With a Blessing the Dream is Fulfilled
MISSION STATEMENT
Affirmed by Chapter 2005 • Reaffirmed by Chapter 2015
We, Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, are a community of vowed women religious responding to God’s call and united in our quest for the unfolding revelation of God. We preach the Word of God through our lives of contemplative prayer, study and ministry in response to the needs of our time.

VISION STATEMENTS 1995
Reaffirmed by Chapter 2015
We will reclaim our passion for contemplation, and choose this as our lens through which we make decisions, live our lives, minister, and perceive our world.
We will hold the promotion of Justice as top priority in every area of our Congregation.
We will commit ourselves to deepen our studying, living and teaching the mysteries of the universe and the sacredness of all creation.
We resist the ongoing devastation of our planet by a contemplative scrutiny of our use/abuse of Earth’s gifts.

It was in the mid-fifties when Mother Aquinas and Sister Dolorita were discussing the need for more room in the Sisters’ infirmary. It was then located on the third floor of the Motherhouse. The care given by our Sister nurses was excellent but the space inadequate. So these two great Dominican women began to dream. But was it an impossible dream? A free standing health care facility fully equipped and staffed sounded wonderful but the cost was prohibitive. Still they continued to dream – and to pray.

By 1960 Mother Aquinas had passed away. Her successor, Mother Dolorita, held on to the dream, and this time with great determination. She spearheaded a fund raising campaign that succeeded even beyond the impossible dream. The Sisters participated with unbounded enthusiasm. They made phone calls, paid visits, wrote letters, researched potential donors wherever they might be. Family and friends were, of course, the first responders, giving generously, probably at great sacrifice.

So it came to be on a beautiful autumn day, September 20, 1962, to be exact, Mother witnessed the dedication of the St. Catherine of Siena Convent and Health Care Center. The impossible dream came true! And as we celebrate our 55th anniversary we look with pride at this marvelous accomplishment. Blessed from the very beginning with a remarkable administration and staff it has truly been a successful endeavor. It is always awarded the highest rating (five stars) by the New Jersey State annual inspection team. It was cited in the US News and World Report in 2016 as one of the best nursing homes in the nation—top 13 percent.

But St. Catherine’s is not just a facility with high ratings and excellent reputation. It is a place that has always harbored love, dedication, service, personal concern, and hands on care. It is a building of welcome where prayer, devotion, and intercession for others take place each day in our beautiful chapel.

From the time of our campaign in the 60s to the present, we have been thankfully aware of our faithful friends. Your constant devotion, your support and generosity have been a very vital part of our history. And as we continue our journey of love and service we rely with hope and gratitude on your partnership with us.

Patrice Werner, OP
Prioress
Invited by Sister Patrice shortly after his appointment by Pope Francis, Cardinal Tobin came to visit Caldwell as soon as his schedule allowed. In her invitation, Sister Patrice noted that we are the only congregation of religious with a motherhouse in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Sunday’s readings, especially Psalm 23 and John 10:1-10, offered us the image of the faithful shepherd. That Cardinal Tobin takes seriously his role as the good shepherd of Newark became so clear during his visit with us on May 6. In his memorable preaching, Cardinal Tobin noted that the Good Shepherd stays with the sheep on all sides – leading from in front of them, protecting from behind them, and accompanying beside them always. He challenged us to place our trust in the loving presence of our Good Shepherd. Clearly, the Cardinal’s life in a religious community (Redemptorist) revealed itself in his noting the gift of our Rule and Constitutions, and his urging us to live them faithfully.

After Mass Cardinal Tobin remained with us for dinner in the Motherhouse dining room. Then he went to Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Health Care Center for coffee and dessert with the residents.

His presence among us was that of a good shepherd – from moving the orange cone saving his parking place before a sister could reach it, to making time for each one who approached him during dinner, to visiting each table of residents in Saint Catherine. Yes, it was Kentucky Derby day and the TV in Saint Catherine’s was tuned into the race. When someone moved to turn it off, he said no – to keep it on and watch! His visit with the priests in residence there was especially moving. He knelt to be on eye level with them and spoke to each one. Coming to Monsignor Thomas Kleissler (founder of RENEW International) he told him that he’d always been one of his heroes – a tender and moving moment! He seemed to be in no rush and his compassion, attention, good humor, and affection made him for us an embodiment of the Good Shepherd!
The year 2017 marks the 55th Anniversary of Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Health Care Center. During this time Saint Catherine’s has been witness to many acts of faith, compassion, endurance, joy, and caring. As we look back, we recall the need, the vision and the eventual reality.

