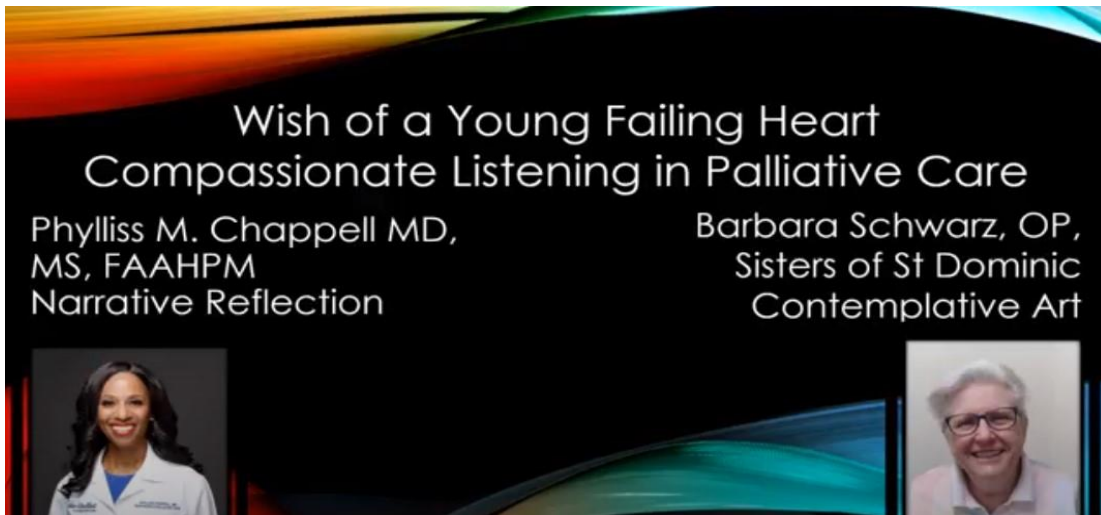




Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts

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DIA Collaboration

The Dominican Institute for the Arts is committed to preaching through the arts. This article indicates what happens when DIA members connect and collaborate.

Congratulations to Dr. Phyllis M. Chappell, M.D. MS, FAAHPM, OPA, and to Sister Barbara Schwarz OP, on their collaborative effort used in a worldwide Virtual presentation on Compassionate Listening in Palliative Care. Sr. Barbara is an Amityville Dominican and Dr. Phyllis a Houston Associate. Dr. Phyllis is a physician in Supportive and Palliative Care at the Houston Methodist Hospital. Dr. Phyllis said about being a part of the Dominican Family, "My sense of belonging, connection and enriched spirituality have supported my work."

These two Dominicans met at the annual Dominican Institute for the Arts (DIA) gathering where Dr. Chappell, who offers her talent in Liturgical Dance Prayer, met Sr. Barbara. Dr. Phyllis was impressed with Barbara's abstract works. Dr. Chappell liked the idea of combining spoken word and abstract art.

"I invited Sr. Barbara to join me in this project, and she very generously gave me access to her work," said Chappell. *"The art deepens and enriches the impact of the story and its message."* Sr. Barbara said, *"This art is preaching in a new way – connecting with all these people who God sent me reassures me that my preaching – past, present, and future – has a place."*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few months ago, a friend shared with me that she was struggling with an important decision. Wishing to support her, I sent her one of my photo note cards with some words of encouragement. Yesterday, she called to let me know she had finally made her decision and that the image on my

note card had helped her make it. The message revealed to me through the camera lens was very different from the one my friend received from the photographic image. Rarely do we know the impact of our art. In this rare instance, I became aware of the difference my art can make and I am grateful for this blessing.

We, as Dominican artists, share our work whenever and however we can through exhibits, art shows, concerts, computers, sales, gifts, etc. never knowing the message that will be received or the difference it might make. So, as we continue to preach God's Word through our art, let's remember we never know its effect.

Take care, be well and please stay safe.

Peace,

Pat



OOPs!

