Palette DIA

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

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FRA ANGELICO AWARDED to NANCY MURRAY



Of all the decisions entrusted to the DIA Board, none is more challenging than choosing the recipient for the Fra Angelico Award –except, perhaps, the challenge of keeping that choice a secret, from the honoree and from everyone else. Pat Daly's tantalizing presentation met that challenge so masterfully that the recipient did not recognize herself even until the penultimate paragraph of the citation which reads: The Fra Angelico Award is the highest award that the Dominican Institute for the Arts bestows on one of its members. The criteria for this award are:

- The artist's work is of the highest order.
- It is highly honored in artistic circles.
- The artist exemplifies the ideals of the Dominican Institute for the Arts

Although the Board makes the final decision, nominations for the recipient are submitted by the DIA members.

Dominic's sending his followers to the towns and villages to preach God's word was the genesis of itinerant preaching as we know it today. This year's Fra Angelico recipient is the epitome of the itinerant preacher. Her preaching has taken her from coast to coast and to foreign lands.

Murray, con't. on p.3

Gathering 2018: Union and Reunion at Adrian

Every year, the Planning Committee for a DIA Gathering faces the same dual challenge: choosing a theme attractive to Dominican artists and recruiting talent to articulate that theme through a variety of media. Evaluations from the artists who responded to "Yearning for Unity" attest to the planning committee's success in meeting both challenges. President Pat Daly's brief welcome at the Weber Center at Adrian swiftly placed the 2018 theme in a Dominican context by linking the goals of the DIA to those of Dominic's original itinerant preachers: "Yearning for Unity comes down to hearts united in a common goal," said Pat. That unity was immediately in evidence as an atmosphere of welcome, delight, and recognition greeted the fifty members in attendance. Among the most welcome were a number who were new or newly-returned.

Gathering, con't. on p.3



Fran Belmonte: An Engaging Return Engagement

Dr. Frances Belmonte, Professor of Theology Emerita, Loyola University, Chicago, has learned a lot since her last appearance as DIA keynoter—more from life, perhaps, than from art, and especially more from dreams. What's most important is that she's still learning and willing to share her seasoned insights with us. On this occasion, Fran's keynote contribution took two forms: an informal, onstage address delivered at a leisurely pace accompanied by a booklet for personal follow-up. The booklet provides an outline for the keynote, "The Arts as Wholistic Preaching" plus a second text ," Some Musings on Interconnectedness Among the Artist/Art the Message and the Receiver." Here Belmonte divides her insights on the arts as preaching under three headings: The Preacher, The Preached, and The Preachee. This essay is followed by reflection prompts and blank pages for each artist to fill with her own musings and questions. (The thoughtfully-composed booklet suggests that Fran has done her homework

Belmonte,con't. on p.3



Letter from the President

In 1999, when I became a DIA member and attended my first Gathering in Sinsinawa, I joined a group of Dominican men and women whose mission is to preach God's Word through our art. Through the years, we have remained true to our calling as Dominican artists and continue to proclaim the Gospel through paint brush, musical note, clay, film, stained glass, dance shoes, computer, woven fabric, and words.

Over time, I believe we have become much more than an organization of old friends who have met together and shared experiences; we have become a family. Webster defines family as "a group of common ancestry." We have become a family within the Dominican family. We may not always agree with each other, but we are there for each other through thick and thin, no matter what. We are not about just our annual Gathering. Many of us constantly keep in touch throughout the year. Distance separates us, but the phone, email and social media serve us well. When we find ourselves on a difficult path in life's journey, we are held in a hammock of love, prayer, and support.

Prior to our recent Gathering, I was chatting with a member who was planning to join us in Adrian. Due to family health issues, it had been quite a while since she had been able to be with us. This Fra Angelico recipient, an acclaimed and multi-published poet, said:, "Pat, I am coming home." (See p. 6 for Martha Bartholomew's poem.)

