



Spring, 2010

The Rosary Pilgrim

A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of the Dominican Nuns

THE RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETED!!

Monday, December 7, 2009 marked a milestone for us here at the monastery as we sat down to eat our first meal, fully prepared in our newly renovated kitchen, in our new refectory. We spent the entire weekend moving things from our temporary kitchen (the bakery) and our temporary storage facility (the Chapter Hall) back into the kitchen. Our weekend Sister Cooks also began giving the new equipment a test run as they prepared our meals for us, although we still had to eat in the “temporary” refectory (our Community Room).



Sister Judith Miryam prepares a scrumptious dinner.



Sister Mary Catharine checks out the new cabinets.



“Now where should we put this...?”

Then the Big Day arrived, and all the sisters were able to eat in the same place at the same time, for the first time in ages! How good it felt to finally be back where we belonged!



The sisters take their meals from the center refectory tables.



Sister Mary Amata at the Reader's Desk.



A view of the refectory from the kitchen.

It took some time for us to figure out the best “flow patterns” and to get used to where things went, but everything sorted itself out...eventually!

We hope you enjoy these pictures of the project, and those that appear on the following pages!

THE RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETED! *(continued)*



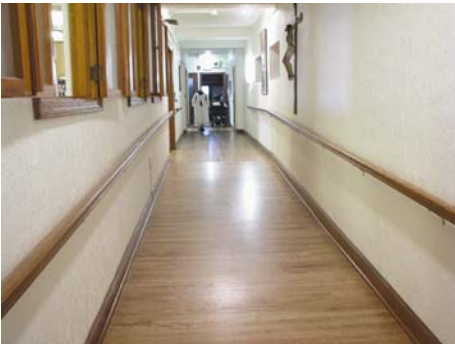
A side-by-side view inside our new kitchenette.



Our new "dishwashing center," complete with a three-compartment sink and commercial dishwasher.



The new pantry.



A view of the new handicap-grade ramp.



So much stuff...so much space!



Our Lady and her Divine Child watch over us all!



Sister Maria Agnes checks out the leftovers.



The sisters like the new dishes and flatware!



Something good is cooking for supper.



Before the meal...



...During...



...After the meal. Clean up is a breeze in the new kitchen!

THE RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETED! *(continued)*



Our contractor, Frank Korfmann, spoons himself out a plate of food while on the serving line.



"Smile and say 'Cheese!'" From left to right: Sisters Virginia Mary, Mary Magdalene, Maureen and Diana Marie.



Sister Denise Marie entertains our carpenter, Jay, and his wife in the kitchen.



Our plumber, Elvin, and his wife, Donna, show pictures of their family to our sisters and guests.

On Saturday, January 2, 2010, we held an Open House for our wonderful workmen and their spouses as a way to thank them for all their hard work. We all had a delightful evening!



From left to right: Sister Mary Martin, architect Sharon Tarantino, Sister Mary Amata and Sister Maria of the Cross.



Our community looks on as Bishop Cruz blesses the refectory.

On January 3, 2010, our regional bishop, Most Reverend Manuel Cruz, came with his aunt, Tía Isabella, to the monastery to offer a special Mass for us. Following the Mass he blessed the kitchen, refectory and hallway, and then joined us for a wonderful dinner.



Bishop Manuel Cruz (left) and our chaplain, Father Ciarán Fergus, O.P., during the blessing ceremony.



Bishop Cruz and his aunt, Tía Isabella, serve our sisters a delicious meal of meatloaf, potatoes and vegetables.



Our sisters in the novitiate enjoy the rare after-dinner conversation in the refectory.



Sister Maria of the Cross (right) is in deep conversation with Bishop Cruz and our prioress, Sister Mary Martin (left).

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP!!

We extend our most heart-felt gratitude to all who made these renovations possible! May God grant you His abundant blessings for your generosity.

Our Lady of the Rosary Circle—Gifts of \$100,000 and above.

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*Thank you
and
God bless you!!*

SISTER MARY ROSE DOMINIC OF JESUS (1925-2010)

Our Sister Mary Rose Dominic of Jesus, O.P., went home to Our Lord on 10 February 2010, at Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Infirmary in Caldwell, New Jersey.



Christmas was one of Sister Mary Rose Dominic's favorite times of the liturgical year.

Mary Rose Lynch was born on 9 October 1925 in Clonmore, Athboy, County Meath, Ireland to Thomas Lynch and Ellen McGeever; the fourth of five children. The family emigrated to the United States when Mary Rose was 22 years old. The four girls arrived in August 1947, while her brother had already emigrated in 1936.

She entered the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, New Jersey, in December 1948; was clothed with the white Dominican habit in July 1949 and received the religious name Sister Mary Rose Dominic of Jesus, O.P. She made her Religious Profession of Temporary Vows in December 1950 and professed her Perpetual Vows in December 1953. On 21 November 1955, Sister Mary Rose Dominic was one of twenty-three sisters who professed Solemn Vows, thus making them full-fledged Nuns of the Order of Preachers. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in June 1963.

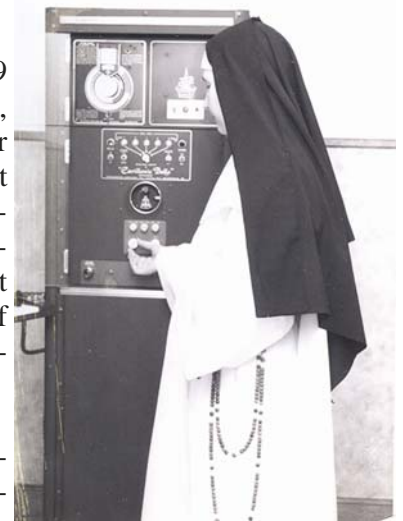
For more than sixty years, she steadfastly fulfilled various duties and household tasks, including that of portress, laundress and bell ringer. She voluntarily performed many other tasks around the monastery, foremost among them decorating rooms and halls for Christmas and Easter.