In the early years of our Congregation’s history, the sisters’ infirmary was housed on the third floor of the current Motherhouse. Among the patients were several of the German sisters from Regensburg. These sisters were some of the Congregation’s pioneers. As the number of sick and infirm sisters increased, Mother Aquinas dearly wanted to create more adequate space for them.

At a time when leaders in other religious congregations were planning and building larger, more modern residences for the rising numbers of postulants, novices, and young professed sisters, who were pursuing religious formation and college coursework, Mother Aquinas and her successor, Mother Dolorita, thought it was a priority to provide appropriate space for the care of the infirmed.

Following the death of Mother Aquinas in 1957, the dream of a new infirmary was embraced by Mother Dolorita, who recognized that the need was there but the funds were not. During this time Caldwell College for Women was growing and additional housing for residential students was needed. It was agreed to collaborate on a joint fundraising drive. The sisters themselves served as the primary solicitors and approached parishioners and other benefactors. To the amazement of the professional fundraisers who were heading up the drive, the combined effort was highly successful!

Groundbreaking for the sisters’ new infirmary, as well as the new college residence, took place in 1961 and both buildings opened in the spring of 1962. The sisters’ infirmary was placed under the patronage of Saint Catherine of Siena and the new dorm was named Mother Joseph Residence Hall honoring the college’s founding president, Mother Joseph Dunn.

Above: Sisters Maura, Alouise, Mary Dorothy, Marie, Mercedes, and Borromeo attend the dedication of Saint Catherine Infirmary.

Right: Sister Marguerite, Mother Dolorita, Bishop Martin Stanton, and Father Paul C. Perotta, OP at the groundbreaking of Mother Joseph Residence Hall.
Saint Catherine’s provides residential space for retired sisters on the first and third floors. The second floor is reserved for those in need of skilled nursing care. Registered nurses and certified nurses aides provide twenty-four hour nursing coverage.

In 2001, the Congregation submitted an application for the second floor to be certified as a state-licensed skilled nursing facility which was readily granted. The facility, now known as Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Health Care Center, Inc., is subject to annual visitation by the State, where it ranks among the highest such facilities in NJ. The professional staff consists of Deirdre Radtke, RN, LNHA, Administrator, Annmarie Snedeker, RN, Director of Nursing, Sister Patricia Mahoney, OP, Pastoral Care Director, and Kathryn Richards, OPA, Activities Director.

The chapel is the “heart of the house.” In 2006, it was completely renovated to bring it into conformity with new liturgical guidelines. The sanctuary space is enhanced by a beautiful mosaic tabernacle executed by Sister Gerardine Mueller, OP. The chapel is a two story space, allowing room for the large, colorful stained glass windows of the Dominican saints and a glass-enclosed balcony that provides ADA compliant access for the disabled. The in-house cable channel and live streaming service also enables residents to participate in liturgies and community events from their rooms.

As we celebrate the fifty-fifth anniversary of Saint Catherine’s, we acknowledge all those involved in its founding and the numerous individuals who have been part of its history. These 55 years of care and service would not have been possible without the support of so many friends and benefactors. We are grateful!
To Teach as Jesus Did...

OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY AS DOMINICANS OF CALDWELL

Mary John Kearney, OP

We are women of the gospel, preachers, followers of Dominic Guzman and Catherine of Siena. We are ministers of education empowering others to wonder, reflect, study, research, and in turn enlighten others to lead through personal lives of commitment as they pursue truth in all its forms. We continue the mission and legacy of our founding mother, Catherine Muth and all Dominican women who have gone before us as we adjust to changes in society utilizing creative methods and approaches that address the needs of our time.

Our community roots in Ratisbon, Germany provide an ever widening story of the call to ministry through education. The story of four Dominican Second Order nuns’ arrival in Brooklyn in 1853, being left on the pier with no one to meet them, and making their way to settle in a new home, gives credence to the staunch faith and generosity of these missionary sisters who formed the first convent here in America of Dominican women. While still a Second Order community, they were asked to provide education to the immigrant German speaking persons in the area. The history of these early years has been recorded in detail with great description and story-telling charm by Sr. Lois Curry, OP, in her historical narrative, Women after His Own Heart (1998). Preaching through teaching has been a constant throughout the history of the Dominican women of Caldwell since their arrival in New York in 1853.

