2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

In this issue...

Connecting Tomorrow’s Dominicans, Today

Houses of Hospitality Bustling with Excitement

Relationship is at the Heart of Ministry

...and more!
Partners in Mission
A donation program for those who believe the Future of our Church begins with an Investment.

St. Dominic Level
$10.00/month A donation such as this will provide a scholarship for two students to attend one of our programs.

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$5.00/month A donation such as this will provide a scholarship for one student to attend one of our programs.

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$2.00/month A donation such as this will provide transportation for one student to attend one of our programs.

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$1.00/month A donation such as this will assist with registration fees for one student to attend one of our programs.

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$25.00/month A donation such as this will provide a scholarship for one student to attend one of our programs.

We invite you to join our Partners in Mission program and change a life today!

DYMUSA obtains its funding from several areas: grants, private foundations, individual donations, and fundraising activities. This however does not cover all our program expenses.

Partners in Mission are benefactors who pledge monthly contributions to help fund the programs of the Dominican Youth Movement USA. Current Partners in Mission have found this program more convenient than traditional giving - with no repetitive checks to write or mailing involved. The Dominican Youth Movement USA will receive all the money you designate for its use and be able to count on your monthly contribution and as a result are able to budget more effectively. All the monies raised through the Partners in Mission program are distributed to help fund the financial needs of the programs.

We invite you to partner with us and assist in continuing to make these programs “life changing” experiences for our young people who in turn will “change the world.”

We also will gladly accept one-time donations!

For more information or to sign up visit www.dymusa.org/donate or contact us at donate@dymusa.org.

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There is no greater gift than investing in the future of our Church! Donate Today.

MANAGING EDITOR
Sr. Gina Fleming, OP.

WRITERS
S. Gina Fleming, OP.
Sean Puzzo
S. Mary Soher, OP.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sean Puzzo
S. Gina Fleming, OP.
S. Barbara Schwarz, OP.

DESIGN
Sean Puzzo

Address comments and questions to magazine@dymusa.org
Dominican Youth Movement USA
555 Amityville Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701

General Information
www.dymusa.org
info@dymusa.org
(631) 842-6000 ext. 308

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Dear Friends,

Certainly, Christmas is a time for rejoicing in the many blessings that we have already received and for those yet to come. We here at the DYMUSA have much to rejoice about!

This is the DYMUSA’s fourth year as an organization, and we are experiencing an exciting time of growth. One needs only to look at the page opposite this letter to see what has happened over this past year! My heartfelt thanks goes out to Sean Puzzo, our 2017-2018 Dominican Volunteer, Jessica Abejar, our program assistant, our Board members, our Partners in Mission and donors, our most recent corporate sponsors, our college/university campus ministers, our high school campus ministers, the many congregations that support us and of course the many young people who participate in our programs. Yes, indeed God has been with us in each and every one of you.

I thank each and every one of you for your support, encouragement, and good wishes this past year. As we continue to prepare ourselves to once again welcome the Savior into our midst, may you know the peace and joy that he brings.

Have a joyous Christmas season, and may the New Year bring you all that you need!

With sincere appreciation,

S. Gina Fleming, O.P.
Executive Director
DYMUSA
Connecting Tomorrow’s Dominicans, Today

Sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Amityville, NY, the 2018 Youth Preaching Workshops excitedly welcomed twenty-seven new “Youth Preachers” to our ever growing Dominican Family.

Students from St. Agnes Academic HS, College Point, NY; St. John the Baptist Deacon High School, West Islip, NY; and Good Shepherd Parish Youth Group in Holbrook, NY were among the twenty-seven newly welcomed “Youth Preachers.”

These students were the latest group to participate in the Dominican Youth Preaching Workshops, a program of the Dominican Youth Movement USA in partnership with the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Amityville.

Since the workshops began in 2001, they have served over 1,000 students, ages 13-18, in 60+ workshops. The workshop encourages students to fulfill their own baptismal call to serve as mentors and have the opportunity to lead a new group of youth experiencing these weekends. Some even return to future workshops as mentors and have the opportunity to lead a new group of youth preachers. Many of these youth preachers will attend the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference in Michigan, which continues to empower students to discover and deepen the preacher within through prayer, study, community, and the Dominican Family.

The Dominican Family is grateful for their presence among us and the ways in which they stay connected to the Dominican Youth Movement USA after Year after year participants continue to find the weekends spiritual and prayerful, and most excitingly, many of these new Youth Preachers are hungering for any opportunity to come closer to God. How blessed we are to be able to provide a venue to foster and ignite that relationship.