Her hymns and poems have been published in various magazines, anthologies, websites and in the *Summit Choir Book*. She was the author of two books published after entering the monastery: *The Gospel Way of Life: A Book For Young People* and *The Mystery and Destiny of the Church*, both of which she wrote under the pen name of Sister Rosena Marie.

After having proudly completed her annual decorating of the monastery for the 2009 Christmas season, and enjoying once again the celebration of the birth of Our Lord, Sister Mary Rose Dominic suffered a major stroke on 28 December. Following her hospitalization she was first moved to a local skilled nursing facility and then to Saint Catherine's Infirmary. She was visited quite often by our sisters and her family members and friends during the last weeks of her life, and she was sometimes able to recognize and even converse, although with difficulty, with those around her. When it looked as though death—as well as an impending blizzard—were imminent, one of our sisters went to spend the night with her and was at her bedside at the time of Sister's passing.

The Funeral Mass and final rites of Committal were held on 16 February in the monastery chapel and cemetery. The main celebrant for the Mass was Father Ciarán Fergus, O.P., chaplain of our monastery. The concelebrants were Father Brian Plate, pastor of Saint Teresa of Avila Church and Father Frank Maione, confessor of the nuns. In attendance were several of Sister's family members as well as representatives of the Dominican Laity and members of the Rosary Shrine Guild.

The communion of saints had a significant role in Sister's spirituality. She believed that the church militant on earth, the church suffering in purgatory and the church triumphant in heaven are at the wellspring of Trinitarian communion and she had expressed these supernatural truths in her writings, especially in her hymns. For this reason, there is hope to believe that she will continue to think of and pray for her loved ones still on earth, especially the immediate members of her family and her sisters here in the monastery (and for future "aspirants" in particular.)



Sister Mary Rose Dominic rings the old carillon bell, a duty which she was responsible for in the monastery for more than fifty years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST NOVICE

On December 8, 2009, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Carri Prewitt received the habit of the Order of Preachers and officially began her novitiate. Sister has taken the religious name Sister Mary Magdalene of the Immaculate Conception.

While the ceremony to receive a new novice is the same for each sister, there is always something unique about it each time it is performed. For Sister Mary Magdalene, her unique moment came as she had to endure having the prioress put her new side Rosary into place on the new belt around her waist without bursting into laughter (Sister is very ticklish!) Thankfully she retained her composure and made it through the rest of the ceremony before allowing her natural exuberance to burst forth as she greeted her sisters in the community room following the ceremony.

Please join us in praying for Sister Mary Magdalene's perseverance.



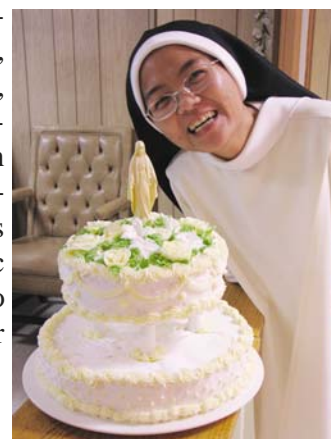
FIRST PROFESSION

On February 13, 2010, the feast day of Blessed Jordan of Saxony, O.P., Sister Joseph Maria of the Holy Family, O.P. made her First Profession of vows during a Mass of Religious Profession celebrated by Father Vincent DeLucia, O.P., a campus minister at NYU in New York City, and concelebrated by our chaplain, Father Ciarán Fergus, O.P., Father Frank Maione, confessor for our nuns and Father Peter Stravinskis. Following the Mass, there was a reception for Sister and her guests downstairs in Saint Dominic's Hall. Sister's father, brother-in-law and sister and her husband flew in from Texas to witness this special moment in her monastic journey. Unfortunately several of her friends, also flying in from Texas, were unable to reach their destination due to the snowy weather.



Sister with her family (from right to left): An (brother-in-law), Katie (sister), Nghiem (dad) and Hat (brother-in-law).

Sister Joseph Maria currently serves the community in our *Seignadou Soaps* department (she's got a knack for swirling soaps!) as well as working in the sewing department and is also one of our afternoon cooks.



Sister Joseph Maria really loved the cake made for her profession celebration.

WELCOME SISTER MARY JOHN, O.P.

In late January we welcomed Sister Mary John of the Passion, O.P., from Our Lady of Grace monastery in North Guilford, Connecticut. Sister is here for the next three years as a temporary transfer to our monastery. Known at Our Lady of Grace as Sister Mary Catherine, she took the religious name of Mary John in order to avoid being confused with our own Sister Mary Catharine, O.P.

Our Lady of Grace monastery was our first foundation, which was made in 1947. Nuns from our monastery also founded Our Lady of the Rosary monastery in Cainta, Philippines, in 1977.

We are grateful to God and to our North Guilford Sisters for Sister's presence among us and we look forward to being the recipients of her many gifts and talents.





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Join us in celebrating
"The Year For Priests."

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010



Look inside to see our newly completed kitchen and refectory renovations!!

Please remember us when revising or making your will.

Our life of prayer and praise is dependent on Divine Providence and the goodness and generosity of you, our friends and benefactors. May God reward you for your support and generosity!

Our legal title is:

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary of Summit, New Jersey.