

in Ministry Today

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The word “retirement” has a different meaning for Adrian Dominican Sisters. Sisters at all levels in the life continuum are encouraged to live fully and participate in the life and mission of the Congregation.

During their time of “non-compensated ministry,” the sisters use their talents and professional expertise to keep as actively involved as possible. Sisters reside in their local areas of ministry or at the Dominican Life Center at the Motherhouse in Adrian, where they live independently or in supported, assisted or skilled-care areas. Prayer is the sisters’ primary ministry, and it’s a role they take seriously.

In Ministry Today regularly focuses on the wonderful life-giving support given to outreach ministries through the Ministry Trust Fund. The work of the Trust continues today and is possible because of your generous partnership and support. This issue of the newsletter, however, highlights the volunteer involvement of the retired sisters’ ministries which have been expanded in new and different ways. The examples below illustrate how sisters in non-compensated ministries continue to live the Congregation’s Vision to “Seek Truth, Make Peace, Reverence Life.”

Thank you for your generous spirit. Your connection and friendship with the Adrian Dominican Sisters is cherished. Your gifts to the retirement fund are deeply appreciated.

Hospitality Abounds

Hearing God’s Call

She’s known as “Miss Charming,” the perfect nickname for a receptionist at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital. **Sister Geraldine (Jean Immaculate) McNamara, OP**, volunteers at the front lobby desk, where she greets patients and visitors and directs them to the appropriate rooms.

Sister Gerry’s hospitality also extends to seniors who live alone. She makes 23 phone calls to elderly clients on her day of duty. She reminds them to take their medications, finds out if they need additional help, and spends time chatting with them. Sister Gerry was an educator and administrator who fondly recalls her days in the Chicago area and at the Motherhouse in Adrian.



A Century of Service

She celebrated her 100th birthday in January, but **Sister Helen Rita McCartney, OP**, has no plans to take it easy. “The Lord has been good to me,” she said, and in return, Sister Helen Rita is good to others. For the past 10 years, Sister Helen Rita has served in the mail room at the Motherhouse in Adrian, where she checks all outgoing mail to ensure that it has sufficient postage and is addressed correctly. Her eagle eye never fails to catch a mistake! Most of Sister Helen Rita’s ministerial years were spent teaching high school science and math in Michigan, including stints in Detroit and Royal Oak. She also taught in Chicago and Cleveland.

A Life Well-Lived

A Lasting Legacy

Everyone wants to lead a fruitful life, have a successful career, earn the respect of others. But most people, given the opportunity, would also like to feel that they have made a lasting contribution toward a better world, that their lives have touched others — perhaps for many generations to come.

That small gift of immortality — the quiet satisfaction of helping perpetuate something meaningful — is the rich reward enjoyed by our many friends who have made planned gifts. You want to know that your planned gift will affect the future by purposeful contributions to trustworthy causes. These many gifts, made during one's life or through the donor's estate, have strengthened the Adrian Dominican Sisters' ability to provide for future ministries, care for our retired sisters, and carry out our Vision to Seek Truth, Make Peace, and Reverence Life.

We invite you to explore with us the many ways you can leave your mark on our future.

You can do much to shape tomorrow by making a lasting contribution toward a better world.

For more information, contact Sister Janet M. Hudspeth, OP, in the Development Office at 313-882-6307, fax 313-882-0436 or DevOffAD@aol.com.



The Human Touch

Caring for those who are in need is second nature to **Sister Janet (Mary Paulette) Persyk, OP**. She served as a hospital chaplain in Detroit and Chicago for 30 years, and now spends her time volunteering with hospice patients in their homes. "It's a privilege to journey with patients through their stages of illness," she said. Sister Janet also makes bereavement calls to families and delivers meals to the elderly through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, she provides transportation for sisters in need of rides to doctor's visits and other places.

Literacy for Life

Since moving to Chicago last July, **Sister Patricia (Anne Robert) Spangler, OP**, has been volunteering at the Aquinas Literacy Center. Twice a week she tutors two students who are learning English as a Second Language. One of them is a photographer who wants to pass his citizenship test and gain full-time employment. A photographer herself, Sister Pat is lending her skills to All Saints Catholic Academy for 3- to 5-year-olds and students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Sister Pat is visually chronicling the students' first years at the academy. She also reads to the kindergartners and other little ones, and tutors three students whose first language is Spanish. A retired teacher and principal, Sister Pat is proof positive that the desire to educate others is constant.



Religious Education

Sister Betty (Stephen Marie) Flaherty, OP, retired from the Archdiocese of Detroit as the associate director of catechetics. She remained active in religious education, however, and is now a part-time faculty member at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. On Fridays you'll find her teaching catechetics to undergraduate lay students. She also presents two to three workshops a month for those seeking basic catechist certification. "I teach religion teachers how to teach religion," she said. In addition to her teaching, Sister Betty serves as a Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph Hospital.



Sister Mary Arnold (far right) in the archives at Barry.

two other Adrian Dominicans — **Sister Dorothy (Norbert Mary) Jehle, OP**, and **Sister Jean Kathleen Comiskey, OP**. Sister Mary Arnold taught history at Barry for 15 years and spent another eight serving as an academic dean. "When I came to Barry it was only 12 years old," she said, "so I knew a lot of the early activities of the college." For her, being a keeper of the archives is an enjoyable way to connect with those early years.

History Prevails

When **Sister Mary Arnold Benedetto, OP**, retired from Barry University 10 years ago, she didn't have to look far to find a volunteer ministry. Sister Mary Arnold is the assistant archivist in Barry's Archives Department, where she spends most of her time entering records into the computer. She volunteers with