May you be blessed

with Dominic’s gift of leadership of the first friars that values prayer and study as the foundation of the Holy Preaching.

May God bless you

with Catherine of Siena’s and Rose of Lima’s gifts of contemplative prayer and faithful companionship of Jesus.

May God bless you

with Thomas Aquinas’ gifts of devotion and reverence for the sacrament of Eucharist.

May God bless you

with Vincent Ferrer’s and Lacordaire’s gifts for zeal in preaching the Word of God.

May God bless you

with Martin de Porres’ and Margaret of Hungary’s gifts of commitment to justice through compassion and care for people who are poor, sick, and in need of assistance.

May God bless you

with Agnes of Montepulciano’s gift of cheerful service of the sisters in her monastery, always offered willingly and with charity and grace.

May God bless you

with Montesinos’ gift to speak and preach Truth to power.

May God bless you

with Las Casas’ gift of ministry to native peoples and Pope Francis’ gift of joyful evangelization that calls us to live the Gospel by our outreach to those who are marginalized and neglected.

May God bless you

with the gift of courage of the four Sisters who left Regensburg to minister to the German immigrants in America.

May God bless you

with the gift of Mother Catharine’s love and care for the sisters, which empowered her to make difficult and wise decisions for the common good of the young community.

May you be blessed

by the prayerful intercession for you of all the Caldwell Dominican sisters upon whose shoulders you stand today.

Sister Peggy Ryan, OP and Sister Pat Mahoney, OP.

The women elected to the Council bring together a rich variety of personal gifts and professional experience:

Sister Patricia Werner, O.P. (Above Second from Left) holds a Ph.D. in French from New York University. She assumes the position of Prioress as an experienced executive, having served in administration at Caldwell College (now Caldwell University) for thirty-three years, as President for fifteen of those years.

Sister Elsie Bernauer, O.P., Vicaress (Above Second from Right) holds degrees in Religious Studies and Culture and Spirituality. Her résumé includes educational and pastoral ministries from San Francisco to the Bahamas.

Sister Eileen Ivory, O.P. (Above Right) with an M.A. in Religious Studies from Villanova University, has served for fourteen years as Associate for Pastoral Care in Saint Aloysius Parish in Jackson, New Jersey and has served in varied positions on the Congregation’s Formation Team.

Sister Patricia Tavis, O.P. (Above Left) once Principal of Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair and Aquinas Academy, Livingston, has a doctorate in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University and most recently served as Director of Caldwell Dominican Sponsored Institutions.
September 2015

The Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell enjoy a long and beautiful tradition of love and service for God's people. Compassion and professionalism have always been our guidelines as we minister in education, pastoral works, health care, environmental concerns, and social justice. Our model is Saint Dominic himself who committed his Order to “...meeting the needs of the times.”

As the newly elected prioress of the Caldwell Dominicans, I embrace my role with enthusiasm and great anticipation for fulfilling the goals set forth at our Chapter of Life and Mission, which took place last February. There we considered and discussed at length many of today’s issues and, as a community, decided to broaden our horizons, to praise, to bless, and to preach in a new and different way.

We realize, in this age of rapid evolution, that we must be able to adjust and adapt quickly. So with pride we resolve to strengthen our relationships with the larger Dominican Community and broaden our avenues of collaboration in order that we create an Enduring Future, not just for our Congregation but for the entire Dominican Order. Together, we will explore and address the needs of our times; we will study and explore the new cosmology with greater depth and intensity; and we will educate ourselves and those around us about ways to address climate change.

We are, of course, not without our challenges. But relying on God’s grace and our own resourcefulness, we move forward with confidence knowing quite certainly that in doing so we bring the message of God’s love and care for all.

On behalf of all Caldwell Dominicans, I offer special thanks to you, our faithful supporters. We are constantly inspired and encouraged by your ever-present generosity. Your interest and participation are always welcome and we are grateful you are with us as we begin this new moment in our community. We rely on your prayers that our efforts may be blessed. And we send you our sincere promise that you will be remembered each day as the Sisters gather together in prayer.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve my Sisters in community, and to serve you.

