



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

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Attendees of DIA Gathering 2024



Front Row - Left to Right: Sr. Martina Stegman, OP (Peace); Sr. Beverly Vitrano, OP (Blauvelt); Sr. Grace Dennis, OP (Adrian); Sr. Nancyann Turner, OP (Adrian); Sr. Jeanne Stickling, OP (Adrian); Sr. Catherine Anderson, OP (Grand Rapids)

Second Row - Left to right: Sr. Ann Marie Santen, OP (Sparkill); Sr. Nancy Murray, OP (Adrian); Sr. Jane Rudolph, OP (Mission San Jose); Sr. Sue Schrieber, OP (Adrian); Sr. Joann Daly, OP. (Sinsinawa); Sr. Irene Mary, OP (Mission San Jose); Sr. Janet Holkup, OP (Adrian); Mary Reinhard, OP (Central Province); Sr. Donna Brunell, OP (Hope); Sr. Christa Cunningham, OP(Sinsinawa); Sr. Cheryl Liske, OP (Adrian); Sr. Rosemary Asaro, OP (Adrian); Sr. Joella Miller, OP (Adrian);

Third Row – Left to Right: John Mascazine, OPA (Peace); Sr. Miriam Brown, OP (Sinsinawa); Sr. Elizabeth Lee, OP (Mission San Jose); Sr. Gabi Williams, OP (Oakford); Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP (Sparkill) Sr. Anita Smisek, OP, (Sinsinawa) Sr. Janet Wright, OP (Adrian); Marty Washburn (Racine Associate); Sr. Rita Bizer, OP (Peace); Sr. Therese Maillet, OP, (Blauvelt); Sr. Eloise Hertel, OP (Peace-companion); Sr. Mary Pat Reid, OP (Caldwell); Sr. Nathalie Meyer, OP (Grand Rapids); Sr. Xiomara Mendez-Hernandez, OP (Adrian)

Back Row: Mark Hanes, OPA (Peace)

Letter from the President



Little did I know that when I went to the DIA this year that I would come home as its President. I was very happy with being Editor of the OPalette Newsletter and told those who inducted me into the President position that I already had enough to do. They told me that they would find a new editor, as they wanted me President. I have some very big shoes to fill, and I hope to serve the DIA with the same passion and dedication as we have experienced in the past. There is a big learning curve, so I do hope you are all patient with me as I acquire the skills for this position. Each President has one's own task to perform. I hope to continue the great work of my predecessors and "mind the store." Thank you for your support and affirmation.



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Joye Gros, OP (Peace), Keynote Speaker at DIA Gathering



Joye reminded us that all beauty originates with God and impacts the perspective of how one sees. She connected the Laudato Si encyclical to the ARTists for the eARTH.

Everything is revelatory, if we but see,
Everything is revelatory, if we but listen
Everything is revelatory, if we but feel
Everything is revelatory, if we let ourselves encounter it.

Joye quoted from different sources about how in tune writers and philosophers, prophets and poets, ancient and contemporary artists are in touch with Mother Earth and artistic vision.

Some of these quotes:

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." Henry David Thoreau

From the Art of Paying Attention (page 4): the Artist knows besides seeing – It is also what you hear and what you feel.

It is the engagement of all these senses.

But it requires **attention** and **intention**.

The Artist has the gift of looking below the surface

(The words **attention** and **intention** are in bold, because Joye used these words throughout her presentation to remind us of our responsibility and privilege of being artists.)

Being an artist, no matter one's discipline, provokes one's heart:

"The heart of the artist is curious and open to everything. The Heart of the artist asks questions for which there may or may not be answers.

The heart of the artist is not afraid to step out of and away from the conventional.

The heart of the artist has something to tell but is not afraid to let it go so that others might see and hear and feel what is generated by the art."

The artist has no idea of the ripple effects caused by one's art.

Photographs, painting, movement, acting, music, poetry, can inspire prayer, reflection, meditation, and contemplation because the artist invites others to go beneath and beyond the surface.

