

# THE ROSARY PILGRIM



MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

## THE GIFT OF *Fidelity*

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PROFESSION  
OF  
SISTER MARY ELIZABETH  
OF ST. JOSEPH, O.P.



*When Sr. Mary Elizabeth of St. Joseph* placed her hands in those of Mother Mary and promised to live a life of obedience on that spring day, April 5, 1960 she didn't know what the future held for her. What she did know was that she was consecrated completely to God and that whatever happened she belonged completely to Him!

She didn't know that her father would die suddenly, just two months before her Solemn Profession some three years later.

She didn't know that in just a few years she would be made Novice Mistress, an office she would hold for twelve years.

During those years she formed a group of novices, all former Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, who had come from the Philippines with the purpose of founding the first Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in their native land. That happened in 1977. In 1986, Sr. Mary Eliza-



beth was chosen to be their first prioress. And so, this woman who had dedicated her life to God in a life of prayer and praise within the monastic enclosure boarded a plane that would take her more than halfway around the world and bring her all the



adventures such a responsibility would entail!

Sister Mary Elizabeth returned to Summit in 1991 and continued

using her gifts as book-keeper in service to the community. A series of strokes in June of 2009 has limited some of Sister's physical independence but it doesn't keep her from her chosen vocation of praise and adoration.



On May 8th, feast of the Patronage of Our Lady, a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception were held for Sister's family and friends. Our regional bishop, Bishop Manuel Cruz, was the main celebrant with several other priests concelebrating.

After his homily, Bishop Cruz came around to the

grille and called Sister Mary Elizabeth up so that he could give her a private little homily just for her!

Then in June we held our traditional day of celebration with special goodies and entertainment. Our novices performed an Irish Dance with a special message (see above). Sr. Denise Marie and Sr. Mary Cecilia sang. Sr. Maria Agnes played the piano and Sr. Judith Miryam wrote a special song. There were games, "Name that Sister", and the joyous day closed with a fun game of monastery-style bingo!



With Sister Mary Elizabeth we rejoice in the marvelous things God has done for her.

## *Jubilarian Recollections...*

"A big THANK YOU to the Lord for calling me to the contemplative life and especially to the Dominican cloister of Rosary Shrine.

When I entered over 50 years ago, I was prepared to live a life of prayer and penance to make reparation for the offenses committed against the Lord. How I was surprised.

Yes, I had my prayer and penance that I was seeking, but the Lord had many surprises along the way.

Never expecting to leave the monastery, I wound up in the Philippines; never expecting to go home again, I found myself at home for many different reasons.

Besides praising the Lord daily and adoring Him each day, He was bestowing His graces to meet every difficulty along the way. I was blessed in so many ways, that my life is one constant thanksgiving. I am so grateful to God for this vocation. In St. Paul's words: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts."

—Sister Mary Elizabeth of Saint Joseph, O.P.

# MILESTONES TOWARD *Fidelity*



*The journey of fidelity* begins the moment a young woman crosses the enclosure threshold and begins her postulancy – the first step toward solemn profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers. Any postulant will tell you that these nine months, similar to the nine months of a new mother, seem to go on forever!



This day arrived for Sr. Janlyn on Ascension Thursday, May 13th, which was also the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and Blessed Imelda.

Finally, the big day arrives when she will shed the blue jumper that makes her stick out from everyone else in the monastery and begin her novitiate and don the white habit of St. Dominic.

It's nothing short of cruelty that the community has to wait until almost the very end of the ceremony to hear the novice's new name, which has been kept a guarded secret for months. Then finally come the words: "Your baptismal name is Janlyn Joy Rathgeber. In the Order you will be called as **Sister Mary Cecilia of the Annunciation!**"



We had barely gotten over the loss of having a "bluebird", as we affectionately call the postulants because of their blue jumpers, when we received two new Sisters! **Sister Veronica Gessner** entered our monastery on June 24th, the solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. Sister Veronica is a native of Flemington, New Jersey, and learned of our monastery while in her senior year at American University in Washington, DC, where our Dominican Friars serve as campus ministers. On August 28th, feast of St. Augustine, we welcomed **Sister Veronique Eloizard**. She is a native of Haiti and came to this country as a teenager. Most recently Sister Veronique worked for **Visitation Home** as an Assistant helping with developmentally disabled people.



## DID YOU KNOW?

With the gift of new vocations comes the challenge of providing especially for their formation and health-care coverage. Like you we now face a huge increase in the cost of medical insurance coverage. **By you gift supporting our community you make it possible for these young Sisters to grow in holiness and in lives of prayer...for the world....for the Church....for YOU!**

**We are grateful for your continued support and humbly ask you to continue . We are grateful for every contribution no matter its size. May the Virgin and Her loving Child bless you and reward you for your generosity!**

# THE ETERNAL REWARD of *Fidelity*

SISTER MARY ANTHONY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, O.P.  
1917 – 2010

**SISTER MARY ANTHONY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, OP**, was born Ruth Ann Tickerhoff on March 11, 1917, in South Fork, PA but later the family moved to Georgia. She was a bouncing 14 pound baby! As a child of five she witnessed the death of her older sister, and as Sister Mary Anthony used to tell the story, little Ruth, the youngest, was distraught and wanted to be buried with her! From then on Sister Mary Anthony always expressed a desire for death but our Lord had other plans for her and kept her on earth for 93 years!