To an assembled group of people, typically in church.” One of the most important ways the sisters have preached so beautifully is through the Signs of the Time, where a ministry of prayer, study, community, and the Dominican Family.

Each workshop concludes with Sunday Liturgy. Students minister as lectors, present the gifts of bread and wine, read petitions, and lead the congregation in liturgical dance. In March, Allison Ramos, a senior from St. John the Baptist HS, offered a reflection on the Gospel, relating the parable of the grain of wheat to her personal life. "Jesus is trying to explain that even though there are challenges in life and sacrifices are inevitable, these troubles in our lives are what make us stronger. If the grain of wheat didn’t fall and die, it would not have been able to produce other seeds. It is symbolic of the fact that we must be willing to take risks to fulfill our true purpose in life. The grain of wheat also represents accepting our sins of the past. It is important to acknowledge and learn from the past. But it is up to us to be ready to change and become a better person.”

By the end of the weekend, many students felt like they understood what it meant to be a preacher. “Being a Dominican preacher means to be accepting of all and acknowledging everyone’s different and unique talents and abilities and preaching the word of God through it,” one student noted. Another student said that being a preacher means being able “to express yourself in any way you love and feel passionate about.” Year after year participants continue to find the weekends spiritual and prayerful, and most excitingly, many of these new Youth Preachers stay connected to the Dominican Youth Movement USA after experiencing these weekends. Some even return to future workshops as mentors and have the opportunity to lead a new group of youth preachers. Many of these youth preachers will attend the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference in Michigan, which continues to empower students to discover and deepen the preacher within through prayer, study, community, and the Dominican Family.

The Dominican Family is grateful for their presence among us and the ways in which they stay connected.

- GF, CP SP

DYMUSA’s Newest Program: Youth Preaching Workshops To-Go

The Youth Preaching Workshops To-Go is a unique program that takes the core components of the Youth Preaching Workshop held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville and brings them to young people across the nation. The Dominican Youth Movement USA offers customizable workshops to introduce communities to the Dominican Charism and its foundation in the Four Pillars as well as the many ways of preaching, including preaching through the arts and through community service.

If you or someone you know would be interested in having a Youth Preaching Workshop To-Go, learn more today at www.dymusa.org/ypw.

“...it is up to us to be ready to change and become a better person.”
We are incredibly grateful for those who donated to the first Saint Catherine of Siena Feast Day Flash Fundraiser on April 29, 2018! Their donations help us offer and introduce youth and young adults to programs which help them “Catch the Fire.”

Visit www.dymusa.org/donate to learn more about how you can help connect tomorrow’s Dominicans, today!

36 College Students Join the Dominican Family at 16th Annual NCPIAC

From May 22-27, 2018, thirty-six students from Dominican Colleges/Universities or colleges with a Dominican presence gathered at Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ, for the National College “Preaching in Action” Conference.

The participating universities/colleges included: Albertus Magnus College, CT, Aquinas College, MI, Barry University, FL, Caldwell University, NJ, Dominican College, NY, Dominican University of California, CA, Dominican University, IL, Edgewood College, WI, Medway College, NY, Ohio Dominican University, OH, Siena Heights University, MI, St. Thomas Aquinas College, NY, and Xavier University of Louisiana. These students were joined by almost 30 mentors who helped guide them through the week.

It’s about getting together to discover how each of us is called to preach the Good News. Through the Word of God, students learn to move forward boldly by preaching through their talents and interests.

The conference began with S. Mary Soher, OP (Adrian Dominicans), director of the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference, leading the students through a brief history of St. Dominic and the Order of Preachers including an array of Dominican Songs. There was definitely a Dominican Spirit in the air as students began to “Catch the Fire.”

Each day of the conference students and mentors are exposed to a different facet of the Dominican Tradition. The first full day of the conference helped participants better understand the rich history of the Dominican Family they were becoming a part of. A presentation “Dominicans through the Ages” brought saints Mary of Magdala (S. Patricia Hanvey, OP – Amityville Dominicans), Catherine of Siena (S. Nancy Murray, OP – Adrian Dominicans) and Dominic de Guzman (Patrick Spedale – St. Pius the X HS) alive. They shared the ways in which each saint answered their call to preach in the early years of the order.

