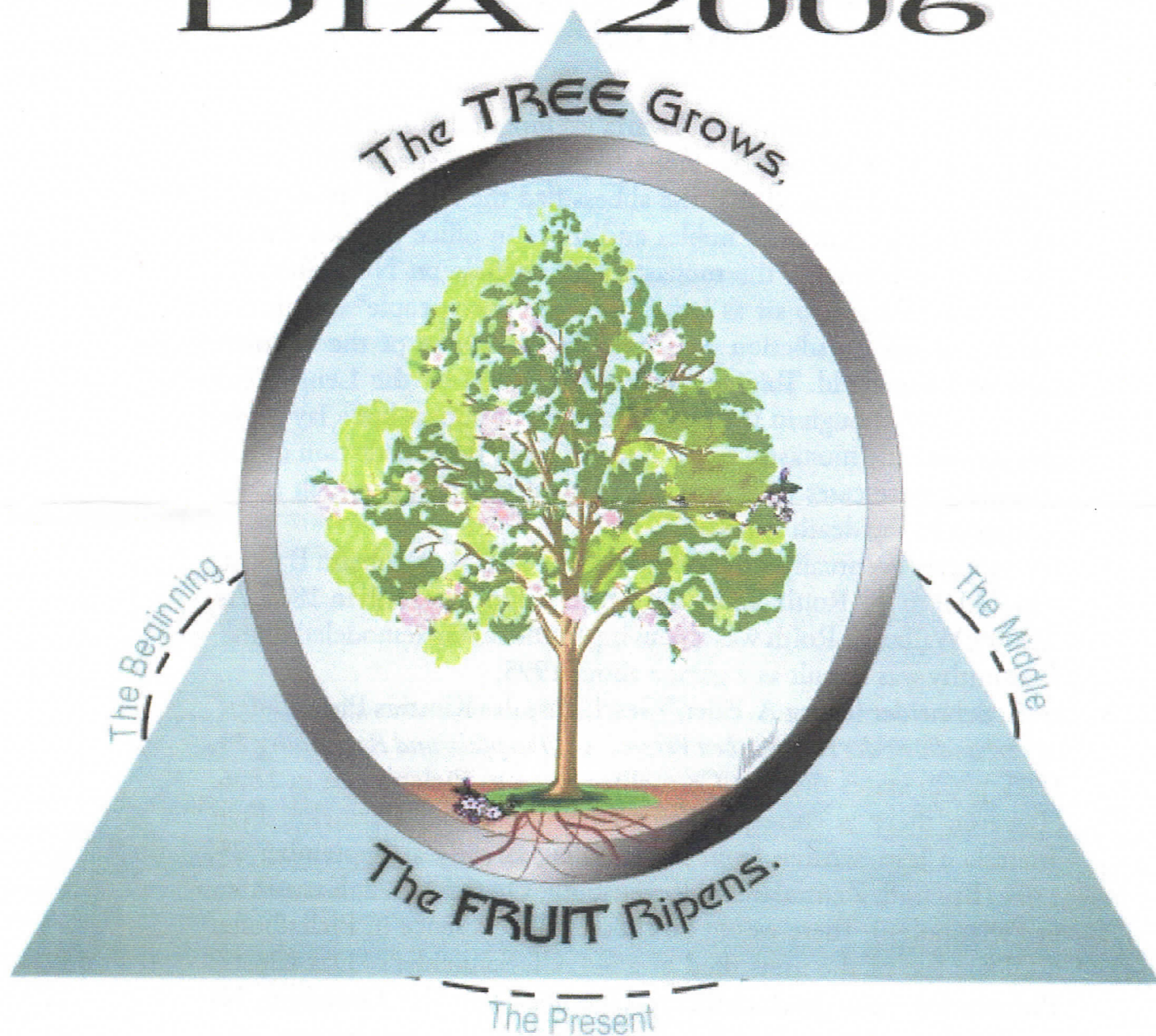


Make Way For

## DIA 2006



Don't get lost in the time maze, fill out your registration now for the

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY** of DIA.

