



January 2024

Dear OPAL- Ohio Pennsylvania Associate Leadership Members & Friends,

Happy continued 2024 to all of you from the current OPAL Leadership Team!

At this time of continued living out of New Year's Resolutions, have you selected ideas that you intend to ponder as an Associate and then try to put into action? Have you decided that 2024 will be the 'best ever' year for you as an Associate? Have you made that new year's resolution?

Well, one way that OPAL wants to assist in this new year's process is to utilize the theme and message from Anita Davidson, the Dominican Associate of Peace, who was our guest speaker this past October at Villa Maria Spirituality Center. Anita described the concept of a "mother drum" as *the rhythm that we hear in a drum beat and to which we automatically synchronize our fingers, foot or hand clapping*. Anita challenged us to realize that our *congregational charism* is a "mother drum" and that for all of us, at some point in deciding to join the mission of a congregation, that something "really got our attention.... deep down inside of us."

Anita quoted the noted author and activist, Parker Palmer, that *"vocation does not come from a voice "out there" calling me to become something that I am not. It comes from a voice "in here" calling me to be the person I was born to be.... the selfhood given me at birth by God."*

Here is an Associate 2024 New Year's Resolution we hope you might consider to further listen to "that mother drum."

- 1) Watch this YouTube of Anita's presentation at Villa Maria.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQxQlelqkw8&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opalassociates.org%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt

- 2) Find a creative way to utilize the enclosed material that Anita gave us both personally and (we hope) with Associates and Sisters of your congregation.

- 3) **SAVE THE DATE:**
We really encourage you to watch Anita Davidson on YouTube! She will be joining our next OPAL gathering via zoom: SATURDAY APRIL 13 at 9:AM-11:AM EST.

*The OPAL team will eventually email the OPAL 2024 registered representatives further specific information regarding this morning. The questions enclosed, are a jumpstart to further discussion at our April zoom program.

God bless,
Your OPAL Team

Visit our website: Opalassociates.org
Email: ohiopaassociates@gmail.com