Many times in the Gospel stories we read that Jesus **SAW** what others overlooked:

Mustard seeds, a grain of wheat, and Jesus **SAW** into the heart. He calls us to do the same:

Note from the Editor:

I worked with Joye in conjunction with the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate for many years, during her tenure as Chairperson of the CDN Board, and while she was the Co-Director for eight years. I taught her some watercolor techniques and thought she brought a sensitive perspective to her work. I knew she would deliver a spectacular Keynote, so I asked her to gift us with her wisdom. I hope this digest captures the essence of her inspiring thoughts on Mother Earth, connected to our theme "ARTists for the eARTH," as related to the writings of Pope Francis in Laudato Si, subtitled Care for our Common Home.

Pay **attention**, take notice. This is the identity of an OP artist, to receive, create, give away. Art lets your insides outside, brings the outside inside, and back outside. We are to contemplate and give the fruits of our contemplation to others.

Joye reminded us that artists pray with our eyes, ears, voices, hearts, feet, mind; hear and write lyrics, poems, and see things unfold in the supplies, and our gift is to enable others to see, to hear, to notice, precisely because of our capacity to see.

Joye drew from Pope Francis' words, everything is a caress of God, everything, and when we pay **attention**, when we notice, we are receiving the gift of God's caress, then we give it away, in paint, song, dance, clay, word, wood. We are given gifts so we might share them.

Joye asked us: "Where do you find inspiration?" "How does your work imitate/reflect God's artistry?" "Everything is a caress of God. Where are you noticing that caress?"

Second Session:

You call yourselves to be ARTists for the eARTH. ARTists for the eARTH –that is an awesome title.

How then do we connect Laudato Si with our artistic gifts? How do we integrate?

Attention and intention.

Sometimes it takes someone else to notice what we haven't before, especially children. One of Joye's favorite stories is about a little four-year-old girl and her concept of drawing: "You think of something, and you run a line around what you think."

Pay **attention** with **intention**. That's what you do when you put pen to paper, sit at a piano, lift your paintbrush, hold a lump of clay, put your feet in motion. You do that with **attention** and **intention**.

The cry of the Earth is a cry of beauty and joy, but also a cry of devastation and pain. As Hildegard of Bingen suggests, we can't soar to great heights with only one wing. We need two wings:

1. Attentiveness to life's glory
2. Awareness of life's pain and suffering.

We know that beauty and love, and unspeakable sufferings are happening to our planet, within us, within our nation and world.

Joye tells us: "ARTists for the eARTH you/we must listen to beauty and to pain. ARTists for the eARTH you/we must see beauty and love in our world, and brokenness and pain. Through your gift you help others to see and hear the cry of eARTH and the cry of humanity."

She quoted Wendell Berry's "The Peace of Wild Things," then asked these questions: "How do you keep your balance?" "How do you rest in the grace of the world and stay free?" "ARTists for the eARTH, what is calling to you?" "How will you respond?" "How do you give that insight expression?"

"Isn't it confirming and affirming to hear someone sing a song you composed, hang a picture you've painted, or photos, or used your poem as prayer?"

Imagine the myriad ways your art is like a stone thrown into the water, and the ripples reverberate out. What you have been given is gift. It is yours to receive, nourish, develop and give away. Not only do you give away expression of your gift, you also offer encouragement to those struggling to find their unique expression. You give others a way to articulate what their heart knows, but their mind has forgotten.

Earlier in the presentation Joye said: "*The heart of the artist is curious and open to everything. What are you curious about?*"

“The Heart of the artist asks questions for which there may or may not be answers.

What are the questions that are in your heart today?”

*“The heart of the artist is not afraid to step out of and away from the conventional. **What conventional norms are calling you to step beyond them?”***

*The heart of the artist has something to tell but is not afraid to let it go so that others might see and hear and feel what is generated by the art. **What do you want to***

tell through your art at this time and will you be willing to give it wings to fly where it will fly.”

