THE COMMUNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

On April 12, 2015, following a Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda in the Motherhouse Chapel, the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell elected Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., the 12th Prioress of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart.

The delegates then elected three sisters to assist her in implementing the community's corporate vision for the next five years: Sister Elsie Bernauer, O.P., Vicaress, and Sisters Eileen Ivory, O.P. and Patricia Tavis, O.P., Councilors. The new administration will take office June 28, 2015 with a Mass of Transition in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Look for more about our new leadership team in the fall issue of the FLAME.
Every five years, the Caldwell Dominican Sisters call forth four Sisters to serve as the Prioress and Council. It has been my privilege to serve as the Prioress for the past ten years and in June I will pass the torch to my successor, Sister Patrice Werner and her Council.

It is impossible to leave without expressing my profound gratitude to each and every one of you. Whether it was a request for prayers or a response to a need, you were there supporting our sisters, the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Saint Dominic.

With you, 

We have had a Powerful Past,
We are blessed with a Purposeful Present,
We trust in God’s provident will for a Promising Future.

With you,
We have sustained nine Sponsored Ministries,
We have continued to minister in education, parish religion programs, retreat work, social justice endeavors, hospital ministry, pastoral ministry and counseling.

With you,
We have been able to meet the needs of our Sisters to live the common life by:

- Renovation of Saint Catherine Convent Chapel
- Renovation of the Motherhouse 3rd and 4th floors
- Construction of Sacred Heart Convent which houses 33 Sisters.

As we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart and our transition of leadership, know “You are ever a part of our lives and the good you have shared will live on in our Hearts”.

Sister Arlene Antczak, OP 
Prioress
SACRED HEART APPEAL

Channels of Jesus’ Sacred Heart

As the Church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we Dominicans of Caldwell take special delight. As a Congregation dedicated to the Sacred Heart we try with our lives to reflect that great love and compassion. Yes, we do this in our personal lives, but we imitate Saint Dominic in approaching suffering with a structural response as well. When he witnessed the plight of slaves during his student years in Palencia, he sold his precious books to ransom them. But he also organized students and faculty to offer relief as well! As Dominicans we commit ourselves to structures that channel Jesus’ great love and compassion to others.

The oldest of these structures, our schools, still teach and form new generations of disciples in and through the loving ministry of the sisters and our colleagues. In fact, one of our schools, Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City, is actually older than the Congregation itself! It was founded when we were still part of the New York community of Dominicans. True to our original mission, it still serves many daughters of immigrants. Mount Saint Dominic Academy and Lacordaire Academy continue the mission of educating children in the suburbs, forming them as passionate and compassionate disciples with hearts for justice. Caldwell University serves students from all over the world, witnessing the loving compassion of Jesus, as well as educating them in the awareness of how their lives can channel His loving mercy, whatever religious tradition they embrace. We continue to serve in parish schools where the education is nationally recognized as “Blue Ribbon” and the children and their parents grow in discipleship as well.

Our ministries of education now reach out to people of all ages through our work in parishes, hospice care, and cable TV productions designed to help proclaim the love and mercy of Jesus to even more hearts. Some of our sisters serve on the theological faculties of other universities and graduate schools extending our mission even further.

In the last several decades the channels of Jesus’ love and compassion have expanded to meet the needs of our frail elderly sisters and family members. Saint Catherine Healthcare Center continues to impress state officials, medical professionals, and the families and residents with the exquisite care and Spirit of Jesus they experience there. Extending our reach even further, a sister ministers as a medical doctor in a local urban hospital. These ministries reflect the healing compassion of the Heart of Jesus.

Earth herself knows the tender love and mercy of Jesus through the globally recognized ministry of Genesis Farm. Our Sisters and colleagues in ministry continue to learn how to work for justice for Earth through the efforts of “the Farm.” As people grow in awareness of threats to Earth’s health, this ministry becomes more evidently valuable.

With all these structural responses to the cries for mercy and compassion, we also continue to work for justice for Earth, for immigrants and for trafficked people in collaboration with other Dominican Sisters in the United States. Together we try to be the voice of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, proclaiming “Good News to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed” (Luke 4:18).

