

IN HIS LOVE

The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
Fall 2008



Dear Friends in Christ,
Greetings!

Last Spring was the last time we had our publication, Hawthorne Happenings, published. It is a time of new growth as evident in our surroundings, but also in our minds and hearts. Now, we are delighted to welcome you to our new publication In His Love. For it is the love of Christ that gives each one of us the strength to persevere in our calling as religious sisters and to continue to do what we do as “Servants of Relief”. It is also for love of Him alone that we have remained faithful to our charism, to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and to “put out into the deep” as Pope John Paul II urged religious men and women throughout the world. Thanksgiving day may have passed, but we are thankful everyday for the many graces and blessings God has given us, especially for the generosity of our dear friends and benefactors. We are most grateful to you and keep you in our daily prayers.

May the season of “expectation”, Advent, fully prepare and open our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Love will be published twice a year. May God bless each one of you. We ask for your continued prayers and generosity. From our hearts to yours.

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The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne



Papal Visit

“Shepherd In Our Midst”

By Sr. Agnes Mary, O.P.

As the saying goes, ‘On St. Patrick’s Day we’re all Irish, so it seemed that while the pope was here in our midst ‘we were all Catholic’. People of all backgrounds, common folk, politicians, celebrities alike, clamored to be near the Holy Father, calling to mind the times of the nascent Church when “multitudes gathered around Peter that at least his shadow might fall on some of them”.

Perhaps all of us marveled at the extraordinary hype and excitement of the media and of the cities he visited. Perhaps we Catholics too posed the same question one non-Catholic put to me: ‘Why? Why all this attention, all this time and money, this overwhelming joy and energy for a man?’ Her question sprang not from criticism but rather from a genuine sense of awe, of wonder, for she, as so many of us, hung upon every word and movement of the pontiff as he graced our soil.

Reflecting on this question I am reminded of EWTN’s coverage of this historic event. Through it all the network flashed ‘Shepherd in our Midst’. In Pope Benedict XVI the sheep recognized the voice of their Shepherd and flocked to his side. As the heavenly Father revealed to St. Catherine of Siena, “the pope is the sweet Christ on earth”. Pope Benedict walks in the shoes of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. This truth was manifest especially to those of us blessed to attend a papal event, as several of our own sisters were. Standing there in the midst of the successor of Peter, surrounded by and contributing to the thunderous applause and chants of “Benedetto! We love you!”, one no longer wonders ‘why?’. For such excitement spontaneously erupts from the hearts of those who know they are loved.



Our Holy Father’s visit to the United States last April touched and made a difference to each one of us whether we were present with him bodily or in spirit. Certainly our community was blessed in many ways especially to have tickets to attend the Papal Mass in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and at Yankee Stadium, and for one of our sisters to meet our Holy Father at the youth rally in Dunwoodie seminary. We are also grateful for Fr. Frazier and the parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish in Valhalla, NY for their generosity of providing us with transportation to the stadium.



Novices’ Reflections

For our novices, Sr. Carmela Marie and Sr. Stella Mary, our Holy Father’s visit made such a difference to them. Sr. Carmela Marie reflected: “My meeting the pope at Dunwoodie and my attendance at the extraordinary Papal Mass at the Yankee Stadium gave me a glimpse of the continuity of the Catholic Church down through the ages. Here was the successor of St. Peter encouraging us to live our faith well and to respond generously to God’s call in our lives. At Dunwoodie, the Holy Father invited young people to seek the Truth because ultimately that Truth is a Person- Jesus Christ”. She continues, “Truly, a new springtime is dawning for the Catholic Church, which is ever ancient yet ever new. The impression I got was that the Church, with the successor of Peter at its helm, is truly moving forward, steady on its course. As a baptized Catholic, I am truly grateful to the Lord that He put me on His boat. As a woman currently in religious formation, I look forward to the day of my religious profession. On that day, I will not be just a passenger on board but can proudly say, ‘Now I am a part of the crew’”.

Sr. Stella Mary was overjoyed for her classmate to be chosen to meet the Pope and for herself to attend the Papal Mass in Yankee Stadium. “To be able to attend the Papal Mass was such a great blessing for I received Christ twice: first in His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and secondly in His representative here on earth. Pope Benedict gave me courage to persevere in my religious vocation, not only by his words but also by his example of always saying “yes” to Christ regardless of where it may take you and with certainty in the hope that all of God’s promises will be fulfilled”.

WELCOME, Patty!!!

We are happy to welcome our new postulant, Patty Varley, who entered on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7th. She is from Chattanooga, TN but was born and raised in NY. She is a registered nurse. She first thought about religious life when she was young, but dismissed the idea. Patty stated that her life has had many twists and turns, but the call to the religious life was always there. "The Lord has been very patient and persistent with me". Through spiritual guidance, the Sacraments and involvement in the Church activities, Patty responded to God's call.