**Place:** Mission San Jose Motherhouse, 43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA

**Dates:** Tues., July 25 (Approx. 7:00 PM) - Fri., July 28 (ends at noon).



## A Message from the DIA Board

Blessings of Justice filled with Peace and Beauty as we journey in this year of 2006! As we prepare for our tenth anniversary Gathering at Mission San Jose, we wish to alert you to two projected changes in our Constitution. These will be presented for your discussion and voting at our Gathering in July.

The two proposals are the following:

- ❖ That the Dominican Institute of the Arts hold a Gathering every two years, and that an Arts Retreat be offered during the alternate years.
- ❖ That officers of the Board be elected for four-year terms beginning with our upcoming election in July of 2006 at our Gathering.

Thank you for your consideration of these two proposals. Further details about them will follow in our May Newsletter. May these months before our tenth anniversary be filled with much beauty and creativity in the midst of a world needing blessings of peace with justice.

Sincerely,

Jean Ackerman, Jude Bloch, Pat Daly, Irene Mary Diones, Colleen Gallagher, Rudolph Loewenstein, and Jeanne Stickling

### Vision Statement of the DIA (Approved by the Board in February 2001)

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.

### Why be a Member of the DIA?

Among the many rewards of membership in the **Dominican Institute for the Arts** are:

- \* Reduced conference rates;
- \* Opportunities to exhibit and showcase Dominican art;
- \* Support for collaborative Dominican Artist projects;
- \* Potential for mutual support and connections with other Dominican Artists;
- \* Continuance of the treasured preaching tradition of Fra Angelico;
- \* Receiving the DIA Newsletter
- \* A listing in the Website Directory
- \* Use of the listserv.

### DIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check: ☐ New Member  
☐ Membership Renewal  
☐ Information Update

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

My Art Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee of **\$35.00** spans the year in which your check is written (January 1 - December 31). Please make check payable to **DIA**. Mail check and this membership form to **DIA Membership Liaison: Irene Mary Diones, OP, 6024 Terrace Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90042.**

**Editor:** Mary T. Fisher, OP, 5635 Erie St., Racine, WI 53402-1934; 262-639-4100; smtfisher@hotmail.com

**Board Liaison:** Jean Ackerman, OP

**Masthead:** Deborah Marie Butcher, OP

**Logo Design:** Irene Mary Diones, OP

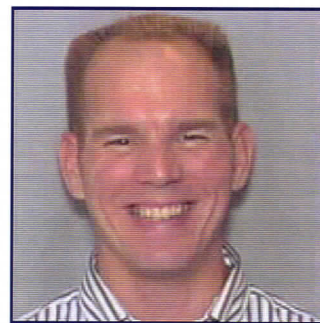
**Artists, pages 1 & 6:** Kathleen Voss, OP; Carol O'Connor, OP

**Printer, Distributor:** Adrian Dominican Community

**DIA Newsletter Vol VIII, No. 1: February 2006**

## Renowned Theologian/ Philosopher/ Artist to Deliver Gathering's Keynote Address

If **Thoma Swanson, OP**, and other members of the planning committee for the **2006 Gathering** in San Jose next July seem to be floating on air lately, it might be attributable to the smiling young man pictured to the right.



**Mark E. Wedig, OP**, is a friar of the (Southern) Province of St. Martin de Porres, currently Associate Professor of Theology and Chair of the Department of Theology and Philosophy at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. He has a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies from Catholic University and studied studio art at the Atlanta College of Art and the School of Art Institute in Chicago.

**Mark Wedig's** research interests are in religion and art. A few of his publications include "The Shared Lens of Theologian and Visual Artist," "The Visual Hermeneutics of Hispanic/Latino Popular Religion and the Recovery of the Image in Christian Praxis," "No Neutral Zones: Hermeneutics and the Interpretation of Liturgical Space," "Edifice and Image: Reform of the Roman Catholic Worship Environment," and "The Defeat of Visual Aesthetic Arianism."