Many of us belong to local and/or national art associations, but when it comes down to who we are as Dominican artists preaching God's Word through our art, DIA is home.

It is where others fully understand that the genesis of our work is based on that common thread woven throughout the fabric of our lives—contemplare et contemplate aliis tradere—*to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of our contemplation.*

It was wonderful to be with so many of you in Adrian. For those unable to be with us, you were sorely missed and very much with us in spirit. Enjoy the rest of the summer and savor the glorious colors that God's art will soon bring to us.

Pat Daly, OPA

Lorraine Ferguson: That's the Spirit!

Special Recognition for Special Perseverance



For embodying the spirit of the DIA and for serving it well, the 2018 Spirit Recognition Award was presented to Lorraine Ferguson. Health issues have prevented Lorraine from attending recent Gatherings, but her contributions to the DIA have not been forgotten. Lorraine served on the Executive Board for six years and on several Planning Commissions. At Mariandale Retreat Center, she initiated and guided the Artists Contemplative Retreat. Even as the nineties diminished her capacity for organizing events and attending them, Lorraine's fidelity to the practice of contemplation through her painting grew so strong that she found a way to share it with others via an email Art Series. This series was so well-received that her congregation invited her to publish the paintings along with reflection questions as a journal. *Images on the Heart* is available in hardcover and paperback at BarnesandNoble.com and as an eBook from Apple.

IMPRESSIONS OF A NOVICE ATTENDEE: For John Mascazine, OPA, an Associate of the Dominicans of Peace and a fulltime instructor of k-12 teachers in the Education Division at Ohio Dominican University, art is a first love, but as it is for most of us, a second career. Right now, his preferred medium is stained and fused glass. A recent member of the DIA, John experienced Adrian as his first Gathering. His comment on the experience suggests that it is unlikely to be his last. "I had the most wonderfully inspirational and educational artistic experience at my first DIA Gathering in Adrian, Michigan. Not only were the participants exceptionally warm and welcoming, but they were also extremely supportive and collaborative. This is a uniquely cordial and talented group of professionals. The DIA members promote varied and creative methods to further the Gospel message with a distinctly Dominican flavor. It was one of the best professional meetings I have ever attended. The speakers, workshops, meetings, and discussions were so fruitful and beneficial on many levels. And all of the arts were appreciated and mutually supportive of our Dominican mission to promote the Good News of the Gospel. I plan to promote this organization and its annual gathering to my fellow Dominican Associates."

Nancy Murray, con't. from p.1

Over the years, she has received much acclamation for her art and has been featured in multiple newspaper articles. She was named Woman of the Year by the university she attended.

Catherine of Siena tells us: "Be what God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." This year's recipient is living Catherine's words. Catherine was a colorful, strong, passionate and enthusiastic woman as is our recipient.

Shakespeare wrote: "All the world's a stage" and the stage is this Dominican artist's pulpit. The stage at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, Illinois has been named in her honor.

Fra Angelico Award recipient, Dramatist Kathleen Harkins, our honoree's teacher and mentor, has returned to the Divine Artist, but I am sure she rejoices with us as we present the 2018 Fra Angelico Award to her student, Adrian Dominican, Nancy Murray. ***To access enjoyable videos of the recipient, just Google Nancy Murray,O.P.***



Belmonte con't. from p.1

and is confident her audience will enjoy doing theirs.) During both opportunities to experience Fran, DIA veterans recognized appreciatively certain constants in her approach to preaching: her theologian's faith in the arts as theology, her faith in artists as an embodiment of "the sense of the faithful;" her brilliant exploitation of etymology in the service of homiletics. Happily, her printed booklet supplies substantial, thought-provoking insights which members can ponder and share with those members who could not be in Adrian to enjoy Fran's entertaining anecdotal, autobiographical presentation style in person.



