



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

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## ***“Persons of Interest” – ART in Daily Life!***

By Sr. Antonetta Martinka, OP (Tink)

When I was asked by Sr. Deb to write something about the (St. Dominic’s) Villa, the first thought was “People.” Here at the Villa these “Persons of Interest” have chosen to serve the elderly. I see them as persons working through God’s love for me. If I had not been here, I would have missed the experience of sharing my life with them. Through them and their service, I feel God’s love for me and all who live here.



One group is the Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA). Their fresh young faces are also uplifting as they care for our wrinkled bodies: they dress us; help us to walk; feed us; and so many other things. I think of Jesus healing the sick, and I am comforted knowing He is acting through them. I especially imagine Jesus washing my feet and am grateful for the dear person attending my feet. Lots of life surrounds our dear serving staff too.



- A dancer/laundress giggles, a slow move from me, and we laugh together.
- A young chef makes me something special that she likes to cook.
- “My bodyguard,” a title given to a CNA who watches my tubing, so I don’t trip over it.
- I have “God’s hugs” from a staff member who says “I love you so much” when I see her.
- A young man doing kitchen work smiles beautifully as he serves supper.
- A pregnant nurse supervising my medicine, we are praying for a safe delivery.
- A resident who is not Catholic shows us her newest crochet work as she attends our prayers.
- Several persons of interest bring in their dogs, cats or other pets for therapy, even a bearded dragon!
- A CNA brought in her date for prom, showed her new dress and introduced her boyfriend.
- A staff person brings in her 2-month-old baby for us to see.

All these members who serve us are “persons of interest” because each has a story to tell during their service here. Of course there are lots of people not mentioned. All I can conclude is that God is here at St. Dominic Villa serving us through our helpers and I am grateful.

## President's Message



I hope you continue to reflect on this past wonderful holiday season, blessed with good health, lots of happiness and wonderful memories. May those of you who lost loved ones this year find comfort in their being at peace.

My friend, John, with whom I have done a Therapy Touch program with our dogs for the past seven years, lost his beloved pet, Chip. I wanted to have some type of memorial, so I put together a stained-glass piece. I spent way more time on it than I had anticipated, and prayed a lot that it would turn out. I had St. Joseph on call the whole time I designed, cut the glass, fit it together like a puzzle and soldered it. I find that prayer is essential to the creative process.

All of us are gifted with the God given potential of creativity. Some of us do little, lovely pieces of art, and others do great masterpieces. It doesn't matter what we create, it matters why we create. Prayer is essential in the act of creation. We claim to preach the Word of God through our ART. This work may lead to inspiring someone else to interpret the

creation in a whole new different way at a completely transformed level. How many times has a piece of your artwork led someone into a deeper more profound connection and opened a window for another's inspiration?

We say we preach the Word of God through our ART. Art is inspired by prayer, prayer leads to action, action leads to accomplishment, accomplishment leads to inspiration in others. We affect others with the message that comes through our prayer in doing the work that is our gift of preaching.

What does your work preach? Does it address the issues needing to be communicated about such as peace, equity, or justice? Is it a work that exists solely for the sake of beauty? Does it open up innovative techniques that may lead to an entirely new way of doing? Does your Preaching the Word of God through your art create a life-giving gift that inspires others to also create?

Pick up your instrument of creativity in a loving, prayerful way and use it to mean what you claim – to Preach the Word of God Through your ART.

*Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP*

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## Re-Purpose Stained-Glass Windows?

By John Mascazine, OPA

I have recently been working on several projects, but the one that is most endearing required me to re-purpose some stained glass windows. In 2022, the bishop of Columbus, Earl Fernandes, decided to convert our campus Newman Center from the Paulist Fathers to Diocesan Priests. Along with this change, the beautiful stained-glass windows were scheduled to be replaced, and some of them were going to be trashed or sold to antique dealers. This, among many other changes, caused many of the parishioners to become “Newman refugees.”

I was able to help one donor reclaim the window dedicated to her late husband. We decided to create smaller crosses with doves for her and her friends. This project has been a true “labor of love” for me and for members of our displaced Newman Center community in Columbus.