Education as ministry continues to be at the heart of Caldwell Dominican women’s outreach in the 21st century. The institutions under community sponsorship continue to reflect the charism and mission of our sisters. Their impact on the individual student is like a stone being thrown into a pool of water – the ripple effect is catalytic as waves move outward from the center. They are places to wonder, reflect, and search for truth in all its forms.

There is a saying in our community that simply states, “Where one is we all are.” Caldwell Dominicans continue to be engaged in religious education, early childhood, elementary, secondary, and college/university education. All of these bear witness to the impact Caldwell Dominican sisters have had on the wider community. Our graduates are numbered in the thousands. The influence each of these graduates has had on their communities is immeasurable. We are so grateful to God for the blessings we have received and opportunities to be part of this holy ministry.

While our numbers have decreased we continue to teach and preach through our sponsored works, parish ministry, social services, adult education, hospital pastoral ministry, hospice administration, and educational programs that assist in furthering the work of the church. Genesis Farm, a community sponsored ecological center dedicated to study the unfolding universe story is well-known internationally for its work in understanding our Earth. Link Community School, now a charter school, continues to reflect the impact our sisters have had in the schools’ history. We are blessed with dedicated lay leadership who continue our mission and legacy in each of our sponsored institutions, viz., St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City [founded 1878], Mount St. Dominic Academy, Caldwell [founded 1892], Calvin Institute of Christian Education, and others.
Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair [founded 1920], and Caldwell University, Caldwell [founded 1939]. These institutions continue to provide a quality education that prepares the young with the foundation to achieve their goals in life and success in their chosen careers.

Catholic education as an institution embraces all aspects of human development: body, mind, and spirit leading to the awareness of God, the meaning of becoming a true follower of Jesus, and embracing life in its fullness as each strives to reach his/her potential as a human being. What is it to be Catholic? We not only need the message; but the messenger of the Word. It is the teacher whom God uses to evangelize and sow the seeds that hopefully will blossom into faith-filled people of God.

There is hope for the future as the desire to educate calls others to walk in the footsteps of our sisters whose vision, labor, and dedication continue to inspire others to preach through teaching the Good News of the Lord. What the world hungers for is not just the morsels that fall from the table; but the banquet – the feast from the harvest! Let us pray the Lord will continue to bless the efforts of all who are engaged in the ministry of education – whether formal or informal. The ramifications of a well-educated community contribute untold blessings to the quality of life not only of the individual but to the entire population as a whole.

Years ago – sometime back in the 70s, I recall being engaged in peace education. A method popularized in peace studies was “infusion.” By that was meant whatever the subject area being taught, the tenets of peace and justice might be alluded to – might somehow be related to a few of the lessons of the daily content. This is what happens in Catholic education: the values, morals, ethics are infused and integrated into the content being presented, studied, and reflected. Critical thinking, concerning issues pertinent to the information considered, fosters the search for truth in each discipline. As Dominicans we embrace truth as it unfolds and challenges us to be open to dialogue on the unfolding mysteries of the Universe.

The Caldwell Dominican Community, together with our dedicated laity who minister with us in our institutions, continues to adhere to academic excellence, the development of the whole person, who seek the good, the true, and the beautiful for themselves and for others. We are committed to be a voice for the voiceless seeking a just society within the context of peace and security for all.

What is the world asking of us today? I believe that society, now more than ever, is in need of persons committed to educate our youth and young adults, not only in the rudiments of literacy in subject areas, but also in questioning, exploring, and challenging the issues and problems of today’s world as society struggles to live in harmony, justice and peace. When Jesus was asked, “What can I do?” he used stories and parables to teach his gospel. Today we, too, tell our stories whether it is in the fields of academia, the ecological unfolding of the Universe story, social justice and peace, and/or service to the poor and marginalized. Caldwell Dominicans, our associates, and lay partners in mission are inspired to meet the challenges of the 21st century with great hope and faith, that what we have begun in 1853 will continue for many years to come advancing the mission and ministry of Catholic education.
Imagine walking on old stones, the same ones that Saint Dominic walked on. The Fanjeaux experience was just that, walking on the old stones that our ancestors in the Order trod upon. If nothing else, we glimpsed firsthand the traveling hardships that Dominic faced. We traveled in a lovely coach. He walked up and down a vast hillside to and from Prouille. We could see the monastery of the Dominican nuns of Prouille from the Signadeaux (the point of God) where Dominic stood to look over the magnificent valley. As the crow flies it is about a mile. To walk to it and back up the hill to Fanjeaux is an Olympic feat, which some of our group members did. We traveled to Toulouse, again by air conditioned bus for the hour trip on a highway. For Dominic it had to be several days journey seeking hospitality along the way.

