Scripture speaks of holy people as “friends of God” and surely, we all aspire to that title. To be a friend of God challenges us in myriad ways. We cannot meet this challenge alone—we go to God in communion with other friends of God! Dominicans cultivate friendships for all the human reasons that others do, and also as a means to grow in faithfulness as preachers of the Word.

St. Dominic cultivated a deep fruitful friendship with Diego de Avezedo. When Dominic was sub-prior of the canons in the Osma cathedral and Diego was the local bishop, the two trekked together across France on a diplomatic mission. As they encountered the people enthralled by the Albigensian heresy, they were inspired to gather some credible preachers to serve the Gospel. This seedling movement grew into the Order of Preachers.

St. Dominic and his successor, Jordan of Saxony, befriended Diana D’Andolo. Both men were on the road, preaching, conferring with the friars and with Church authorities. Diana became a nun, living out her Dominican vocation in the cloister. Despite the obvious differences among these Dominicans, their friendship flourished. Diana prayed constantly for the success of the preaching. Dominic and Jordan relied on those prayers and looked forward to visits in the monastery where they could find refreshment and kindred spirits to hear their stories. Diana relished their visits so she could hear firsthand the details of the Mission of which she was a hidden but powerful part!

We hear many stories of Albert the Great and his brilliant student, Thomas Aquinas. The fact of their friendship often gets ignored. The two Dominicans were so different: Albert, gregarious, with wide-ranging interests and experiences; Thomas, quiet, reflective, almost solitary. Yet Albert called Thomas into community and Thomas through his writing put Albert’s encyclopedic knowledge at the service of the Mission for generations to come. And after Thomas’ death, Albert was a vehement defender of his friend’s writing.

Catherine of Siena, a lay Dominican whose ministry raised serious questions among Church men, became friends with Raymond of Capua, a friar appointed to investigate her work. He defended her, they corresponded regularly, and she encouraged him despite his natural timidity, to move to Rome for the sake of the Mission!

Friends complement one another in many ways. We cherish each one of you as a friend of the Caldwell Dominicans. We are women who share the Mission of Jesus of proclaiming the Good News. We have not and cannot fulfill this Mission without your help! You are “Friends of God,” our friends - more precious to us than silver or gold!
January 2013

Dear Friends of the Caldwell Dominican Sisters,

Meister Eckhart, a Dominican friar and mystic, once remarked, “If the only prayer we ever say is ‘Thank You’ it is enough!”

Our gratitude for each of you goes beyond words! You partner with us in the Mission of proclaiming the Gospel. Our energy, prayer, study and work are poured out daily in the service of the Gospel. Without your support, we would surely fail. You make it possible for us to live and pray in safety, to study at home and in schools of higher learning, and to work even where people cannot afford to give us salaries. We are eternally grateful.

How can we ever show our thanks? One way is that we remember you at the Table of the Eucharist. We recall that the meaning of the word Eucharist is Thanksgiving! So even in the cold, bleak days of winter, our hearts are warmed with gratitude for you as we pray for each of you at Mass.

Your grateful friends,

Sister Arlene Antczak, OP, Prioress,
and the Caldwell Dominicans.

Message from Director of Development

Dear Friends,

As we begin the New Year, I give thanks for your kind & generous support of the Caldwell Dominican Sisters. I am humbled & awed by these Sisters who collectively represent over 8,000 years of devoted, vowed service; their impact on our lives is both incalculable – and life affirming.

This year so many of you have provided key support for the Sisters at the Motherhouse and beyond to continue their ministry work; and for our “retired” Sisters at St. Catherine of Siena Convent & Healthcare Center to carry on as caretaker, public watchdog, social advocate, prayer companion — and always, friend.

Thank you for all you do to help and please know the Sisters pray for you and your needs every day.