And on this very special feast day, we ask that you please continue to help us channel the Sacred Heart of Jesus through your prayers and financial support.

With love and gratitude,

Sister Arlene Antczak, OP
Prioress
Chapter 2015

EMBRACING THE UNFOLDING MYSTERY TOGETHER

The 2015 Elective General Chapter culminated a two-part process which engaged the entire congregation in a prayerful effort to discern the will of the Holy Spirit for its future.

From the voting delegates and observers whose attendance triumphed over brutal February weather, to patients and staff in Saint Catherine’s Health Care Center who watched the proceedings on closed-circuit TV, to indefatigable support staff from all over The Mount, everyone contributed to an atmosphere of high-energy and high hopes. The Chapter of Life and Mission, February 12-14, first analyzed data and trends in the Leadership Report from the past five years and then set priorities for the new leadership to implement in the next five. Once again, the sisters committed themselves to contemplation of the mysteries of the universe and to closer collaboration and sharing of resources with other Dominican congregations.

For the first time, every sister was invited to participate in the nomination of candidates for Prioress and Councilor. An astonishing 65% of the community responded. A series of Discernment Conversations and an open forum with nominees contributed to an atmosphere of transparency and trust in discernment outcomes. Accepting the call of her sisters, Sister Patrice expressed a vote of confidence in the future: “We will surely get to our destination if we all join hands.”
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: Past and Present
Seated Left to Right: Sister Margaret Thomas McGovern, OP,
Sister Patrice Werner, OP (newly elected prioress),
Sister Vivien Jennings, OP
Standing Left to Right: Sister Ann Marie Rimmer, OP,
Sister Joan Doyle, OP,
Sister Arlene Antczak, OP

Top Left: Sister Marie Mueller, OP and Sister Arlene Antczak, OP
Top Right: Sister Catherine Reilly, OP
Above: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

Left: Sister Lenore DeCoste, OP and Sister Patricia Stringer, OP
Right: Sister Kathleen Tuite, OP and Sister Luella Ramm, OP
IN GRATITUDE: Messages of Love and Thanks to Our Leadership Team

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.

Dear Arlene, Luella, Pat and Elsie,

“This is Transia”… yet another crossing place. How grateful your sisters are that you have so ably led us to this place and this moment in time. Thanks in good part to your leadership, we will cross this next threshold, “embracing the unfolding mystery” with trust and confidence. We hold you in love and prayer.

Sister Patrice Werner, OP

The present leadership team was elected at the Chapter of 2010 and the theme of the Chapter was The Past is Prologue. As we transition to a new Prioress and Council the truth of that theme is most apparent. We move forward grateful for all that you have done and been for us and the Mission of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell.

With deep appreciation and love,

Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

Thank you Arlene, Luella, Elsie and Pat for the many ways you have gifted us during your ministry as Community Leaders. Your generosity, patience and care for each of us have made us richer and better. For all the planning, meeting and tireless paperwork you deserve more than a gold star! For all the seen and unseen ways you have been leader, friend, representative to the Church, Order and Universe, I am most grateful. I hope you each will find some time to rest before the next adventure in each of your lives.

Sister Patricia Wormann, OP

As we bid farewell to the outgoing leadership, we would like to thank Sisters Arlene, Luella, Pat and Elsie for their unconditional guidance, support and inclusion in sharing the Community’s Mission with OPA’s during your tenure.

The Caldwell Dominican Associates

As you complete your term, I want to say that I am deeply grateful… for the boots on the ground 24/7, for the voice(s) on the end of the phone, for the fast text responses, for sitting next to me at my mother’s deathbed, for all the big and all the small… I thank you.

Sister Peggy Ann Clinton, OP

Thank you, thank you, thank you, good servants of God, for your faithful and courageous leadership. Your efforts and stewardship have been outstanding and are deeply appreciated. Go in His peace.

Sister Catherine Gerard Kirchner

You have been women after his own heart. By your example we have been led to reverence our past and its essential legacy and to embrace the new leadings of the Spirit as we move forward together to our preferred future. Thank you for all that has been.

Be assured of my prayers.

