

THE ROSARY PILGRIM

MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Dominican Nuns of Summit, New Jersey

SUMMER

2022



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE ROSARY PILGRIM, WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE with you a number of books we have recently published, including a translation of the canonization process of St. Margaret of Hungary, a Dominican nun from the 1200's well beloved by the Order. Read more about Sr. Mary Martin's work of translation, as well as a bit about some of our other new and newly republished books below!

Interview with Sr. Mary Martin Jacobs, O.P. on *The Canonization Process of St. Margaret of Hungary*

The Canonization Process of St. Margaret of Hungary is a fascinating work revealing the life of St. Margaret. The sisters who lived with this 13th century nun present vivid, colorful details of her life in the monastery. Also, the testimonies of St. Margaret's miracles are a remarkable view into life in the 1200s. Sr. Mary Martin Jacobs, O.P. of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, NJ translated the work from Latin this past year. The following is an interview with her about how she enjoyed translating this captivating work and sharing it with her community of nuns as a reading in the refectory.

What made you want to translate *The Canonization Process* and persevere in the work?

I wanted to translate it because I wanted to know what life was really like in a Dominican monastery 750 years ago. Once I got started it was so fascinating that I would not have wanted to stop, even if it meant putting it aside and coming back at a later time. Fortunately I didn't have to do that, although I had the book for over a year before I was actually able to get started writing the translation down.

How does the example of St. Margaret speak to modern Dominican nuns?

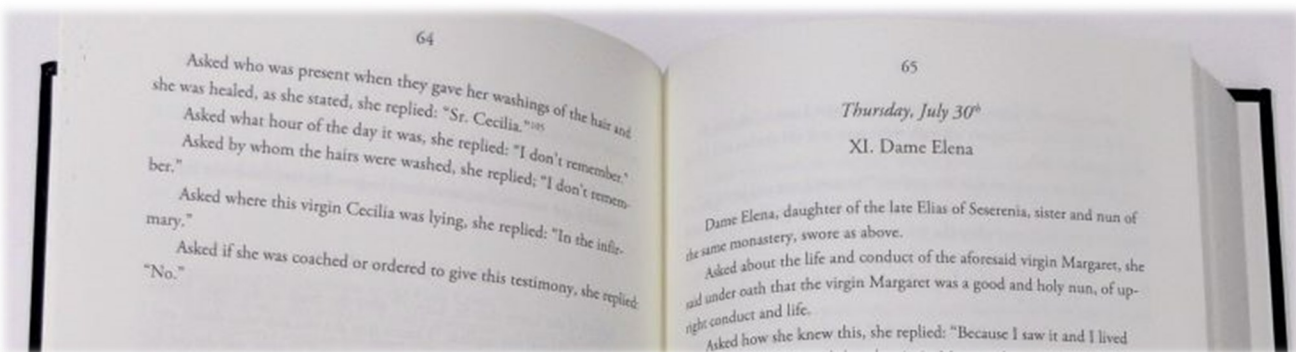
St. Margaret is a wonderful example of such virtues as humility, patience, charity, kindness, compassion and sympathy, as well as perseverance in prayer and fidelity to choir and regular observance and the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. I think of her now as a sister and a friend. She can no longer be dismissed as someone who didn't take a bath and indulged other irrelevant medieval preoccupations, or who was ignorant and didn't study. The solid virtues that she exhibited so strongly are what make a Dominican nun before anything else.

In your introduction to the book, you wrote that as you were translating, "I felt my sisters were talking to me." Could you speak on why it is you felt that way?

In the inquiry, the sisters were speaking to the interviewers, answering direct questions. In the first couple of interviews, the secretary paraphrased their responses but quickly gave that up for direct quotes. At that point I began to feel that they were talking not only to their questioners but to me, even though I would not have asked the same questions by any means. I felt almost that I could hear their voices. The fact that their responses were being translated from Hungarian into Latin through an interpreter only added to the feeling of immediacy, odd as that may seem. I could easily in my mind block out the intervening people and "hear" only the Latin in front of me.

How did reading this book in the refectory benefit the community?

