

THE ROSARY PILGRIM



MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in it!

Dear Family and Friends,

Throughout the Octave of Easter this verse from the psalms is sung at each Holy Mass and at the end of each of the Hours of the Divine Office. One day is not enough to express our joy in the salvation won for us by our Lord dying on the Cross and rising from the dead for our sins! Let us rejoice!

Each day of our lives should find us rejoicing in this new life given to us through our Baptism but often we act like we have not been redeemed. Fortunately, the Lord continues to spoil us with “reminders” such as you can read in the following pages!

Our New Year began with great rejoicing on the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, when our Sister Mary Magdalene of the Immaculate Conception, OP, echoed our Lady’s “fiat” as she gave her life to God, making Solemn Profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers.

Sister’s entire family and many friends from as far as Kansas and Alaska were able to present for this special day! Many of our Dominican brothers were able to come and a large group of seminarians from Immaculate Conception seminary were also in attendance.

We have been rejoicing in the new sisters joining our monastic family: the entrance of two postulants and the Silver Jubilee of newly-arrived Sister Mary Ruth Bernard of God’s Word, OP!

The overwhelming response of so many friends old and new to our Capital Campaign was evident at our First Annual Gala in November. How can we not be full of joy after experiencing so much support and love for our contemplative way of life?

As we continue in this Eastertide we ask our Lord to fill you with the joy of His Divine Life and ask Him to bless you for your generosity and support!

Sr. Mary Martin, O.P. & Community



The Prewitt Family



Rev. Bro. John Devaney, OP & Fr. Rick Jastrzebski, OP

January 1, 2015 - Solemn Profession

Sr. Mary Magdalene of the Immaculate Conception, O.P.

Prelude

Entrance Antiphon

Canon in D Major

Hail Holy Mother

Tosca



Profession of obedience in the hands of Sr. Mary Martin, Prioress.



Receiving the profession ring of her espousals to Christ



The blessed veil of consecration is placed on her head by the prioress and novice mistress.



Sister prostrates cruciform during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints

New Postulants

Once again we have sisters with blue jumpers and white veils in our midst! On November 1, 2014, Solemnity of All Saints, **Sister Maria Barrett** from Montreal, Canada, entered, boasting our Canadian population to two! Sister Maria is the second oldest of ten children and in May, 2014 graduated from Thomas Aquinas College, in Santa Paul, California. The Catholic world is both universal and small and so it was that in her graduating class was the great-great-niece of our Sister Mary Daniel!



Sister Maria brings to the community her delightful smile and the ability not only to learn things quickly but to jump in and help when she sees a need. Sister Maria is learning the different crafts of the soap and candle making departments. Along with her love of philosophy, theology and literature she has an interest in sculpture.

Joining Sister Maria in the novitiate, **Sister Danielle Brisebois** entered at First Vespers for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on March 18, 2015. Sister Danielle is from Fitchburg, Massachusetts and shares many acquaintances with her new novice mistress, Sister Mary Catharine. In fact, Sister Mary Catharine attended the ordination of Sister Danielle's spiritual director, Abbot Xavier Connolly, OSB, when he was ordained by Saint John Paul II in Saint Peter Basilica in May, 1989. A grant from the Mater Ecclesiae Fund for Vocations made it possible for Sister Danielle to enter now and not have to wait years before her educational loans were paid off! Find out more about this wonderful foundation at www.fundforvocations.org and give them your support!

Sister Danielle graduated from Ave Maria University, majoring in history. She has a great love of art and drawing. Sister Danielle's family runs a thriving catering business and she will find ample opportunity to use her skills in the monastery!

25 years of Fidelity: Sister Mary Ruth Bernard, OP



In September, 2014 Sister Mary Ruth Bernard, OP, transferred to our monastery from the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace, North Guilford, CT for three years. We found out that she had a silver jubilee coming up in November and set out to have a celebration!

Sister Mary Ruth Bernard had a public celebration with family and friends on November 9, 2014, with a Mass celebrated by Father Allan White, OP and reception in Saint Dominic's hall. Later in the month we had a community celebration.

We thank God for the gift of Sister Mary Ruth Bernard's 25 years of profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers and pray for many more years "free for God alone"!



First Annual Gala

The 1st Annual Gala to benefit our monastery was held on November 6, 2014. It was a truly Catholic celebration, beginning with Holy Mass at our monastery. Then all our guests headed over to the Grand Summit for a festive evening! Bishop Manuel Cruz spoke and Father Brian Plate, pastor of our parish of Saint Teresa of Avila here in Summit gave the blessing. Andreas Widmer, director of Entrepreneurship Programs, The Catholic University of America and former Swiss Guard and author of "The Pope and the CEO" spoke about his experience serving Saint John Paul II. Martha MacCallum, Fox News Co-anchor of "America's Newsroom" and Summit resident served as emcee.

At the Gala we posthumously honored Lou Martine, Esq. (1933-2013), a faithful friend and benefactor of Rosary Shrine for many years. Also honored was James R. Prisco, Sr. and James R. Prisco, Jr. benefactors of the monastery.

Planning for our first gala began only a few months previously. It was not only a sell-out event; the hotel ballrooms and beyond were packed "like sardines" as Bishop Cruz said! The evening ended with dancing to the tunes of The Infernos!

