

CATERINA BENINCASA DOMINICAN MONASTERY

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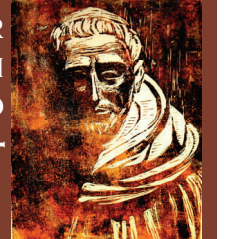


THE BRIDGE NEWS JULY 2010



St. Catherine often referred to her Sweet Christ as "The Bridge." As our Patroness and Model, she must smile to see us located at the foot of the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

AUGUST 8TH MARKS THE FEAST OF ST. DOMINIC, OUR FOUNDER AND PATRON. TO OUR DOMINICAN BROTHERN AND SISTERS, WE WISH ALL A HAPPY FEAST DAY. AND TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, WE PROMISE TO REMEMBER YOU IN OUR PRAYERS.



Going Green!



Going green isn't just environmental, it's also monastic! Here in Benincasa Monastery, we planted our first garden, which, we are happy to say, is providing us with fresh lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, dill and bay plants, celery, broccoli, purple cabbage, tomatoes, green peppers, and hopefully some sweet corn! All produce is organically grown.

A big thank you to Bob Driscoll for his work of pulling out all the old, embedded roots of former shrubs, and power washing and painting the front of the monastery. Thanks to his help, we were able to take advantage of volunteers who helped us design and plant new landscaping. The front of our little monastery is looking 150% better!



Let us know if you would prefer to receive our newsletter by email.

Newest Member Receives Dominican Habit



When I looked in the mirror, I saw a familiar face, and said to her, 'So there you are! I've been looking for you these past nine years, and I've finally found you!'"

Such were the sentiments of our newest member, Sr. Amy of the Eucharist, after she received the habit on our titular Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, April 29, 2010. The ceremony was held at our sponsoring monastery of Elmira, New York.

Sr. Amy brings with her years of previously lived Dominican consecrated life, having left the monastery relatively recently for personal reasons. She found hope, she says, when she discovered our group and its new venture.

The Catholic paper, the Dialogue, did a marvelous article on Sister, quoting her as saying, "When I met this group [Benincasa] I had a peace and joy I really missed everywhere else." If you are interested in reading the whole article, you can find it at: <http://www.cdow.org/061010.pdf>.

In the ceremony of Vestition, as Dominicans call it, there is a line dear to the hearts of all of us here at Benincasa Monastery: **May the Lord who has begun this work, bring it to fulfillment.** We ask that you keep Sr. Amy, and our Benincasa venture, in your prayers.

Check updates at www.caterinabenincasadominicans.blogspot.com

Retreat Talks

Part of our vision for this foundation is sharing our spirituality and contemplation with others through talks and presentations. This past year a number of groups have come here to take advantage of talks given by Sr. Emmanuella.



The latest presentation centered on Dominican Spirituality and History. We assisted Sister by putting together a PowerPoint presentation. The attentive audience asked many questions during the Q&A, and stayed long to share their own experiences. Many admitted that they had gone through Catholic school and were taught by the Dominican Sisters. They were very happy to see Dominicans again!

Sewing, Sewing, Sewing!



While we do pray for vocations for our Order, we never thought we'd see the day 21 new novices would enter in one year! Yet, St Joseph's Province is expecting just that many this August!

Sr. Mary Columba has been busy sewing the cappas, something she has done for many years, and continues to do as part of our remunerative work. Yet, even she was a bit overwhelmed by the numbers! As of this writing she

tells us that she has finished 14 cappas, and has only 7 more to go. She has worked many long hours to accomplish this!

We would also like to congratulate our friend, Father James Sullivan, who has been appointed the new Novice Master for the Eastern Province.

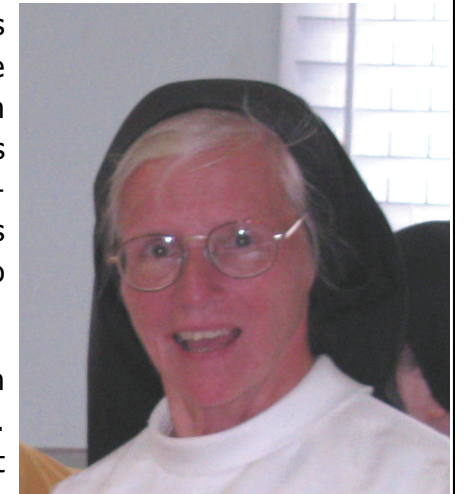
Burned Out!

Since moving to the convent at Holy Spirit parish, we have managed quite well with the old stove and oven. Recently, however, the stove top wanted to remind us of its age, and so it buzzed, sparked, and gave up its ghost in a cloud of smoke. We've gotten the message, and are making inquiries into possible replacements. We would like to change over to gas, but are challenged by the expense. If you feel inspired to help us out in this venture, we would be deeply grateful!

If you would like to, you can now donate online at www.benincasaop.org

Update on our Dominican Nuns' Art Exhibition

Sr. Mary Grace has been busy gathering friends and professionals to help with the planning of the projected art exhibition of the Dominican Nuns. In both May and June, she arranged dates and times for various professionals to discuss display, speakers, logistics and mediums. At the moment, Sister is sifting through all the information she's gathered to narrow down the choices.



We have received many favorable responses from the Dominican Monasteries in the USA and Canada. Many sister artists are quite excited at the prospect of presenting their oft hidden work to a wider viewing audience. We are excited as well.

Community Lectio

A time honored monastic tradition is the practice of Lectio Divina, a deeply pondered meditation that "chews" on certain passages of Scripture until they become part of oneself. Last fall we initiated our own Community Lectio, giving each member a chance to share her personal Lectio with the assembled group. The practice proved so enriching we made it a daily custom.



In this way, we are fulfilling the proposed implementation of our first pillar, the Liturgical and Contemplative Life:



Witnessing to the truth that at the depths of every human heart resides a thirst that can only be satisfied by God, our monastery will...provide opportunities for shared Lectio and spiritual enrichment (Proposal, 4).

Check out Sr. Mary Grace's art, at www.sistermarygrace.artspan.com