

Dominican Nuns
OF SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

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 demands of Love

There is a hymn by Isaac Watts in the Summit Choirbook that we sing often during Lent. It is probably known to many. The title is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". The last verse goes this way:

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*



This March 9th and then ten days later on the 19th, we witnessed two of our novices: Sr. Mary Veronica of the Cross and Sr. Mary Jacinta of the Most Holy Rosary, respond to God's love by the gift of self, making First Profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers. First Profession is made for three years but in one's heart it is forever.

Both Sisters are "local" vocations so many family and friends came to witness their Profession. In fact, due to various needs of both families, the profession rite which takes place after the Gospel was held in the sanctuary at the foot of the altar. Usually First Profession is made in the Nuns' Choir with the family gathered behind the altar at the grille. Solemn Profession, however, is made in the sanctuary.

Now we have just one novice, Sr. Mary Augustine of the Crucifixion, who received the habit on October 2, 2012, the anniversary of our Foundation Day here in Summit. Sr. Mary Augustine isn't happy with being the only one with a white veil and looks forward to postulants joining her! Please pray for the women in the process of applying to enter as postulants and the many women who are discerning their vocation as well. ✕



“I go to prepare a place for you”

In recent months two of our sisters, **Sister Maria of the Cross** and **Sister Maria Veneranda**, completed their earthly pilgrimage and like the wise bridesmaids were ready with lamps alight when their Divine Bridegroom came.

Sister Maria of the Cross, OP (1937-2012) was born Marianne Gennaro, the daughter of Alice Taylor and Dr. Joseph Gennaro. As anyone quickly found out she was born in Brooklyn! She never lost her accent or that special view of life so characteristic of Brooklyn natives!

From a young age Sr. Maria wanted to become a nun, “just like St. Therese” and she was fond of telling the story of how she would “beat a path to the door of the local Carmelite monastery”! However, it was after World War II and like many Carmels they were at full capacity. “And it seemed no one was going to die, either!”

After attending a year of college Sr. Maria came to our monastery one spring evening as part of a group of young women on retreat at a retreat house nearby. One look at the extern sisters on the front stairs, the chapel with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance and she asked to speak to the Prioress. “How do I get in here?” she asked. Things were much more simple then and so Mother Mary, the prioress, handed her an application! That evening she called her mother, “Mom, I found my monastery!”

Mimi, as she was called, entered as a postulant on September 8, 1956. She received the Dominican habit on March 9, 1957 receiving the name Sister Maria of the Cross. She made First Profession on March 25, 1958 and Solemn Profession as a Nun of the Order of Preachers on March 25, 1961.

From the very beginning the community recognized Sr. Maria’s extraordinary gifts in art, languages but above all in music. For Sr. Maria music was as necessary as breathing. She never remembered NOT knowing how to read music and as a small child just sat at the piano and began to play. Her music teacher recognized that Sr. Maria’s touch was more suited to the organ and so the organ became her main instrument. We used to just take it for granted that she could jump onto the organ bench at anytime and play anything, change the key, etc. Birkenstock sandals were absolutely no obstacle to intricate foot pedal work.

Sister Maria wrote much music for use in the liturgy, from adaptations of the *Gradual* and *Antiphonarium* of the Dominican Rite for English to The John Paul II Songbook—a small book of hymns which she translated from Polish and original music accompaniments which she wrote from listening to records!

But Sr. Maria’s greatest contribution is the Summit Choirbook, a collection of 534 hymns in Latin and English for the liturgical year for use by Dominican communities although the Summit Choirbook is often used by parish choirs as well. It was a labor of over 15 years and when in 1983 a publisher could not be found, the community published it privately.

Sr. Maria was a “community person” but she also was content to spend long periods of time by herself. She wasn’t afraid to speak her mind; she was encouraging, especially toward the young sisters. She was a good listener and she was interested in just about everything! Although it wasn’t an office she felt especially good at, she was an amazing infirmarian for over 9 years. She had a wonderful way with the sick and the elderly sisters.

Sr. Maria was diagnosed with colon cancer about 2 years ago and withstood the radiation and chemo treatments remarkably well. Early in 2012 she asked to move to the Caldwell Dominican Sisters Infirmary. She went home to God in the early hours of September 20, 2012 leaving to our monastery the legacy of her liturgical music which has shaped our monastery for over 50 years. ✠



Sister Maria Veneranda of the Holy Spirit, OP



Sister Maria Veneranda of the Holy Spirit, OP (1928-2013) was born Clara Mangaoang in the Philippines, the daughter of Veneranda Carbonell and Juan Mangaoang, a World War II veteran, serving the US Navy. After graduating from Baguio City College and teaching Home Economics and History at the high school level she entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena at age 26. For fifteen years she taught in various schools of the congregation. She was assigned to

the mission in San Francisco, California in 1972 so that she could be near her aging parents.