Our special thanks to The Grant Summit, Oak Knoll and Oratory Prep Students and to The Gala Committee members who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this evening such a joy-filled success! We especially want to thank Deborah Q. Belfatto for serving as committee chair. To each and every one who sacrificed many long hours to make the Gala such a success we give our heart-fel gratitude!

Our extern sisters attended the event and the nuns at home were just as excited as if we had attended ourselves! Our hearts are truly filled with love and gratitude for the outpouring of support for our monastery and its mission of prayer!



Top: The Martini Family

Middle, L-R: Mr. James R. Prisco, Ms. Martha MacCallum, Mr. Andreas Widmer, Sr. Mary Cecilia, OP

Left: Bishop Manuel Cruz

Right: A guest with Lambi News-ham, Margaret Roeck





*Richard Sofie, Fr. Brian Plate,
Bishop Manuel Cruz, Fr. Jack Carmichael*



Cocoziello Family & Friends



Redmond Family & Friends



John Pisano, Deborah Q. Belfatto, Leslie Quick



Ellie and Craig Culver



McAleer Family & Friends

*To see many more wonderful photos of our First Annual Gala go to:
www.flickr.com/photos/nunsopsummit*



Making the Light shine brighter!

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Ps. 119:105)



Greetings from the Development Office of the Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary! It is with great joy that I write about all the wonderful things that are happening for our dearly beloved nuns.

GALA REPORT As you have read earlier in this newsletter, this past November 6th, our Gala was held at The Grand Summit Hotel, in Summit, NJ, to raise money for the needs and support of the nuns. It was an “over-the-top success,” with the event honoring Mr. James Prisco, Sr, and Mr. James Prisco, Jr, of J. R. Prisco, Inc., and posthumously honoring Louis J. Martine, Esq.. We are enormously grateful to Deborah Q. Belfatto of Summit who served as the Gala Chair and to all the members of the Gala Committee who worked long hours to make the evening a success! We also thank the Inferno’s who provided the entertainment and Jerry Rose of Jerry Rose Floral and Design who supplied the arrangements and centerpieces. Our gratitude to all who made the Gala such a success!

SAVE THE DATE!! This year’s Gala will be held on Thursday, November 5th at The Grand Summit Hotel. We are pleased to announce Lizanne Kenney and Martha MacCallum, both of Summit, as this year’s chairs. The Gala honorees will be Peter Kenny, of Mendham, NJ, and posthumously, Rocky Querques, father to Deborah Q. Belfatto. Make sure to get your reservations in early to secure a place at this year’s Gala.

ARCHITECT FOR THE NEW WING The nuns have chosen Justin Mihalik, AIA, of Essex Fells, NJ, as the architect for the new wing. Justin has a wide range of experience in both residential and commercial projects. Sister Judith Miryam, our Director of Advancement remarks, “Justin has done an incredible job in listening to us and incorporating our ideas. Our enclosed monastic environment presents some very special needs and challenges. He has responded by designing an addition that is not only attractive and livable but also functional and safe.”



The nuns recently approved Justin’s final design for the building addition, and the engineer’s final site plan is now in progress.

NEW MEMBER OF DEVELOPMENT OFFICE I am pleased to announce that Kathleen (Kathy) Hubert McKenna is the new Assistant to the Director of Development. Kathy comes with years of development experience, and will be working closely with me to increase the support of our nuns and awareness of their important mission in the Church. Welcome, Kathy!

HELP US BUILD It is our hope that you prayerfully consider a contribution that will allow the nuns to build up more fully the life of the Church as they strengthen their mission of prayer to be “a home of the Word,” inviting all to experience the presence of God. They are almost halfway to their goal of raising \$4 million for construction of a new addition. Please help them make this much-needed expansion of their monastery a reality! Your gift will enable these nuns to continue the Dominican monastic life for years to come.

For more information regarding the Gala, the Centennial Capital Campaign, or how you can help, please contact me at 201.452.4996.

God bless you,

Maryann Cocozello
Director of Development

On Location with Electric Peak Creative

Lights! Camera! Action! And then there was “Let’s do that again!” For a week this summer the crew of Electric Peak Creative were all about the monastery and even climbing the enclosure wall to get footage to produce our Capital Campaign promotional video. Some days it was really hot and sometimes it seemed like we had said a line or did a simple action (like picking beets) 25 times. But the results were well worth all the effort.



The result was an inspiring video about our contemplative life and our capital campaign, *Making the Light Shine Brighter*, to raise \$4 million to build a much-needed new wing on to our monastery.

You can view the video on our website: www.summitdominicans.org and learn more about our project and how you can help!



Don't forget to go to our blog, Facebook page and even Twitter for the latest news, photos and updates!
Website: www.summitdominicans.org Facebook: [facebook.com/monialesop](https://www.facebook.com/monialesop) Twitter: twitter.com/monialesop

Filipino Fundraising Mass and Dinner-Dance



After Mass, Sister Maureen gave an informative talk about our special copy of the Shroud of Turin. This was followed by a presentation of the two organizations of a gift totaling \$5700 for our Capital Campaign thanks to the generosity of our Filipino friends!

May Jesus and Mary bless you for your generosity to our community! *Salamat po!*

On November 7, 2015, the Filipino Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark and the Filipino Association of Union County organized a Dinner-Dance at Saint Teresa of Avila Parish Hall to raise funds for our capital campaign! The event was organized by our long-time friend, Bobby Ticzon and our chapel was nearly full with our many Filipino friends and benefactors for Holy Mass which preceded the gathering.





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