**Toulouse**

In Toulouse we had the great privilege of having Mass in what is the first house where Dominic founded the Order. It was breathtaking to be in the dormitory room, now a small chapel, where Dominic rested and prayed. The experience was a very moving one; to be so close to Dominic in spirit in his actual house. I had the sense that he was in that room with us concelebrating the Mass. It was like being transported back in time and yet being in the present at the same time.
I also had a very strong feeling of being sent to continue the mission. The mission of bringing the good news has been handed to us by Christ, and with the surety and blessing of Dominic we go forth. Words cannot adequately describe the feeling. In Toulouse we also had a visit to the tomb of our brother Thomas Aquinas. He is interred under the main altar in what was the Church of the Jacobins, now a museum. To be able to sit with him and reflect on his contribution to the church was a great moment for so many of us. The influence that he has had on the church, scholarship, and the world is astounding. To think that in this day and age religions can be so narrow and fundamentalist, and here was our Thomas nearly a thousand years ago bringing philosophy, theology, everyday practical life, and common sense together. Growing up in our Dominican schools we always prayed the prayer to Saint Thomas and here I was sitting in his presence and visiting with him.

Fanjeaux
Back in Fanjeaux we visited the place where Dominic lived for 10 years. As a person with a focus on parish life for all of my ministry years, I was happy to know that he served as pastor here and had ups and downs. Of course the original church is long gone. I would have liked to have seen that very early medieval structure. The new church is still very old with an enormous variety of artistic (maybe) styles, but at least we could feel the spirit of Dominic as he walked from church to his Fanjeaux home after ministering to his flock.

In the Couvent Saint Dominque where we stayed is the original altar from the parish church during Dominic’s time. When the new church was being built, this archeological treasure was found buried nearby. It is certain that he celebrated the Eucharist on this altar. Again, for us, a most profound experience to be able to touch it, contemplate in that space, and celebrate the Eucharist.

On the feast of Saint Benedict, by coincidence, we visited Sorèze a very small, quaint French town dating back to the eighth century. It is a beautiful town which grew up alongside a great Benedictine monastery. In the parish church, Notre Dame de Sorèze, we visited the simple grave of Henri-Dominique Lacordaire.

In Sorèze, there is a school which was a prestigious military school for a hundred years. It was originally the monastery school and later handed over to the Dominicans after the French Revolution. The headmaster was none other than Jean Baptiste Lacordaire! I must admit that learning about Lacordaire was a revelation to me. I remembered some vague facts but not the tremendous work he did in three profound ways: he was responsible for reestablishing the Dominican order in France after its decimation during the French Revolution; he brought the women back to Prouille and rebuilt the monastery; he brought back Dominic’s understanding of mission and truth through itinerancy, scholarship, and preaching always looking to the future. He said, “I am a citizen of the future!” He believed firmly that the Order had to move forward with the times and each member had to learn to read the signs of the times and preach with what people could understand, while remaining firm in relationship with Christ and the church. Lacordaire was faithful but took risks to get the Gospel across in many ways. A great quote of his is, “I wish to die a repentant religious but an unrepentant liberal!”
Prouille
I was very excited about being able to visit Prouille, the first foundation of the Order. Dominic spent time there in between his travels with the faithful women who established that monastery with him. Many were probably noblewomen who were able to support the mission of Dominic along with former Cathar women. We met Sister Genevieve who en Français spoke about the foundations of the monastery and the number of disasters and hardships over the centuries. I admit, I was not prepared for these stories. Just a few highlights: the monastery and property was confiscated during the French revolution and destroyed. The statue of Our Lady of Prouille was spirited away and kept for centuries in the home of the family of one of the nuns so it would not be destroyed. It now resides in the parish church of Castlenuaudry.

Sometime after the revolution, there was a revival of the rosary in the area and the bishop wanted them to build a basilica to house the pilgrims at prayer. They started, but it was not finished due to bad contractors and lack of funds. It has sat incomplete since the1920s. Now the tiled roof is falling in so there is a huge net in the middle of this semi-Byzantine structure. A few years ago the monastery caught fire and had to be rebuilt.

With all of this description, the nuns are upbeat. We prayed Vespers with them in a make-shift chapel and were able to meet some of them and see one of the oldest carved images of Dominic.

I was very disturbed by the condition of Prouille as were many of our group. The first foundation of the Order needs to be tended to by the whole Dominican family. We hope to be able to help out in some way.