We are surrounded by those who continue to live for and struggle for the dream today, and now you, ARTists for the eARTH, look around and see, indeed you are in very good company, and we will be known by the company we keep. If you want to see a miracle, just open your eyes. Everywhere you look, there’s magic in disguise.

Members of Dominican Institute for the Arts Board of Directors 2024



Front Row: Annemarie Kallenbach,(Associate) Treasurer; Sr. Mary Pat Reid, OP. Secretary; Sr. Irene Mary Diones, Membership

Back Row: John Mascazine, OPA, Vice President; Sr. Nancy Murray, OP, Member at Large;

Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP, President; Mark Hanes, OPA, Member at Large

Also elected to the Board as Member at Large, Rudolf Lowenstein, OP

Call to all Members: The Planning Committee is forming to put together an amazing Gathering for 2025. If you are interested, please contact Annemarie Kallenbach annemariekallenbach@gmail.com or Sr. Nancy Murray, nmurray@adriandominicans.org

You will be notified when the first meeting will be held.



Eucharistic Celebration

The Eucharistic celebration was most beautiful, with beautiful music, thanks to Anita Smisek, and Sue Schreiber who brought all kinds of percussion and guitar as accompaniment. Those who participated in the Percussion workshop used various instruments to enhance the singing. Nancy Ann Turner preached and her homily that follows in another article. Xiomara brought her Sacred Movement into the Celebration, and those who took her workshop participated in the Movement. This Eucharistic Celebration was the culmination of a wonderful Gathering.



In her homily for our Eucharistic Gathering, Nancy used the readings of the day, Jeremiah 1: 4-10, and Matthew 13: 1-9



Nancy spoke about the bountiful life on our planet Earth, and its sacredness. This parable is about the Sower, seeds and soil. She made the comparison about what happens to us when we hear the word of God and when we act upon it and are encouraged where to plant seeds very carefully. Jesus leaves the kind of seed we plant to our imagination and creativity. Nancy

wants to plant seeds of peace, healing and love. We plant seeds of peace by our preaching, our relationships, our values, our ability to disagree without demeaning or doing violence to each other.

We plant seeds of healing that foster respect, diversity, truth and justice for all. In reading the Scriptures we find many layers. Maybe we are both Sower and seed. Nancy's father started a family garden and challenged the neighbors to also grow gardens.

Planting helps us love our environment, treating it with care, enhancing its beauty as well as adding health. The results of our planting enable us to recognize beauty in the sights that fill us with awe and deep appreciation for nature. We cannot just admire the beauty of nature, we have to be an ally, an advocate for earth's health and sustainability.

In the first reading Jeremiah was called to preach. We are called to preach, to speak out to challenge destructive toxic sprays,

plastic, fossil fuels, incineration. We must preach far and wide for the health and care of the planet. Laudato Si cries out for us to speak for creation, for conversion.

The simple act of planting seeds, appreciating earth, harvesting produce and even cooking can have a transformative impact on children. On the east side of Detroit children were surrounded by destruction and violence. A Peace Garden was formed, and then these children were surrounded by life, creation and teamwork. The change in the children was astonishing and long lasting.

As Dominican preachers and artists our work is to love the earth and honor God's creation. Our responsibility as co-creators is now to nurture the lives of people who journey with us, to care for our common home and to cultivate life in the garden of God. As said in the Scriptures, seeds planted carefully and lovingly will produce fruits one hundred-fold, sixty fold, thirty fold.

When you return home you have work to do. Plant some seeds, be a Sower, create rich soil and preach and live the words of life. Preach Laudato Si.

Table conversation at the DIA

Lots of amazing ideas and good conversation was shared around the tables at the DIA.