Sister Patrice
Patrice Werner, OP
Prioress
On June 28, 2015 at a Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Carl Arico in the Motherhouse Chapel, Sister Patrice Werner, Prioress, together with Sister Elsie Bernauer, Vicaress, and Sisters Eileen Ivory and Patricia Tavis, Councilors, formally assumed administration of the Caldwell Dominican Congregation. Sister Arlene Antczak, the eleventh Prioress of the Congregation, concluded her fifteen years of leadership by welcoming the gathering, which included her four predecessors: Sisters Vivien Jennings, Margaret Thomas McGovern, Ann Marie Rimmer, and Joan Doyle.

The Rite of Installation, incorporated into the Mass of Transition, elicited acceptance of the responsibilities of office first from Sister Patrice. The new Prioress then called forth each new Councilor. After the outgoing Leadership Team placed symbolic stoles on their successors, Sister Patrice led her Council in a Statement of Commitment. Members of the Congregation responded by accepting their own corresponding responsibilities of support, cooperation, creativity, and initiative.

The transition ceremony and celebratory meal that followed were attended not only by Caldwell sisters but also by representatives of all those with whom they share life and mission. Dominican associates, administrators and trustees of sponsored ministries, Dominican leadership from other Northeastern congregations, the entire Motherhouse support staff, colleagues, former students, family members and friends filled the Motherhouse chapel, vividly bringing to realization the theme of Sister Ann Marie Rimmer’s homily, *Light shared is light multiplied.*

The Mass of Transition joyously culminated the Chapter theme of *Embracing the Unfolding Mystery,* which began last February with the Chapter of Life and Mission and continued into April’s elections, witnessed for the first time by our Dominican associates.
SISTER PATRICE WERNER, OP

Having served as president of Caldwell College (now Caldwell University) for fifteen years, Sister Patrice Werner is no stranger to the challenges of leadership. Following her sabbatical, Sister returned to a somewhat slower pace (including her passion for tennis, poetry and expert photography). In April of this year, she generously responded yet again to the call of her community, accepting election as the twelfth Prioress of the Caldwell Dominican Congregation.

In the Dominican tradition, the title Prioress means first among equals. Sister is well prepared for the challenges that await. Highly educated, with a Ph.D. from New York University and additional study at Harvard and Aix-en-Provence, France, she is comfortable with an inclusive leadership style. She is committed, along with the other members of the Leadership Team, to engage all of the sisters to participate in the decisions that will move the Congregation forward.

These are difficult times for all small religious communities, she acknowledges. Over the next few years we will need to continue to reflect on our Dominican legacy and empower our sponsored institutions to hold, go forward, and preach even more effectively the Dominican charism to the world. That charism is defined by four essential pillars: Prayer, Study, Community and Mission. Through the many national and international gatherings of religious leaders, Sister Patrice will be the public face of the Caldwell Dominicans, well able to articulate the spiritual importance of the Dominican mission.

Of course, there will be less time for tennis and photography! But I don’t intend to abandon these pursuits altogether, she explains. Through tennis, I’ve met some wonderful people, many of whom had never met a sister before. This too is a ministry. And as for the ‘haiga’, (her favorite combination of artistic photography and reflective poetry in the Japanese tradition of haiku), - it calms my soul and enlightens my spiritual journey.

SISTER ELSIE BERNAUER, OP

Sister Elsie Bernauer is well prepared for her new role as Vicaress, having already ministered on the Caldwell Leadership Team for the last five years. In this capacity she will work closely with the Prioress and act on her behalf in Sister Patrice’s absence. Sister Elsie will continue to serve on the Boards of Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Genesis Farm and Saint Catherine’s Convent and Healthcare Center.

By the year of 2020, Sister Elsie states, our understanding of the deep implications of the New Cosmology will be manifested in the decisions we are making as a Community. It will be evident in our lifestyle that we have embraced the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, and that we are truly living up to our corporate stance on climate change.

As a certified Chaplain, a licensed massage therapist, and a Reiki Master Sister Elsie uses Pastoral Massage to help ease the suffering of AIDS patients and homeless people. She explains that providing them with the experience of human touch allows an outlet for patients to relax and open up. It’s very healing on many levels. Through human touch life comes forth.

