

**Sister Kathleen Schanz, OP**, executive director of Lenawee United Way, was elected as a member of the General Council of the Adrian Dominican Sisters during the Congregation's 2010 General Chapter. She will take office on July 1, 2010.

In accepting her new position, Sister Kathleen thanked the delegation for their trust and affirmation. She then referenced a dream upon waking that morning. She recalled walking into an empty, freshly painted room with sunlight streaming into its windows. The room was now ready for furnishings and other such appointments. "We have work to do in order to enhance this room with beauty and wisdom," she commented to the delegates.

Sister Kathleen began her years of ministry in formal education, having taught in Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio and in Oakland, California. An invitation to teach at St. Joseph Academy in Adrian, Michigan, brought her back to the Adrian Dominican campus. She served at St. Joseph Academy for 11 years, first as teacher and then as principal.

In 1989, Sister Attracta Kelly, then on the General Council, invited Sister Kathleen to work in the Congregation's Office of Ministry and Life Planning. This was an opportunity to work in direct service with the Adrian Dominican congregation. Sister Kathleen was then executive director of the Weber Retreat and Conference Center for eight years. During that time, she helped create many new programs, expanded the participant base, and was instrumental in securing financial resources and partnerships in designing and creating a meditation garden and labyrinth for the Weber guests and the Lenawee and campus communities.

Sister Kathleen extended her community involvement in Lenawee County by serving on the board of the Lenawee Chamber of Commerce for six years and as president of the board in 2000. In addition to her membership of the Lenawee ATHENA Council, Kathleen was a 2002 recipient of the ATHENA Award in Lenawee County, which recognizes leadership mentoring and role modeling among women. In 2003, she went to work at ATHENA International to help establish the organization in Chicago.

Since September, 2004, she has served as the executive director of United Way in Lenawee County. During her tenure, Lenawee United Way has raised an average of over \$1 million per year and transformed the fund-raising and grants process, directing community contributions to programs that provide long-term solutions in the areas of basic needs, financial stability and health.

Sister Kathleen's past professional leadership will contribute much to the new General Council. She brings great creativity, interpersonal skills and administrative experience to this new leadership position.