In 1975 she transferred to our monastery and made Solemn Profession on July 22, 1979.

Sr. Maria Veneranda loved her monastic life. If you needed to find Sr. Maria Veneranda chances are you would find her in one of two places: either the Nuns' choir or the garden! She raised quantities of vegetables and flowers in "Our Lady's garden" and her opo squash could be seen hanging from the branches of the pine trees near her garden.

For over 30 years Sr. Maria Veneranda was assigned to sewing and mending the sisters veils, caps and collars and took great delight in sewing the veils for the new sisters. She would inform a new postulant, to her great delight! "I have figured out your head size for your novice veil" long before the postulant was to receive the habit.

Sr. Maria Veneranda was one of the community cooks, arranged the flowers for the altar and made thousands of rosaries with Holy Land beads to be sold in our gift shop. She also served the community as Depositarian and Councilor.

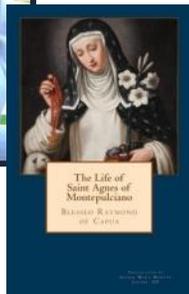
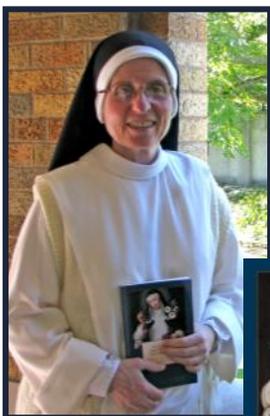
For over ten years Sr. Maria Veneranda suffered from osteoarthritis and her slowly diminishing independence was difficult for her. Although she was able to do less and less her fidelity to the Divine Office, to her hours of Rosary and Adoration and to prayer never stopped.

In February, 2012 she moved to the Infirmary of the Caldwell Dominican Sisters because of the need of more skilled care than we could provide. Although not thrilled with the move she viewed it with her characteristic acceptance of God's will.

During her final days Sr. Maria Veneranda was surrounded by her Sisters and died peacefully on March 5, 2013. ✕



DNS Publications launched during the Year of Faith (Dominican Nuns of Summit)



Our community has launched DNS Publications as a new means of preaching during this Year of Faith. In response to our Holy Father's request that the New Evangelization be at the heart of this Year of Faith, we have decided to use the medium of printed and digital books to encourage and support a culture of faith. Not only are we republishing classics like **Brother Petroc's Return** and **The Chronicles of Thomas Frith, OP** by SMC but we are also publishing new books such as **Dominican Life, The Spirit of Saint Dominic** and most recently the first

translation from Latin into English of the **Life of St. Agnes of Montepulciano** by Blessed Raymond of Capua. This translation was done by our Sister Mary Martin.

Currently in process is a new book on the life of Mother Catherine Abrikosova, foundress of a Byzantine Dominican community in Russia who with her sisters was persecuted for the Faith in the last century.

All our books are available in the monastery gift shop, the online gift shop, from Amazon and as Kindle books! ✕



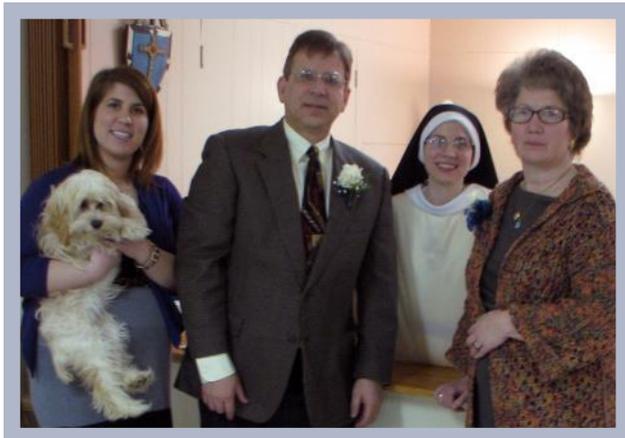
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First Profession Photos



Sr. Mary Veronica of the Cross, OP with her parents Raymond and Bertha Gessner and her sister Adrienne and "cousin Heidi" who likes to come and play with our dog, Sabina!



Sr. Mary Jacinta of the Most Holy Rosary, OP with her parents, Marie and Pierre Eloizard.

Some of Sister's brothers also attended the Mass of Profession. Her sister, Sr. Angelique Therese, MC is missioned in England.

You can see more photos of the First Profession ceremonies and lots more news of the monastery by going to our website: www.nunsopsummit.org!