Gathering con't from p.1

Moreover, many sensed a palpable presence as they appreciatively remembered notable absentees. Lively participation at all events by residents from Dominican Life Center further contributed to a distinctively inclusive tone as the official gatherers re-united, refreshed, made notes, attended workshops, made plans, and filled the air with a spirit of belonging that survived throughout thoughtful debate, expert workshops and Gala hilarity. (See p.7) Creative prayer led by Paula Marie Jarosz, Pat Daly, and Elaine DesRosiers fueled daily energies that culminated in a closing Eucharist presided by Rudolf Loewenstein, enhanced by Judi Engel's compelling homily (See p. 8).

She's in the Gallery!

Vicki Perfect, OPA is delighted to report that she has taken her first public leap as an artist by submitting her stone sculpture, Wisdom Seeker, for exhibit from September 14 through October 6 as part of the Akron High Arts Festival. Vicki thanks all those friends who have "consistently challenged, cajoled, and even begged me to share my stone carving work." She hopes that some Ohio Dominicans will stop in to see Wisdom Seeker in an actual gallery (instead of in her living room).



Every Move a Meditation

Both Irene Mary Diones in her logo design and Phylliss Chappell in her interpretive dance used symbolism to express the Gathering theme.

Irene Mary Diones, artist/ musician, explains how in her logo design each shape, color and movement functions like a word, a sentence, or a word with multiple meanings. When a single well-aimed brushstroke releases a splash of multi-colored droplets, for example, the image represents in visual shorthand all the types of variety that the Gathering will assemble: variations in colors, media, styles, personalities. Look again and note how the drops and dashes radiate into perfect symmetry, suggesting the artist's ideal balance of freedom and discipline. The circular forms wordlessly express how we are already in unity, supporting each other at different levels of growth. The movement of the circle from the inside out indicates the depth of the core sources from which we draw our preaching to others. Open hands, with fingers outstretched, combine openness and yearning with an invitation to join the circle. Finally, a font selected for its roundedness eases the eye into the word: Unity. Meditating on the logo can be a prayerful experience like "visio divina."

For **Phylliss Chappell,** M.D., a Member of the Houston Dominican Family, daily life is perpetual movement, as she whirls from one world to another: the multifaceted professional worlds of Family Medicine and Radiology, the world of medical ethics, the world of religious ecumenism, and the world of Dominican life. As a liturgical dancer, Phylliss is invited to add a unique kinetic symbolism to the act of worship, not only for the DIA and the Houston Dominicans, but also for diverse religious groups like the National Association of the Church of God. For this year's Gathering, she created and choreographed a totally new expression of the theme, "Yearning for Unity." Phylliss explained how her creative process combined spoken texts, music, and movement: "I wanted to try something I had never done before. . . So I started with a speech from "The Great Dictator," a Charlie Chaplin movie . . . I had originally planned to use a Martin Luther King speech, but because I anticipated being the only African-American at the Gathering, I didn't want to give the impression that my concept of unity was limited to racial unity." Phyliss communicated her symbolism through danced impersonations juxtaposing the harmless Little Tramp with Hitler. Then she reinforced that connection through the contrast between the dictator's bombast and the dancer's prayers. Her athletic, sometimes tortured, choreography depicted humanity's struggle from division to harmonious unity and segued into a soft instrumental "In the Silence of My Being." The dance concluded triumphantly with "Make Us One" by Carol Cymbala.





SPECIAL THANKS

The DIA expresses deep appreciation for the support of Cathy Johnson, OPA, the ordained Protestant Minister & Chaplain at Dominican Life Center who helped to make the residents' participation possible. Cathy is a poet who writes a haiku for each sister upon her death. In her three years at Adrian, she has memorialized 120 sisters. She is shown here with member Sarajane Seaver, commonly known as "Seaver the Weaver."