2024 FRA ANGELICO AWARD

The Fra Angelico Award is the highest honor that the Dominican Institute for the Arts bestows on one of its members. It is presented every year to a DIA artist who exemplifies Fra Angelico's preaching through art. The criteria for this award are:

- The artist's work is of the highest quality in his/her discipline
- It is highly honored in artistic circles
- The artist exemplifies the ideals of DIA

It should be noted that, although the Board makes the final decision, nominations for the Award's recipient are submitted by us, the members of DIA. Although this year's recipient has always been quick to praise the work of their fellow Dominican artists, they have been very hesitant to share their own with us. Until their retirement, we were unaware of the scope and breath of their pottery and sculpture until one of their community members sent us a photo album of their work.

While working toward their art degrees, this artist studied all art forms, but it was the clay that called them. In their own words: *"I believe that working with clay can bring you into contact with the sacred. Your hands touch and grasp all four essential elements of Creation: earth, water, air and fire."* For Dominican artists, working with clay becomes a tactile prayer. Not surprisingly, their first important sculptured piece was the head of Dominic. They have had pottery creations commissioned by the Presentation Sisters in Ontario, Canada and various parishes in Illinois. Their sculpture and pottery can also be seen in the Dominican Republic, Florida and throughout their Congregation's main campus



It is with great pleasure that the Dominican Institute for the Arts presents the 2024 Fra Angelico Award to Dominican Sister of Adrian, Jeanne Stickling.

New President, Elizabeth Slenker, awarding Jeanne with Fra Angelico medal.

Past Recipients of Fra Angelico with Jeanne. (left to right & year awarded: Irene Mary Diones, OP-2020; Anita Smisek, OP, -2011; Nancy Murray, OP,-2018; Elizabeth Slenker, OP,- 2016; Joeann Daley, OP,- 2007; Nancy Murray, OP- 2018, Janet Wright, OP- 2017



Spirit Award Presented by Sr. Ann Marie Santen, OP



My favorite saint is Therese of Lisieux. The Little Flower. What most draws me to her is her “Little Way,” by which one can achieve holiness in the smallest, seemingly most insignificant way, and therefore make it sacred. This year’s recipient of DIA’s spirit award must be especially in tune with the Little Flower, because in her years of membership in DIA she has done so many little things for us. She never hesitates to say “yes” for even the smallest task needed. I don’t believe she even realizes how treasured



her contributions are. All who have attended our Gatherings have been gifted with her creative talents. Many of her creations are physically small but bestow on each of us a precious magnitude of beauty. She has even shared her gift in her workshop featuring her bookmark art. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I present our 2024 DIA spirit award to Catherine Anderson.

Twenty-five Year Pin Ceremony

This, our twenty-sixth year, more than 500 members of the Dominican Family have held membership in the Dominican Institute for the Arts. This year we would like to acknowledge nine members who have faithfully paid their dues every year for 25 years.

The names of this year’s 25th year membership are:

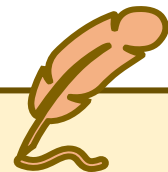
Martha Bartholomew, Pat Daly, Magdalena Ezoë, Joseph Kilikevici, Rudolf Lowenstein, Sarajane Seaver, Elizabeth Sully, Thoma Swanson and Janet Wright. The only one present to receive it was Janet Wright. Congratulations to all our “Long haulers” for their continued membership in DIA.



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Workshops at the DIA Gathering



Janet Wright conducting the watercolor workshop



Nancy Murray's Drama



Irene Mary's Neurographic Art class



Xiomara's Sacred Movement workshop



Sue Schrieber's music instruments

WHY NEUROGRAPHIC ART? A WORKSHOP AT THE DIA GATHERING 2004

Directed by S. Irene Mary Diones, OP, Mission San Jose, Fremont California

NEUROGRAPHIC ART is an art technique created by a Russian psychologist, architect, and creativity entrepreneur PAVEL PISKAREV IN 2014. It's a simple way to work the subconscious mind through drawing freeform lines; a creative process that engages additional neurons in the brain by combining art and psychology; reduces stress; enables people to interact; improves one's ability to make decisions; transforms one's stress and fears. IT'S A GREAT CHOICE FOR ALL. And so, 11 participants came and learned to create beautiful NEUROGRAPHIC ART. We were sorry we missed 3 others who unfortunately were caught in airport computer glitz and didn't make it to the gathering. It's a joy to share what and how this workshop was about and their accomplishments.