The community would probably have to answer how they thought the book benefitted them. I was gratified by how caught up in it the sisters got, getting just as amused, excited, and edified by the stories of the witnesses as I was. I could hear sisters discussing the stories at recreation, showing that they could hardly wait to hear the next testimony, or saying what they thought of the various witnesses, especially the lay people, and their circumstances.

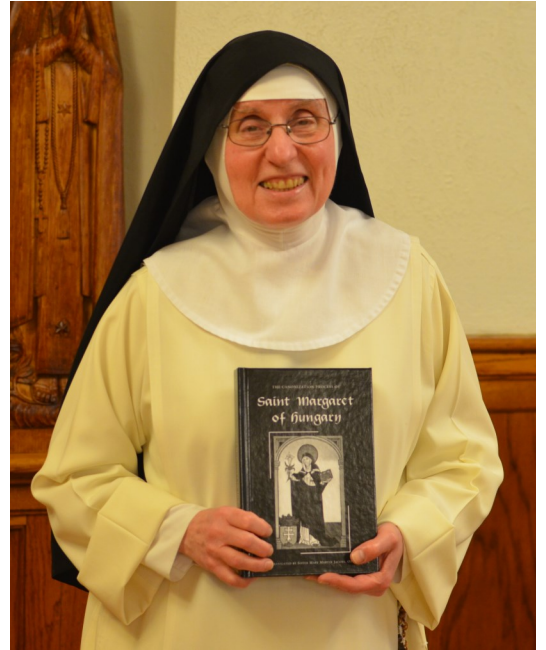


How did translating this work help you understand the time period in which it was written?

One of the things that struck me, and any other modern reader I have read or talked to, is how most of the witnesses did not know their age, could not remember who else was present at any given event, or the day or month when it happened. The time of day is almost always given in reference to the Hour of the Office that it was nearest to, even in the testimonies of lay people. It makes one wonder what it would have been like to live in a world without clocks, calendars or cameras. Also, even though we realize that this was the case, it makes one see just how grim life could be without modern conveniences like plumbing, electricity and gas, or any kind of adequate medical treatment. I was also dismayed by the evident lawlessness of the time, when vulnerable individuals suffered robbery, kidnapping and murder, with no recourse to any authority that was prepared to or capable of redressing the wrong. There was far more need for supernatural intervention in everyday life than there is now, although we always have need for the grace of God!

What's your favorite testimony in *The Canonization Process*?

There are so many good stories that it's hard to pick one. I enjoy the story of the nun who saw a flame over Margaret's head as she was praying. The sister became frightened and started to shake Margaret to rouse her. Finally Margaret came to herself and the sister explained, somewhat hysterically, that there was a flame over her head. Margaret passed her hand over her head to feel it, then said, "Don't tell anybody." I also like the story of the man with the hernia, whose intestines returned to their proper place while the family looked on in disbelief. Talk about spectacular miracles!



If you've found yourself intrigued by the life of St. Margaret, a copy of *The Canonization Process of St. Margaret of Hungary* can be found at the Summit Dominicans website: <https://summitdominicans.org/dns-publications>

BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

IN ADDITION to Sr. Mary Martin's translation of the canonization process of St. Margaret of Hungary, we have also recently published four other new books. *Hidden in the Light* was written by a Dominican nun in Italy, Sr. Paola Panetta, O.P. *Free for God Alone* contains essays written by a variety of Dominican nuns and friars, which we have reprinted with beautiful photographs of life in our monastery. *Calendar of the Saints and Blesseds of the Order of Preachers* was recently republished with a greatly expanded calendar now including all the new saints and blesseds of the Order who have been beatified or canonized since the last publishing. The final new book, *The Golden Castle*, was originally written by one of our sisters for the 50th anniversary of our monastery's foundation, and republished now shortly after our 100th anniversary in 2019! You can read a bit more about each of our newly published books below.