After the original crosses were created, others in the community have requested that I continue to use the reclaimed Newman windows and repurpose them into smaller artworks that can be displayed in their homes. This will keep me busy into 2025. However, I consider it a privilege to create such artworks that will help heal the wounds and bitterness.

Furthermore, in 2025 I hope to help organize workshops where former Newman Center members can create their own stained-glass mementos from the original windows.

Below are images of the crosses with doves I’ve been creating for our community.



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### *In these our times...*

we'll be  
picking up the pieces  
gathering hope in the debris  
building shelters for those in need  
lighting candles with the gathered  
carrying lanterns to the scattered  
sending the flames of truth to D.C.  
wrapped in mystery “with you always”  
filled with divinity, “full of grace”  
breaking the breads that just keep rising  
*being together*  
in these times

Sr. Miriam Brown, OP November 2024



## Art Legacy

By Annemarie Kallenbach – Associate

Annemarie holds a prominent position in the Adrian Center for the Arts. Annemarie, the metalsmith and jewelry director, has arranged for three double session workshops to be held at the Adrian Center for the Arts during the 2025 Gathering. These workshops will be glass fusion with John Mascazine. Sr. Mary Pat Reid will conduct a meditative workshop with clay emphasizing the manner Jesus used clay as a healing agent. Annemarie will conduct a metalsmithing workshop in which the participants will accomplish a work of metal art. These workshops are all limited, so if you're interested in participating, make sure you get your Registration for the Gathering in early to hold one of the spots for you.

The Center was awarded a substantial grant to support emerging artists. Annemarie is presently tutoring two young women in metal smithing, Molly and Sydney, who are benefiting from the grant, and whom we might meet at the 2025 Gathering. They are working in the metalsmithing shop and present their industrious accomplishments.



Metal smith Intern Molly Filipek and Sydney Foerg assisting in the teaching of a metal ornament making class at Adrian Center for the Arts.



Copy Acid etched patinad synclastic bangle bracelet created by Molly Filipek



Brass textured pendant created by Syndey Foerg



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## ***Proud of Our Sr. Joeann Daley, OP***

By Janet Krahn, Campus administrator, Presbyterian Home and Services



We are so proud and honored to have Sr. Joeann Daley, a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, living in our community and being the featured artist. A monoprint entitled “Star Bearer,” created by her skill in etching and printing. Joeann’s

card was chosen and will be distributed across all sixty-three PHS Communities for the holidays. Sr. Joeann has been a printmaker for more than 50 years. Creating art is a form of prayer for Joeann and she says

that it is impossible for her to separate her spiritual life from her artistry. Please join us in celebrating Joeann and her outstanding contribution and hard work on providing this beautiful display of artwork. We are incredibly grateful that she is part of our community and congratulate her on this well-deserved achievement.



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## ***Creageous***

By Sr. Mary Anna Euring, OP



I recently learned a new word: creageous” (a combination of creativity and courageous)...and offer you the blessings of this same word...that you just not be creative, but also “creageous” in its expression!

In case you’re wondering who made-up this word, a woman was videoed while advocating the importance of being courageous in our creativity. She was so enthusiastic about the idea that in an earnest slip of the tongue, she got her words tangled up. Creative and Courageous accidentally came out as one word when she declared, “We need to be CREAGEOUS!

# Art Show at Stair Crest Presbyterian Home, Muskego WI

By Sr. Christa Cunningham, OP



In November 2024, I held an exhibit of my art in the Library of the Presbyterian Home in Muskego, Wisconsin. Stair Crest is now my home along with 94 other Sinsinawa Dominicans and 45 lay men and women.

The show consisted of about 30 watercolor paintings which I had painted over the last few years. I invited our Sisters and lay residents as well as staff members of Stair Crest to purchase the original works if they so desired. I have kept a copy of each one of the paintings but decided it was time for me to let go of the originals.

It was a privilege to have this opportunity to have most of my work on display in one place. I was very grateful. Yet I felt very vulnerable and humble to have it all out there. The affirmation and compliments I received were a blessing and helped me to feel grateful to have shared my work.