I’ve been a Caldwell Dominican for over fifty years, Sister Elsie asserts. No matter what I was doing, whether teaching, working in the missions with Haitian refugees in Abaco, Bahamas, or working with AIDS patients in the hospitals, I have loved every minute of it. From the depth of her own contemplative spirit, Sister Elsie clearly conveys her own vision for life.
Sister Eileen Ivory returns to Caldwell as a newly elected member of the Dominican Leadership Team following her years as a Pastoral Associate at Saint Aloysius Parish in Jackson, New Jersey. Honored and humbled is how she describes her feelings upon being selected for her new leadership responsibility.

Sister will be a supportive presence on the Boards of La Cordaire Academy, Saint Dominic Academy, and Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center and will serve as leadership liaison for the Caldwell Dominican Associates. She is a seasoned and effective preacher who looks forward to new opportunities to preach out of the fullness of her Scriptural reflection and her own lived experience. Her formal education provides a solid foundation for the continuation of this pastoral approach.

Sister Eileen spent the years before parish ministry in education as an elementary school teacher and administrator. She also taught at the high school level, dividing her years between the Religious Studies Departments at Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City and Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell. Sister says that some of her happiest days were in the classroom.

Sister Eileen finds inspiration and empowerment in community with such a dedicated group of Dominican women. As the future unfolds, Sister Eileen reflects, unforeseen challenges will undoubtedly be presented to both our Congregation and the world around us. In these moments, we need to communicate, indeed we must model the reality that the violent response is never the answer. As Dominicans we can become bearers of that positive response. It may not change the world but it may bring hope.

Sister Patricia Tavis has served as Director of Sponsored Works for all Caldwell Dominican institutions. She received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University. As a new member of the Leadership Team, she will bring valuable familiarity as she continues as the Council’s liaison with Caldwell University, Marian Manor, Siena Village and Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center. As part of the new Leadership Team, Sister Pat has also been designated as Secretary General of the Congregation.

Sister Pat believes that her life as a Dominican allows her to be part of the wonderful legacy of preaching the gospel in many different areas, including the Congregation’s sponsored works. The ongoing process of sponsoring institutions is a means of bringing the mission, charism, and traditions of the Congregation to bear fruit in new ways for future generations, Sister Pat reflects.

From her early commitment as a candy striper at Saint Elizabeth Hospital (now Trinitas) to her role as a Dominican teacher, school administrator and adjunct professor at Caldwell University, Sister Pat has seen her own leadership style evolve over the years. She has learned the intrinsic value of listening and empowering others. Be honest in conversation. Engage others through committee work, which gives them a stake in decision-making. And above all, stay mindful in prayer as you move into decision-making.
CELEBRATING DOMINICAN WOMEN

“Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service.”

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

Sister Vivien Jennings, OP
former Priorress and President of Caldwell University (College), retires from her position as Community Media Coordinator and Website Developer.

Sister Patricia McKeary, OP
has been a teacher, principal, and counselor. She leaves her most recent ministry as Community Archivist.

Sister Donna Marie O’Brien, OP
served as principal of Saint John the Apostle School (a Blue Ribbon School) in Clark, NJ for 34 devoted years.

Sister Patricia McKeary, OP
served as principal of Saint John the Apostle School (a Blue Ribbon School) in Clark, NJ for 34 devoted years.

Sister Mary Agnes Sullivan, OP
was principal for 25 grace-filled years at Our Lady of the Lake, a Blue Ribbon School in Verona, NJ.

Sister Mary Joseph Bircsak, OP

B.A., Biology
Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ
M.S., Interdepartmental Biological Science
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
MINISTRIES
Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell, teacher;
Union Catholic Girls High School, Scotch Plains, teacher and Chair of the Science Department;
Caldwell University, Caldwell, Science Professor, Director of Admissions, Dean of External Affairs;
Ingersoll Group, Inc., Denver, CO, Consultant - Enrollment and Marketing Management;
Siena Village at Wayne, Wayne, Resident Manager

Sister Jane Marie Smith, OP
retires from her ministry as Superior to the retired sisters at Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center.

Mother Theresa
B.A., Biology
Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ
M.S., Interdepartmental Biological Science
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
MINISTRIES
Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell, teacher;
Saint Joseph, Union City, teacher;
Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport, CT, teacher;
Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, teacher, Vice Principal;
Student Assistance/Family Counselor;
Corpus Christi, Chatham, Pastoral Associate - Family Life;
Caldwell University, Caldwell, Counselor, Substance Awareness - Wellness Center

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS CELEBRATE!
September 8, 1965 - September 8, 2015

May the Lord Bless You for all Your works in His name!