Br. Joe Kilikevice, OP (St. Albert the Great Providence) led students and mentors in a presentation on the Interfaith Mission of the Dominican Order by introducing the students to dance and song from a variety of different faiths. Br. Joe is the director of the SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality in which “the sojourners of all spiritual paths and faith traditions, as well as the spiritually homeless, are welcomed into a sacred space where the prayer, meditation, rituals, and wisdom of the peoples of the world are experienced and reflected upon.” Br. Joe’s message resonated with the students who come to the conference from all walks and stage of faith and spirituality.

That evening NCPIAC alumni Emily Brierly was invited to preach. Emily spoke of the rich Dominican tradition in which we are all a part of, “Think of yourselves as little brothers and sisters in this great Order. We listen to the stories and the guidance of our big brothers and sisters. In this case, the saints and men and women of holiness who came before us. We look up to our big siblings in this order as role models as how to live lives of Veritas and love for our Father, God.” Brierly encourage students to see themselves as preachers of the Good News saying, “If you are joyful, hospitable, kind, charitable and open to the world around us like saints Dominic and Catherine you can become a saint. Imagine if all of us at this conference embraced our roles as little siblings in this great Dominican Family and carried on the tradition of spreading God’s love in our words.
S. Honora Werner, OP talks about the lives of some HS, portrayed St. Dominic for the participants.

On the next day, the participants were ready to put their “preaching into action.” They spent the day in immersion sites ministering; to the under-served at Tino’s Kitchen (a soup kitchen) and the earth at the Caldwell Environmental Commission where the students pollinated and built a rock garden; to the elderly at Sr. Catherine Center, the infirmary of the Caldwell Dominicans; to refugees and detainees at First Friends (the students helped with their “Stamp out Despair” campaign); to helping Sr. Pat Hogan ready a school building for September at Our Lady Help of Christians School.

Students returned to Theological Reflection in the evening with S. Honora. “Today you have been preaching in action. You have been the gospel. You have preached Good News to people in need of hearing or experiencing.” She preached, “We’ve got to be able to recognize God. Practice is key. God was with you in ministry.” Like the previous night S. Honora asked students to reflect on a moment throughout the day that stood out to them and to ask them to share, “Where was God?” There was a wonderful sharing of stories, people, reactions, fears, attitudes, and underlying issues. S. Honora concluded, “God is talking to you. Can you hear him? The answers is probably no. But if you take a moment tonight, maybe tomorrow. Then you go,” tapping ones forehead ala V8, “Ahh that was you the whole time.”

S. Barbara Schwarz, OP concluded the week’s presentations by awakening the participants to “the Art of Preaching.” Her interactive and hands on presentation was a great intro to the “Preaching through the Arts” day: Jessica Ajejar, S. Sara Fairbanks, OP (Adrian Dominicans), Susan Miller, S. Nancy Murray, OP S. Mary Pat Reid, OP (Caldwell Dominicans) offered additional breakout sessions for the students to use their creative energies.

That evening a Dominican “Open House” was held with members of DYUMSA, Dominican Volunteers, Associate membership, Leaders of the DYUMSA as well as religious sisters and friars. This is a unique opportunity for students to learn more about the members of the Dominican Family, ask questions, and collect valuable information. New this year and to the conference was S. Judith Myriam, a cloistered nun from the Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, NJ. The students found this to be especially interesting.

On the evening before Preaching the Good News. The Dominican Sisters. This gives them an opportunity to share the ways in which they have preached and hear the countless ways the sisters have preached with their lives and ministries. It is through these connections of today’s Dominican Family that students learn to better embrace their roles as preachers of the Good News.

On the evening before Preaching Service through Sunrise were invited to partake in a “Pre-Theological Reflection” lead by S. Honora Werner, OP (Caldwell Dominicans). S. Honora a-kind Theological Reflection to “V8 spirituality” in which “My recognizing God is sometimes like those old V8 commercials in which someone says I could have had a V8…we usually do not recognize God in our busyness until after the fact.” She asked participants to take a moment to reflect on a moment throughout their days. “Where was God in our day?…Jesus taught us that God comes to us in our neighbors in need. So when we are perceptive, we do see God.” When they experienced a fruit or gift of the Holy Spirit, “that is God. Watch for her. She will show up in the most incredible places, unexpected.”