*Sr. Christa Cunningham Exhibit at Stair Crest Presbyterian Home Library in Muskegon WI*



Anemones and Birds by Sr. Christa Cunningham, OP

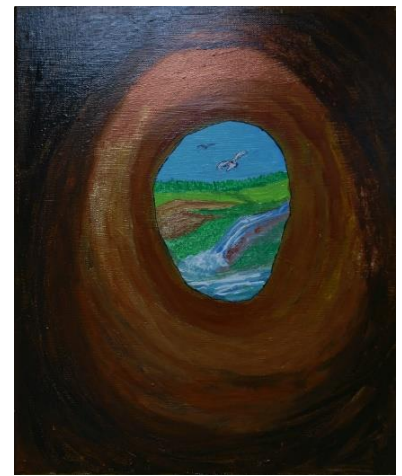
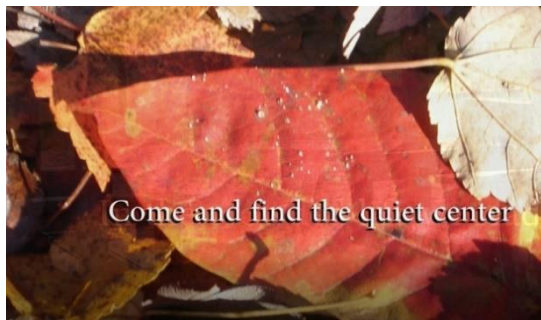
# Stories in Pictures

By Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP



“I participated in an art show at Molloy and it moved to Sandel Senior Center where I spoke about my piece from COVID.”

There is a piece I did about our history/chapter called Waves of Hope, and another piece Looking Outward.



I did videos for prayer for our pre-chapter and another for the OPSCC vote on the Association which will be used by all the congregations involved. I've regularly preached on [www.Wordop.org](http://www.Wordop.org) and at our Lessons and Carols.



Sr. Barbara as St. Nicholas for the Motherhouse Sisters.



I also received a citation celebrating my Dominican Life.

## ***House of hospitality preaches, embraces community while making fused glass art***

By Mare Wheeler, OPA



For the last two years, the SISTERS, Associates, and Dominican companions from the Racine Dominican “College Street House” have been getting together once a month to enjoy fused glass art making together, at Hot Shop Glass in Racine, Wisconsin. Hot Shop Glass is a fired and fused glass studio. Its classes and studio time are perennially full. We love going there, because it not only gives us time together, but we also get lost in the colors, textures, and designs of the glass.

The Racine Dominicans pictured here, who make fused glass art, are from a Dominican house of hospitality in Racine. Their holy preaching in art is displayed at Siena and/or given away.

Racine Dominican Associate Linda Miller, Companion Shanae Farrell, and Sister Diane Poplawski get involved in their fused glass projects.



Racine Dominican Associate Mare Wheeler’s bread bowl design is ready for firing.



Sisters Diane Poplawski, Pat Mapes, and Maryann McMahon are totally engrossed in their art.



## Preachers for Times Such as These: Artistic Renderings

By Sr. Cheryl Liske, OP

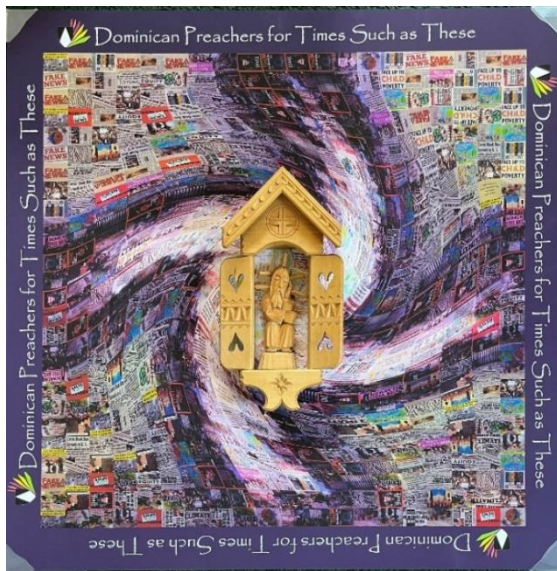
Recognizing the uncertain and chaotic times in which we find ourselves, the Visioning Committee of the Dominican Sisters Conference (DSC) determined that “Preachers for Times Such as These” be the theme for both the October 2024 Leadership Assembly and for the projected 2025 Assembly of Members. The theme comes from the book of Esther (4:14) where Esther is told that “silence is no longer an option” and that, in God’s providence, she may have been placed in a position of influence “for times such as these.”

