

A transcript of the chat from the 1-Year Remembrance Gathering for Dianna Ortiz, OSU – Feb. 20, 2022



From Roxana Bendezú (she/ella) to Everyone:

Program for this evening: <https://bit.ly/diannaOneYearRemembranceGathering>

From Maria Martin to Everyone:

Dianna Ortiz, presente! In case you haven't heard it and may want to, here is my offering to Dianna and her life: <https://spiritualedge.org/s1-sacred-steps/sister-dianna-ortiz-survived-torture-in-guatemala-and-became-a-voice-for-victims>

From Kristen Weinman to Everyone:

My prayers are with you, Barbara and the whole family. I loved Di very much.

From Maria Martin to Everyone:

Love and light to Dianna's family every minute.

From Rebecca White, OSU to Everyone:

The Ortiz family and the entire Assisi Community have been in my prayers and will continue to be! I am grateful to have known Dianna for so many years. She is a saint!

From Art Laffin to Everyone:

Sending heartfelt greetings of love to everyone who are part of this beautiful remembrance of dear Dianna. For me, she and the other torture survivors she introduced me to, powerfully

represented the tortured and risen Jesus! Colleen and I are forever grateful for her offering prayers of intercession at our wedding, forever grateful too for the precious gift of her friendship. We carry her loving spirit in our hearts ALWAYS! A deep bow of gratitude to each of you. Dianna- Presente!

From Pat Davis to Everyone:

Thinking of Your Death (for Dianna)

A leaf on the ground
will sometimes still seem

to live. Dead, leaves
are at last free

to skitter about.
Sometimes a leaf will wave

on the pavement, swing
in the wind, this way,

that, even when there is
no breeze.

Sometimes a thing falls
in mid-winter that looks

like a seed.

Many notes of thanks to Leonce Byimana of TASSC in the chat following his sharing...

From Dan Moriarty to Everyone:

Unstable connection so I won't speak, but just want to extend our love for our dear Dianna and to all of you - Assisi, Ursulines, TASSC, Pax Christi, all the friends gathered here, and Dianna's beloved family. We feel so close to you all today, and while we miss her terribly, we also feel close to Dianna, always. Love from Dan, Rocío, Santiago, and Francisco.

From Art Laffin to Everyone:

Sr. Dianna's note at her desk at TASSC says, "Is it possible to forgive and not to forget? How can victims come to peace with their past, and hold on to their own humanity and morals in the process?"

From Michele Morek, OSU to Everyone:

Every time I walked with Di, we had to hug a tree. I have a picture of her in LA, hugging a gigantic tree the size of four trees together...she looks so tiny and frail against the giant tree, but

it looked like her life--how she embraced the terrible thing that happened to her, and made it a blessing. If you want the picture of Di and that tree, write me at mmorek@ncronline.org. Love to all from Sister Michele Morek OSU

From Siobhan Dugan to Everyone:

Congratulations, Peter and Jenny Beth! So delightful to see your little boy.

Thanks from the Ortiz family to Peter, Jenny Beth and family...

From Ryan Di Corpo to Everyone:

I did not know Dianna personally, but I was honored to write her obituary for *The Washington Post*. Her story, one of both unimaginable horror and unparalleled strength, is an inspiration to all involved in peace and anti-torture work. Even one year after her passing, her immense impact on many people is quite evident this evening.

Thanks from the Ortiz family to Maria...

From Lisa Burke to Everyone:

"From now on wherever you go, I go, for the ground between us is holy. God is there and where God is is holy."

From Ellen Thomas to Everyone:

I met Dianna in Lafayette Park, where we were vigiling for a world without nuclear weapons. She was a very gentle presence.

From Manuel and Amy to Everyone:

Manuel and Amy sending our love to all--Sr Dianna forever shaped our lives as we worked under her guidance at Pax Christi USA. If you had a bad day at the office, you would come back to your desk and find she had lit a candle by your keyboard. If you had a work trip scheduled, she would prepare a send-off prayer service. Before we left for Haiti, we think she secretly married us :-). She even schemed with us to make stronger coffee (against the posted instructions, gasp!) at the Center of Concern which caused lots of laughter! She had a special mischievousness about her and always got a twinkle in her eye during these moments. She had a deep holiness and certainly shaped our sense of social justice organizing, but we also had these silly tender moments together. We have some lovely memories around the table at Assisi with Sr Dianna and Harold, and we imagine them together in eternal friendship.

From Pat Davis to Everyone:

I remember a mischievous coffee episode at the Guatemala Human Rights Commission. She and Sister Alice were adding amaretto to the morning coffee!

Thanks to Kristen from the Ortiz family...