In groups of 3, developing artists, continuing artists, (*non-artists as they call themselves, yet the reality is, they already are!*) and all others in artistic pursuits came together. The eager participants discovered how the process started from simple, non-perceived intersecting line-doodles to circular, rounded, smooth forms and shapes that subconsciously began to transform their feelings into a beautiful unique work of art. Each expressed their own gifts, skills and creativity to expand their imagination in the images that began to emerge. Adding colors and texture and individual technique brought depth, beauty and life in what is budding before their eyes. As each one anchored her feelings onto her on-going creation, there was already a creative piece of personal artistry that's birthing and giving meaning. One that is uniquely her own. As one said, "I love it".

Another, "I'm still working on mine." Two more explained, "I feel good." While some remained seriously and speechlessly dotting and shading. This time I asked, "So what do you see?" Everyone paused, looked at each other's work and shared comments and praises. Then it was time to name what had transformed as they SEE the images, and most importantly to entitle their creation. And so, they did, unique as each artist is! Just in time that an hour and a half had passed and shuffling of pens and papers are replaced in boxes, table were cleared, I offered some added thoughts to take home, to remember, and to continue to explore/do.

- 1. As you have gained another step and ways to expand your imagination and creativity, add circles of different sizes and superimpose them on intersections. Use acrylic painting and watercolor techniques.**
- 2. Remember- You are working with your subconscious mind through drawing simply and no pre-planned image or purpose.**
- 3. This art can be therapeutic. When you need to get in touch with your feelings, write that feeling in the back of your paper. Then start to draw neuro lines, pathways and fields (spaces). Remember to follow the algorithm. Play gentle instrumental music.**
- 4. When you finish, connect with your feelings and emotions again and write on the back the change of that feeling.**
- 5. This is just a beginning. Go on drawing and be surprised of how you can progress. Do not limit the possibilities. You are truly becoming more and more Co-Creator of God's beauty.**

Preserving Your Art

Sr. Mary Navarre, OP. Grand Rapids, Archivist, gave her presentation on preserving one's art. These ideas are to aid in how to preserve one's art as Congregations diminish and Mother Houses close.

Eight years ago, the DIA formed a committee to develop policies and guidelines concerning members' legacy. This committee concluded:

The artist herself is responsible for the postmortem future of her work.

A letter to Leadership was composed with three requests: acknowledge the uniqueness of the artists' legacy, provide storage space and pay for necessary shipping cost. This committee proposed to have a site for Congregation's art works.

Sr. Mary's presentation, as an Archivist, offered present-day ideas of how to preserve art in the future. It had four parts:

Part I The Value of our art in all its forms

Part II The Purpose of Archives

Part III Pointers on preparing your art for the Archives

Part IV One congregation's journey with art and the archives

What will we leave behind for future generations? Where will it be? How will this happen? What can we do now? How do we take responsibility for our postmortem work?

The arts have intrinsic value, deep and enduring – but not always monetary value. It's an important distinction. She spoke of two points to assess the value of art:

Copyright: By virtue of its composition in a fixed medium, an item is copyrighted by the original owner, unless the artist/writer/composer has a written agreement to the contrary.

Upon the death of the originator, the copyright is transferred to her heirs; for deceased sisters, by virtue of the vow of poverty, it belongs to the congregation,

unless there is an agreement to the contrary.

A file to register copyright is \$45.00.

Registered copyright is a prerequisite for *enforcement* of impingement on copyright.

Bringing an infringement case against the offender would entail attorney fees in the hundreds of dollars.

