

A Mind and Heart for the Long Road: Dominican Journeys of Reconciliation in Northern Ireland”

In this session Sr Geraldine Smyth OP, will reflect on the collective presence and mission involvements of the sisters of her congregation, during the recent decades of violent conflict in and about Northern Ireland. To this end she will draw on keynote aspects of her chapter – “The Turning Tide: Dominican Women and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland” (in *Preaching Justice: Contribution to of Dominican Sisters to Social Ethics in the Twentieth Century*, vol. 2, ed., Helen Alford OP and Francesco Compagnoni OP, Dominican Publications, Dublin, 2016).

She will demonstrate the oneness-in-diversity of Dominican sisters’ participation in Christ’s mission as Prophet, Priest, and Shepherd-King, enlivened by faith in the Holy Spirit ‘s manifold work of healing and unifying broken communities and divided churches. Rooted in the Dominican charism, she examines how they made visible in the and diverse ways their congregations’ centuries-long tradition of education – as faithful search for truth in dialogue, as hopeful crossing sectarian boundaries to encounter “the other”, and as ambassadors of Christ’s way of reconciling love. Some recent video-testimony of Dominicans in conversation with other sisters will be shown, part of collaborative research project – *Witness of Women Religious to Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland*, in the expectation that such narrative witness will find resonance with Dominicans elsewhere in their projects and processes of peace and reconciliation, and open up opportunities for mutual learning, exchange and witnessing together for peace.