



Summer, 2009

The Rosary Pilgrim

A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of the Dominican Nuns



Dinner is served completely in the community room for the first time.



Demolition of the kitchen began with the removal of the center serving islands, followed by the sinks and cabinets. Removal of the linoleum walls and metal ceiling followed.



Skip is happy that the dumbwaiter installation is complete!



Our novitiate sisters pose for one last picture in the old kitchen.

RENOVATIONS BEGIN!

On May 28th our long-awaited kitchen and refectory renovations began! The workmen started by tearing out the old, steep ramp in the hallway outside the refectory and building a new handicap-grade ramp. Next they raised the tri-level floor in our refectory to match the level of the kitchen. Then they began the major part of the job: tearing down our old kitchen to make way for the new one! The estimated amount of time until these renovations are completed is mid-December.

To follow the developments of the project go to: www.futurefullofhope.com for photos and updates.



A workman carries one of the steel kitchen wall panels to the cloister coffin hatch (yes, we have a coffin hatch!) for scrapping.



Sister Denise Marie goes over the building plans with our contractor, Frank Korfmann.



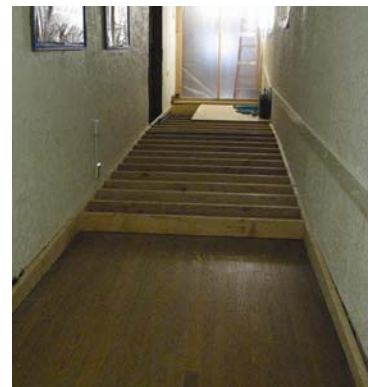
Workmen map out the wooden console for the reader's desk and sound system in the refectory.



Frank sits on the furnace as he works on the conduit to the kitchen.



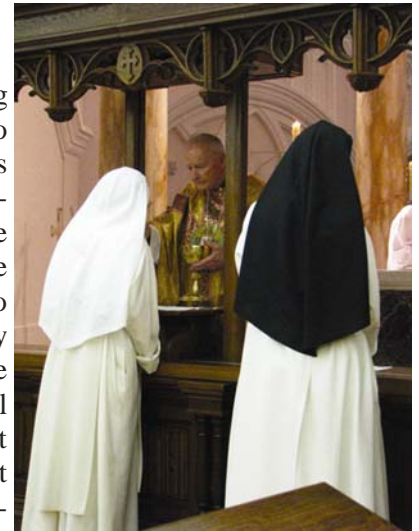
Sisters Maria Agnes and Carrihard at work in our temporary kitchen (our former bakery).



Supports for the new ramp outside our refectory are being installed.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING WITH CARDINAL MCCARRICK

On the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrated a special Mass of Thanksgiving in appreciation of those who have contributed to our capital campaign to date, with over one hundred friends and benefactors in attendance. The Mass was celebrated by His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, and was concelebrated by Reverend Monsignor Charles Gusmer, S.T.D. Cardinal McCarrick gave the homily, sharing with our guests the progress made on the capital campaign and the need to raise additional funds before we reach our needed goal of \$500,000. He also shared how, when he was our archbishop, he would frequently come to the monastery to visit us and how he would count on the prayers of the nuns. Indeed, we have memories of urgent prayer requests posted on the bulletin board and of the Cardinal surprising us by stopping by unannounced for a friendly visit! Following the Mass it



Cardinal McCarrick giving our sisters Holy Communion.

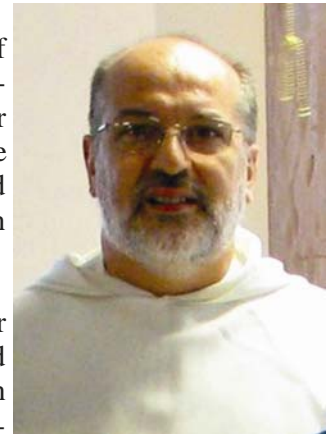


Cardinal McCarrick posing with a group of our sisters in Saint Anne's Parlor after Mass.

was standing-room-only at the breakfast reception downstairs in Saint Dominic's Hall. Many of our nuns came down to Saint Anne's Parlor, which is adjacent to the lecture hall, so that we could also visit with Cardinal McCarrick and our guests. Before we knew it, it was time for Cardinal McCarrick to depart for another speaking engagement, before he was to fly off that afternoon to Manila, Philippines, but we certainly enjoyed seeing him again after so many years. We wish His Eminence all the best and hope it won't be quite so long before we have another opportunity to visit with him once again.

A VISIT WITH THE MASTER OF THE ORDER

We had the unique blessing this April of enjoying a visit by the Master General of the Dominican Order, Father Carlos A. Aspiroz Costa, O.P., and Father Ed Ruane, O.P., Vicar of the Master of the Order. Originally from Argentina, Father Carlos currently makes his home at Santa Sabina in Rome. Due to the nature of his office, he travels extensively, visiting our priories and monasteries around the world. He and Father Ed were in the U.S. for the dedication of the new wing of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.