It is no wonder that **Thoma**—and all members of the DIA—reacted with enthusiasm and delight upon hearing the news that this learned man with a passionate interest in theology and art has consented to deliver the Keynote Address at San Jose's **Gathering** in July.

When **Paul Philibert, OP**, presently prior in Fribourg, heard the general theme proposed for **DIA's** Gathering next summer, he personally recommended **Mark Wedig**, suggesting that he would be the very person to call upon: a theologian who shares the spirit of an artist.

### Calling All Dominican Artists!

Would you like to exhibit some of your work at Mariandale's Art Gallery? Contact **Lorraine Ferguson, OP**, at Mariandale for information and applications: [lferguson@ophope.org](mailto:lferguson@ophope.org).

**Third Annual Dominican Artists' Retreat** on the lovely Hudson River at Mariandale, Ossining, NY, **June 10-17, 2006**. Here's your chance to relax, do your art, pray, and be with other artists. Contact **Lorraine Ferguson** at the same address: [lferguson@ophope.org](mailto:lferguson@ophope.org).



"May the beauty which you pass on to generations still to come be such that it will stir them to wonder. Faced with the sacredness of life and of the human person, and before the marvels of the universe, wonder is the only appropriate attitude."

-- John Paul II, Letter to Artists, Sec. 16

### REGISTRATION

for DIA's 10th Anniversary Celebration

at Mission San Jose, California,

July 25-28, 2006,

Will be available soon.

**WATCH FOR IT!**



# Writing as an Art and Ministry

by Paschala Noonan, OP

Did you notice the breakthrough in the last year's Gathering program? Writing—prose writing—finally found its place as an art! For years I have complained that creative prose writing is like a stepchild among the arts. Everyone writes almost daily, but few consider that writing for communication is different from art-writing. In the current membership list (2003-2005) 24 indicated an interest in prose writing; 43 ascribed to poetry, and 21 to both. Poetry has always been more widely accepted than prose. That is good, but now creative writing needs to be acknowledged as a ministry of the word and a ministry of power.

Sometimes people are slow to accept artists of any genre as authentic Christian ministers. In some congregations, the artist must find time for art between, before, or after "practical" forms of full-time ministry. Fortunately, this is changing, and art is gaining ground as a bona fide ministry. **DIA** has helped tremendously with this, but writing is just beginning to come into its own.

The writer of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry is a minister of the Word. Writers are imitators of God; their ministry is as God's, to make their work become flesh. In the February 2005 **DIA Newsletter**, Jean Ackerman, OP, wrote: "Have you ever stopped to consider what an artist the Evangelist John was? ... his creative words pulsate with dramatic intensity." How about the other Gospel writers and their artist-writing? Or St. Paul's letters? Have you thought of them as artist-writers, as ministers of the word?

In true creative prose writing you present values that make you who you are. You feed the spirit of your reader. You give more than a cup of water ...

Writing is also a ministry of power. Whether for good or evil, there is tremendous power in the writing ministry. Who can measure the power of Harry Potter? Children stand in line for hours waiting when a new Potter book is released: books that are 500 or more pages long. Harriet Beecher Stowe called the attention of a whole nation to the inhumanity of slavery. Merton, Kung, Martin Luther King, Jr. are only a few of minister-writers who have challenged people to think. Hitler rose to power propelled by his *Mein Kampf*. Lord Byron tells us: "a small drop of ink/Falling ... upon a thought, produces/ That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think."

I hope **DIA** will continue to challenge creative writers, help them to release the Spirit within themselves and others, encourage them to minister to the reading public, and exercise power with words, the symbols which make us all think.

## My Story by Mary Vosters, OP



Even as a child I was drawn to the Dominican charism and ministry, as evident in the lives of the Sisters who taught me.

