Last September the Sisters had Fr. James Brent, OP as their retreat master. He then was present for our postulants to receive their habits and religious names. Our two postulants, became Sister Marie Benedicta, OP and Sister Mary Elizabeth, OP.

Then, on September the 14th, Sister Rita Marie Hauck made her final profession of vows. Fr. Gabriel O’Donnell, OP was the main celebrant with Fr. Joseph Martin Hagan, OP concelebrating. Here is a beautiful excerpt from Fr. O’Donnell's homily:

“...It appears that one is giving up the comfortable and pleasant for what is difficult, penitential, unrelenting and in a way that is true, however, the world is mistaken and even we here can be mistaken in looking on the final profession of Sr. Rita Marie as primarily an act of sacrifice, of renunciation and hardship. For the one making profession this can never be the case...This is the vocation which is a call to fulfillment and happiness rather than deprivation and frustration because it is the completion of the deepest longings of the human heart, to know the One who is my source and goal. To know Him who alone knows me completely, to be loved unconditionally and to live each day in anticipation of an eternity of forgiveness, mercy, knowledge and love.”

Sr. Rita Marie, on reflecting on her final vows had this to say: “When I received my wedding ring and became the bride of Christ, my heart leaped and my soul filled with joy... My parents, brothers and their families, my Dominican sisters, and other religious groups were all present to share this special moment with me. After Mass, outside the chapel, my parents had great joy and gave me a big hug.

We all gathered to the Sunroom for the reception after Mass. WOW! I entered the sunroom and was had tears of joy at the beauty of the room. My favorite flower, the Sunflower, was everywhere: as center pieces, on the dinner wear, and the walls. Then a beautiful artwork struck my eyes; it was ‘the Bride’ in life size as it was on the ceremony booklet along with the words and now on the wall in big letters - ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming, go forth
There is a little story regarding the sunflower. My parents gave me artificial sunflowers for my first vows, which they found as they went through my stuff I had at home from before I entered. They knew I loved sunflowers. My father also gave me a short article on the sunflower by Blessed Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., stating: ‘It is a characteristic of this flower to turn itself towards the sun and moreover it is an image of the sun. The flower itself represents the soul created after God’s image in order to absorb the sunlight of God’s bounty. Two suns shining into each other, one radiant with an unfathomable light, the other absorbing that light.’ The eyes of my soul fixed and gazing on Christ as the sunflower, fixed on the sun, hoping never to lose sight.

On a funny side prior to my final vows, during rehearsal I was reading my vows. Instead of saying into your hands Mother Mary Francis, I stated multiple times into your hands Mother Mary Alphonsa. Thanks be to God I did not do it during my actual final vows. God is good and His love and mercy endures forever.”

The feast of the Holy Rosary in October is the date that our postulants enter the community. On this day a postulant is given a special blessing and given a medal of St. Dominic. Hazel Rose visited both our homes and also volunteered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home before entering our community. Please pray for the perseverance of all those in formation!
One of his first stops after being appointed Archbishop of Atlanta, Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM, Conv., was at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home. He made a visit to chapel and then visited our patients and staff and Sisters. He was gracious with all and it was a delightful first visit, hopefully the first of many to come. Atlanta is not new to him as he served in Atlanta from 1995 to 2011. And our Sisters who are native New Yorkers were glad to hear he originally hails from Buffalo, NY. He entered the Conventual Franciscans after his graduation from High School and while there studied for the priesthood. Over the years he earned other degrees in his studies, served in various capacities in his community, particularly in Catholic High School Education, and then in 2011 was made a bishop of Savannah by Benedict XVI. His motto on his crest while he was Bishop of Savannah was *Pax et Bonum*.

His visit to our home even made it to the Archbishop’s Facebook page and was in the Atlanta Catholic paper. Our patient, Angela, in the bottom right photo, was overjoyed to see him. Never one short on words, she was effusive in telling his how much she liked seeing him in his Franciscan habit. The Archbishop gave her the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick while he was with her. Angela was born in Germany, and came to America as a child. Her daughter attends Church in Roswell, GA. When Angela saw her picture had gotten into the paper as well, she was overjoyed.

We pray not only will this gracious friendship continue between the Archbishop and our home, but we pray he will be given the strength needed to be a solid Catholic presence in our troubled world.
WHATEVER
Sister Carol Marie was walking with one of our male patients, Tyler. Valentine’s day was coming up and they were talking about the party we would be having. She jokingly said to him, “Would you be my valentine?” He responded, “Sure, I have nothing better to do.” How flattering!

WOMEN ONLY
Mrs. S. was asking one of the Sisters who was in the other bed in her ward. She thought she heard a man’s voice. One of the Sisters said, “No, that is Mrs. W. There are three beds in here and they are all women. There are no men allowed here. Mrs. S. said “Well, that’s the story of your life isn’t it? No men allowed.”