I was so excited about getting out the first Newsletter that I overlooked a very important fact. Sr. Barbara Schwarz did the lay out for the Fall Newsletter as Sr. Donna wasn't set up to do the lay out at the time. I want to make sure Barbara gets the credit for the beautiful job she did for DIA. Thank you Barbara, and sorry for the omission.

~ Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, Editor

Healing Memorials—Grieving and Creating

by Sr. Nancy Ann Turner OP

During August 2021, I felt inspired to participate in Detroit's [Healing Memorial](#), a large-scale participatory public art installation that recognizes the depth of loss in Detroit and all Southeast Michigan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A collaboration between the City of Detroit Office of Arts, Cranbrook Art Museum and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, this memorial will offer support and healing for residents of southeast Michigan who experienced all forms of loss, including physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, social, occupational, and environmental.

I created a memorial for each Adrian Dominican Sister who died of COVID-19 this past year, as well as several more memorials for young adults with whom I had worked at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

Creating the pouches was a sacred endeavor. As I created each one, floods of memories came to me, and I felt connected to that Sister and found myself praying to her. I knew well many of the deceased Sisters and felt myself blessed as I worked on the memorials. Within each one, I wrote a brief letter and prayer to that particular Sister for whom the memorial was being made – 14 in all. I felt peace and solace in

making our remembering tangible. Each memorial was slightly different using beads, lace, fabric, yarn, ribbons and various stitches. Each one took about two hours to make.



I know that many people have been in grief and in communal lament for the past 18 months. We have wept and we have mourned. We have become so much more conscious of the pain surrounding an enormous number of people – way beyond our family, our congregation – beyond our country. Our expansive grief has also reminded us that we are not alone; we are all in this together. We care for each other in new ways, and we will assert hope and work for justice message

New Adventure!

On **February 19, 2022**, you are all invited to join in for a special Zoom session of DIA Artists meeting together to talk about what you have been doing during these times. You will be getting a Zoom link a couple of days ahead, and it is up to you to log in and participate. Hope you can join us in the New Adventure.

Welcome to New Members of the DIA

Although the pandemic has kept us from gathering, new members have joined to participate in our collaborative efforts.

Among those who have joined are:

Annemarie Kallenbach OPA (Adrian)
Catherine Gundlach OPA (Racine)
Cristobal Torres OP (Southern Province)
Frandel Kay Marsh OP (St. Joseph Province/Laity)
Kack Nugent OPA (Tacoma)
Lea Koesterer OPA (Racine)
Marlene Kasama OPA (Peace)
Mary Pat Neylon OP (Amityville)
Teresa Hougnon MM (Maryknoll)

A grand welcome to all our new members. Three members responded to a request asking why they decided to be a part of DIA. As the members send in their stories of introduction they will be published. Here are the stories and reasons for joining the DIA from those who have responded:

Annemarie Kallenbach



My name is Annemarie Kallenbach. I am a native Chicagoan, and now live in Adrian, Michigan. I was influenced by Sr.

Sue Schreiber when I visited INAI Gallery. I work in fiber art in knitting, crocheting, loom weave, quilting and sewing. I also like to work in book art, ceramics, metal and jewelry, as well as enamel and bead weaving. I have no expectations but feel the charism to preach through making and gifting my art.

Marlene Marks Kasama

I like to be called Marlene. I am from Bardstown, Kentucky and my husband, Katsuyuki, is from Japan. We have two daughters, Megumi and Kimiko.



I have worked four years for the Dominican Sisters of Peace at St. Catharine, Kentucky, as their Motherhouse Administrator. I am also an Associate. My background is in Human Resources Management and Administration.

I was influenced to join the DIA when I saw that the organization existed in an article in the oppeace newsletter. I enjoy all the arts, especially music. I play the piano and flute. When I joined, I was so warmly greeted by Pat Daly and other members and am happy to be included in a group that not only appreciates the arts but cares about each other. I like that we pray for each other and use our talents for the glory of God.

