

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Congregation of Dominican Sisters Founded

ST. LOUIS, MO - On Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009, seven U.S. congregations of apostolic Dominican Sisters officially united to form one new congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Peace:

- Congregation of St. Rose of Lima (Oxford, Michigan)
- Dominican Sisters, Congregation of St. Mary (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs (Columbus, Ohio)
- Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kansas
- Dominicans of St. Catharine (St. Catharine, Kentucky)
- Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Sisters of St. Dominic of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Akron, Ohio)

This historic event was celebrated with a festive Founding Event in St. Louis on April 14, where guests from throughout the country and around the world joined to rejoice with the Dominican Sisters and Associates of the new congregation. Notable speakers included the Master General of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Fr. Carlos Azpiroz-Costa, OP, who offered a reflection as part of the opening prayer ritual and presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy; former Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Albert the Great, Fr. Donald Goergen, OP, who preached at the Liturgy; and International Dominican Co-Promoter for Justice and Peace Sr. Toni Harris, OP, who was the keynote speaker. Simultaneous celebrations took place at six other locations for Sisters and Associates unable to travel to St. Louis. With the meeting telecasted to these locations, remote participants were able to see and join in the various events of the day.

The decision to form a new congregation was made through a formal discernment process begun in 2002, where the seven communities explored ways they could more closely collaborate in their common mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their many ministries. A petition was sent to the Holy See in 2007 and approval for the new congregation was received that fall. The official decree from the Rome, authorizing the establishment of the Dominican Sisters of Peace on Easter Sunday, was received this spring.

A pontifical institute, the Dominican Sisters of Peace includes more than 650 Sisters serving in 29 states and in Honduras, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, and Vietnam. The congregation also has more than 500 Associates (women and men from throughout the country who partner in mission with the Sisters). Central administration offices for the congregation will

be located in Columbus, Ohio, with various other offices located in St. Catharine, Kentucky; Akron, Ohio; and Oxford, Michigan.



In the opening prayer during the Founding Event of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the prioresses of the seven former congregations together lit one candle, which in turn was used to light the Paschal Candle.

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