



Queen of Peace Monastery



Dear friends,

“If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour” (Ps 127). This fall marks the 20th anniversary of our foundation, and the 10th anniversary of our canonical establishment as an independent Dominican monastery. To all of you, from those who first welcomed us to those who we’ve just met, we want to say: thank-you for your friendship and support. *“May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way” (2 Thess 3:16).* Most of all, we thank God, especially for the means and stability to live our common life of prayer and praise at the heart of the Order, the Church and the world. We celebrated these anniversaries quite simply, with a community Triduum joined by fr. Ed Ruane O.P., one of our earliest vicars. We’ve also expanded our newsletter to share more of our community’s life with you, and changed the title in honour of our monastery’s patroness, Our Lady Queen of Peace. Another exciting anniversary this year was Sr. Mary Columba’s Diamond Jubilee in July. As we say, in both of Canada’s official languages: *“God is good / Dieu est bon!”*

Our community keeps growing, with an entrance and a vestition in recent months. Meanwhile, our simply professed nuns Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Marie Thomas are hard at work with their online theological studies (at the Aquinas Institute and Domuni, respectively). Also hard at work this summer were the sisters, volunteers and workers on our micro-hydroelectricity project. They hauled and hand-mixed concrete, pulled pipe up talus slopes and transported our intake tank from an old logging road to the worksite via a homemade zipline (for building supplies only; sadly, not for sisters’ recreation). We’re looking forward to a projected spring completion date, and ask your prayers for the continued safety of all those working on the project.

Although it is too soon to share the details of our search for a site for new guest accommodations, we ask you to please continue praying with us for this project. It is such a privilege to be able to welcome those who come seeking God in the beauty of silence, wilderness and our liturgy. Our retreatants come from many walks of life, in ways that remind us that every human person is, ultimately, a mendicant—a beggar for love, for joy, for a true and lasting peace. As the father of our Rule, St. Augustine, wrote, “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

Be assured of our prayers for you and all your loved ones as we prepare our hearts to receive our incarnate Lord during the upcoming season of Advent.

Blessings,
your sisters at Queen of Peace Monastery



A bobcat just outside our cloister walk in August.

“A City Set on a Hill”

Twentieth Anniversary

of Our Foundation



In the early 1990s, then-Master of the Order fr. Timothy Radcliffe asked for volunteers to help found a Dominican monastery in western Canada. The Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills, MI, graciously agreed to sponsor the new foundation. On November 27, 1999, the first five nuns from different American monasteries gathered to sing Vespers in the Archdiocesan retreat centre in Rosemary Heights, Surrey. Two years later, the community moved to a new home in Ft. Langley. On October 17, 2009, the foundation received canonical establishment as a full-fledged monastery of the Order of Preachers. A hunt for land to build a permanent monastery eventually led the sisters north to Squamish. We decided to ask a few of our foundresses about the adventure...



Prayer in our first carport chapel in Rosemary Heights.

Can you remember a way God really helped our community?

Sr. Mary Regina: When you found a monastery, you can't be a physical entity until you do the legal things, which meant we had to almost immediately select a name. We had, like,

two days to decide. I kept saying, “I would love it if it were for Mary.” I remember, right before the voting, I went to the statue of Mary in the chapel and I said, “You know what, I’m willing to give it up,” because there was so much talk about St. Joseph. I prayed and said, “Lord, I wish it were Mary, but I’m going to give it up, and put St. Joseph down on the voting paper.” And do you know what? There was one St. Joseph, all the rest of them were Mary. One was Mary of Nazareth, another Queen of Peace — and then Queen of Peace got it.

What does Queen of Peace mean to you?

Sr. Jean Marie: Our reality, for me, has always been a text from Isaiah which we heard early on, “*I will make of my house a place of prayer for many nations.*” (Is 56:7). Our reality as a contemplative community goes out to the world. So it is part of Queen of Peace, of the monastery, that we will be a place of prayer and a place of peace. In our monastery —>

Early morning in Langley.