Frandel (F.K.) Marsh

Greetings in Christ! My name is Frandel K. (F.K.) Marsh and I am a Lay Dominican with the Immaculate Heart Chapter in Buffalo, New York. I joined DIA over a year ago. My



profession-journey as a Lay Dominican began several years ago with a Washington,

DC, chapter at the Dominican House of Studies – a blessing, indeed. Years prior to that, however, Mother Assumpta Long of the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in a conversation one day said to me, “Boy, do you sound Dominican,” and the Lord planted the seed.

I go by Frandel, a name my Mom said they made up, but I also go by F.K. Marsh especially professionally. So folks in Michigan and Maryland where I have had the majority of my work life know me as F.K. I’m originally from western New York. In Michigan I worked on a degree and then worked, first as executive director for Family Life Services of Washtenaw County, Inc., which included the blessed oversight of a Pregnancy Counseling Center, and then as business faculty and a dean at Concordia University. I was then called to Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, MD, to teach corporate social responsibility in the business program. My husband, John, and I moved back to western New York a few years ago and encountered and homed our miscellaneous rescues and stray animals.

The Lord has blessed me with simple prayers and poetry that have turned into On My Way prayer cards. And, as a result of participating in DIA and recent conversations with Sr. Esther Calderon, OP, four of the prayer cards have just been translated into Spanish. Sr. Esther plans on distributing them to refugees coming into Tucson, AZ. Praise the Lord for her work, the Dominican Sisters of Peace, and so

many others. I have also begun writing a children’s book series, DogsareFunx4, virtues-based on the antics of the four-leggeds in our family including my chocolate labrador Therapy Dog partner, Edora.

I happened upon the Dominican Institute for the Arts on the Internet through a link on domlife.org, I believe, and since then I have also been incredibly blessed. What a welcoming group you are! John and I love and support all types of art. DIA has offered me the encouragement and opportunity to grow in my own writings. I especially thank Pat Daly for her welcoming care and encouraging spirit. I am thankful to have found the DIA community and I look forward to interacting with more of you. DIA has already been a blessing to me. Please let me know how I might be of service and I pray be a blessing to you.



Sister Teresa Hougnon (far right), also a new member of the DIA, assumed leadership of the Maryknoll Sisters on January 6, 2022.

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Three Videos by DIA Members presented at the Urbi et Orbi Conference

To access the content listed below, visit www.ai.edu/urbietorbi. To view the speakers, click on the link for each day, then select which speaker you wish to hear for yourself. For the videos presented by three of the DIA members visit www.ai.edu/urbietorbi click on the link for the day and scroll to Video Segments. These videos can also be found on the DIA website, www.diartsop.org.

Day 1 presented **Dominic DeLay, OP**. Mudpuddle Films, Western Providence, and his wonderful film entitled **“The Bishop’s First Confession.”** Also, on Day 1 can be found the gem of **“Preaching Through the Arts,”** compiled by **Sr. Barbara Schwarz OP**, Amityville, of a presentation of preaching using Art, including the work of Artists of DIA. **Fr. Cristóbal Torres, OP: “Preaching and Art,”** can be found in Video Segments for Day 2.

If you are not able to access these following is a synopsis of each.

“The Bishop’s First Confession,” a film by **Dominic Delay OP**, is about a little seven-and-a-half-year-old girl who makes her first Confession to a Bishop who has replaced the Pastor because he was ill. Her insights are amazing and give the Bishop plenty of thoughts to consider about how to be a Bishop. He winds up making the act of contrition with the child. It is a **“DO NOT MISS”** gem that gives one hope in the future.



“Preaching Through the Arts” by **Sr. Barbara Schwarz OP** is a tribute to the power of art as a way of Dominican Preaching. Sr. Barbara (recognized internationally for her art) highlighted the art forms of thirty-four members of the Dominican Institute for the Arts in the



presentation. She includes the artists’ works in such a rich way as to give one material to contemplate for a long time, as well as inspire and motivate others to produce in one’s own creative process. Some of her insights: “Preaching through the arts is more than viewing a gallery or going to a ballet or concert.... Preaching through art is about bringing God to our senses, our whole bodies and to our very selves.” “Art as preaching involves the integration of contemplation and work, between media, God and the person. Color, movement, and sound preach to the preacher and affect the outcome. Art is a process between God and the media used.....” “Preaching through art can be Active – doing the art; or Contemplative – viewing a completed piece and listening for its preaching.” “Artists need to be open to the impact one’s art has on others.” Barbara summarized her video segment using the Dominican Motto, to Praise, Bless and Preach put into her words, “To preach through the arts is...To Praise, to