THE GOOD WAITRESS
Sister was bringing Mrs. S. her medication when she said, “Thank you waitress!” Sister jokingly said, “Do I get a tip?” She said with a sweet smile, “If you are good!”

FRIENDS
Sometimes our patients develop close relationships with one another. This was the case for Miss L. and her roommate. When Miss L’s roommate passed away she asked one of the Sisters, “Can you find me a new friend?” to express how much her roommate meant to her.

PROGRESSIVE STRAWBERRIES
At supper Angela noted: “These strawberries are delicious! But I noticed we had strawberry shortcake for lunch and now we have strawberries for supper. You Sisters must travel to the strawberry farm a lot! It reminds me of a progressive dinner: when I was younger we would progress from one neighbor to the next for a course of our dinner. These strawberries are progressing from one dinner to the next!”
In October 2019 we had quite a few Sisters celebrating their jubilees. Sr. Joan Marie celebrated 25 years of religious life in our community. Sr. Anne Marie, Sr. Miriam and Sr. Mary Florence celebrated 50 years of religious life and Sr. Mary Eugenia celebrated her 60th jubilee. Sr. Miriam’s brother, Fr. Vincent Smith, O.S.F.S. was the celebrant for the Mass. In his homily he discussed how the word jubilee is seen in the book of Leviticus. Every seven years the Israelites had a jubilee in which captives were released and debts were forgiven. It was a time of great joy. Other cultures took on this idea of jubilee to the present day and it has flourished in the Church. Joy he said is a gift. “You can’t fabricate joy. Joy is a welcome gift when we respond to the grace of who God calls us to be.”

Three of the jubilarians, Sr. Anne Marie, Sr. Miriam, and Sr. Mary Florence, were Rosettes at Sacred Heart Home in Philadelphia. As young women they volunteered at the home there and then each decided to enter the convent. To the left is a picture of them together before they entered our community.

Sr. Miriam took a jubilee trip with her family to Canada. She said of her trip: “I was thrilled to have gone on this wonderful trip for my 50th Jubilee with Mary and Vince (her siblings). It was a great time from the beginning to the end. We prayed, visited, laughed, took boat and bus tours and we did not miss a thing. In the beginning we visited the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre and were able to take everyone’s intentions to a Mass that was said in French. We did a tour there and prayed at the altar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help...Taking you to the end of the trip we went to Niagara Falls and what fun that was—even getting wet! So I am thankful for all my blessings. “

Sr. Anne Marie went on a cruise with her sister in 2019. They went first to Amsterdam, then Ireland and Spain and Portugal and ended in Rome. Sr. Anne Marie said the highlight of her trip was Fatima. In Rome they stayed at Pope Paul VI hotel right in St. Peter’s Square. “We couldn’t have been closer,” Sister said.

Sr. Mary Eugenia who celebrated 60 years of religious life, is a native of Philadelphia. Her brother lived near Sacred Heart Home in Philadelphia and she often passed by and wondered what the building was. She later found out from a Sister of St. Joseph that it was a home for cancer patients. She visited the home and met Sr. Annunciata who was the superior at the time. Sister later received a phone call from Sr. Annunciata to let her know that Mother Siena would be coming from Rosary Hill and would like to meet Rosalie (Sr. Eugenia). From that meeting Sr. Eugenia decided to enter and did so on January 21st 1958. She served at Sacred Heart...
Home for two years after her first profession in 1959, moving to Sacred Heart Home in 1960 and then she served at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home in 1962, then served again in Philadelphia in 1978, then moved back to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home in 1984 and has lived at that home ever since. She comes from a large family and many of them attended her jubilee celebration. Sister no longer does patient care, but says she truly enjoyed taking care of our patients for many years. Sister is able to participate in community life and sometimes does little tasks for the patients like bringing them their mail.

Sr. Joan Marie did not take a trip overseas, but spent a few days with her family. They went into NYC and visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the naval ship the 'Intrepid', Ground Zero and Times Square. They spent time together at Bear Mountain as well and eating at the Lodge there. Sr. Joan Marie entered our community in 1992. She has served in St. Rose’s Home in NYC, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home in Atlanta, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Home in Minnesota, and since 2009 has served at Rosary Hill Home. In reflecting on her religious life thus far, she states: “I have learned and experienced a great deal: always trust in God, Mary our Mother, and St. Joseph, and they will guide us through...To be a Hawthorne Dominican and a daughter of Mother Mary Alphonsa, truly is special, I am very blessed.”