Our adaptation of the passage from the Book of Esther 4:14:

*“If we are silent in times such as these, relief and deliverance for your people will arise from another source, but you, my sister, 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 these.” Esther 4:14*

After soliciting from the artists of the **Dominican Institute for the Arts**, “Artistic Renderings” illustrates the urgent need for the Dominican charism for “times such as these.” The request was enthusiastically received, and this show is the result of their efforts. A beautiful catalogue was created of these preaching works of art and is available on the DIA website (diartop.org)

Below are photos of two of the entries that appeared in the exhibit. The OPALETTE staff thanks all the artists who contributed and will continue to include other works of art in subsequent issues.



**Cheryl Liske, OP Adrian**

Title: **“Lamenting Christ in the midst of Chaos”**

Medium: Photo Collage with attached wood carving

**Artist Statement:** I firmly believe that God creates life out of chaos. However, while we are in the midst of chaos the only right response is to lament and then sing praise.

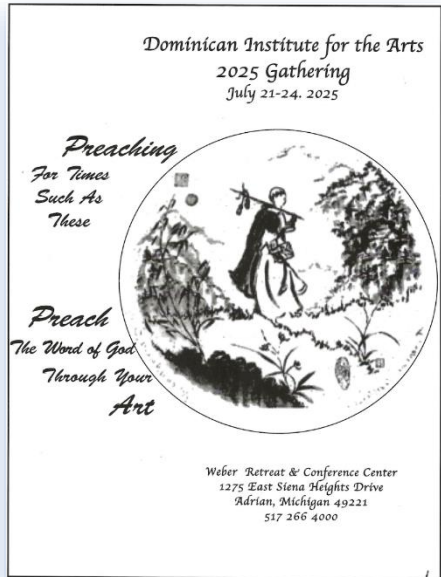
**Laura L. Law, RN, DMin, AOP - Adrian Dominican Associate**

Title: **“Willing and Able”** (May 2024)

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

**Artist Statement:** The title of this painting is **“Willing and Able.”** It is a portrait of Sr. Joan Delaplane OP that I completed this May. As you may know, Sr. Joan was educated and prepared to perhaps become one of the first women priests after the teachings of Vatican II were shared. Her life has been devoted to preaching the Word and teaching others to do the same. She is an excellent preacher! Each time I hear the Church ask us to pray for more priests, I want to shout, “Sr. Joan (and many women like her) are **willing and very able** to preach!”





# Dominican Institute for the Arts 2025 Gathering

July 21-24, 2025

Keynote Speaker Sr. Joann Daley, OP

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

*Preaching for Times Such as These  
Preach the Word of God through Your Art*



## Poetry by Martha Bartholomew

### **Bethlehem Bound**

“Friend, come with me to the manger,”  
“I want to grow young again, and I cannot go alone.”  
Each year I grow old in my soul, I don’t mean wise.  
The eyes of my heart darken. The ears of my spirit  
harden.

You know - the racing pace and the tension of time,  
Disappointment in her, anger at him, fear of this and  
hurt from that...

Like some old war veteran smarting over scars, I feel  
my wounds,  
I am bent with grief at the pity of our lives.

But he comes! O yes he comes! The little one.  
He smiles at you. He laughs at me. We know He  
knows all hearts.

Frozen tombs under crafted masks. Embedded sins  
like warts on a soul.

More layers of tears than an onion.

But he Comes! The season has turned, and grace  
grows silently colorful.

### **Bridge of Sighs**

From rise to set  
Sun’s persistent invitation  
Unforgivingly  
RSVP

Words plank Pathways  
Above the Stream of Life

Required:

The Walk

Home from Illusion  
Whispered Crescendos  
Sound Clarion Calls  
Not to be denied



**Please send website submissions  
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