



Fall, 2009

The Rosary Pilgrim

A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of the Dominican Nuns

LETTER FROM THE Prioress



Dear Friends,

In the Spring issue of *The Rosary Pilgrim*, I wrote you a letter in which I discussed work and how it fits into our contemplative way of life. Since then, we have begun our kitchen renovation project, as you read in the Summer newsletter. We're more than half done now and are beginning to get really excited as the end comes into view. Our gratitude to all of you who have contributed to this project can hardly be expressed. You can read more about it in the pages of this newsletter as well as on our website.

In this edition of *The Rosary Pilgrim*, since we are approaching November, the month which the Church dedicates to prayer for the deceased, I would like to talk about the ways in which we pray for the deceased and remember them in our daily monastic life. "The nuns must faithfully remember those...who have gone before them and have left them an example by their way of life, fellowship in their communion and aid by their intercession. Suffrages for the dead...must be observed." Thus our Constitutions lay out a program for us. The word "suffrages" means in this context prayers and good works offered for the release of souls in purgatory, according to the traditional teaching of the Church and the traditional practice of the Order. Dominicans have always been known for their devotion to the faithful departed and their prayers for the souls in purgatory. Some of the practices which I will mention here go back 800 years in our history.

To begin with, three Masses are offered every year on specific dates: one for our deceased parents, one for our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors, and one for our deceased fellow Dominicans. These Masses were celebrated from the beginning of the Order on their specific dates. On those days, as well as on November 2, All Souls Day, we sing a special Divine Office for the deceased. In addition, once a week we participate in Mass as a community for the deceased, with a special intention for those enrolled in our Perpetual Prayer society. Once a week, we as a community recite a series of psalms known as the "seven penitential psalms" for the intentions of those who have died. And twice a day we recite together Psalm 130, known as the *De profundis*, for the members of our Order and our benefactors who have gone before us.

These are the "suffrages" prescribed for all Dominican nuns throughout the world. We at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary go even further. Each day our morning offering mentions as a particular intention for the day the poor souls in purgatory. Those deceased (and the living as well) who are enrolled in our Perpetual Prayer Society share daily in the Masses, Holy Communion, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosaries, Hours of Adoration and all our other prayers and good works. Each November, the names of the deceased that you, our friends, submit to us are placed upon the altar and remembered specifically in every Mass celebrated there during the whole month.

You can be sure, dear friends, that all these remembrances of those who have gone before us make us, not morbid and gloomy, but joyful in the anticipation of the heavenly Kingdom. Christ is the first to have gone before us and he waits for us there at the Father's right hand. To him be glory forever!

Sister Mary Martin de Jesus, O.P., Prioress

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



A photo of our foundresses on the steps of the new monastery on New England Avenue, Summit, on October 2, 1919.



The nuns make the Medium Inclination during one of the offices of the Liturgy of the Hours.



Our community in 2009, pictured here with Father Carlos A. Aspiroz Costa, O.P., Master of the Order (center) and Father Ed Ruane, O.P., the master's Vicar (right). Not pictured are Sisters Mary Peter, Mary Anthony and Mary Ellen Timothy.

October 2, 2009 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of our monastery. On that day, the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, Mother Mary Imelda and 13 sisters left the stability and security of the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Union City, New Jersey, to begin a new adventure of establishing another sanctuary of prayer and praise to God through the Perpetual Rosary.

These 90 years have been rich in blessings and in trials too, for every work of God is born from the Cross. But even these trials have been blessings.

A monastery is not just a place. If so, it would be lifeless and barren. A monastery is a home for people; in particular, a community of women of a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and traditions, but bound together by the ideal of becoming “one in heart and mind”, fast-knit to Christ their Spouse, free for God alone. In His mysterious plan, God uses the example of this unity of human frailty and strength, weakness and heroism as a sign of the reconciliation of all things in Christ.

We thank God for the gift of these 90 years, of the gift of each Sister who has enriched the community whether for a short period of time or until death; for the gift of being “Nuns of the Order of Preachers” and the privilege of sharing in the ministry of the Word Made Flesh.

And we thank God for YOU! Each one of our families, friends and benefactors are an intimate part of our mission in the heart of the Church. Without YOU supporting and making it possible for us to be here on this corner of Morris and Springfield Avenues in Summit, New Jersey, our communal life of praise to the Adorable Trinity, interceding to the Father of Mercies, would not have been a reality these 90 years! We continue to count on you and assure you of always being remembered in our prayers. May the Virgin with her loving Child bless you!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST POSTULANT



On August 8, the Solemnity of our holy Father Saint Dominic, we welcomed Janlyn Rathgeber as our newest postulant. Sister Janlyn is originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, and is the younger of two siblings. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Business Administration. Prior to entering the monastery, Sister lived in Ottawa and was a missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), a group dedicated to student evangelization on college campuses.

During the summer of 2008, she was privileged to be part of a lay missionary team that spent three weeks in China, where she was able to interact with many fellow Catholics and see firsthand their zeal for their faith. Please pray for Sister Janlyn's perseverance.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



Sister Carri gives a "thumbs up" review of the book *Monastery Fred*.

In honor of our late dog, Fred, artist Helen Frank and her husband, Sid, have collaborated to produce a wonderful book entitled *Monastery Fred*. The book describes what life is like for a dog living in a monastery. The book's publication was celebrated with a party in our parlor with Helen and Sid, complete with desserts and a reading by the author. Helen and her daughter, Holly Scalera, collaborated in creating the book *The Nuns' Garden* in 2008, but this was the first time Helen and Sid worked together to produce a book during the long span of their entire marriage!



Author Sid Frank reads his new book aloud to our sisters in the parlor while his wife Helen, the book's illustrator, displays the pages for them to see.

Monastery Fred is now available for purchase at our gift shop in the monastery chapel vestibule or from our online gift shop (www.nunsopsummit.org/shop).

RENOVATIONS UPDATE!

The renovations to our refectory and kitchen are moving along nicely, and are currently on schedule! At the end of September the new epoxy kitchen flooring was poured, and all the sisters love the new look. At the beginning of October, the kitchen cabinets and the new walk-in freezer in the bakery annex were installed. The installation of the appliances in the main kitchen and kitchenette will follow. While it is still exciting to see progress being made every day, and the workmen are very conscientious of the life we live and try to keep the disruptions at a minimum, we are all fervently praying for the project's completion by Thanksgiving (instead of the original target date of mid-December).

To follow the developments of the project, and for photos and updates, visit our special capital campaign website: www.futurefullofhope.com.



The sisters move one of the new cabinets into the kitchen to "check out" what it will look like against the new fiberglass walls.



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

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

"It is founded upon the revelation of the Holy Ghost and the Gospel of our Lord, and it is therefore proven without any doubt that there is a place of purification, a purgatory in the world yonder, wherein those souls which cannot appear before the face of the Lord on account of minor sins will be cleansed and purified until they are declared worthy of being united to their God....Fold your hands, raise them to God, and succor by prayer and good works the suffering souls from their tortures. They cannot help themselves, but we can rescue them by our prayers and good deeds." —Saint John Vianney, Sermon on the Feast of All Souls

During the month of November, when we remember all the souls of the faithful departed who have gone before us to meet God face to face, these words of Saint John Vianney remind us that our prayers and good works, offered up for our loved ones who have left this life for the next, assist them in attaining heavenly beatitude with our Lord. During this month, all prayer intentions for the deceased that we receive on the enclosed prayer request forms are placed on the main altar in our sanctuary and are remembered by the nuns throughout the month.

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.