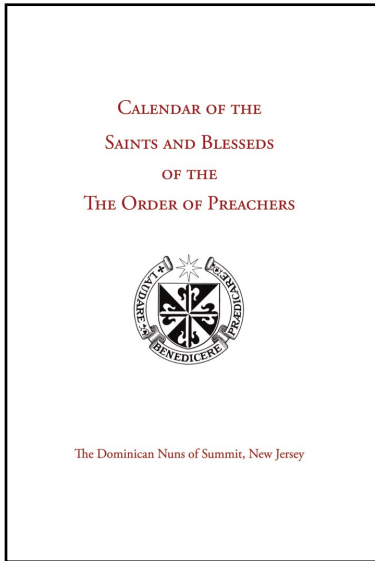
The Golden Castle

Originally written and illustrated in black-and-white by sisters of our monastery for the Golden Jubilee of our foundation, we've republished this with new, full-color illustra-

tions done by Sister Maria Rose. It's a fairy-tale about a group of princesses (nuns) who live in a castle with the King and the Queen Mother—only it turns out to be true!

Free for God Alone

A collection of essays by various Dominican nuns and friars on what it means to be a Dominican Nun, whose life is “free for God alone.” Republished with beautiful, updated photographs of life in our monastery which accompany the essays.



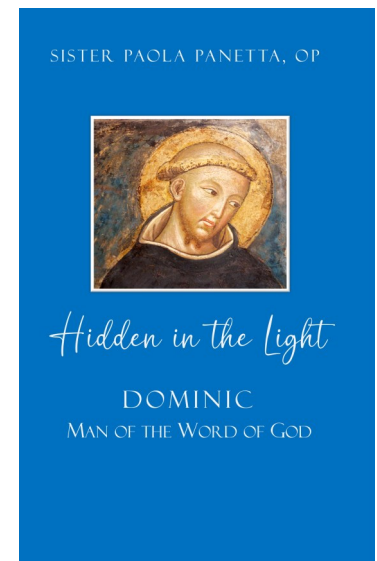
Calendar of Saints and Blesseds of the Order of Preachers

Biographical information on the Saints and Blesseds of the Order, arranged by date of their feast. In our monastery, we read the entry on each saint the night before their feast day. We republished the book in order to add in a number of newly canonized and beatified Dominicans.

Hidden in the Light: Dominic, Man of the Word of God

This little book was written during the Jubilee of the *Dies Natalis* of Saint Dominic and is the fruit of the wish to make Saint Dominic better known: in it the reader is guided by the memories of two of Dominic's disciples, Brother Jordan of Saxony and Sister Cecilia, through their memories, their personal experience of

the journey with their master and friend. Both would later be beatified by the Church. A question links the various pages: what if holiness were ... catching? Perhaps, who knows, if we spend time with saints, we will be drawn to the ways of the Lord Jesus. Written by Sr. Paola Panetta, OP, of the Dominican Monastery of St. Mary Magdalene in Crea, Italy.



If one or more of these books has caught your attention, you can find them at our website, <https://summitdominicans.org/dns-publications>. There you can learn more about DNS Publications, how we got started, and about our logo: a dog with a burning torch!

WHAT ARE THE NUNS PRAYING FOR RIGHT NOW?

In the rite of profession, when the newly professed nun receives the black veil symbolizing her consecration, she hears the words: “Accept the sacred veil by which you may be recognized as a house of prayer for your Lord and a temple of intercession for all people.” We take that role seriously, and in addition to the many personal intentions recommended to our prayers, we are praying for these national and global intentions which we invite you to join in praying for:

- For peace in the world, especially in Ukraine, and for all those who are suffering on account of the war there
- For the legal protection of all unborn children; in particular, for the Supreme Court ruling forthcoming potentially reversing *Roe v. Wade*
- For the Eucharistic renewal planned by our bishops across the country to renew faith and devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist



Our Lady crowned with roses at our annual Rosary Pilgrimage and May Crowning

MAY: MARY'S MONTH

We began this month of May, traditionally devoted to honoring the Blessed Virgin, with a Rosary Procession and May Crowning on May 1st. Fr. Jonah Teller OP preached a beautiful sermon about how Mary is all-beautiful because she so perfectly reflects the love of God, and in reflecting God, leads us closer to Him more quickly and easily than we could reach on our own. Now, as May draws to a close, we prepare to celebrate another feast of Mary on the last day of the month, the Feast of the Visitation. This is the moment when, greeted by her cousin Elizabeth, Mary responded with her Magnificat: *“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.”* Let us pray for the grace to rejoice in God our Savior as Mary did, and like her, to proclaim his greatness. He has done great things for us, and his mercies are never-endings; great is his faithfulness!

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