Tired, but filled with the joy of the spirit, Sunday’s closing liturgy was a culminating of a week of prayer, reflection, service, and newfound preaching skills. Students lent their talents as signers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, liturgical dancers, the list goes on! At the closing liturgy, which was attended by many of the Caldwell University community as well as the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, each college group presented their action plan. Students are challenged with the creation of an action plan for the upcoming school year. This plan is the vehicle for sharing what they have learned at the conference to their college campuses. In addition, each student presented an individual action plan.

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With the Dominican Charism firmly planted in mind, body, and spirit – the “Holy Preaching” continues! Each student then received the Dominican Cross and were commissioned to go forth and preach the “Good News” to their fellow students.

Kaitlin Tasjian, a NCPAIC alumni was asked to preach at the Commissioning Liturgy. Now an Associate of the Caldwell Dominicans she offered these words of encouragement. “Back in 2010, when I was a Sophomore at Caldwell, I was asked to attend the Preaching Conference. I was reluctant to say yes. I was not very outgoing nor had I ever pictured myself as a preacher, someone who from behind the pulpit spewed divinely inspired words of wisdom. That definitely wasn’t me. However, I mustered up the courage to say yes and follow God’s call and that week was truly an unexpected, teachable moment that changed my life. Fast forward 7 years, here I am, back at the Conference, behind the pulpit, and living a life where I am preaching everyday as a high school religion teacher and Campus Minister at a Dominican, all-girls high school. God knew what he was doing!”

With the Dominican Charism firmly planted in mind, body, and spirit – the “Holy Preaching” continues! Each student then received the Dominican Cross and were commissioned to go forth and preach the “Good News” to their fellow students.

Anthony Hernandez said this of the conference, “It is an unforgettable and very reflective experience that was had. It will deepen your Faith and your relationship with God and the world”
Almost 80 students “Sent out to preach by Dominic…to find new ways to preach.” at the 20th Annual Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference

As Dominicans, we are “Sent out to preach by Dominic…to find new ways to preach.” Almost 80 students from 19 Dominicans high schools gathered to learn how they too are called to preach with their lives. After a long, but rewarding day of service, the conference celebrated the students, mentors, presenters, and all who make the conference possible at a banquet. This year at the banquet the Sister Patricia Brady award for extraordinary service and contributions in furthering the traditions and charism of the Dominican Order was presented to S. Gina Fleming, OP. S. Gina long history with the youth of the Order has brought her to her current position as director of the Dominican Youth Movement, an umbrella organization which oversees five programs which connect today’s youth and young adults to the Dominican tradition of preaching and the participant’s own call to preach.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, students learned about preaching through the arts during special sessions on June 27. They had the opportunity to experience: making rosaries with S. Jean Patrick Elbrahardt, OP (Springfield), liturgical preaching with S. Sara Fairbanks, OP (Adrian), reflecting through paint or pastels with S. Katherine Fruizer, OP (Adrian), moving in the Spirit with S. Nancy Murray, OP (Adrian), folding origami peace cranes with S. Aneesah McNamara, OP (Adrian), creating mandalas with S. Barbara Schwarz, OP (Amityville), liturgical movement with S. Luchy Sorri, OP (Adrian); and Tai Chi Chih with Patrick Spedale.

The conference closed with a vibrant liturgy that included music, liturgical dance, and encouragement for the students to bring what they had learned to their home schools, families, and local communities. As part of this liturgy, students are challenged with the creation of an action plan for the upcoming school year. This plan is the vehicle for sharing what they have learned at the conference to their home schools, families, and local communities.

The first day focused on Preaching in the Dominican Traditions. The day began with a keynote address by Michael Petro (Cardinal Stritch HS, Oregon OH) who spoke to the students about the Four Pillars of Dominican life: Prayer, Study, Community, and Preaching. The keynote was followed by dynamic presentations in which students were introduced to the history and “heroes” of the Order. Patrick Spedale, (St. Albert the Great Province) introduced the students to the Interfaith Mission of the Dominican Order through sacred dance. That evening, the students had the opportunity to meet with their prayer partners, Dominican Sisters of Adrian who had been paired with the students to pray for them. The students and their prayer partners sat together to share conversation, camaraderie, and ice cream. New this year, the students planned and celebrated Evening Prayer with the sisters in St. Catherine’s Chapel.