Our chaplain, Fr. Martin, O.P., blessing Patty on her entrance day.



Patty with her pastor Rev. Joseph Brando

Renewal of Vows

CONGRATULATIONS Sr. Catherine Marie and Sr. Agnes Mary on the occasion of the renewal of your vows last September 14, 2008, Solemnity of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.



Sr. Catherine Marie, O.P.



Sr. Agnes Mary, O.P.

‘In Person’

AN INVITATION FROM ST. DOMINIC: SR. MARY REGIS, O.P.

By: Sr. Catherine Marie, O.P.

Last year on the feast of St. Dominic, Sr. Mary Regis told me one of the reasons behind her luminescent smile. She was coming from the chapel and when I told her how happy she appeared, she said “Did I ever tell you I practically got a personal invitation from St. Dominic?” I asked her to tell me about it and she did so. As a little girl she often would play at being a nun. She and her girlfriends would talk about religious life as well. Even when she had a job at a 5 & 10 in Brooklyn, she had a “crippled man outside there who worked for the Church and had brochures on all kinds of religious orders. So I had a pretty good idea of which ones I might want to enter if I felt the call.”

One evening she was accompanying a friend of hers, Dolores, who wanted to visit one of the Sisters who had taught Dolores at the Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica, Queens. They were putting on a play that evening so the Sister that Dolores wished to see was backstage. Sister Regis waited by the stage. As she “waited and waited, getting worried about the hour because it was late and the neighborhood not so good,” she began to look at a mural of St. Dominic. As she did she said she had something “well up within” her and she said aloud “St. Dominic, make me one of your daughters!” The Sisters passing by smiled pleasantly she remembers, with such joyful countenances. One evening doing her homework with this same friend she asked, “how do you know when you are supposed to be a Sister?” She remembers her friend kindly teasing her in a sing-song voice: “Margarette, God is calling you.” Soon after this she went and visited St. Rose’s Home in New York City. When asked how she knew this was the right order for her, she says, “I’m not sure, but I remember I was never homesick.” Then she gave me another one of her beautiful smiles and went on her way.



Sr. Mary Regis, O.P.

Celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 2005

'HIGHLIGHTS'



A grand old time! Sisters, patients and friends celebrate Independence Day



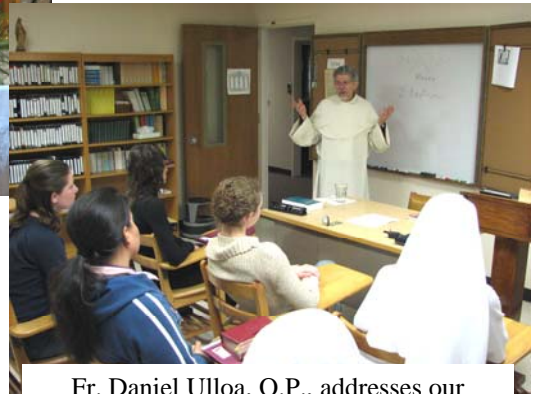
A delicious luncheon followed a Mass of Thanksgiving for our volunteers



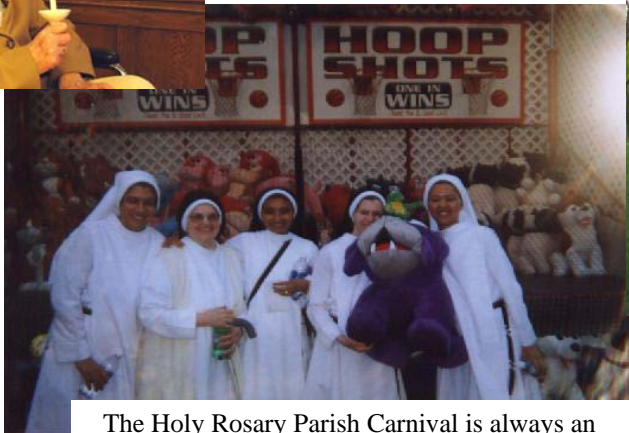
Corpus Christi; Fr. Ulloa blesses each patient with the Blessed Sacrament [in procession]



Easter '08, Fr. Nicanor, O.P., main celebrant



Fr. Daniel Ulloa, O.P., addresses our novices and visitors during a vocations weekend.



The Holy Rosary Parish Carnival is always an exciting and competitive time ☺



Fr. Dominic Izzo, O.P., prior provincial, and nuns spent a week at Rosary Hill for Council meetings.

COLUMN

God's Generosity

By Sr. Mary Benedict, O.P.

