

Fall 2017



Joyful Praise



Dear friends,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...” (Is. 9:2) As we enter the blessed season of Advent, which readies us for the glory of the Incarnate Word shining forth at Christmas, we pray that God blesses you and your loved ones, near and far. Together, let us look forward with hope to the holy days to come, when we are reminded anew that *“God so loved the world that He gave his only Son” (Jn 3:16)*, born of the Virgin Mary and laid between dust and donkey in a poor crib in Bethlehem for our sake—divinity and humanity, reconciled and radiant.

Simple Profession of Sister Elizabeth Marie, OP

On October 18th, the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, Sr. Elizabeth Marie of the Transfiguration made her Simple Profession of vows in the hands of Sr. Marie Tersidis, our prioress, and received the black veil of a professed nun. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Sr. Elizabeth Marie first encountered the Dominican Order in college and later spent time with Dominican Volunteers USA before being drawn to serve God and the world in the “holy preaching” of contemplative life. You can enjoy more photos of the profession on our website.



“The kingdom of God has come near to you.”
- From the Gospel reading for the Feast of St. Luke (Lk. 10:9)



If you've visited our chapel recently, you may have noticed some new faces. In answer to many years of prayer, we've been blessed since August with the presence of a temporary chaplain, Father Cosmas Epifano, OSB, for one year. In addition to offering the sacraments beautifully, Father is also an expert tractor wrangler and welcome extra hand in the ongoing battle to keep the trees in the forest and not in our south fields!

We had the great joy this September of welcoming two new postulants. Marguerite (*left*) is from Ottawa, Ontario, and has a background in visual arts, while Jessica (*right*) is from Surrey, British Columbia, and trained in molecular biology and biochemistry. We ask you to hold them and all our candidates and novitiate sisters in your prayers as they lace their (hiking) boots and set out to follow our Lord in Dominican monastic life—for His joy and the salvation of souls!



In November we bid adieu to Sr. Mary Magdalen, OP, who had visited for three months to lend a hand around the monastery. In between a plethora of odd jobs (from rebuilding our website to harvesting squash) she found time to sharpen her wood carving skills (and tools) with the help of *our* Sr. Mary Magdalen. A heartfelt thanks to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, N.J., for entrusting her to us.

Speaking of the website, please have a look at our bright and easy to navigate new look. The site will stay updated with photos and news throughout the year, as well as a wish list for current needs. The website address remains dominicannunsbc.ca





Our Constitutions say that the nuns are to work “rejoicing that they can fulfill the design of the Creator and be associated with the work of the Redeemer”, and our workshops are whirring away as we strive to support the needs of our growing community. We’ve added soap making, woodworking and handcrafted paper alongside our pottery studio, as well as renovating to make a bigger candle workshop for Sr. Florentina Marie (shown pouring Paschal candles, now ready for decoration).

Another exciting step this fall was reaching over 1,000 books catalogued in our library computer’s database. Since the foundation began, we’ve been blessed with an abundance of new and donated books—but with sisters preparing to begin their theological studies, we need to be able to find them!

Finally, with winter upon us, we need to ask your help. After ten years of faithful service, it is now time to sell our trusty red Jeep and replace it with another gently used 4-wheel drive vehicle. We are getting quotes on vehicles now, and will need to fundraise around \$20,000 to make this possible. If you would be able to help us purchase a new snow-worthy vehicle, we would be so grateful!

We hope you enjoy our new newsletter format, which allows us to share more of our life with you. We are so grateful to you, and all our friends and benefactors, for your continued support for our mission and life of prayer, which is so necessary in our afflicted and restless world. Please join us this Christmas in praying for the true and lasting peace that only Christ, the Prince of Peace, can bring.

