

CATERINA BENINCASA DOMINICAN MONASTERY  
6 CHURCH DRIVE NEW CASTLE, DE 19720  
(302)654-1206  
www.benincasamonastery.blogspot.com



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St. Catherine used the image of the bridge to describe her "Sweet Christ" who, by His incarnation, unites all to Himself. St. Catherine is our chosen Patroness and Model.



WE ARE LOCATED AT THE FOOT OF THE DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE WHICH CAN BE SEEN FROM OUR MONASTERY—SYMBOL OF OUR MISSION

Dear Family & Friends: Greetings for a most blessed Advent and Christmas Season! All are well here at the Caterina Benincasa Dominican Monastery, and we look forward to a grace filled Christmas.



### At the Manger

Vesper intercessions for the First Friday of Advent pray Christ to take pity on all who struggle and fall along the way, that they may find a friend to help them. We hope we can be that friend for you. Send us your intentions, that on Christmas morning we may carry them in our hearts and lay them at the feet of the Infant Jesus. He alone knows the secret to keeping your hope and joy alive

### GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIEND \*\*\*\*\*BISHOP MICHAEL SALTARELLI



ENJOYING A MEAL WITH THE SISTERS



CELEBRATES MASS IN OUR CHAPEL WITH BISHOP MALOOLY, FATHER NOLAN AND FATHER ALCOTT, OP.

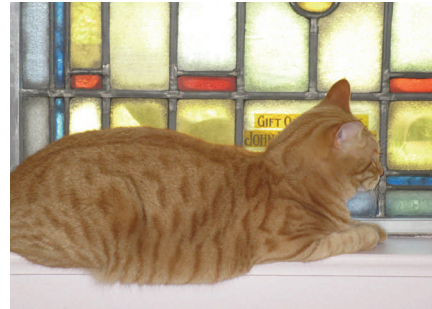
When we first came to New Castle, Michael Saltarelli, Bishop of Wilmington, gave us a warm welcome and took a personal interest in our group. Many times he encouraged us and those looking to join our small community. It was with deep sadness that we learned of his passing on October 8, 2009, after several illnesses. His successor, Bishop Malooly, continues to support and encourage us. He tells us often that the diocese is grateful for the Dominican presence of both the friars and the nuns.

### The Oratory

Since coming to Delaware, we have nurtured a close relationship with our friars at the Oratory, which serves the University of Delaware. Recently the Oratory added another friar to their mix, Michael De-Temple. We are delighted to get to know yet another one of our brothers.

### Oh Where, Oh Where did Tiny Tim go?

You've heard us mention our monastery cat, Tiny Tim. He has gradually played his way into all of our hearts, even those not particularly fond of cats. Recently, we came to the end of a day and realized we had not seen him at all. After a futile check of the various rooms and his favorite hiding places brought no Tiny, we became quite concerned. As a final desperate attempt, Sr. Mary Grace opened a door leading to the school, and out walked Tiny, a bit out of sorts, and unwilling to forgive us for his lockup. It took him several hours to return to his normal self. Needless to say, we are extra careful now!



### And Now We Are Four



November 20 was a Red-Letter Day for us as we welcomed Amy Gracey into our midst. Amy has been journeying along with us since we first began to formulate a new Monastic community back in 2007. Though circumstances prevented her from joining sooner, we consider her no less a pioneer. We are grateful for her gentle spirit and the many gifts and talents she brings with

her. Most of all, she brings a great love for the life we have chosen, and for the foundation of Dominican Nuns we are making here in Delaware.

Amy brought her Golden Retriever, Chouquette, and her cat, Buttons. Tiny Tim, formerly presiding as king and master of the monastic domain, seemed a bit threatened at first. Time is breaking down the barriers, and we watch with great interest as the three attempt to become friends.

## BENINCASA QUEEN OF PEACE GALLERY

PROJECT TO HOST DOMINICAN NUNS ART WORK AT OUR BENINCASA ART GALLERY

### The Mission of Preaching

This coming year, the Dominican Order continues its 800<sup>th</sup> celebration of the founding of the Dominican Order with the theme of the *Mission of Preaching*. Our own Gallery with its display of Sr. Mary Grace's art is one way we preach. In the hope of expanding our clientele, and in order to honor more Dominican nun artists, both past and present, we have come up with a project, an art exhibit that will be displayed in the Benincasa Gallery. Other Dominican nuns will be invited to submit their work to a review board, and a friend has agreed to do the framing and documentation. Speakers will be invited, with the opening set for August 8, 2010. Even though we are still in the initial stages of planning, any contribution to this project would be deeply appreciated.



### A New Presence in Delaware

At the beginning of the past year, we began the process of a new Chapter of Dominican Laity to complete the Dominican presence here in Delaware, asking the Dominican Laity from D.C. to help. Two members of Immaculate Conception Chapter come once a month to instruct and advise those who are interested. A number are in the process of discerning admission as postulants.

The enclosed cards are a small gift to thank you for your continued support..

To see Sr. Mary Grace's art, log on to [www.sistermarygrace.artspan.com](http://www.sistermarygrace.artspan.com)