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Dominican Sisters of Peace Celebrate One Year, Receive Associates' Commitments

COLUMBUS, OH – It has been a week of celebration and thanksgiving for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a congregation of Dominican Sisters founded on Easter Sunday 2009 through the union of seven former congregations. With offices, ministries, Sisters, and Associates in several geographic locations, the congregation commemorated its first anniversary with celebrations throughout the week in various parts of the country and world, with many events taking place this past weekend. *An important part of the anniversary celebrations were special ceremonies where hundreds of Dominican Associates re-committed themselves to the mission of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.*

Dominican Associates are women and men who partner with the Dominican Sisters of Peace, committing to share the mission and charism of the Dominican Order in their daily lives. When the former congregations united last year, they brought with them a total of



more than 550 Associates. This year, all Associates were given the opportunity to formally make commitments to the new congregation. In addition, more than a dozen individuals made Associate commitments for the first time at some locations.

Commitment ceremonies large and small took place in Akron (Ohio), Columbus (Ohio), Fairbanks (Alaska), Great Bend (Kansas), New Orleans (Louisiana), Memphis (Tennessee), Oxford (Michigan), Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), Pomeroy (Ohio), St. Petersburg (Florida), St.

Catharine (Kentucky), and Watertown (Massachusetts). Later ceremonies will take place in Brooklyn (New York), Chicago (Illinois), Denver (Colorado), Southington (Connecticut), and New Zealand, and at other private meetings.

The commitment ceremonies all took place in the context of prayer – some during Eucharistic liturgies – each with local variations of music, ritual, and preaching. However, all Associates pronounced the same words of commitment, proclaiming themselves “called by God to become the Holy Preaching by promoting the liberating truth of the Gospel of Jesus, and collaborating with God for the transformation of all creation.”

Festive receptions followed most of the ceremonies, celebrating the Associates’ commitments, the Congregation’s first anniversary, and all that God has yet to accomplish through the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Reflecting on the weekend, Associate Lucy Strohl of Great Bend, Kansas, summarized her experience saying, “We believe we continue our journey together into tomorrow through Love and through God’s faithful, fiery Word of Peace giving us everything we need.”

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Photo: Associates signing commitment pledges in Columbus, Ohio, were among the hundreds this week who committed themselves to the mission of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. (photographer: Laura Hartman)