



# Your generosity...our service

Adrian Dominican Sisters Office of Development Newsletter / February 2020

## A Special Note from Amy

During the Christmas season, we shared with you a series of videos showing how our Sisters spread love throughout the world. We hope these videos brought joy, love, and warmth to your heart.



Know that YOU bring joy, love, and warmth to our hearts every day. We continue to praise God for your faithfulness to our Mission and to our retired Sisters. Thank you for blessing us with your friendship and generosity.

We have much to share with you in 2020! Within the pages of this newsletter, you will be introduced to a few new friends. We will share an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one, and to learn about the enduring connections with our former Adrian Dominican Sisters.

Blessings to you and your loved ones throughout this new year.

With love and gratitude,

Amy Palmer, CFRE

P.S. If you missed our Christmas videos, you can still view them at [www.adriandominicans.org/love](http://www.adriandominicans.org/love).

## Mark your Calendar for Inaugural Donor Live Stream Presentation

As a donor, you have long been an important and cherished member of the Adrian Dominican family. Because of this, we invite you to our first-ever Live Stream for Donors scheduled for 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. EST on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. To join the live stream, visit [www.adriandominicans.org/LiveStream](http://www.adriandominicans.org/LiveStream).

The Live Stream for Donors will include an update on the Adrian Dominican Congregation from Prioress Patricia Siemen, OP, and an update on the Office of Development by Director of Development Amy Palmer, CFRE. We look forward to connecting with you in this very special way.

Register your interest in attending the live stream by emailing [development@adriandominicans.org](mailto:development@adriandominicans.org) and we will send you a reminder.

## Giving Tree to Take Root in Gathering Space of Chapel

Sisters at the Dominican Life Center appreciate your generosity and pray for you and your intentions every day during Mass. Soon they will have a tangible reminder of your goodness when the Adrian Dominican Sisters Giving Tree is placed in the Gathering Space of St. Catherine Chapel.

We invite you to make specific donations to this Giving Tree as you remember a deceased loved one or honor the accomplishments or special events celebrated by family members and friends. These generous gifts will be used to meet the needs of our retired Sisters.

The enclosed form is your invitation to make a donation that will be recognized with an engraved dove, gold leaf, or silver leaf. Thank you for your participation in this project, which will make your generosity visible to all who visit St. Catherine Chapel.



Continued on page 4

## Sisters, Associates, Benefactors, Partners, and Co-workers Celebrate Partnership and Shared Future

The Adrian Dominican Sisters – working with Benefactors, Associates, Co-workers, and Partners in Mission – have an exciting future as they work together to live out the Adrian Dominican Mission. This future was discussed and celebrated July 31-August 4, 2019, at the Motherhouse during a special gathering, titled *Embracing the Future / Encuentro con el Futuro / Pagyakap sa Hinaharap*. It was a time, in the words of Prioress Patricia Siemen, OP, for “remembering, transforming, gathering, embracing, and deepening our Adrian Dominican story, Mission, and Vision.”

In her keynote address, Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, Past President of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), spoke of the need to let go of fears of fewer Sisters and to focus on the Congregation’s charism as a “guide to the future.” Rather than counting the number of Sisters, she urged participants to live out their charism fully in the present. She emphasized that the Dominican charism is not only passed on by the Sisters. “The Sister, the Associate, the lay co-minister, and alum are all charism carriers,” she said. “The more there is a relationship between you, the more the charism is energized.”

August 2 brought a greater focus on this sharing of the charism and the Mission of the Congregation as Donors, Co-workers, and other Partners in Mission joined the gathering. “It is exciting for us [Adrian Dominican Sisters] to envision a future where expanded partnering for Mission is more vibrant than ever before,” Sister Patricia said. “The urgent needs and cries of the world call all of us to

respond – and we can do it more effectively, and with more fun, when we do it together.”

Erin Dress, Director of the Office of Human Resources for the Congregation’s Motherhouse, found *Embracing the Future* to be a “transformative experience.” Through her years of speaking to applicants and Co-workers about what it means to be a Partner in Mission with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, she felt she had a good grasp of its meaning.

“The gathering brought my perception of being a Partner in Mission into a much clearer focus,” Erin said. She understands more clearly that lay Co-workers at the Motherhouse and at sponsored institutions “want to do more than just earn a paycheck. The Sisters’ desire to ‘bring us into the fold’ and include us in their Mission was extremely evident during the gathering and in the time since. ... I am excited to put those words into action as I move forward as a Partner who strives to seek truth, make peace, and reverence life.”

Sisters from the Our Lady of Remedies Mission Chapter, based in Pampanga, the Philippines, hosted their own *Pagyakap sa Hinaharap* at University of the Assumption, San Fernando, the Philippines, in October.

We invite you to view a video, filmed and produced by Scott Miller, Videographer, that captures the spirit and activities of *Embracing the Future / Encuentro con el Futuro / Pagyakap sa Hinaharap*. You’ll find the video on our YouTube channel at: <https://bit.ly/3awCt39>.



