



# THE OPAL CONNECTOR

## Temporary Leadership Team for OPAL

On Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup> there was a follow-up meeting to discuss moving OPAL forward as a vibrant Associate group of women and men in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The meeting took place by Zoom. Those present were Conni Dubick, Dominican Sisters of Peace; Patsy Richards, Humility of Mary; Linda Haas, Tiffin Franciscans; Linda Hoefflin, Sisters of Divine Providence; Barbara Spencer, Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown; and Beth Vetter, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Dan Carney, The Passionists; and Mary Beth Durnell, Tiffin Franciscans, were not able to attend. Each of these people had agreed to meet to discuss the future leadership of OPAL.

We discussed the OPAL checking account which Patsy has been in charge of as Treasurer. She has moved the checking account to PNC Bank. We decided that we need a second person on record for the checking account. Patsy asked Dan to be that person and he agreed.

The discussion of a new Leadership Team was the focus of our discussion. The Leadership Team has a term of four years and those changes happen in the spring. We decided that the eight of us would be a temporary leadership team until next spring, 2024. The current members of the leadership team who will work with the temporary leadership team are Conni, Patsy, and Dan. Elections will be held in early 2024.

***AUGUST 2023 - First Issue***

The co-chairs of the team are Conni Dubick and Barbara Spencer. Linda Hoefflin volunteered to be the secretary and will compose a roster for the Leadership Team. Patsy continues as treasurer, assisted by Dan. Communication is very important so one of our first discussions was about a newsletter. Linda Haas is willing to do the writing and Beth Vetter will format it.

We started planning for a workshop at Villa Maria for Fall of 2023 and a conference for Fall of 2024. Stay tuned for more information when it is available.

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\*\*\*\*\* **Save the Date** \*\*\*\*\*

**Fall Conference October 29, 2023, 9:30-3:30**



## **CHARISM: A COMMUNITY'S "MOTHER DRUM"**

Every religious congregation is built on a particular charism. Each vowed member and associate of every congregation lives out that charism in their own unique way. During this day we will explore and reflect on our own community's charism through the metaphor of "Mother Drum" which provides the foundational rhythm of our common way of life. It will be helpful if each participant has access to their congregation's charism and mission statements in print or electronically.

Leading us through the day is Anita Davidson, OPA, a Dominican Associate of Peace who works as a spiritual director, retreat leader and preacher. She earned degrees in parish ministry and clinical psychology, and completed and now serves on the staff of Shalem Institute's Spiritual Guidance Program. Anita is a wife, mother, stepmother and step-grandmother.

Registration materials with more information will be sent out soon.



## **Check out our Website and Facebook page**

**OPAL Website:** [www.opalassociates.org](http://www.opalassociates.org)

The **Facebook Page** is not private, so you don't need to join it. Once on the website click on the "f" in the banner at the top to go to the web page. You can also click this URL: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089398046250>. If you have any news about your associate group that you would like on the Facebook page, send it to Donna Humphrey at [dmhump99@hotmail.com](mailto:dmhump99@hotmail.com). Donna would like pictures, events and info to keep the site current and informative.

### **CURRENT CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS OF OPAL ARE LISTED BELOW:**

**Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)**  
**Humility of Mary Sisters and Associates**  
**Associates of the Incarnate Word**  
**Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio**  
**Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown**  
**Sisters of St. Joseph**  
**Felician Sisters of North America**

**Sisters of Notre Dame**  
**Sisters of Divine Providence**  
**Sisters of St. Basil the Great**  
**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Associates**  
**Dominican Sisters of Peace**  
**St. Paul of the Cross Monastery**  
**Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine**

# LAUDD



LAUDD is an informal group of lay associates, representing a number of religious charisms, that creates opportunities for encounter among diverse lay associate members and their lay associate communities.

## Lay Associates Uniting in Diversity/Discernment

What do we do?

1. We use the synodal process to offer to any lay associates or interested friends the opportunity to listen to and learn from each other and to see how we can work together.
2. We provide opportunities for listening and sharing about critical issues or questions facing the church. Future synodal topics we plan to discuss are:
  - ·Listening to and engaging young adults;
  - ·Encountering in a polarized Church and culture.
3. We encourage others to learn about the vocation of being a lay associate, helping those who may be called to lay associate membership to find the charism that fits them.



If you would like to join our monthly virtual conversations, email us at:  
[lauddassociates@gmail.com](mailto:lauddassociates@gmail.com)