The second day, the students learned about various social justice issues present in the world today. The presentations included: Justice Posture on the Dominican School Campus – Patrick Spedale, Immigration in the Trump Era – Stephanie Zavala Guzman (Dominican Volunteer), Tapestry of Life Issues in Our World – S. Roberta Miller, Women’s Pay Parity – Sean Puzio (Dominican Volunteer), I Am Not Throwing Away My Shot – Kateri Goltz (Dominican Volunteer). Following these sessions students were introduced to the various members of the Dominican Family: Dominican Associates, Dominican Volunteers USA, Dominican Laity, Dominican Young Adults, and Friars, and Sisters were present to answer any questions students had about the parts of our family.

With a better understanding of the signs of the times, the next day students took action, serving the local community ranging from the underserved, senior citizens, women, and children suffering from domestic violence and sexual assault to differently-abled adults. Throughout the week the participants learned shared and bonded. Each day of the preaching conference focused on a different aspect of preaching.

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With a better understanding of the signs of the times, the next day students took action, serving the local community ranging from the underserved, senior citizens, women, and children suffering from domestic violence and sexual assault to differently-abled adults.
Welcome to our celebration of the 20th Annual Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference.

Dominican theologian Edward Schillebeeckx tells us that the story of Dominicans is kept alive by live Dominicans. Indeed, as we have learned, we listen to God’s voice in our hearts, study the world around us and with our companions find ways to continue to build the kingdom of God.

It was more than 20 years ago when S. Pat Brady went to a gathering of young adults in Barcelona, Spain where she discovered the International Dominican Youth Movement. This was a new phenomenon taking place among young adults who had encountered the Dominican charism, had caught the fire, and praved for guidance of God who speaks not only to them in their hearts but through the signs of the times.

In 2008, the conference created the Sr. Pat Brady Award for extraordinary service and contribution in furthering the traditions and charism of the Dominican Order. It was awarded to S. Pat Brady for the creation of the HS conference. Ten years later, we gather to thank S. Gina.

But before I invite S. Gina up, there are several people who wanted to say a few words to Gina through the magic of technology. (Click here to view the video.)

As I said at the start of this presentation, the Dominican story is kept alive by live Dominicans. The creation of DYMUSA is the start, but you and me, we are all the story-tellers that our world needs. You are part of DYMUSA – tell others. Check out the website, preach the good news and let us know how you do this! Dream big with others who have caught the fire!

S. Gina please come forward. And I invite S. Pat Brady to give S. Gina the award on behalf of all the participants of this year’s conference.

The Dominican Youth Movement USA connects today’s youth and young adults to the Dominican tradition of preaching and the participant’s own call to preach. Through our programs and workshops that offer a time, place, and context for establishing impactful relations, we build faith and strengthens our young people’s commitment to God, community, family, preaching, social justice, and the Dominican Order.

This mission is being lived out in a tangible way through our Houses of Hospitality. These houses are places for young adults who are looking to live, pray, and learn with other young adults while becoming immersed in the Dominican Charism by living with Dominicans vowed religious/associate/fairy. The first Dominican House of Hospitality opened in 2013 as a project of the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Amityville. Since then, two additional houses – one in Wisconsin and the other in Chicago – are welcoming young adults!

Young Adults make a commitment for at least one year to share in the running of the house, be gainfully employed, etc. on a monthly basis, be people of prayer and reflection. Traditionally, a core group of Dominican sisters are responsible for the overall running of the house. This core group initiates new programs, openly shares their faith, and relate well to young adults.

This year the Community of St. Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station, NY is bustling with activity! Currently, there are four sisters, two Dominican Volunteers, and two young adults living in the House of Hospitality. Members of the community are very engaged with their respective ministries, volunteer sites, or educational pursuits and there is often a great sense of excitement and exchanging of ideas. The community makes it a point to share communal prayer during the weekdays. Prayer is led by a new member of the community each week which has led to the sharing of a wide variety of prayer and styles.

At the heart of all of this and the house is the pillar of community. Each house is organized with the core sisters taking turns with their responsibilities. Community meetings are held monthly to address community events, policies, and concerns, with all members ideas taken into account and valued when decisions that affect the whole are made.

It is this intentional communal living which makes the Houses of Hospitality such a unique offering for young adults. On any given day, you could walk into a house and find someone studying, someone praying, someone cooking, someone leading RCIA, someone enjoying life, the list goes on and on! There is a built-in support system and always someone to have fun with.

Living in community calls for participants to live with others in mind and to give of themselves. For in giving, we receive. These houses provide an opportunity for intergenerational learning where the community learns together and from each other to gain skills, values, and knowledge.

