



# *SEEDS FOR THE JOURNEY*

Vocation Newsletter from the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kansas  
April 2008

***“The Christian must be a singing Alleluia from head to foot.”***

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

**A** singing Alleluia — what could this possibly mean! The Gospel of John records the sorrow of Mary Magdalene walking through the garden on that first Easter morning. After finding the tomb empty, all she could do was weep, fearing that the body of Jesus had been stolen. Suddenly, there is a figure before her; the gardener, she thought. “Tell me where you have laid him,” she pleaded through her tears. Jesus says to her, “Mary.” The burden of sorrow flashes out of her spirit. No doubt now. Mary begins instantly to be a “singing Alleluia.” She runs to tell the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”

What must it be like to actually hear Jesus speak your name? Most of us wish for some miracle like that, especially when we have important decisions to make. We walk through the garden of our hearts, asking questions and imagining consequences of

possible options we might choose. We fret, we worry, we look for assurance, and sometimes we expect others to give us the right answers. We look for a “gardener” to tell us what we want to hear.

Maybe, however, our name is being called, but we have not taken time to hear it. Jesus approaches us gently, presenting us with the invitation to recognize him in ways that are unexpected. Perhaps the early morning dawn is distracting us from the message, but it will not go away. It will be spoken until we completely shut it out or we open our hearts to hear it.

Yes, Jesus the gardener is speaking our name. We stammer, “Rabbouni!” Recognizing Jesus, we can no longer contain our joy. Our whole being becomes a singing Alleluia. Sharing the message of the Gospel becomes our mission. “I have seen the Lord,” we announce. Nothing can stop the retelling of the story.



## ***Dominican Saints who are ‘SEEDS for the Journey’***

This section will share stories about Dominican Saints who have been seekers and preachers of *TRUTH*

**V**incent Ferrer (1350-1419). The name of Vincent Ferrer immediately conjures up his reputation as a fiery preacher, sometimes startling his hearers with such remorse that they would break out in weeping over their sins. His devotion to Jesus Crucified was widely known, as were his ascetic practices. Born in Valencia, Spain Vincent lived intensely, beginning his study of philosophy at the age of twelve and theology at the age of fourteen. At the age of eighteen he joined the Dominican Order. During the time of study in Barcelona, he

foretold that two vessels with corn would be arriving on a particular night to alleviate the effects of a famine. The city was amazed when this occurred. This is only one of the many wonderful events of his life.

Through regions of France, Spain, Italy, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, Vincent spared no efforts in evangelizing. The light of his teaching and preaching illumines the glory of God. St. Vincent Ferrer, OP is remembered on April 5. May we ask this preacher and prophet to help us to be people of integrity.

*Sister Nancy Rose Giarratano, OP*  
**Shares Her Life Singing “Alleluia”**

“**T**he angels have been carrying me around since I was born, and they are singing my Alleluia,” Sister Nancy Rose remarked in her gentle fashion. Weathering some difficult health issues early in life provided Nancy with determination to achieve many goals, from winning honors in both elementary and high school in her hometown of Pueblo, Colorado to mastering the Spanish and Italian language. Never content to be just average, Nancy always looked beyond, with her heart set on accomplishing even greater things. In high school she was part of the marching band. “I learned to march early in life. My uncle was a drill sergeant at Ft. Carson and he used to take me there and let me march behind the soldiers when they were practicing.” The experience was put to use when she was principal in Trinidad, Colorado. Nancy organized a K–8<sup>th</sup> grade marching band which won first place at the Colorado State Fair!

After high school Nancy joined the Cincinnati Sisters of Charity but stayed only one year, feeling that she was not called to that religious community. She returned home and began studies leading to the completion of her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary and Secondary Education. Nancy then entered with the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kansas.

Teaching became her passion as she began her first year with eighth graders at St. Patrick School in Great Bend.

Coupled with teaching, she found time to volunteer at the local girls’ home for high risk teens and at HOPE, a center for the developmentally disabled. Later she became a licensed Emergency Medical Technician.

After a few years in Kansas schools, Nancy’s ministry took her to the Institute of the Southern Plains, a school for Native Americans in Hammond, Oklahoma. The years were challenging, not only because she was teaching, but she was also completing two Masters Degrees, one in School Administration and another in Counseling. In addition she served as Vocation Director for her religious community for eight years.

For the past twenty years Nancy Rose has been ministering in Pueblo. Perhaps there are few people in the city who do not know her. She has been honored with nominations for Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year and Counselor of the Year, besides Volunteer of the Year for her work in restorative justice. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas she organizes food baskets for people in need.

“People are naturally drawn to her,” remarks one of her friends. “She has a heart for the poor, for persons who are in need.” Nancy is always ready to share her gifts. Her ability to play the guitar, clarinet and organ has added beauty to liturgical celebrations at events at the Dominican Motherhouse. Nancy’s love for religious life and her call to the Dominican Order indeed make her a singing Alleluia!

*Give a week, make a difference . . .*

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER MINISTRY:**

***A Mission of Hope***

An exciting summer experience *Mission of Hope* is planned for the Denver, Colorado area to assist programs which serve the homeless or those in need of housing. This opportunity is available for single, Catholic women, ages 16–45, and is scheduled for July 4–10, 2008. Space is limited. Please contact Sister Teri Wall OP at [teriop@msn.com](mailto:teriop@msn.com) or 303/922-2997 for more information. The cost is \$100.00 which helps defray some of the expenses. Consider giving a week to make a difference in your life and someone else’s.

**Points to consider when responding to God’s call**

- God is a God of multiple choices.
- God works in the ordinary.
- God is indeed with us in our choosing, in our desire to be generous and loving.
- There are calls within calls.
- Choices in the present impact decisions in the future.

**Scripture Seeds**

Matthew 4:18–25

Mark 10:17–25

Luke 10:1–9

**2008 COMING ATTRACTIONS**

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| <b>July 4–10</b>    | <i>Mission of Hope: Summer Volunteer Ministry</i><br>Work with and among the poor in Denver, CO |
| <b>August 2–3</b>   | <i>Come Risk the Sacred Journey</i><br>Discernment Retreat in Denver, CO                        |
| <b>September 13</b> | <i>Leaning on God</i><br>Prayer Retreat in Denver, CO   |

For additional information about any of the above:  
Contact Sister Teri Wall, OP  
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You are invited to visit the Dominican Sisters at [www.ksdom.org](http://www.ksdom.org) and/or our motherhouse, 3600 Broadway, Great Bend, KS 67530. Contact: Sister Teri Wall OP, Vocation Minister, 3805 W Walsh Pl, Denver, CO 80219, 303/922-2997, [teriop@msn.com](mailto:teriop@msn.com) to schedule a visit.