



SEEDS FOR THE JOURNEY

Vocation Newsletter from the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kansas

June 2008

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

House of Light, Mary Oliver

Just how many opportunities does one have to live one’s life? “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with **your** one wild and precious life?” That question is posed with energy, challenge, and encouragement, prodding us to be serious about our choices. It is a sad commentary when someone comes to the end of their life and wonders if the world is a better place because they have been here.

How important, then, for each person to be in touch with the calling God has placed within one’s own heart. It is not always easy to come to clarity about the future direction. Some days a particular path seems to be the right one; other days another path takes precedence. It is with patience and perseverance that a person must keep asking the question. “What is God asking of me? Where is God leading me?” At times it becomes difficult, especially when to answer the call might not be popular, or even supported by others. It is for this reason that we offer weekend discernment retreats, a time when a woman can continue her search with spiritual support from vocation directors, and mutual sharing with other women who are also looking for direction. Finding one’s calling in religious life is a wonderful call, though it might not be popular. But then, who is it that is calling us?

Robert Frost’s poem bears a reading, time and time again.

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Dominican Saints who are ‘SEEDS for the Journey’

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

Saint **Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221)** is the founder of the Order of Preachers. Dominic is referred to as a “Gospel man of prayer.” This description is very fitting. Dominic has been for all Dominicans a model calling each of us to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of our contemplation. The first community which Dominic founded was for women contemplatives in Prouilhe,

France. As Dominicans we are called to be contemplatives and, in turn to preach. His preaching was shown by how he lived. A severe famine had broken out and people were dying of hunger. Dominic sold everything, even his precious books, to care for those in need. Each year on August 8th we celebrate the gift of St. Dominic’s life which continues to be a gift to the Order of Preachers.





The Making of a Saint

Johnny was out shopping with his mother one morning in the high street. Feeling a bit bored, he happened to look up at the windows of the nearby cathedral. He wasn't very impressed. From the outside, they looked drab and dull and a bit grimy. He said as much to his mother when she came out of the supermarket.

'Just let's go inside,' she said to him. So they went into the cathedral, and his mother took him to where the big stained-glass windows were.

At first, Johnny was entranced by the magical colored patterns on the stone floor of the ancient church. They

seemed to dance in front of him, as the morning light streamed through the mighty windows.

'Look at that,' he pointed to the dancing image on the stone floor. 'What is it, Mum?'

'Well,' his mother replied, 'actually, that's a saint.'

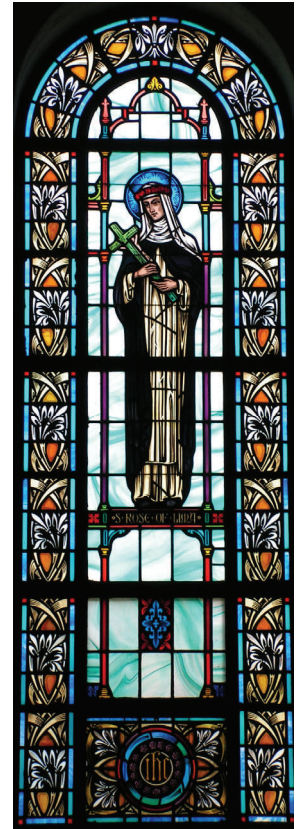
See the window up there, which looked so dull from the outside? There's a saint up there in the stained glass, and the light is shining through her and making her picture dance for us here on the stone floor.'

Johnny stored up this information in his heart, and the two of them went home for dinner.

A few days later, Johnny's class was having a religious instruction lesson. The teacher was talking about saints. 'What do you think makes a saint?' he asked the class.

Johnny's hand shot up. 'A saint is someone the sun shines through,' he explained, 'and when that happens, the stones come to life.'

Author Unknown
*One Hundred Wisdom Stories
from Around the World*
Margaret Silf



Come Risk the Sacred Journey: Discernment Retreat

This retreat is for single, Catholic women, age 18-45, and will be held in Denver, CO August 2-3, 2008. Consider joining other women as you pray, and listen to where God is calling you. This retreat will help you learn the art of discernment, provide a prayerful atmosphere, and give you some understanding about the life of a Dominican Sister. The retreat will also assist you in discovering the grace which is dwelling in your heart. To register contact Sister Teri Wall OP, 303/922-2997, teriop@msn.com

Personal Reflections as you discern your "CALL":

- What am I being "called" to?
- Am I willing to name and discuss both the pros and the cons of this call?
- What am I seeking or longing for?
- How is God leading me?
- How have I responded to God's call in my life?
- What questions does this raise in you?

Scripture Seeds

Matthew 6:24-34
John 19:25-30
Acts 2:1-29

2008 COMING ATTRACTIONS

August 2-3 *Come Risk the Sacred Journey*
Discernment Retreat in Denver, CO

September 13 *Leaning on God*
Prayer Retreat in Denver, CO

For additional information about any of the above:
Contact Sister Teri Wall, OP
Phone: 303/922-2997 Email: teriop@msn.com

You are invited to visit the Dominican Sisters at 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 to schedule a visit.