## Donors Learned Values from Home and from Adrian Dominican Sisters

By **Geraldine Walsh, Donor**

The mutual reverence that my husband, Joe, and I share for the Adrian Dominican Sisters comes via Sister Helen Walsh, OP, my teacher at St. Dominic School in Detroit.

Sister Helen was always driven by her heart. Although she originally thought me a candidate for her Dominican Congregation, she quickly gave into love – especially when she realized the man I dearly loved was her younger brother.

On reflection, it's clear that the values represented and taught to us by our parents and the Adrian Dominican Sisters form the core of our 50-year marriage.

My mother counseled all eight of her children to “do a little something each day for your neighbor.” She saw dignity and divinity in every single person. The Sisters reinforced this, teaching us we were part of the Mystical Body of Christ and to consider donating some of our precious pennies and nickels to help starving people in faraway lands.

At home, my parents relied upon us as a workforce in their small business. In school, we were challenged to develop our God-given talents for ourselves, but also for serving the vulnerable. Our values became rooted in love, awe, responsibility, respect, hope, and challenge.

Born on a Minnesota prairie farm, my mother loved the sun and Earth. On any glorious day she exclaimed, “Oh, this is a day worth living!”



Joe and Geraldine Walsh

While vacationing at the farm, we walked the land together as she rejoiced in its richness.

In school, Sister Helen introduced us to the lyrical writings of Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. We memorized *God's Grandeur*, which proclaimed, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” We embraced the Earth as God's creation and one of our greatest gifts.

Joe and I support the Adrian Dominican Sisters because they have served and taught “all God's children” their entire lives. They have sought social justice and venerated Earth – and challenged us to do the same.

The Sisters truly “seek truth, make peace, reverence life.” How can we not support them and their exceptionally worthwhile, ongoing Mission?

### Do You Have a Favorite Story?

Do you have a favorite story of an Adrian Dominican Sister and what she means to you? Have you been influenced by an Adrian Dominican Sister who is your relative, teacher, co-worker, or friend?

We'd love to hear these stories and to share them in future publications. Please write your story and send it to Amy Palmer, along with a photo, at [apalmer@adriandominicans.org](mailto:apalmer@adriandominicans.org) or

1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221.

## Former Adrian Dominican Sisters Continue to Give Back

As our generous benefactors, you represent a wide range of people and interests – from parishioners and family members of Adrian Dominican Sisters to former students and current Associates. One group that has been gathering since the 1980s is comprised of former Adrian Dominican Sisters who, although they left formal religious life for various reasons, continue to live the Dominican charism as they reach out to others in our world.



Mary Sue Kennedy, OP

Sister Mary Sue Kennedy, OP, as Director of Weber Retreat and Conference Center, organized one of the first formal gatherings of former Sisters in 1985. When Sister Jodie Screes, OP, became Director of Weber Center in 1986, she continued the practice.



Jodie Screes, OP

“It was truly my favorite gathering of the year,” Sister Jodie said. “It was a sharing of values and a sharing of life.” The meetings usually involved a talk by the Congregation’s current Prioress and included some Adrian Dominican Sisters who were living at the Motherhouse.

Sister Jodie said former Sisters are “grateful for their education and grateful for the friendships,” including those with members of the “crowds” with whom they entered religious life. The “crowds” of both Sisters and former Sisters have continued to gather.

Sister Jodie said she gained a special love for many Sisters who ended up leaving the Congregation during her years in formation work in the 1960s. “Many novices left before [taking] their final vows,” she said. “It was always such a sadness, but the happiness is that they continued living out the Dominican charism,” which involves

contemplation and preaching the love of God through service and action as well as words. One former Sister, she said, told her that she had been “vaccinated with the Dominican charism.”

Sister Jodie said she continued the gathering of former Sisters out of love for them and the way that they live out the Adrian Dominican Mission, “not only as mothers and wives and teachers and nurses,” but in whatever they do. She gave the example of one former Sister who went on to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Ann Arbor, Michigan. “It’s a real joy thinking of them and what they do,” she said. “But what they do isn’t as important as where their heart is.”

Amy Palmer, Director of the Office of Development, sends a monthly email to former Sisters, updating them on Congregation news. If you are a former Sister and would like to be on the email list for *OP Connections*, please contact Amy at 517-266-3480 or [apalmer@adriandominicans.org](mailto:apalmer@adriandominicans.org).

### Giving Tree

*Continued from page 1.*

This Giving Tree holds special significance for the Sisters since it previously belonged to St. Joseph Academy, the first institution founded and sponsored by the Congregation.

Please know that all of your gifts make a great difference to the Adrian Dominican Sisters as they move forward in Mission.

For more information on donating for the Giving Tree, please see the order form included with this newsletter or visit us online at <http://adriandominicans.org/WaystoGive/WishList.aspx>



**Adrian Dominican Sisters**  
Office of Development  
1257 East Siena Heights Drive  
Adrian, Michigan 49221

Websites: [www.adriandominicans.org](http://www.adriandominicans.org)  
[www.adslegacy.org](http://www.adslegacy.org)  
Phone: 517-266-3480

Find us on social media:

