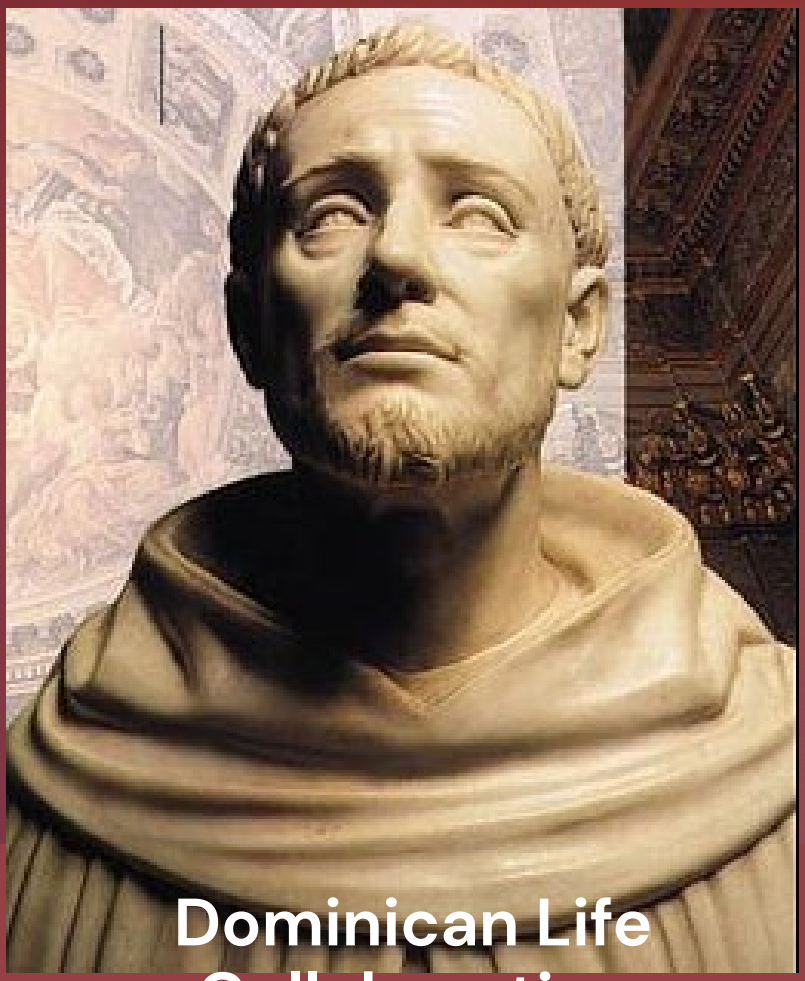
Meet Our **TEAM**



Dominican Life Collaborative

In the company of St. Dominic and all who have borne the name Dominican through history, our Vision is to become and proclaim the Sacred Preaching for the sake of God's people and all creation.

Jane Bertsch



As a former Adrian Dominican, I maintained my connection with the Adrian Sisters for many years, attending workshops, retreats, and theological presentations. My desire to deepen my spirituality and share with an intentional community was a great incentive to become an Associate of the Congregation in 2022. I am co-chair of the Spirituality Circle, member of the Partners Leadership Team and in the Horizons Missions Group. All of these provide me opportunities to deepen and expand my experience of being Dominican. With a background in organizational development and training, working in public transportation, healthcare, and as a coach and consultant to entrepreneurs, I bring my skills in leadership, facilitation, networking, and customer relations to our Associate community.

Jo Curran



I was introduced to associate life about 20 years ago through the Adrian Dominican Sisters who were professors at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St Louis, MO. I have appreciated the gifts of new expressions of spirituality and study and the gift of my Sojourner group, who I lovingly call my companions on the journey, as well as the nurturing of my commitment to social justice by other associates. I serve as co-leader of the Social Justice Circle and as a member of the Partners' Leadership Team. My experiences as a not-for-profit professional leader and consultant have been helpful as we chart new paths and look for new ways to continue the work of Catherine and Dominic and the Adrian Dominicans into the future.

