

*The Greatest Gift* is 240-page biography that describes Sister Dorothy Stang's participation in the Inland Children's Chorus.

On February 12, 2005, Dorothy Stang, a seventy-three-year-old nun, was murdered in cold blood. This is the powerful story of her work, her life, and her legacy.



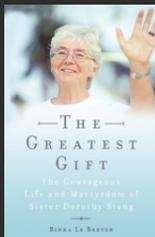
DOROTHY STANG, born and raised in Ohio . . . was revered for her dedication to the ideal of family farmers who extract their sustenance in harmony with the forest. From her base in the frontier town of Anapu, she worked unceasingly to transform settlers along the Transamazon Highway into environmentally conscious, cohesive, and combative communities, able to resist violent cliques of ranchers and speculators who would lay claim to the same land. Stang saw human rights and environmental conservation in the Amazon as inextricably intertwined. Though poor settlers themselves damage the forest, Stang believed they could learn to manage their land sustainably as a matter of self-preservation. "The death of the forest is the end of our lives," she told her followers."

—*National Geographic*



A From "Dayton Days" (pages 29-30):

The family "went on excursions with the Inland Chorus. Choir practice was one of the highlights of the week, and the children acquired a wide repertoire, everything from operetta to old favorites. Mr. Westbrook [*sic*], the choirmaster, even made a recording of the latest hits, which was sent to entertain the troops at the front, and some years later, when David entered the seminary, he recalled those songs as a solace in his loneliness. The boys of the Inland Choir wore Buster Brown [*sic*] outfits-black pants, short jacket, and shirt with a white collar-while the girls wore blue dresses with white collars and bows in their hair. On Saturday mornings the Stang kids had to do chores, but they tried their utmost to be through by noon so they could get to choir practice on time. They could take the bus, which cost them ten cents, or they could walk a couple of miles to the trolley, which cost three cents, leaving them money with which to buy candy or pop after choir practice. But when they did run late, Dot could often be relied on to figure out a solution and negotiate a ride with one of the neighbors heading for the grocery store."



*The Greatest Gift* by Binka Le Breton (Doubleday 2008)