Workshops: A Living Exhibit of Unity in Diversity

Perhaps the most perplexing decision for participants at Weber Center was choosing just two workshops from a rich and varied menu. The Planning Committee had recruited volunteers with deep experience and/or commitment to integrating the arts into their ministries: Barbara Cervenka, Irene Mary Diones, and Judy Smith demonstrated techniques for illuminating manuscripts, strumming ukeleles , and sculpting gourds respectively, while Nancy Ann Turner and Joseph Kilikevice focused on inculcating the ideal of social unity through the arts. Mary Navarre and Natalie Smith gave concrete instructions for responding to the DIA's recent call for collaboration between artists and archivists. Sue Schreiber offered a tour of INAI. From this "embarrassment of riches," OPalette editors, following Gathering participants, chose just two for a closer look.



Since 1999, **Nancy Ann Turner** has directed the Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program to demonstrate that the arts "help to foster creativity, stretch imaginations and offer safe expression of feelings and values." (All citations refer to the booklet published by the Rosa Parks Program.) Nancy heads a team which includes an art therapist and nearly eighty mentors and volunteers. All are united in their belief that "exposure to creativity and beauty through art activities, including gardening, can provide an antidote to the violence that permeates the city's poorest neighborhoods." After-School Art Therapy/Creativity Groups train the children in constructive ways to process conflict, enhance self-identity, and express feelings. According to appreciative parents, these life-skills extend beyond the summer Peace Camp into the camper's whole family. In 2018, the city of Detroit recognized the significant contribution of the Rosa Parks Program by inviting its Director, Nancy Ann Turner, to deliver the memorial prayer for the Martin Luther King 50th Anniversary city-wide commemoration.

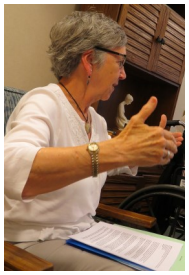


For the past twenty years, Br. **Joseph Kilikevice,** a friar of the Central Province, has devoted his creative energies to a retreat ministry with ecumenical outreach. In 1993, having attended the Parliament of World Religions assembled in Chicago, he was inspired to found the SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality." SHEM has been "home base" to him ever since. It is also through SHEM, that Joe lives out his commitment to ending violence in all its forms. SHEM programs are distinguished from conventional retreats by exercises that involve peace with the body through chant and dance movement. In addition to retreats, Joe's chief creative vehicles for promoting peace are the Tea Ceremony and Dances for Peace.











Barbara spoke on the new St. John Bible and what techniques were used to illustrate it; Fran was Judy's pupil in gourd decorating with Dominican logos; Irene taught the ukulele; Judi expresses how artists can act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with their God; and when Natalie was not exploring ways to prepare our art work for congregational archives, she was learning to play the ukulele.



Isabel Rafferty Animates the St. John's Bible

Isabel Rafferty presented her beautiful visual based on imagery from the St. John's Bible. This bible was the first hand-lettered and illuminated bible commissioned by the Benedictine Order in 500 years; it was a project of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN. Begun in the 1990s and completed in 2007, it was intended to be a work in honor of the new millennium. Donald Jackson, world-renowned calligrapher and calligrapher to Queen Elizabeth, directed a team of calligraphers and illuminators in this historic project. His powerful illuminations of biblical themes formed the basis for Isabel's remarkable presentation.

In 2016 Edgewood College, where Isabel teaches graphic design, exhibited the St. John's Bible (in facsimile). To celebrate this event, the college presented a concert of classical and contemporary music, based on biblical themes, and invited Isabel to create a visual production to accompany the concert.

Working for six months, Isabel used photography, video and animation programs to extract images from the illuminations, animate them and time them precisely to coincide with the music. Beginning with the illumination from Genesis, she extracted and animated visual elements, used close-ups and montages, and brought to life the story of creation and salvation using these new technologies. Her presentation highlighted the beauty and power of the St. John's Bible, which uses ancient techniques and both contemporary and traditional forms of religious art to open again the Word of God to new generations of believers.

At the end of her forty-minute presentation, the entire audience was quiet and then gave her a standing ovation.