Judi Engel



I was a vowed member for many years. I knew, after leaving, that I was still a Dominican. I became an Associate in 2018 and serve on the Formation Committee. My undergraduate degree from Siena Heights is in fine arts. My graduate degree is in art education from Wayne State University, where I also completed all but the dissertation for a Doctorate in Education. I also trained as a spiritual director at Loyola House in Guelph, Ontario. Almost all of my ministerial life has been with marginalized peoples in multi-cultural settings. I have been a practicing artist for all of my adult life. The intersections of art, spirituality and social justice continue to be my focus.

Dee Joyner

I have been an Adrian Dominican Associate for almost 20 years and cherish the spiritual community my Veritas Sojourner Group has formed, with both Sisters and Associates, during this time. My activities as an Associate include serving as Co-Chair of the Associate Life Community Circle and as a member of the Leadership Partners group working on the creation of the Dominican Life Collaborative. I have also served the Congregation as a member and chair of the Portfolio Advisory Board (PAB), Director of PAB and Resilient Communities, and as facilitator and support team member for several other initiatives.





Laura Law

I have been an Adrian Dominican Associate in the Veritas Sojourner group for over twenty years. I was attracted to the Adrian Sisters' sense of truth and forward-thinking theology and remain for their strong sense of community. I serve as the co-leader of the Associates' Spirituality Circle, and I am a member of the Partners/Leadership Group. I'm a retired Hospice RN and Chaplain and received a D.Min at Eden Seminary in 2016.

James Mallare

I have been an Adrian Dominican Associate for five years. I was first introduced to Dominican Life during my graduate studies while conducting research with Sisters. I was drawn to the community's joy, commitment to social justice, and lifelong pursuit of truth. As an Associate, I serve on the Partners Leadership Team, co-chair the Social Justice Circle, and sit on the board of All Saints Literacy Center in Detroit. I received my Ph.D. in Community and School Health from Wayne State University in 2022. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at WSU and an actively credentialed Community Health Specialist.





Rosemary Martin

In the 1980s, I first met my Adrian Dominican friends and began decades of participating in Mission Group meetings in the Carolinas and later online. After the mission group came to completion, I became a sojourner group member. The community and study found through meetings has enriched my life. I've enjoyed serving on the Portfolio Advisory Board, the Envision 2030 group, as well as presently Co-Chairing the Community Circle and participating as a Partner. My efforts now are helped by business and clinical social work experience gained from establishing a regional Catholic Charities office in the Charlotte Diocese and later founding and developing an international adoption/aide agency that placed orphans from Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Kathy Woods

I have been an associate for eight years, however feel connected with the Adrian Dominican community since 1962. As a previously vowed member, the values of community, study, and social justice initially drew me to become Dominican, and remain foundational for me. I was a member of the PAB from 1975-77 and 2013-2018, and the Chicago Resilience Project Committee. I'm a member of the Bethany Mission Group and Veritas Sojourner Group, and serve as co-chair of the Partners Formation Committee. I have a background in health care management, adult education, and a clinical social work practice assisting families to cope with chronic and terminal illness, loss and bereavement.



Celeste Mueller



I have been an Associate of the Adrian Dominican Sisters for only two years, affiliating on the cusp of the transition that is underway. My relationship with Dominicans, however, extends back to elementary school, and was deepened through my study at Aquinas Institute of Theology and subsequent appointment to the Faculty of Aquinas. My participation as an Associate, especially with my Sojourner group, is encouraging my response to the call to preach the gospel and nurturing a Dominican spirituality that invites me to become, in community, the Holy Preaching. I bring 45 years of experience in the work of theological education, spiritual and theological formation, and leadership development. I am grateful to be serving the DLC Leadership team as facilitator of the prayerful planning for the future.

Nancy Mason Bordley

I began my Dominican Life Associated with the Oxford Dominicans (now Peace) for 13 years and I have been an Adrian Associate, for almost 30 years. Growing up in a Dominican parish and having been taught by Dominicans in grade and high school, being Dominican is part of my DNA! After a 40+ year career in the Archdiocese of Detroit, serving at various parishes in several leadership capacities I founded my own business, Parish Services, LLC, and I served as an adjunct faculty member for the Graduate Theological Foundation and Siena Heights University. I am also a trained Spiritual Director. It is a great pleasure and honor to work with this wonderful team as we chart a path for our future as Dominicans, called to live the Holy Preaching, in a world so desperately in need of our word and example.

