

THE ROSARY PILGRIM

MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Dominican Nuns of Summit, New Jersey

SPRING

2022



WE SHOULD GLORY IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
IN WHOM IS OUR SALVATION, LIFE AND RESURRECTION,
THROUGH WHOM WE ARE SAVED AND DELIVERED.

-Entrance Antiphon for Holy Thursday

The entrance antiphon for Holy Thursday and the beginning of the Paschal Triduum reminds us that the cross of Christ is the source of our salvation, a glorious triumph over sin and death, and the outpouring of the love of God for us sinners in order to save and redeem us. As this most sacred of liturgical seasons fast approaches, in this newsletter we share with you some of our monastic customs by which we enter into and celebrate the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. A blessed and joyous Triduum and Easter to each of you! You remain, as always, in our prayers. - THE DOMINICAN NUNS OF SUMMIT



HOLY THURSDAY

IN DOMINICAN MONASTERIES according to ancient tradition the ceremony of foot-washing does not take place during the Holy Thursday Mass, but in a separate rite known as the “Mandatum.” *Mandatum* is the Latin word for “commandment” and refers to Jesus’ words as he washed his disciples’ feet: “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13:34). In our monastery, this takes place in the afternoon of Holy Thursday. As an imitation of the humility of Christ who came not to be served but to serve, the prioress washes and kisses the feet of each sister as the community chants antiphons.



The Mass of Holy Thursday begins on a jubilant tone. The Gloria is sung with bells ringing and we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist. After communion, our chaplain carries the Blessed Sacrament as we process with lighted candles to our Chapter Hall, where an altar of repose has been prepared. Here, we keep vigil with the Lord, watching and praying. From this point onwards, the cappa is worn at all the offices and the bells which normally ring throughout the day are silenced, replaced by a wooden clapper.



In the late evening, the community gathers once again in the chapter hall where the Blessed Sacrament is reposed. There, the passage from John’s Gospel known as the Lord’s Sermon (John 13-17) is solemnly read. The prioress reads the opening verses, then sisters read in turn from youngest in profession up to the oldest, until the prioress reads the concluding verses.

GOOD FRIDAY

MATINS AND LAUDS of Good Friday and Holy Saturday are prayed in darkness (*Tenebrae*, in Latin). A large candelabra, called the *Tenebrae* hearse, is lit with 15 candles. As each psalm in the office concludes, a candle is extinguished until only one, the “Christ candle,” remains at the intonation of the *Benedictus* canticle. The office concludes with the Solemn Intercessions proper to our Dominican liturgical heritage.



Our monastery is privileged to have a relic of the True Cross, which we venerate during the service of Good Friday. Each sister removes her shoes and kneels towards the back of the choir. She moves forwards and kneels again at the lectern. Then, approaching the cross, she makes the Dominican prostration known as the *venia*. The relic of the cross is left in choir during the remainder of the evening, and the sisters pray before it during their time of rosary guard.

HOLY SATURDAY

THE MORNING BEGINS with Tenebrae Matins and Lauds as on Good Friday. Throughout the day, there is an air of anticipation as preparations for Easter begin. Finally, the clappers sound to call us to the vigil. We gather on the cloister, where a fire has been lit. We process into choir, following the 'light of Christ,' still wearing the black cappa as we listen to the readings from the Old Testament proclaiming the events of salvation history and foretelling the coming of our savior. As the Gloria rings out its jubilant intonation with all the bells of the monastery ringing, the sisters remove their cappas, and the joyful white of our habits shines out proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ. After the Vigil, we celebrate with "Gaudeamus" - we greet one another quietly (since it is during the great night silence) in the refectory and enjoy cheese and crackers, cookies, and hot chocolate to break our Lenten fast.



EASTER SUNDAY

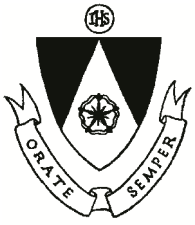
WHILE THE ORGAN had fallen silent throughout the Triduum after the Holy Thursday Mass, with everything sung acapella, the Easter office begins with the organ intoning the "O Sacred Banquet," a prayer composed by St. Thomas Aquinas which traditionally opens the Dominican office, usually simply recited but now sung joyfully with an Alleluia. Christ is risen, and we just can't seem to sing Alleluia enough! The liturgy is simply overflowing with the joy of the resurrection. At the morning Mass, the bells are rung once again during the Gloria, and before the Gospel we sing the beautiful sequence *Victimae Paschali Laudes*. At noon, we sing the Regina Caeli with bells ringing. While we normally eat in silence in the refectory, on Easter all three meals of the day are eaten in the community room, where we celebrate by talking! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER?

As YOU'VE probably noticed, we've changed newsletter formats once again. We will be publishing a printed newsletter along with an e-version several times a year. Subscribers to the e-newsletter will get occasional bonus editions throughout the year! If you would like to receive our e-newsletter either in addition to the printed copy or in lieu of it (help us save on printing and postage!), please fill out the envelope included in this newsletter with your email address, fill out the newsletter signup form on our website (summitdominicans.org/newsletter), or just send us an email at newsletter@summitdominicans.org. And as always, please help us save on our postage costs by letting us know if you move!

Thank you for your generous support of our community. Without you our life of prayer would not be possible!



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