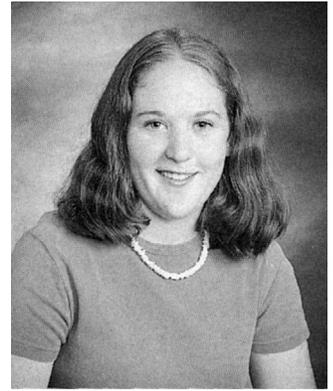


2005 Saint Thomas Aquinas graduate Carri Prewitt joins Dominican Order



Carri Prewitt's senior year photo

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School alumna Carri Prewitt, '05, entered the Dominican Nuns of Our Lady of the Rosary Monastery in Summit, New Jersey on March 18, 2009. The former Saint received the habit and the name "Sister Mary Magdalene of Immaculate Conception" on December 8, 2009 - the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Two years later on December 8, 2011, she made her first profession of vows as a Nun of the Order of Preachers (OP).

Sister Mary Magdalene of Immaculate Conception is the daughter of Tom and Kathleen Prewitt, members of Holy Spirit Parish in Overland Park. She and her three siblings, Chris, '99, Kelly, '02, and Matthew attended Holy Spirit Catholic School and Saint Thomas Aquinas High School. As a young girl, Sister Mary Magdalene participated in an assortment of sports including softball and volleyball

and she continued to play softball in high school. She made a Kairos retreat during her senior year, and also traveled on mission trips and joined the Saint Thomas Aquinas group who participated in the March for Life rally in Washington, D.C.

After graduating from STA, Carri attended Pittsburg State University where she studied Computer Information Systems and Graphic Design. During college she became very involved with the campus Newman Center and in her junior year was elected President of the Catholic ministry organization. Something was tugging at her heart to do more so she became involved with outreach programs such as teaching Totus Tuus, a summer catechetical program for grades K-12 in the Diocese of Wichita during the summer of 2008.

A miracle baby whose faith kept growing

Kathleen Prewitt said her daughter always seemed to be involved with serving others and going on mission trips. She recalls the stories of her helping out after the devastating 2005 hurricane Katrina that hit the Gulf Coast. It was during a mission trip that Carri visited the Dominican Nuns. Kathleen said she doesn't know of anything she did as a parent to foster her daughter's vocation. The family would go to Mass together at different churches or the Cathedral which would spark wonderful discussions.

As the idea of a religious vocation stirred Carri, Kathleen said, "I

witnessed her faith grow and saw the impact she had on others." She always called Carri her "miracle baby."

"She had emergency surgery when she was 4 days old," she explained. "There were so many prayers. I always felt and often told her that she was destined for something great ~ she embodied so many good characteristics. Also, Carri was such a person of her word. When she was quite young, maybe kindergarten, she gave up ice cream for Lent and did not even have a taste.

"She was always very compassionate and thoughtful. She loved to read and had a heart for understanding. When she was young, she could tell you everything about marine life as it was a passionate interest ~ that intensity has turned to Catholicism! I see her focusing that same passion on her vocation."

Fellow classmate and friend from Pittsburg State, Jayme King said, "Carri and I were in charge of organizing group activities within our Newman Club. She led Bible study and helped organize and implement fundraisers, volunteer opportunities and social gatherings. She always made learning about our faith exciting and had the most wonderful stories."

Discerning her vocation

According to the STA alumna, when the idea of a religious life entered her mind, Carri was afraid and tried to push those thoughts



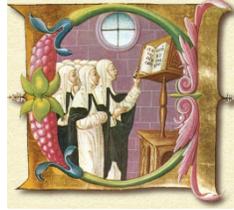
Sister Mary Magdalene of Immaculate Conception

aside ~ but they kept surfacing over and over. As she grew in faith, Carri became more open and aware of what God’s plan for her might be. She said that only by God’s grace was she able to let go of that fear of living life as a religious and truly listen to what He was asking.

“God knows you better than you will ever know yourself,” she said. “And only when we trust in His plan can we be truly the happiest and holiest following our vocation in life. I didn’t think I could ever be this happy, but I had to let go, step out of

the boat first, let go of the fear and trust Him.”

The Dominican Nuns allow the world to glimpse their beautiful monastery and joyful community on their website



www.nunsopsummit.org. They also

blog their daily activities which allows Kathleen Prewitt to follow the monastic nuns and her daughter.

“I am able to visit as often as I can and try to go to the convent at least once a year for about a week,” Kathleen said. “The Dominican Nuns are truly amazing, always joyful and I leave feeling so enriched!”

A Day in the Life of Sister Mary Magdalene of the Immaculate Conception, OP

- 5:55—Lauds (morning prayer) followed by Lectio/Prayer/Study
- 7:15—Holy Mass/
Thanksgiving(10min)/Terce (mid-morning prayer)
- 9:00—Work
- 11:30—Rosary & Sext (mid-day prayer)
- 12:00—Dinner (main meal of the day)
- 12:45—Optional Recreation
- 1:30—Profound Silence (Time for a nap, prayer, reading, free time)
- 3:00—Office of Readings & None (mid-afternoon prayer)
- 3:30—Lectio/Prayer/Study
- 4:00—Work
- 5:30—Vespers
- 6:00—Supper
- 7:00—Study
- 7:45—Community Recreation
- 8:40—Compline (night prayer)

Compline ends around 9 pm with the Salve Regina. Lauds and Vespers are the two bookends, the big hours that hold the day together.

Sacred Study a main focus of Dominican Nuns

Our dynamic life of love is for the world a witness to the reconciliation of all things in Christ preached by our brethren. In this way, a Dominican monastery becomes a “holy preaching - a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden.” Contemplatives have a double responsibility: to strengthen preachers by their contemplation, and to form them by their thirst for the Word. The cloister is consequently the place par excellence where the mystery of holy preaching out to be lived.

The observance of enclosure is one of the gifts of the Church to contemplative nuns. St. Dominic chose it for us in order that, free from worldly affairs, we may have a holy leisure to devote ourselves entirely to focusing on the mystery of God. Our constitutions say that, “this hidden life should open their minds to the breadth and height and depth of the love of God who sent his Son so that the whole world might be saved through Him.” Enclosure is not an absolute; it is at the service of a life of contemplation. We observe what is called Papal Enclosure-that is we observe enclosure according to the norms of the Holy See for cloistered nuns. The most recent norms, a document called *Verbi Sponsa*, permit entrance and exit from the physical enclosure for certain needs of the monastic community.

Our enclosure provides us with the sacred space in which we learn to become at home with seeking the Face of God and where we learn to love our sisters in true friendship and fidelity. In the silence of enclosure we touch the heart of the world. Devoting our lives totally to God we perpetuate the gift which our father St. Dominic had of bearing sinners, the down-trodden and the afflicted in the inmost sanctuary of his compassion. It is a privileged place of love.

For Dominicans Sacred Study is a major part of our lives. Sacred Study is born from attentive listening. For the nuns study is not about acquiring academic degrees but about nourishing our life of contemplation. We cannot love what we do not know. *Lectio Divina* is intimately connected to study for Dominicans because it is ordained to a real dialogue with God. Our whole life is harmoniously ordered to preserving the continual remembrance of God. Such a life, if faithfully lived leads us to that perfect love of God and neighbor which is effective in caring for and obtaining the salvation of all people.

Sister Mary Magdalene of the Immaculate Conception, OP