Sr. Joan Marie at Mass and with her family above

Sister Mary Florence did not take a jubilee trip, but as she says: “In November, my family and friends gathered again at my family’s home parish, where we had a beautiful Mass. After Mass, we went to a nearby restaurant and had dinner. Some of my friends from high school were in attendance and I was very moved that one girl even came from Georgia to attend. A lot of my cousins whom I haven’t seen in years came and the cameras were working overtime. It doesn’t feel like 50 years have passed since that day when I said good-bye to my family and home (and my dog, Hidey) and walked through the front door of the Convent at Rosary Hill. I was anxious to join the joyous group of Sisters I had come to know while doing volunteer work for 4 years at Sacred Heart Home in Philadelphia and to serve the Lord in caring for His sick poor. Much has happened in those 50 years. As a young 18 year old, I had no idea where this life would lead me, except to care for the cancerous poor. My journey lead me to assignments in Hawthorne, New York City, Fall River, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Saint Paul. As a young Sister, I received my Associate degree in Nursing and subsequently served as Director on Nursing, Superior, and/or Administrator in my various assignments...I am so grateful the Lord led me to this Community. He has blessed me in so many ways.”

Sister Mary Florence at Mass & with her family at the reception
Sister Anne Marie: pictures with her family after the jubilee Mass and then from her jubilee trip

Sr. Miriam’s jubilee trip—the shrine of St. Anne and riding the boat at Niagara Falls

Sr. Miriam above with her nieces and nephews at the reception & below with her Uncle and other family members in Florida
“Being ‘faithful in a few things’, the ordinary nun, or member of a female band of God’s servants, has her abode at the feet of bliss. Let us rejoice.”

— from Christ’s Poor Vol 1 no. 6

This quote of our Foundress is not only fitting for the joy associated with a Jubilee, but a reminder for us to be thankful for our vocation, even in the midst of the current pandemic. During this time when many are being affected by the Corona virus our community is praying daily for an end to the virus and for all those affected that they may be healed, and praying for those who care for the sick. Thanks be to God our Sisters and patients are safe. We have tried to do everything possible to keep them comfortable and free from fear, as we always do in their circumstances. Here are a few pictures to share with you a little of the inventive ways we have implemented so that the required protective equipment keeps from making our patients feel isolated. Even dressing up as an Easter bunny with a pink mask! We recognize how blessed we are despite current trials.
Visit to Andalusia

One and a half hours south east of Atlanta is the city of Milledgeville, GA., whose most famous resident was American author Flannery O’Conner. This past February, Sr. Teresa Marie and Sr. Catherine Marie visited the home of Flannery, which is more commonly known as Andalusia. For many years, it was a cotton plantation and farm. During the time Flannery lived there, it operated as a dairy and beef farm. The Sisters were very interested to learn as much as they could about the history of Andalusia and Flannery. The tour guide told the Sisters something very interesting about a record player located in Flannery’s bedroom. In 1960, Flannery wrote the introduction to a book titled “A Memoir of Mary Ann” authored by our own Sister Mary Evangelist, OP. The guide said a “group of Sisters” gave the record player to Flannery in appreciation for writing the introduction. Sr. Teresa Marie and Sr. Catherine Marie immediately raised their hands and said, “We’re from that group of Sisters! We’re with the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, and we have a home not far from here in Atlanta called Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home.” The guide mentioned that she is a student at Flannery’s alma mater, Georgia College. She admitted that she knew absolutely nothing about “nuns”, so the Sisters told her a bit about our Community and work. Andalusia is now owned and operated by Georgia College. Many of the buildings on the site are in need of repair or reconstruction. In addition to their tour of Andalusia, the Sisters also visited Flannery’s parish, Sacred Heart Church. A short drive from there was Memory Hill Cemetery, where Flannery is buried along with her parents. If you would like to learn more about Flannery O’Conner and Andalusia, please go to Georgia College’s website at gesu.edu/andalusia.
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
Witnessing to the Sanctity of Life since 1900

Vocation Discernment Weekends

Hawthorne, NY
August 14-16

Atlanta, GA
September 25-27

We invite women ages 19-44 who are discerning a religious vocation to join us for a weekend to experience our prayer and

For more information please contact:
Sr. Catherine Marie, OP
845-745-1319
Dear Sister Catherine Marie:

☐ I would like to speak with you about visiting your community.

My number: (____) ______-_______

☐ Please send me additional information about your community.

☐ Please send me your Vocation Video on a CD. (The video is also on our web site.)

☐ Please add the above name to The Rose Hawthorne Guild.

☐ Please add the above name to your mailing list to receive IN HIS LOVE.

JOIN THE CAUSE

There is a lot happening with the Cause of Rose Hawthorne (Mother Mary Alphonsa). If you’re interested in learning more, join the Rose Hawthorne Guild. There is no cost to become a member. We are happy to have your interest. All we ask is that you spread the word about Rose Hawthorne and share with us any favors you know of that are received through her intercession.