Sister Lois Curry, OP

Sister Arlene, Sister Luella, Sister Elsie and Sister Pat, your commitment, love and dedication to the Congregation and its mission have been so evident during the years of your elected leadership ministry. Thank you.

Sister Alice Uhl, OP

It has been a pleasure to work with the current leadership team for the past five years and with Sister Arlene as the Prioress since I came to Caldwell almost six years ago. The sponsorship of Caldwell University by the Sisters of Saint Dominic is so evident in their support of our ministry, through their presence on campus and at all important events throughout the academic year; and in the foundational Dominican principles that underscore our mission and our approach to higher education. We look forward to an equally strong relationship with the new leadership team.

Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., OPA
President, Caldwell University

We are proud to be a Dominican School, to follow in the footsteps of Dominic, Catherine, Mother Catharine and all of you. You set the guideposts for us in how to live out the mission each day. We are better for having you in our lives. Now it is the time for you to move on in your life journey, to travel to new places always knowing you have left your spirit in our hearts and a part of us goes with you.

Thank you.

Sister Frances Sullivan, O.P.
Head of School, Mount Saint Dominic Academy

I am grateful for all of the support that the Academy and I have received from the leadership council. Their sound leadership, in-depth wisdom, compassionate guidance and the manner of their lives truly embody the spirit and mission of the Sisters of Saint Dominic.

Brian F. Morgan
Head of School, Lacombe Academy

All of us here at Saint Dominic Academy are so grateful to the leadership council for their unwavering support during the past five years. We always knew you were standing behind and beside us as we shared in your ministry. Our prayers of gratitude go with you as you move on to the next place you are meant to be.

Barbara Griffin
Head of School, Saint Dominic Academy
IN MEMORIAM

Sister Jeanne Veronica Duszynski, O.P

Entered into Life ~
June 13, 1928
Entered into Dominican Life ~
August 30, 1946
Entered into Eternal Life ~
January 15, 2015

Sister Mary Gilbert Frey, O.P

Entered into Life ~
August 5, 1925
Entered into Dominican Life ~
February 2, 1951
Entered into Eternal Life ~
February 3, 2015

Sister Jeanne Marie Prince, O.P

Entered into Life ~
February 28, 1932
Entered into Dominican Life ~
August 15, 1955
Entered into Eternal Life ~
February 7, 2015

Sister Jean Therese Thompson, O.P

Entered into Life ~
April 12, 1926
Entered into Dominican Life ~
August 8, 1944
Entered into Eternal Life ~
May 19, 2015

To read the Sisters’ biographies and say a prayer with us, please visit www.caldwellop.org/in-memoriam.php

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CELEBRATING DOMINICAN WOMEN

On Saturday, April 25, 2015 family and friends joined the Congregation to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sister Patricia Marie Wormann, OP.

The Rev. Ciaran Fergus, OP presided over a joyful liturgical celebration.

Sister Pat began her jubilee journey as a Daughter of Divine Charity, then transitioned into the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, where she has served in parish ministry, notably Saint Peter and Paul in Hoboken and in Campus Ministry at Rutgers University and Stevens University.

Currently, Sister serves as a member of the professional staff at Marian Manor, the Dominican sponsored Residence for Seniors in Caldwell.
Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus • June 12, 2015

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I have asked you for many favors,
But I earnestly implore this one.
Take it.
Place it in Your open, broken Heart . . .

- From a devotional prayer to the Sacred Heart -

The Sacred Heart of Jesus, this Heart of Compassion, is open, available, and overflowing with mercy for all in need. His Great Heart is broken too; broken by seeing and taking on the pain of His brothers and sisters all over the globe and through all ages.

In a way, we Sisters of Saint Dominic are called to be open-hearted and broken-hearted, like Jesus.

For over 135 years we take as our mission in the Church, service to those in need, those who come to us in tears and longing. Often it has been through the schools that we welcomed them. There are other doors for them too: parish pastoral work, ministry among the sick, homes for seniors, and more. You support us in our life and mission of preaching the Good News of God as Jesus did - and you also have open, broken hearts! As the Church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we Dominicans of Caldwell with our Associates, benefactors and friends, celebrate in a most personal way. Happy Feast Day!