Celebrating our canonical establishment in 2009.

gathered together, Christ is present; and in each one of us, the deep centre of our heart, God is present as a place of salvation and peace.

What is at the heart of our community's life?

Sr. Mary Columba: We're trying to do what God has asked us to do in the Bible. Love one another, forgive one another. And to me, that is what has brought us through. The love, the forgiveness, listening to one another, humility. These are why, as far as I can see, God is blessing the community the way He is right now.

One member of the community, Sr. Maria Dominica, entered eternal life before the monastery's construction was completed. Can you tell me about her?

Sr. Claire Marie: She was a pillar of the foundation. In the last month of her life, I showed her pictures of construction progress and she said, "Now you can let your servant go in peace." When she came back to die at Mystic Mountain Lodge, [our temporary quarters in Squamish], we drove up the driveway so she could see the monastery, which was in the process of being built. She saw the accomplishment of her life, and fruit of the sacrifice of leaving her monastery in Menlo Park, California. We celebrated the dedication of our monastery bell a few days after her funeral, and named the bell Dominica in her honour. It was a moment of deep joy.

What does it mean to you to be able to help found a monastery back home in Canada?

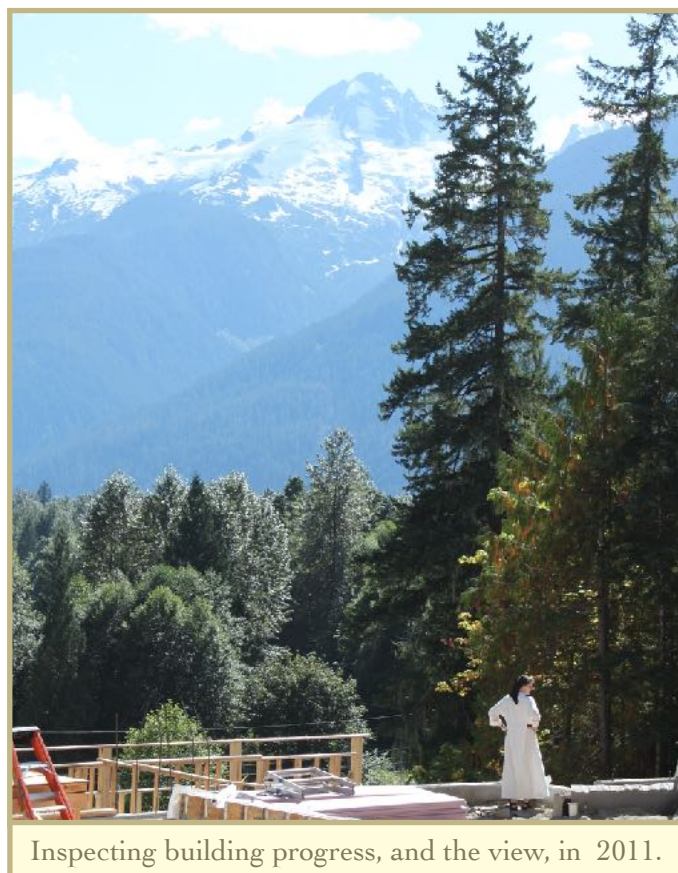
Sr. Mary Magdalen: I prayed for it ever since I entered, but I never pushed it. It was in the

background. So when it came, it was offered. I said yes right away. It meant so much to me, having lived in the States in the wonderful Farmington Hills community, still to be coming back to my own country. And as I say that, I am filled with respect for my sisters who left their home country to come. Whenever I speak about this, I remember them.

What do you hope for?