To learn more, please visit:
www.caldwellop.org
Membership in the Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle

Individuals who remember The Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, New Jersey 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 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 our Major Gifts Officer for more information: Marie Cianci, 973.403.3331 x46 or mcianci@caldwellop.org

Thank You to our newest Caldwell Dominican Heritage Circle Member:
Mrs. June Schott

$25,000 in OPSCC GRANTS AWARDED for 2015-2016

The OPSCC is a partnership of five Northeast Dominican Communities committed to working together to address the realities of today’s world. Together, Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Blauvelt, Caldwell, Hope and Sparkill effect positive change in the areas of Climate Justice, Economic Justice, Immigration and Migration, Human Trafficking, and Peace and Security of Life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING Awardees:

ACTION to AID the UNDOCUMENTED-DETAINED
Sister deMontfort Kinchellagh (Caldwell) and
Sister Mary Feigen (Hope)

DOMINICAN COLLEGE/MOLLOY COLLEGE
Sister Diane Capuano (Amityville)

1st WAY LIFE CENTER
Sister Dolores Gartanutti (Amityville)

THE HAITI CIRCLE of SUPPORT
Sister Didi Madden (Blauvelt)

INFANT JESUS HOUSE
Sister Arlene Flaherty (Blauvelt)

SUNLIGHT in PAKISTAN
Sister Eileen Gannon (Sparkill) and
Sister Ceil Lavan (Blauvelt)

SUPPORT INITIATIVES in CLIMATE FINANCE
Sister Patricia Daly (Caldwell)

UN DOMINICAN VOLUNTEER PROJECT
Sister Margaret Mayce (Amityville)

In this new moment of Dominican Life, we recognize the global need for truth, compassion and justice and each Congregation’s commitment to collaboration. We commit ourselves: to deeper contemplation desiring to see the newness of God as it unfolds in this time; to be and to do together what we cannot sustain alone especially in response to the hungers of this world; to share our resources, finances and membership in this endeavor; to call each member forth to engage in meaningful dialogue, honest sharing of information, ideas, gifts, and a willingness to move into new ventures, and even to alter ministries and activities.

We stand on the brink of a new moment and say an intentional “YES.”

Committed Collaboration Statement 12/01/14

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Agnes Bernard
Duggan, OP

Entered into Life ~ June 13, 1924
Entered Dominican Life ~ August 10, 1942
Entered into Eternal Life ~ August 1, 2015

In her 75 years of service to the Church and its people, Sister Agnes shared her deep spirituality and intensely creative energies as a teacher and member of the Caldwell Dominican Leadership Team. While at Saint Thomas Moore in Fairfield, New Jersey, Sister Agnes instructed a core of teenage students to develop and produce a weekly cable show which still airs today as A Dominican Way.
Saints in Focus: Juan Macías • September 18

From Shepherd of Sheep to . . .

Most of us think of Dominic, Catherine, Thomas Aquinas and Martin de Porres when asked about Dominican saints. True to his life’s pattern, Saint Juan Macías remains hidden from public notice! This shepherd boy from Spain emigrated to Peru in 1610. He knew the travails of immigrants: uprooting, unfamiliarity, fears, frustrations. So it is appropriate to remember him today. In Lima he sought out the Dominican friars and joined them as a lay brother in 1623. He was assigned to be porter of the priory, so instead of a life of silent contemplation, his ministry entailed meeting Christ in people all day long. Those in great need came to him for food, healing and counsel. Wealthy and poor, all found a home in his heart. His small donkey went with him through the city collecting alms and distributing them. The little beast learned the route so well that Juan would send him out alone to collect donations. Sometimes, he would bray loudly to call people to contribute! Juan became good friends with another Dominican lay brother, Martin de Porres, who lived in a different priory. Together with the lay Dominican, Rose, they represent a trio of sanctity in that South American city. Obedience prevailed over Juan’s natural inclination toward solitude, and he remained in his porter ministry, preaching by his presence and charity, for 20 years until his death.