We Wake
In our separate places
Or not so
Breathing out
Coming in
Evermore . . .
Wondering
Wandering
Questioning
No more Whys?
On the threshold
Of Therefore
Because of this love
That be-speaks
We are
Seldom cease to be
Belonging
Longing
Awakening to Knowing
Or no . . . . . Sleeping
Toward Dawn . . .
Either side?
Yes! . . .until . . .
There is no
Other.

Martha Bartholemew



GALA 2018: ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS



Each year, the Gathering Planning Committee assures that the Gala's entertainment segment will conclude the event on a predictably high note. But in 2018, nothing about DIA's conclusion could have been predicted. Following a spirited liturgy, Magdalena Ezoe, took her place at the chapel's grand piano. Everyone eagerly anticipated her quiet display of the signature wit that always demonstrates why she is celebrated as "Adrian's own Victor Borge." But, soon Magdalena's fingers plunged into depths of Chopin and Debussy that Borge rarely attempted.

Martha Bartholemew followed, reading her poetry in a clear, commanding voice that sustained the respectful mood of a serious audience. (See p. 6) That attention was soon augmented by profound gratitude when Phylliss Chappell put aside her drum to perform an inspiring interpretive dance which she herself had choreographed especially for the DIA. (See p. 4) Finally, when Rudolf Lowenstein struck a solemn chord on the piano and Elaine Taylor took the stage, members were startled to hear Puccini's *Quando men vo* delivered in a powerful soprano voice they had never heard before. Excitement poured new energy into the crowd as Irene Mary Diones and her uke-lele group---another first--led them in a spirited sing-a-long. Hula skirted dancers (who shall remain nameless) soon accompanied singers and ukeleles and encouraged anyone in the audience who was still ambulatory to join in. A show-stopping rendition of Tiny Bubbles (replete with live bubbles.) brought the crowd to their feet, swaying, waving and cheering.















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THE ARTIST AS PREACHER



To have life "to the full," that is God's dream for each and for all of us (John 10:10).

Loved into being to live that fullness of God's dream, each of us is "God's work of art" (Eph 2:10),

As people who work in the arts, we are privileged to know what it is like to share in that process of creation and to be able to delight in it: the pot comes off the wheel just right; the precise word slips into place in the poem; the edge of the weaving lies flat and smooth; the body finds the exact gesture and the disciplined, magical movement; the clean brushstroke sweeps over the paper; the right notes suddenly sing to us.

And if we know that delight, that joy, imagine God's delight in each of us as we are formed in God's image and likeness, "God's works of art" . . . a unique part of that breathtaking creation in which God delights . . . imbued with the beauty and dignity that come from God's hand . . .Each of us knows that beauty & dignity in the other.

As artist, each of us is given the gift of a unique capacity for "life to the full."

We experience deeply all that is joyous and painful; hope-filled and despairing, loving and abandoned, beautiful and wounded in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Our gift of creativity is a kind of "radar" that tunes us in to everything around us. As people of prayer, we can be compassionate toward that "everything" even as we sort out the truth of what gives life and what does not.

To be creative is to be able to *imagine:* to be able to open oneself up beyond our personal experience and imagine the experience of another.

As artists, we are particularly blessed with a capacity for compassion, a critical eye, and creative energy. To know compassion is to be able to look critically on what is really happening and to see possibilities for healing and wholeness and communion in the midst of all that is wounded and hungry in our world.

We know that gifts are accompanied by responsibilities. They are not given to the individual alone, but for the good of the community. We have the responsibility to share our creative gifts so that life, that joy we know in the act of creating is extended to all our sisters and brothers.

Especially as Dominicans, this is our calling: to praise, to bless, and to preach through our vocation as artists and stewards of God's gift of creativity.

We are graced people.

Days of Creation by Geraldine Mueller
Homily at Concluding Liturgy by Judi Engel



Our Numbers are Growing

Six of DIA's twelve new members attended the Gathering:
John Mascazine, Phylliss Chappell, Rita Birzer, Peggy A. Wilds, Carmen Doubek and Cathy Johnson.