Sr. Claire Marie: It is awesome for me to witness how our hopes have been realized "*above all we could have asked or imagined.*" (Eph 3:20). So many blessings and graces have been poured out upon us. My hope now is that we continue to receive, with open and grateful hearts, the grace that is being given. I hope that we can be '*a light on the hill,*' a place where people can see Jesus, a Holy Preaching for Gods' glory and praise. To do this, we need to take steps to preserve the quietude of the monastery and adjust where our guests are welcomed so that the contemplative life of the nuns be passed on and protected for future generations. How about for another 800 years - now that's hope!

Interviews have been condensed and edited.



Inspecting building progress, and the view, in 2011.

“I came that they may have life...”

*Diamond Jubilee
of Sr. Mary Columba
of the Trinity, O.P.
July 12*



2019



← Silver Jubilee, with younger sibling Sr. Mary Gemma, O.P. (on left).

*Entrance of
Denise
September 19* →



~ ✝ ~



*Vestition of
Sr. Maris Stella
of the Trinity
September 21*



“...and have it abundantly.” (Jn 10:10)

Tying the garlic for drying.



↑ Sarah, Tobias and Raphael receive a message in a Diamond Jubilee skit on the book of Tobit.



↖ Weaving, and carding wool.
↓ Working on the hydro.



Novitiate classes on the *Conferences of Cassian*





Chapel window, 2011.

Vision and Mission: preached by fr. Ed Ruane, O.P. on John 17:11b-19

The ambience of this monastery calls one to look upward and outward. From the moment one enters your grounds one beholds such magnificent grandeur, which culminates in the vision a person sees looking through the chapel to the mountains. A person cannot help but look upward and outward, aware of their own insignificance before the very majesty of God. It is a sacramental sign of what is to take place in our own lives as we look toward the One who is majesty and beauty itself. We do not focus on ourselves, but rather focus on the presence of the Creator.

A vision is given here of what is to take place in our own lives as we look upward and outward to the God who has created us in His own image. We look beyond ourselves and find a vision of whom we are to be and of what God is doing within us that causes us to respond with awe, singing hymns and psalms of praise.

Twenty years ago, fr. Timothy [Radcliffe] called for a mission of nuns to found a monastery in western Canada. While it is not difficult to “call” for a mission, its realization is quite another reality. Nuns responding to the mission could only realize it by groping toward a new vision. Looking outward and upward, with the Spirit leading, you have made that mission into a vision. And it’s never easy or without pain. We look out and see these mountains, but we know they were formed by the gigantic smashing together of plates in the depths of the earth. So, too—one looks out at the stars in the middle of the night, knowing that they came out of explosions in the midst of the universe. One sees a forest of trees and realizes this lush growth came through seeds dying. This speaks also about the lives of those first nuns who, while of the same religious family, came from different particular monasteries and expression of Dominican life. They experienced within themselves the clashing of seismic plates and explosions of diverse lights, and the dying of lovely customs in order to give birth to the mission and cooperate in a new and lovely vision of Dominican monastic life.

Jesus, at the most intimate moment of His life, utters the priestly in His farewell discourse, crying out from the depths of His heart what He so deeply desires: “Protect them, protect them Father in your name, the name that you have given me, that they may be one as we are one.” So no matter how magnificent the mountains, how breathtakingly beautiful the sky, there is something far more beautiful and that is what God is doing in your hearts and in your souls, dear sisters. While the physical environment of your monastery could not be more magnificent, may it be a reminder to each of you of the vision and mission the Lord has in shaping your lives as contemplative nuns to a vision that surpasses all of this. Keep looking upward and outward giving praise to our gracious Creator. ~ From the homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving for our 20th anniversary

Abba IoT visits Abba Josph



Canadian friends :
who wish to contribute can receive
Income Tax receipts by sending your cheques to:
Queen of Peace Monastery
Box 1745
Garibaldi Highlands, B.C.
V0N 1T0 CANADA
Cheque Memo: Queen of Peace Monastery



American friends :
who wish to give over \$200.00 can receive Income
Tax receipts by sending your cheques to:
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Farmington Hills, MI 48331-2311 USA
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