Of all the subjects I studied, my favorites were religion and art. Both lifted me up from the ordinary and brought me to a world of beauty and freedom, where I could fully express my inner life, my spirituality. Later, as a teacher, I tried to bring the same joy to my students.

Now, in later years, I still yearn to experience the joy and beauty of creation. Watercolor techniques free my spirit as I attempt to transfer to paper the awe I feel. As my brushes touch the paper, I am aware of my soul being united to God while the colors help me express my emotions and thoughts.

"To contemplate and give to others the fruits of contemplation" is an actual ministry to me, and I am grateful for both my vocation and my avocation as a Dominican artist."





At the "Wall of Remembrance " in El Salvador

## El Salvador Through the Eyes of an Artist

by Jean Ackerman, OP  
DIA Board President

As we begin our tenth anniversary celebration of the Dominican Institute for the Arts, I recall my recent experience with the SHARE delegation in El Salvador. Our delegation traveled in memory of the four women martyrs from the United States as well as of the 75,000 Salvadoran martyrs. At the Wall of Remembrance we wept as we experienced the litany of names. I felt that we were walking in the blood of the martyrs. The wall had just been completed with some awesome murals of the faces of men, women, and children, many of whom experienced torturous murders.

Liberation theology undergirds the faith of the peasants, and they define Church as those who espouse Christ's compassion for the poor. Poverty beyond description characterizes the life of thousands of people.

Over and over, presenters reminded us that we must name the injustices that are our reality today. This was graphically experienced at the chapel near the place where the six Jesuits and two lay women were violently killed. Sketches of the

Stations of the Cross depict the various types of death that the Salvadorans have experienced. Etched in black and white, these sketches will haunt me for the remainder of my life.

Yes, our hearts were broken in El Salvador; our love for the poor intensified; our intentions to stay in the struggle for human rights strengthened. During this tenth anniversary of DIA may all artists allow our hearts to be broken as our love for the poor and our ongoing struggles for human rights permeate all of our artistic endeavors.

## YES, LORD JESUS

by Susanne Tracy, OP

To say YES is one thing;  
To pray YES is quite another;  
To live YES is the epitome.  
My YES has brought me to so many places, to  
so many persons, Lord.  
My body has been given for others...  
But at times I do Keep some of my self for me.  
My YES has been a YES at times  
And at others, a YES, BUT...  
If only I could be as true to You  
As I desire to be.  
But I taste the gap; I feel the gulf that  
Shows me my sometimes very feeble y e s  
Or even my very forceful NO  
I taste your Eucharist daily, Lord.  
You are my daily bread.  
Empty my self of myself—prune away,  
Chisel away the me that stands in the  
Way of You.  
Help me with Your power. Help me by Your  
presence.  
You must increase; I must decrease.  
What's past is past—and I don't know the future.  
The only moment I'm sure of is NOW—  
And in this moment now I'm sure I want to  
Say...pray...live...YES.  
In You all is possible, Lord Jesus.  
YES, I believe this.  
YES, Alleluia!



# ANNOUNCING



## GALLERY X

Welcome to Gallery X - a virtual art gallery,  
featuring the works of the 2006 DIA Gathering Artists

*Ten years ago ...  
the seed was planted and the DIA began ...  
the roots grabbed hold ...  
the tree grew ...  
Now the fruit ripens.*

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the DIA, we are extending the branches and trying something a little different.

In the past, DIA members have showcased their works at the annual Gathering in a gallery setting. Some simply admired what they had seen. Some saw for the first time. Some questioned what they once knew ... all were inspired. The opportunity to experience the art still remains, the way we experience it will change. A display of artwork will not be in the traditional gallery setting, but through a "virtual" presentation.

Artists wishing to display artwork will need to digitally photograph the piece(s) and either email the digital image in **.jpg format** or snail mail an actual photo of the piece. Digital images are preferred, if possible. All attempts will be made to include all works submitted. It is possible that time restraints will limit the number of pieces included in the gallery.