Father Carlos A. Aspiroz Costa, O.P., Master of the Order of Friars Preachers.

We began our visit with the Master by the celebration of Mass, followed by dinner in our community room—an All-American spread of hamburgers, potato salad, broccoli, bean salad, fresh fruit and a scrumptious chocolate cake for dessert. During the meal we



Our community with Father Carlos (center) and Father Ed (right).

shared in delightful conversation which sprang from the pleasure of having the successor of Saint Dominic with us and the joy of brothers and sisters being united in "one heart and mind." After the meal Sister Mary Martin and several of our other sisters accompanied our brothers on a tour of the monastery grounds. Before our brothers had to leave we had time for a group photo and called upon the Master to do the honors of breaking the giant chocolate bunny sent to one of the sisters in the community for Easter. It was a perfect day in every way and we are so grateful to God for this joy!

MEET OUR NEWEST POSTULANT

On March 18, 2009, Carri Prewitt entered our monastery as a postulant. Sister Carri is a native of Kansas and drove all the way to New Jersey in a fifteen-passenger van along with her mother Kathleen, twelve friends and Father David Marstall, campus minister of the University of Pittsburg (KS), where Carri was a student until recently. The group turned the occasion of Sister's entrance into the opportunity to make a "Nun Run," stopping at various convents and shrines in Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania both before and after their three-day visit with us. Sister Carri is the third of four siblings, and celebrated her twenty-second birthday only three weeks after entering the monastery. Please pray for Sister Carri as she begins her journey to become a Nun of the Order of Preachers.



Sister Carri Prewitt.

ANNUAL RETREAT

Our Annual Retreat this year was given by Father Jay Harrington, O.P. from May 17-26, 2009. Father Jay is from the Order's Central province, where he serves as Regent of Studies, and was recently assigned to teach at Aquinas Institute of Theology in Saint Louis, Missouri. The theme of the retreat was *The Well That Never Runs Dry*, and focused on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Twice each day Father Jay gave our nuns conferences in choir, and while his morning talks featured the story of the Samaritan woman, in the conferences during Vespers Father wove in themes from other stories from Saint John's gospel as well.



Sister Joseph Maria spends a quiet moment during our annual retreat reading Sacred Scripture.

While necessary household chores still needed to be done (cooking, laundry, etc.), during the retreat our sisters were encouraged to spend more time at rest, prayer, study, or doing whatever otherwise. With no community recreation, sisters were free in the evenings to enjoy the time as they wished, and an early Compline allowed us to get a little extra sleep, too. And since the last full day of our retreat fell on Memorial Day, we took an extra day "off" to celebrate the holiday the following day with our traditional barbeque

"picnic" on the cloister!

MASS WITH OUR NEWLY ORDAINED BROTHERS

The holy sacrifice of the Mass on Trinity Sunday was a very special occasion for us. Father John Gregory Schnakenberg, O.P. preached a Mass of Thanksgiving here at the monastery. Concelebrating with Father Gregory was Father Bruno Shah, O.P., with Brother Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., serving as acolyte. Both Father Gregory and Father Bruno were among five brothers in our province ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 2009. Both were home visiting their families, who live in the area, and were happy to share this special event with us. After the Mass our brothers imparted to the sisters and those in our extern chapel a special Apostolic Blessing, which newly ordained priests can offer for the first year after their ordination.



Father Gregory Schnackenberg, O.P. (right) and Father Bruno Shah, O.P. give an Apostolic Blessing to the nuns.

Father Gregory returned later that evening and we enjoyed a laughter-filled recreation with him in the parlor, trading stories and catching up on the doings of mutual acquaintances. All too soon it was time to end Father's visit with us, but we will be looking forward to more visits with both Father Gregory and Father Bruno in the future.



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**Join us in celebrating
"The Year For Priests."**

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

NOTES AND NEWS...

- The Novice Master for our Province, Father Walter Wagner, O.P., stopped in for a visit with this year's class of nine novices on May 30, 2009. Our new brothers tour all the Dominican houses and monasteries in the province each year, and we always look forward to meeting them. Please pray for their perseverance.
- In early June, Father John Vidmar, O.P., a professor at Providence College, gave our sisters three very enjoyable lectures on the foundation and history of our province.
- In mid-June, the General Promoter for the Nuns of the Order of Preachers, Father Brian Pierce, O.P., visited us for a few days as a guest of the monastery.
- In early July, Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P. arrived to give our sisters a week-long lecture series on Wisdom literature in the Bible. Father is an Old Testament scripture scholar and professor at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and we always enjoy plumbing the depths of his knowledge during the course of our ongoing studies.
- It is with much sadness that we report that our dog, Fred, has passed away. His presence at the monastery will be sorely missed.

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.