Carcassonne
Carcassonne is one of the only walled medieval villages in France that was preserved. It has a long history of battles and bloodshed but today is a great tourist destination. Dominic preached in the basilica in 1213 and that basilica was already in use for two hundred years! Our group topped off this visit with a lovely lunch in an outdoor café sampling the cuisine of the area.

I am no stranger to Dominic, Catherine, Dominican history, and writers. Certainly I have spent many years being imbued with the charism from first grade on. However, this experience gave me a new appreciation of the call to mission that Dominic espoused. For example, Dominic’s understanding of contemplation was that it was not for personal holiness but first about being useful to the neighbor, helping others understand the truth and the things necessary to live one’s life to the full. He saw the ministry of preaching, the actual doing, as a means to work out one’s own spirituality. That was not to be done in isolation but rather in the midst of the people, listening to, learning from, and gathering ideas from the world around us.

Our group consisted of Dominican sisters, associates, and faculty members of Dominican schools from the United States, Trinidad, and South Africa. We became a delightful community in just a few days. For all of us it was a deepening experience of who Dominic and our Dominican ancestors are and what they have done over these 800 years. We have come to appreciate this wonderful heritage that we have and continue today. A poem from Teresa of Avila entitled, “I Have No Hands But Yours” describes how we must carry on the mission of Christ in the world. We can apply that to our mission as Dominicans. It is up to us, all of the members of the Order, whatever our status, to be the hands, head, feet, heart of Christ, and our Dominican ancestors in our world today.

From this experience, I have learned that Dominic’s passion for the truth was coupled with compassion. We are his extensions in this time and space and whatever that will look like in the future, these ideals will carry on. As Lacordaire expressed, we are “cityoens de la venir - citizens of the future.”

Right: A painting of Père Lacordaire hangs in the Royal School-Abbay of Sorèze.
Below: Sister Mary Lou, Ana Serra-Prescott, and Sister Donna at Carcassone
NEW ASSOCIATES EMBRACE

The Dominican Mission

“We will journey with this community in carrying forward its mission: to develop a passion for contemplation, to promote social justice and to recognize the sacredness of the earth.”

With these words, six women responded to the call to become associates of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell in a beautiful ceremony on September 17, 2017 in the Motherhouse Chapel. In the presence of sisters, associates, family, and friends they made the commitment “to live the Dominican vocation, charism and mission in communion with the sisters and other associates.” Corinne Thompson, Associate Director, and Sr. Eileen Ivory, Leadership Council Liaison, then presented them with the associate pin and certificate. She then invited their mentors, to bless them and place a prayer shawl on each signifying their spiritual bonding.

The new associates are a diverse group: Gail Bottone is a teacher and has a Masters Degree in Pastoral Ministry. She uses her many gifts at St. Thomas More Church in Fairfield. Johanna Desiderio, office manager of a law firm, is very involved with the Social Concerns Ministry in Saint John the Apostle in Linden. A graduate of Caldwell University, Brittany McFarlane is teaching at Our Lady of the Lake School in Verona. Elizabeth Owen serves as Admissions Assistant and computer teacher at Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair. Maureen McNish, a graduate of Fordham University, works as a Retention Specialist at Caldwell University and was a Trustee and former President of the Board of Education in Caldwell. Karen Siyufy lives in Belvidere, NJ, and is a paralegal/office manager for a law firm in Allentown. She also is a certified Hospital Chaplain.

A moving display of how traditions are carried on and how the torch is passed from generation to generation was in evidence at the ceremony. With the commitment of Brittany McFarlane, the associates now have among its members a mother and two daughters who were all educated in Dominican schools by Caldwell Dominican Sisters. Kathleen McFarlane, their mother, is a graduate of St. Dominican Academy and both daughters, Kaitlyn Tashjian, and Brittany are summa cum laude graduates of Caldwell University. They readily admit that their experience with the Caldwell Dominicans has had a great influence on their lives and in their choice of careers. Not only are they teachers but Catholic school teachers. Kathleen taught at Immaculate Conception in Secaucus and Brittany is currently on the staff of Our Lady of the Lake in Verona. Kaitlyn teaches at Lacordaire Academy and is also the Campus Minister. Kathleen and Kaitlyn are members of the Associate Core Team where they enthusiastically share in the planning and implementation of associate events.

The new associates join a group of seventy others who belong to the Caldwell Dominican family, part of the world-wide Dominican family of priests, nuns, sisters, and laity who desire to live as Dominic and Catherine did, seeking to serve the pressing needs of our time.

ASSOCIATE HAPPENINGS

Beginning in 2016, ongoing formation of associates has been a goal of the Core Team. In October, Sister Elaine Keenan, OP, gave an in-depth look at the Dominican mission through the history and growth of the Order and, in particular, the development of the Caldwell congregation.

In February, the emphasis was on embracing the spirit of Dominic who showed joyfulness in preaching the Gospel. Sister Barbara Moore discussed how to make prayer and other spiritual practices occasions of peace and well being. The final sessions were held in April and May and concentrated on identifying gifts and talents that support the commitment to being an associate. As part of the presentation, Sister Arlene Antczak administered the Myers-Briggs Inventory, which shows the unique personality and motivating traits that determine choices that persons are more likely to make in their relationships, values, and perceptions.

Plans to continue this initiative into the 2018 year began with The Wisdom of the Enneagram for Beginners presented by Sister Pat Wormann, OP, on Sunday October 15, 2017 in the Motherhouse.

A retreat day for Associates was held on November 4, 2017 in the Motherhouse conducted by Edwina Gately, poet and author, who has been described as a contemplative in action. The theme of the day was Call to Personal and Global Transformation.

Valerie Lewis-Mosley, OPA, presented a workshop on Racism on November 11, 2017 in the Motherhouse.

On January 6, 2018 in the Motherhouse from 11-2pm. Associates and sisters will celebrate a new year of being partners in mission.

Sister Honora Werner, OP will conduct a retreat day on Saturday March 24, 2018, entitled A Day in the Life of Saint Catherine of Siena. In the words of Saint Catherine of Siena, “One who knows more, loves more.”

If you are interested in learning more about the associate program, please contact: Corinne Thompson, Director, 201-320-0917.
Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell

2017 Jubilarians

Celebrating 75 Years

Sister Genevieve Marie Long, OP, served in education and pastoral care ministries. She spent twenty-seven years in the classrooms of St. Elizabeth, Linden; St. Catherine, Mobile, Alabama; St. Paul the Apostle, Irvington; St. Catherine, Cedar Grove; Holy Spirit, Union; St. John the Apostle, Clark; and St. Catherine, Spring Lake. Sister Genevieve also served as the Congregation’s Postulant Director and as a nurse’s aide at St. Catherine Healthcare Center in Caldwell. For a number of years, she was a pastoral associate at St. Vincent Hospital in Montclair, Beth Israel Hospital and Passaic General Hospital, both in Passaic. Most recently, Sister Genevieve volunteered as a receptionist at Marian Manor.

Celebrating 60 Years

Sister Lois Kikkert, OP, (Sister Anne Claire) spent twenty years teaching at the following schools: St. Boniface, Jersey City; Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport, Connecticut; St. Ann, Newark; Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell; St. Margaret, Bayou LaBatre, Alabama. She then became a pastoral associate at St. Raphael Parish in Livingston. Sister Lois was and editor and author for the RENEW Process in the Archdiocese of Newark, before returning to pastoral ministry in West Virginia, New Jersey and Illinois. Sister Lois currently assists in the pastoral care ministry at Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Health Care Center.

Sister Barbara Krug, OP, (Sister Mary Victorine) was a teacher at St. Elizabeth, Linden; St. Boniface and Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City; St. Joseph, Union City; Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair; St. Mary, Rutherford before serving as Director of Religious Education at St. Cassian in Upper Montclair. She then joined the Admissions and Development departments at Caldwell University. From 1992 until her retirement in 2016, Sister Barbara was a professor of Theology and served as the Theology and Philosophy Department’s chair.

Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, taught for twelve years at St. Joseph in West Orange, St. Dominic Academy in Jersey City, and Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair. She then became Coordinator of Education for the Archdiocese of Newark’s Institute of Social Justice. Sister Miriam was also Coordinator of Educational Services for Global Education Associates and Art Editor for Whole Earth Papers. In 1980, in order to focus on the New Cosmology and Earth ethics, Sister Miriam co-founded Genesis Farm in Blairstown and has served as Staff Director for 36 years.

Sister Patricia Mahoney, OP, (Sister Mary William) taught at Ascension in New Milford and St. Mary in Rahway before becoming principal at St. Cassian in Upper Montclair. After a few years as a guidance counselor at Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell, Sister Pat was elected to the Caldwell Dominican Leadership Team as Councilor for Formation and then as Vicaress. She returned to the Leadership Team as Councilor for Personal Development after teaching in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, serving as pastoral associate at St. Aedan Parish in Jersey City, and as guidance counselor at St. Catharine in Spring Lake. Sister Pat served as youth/family counselor at St. Peter the Apostle in Parsippany and returned to Mount St. Dominic Academy as a guidance counselor. She currently serves as pastoral care minister at St. Catherine Health Care Center in Caldwell.

Sister Patricia O’Donnell, OP, (Sister Ann Manus) initially taught at the primary level at St. Paul in Irvington before working with middle schoolers at Mt. Carmel in Boonton, St. Joseph in West Orange, and St. Mary in Wharton. Sister Patricia then became the English Department chair at St. Dominic Academy in Jersey City. She also taught at Union Catholic in Scotch Plains and Our Lady of Peace in New Providence before becoming principal of St. Denis in Manasquan. After twenty-two years in education, Sister Patricia served as pastoral minister at Visitation Parish in Brick and then, for fifteen years, as the adult education coordinator at St. Catharine Parish in Spring Lake.

Sister Ann Monica Seemann, OP, began her ministry as a teacher at St. John in Clark before teaching in Mobile, AL, St. Mary in Wharton, Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell, and St. Agnes in Clark. After ten years in education, Sister Ann Monica became a nurse’s aide at St. Catherine’s Health Care
Center before pursuing studies for her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Registered Nurse (RN) licenses. After serving at St. Catherine’s for thirteen years, she became a Registered Nurse and Homecare Coordinator at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck. Today, Sister Ann Monica continues her work in the Congregation’s Development Office.

Sister Anne Sullivan, OP, (Sister Anne Brendan) spent fifteen years teaching at St. Aloysius in Caldwell, Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair, and Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell before becoming a professor of Religion and Theology at Caldwell University. Sister Anne also taught for fourteen years at Seton Hall University in South Orange as a professor of Scripture and Theology. She then spent twelve years presenting on Sacred Scripture as part of the Adult Education Series offered by the Archdioceses of Newark and New York.

Sister Alice Uhl, OP, (Sister Daniel Marie) served as both teacher and principal at a number of schools, including St. Ann in Newark, St. Theresa in Kenilworth, and Project Link in Newark. Sister Alice also served the Congregation as a Councilor on the Leadership Team for four years, as Postulant and Novice Director, and then as Councilor and Vicaress again for another ten years. After ministering as Director of Religious Education at St. Catherine in Spring Lake, Sister Alice began her current ministry as pastoral associate at St. Aloysius in Caldwell.

Celebrating 50 Years

Sister Donna L. Ciangio, OP, is the director of Church Leadership Consultation and works internationally and nationally in promoting parish vitality and pastoral direction, congregational and leadership development, faith formation, small Christian communities, consulting with parishes and dioceses, and in many other areas. She served as the international coordinator for RENEW International and the Director of Pastoral Services of the National Pastoral Life Center and as parish consultant for the Jesuit Conference USA. Sister Donna serves as the Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills, New Jersey; an adjunct professor in Drew University’s Doctor of Ministry program; and a consultant for RCL Benziger Publishing Company.

Sister Patricia Tavis, OP, taught at St. Joseph in West Orange and St. Catherine in Elizabeth before joining the faculty of Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair. After serving as principal at Lacordaire, Sister Pat taught at St. Michael in Union. She then spent nineteen years as principal of Aquinas Academy in Livingston. After 38 years in education, during which time she also lectured in the Education Department at Caldwell University, Sister Pat became Director of Sponsored Institutions for the Congregation. Sister Pat is currently serving as a member of the Congregation’s Leadership Team.

Celebrating 40 Years

Sister Lena Picillo, OP, began her ministry as a teacher at Our Lady of the Lake in Verona. She then taught at Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell until she joined the faculty at St. Philomena, now Aquinas Academy, in Livingston. There, she served as a teacher, vice principal, and principal before becoming principal of St. Catharine in Spring Lake. Sister Lena then became the Early Childhood director and vice principal at Trinity Academy in Roseland and Caldwell. Before serving as pastoral associate for social concerns at St. Aloysius Parish and as a guidance counselor at Trinity, Sister Lena was principal of St. Virgil in Morris Plains. She then was principal at St. Peter’s in Parsippany and at Aquinas Academy in Livingston for a second time. Currently, Sister Lena is working in campus ministry at Mount Saint Dominic Academy.