Ruth entered the Sisters of the Holy Child but had to leave as a novice because of hearing loss in one ear. Sister learned of our monastery while she was living with her sister and entered on July 2, 1943. She received the Dominican Habit on February 12, 1944, and made Profession on February 13, 1945.



Sister Mary Anthony was very talented in many areas. She had a lovely singing voice and served as chantress. However, it was her expertise in the bakery and kitchen that was her claim to fame in our monastery! She taught generations the secrets of great baking and loved to make special

desserts for the community and guests. When she was in charge of maintenance the workmen loved her as she would spoil them with homemade cakes and brownies, often bringing them right out to them in the yard.

Sister Mary Anthony served as novice mistress for a short time and also mistress of lay sisters. She served in nearly every area of the house: procuratrix, sacristan, infirmarian, librarian, printer, gardener. Her dad gave her a 6HP Rototiller in 1964 and we still use it!

Sister was very photogenic and the official "model" for vocation booklets, etc., and we have a large poster of her that was used as part of an exhibit at the Seton Hall University Vocation Fair in the late 1950's. In her later years she would do everything to avoid having her photo taken!

Sister was extremely active until her late 70's when arthritis caused her to slow down, something she found difficult to accept. She took her vocation of prayer very seriously and spent more and more time in the Choir before the Blessed Sacrament and then in her cell praying. If you did her a kindness she'd say, "I'll say a Divine Mercy chaplet just for you!"

About three years ago it became necessary to have her cared for by our Dominican Sisters at the Infirmary of St. Catherine of Siena in Caldwell, NJ. This was a very difficult change for her. We would visit her frequently and she especially enjoyed the visit of the novitiate. She went home to her Eternal Bridegroom on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at 3:25 AM.

We pray that she is now enjoying the delight of the Face of God and praying for all of us!



# THIS & THAT...

## The Association of Artisan Businesses Awards \$1,250 Business Grant to the Dominican Nuns – Seignadou Soaps

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, July 1, 2010: The Association of Artisan Businesses (AAB) is pleased to announce the award of a \$1,250 business grant to one of its exceptional artisans, Sister Mary Catharine Perry of Dominican Nuns/Seignadou Soaps ([www.nunsopsummit.org](http://www.nunsopsummit.org)). All Seignadou Soaps products (soaps, hand crème, room sprays and lip balm) are made by six of the 21 Sisters at the Summit, New Jersey monastic community of nuns.

The Sisters began Seignadou Soaps three years ago as Christmas gifts for their Volunteer Guild of about 70 members, and at a time when they were seeking potential income producing ventures. Sister Mary Catharine reports that the business has provided a stable supplemental income for the monastery's secular needs like insurance, medical and utility bills. While the products provide comfort and pleasure, she states that the business "has had an added benefit of being an 'entryway' for us to introduce people to our way of life and share what we do with them."

According to Sister Mary Catharine, the greatest achievement for their soaps is the beautiful swirls, and also creating their own hand crème from their own recipe. In addition to product benefits, she says, "Seignadou Soaps has been a wonderful vehicle for people to get to know about our monastery, about our life of prayer."



Sister Mary Catharine states that the greatest challenge, "is figuring out how to have sufficient liquidity to grow our small business, and how to manage production more efficiently and in such a way that our contemplative lifestyle of prayer isn't compromised."

Twice annually, grants are presented to outstanding AAB members who have demonstrated how they are furthering the work of their individual businesses, as well as contributing to their respective communities. Grants are awarded based on need, use of their trade to educate others, and demonstration of their commitment to furthering the artisan industry.

Funding for AAB grants are provided through association vendor dues. The Association of Artisan Businesses would like to thank the vendor members for their participation.

*Thanks to the generosity of the Association of Artisan Businesses and Vigneron Specialty Products we were able to purchase a Volumetric Filler to make filling bottles for hand crème, room sprays and liquid soap much easier and with less time! We are grateful to both organizations for their goodness to us!*

## RENOVATIONS IMPROVE OUR MONASTERY LIBRARY

This summer the sound of hammer and power saw were once again heard in the monastery! Most of this was repairing a leak that for many years seeped down into the back of the chapel along the wall where the mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe is mounted. This mosaic is greatly loved by those who come to pray here as is evident by the flowers left at her feet.

The library ceiling, which is as high as the chapel was dropped many years ago. Over time the tiles have crumbled and the lighting job was always inadequate if not

downright gloomy! The library, which is over the chapel vestibule, is cold in the winter and hot and stuffy in the summer. In other words, the library hasn't been a place where you want to spend much time! Most Sisters get their books...and run!

Renovating means adding a new level of shelving, raising the ceiling, adequate lighting, and a new heat and air conditioning system.

*Continued on Back Page*



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**Please help us keep our mailing costs down by letting us know that you have moved.**

*"O Lord, bless and reward all those who do good to us  
for the sake of your Holy Name!"*

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Now the work is done and we have a functioning library with plenty of lighting, two spacious tables, air conditioning and heat, and even a rolling ladder to get to those books on the top shelf!

New lighting was also installed to properly illuminate the large stained glass window of our Lady of the Rosary. All in all, the library is an inviting place to study; and in this summer with its never-ending heat wave, the air conditioning has made it an especially welcoming place!

We are grateful to all our benefactors who made these renovations possible, especially Mr. Frank J. Korfmann and Mr. Gus Scannapieco who donated the rolling ladder in loving memory of his wife, Johanna.



**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 friends like you.  
May God reward you for your support and generosity!

*Our legal title is:*

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