From Art Laffin to Everyone:

Someone else posted the note on Dianna's desk at TASSC!...When I went to Guantanamo in 2005 with Witness Against Torture to call for an end to torture, indefinite detention and for the closing of GITMO, I asked Dianna for her prayerful support and for a statement of solidarity that could be read when we were in GITMO. She so graciously offered to do both. We carried her courageous witness to GITMO --- and that of TASSC with us to GITMO. Deo Gratias for Dianna, her beautiful family, the Ursuline Community, TASSC, Assisi Community and Pax Christi. With love and gratitude to all ❤️🙏 Art Laffin

From Linda Bessom to Everyone:

I remember meeting Diana when she encamped across from the White House.... (Sister Linda Bessom SND de N, Pax Christi Beverly MA Co-chair

From Bob Zeigler to Everyone:

Jennifer, I still carry your poem with me every day. It seems appropriate even for this event today:

"Let me plant myself at the Crater's edge,
Let me never forget the destruction,
Never let the truth be silenced or disbelieved.
Let me be a flor de izote.
Willing in spite of all obstacles to shoot
straight up and be a sign of life." (Jennifer Casolo)

From Meg Bowerman to Assisi Community:

Thank you so much for this wonderful tribute to our saint in waiting!! Have to go, but I so appreciate this gift and all of you! Meg in Oakland

From Quincy to Everyone:

I moved into Assisi right after taking my first vows as a professed sister. Dianna was a confidante and mentor and quickly became my sister. I miss her and will always cherish our relationship. Living in Dianna's room at Assisi has brought me great peace, encouragement and healing, too.

From Kathy Saunders to Everyone:

Thank you so much for this wonderful tribute. I am honored to have been invited.

Thanks to Jennifer from the Ortiz family....

From Lorraine Lauter to Everyone:

I'm really hoping that John and Ann will sing Hallelujah, the great storm is over....

From Pat Davis to Everyone:

What a beautiful community Dianna knit around her. The beauty has spread.

From Phyllis Jepson to Everyone:

I only met Sr. Dianna once when I visited Assisi Community, but she had a profound impact on my life and I am grateful to be sharing this celebration of her life with all of you.

From Pat Davis to Everyone:

Alice Zachmann brought Dianna to Washington and that is something to be thankful for!

From Jean Stokan to Everyone:

+No need to speak, just to thank you for this sharing. How to live courageously, and love deeply—as she did—is our way to keep her spirit alive. The memory of sharing those painful years in the early 90s is only superceded by the incredible presence and love Dianna brought to all. Scott and I lived two years in Assisi when our daughter Maura was 3-5 years old (now 23). Her Montessori pre-school would celebrate “Loved ones day” instead of Mother’s Day or Father’s Day. Maura always asked Dianna to go with her those days! Ever grateful for her courage, and great love. Dianna PRESENTE. We love you.

From Maria Martin to Everyone:

God bless Alice Zachmann and each and every one one of you and your love for Sister Dianna.

From Anna Misleh Gordon to Everyone:

I had the joy of working with Dianna at the Center of Concern on the Education for Justice project: first as a college intern and then as a colleague. When I think of Dianna, some words that come to mind are smiles, strong coffee, mercy, open heart, boundless compassion, bright spirit, and connection. Dianna, presente!

From Art Laffin to Everyone:

Di's question was not answered. She used to say, "the question, for me, is not whether he should have forgiven, but whether he could have done so. Was it in his power to forgive?"
Thank you, all! Demissie

From Liza Apper to Everyone:

The Ursuline Community’s support of Sr. Dianna is awesome and the Holy Spirit lived.

From Liza Apper to Everyone:

Pax Christi, this has been a beautiful ritual of remembering.

From Quincy to Everyone:

Thank you so much Pax Christi, Assisi and all for making this sacred space possible. Peace be with you all.

From Manuel and Amy to Assisi Community:

Thank you, Assisi. Big hugs. Just seeing the scene of your community's dining and living room brings a great sense of peace and reconnection.

From John Ortiz to Everyone:

Thanks everyone for loving, supporting and remembering our beautiful Sister Dianna.

From Lorraine Lauter to Everyone:

Thank you, Johnny!

From Kathy Snider to Everyone:

Thank you everyone!

From Rhegan Hyypio Nunez to Everyone:

Love to everyone. Dianna, Presente!!!!

From Judy Coode to Everyone:

Thanks to everyone! St Dianna pray for us.

From John Ortiz to Everyone:

Thank You Johnny.

From Isaac Chandler to Everyone:

PRESENTE!!!!.

From Lee Miller to Everyone:

Thanks, so many friends! Beautiful and powerful.

From Maria Vides to Everyone:

