On Friday, September 19, 2014, the Caldwell University community came together at the Newman Center for a Mass and Convocation marking the institution’s 75th anniversary since its founding as the Caldwell College for Women by the Sisters of Saint Dominic under the leadership of Mother Joseph Dunn, O.P.

Father Paul Murray, O.P., an Irish Dominican from the Angelicum in Rome, celebrated a very moving Mass and gave the Convocation’s inspiring keynote address. Alumnae Betty Glenn Matuszak and Rosemary Gelshenen, from Caldwell College’s first graduating class of 1943, represented all alumni by leading the formal academic procession.

In her Convocation remarks, Caldwell University President Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., OPA, touchingly paid tribute to the Sisters of Saint Dominic for their Dominican leadership, steadfast efforts, and continuing support. President Blattner honored Mother Joseph, “who worked tirelessly … to implement her vision to provide young women of simple means an opportunity for a Catholic college education.” She also noted that beginning with Mother Joseph, Dominican leadership “continued for more than six decades under presidents Sister Marguerite Coss, O.P., Sister Anne John O’Loughlin, O.P., Sister Edith Magdalen Visic, O.P., Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., and Sister Patrice Werner, O.P.,” ensuring that Mother Joseph’s labors would not be in vain.

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Dear Friends,

Following a long standing tradition, each year in mid-December the Sisters of Saint Dominic and the Dominican Associates “come home” to the Motherhouse in Caldwell as a family. With love and gratitude we celebrate our beginnings, we rejoice in our present, and we share our hopes for the future. We enjoy a meal together with lots of animated conversation. The highlight of the day is a prayer service in which we honor Mother Catherine Muth, our foundress and all our sisters who went before us. We ask God’s blessing and guidance as we move forward to new challenges and further opportunity for service in the name of our mission. And always prayerfully we bring to the Lord the names of our many loyal friends who have given us so much in faithful and generous support through the years.

The pages that follow are really a continuation of this celebration. They are a collection of thanks for our many blessings. The joy, peace, and love that fill us as we look over this list of our extended family are feelings we wish to share with you always.

Blessings,

Sister Arlene Antczak, OP
Prioress
CELEBRATING DOMINICAN WOMEN

25 Year Jubilee
Kathleen Tuite, OP

60 Year Jubilee
Margaret Mary Meyer, OP
Mary McGuinness, OP
Veritas Picardi, OP
Danelle McCarthy, OP
Catherine Reilly, OP
Patrice Werner, OP
Gerarda Panek, OP
de Montfort Kinchellagh, OP

70 Year Jubilee
Jean Therese Thompson, OP
Bernadette Michael Makely, OP
Catherine Therese Jewell, OP
Elizabeth Francis Brisson, OP

75 Year Jubilee
Gerardine Mueller, OP
Mary Amelia Cetera, OP
Margaret Virginia Blum, OP

Dominican Associate
Vilma Mueller, OPA

The Leadership of the Sisters of Saint Dominic has affirmed Vilma Mueller as the new Director of the Caldwell Dominican Associates (OPA) program. Vilma has been working at Caldwell University since 2007, most recently as the Director of Graduate Studies.

Her first direct connection with the Sisters of Saint Dominic was shortly after she learned of the Centro Fe y Alegría Espíritu Santo, a rural school, run by Sister Pat Stringer, OP in Vilma’s native Dominican Republic. Vilma said that during a trip to the Dominican Republic, she “went to visit the school and experienced firsthand the amazing strides the ministry brought to an extremely impoverished area in the southern region.”

After returning home to the US, she felt compelled not only to know more of the Sisters’ mission, but to also support them by becoming an Associate in 2010.

For the last four years, Vilma served as OPA Formation Coordinator. The Formation Committee invites new lay persons who are attracted to the Caldwell Dominican charism, to join in and support the Sisters’ ministries in Education, Social Justice, Contemplative Prayer and Community Outreach.

Vilma is honored to accept the position of OPA Director and is committed to continue in the footsteps of her mentor and former Director, Mary Lanni, to further advance the OPA commitment to the four pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community and Mission.

To learn more, please visit www.caldwellop.org/caldwell-associates.
We Remember Those Who Have Gone Before Us…
The Sisters of Saint Dominic are grateful to all those who have given in memory of a deceased family member, friend or co-worker. The following list includes deceased individuals whose friends and family named us recipients of memorial gifts during the year 2014.*

Sister Rita Margaret Chambers, OP
Mrs. Anne P. Ciuba
Mrs. Theresa Foran
Sister Mary Alicia Giles, OP
Sister Marietta Anne Harding, OP
Sister Marie Frances Kling, OP
Ms. Dolores Kluczyk

Mr. Daniel Morrell
Mrs. Loretta K. Owen
Sister Rose Martin Ping, OP
Sister Stella Potvin, OP
Ms. MoiraSharkey
Mrs. Angela M. Tedesco
Sister Alice Matthew Thees, OP

Ms. Carol Treger

The following list includes estates from which the Sisters of Saint Dominic received bequests during the year 2014.*

Miss Gertrude M. Conrad
Ms. Catherine Gallagher
Rev. Eduard C. Visich Trust

Mr. William Gill
Sally J. Haley

We are grateful.

We hold all of our donors and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers.

* If a name was inadvertently omitted, we apologize for the oversight as this was not intentional. Please let us know so that we may include your loved one in a future issue.

We are blessed to have enormously dedicated partners supporting us at every step, including many who have chosen to help secure our future through deferred gifts.

The Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle honors the commitment of our benefactors. We are deeply grateful for the strong bond we share and for the special legacies you build with our Community.

We invite you to join the member of the Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle who enjoy the rewards of creating a lasting legacy and the satisfaction of knowing that they provide the resources needed to sustain our Mission.

Your investment in the Dominican pillars of Common Prayer, Study, Mission and Community is an investment in the future of our tradition.

Membership in the Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle

Individuals who remember The Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, NJ in their estate plans or establish other planned gifts are invited to join the Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle with no minimum gift amount, no fees or dues, and no distinction made regarding the size or type of gift. Many types of planned gift arrangements may enable you to make a more significant gift than you thought possible while, at the same time, allowing you to achieve your financial and estate planning goals.

Please contact us for more information or let us know how we can help you: development@caldwellop.org

Thank You to our newest Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle Members:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Healy and Ms. Joan Boehmer Collins
Caldwell University’s Tribute to the Sisters of Saint Dominic

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Dr. Blattner made a special presentation to Prioress Arlene Antczak, O.P., of an oil painting entitled “Dominic’s Path” by Maureen E. Carey, Ph.D. in recognition of the debt that Caldwell University owes to all the members of the Sisters of Saint Dominic. “To each of these leaders and to the many other Sisters of Saint Dominic of the American Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” Dr. Blattner continued, “who have served as faculty and staff members for the past 75 years, Caldwell owes special appreciation, for it was from the fruits of their missionary labors and their love that Caldwell College was born and flourished.”

Indeed, Mother Joseph’s work continues today through the following Sisters who teach or serve on staff on the campus: Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., Sister Catherine Waters, O.P., Sister Barbara Krug, O.P., Sister Barbara Moore, O.P., Sister Deborah Lynch, O.P., and Sister Michel Rodgers, O.P. These sisters will continue to play significant roles in Caldwell University’s next 75 years and beyond since the Caldwell Dominicans, like Dominic as represented in Dr. Carey’s painting, are ever looking forward with the good news in hand.
What Our Donors are Saying:

“My heart still fills with joy when I recall my year with Sister.”

A reflection by former student Joseph Healy excerpted from his work The Beloved Disciple

Sister Rosita taught us that God is love, telling us about God the Father’s great love for His Son and for us. His son was born of the Virgin Mary and grew up in a small town called Nazareth. She named Him Jesus. Sister told us that Jesus was a boy just like us in every way but sin. There were no other exceptions. Each day of our life, we should take time out and get to know this boy better and He will lead us on life’s journey: a journey to the Kingdom of God His Father. “Do not be afraid” Sister taught, Jesus would be with us always. If the journey became overwhelming or extremely difficult, He would send others into your life to walk with you, making your burden light. It was said among her peers that Sister M. Rosita Krompinger, OP had a special gift for teaching small children. “My memory reveals: in a nine month period, she transformed me. Yes, there were 35 students in her class and yet she singled out one boy that needed help. Month by month, step by step, she turned shyness into ‘I can do it.’”

We Love to Hear from Our Readers!

Please share your thoughts & experiences: Development@CaldwellOP.org

Thank You
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2014

THE FLAME
WINTER 2015

“From the beginning of life’s memories, I put two people at the top of the list. Two people who played a major role laying the foundation both religiously and socially. The two had something in common; they were schoolteachers, my mother and Sister Rosita.”

(In correspondence to the Development Office March, 2008)