Celebrating 25 Years

Sister Uchenna Okereke, OP, began her ministry teaching at both St. Mary’s High School and St. Dominic Academy in Jersey City and at Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth. After attending medical school, she completed a residency program at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Paterson. Recently, Sister Uchenna began an Infectious Disease Fellowship at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School at University Hospital in Newark. In October of this year Sister Uchenna was certified as a diplomat in Internal Medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine.
We will commit ourselves to deepen our studying, living and teaching the mysteries of the universe and the sacredness of all creation. We resist the ongoing devastation of our planet by a contemplative scrutiny of our use/abuse of Earth’s gifts.

_Sisters of Saint Dominic Vision Statement, 1995_

Since 1995 our congregation has attempted to put this vision statement into practice. We installed solar panels, eliminated bottled water and Styrofoam containers from our meetings, distributed materials regarding environmental issues and eco-spirituality, held study groups, conferences, and field trips. Our efforts have always included an educational component so that others will be encouraged to deepen their understanding and respect for the sacredness of all creation.

The building of Sacred Heart Convent has enabled us to realize many initiatives that promote sustainability and make the vision statement an even greater reality. Three among many of these initiatives are the raised-bed gardens, bee hives, and a prayer/reflection garden.

Beekeepers across the United States lost 44 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2015 to April 2016, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. [www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com)

This is happening as a result of a combination of factors including the use of toxic chemicals to spray crops. So we decided to put beehives on our property thanks to our beekeeper, Michael Frey. Our beehives remind people of their importance and the necessity of keeping bees, and support the population of bees in New Jersey. For that reason we do not use chemicals on Sacred Heart property, and also have planted flowers needed by bees and other pollinators.

Honey bees are important pollinators. Bees pollinate more than 80 percent of our flowering crops, which constitute one-third of everything we eat. More than 100 agricultural crops in the United States are pollinated by bees.

Honey is a powerhouse of health benefits. Especially, local honey may relieve seasonal allergies as well as provide nutrients, soothe coughs, boost memory, and is antibacterial and anti-inflammatory. ([National Institute of Health](https://www.nia.nih.gov/))
**Raised Beds**

**AT SACRED HEART CONVENT**

*Raised beds offer a simple and effective way to create a healthy and productive garden.*

They provide easy accessibility and ease of working within the beds, and also are low-maintenance garden options for gardeners. People who have difficulty bending and stretching can have easier access to plant as well as harvest the vegetables and herbs.

They are also great choices for areas lacking a lot of space. In addition, they provide plants with a rich growing media with a loose structure that allows for good air circulation around the roots and provides good drainage even in heavy rains.

We planted the raised beds, not only to enjoy the fresh organic produce, but also as a demonstration and educational tool. At a time when industrial agriculture is environmentally unsustainable and a risk to our health, we encourage using alternative sources for our food – farmers’ markets, Jersey Fresh, backyard gardens, organic, etc.

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**Prayer/Reflection Garden**

*“In the garden the door is always open into the holy.”*  
May Sarton

As a way of deepening our understanding of the sacredness of creation, we have established a prayer/reflection garden next to Sacred Heart Convent.

This land is a reminder of our need for open space where we can sit in stillness and reflect on creation as a revelation of the divine. This natural haven brings us to a deeper realization of our common history, unity, and our interdependence with Earth and its integrity, dynamism, and beauty.

This sanctuary in the midst of a busy neighborhood promotes a peaceful environment set apart from the distractions of daily life to encourage us to deepen our understanding of the Spirit’s action in creation, in our lives, and in the world. It is hoped that the peace experienced here will spread and bring greater peace to our world.
In 2000, the Sisters of Saint Dominic agreed to support a new concept in spiritual programming that eventually became known as The Lumen Center. The objective was to create a space where people who desired to deepen their relationship with God could join together in prayer, study, and action grounded in the contemplation of God, of justice, and the sacredness of Earth.

Attendees gather for days of retreat, presentations, book discussions, and spiritual direction. Since its beginning, the Lumen Center has engaged more than two hundred speakers who have shared their insights on a wide range of topics. While the Center is located at the Caldwell Dominican Motherhouse, the directors often are invited to extend The Lumen Center’s ministry to various locations, which adds to the convenience of participants.

The Lumen Center is staffed by Sister Patricia Crowley, OP, MCS, Director and Kathleen Detlet, D.Min., Assistant Director. Joan Cappa, OPA, in addition to her role as Administrative Assistant, prepares delicious meals, which are enjoyed by all before each program.

In the spirit of Saint Dominic, The Lumen Center does endeavor to “sow the seed, not hoard it.”

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