live in the Mystery gratefully recognizing the source of all Being is God's love." "To Bless is to be just who we are in the diversity of all that is; nothing more, nothing less." "To Preach is to proclaim the Word of Truth we know, that is the boundless mercy and justice of God revealed in Christ Jesus and to follow wherever it leads." She concluded her presentation stating that the arts enable us to preach together with hearts that are open and overflow with love.

Father Cristobal Torres, OP entitled his video, "**Preaching and Art.**" He reminded us that the long history of preaching by the Dominican Order has not been only through the word but also through art. His art is most influenced by the development of Icons from the Christian East. He believes

that it is an expression of the mind of Christ and draws us into prayer, and that Sacred Imagery puts into conversation the contemporary question. He spoke of how Christian Art is a way to speak the word to God's people and good preaching involves story telling whether through words of images. He used the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a work that tells a story. His most recent art involves a book jacket for a work called "For the Salvation of Souls." He drew images of the well-known historical Dominicans with contemporary ones. The image can be seen at the end of his video.



Reminders:

- You have recently received your **Membership Renewal** letter. You have been asked to update your profile, write about any endeavor in which you have been involved, and to renew your membership. Dues is \$35.00. Thanks to all those who have paid it already.
- If you have a Community member that is talented with some form of art, or just loves the arts, ask her/him if s/he might be interested in joining the DIA. It is up to Membership to help **recruit new members**. Talk about the DIA and give an example of how you've been inspired by your participation. You may bring a great benefit to someone and to the DIA.
- Be on the lookout in the mail/e-mail for the **Registration Packet for the Gathering in Racine** in August. The theme is "Telling the Story."

Long Island Artist to Exhibit at La Nonna Bella Ristorante Italiano

from the *Garden City News*

Sister Mary Anna Euring, OP, who grew up in Lynbrook, is having a solo exhibit of *On the Journey*, her Asian brush paintings, at La Nonna Bella Ristorante Italiano, 660 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, from December 2nd through January 6th. The restaurant will continue to offer its customary fine dining experience, so be sure to make your reservations in advance for this unique opportunity to nourish your body as well as your spirit.

Sister had always been drawn to Asian brush paintings and longed for the day when she would have the time to express herself through this medium. Now, after many years devoted to being an educator, administrator, hospital chaplain and counselor, she is fulfilling her heart's desire by engaging as a contemplative artist.

Her paintings visually express a quote from Teilhard de Chardin: "For those who know how to see, everything is sacred." As an artist, she attempts to "see" the essence of reality and portray it by using the simple tools of ink, brush and rice paper. The simplicity of the medium appeals to her as it expresses her belief that "less is more."

She shares with us: "As my creative energy is released and flows spontaneously through the brush, I am always surprised by what emerges. Invariably, it's an expression of my inner self...perhaps a visual depiction of risks taken, challenges overcome, beauty experienced, and all the varied and deep emotions found within our universal life

stories. Those who gaze on my art tell me that they are attracted by its "spirit," and many are surprised to see their own life



story reflected in what has flowed from my brush. This new-found gift of Asian brush painting is for me both a delight and a passion. My hope is that those who gaze upon it will be filled with deep peace, inspiration and healing."

The artist, an Amityville Dominican Sister for 65 years, is allocating all proceeds from her exhibits to help support her congregation's ministries to those in need. Proceeds from this exhibit at La Nonna Bella, \$4700, will be donated to Sister Margaret Rose Smyth's ministry to and with those in need on Long Island's East End. Since 1996, Sister Margaret Rose has been a catalyst for social change on the North Fork, enhancing the lives of thousands of immigrant women and children.

Please send website submissions to: Sister Barbara Schwarz OP – Artafire@hotmail.com