

Sister Tarianne DeYonker, OP, a therapist and pastoral minister serving in British Columbia, Canada, was elected as Vicaress and General Councilor for the Adrian Dominican Sisters during the Congregation's General Chapter.

"Thank you for giving me my next favorite ministry," Sister Tarianne told the delegation. "I'm deeply grateful to you. I thank you for needing my gifts and I know I need yours."

Sister Tarianne has ministered as an elementary and junior high school teacher and as a marriage and family therapist and workshop facilitator. She has served as executive director of Beginning Experience International, which offers weekend experiences to help people affected by divorce, separation or widowhood to address their grief issues. Sister Tarianne was also president of Dominican High School and Academy in Detroit, a Congregation-sponsored school that closed in 2005.

For the past few years, Sister Tarianne has ministered for the Diocese of Prince George in British Columbia in numerous capacities: as a marriage and family therapist; coordinator of the diocese's social justice programs; and spiritual advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sister Tarianne said she has been especially influenced as a core trainer for Returning to Spirit program, which offers reconciliation between the Catholic Church and members of the First Nations of Canada who were hurt during their time at the Church's residential schools. Her experience in that program "has opened my eyes to the possibilities for two distinct cultures to come together and reconcile on a very deep, human and spiritual level," she said.

Sister Tarianne will bring to her new leadership position a vast experience in multi-cultural ministry; an ability to generate creative possibilities; and skills in administration, pastoral care, and team work. "I believe I am the person I am today because of the opportunities the Congregation has provided," she said. "My interactions with members over the years have helped shape and influence me. Being in leadership is a way to give back."

Sister Tarianne said that she looks forward to "inspiring deeper contemplation for action among us as we connect to Church and our global reality" and in "doing all we can to effect change for millions of people who have no voice."

As Vicaress, Sister Tarianne will assume the responsibilities of the Prioress should Sister Attracta be unable to continue her ministry as Prioress.