These are some of the activities that are taking place at the house this year:

- Visits from friends and family of the house members
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) for adults in the parish (held weekly)
- Associate prayer group (held monthly)
- Sisters circle meetings (held bi-annually)
- Houses DYA who participate in a week-long midyear service project

The Holy Spirit was not yet done with the efforts to engage young adults in the US. In 2005, S. Gina called a gathering of those who had attended either the high school or the college conference to discuss the possibility of creating a US version of the IDYM. Then she sent two representatives to the IDYM gathering in the Dominican Republic in 2006 to request membership in the movement.

The rest, as they say is history. Local Dominican Young Adults

USA groups have been established at Dominican Universities and colleges. Delegations from DYAUSA have attended international gatherings; members of DYAUSA have been elected to the international committee of the IDYM to help promote the mission of the Order among young adults.

As the fire of the Dominican charism continues to grow both here in the US and abroad, S. Gina realized the need to create something that would help deepen the existing programs, help develop new opportunities but most importantly provide a structure for sustainability. What we see today is DYMUSA.

Both S. Pat and S. Gina will tell you that nothing in the Order happens because of a single person, but the Order in constantly being blessed by God to have individuals who truly listen deeply to God who speaks not only to them in their hearts but through the signs of the times.

In 2008, the conference created the Sr. Pat Brady Award for extraordinary service and contribution in furthering the traditions and charism of the Dominican Order. It was awarded to S. Pat Brady for the creation of the HS conference. Ten years later, we gather to thank S. Gina.

Sisters circle meetings
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) for adults in the parish (held weekly)
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- Sisters circle meetings (held bi-annually)
- Houses DYA who participate in a week-long midyear service project
- "GF"
DYAUSA Welcomes New Members!

The tradition continues! For the fourth year in a row, the vespers service for the month of November at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Amityville were celebrated and led by the Molloy Chapter of Dominican Young Adults USA.

The tradition began in 2014 as part of the celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Dominican Order. As the Gathering Song began and the presider and preacher processed into St. Albert the Great Chapel, one could feel a great excitement that filled the room.

The Molloy Chapter of Dominican Young Adults USA is blessed with young adults with beautiful voices, who led the songs and psalms. It was evident looking around the chapel at the sisters and associates as well as the parents and families of these young adults that they were moved by the beautiful music.

“What a beautiful expression of God’s love and how it has touched each one of these young people through our Charism,” said another sister. “Dominican Spirit and Charism were infused in all of them,” said another sister.

Each year at Vespers, the Molloy Chapter of Dominican Young Adults USA takes this time for new young adults to commit and for returning members to recommit to living out the Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community, and Mission.” At the conclusion of the commitment ceremony, the entire congregation responded by resoundingly accepting their commitment and encouraged them to “Stay the course.”

Fifteen young people attended the service with many re-committing to membership in the organization.

St. Gina, Director of the Dominican Youth Movement USA, spoke of the event saying, “It was so moving to see how these young people have embodied the Dominican spirit. They have claimed their place in the Dominican Family and they are very proud of it. Oh yes, sisters, the Dominican Charism is alive and well in our young people and they will pass it on in how we are called to be! That is a great sign of HOPE for our future! Our beloved Charism is in ‘Good Hands.’”

We warmly welcome S. Patricia Brady, OP and Sean Mundy to the DYUSA Board!

S. Patricia Brady, OP

Pat was the first director of the National HS Preaching Conference which began in 1999. She remained in that position for 10 years. Eventually handing over the reigns of that program to another Dominican sister, Pat then became involved in the newly formed Dominican Association of Secondary Schools (DASS) where she was named Executive Director. Pat retired from that position in 2014 but has never lost her love for our Dominican High Schools and continues to be involved with making sure that our beloved charism is being passed on to the next generation of Dominican administrators.

Pat was also one of the founding members of the Dominican Volunteer organization and served on that board for 9 years. Pat retired to Adrian (the Weber Center) in the summer of 2017.

Pat’s experience within our Dominican school systems and her love for our charism make her a valuable asset to the DYUSA board of directors.

We also welcome our new 2018-2020 National Coordinators Board of Dominican Young Adults USA.

MATEO GOMEZ will serve as the new Coordinator of Mission. Mateo currently attends Barry University where he is a member of their DYUSA chapter. Mateo has attended the National College Preaching in Action Conference both as a student and mentor. At the 2018 NCPIA he preached for the participants on his Dominican experience.

MADISON WELLS will serve as the new Coordinator of Stewardship. Madison graduated from Ohio Dominican University in 2018 and remains an active member of the Ohio Dominican University chapter of DYUSA. Madison has attended the National College Preaching in Action Conference both as a student and mentor.

SEAN PUZZO will serve as the Coordinator of the Charism. He previously served in this position from 2016-2018. Sean graduated from Caldwell University in 2017. Following his graduation Sean participated in a Dominican Volunteer year with the Dominican Youth Movement USA. He is currently completing his second DVUSA year at the St. Francis Center in Redwood City, CA where he teaches English and Religion.

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DYAUSA SPOTLIGHT

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I had a transformative year working with S. Gina Fleming, OP in the Dominican Youth Movement USA. Throughout the year I discerned a call to engage in a second service year. I felt a call to find new ways to preach and to engage more in direct service.

In August I packed my life in three suitcases and moved to Redwood City, CA, which is in the heart of Silicon Valley and just 30 minutes south of San Francisco. I minister at the St. Francis Center of Redwood City, which provides wrap around services for low income families in the area. Be it tutoring ESL, teaching religion, or teaching sports (yes, free to laugh at the idea of me teaching sports!) or what I’m most passionate about, teaching art - my days at the center are wide and varied.

As I am writing this I am reminded of an event that happened at the beginning of the year when Elizabeth (my fellow Sr. Francis Center DV) and I were at mass on Catechetical Sunday. After mass I was reading the pastors letter which noted that the 2018 theme was “Ealstizing Witnesses for Jesus Christ.” The Fifth Grade textbook has a theme of “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:19). So, I think it was no coincidence that my fifth grade religion class and I had just spent a few days reflecting and discussing how they can be witnesses for Christ in their lives. As religion teachers Elizabeth and I have the important task of “hanging on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.” It sounds quite daunting, but my students make it so worth it and quite Dominican! I am so looking forward to walking with my students on their faith journeys. I am think I am most looking forward them teaching me more about my faith.

As you know, DYMUSA connects today’s youth and young adults to the Dominican tradition of preaching and the participant’s own call to preach. It is through one of these programs that I was first exposed to the Dominican Volunteer program! Its goal is to introduce youth and young adults to the ways in which they too can be preachers of the Good News through their gifts and talents – a goal I hope to continue to share with the students this year.

Most mornings I work with the mothers of the second and fifth grade cohorts tutoring ESL and working on job readiness skills so they improve their educational and occupational opportunities. In the months that I have ministered here I have gotten to know these caring and loving women so well. They are strong, empowered, and ready to tackle anything that their children or life may throw at them. We are taught that at the heart of ministry we find relationship. There seems to be no better example than my relationship with these women.

The final, and often most varied part of my job is the work Elizabeth and I do at the Siena Youth Center. SYC is a non traditional learning space for students middle and high school aged. The center aims to foster happy, healthy, and whole students who are engaged and invested in their communities. They are given the opportunity to participate in sports or enrichment classes such as: Art in Action, Film Class, Environmental Justice, Biking, the list goes on.

When not at work, I live in community with my fellow volunteer, Elizabeth, and Sr. Christina Heitlsay who is the director of the St. Francis Center. As a community we take turns cooking, cleaning, leading prayer, etc and share the ups and downs of life. It has been one of the biggest blessings thus far. I have never been away from so far or so long from my family and they have made me feel at home.

As one volunteer put it, “volunteers fill the gaps,” – we anticipate the needs of our respective ministry sites, arrive early, leave late, and always try to serve with a smile on our face hoping we leave the world a better place than it was the day before. DVUSA teaches us that we are “called to be a witness to the good news of Christ’s love, justice, and peace through our service in ministry.” In return, we volunteers gain new skills, job experience, and when the year is up look at the world in a whole new light. -SP

Help the Dominican Youth Movement USA by doing something you already do - shop online!
AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

How to:
1. Visit smile.amazon.com and search and select “Dominican Youth Movement USA Inc”
2. Shop till you drop (on your couch)!
UPCOMING EVENTS...

March 2019
Youth Preaching Workshop
March 22-24, 2019

16th Annual National College
"Preaching in Action" Conference
May 22-17, 2018 at
Caldwell University

20th Annual Dominican High
Schools Preaching Conference
June 25-30, 2019 at
Siena Heights University

We invite you to LEARN MORE
Visit us on the web and follow us on our social media platforms.