Appraisal

What is your art worth? An art appraisal will help determine an estimate of the market value of your art based on condition, provenance and the demand for your piece. Some appraisers work for a commission, usually a percentage of what the art might be sold for at auction houses. These places are in large cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London and so forth. Others charge \$175.00/hour as of four years ago.

The market value of art is volatile as you may know from viewing Antiques Road Show. The amount of money a piece of art might bring is based on how many people desire to own it. If two people want it - it goes to the highest bidder at auction!

Mary used quotes to establish the *real and enduring value* of art in all forms, visual, auditory, kinesthetic.

"If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him/her ... We must never forget that art is not a form of propaganda; it is a form of truth."

~ John F. Kennedy

"Where the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art." Leonardo DaVinci

"The arts empower. The arts give a voice to the voiceless." ~ Robert L. Lynch, President, Americans for the Arts

"The country is so wounded, bleeding, and hurt right now. The country needs to be healed—it's not

going to be healed from the top, politically. How are we going to heal? Art is the healing force."

~ Robert Redford, National Arts Policy Roundtable 2012

"The human soul is hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere - in landscape, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion, and in ourselves. . . . When we experience the beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming." ~John O'Donohue

"To create one's world in any of the arts takes courage." ~Georgia O'Keeffe

"I am not brave enough to not pay my income tax and risk going to jail. But I can say rather freely what I want to say with my art."

"Should love to be able to love my country and still love justice." ~Corita Kent

"Over the centuries, theologians, artists, and musicians have provided us with words and acts that ground our faith in Christ's outpoured love, inspiring us to pour out that same love the world."
~Fr. Michael Patella, OSB

"Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." ~St. Francis of Assisi

Yes, Francis said it, but we all know Dominic would agree.

PART TWO THE PURPOSE OF AN ARCHIVES

An archive is a secure site for documents, artifacts, and media that tell the story of a given congregation. The archives serve the congregation's mission by safeguarding and preserving its charism. For Dominicans, this means "preaching."

The purpose of an archive is to make everything, whether physical or digitized, available and shareable to all who seek and have need of these resources and - to do it "in perpetuity."

The reality today

The archives of most women religious are anticipating the day when their holdings will be moved to a centralized location. Several have already done so, and others are in the pre-planning stage. From the west coast, Santa Clara U to the

east coast Boston College and in between, Ohio, Indiana, Chicago Centralized sites are underway. As part of the planning a great deal of culling and weeding is going on.

What are archivists doing with art these days?

1. We keep 1-2 *representative* pieces from our "professional" artists, which we defined as sisters whose primary ministry was art (meaning she sold her art publicly, was an art educator at high school or college-level, or worked in an art-based ministry, such as liturgical arts).
2. We also keep artwork of the nonprofessional artists if it was *part of their ministry*, e.g., a sister ran a program for the elderly which involved art making.
3. If the artist is living, we ask her to choose representative pieces. If she is not, we choose based on her reputation, e.g., if she was a portrait painter, we keep a portrait.
4. We encouraged living artists to gift some of their artwork to *friends and family*
5. We also keep important *historical pieces* even if we do not know the artist, e.g., a crucifix or tapestry that held iconic memory of the original chapel.
6. *Smaller sizes* are desirable because of space limitations.
7. If it's a watercolor, photograph or drawing we *take it out of the frame*. Since space is a premium, we only keep framed oil/acrylic paintings, mosaics or big pieces in the frames.
8. We *hang* as much as we can, so our archives walls look cluttered and chaotic, but at least they are hung!
9. For the rest, we first *offer* to the sister herself if she is living. If she is recently deceased, we offer her family first. We also offer some to local art museums.
10. We held a *give-away* for some of the artwork. The sisters were given the first choice (and yes, I realize that the artwork will probably come back!) Then staff could choose what they would like. The leftovers came to me.

11. If the artwork was damaged, we would *destroy* it.
12. Whenever possible, we *take pictures* of artwork before we re-home it, so we have some type of record.

This was a separate Power Point on how to preserve and care for one's art for PART 3

REVISITING THE 2018 PRESENTATION OF CARING FOR YOUR ART.

PART FOUR: Ways to disperse art.

- Living artists were encouraged to donate or gift their stored art to the forthcoming sale.
- Appraisers were consulted to look over the art and make suggestions.
- An interior designer chose art for the halls and public places in the new building.
- Sisters could choose one or two pieces for their rooms in the new building.
- Leadership and the archivist chose art integral to the congregation's history.

Sr. Mary asked what we gained from this presentation.

A Reflection by Rudolf Loewenstein OP, English Province

By now, it would be difficult to find anyone who was not familiar with the contents and message of Laudato Si. And having discussed and prayed over Laudato Si, I am assuming that many of you will have made connections to what you have read and your particular charism when called to preach the Gospel via the medium of the Arts. Certainly, which does me no credit at all, I had not actually considered Laudato Si as a call to preaching by using Art in all its different facets.....until I reflected on a quote from Saint John Paul II - in his first encyclical he warned that human beings frequently seem 'to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption'. And that started me thinking: how often are we commissioned or asked to produce a piece of art or music to commemorate a particular occasion, which we then do? And following its performance or reception, how often is that piece of work then consigned to the files or archives? Rather, shouldn't we recognize God's gift of creation that we have just used in producing a piece of Art as something that can be used again on a different or other occasion? Not unlike the quote from St John Paul II, are we not called to examine our artistic and creative output and re-use or re-show something of what we have done more often?

The next thought that struck me from this quote was that temptation that we may sometimes fall into: 'oh, I was inspired to create a picture/piece of music/sculpture (etc.) about something that had happened today, but then I realized it had nothing to do with what is happening in the world right now - so I just ditched that thought!' How often has that happened to any of us? For it is surely a call to create that we have had, and just because we don't see the immediate need for our work, it does not mean to say that God is trying to inspire us with something that is not relevant. Far from it - we have to keep in mind that old saying 'God's time is not our time' and go ahead with the moment of creation, that divine impulse that stirs us take up brush, pencil, scraper, needles or whatever. We can never tell when some of our work is going to be called into play, so just because we lack foresight, it is not a reason to reject God's gift or offering to use us a divine channel of his grace to create.

This is just a simple reflection on one small quote used in Laudato Si, but if it inspires any of us to examine afresh something we have created or gives us the impetus to create something that has been hanging around at the back of our minds...then so be it! Or maybe this simple reflection might have other DIA members realize

that they too could write a reflection on another quote from this encyclical that might inspire more

artists to create once their reflection was published too!

A Proposal from the DLC for “Times Such as These”

A request came from the Visioning Committee of the Dominican Sisters Conference for the October 6-11, 2024, Leadership Assembly. The assembly is being held at Embassy Suites Airport Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. The DLC Visioning Committee solicited renderings illustrating the urgent need for the Dominican charism for “times such as these” referenced from the following quote. The renderings could be in any media. The timeline Letter of Interest September 15; confirmation after September 25; art to be delivered by October 5, 2024, with instructions for the return of the artwork after October 11, 2024. Cheryl Liske is the point person Cliske@adriandominicans.org

Book of Ester 4:14 adaptation

“If we are silent in times such as these, relief and deliverance for your people will arise from another source, but you, my sisters and the Dominican charism may not make it through the chaos. Could it be? Perhaps we (you) have become Dominican Preachers for times such as theses.

This proposal was sent to the members of the Dominican Institute of the Arts on August 10, 2024 by then president Pat Daly OPA.

FOR THE WINTER OPALETTE NEWSLETTER: Please submit any participation you had of your art to this important work so we may share it among our membership as well. We will highlight what is sent in Winter 2024 Palette. Submit your information along with a picture of the art you contributed to our new Newsletter editor, Annemarie Kallenbach at annemariékallenbach@gmail.com.



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