God bless,

Sister Marie Tersidis, OP

Sister Marie Tersidis, OP
and your sisters at Queen of Peace Monastery





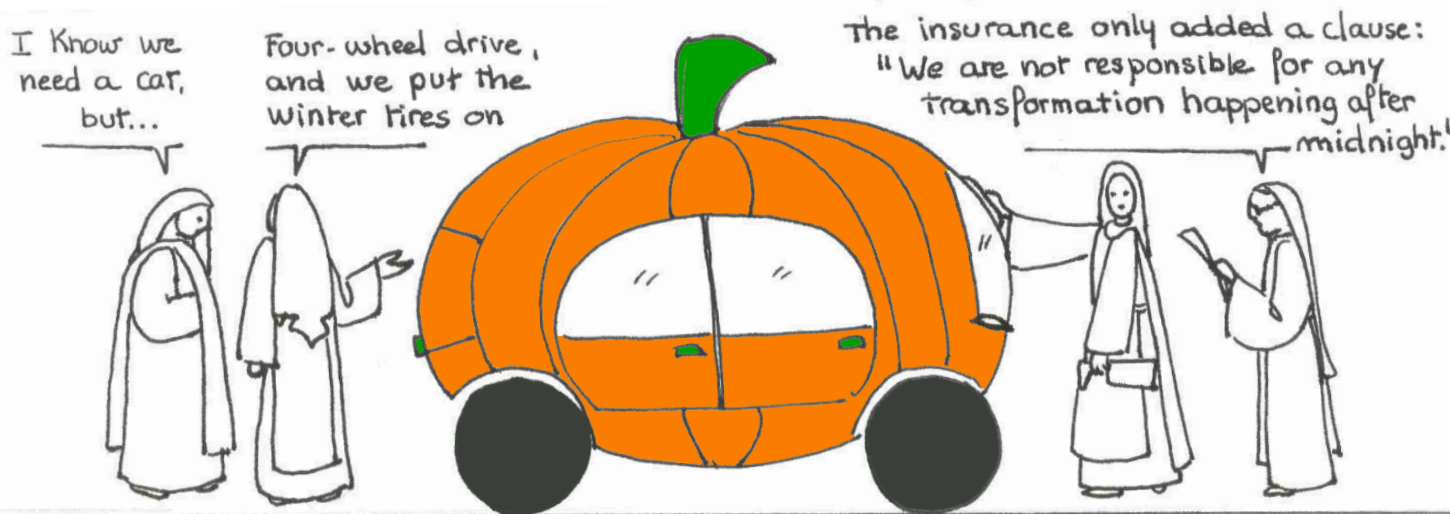
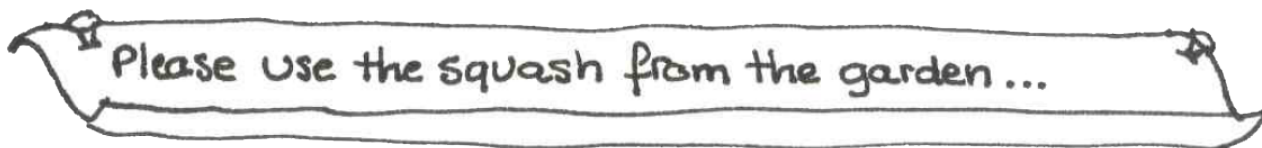
Study is an essential part of the life of Dominican nuns. By studying God's mysteries and pondering them prayerfully like Mary, our faith in God is deepened and our love for Him intensified. In this new back page section, each issue will feature an excerpt from a sister's recent study and writings. Enjoy!

From the desk of: Sister Mary Magdalen, OP

"God so loved the world that he gave his only son..." (Jn. 3:16). I want to talk about the first five words of this Gospel passage. "God so loved the world." St. John puts this in the past tense, but we know that God is both in time and outside of time or beyond time. God is in the now. God is intimately present, within everything that exists.

And we know that God is the source of all that exists, an internal presence in the unfolding of the entire universe. God is within and sustains life in every creeping crawling swimming running jumping leaping climbing laughing loving thinking being in the universe. And because of God's presence within, there is an internal unity between every human person and the entire human race...and the cosmos. God is not "up there" or "out there looking down" but right in here, right down to the ground! In fact, it would be good to stand up right now and stamp your feet and proclaim, "Hey, God is right here!" So, when you are praying you don't have to "place yourself in the presence of God" as we used to be told. Rather, you just sit still and reflect that God is inside you, loving you to pieces.

—From an audible reflection on the daily Gospel for April 26, 2017 posted at word.op.org.



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