It has been said by many people from many different cultures that the Mother in her kitchen is the heart and soul of a family. I think the same can be said of the average convent kitchen. Of course the chapel is the center of importance to those of us who live in convents but the kitchen is the center of the sisters working life and a great help in creating true community spirit. The Home in the original building for the community in Atlanta, Georgia was a Jewish orphanage. The Jewish community in Atlanta did away with the orphanage and all the children were placed in private homes. The kitchen that was my center for labor was on the ground level and the cooler or "ice box" was the coal bin. The kitchen despite its original use made an attractive room in which to work. With the placement of work tables, sinks, stove and other equipment one would think it was created to be a kitchen from the very beginning. Also the room lent itself readily to those who needed to sell us food and other necessities.

The Trappist monks who founded a monastery in Conyers, Georgia a few years before we began Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home were busily building their permanent monastery. Many times they needed to come into Atlanta for business purposes or to seek medical assistance. At least once a week they delivered a large crate of eggs. Brother Pius who delivered the eggs always stayed for dinner. Our kitchen was the only place that the monks were allowed to eat when they came to the city. When Brother delivered the eggs he quite often brought several loaves of their whole wheat bread. This bread had no preservative and was greatly loved by the sisters.

I was delighted to serve dinner to any of the monks who came in the city and needed some place to break their fast. Quite a few of them arrived as late as 3 o'clock. Their small portion of bread and "Trappist Coffee" was eaten early in the morning. They always appreciated whatever I gave them. Brother Pius who had entered the Monastery in his middle age had been a stock broker on Wall Street. His cheerfulness and Irish good humor were something I appreciated very much. Another monk who came frequently was Father Nicholas. He was the cellarer or purchasing agent.

Since we lived depending on donations and not on income from our patients we received not only donations of money but also others items including food. Government regulations for food were not as invasive as nowadays. We are speaking of at least 50 years ago. One day fairly late in the afternoon we received an unusual donation. A robust man drove up in his truck and brought in his donation. This generous farmer tithed and brought to us one-quarter of a cow. The donation dripped blood and was very heavy but he got it into our crowded cooler and placed it on a shelf. We thanked him profusely realizing what the donation meant to him. After he left Sr. Matthias and I stood in the middle of the kitchen almost speechless. Unexpectedly Father Nicholas drove up and when he came into the kitchen he said to us "What in the world is the matter?" We brought Father into the cooler and he saw the huge piece of bleeding meat. He said to us "Don't worry Sisters, we can take care of that". They did not have any monk who had been a butcher but they did have a large meat grinder. Father Nicholas took the meat home and it was all ground up. This meant that the expensive cuts were mixed with the other less expensive meat. He brought back to us the next day lots of packages of ground meat ready for the freezer. They kept about the same amount to serve their guests. Sr. Matthias and myself began another day with new expectations and a prayerful awaiting of whatever the good Lord wanted to give us even if it was a large piece of bleeding meat.



Sr. Mary Benedict, O.P.

Celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 2007. She was missioned on our Home in Atlanta, Ga. For 17 years. She is now residing in the Motherhouse in Hawthorne, NY serving the community by helping with the archives.



Remembering Sr. Mary Gemma, O.P.
(1920 – 2008)

On September 25th, as the bells sounded the 6 p.m. *Angelus*, our Sr. Mary Gemma passed from this life into eternity. All sisters in the Motherhouse rushed to her side to accompany Sister in her final moments. According to tradition, the Dominican *Salve* was in-toned, and, as the first notes were chanted, Sister Gemma breathed her last. Fr. Martin Connors, O.P., celebrated a *Requiem* Mass for Sister the following day, and, on Sept. 29th, the Mass of Christian Burial. Meanwhile, relatives and friends poured in to pay their last respects.

“She had a warm, hearty handshake and was always friendly and hospitable,” Sr. Mary Dominic reflected, “she made everyone feel welcomed and loved in her presence.” The over-crowded chapel for Sister’s funeral testified to the validity of these sentiments. Sr. Gemma’s gift for needlework made her a renowned seamstress in the Community. Ever the generous soul, she made sweaters, hats, scarves, etc. for sisters and family alike upon every occasion. Sr. Dominic reminisced that during the 2nd World War, when material was hard and expensive to come by, Sr. Gemma transformed her brother’s silk parachute into 1st Communion dresses for her nieces. Another sister recalled with a laugh that Sr. Gemma’s hospital ward always seemed cluttered and, yet, her patients were as happy as could be. Rosary Hill volunteers remember Sr. Gemma for her beautiful smile, and the warm greetings she extended [from her sickbed] to the other residents.

After 58 years of religious profession, having spent her life caring for the sick, Sr. Gemma’s Irish eyes are at last smiling upon the Face of her Spouse. May she enjoy the fullness of eternal life.

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(914) 769-4794 (0114) • E-Mail: sralmamarie@aol.com

Dear Sister Alma 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 send me your 2009 calendar.

NAME _____
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- 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.

The Rose Hawthorne Guild
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