Please include the following information with your artwork:

- Your name and address
- Your contact information including phone number and email
- The title of your piece
- Medium used
- Any comments about your piece

Email digital images to Gallery X Curator, Carol O'Connor at: [coconnor@columbusdominicans.org](mailto:coconnor@columbusdominicans.org)

Snail mail photographs to: Carol O'Connor, St. Mary of the Springs, 2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH 43219. **Questions?** Feel free to contact Carol at (614)416-1362.

# The Art of Finding God in the Rubble

by Pauline Quinn, OP

A childhood filled with horrors, agonizing torture, abuse, and all kinds of trauma can be hard to forget. Even so, we can recover from childhood turmoil, picking ourselves up from the dust, and moving on. As hard as we try, however, past pain is stored in our memories, hitching a ride in our brains.

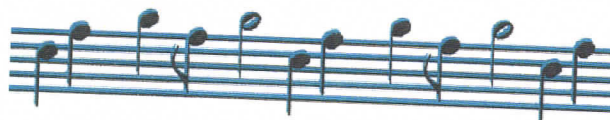
We are horrified when we see devastating earthquakes. The terrorist attacks on 9-11, the Tsunami and the New Orleans-Mississippi tragedies have been captured on film for the world to see through tear-dimmed eyes. We weep for the people victimized by such sorrow. What we see awakens our empathy, birthing compassion.

We cannot see, however, hidden traumas that leave no outside scars, where there is no film to capture the shocking event. We cannot—nor do we want to—visualize the violence, rape, or other human-caused traumas too horrible even to think about. It is just too painful.

How can we find God in the middle of rubble, where is the Super Glue that can repair our brokenness? How can we restore the fractured sense of self-worth, self-esteem?

I have found a wonderful way to find God in the middle of rubble—a way that has changed my view of life. I learned to see things differently by cutting out a small square in the middle of a piece of cardboard. Then placing my eye to the square, I designed pictures. Even a rusted object took on new meaning. I didn't look at the whole picture, but instead captured pieces of it by moving the cardboard around to crop out a design. It then became something beautiful. I didn't see the rubble anymore, but learned to look past the disorder and find beauty. I now use my camera lens to put myself into something beautiful, rather than to allow the devastation to pull me down. I try to see a little piece of God among the ruins.

Photography has become a tool for me to see the world differently and to share what I see with others. God, in His goodness, allowed me to see past the rubble of my own life. I taught myself to see bits and pieces of Hope that shines even in terrible wreckage. It reminds us that God is with us, no matter what. His unconditional love carries us through anything—even memories of childhood horrors and traumas.



## Music is All Around Us!

by Rebecca Shinas, OP

My ministry is as the Adult Spiritual Formation Coordinator at St. Simon Parish in Los Altos, California, where I lead many ASF sessions, usually opening with a song. I find that the heart responds more quickly to music than to the spoken word. If in doubt, I pull out ol' Zephaniah, my guitar, and we are merrily on our musical way.

I share song with all ages: pre-school tots, school children, teens, young adults, parish community, convalescing residents, the homeless, various clubmembers, seniors; at funerals, weddings, and celebrations of all kinds.

The Holy Spirit is a songster from of old, and seems to sing Her ancient hymns whenever we raise our voices. She opens up the sages of healing to come and spread Her healing balm upon us. She sends the women of wisdom and the men of sacred story to help us find pathways to God. She sings the creation song to remind us Who created us and what a blessing it is to receive sustenance from our mother earth.

Song is the language of God that all people understand; they know that when they sing, something stirs deep within and whispers "We are One." If you have not yet sung today, stop and sing now. I know our God will sing along with you!





(Photos by Gabrielle Hubert, OP)

### Dawn

Impatient spirit serene now,  
Anxious heart calmed  
At seashore.  
Horizon blooms, limitless,  
Offering rosy hope—  
Acceptance.  
Let mystery be,  
No answers required:  
At peace with Possibility.

|||||  
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