Rosemarie Scannapieco, Director of Development

P.S.: We love hearing from you – if there is a particular topic you’d like us to cover in a future issue, please let us know.
The spirit of St. Dominic is alive and flourishing among our laity. Proof of this can be found in Whiting and Caldwell, where groups of women and men have committed themselves to seek a richer, deeper, more spiritual life as members of the Lay Order of St. Dominic. Thanks to the continued leadership of dedicated lay people, members enthusiastically follow the 800 year old tradition of prayer, study, community, and good works.

The Whiting Chapter, named for St. Catherine of Siena, had its beginnings in the 1960’s at St. Antoninus in Newark where the Dominican Fathers served. Two young parishioners, Ben Radice and Ralph Petillo, wanted a closer connection to the Dominican life. They joined what was then known as the Third Order and continued a life of prayer and good works even after the parish closed. Their headquarters for monthly meetings became St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston. Shortly after, when a number of members moved to south Jersey, the group was given permission to meet at St. Elizabeth Parish. Sister Adrienne Fallon, O.P., a pastoral minister there, became an active participant, helping the chapter become better bound and to local hospitals. In addition, each year donations are sent to St. Jude Hospital. The Chapter has a special devotion to Blessed Margaret of Cortona, “the unwanted saint,” and they have prayed, worked, and contributed to the cause for her canonization. The group has also been instrumental in establishing a Lay Dominican Chapter in a prison in Massachusetts. They connect in prayer, study, and letter writing. The inmates frequently express their appreciation for this association with their friends in Whiting.

The Caldwell College Chapter traces its beginnings to the 1940’s when Father Paul Perrotta, O.P., a professor of Philosophy and Theology, introduced the possibility to his students. The proposal was well received and grew steadily in membership. The young women wanted to become part of the Dominican tradition which combined prayer with service. It is noteworthy that this Chapter still includes women who joined in their college years. One of these, Nancy Fitzsimmons, has remained through the years as a guiding force and steadfast promoter of the Lay Dominican lifestyle. The first Monday of every month is the meeting date which begins with the 4:30 Mass at St. Catherine Convent on the Motherhouse grounds. The members then join together for the recitation of the rosary on Monday afternoons for those who are able to attend. Everyone is encouraged to be active in their respective parishes; they act as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and participate in parish committees. For years the Chapter has had an interest in an orphanage in the Philippines and monthly contributions are sent to supply milk for the children. Another special concern is Appalachia where donations of clothes and useful items are sent regularly.

These Lay Dominicans maintain close ties with the Sisters at St. Catherine of Siena Convent & Healthcare Center where they volunteer as drivers, remember the Sisters with gifts at Christmas time; participate in Dominican celebrations; and invite the Sisters to their special occasions. The activities and accomplishments of these two Chapters are just a few examples of the good things happening where our Dominican Laity are present. The rich history and traditions of the Order of Preachers continue in the twenty first century; the Lay Order of St. Dominic is proud of being part of it.
Thank You!
“A friend is a person who shows us the way and walks a piece of the road with us.”

Francesco Alberoni
A friend is a person who shows us the way and walks a piece of the road with us.
“A friend is a person who shows us the way and walks a piece of the road with us.”

Francesco Alberoni

Every attempt has been made to include the names of all those who participated in making our transitions a success and in providing care for our Sisters who reside at Saint Catherine’s. We would like also to thank those of you who have sent us a holiday gift that was not recorded before this publication was sent to print. And we regret any additional omissions as they are unintentional.
WE CELEBRATE DOMINICAN WOMEN as 8 Sisters commemorated jubilees and 10 new members joined the Dominican Associates. For photo identifications and event details:
http://www.caldwellop.org/news.php
For information on becoming a Sister or an OPA, please visit:
http://www.caldwellop.org/share.php

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE NEW CONVENT

The initial stages of construction for the Sacred Heart Convent are underway on congregation-owned property (corner of Ryerson Avenue/Ashland St.) in Caldwell. The building which will contain 33 self-sufficient, sustainable, eco-conscious, elder-friendly apartment-ettes will centralize and reduce housing costs while fostering the sense of Community that is at the heart of Dominican life.

DOMINICAN SISTERS’ LONG HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNIZED

The Essex Fells Country Club provided the ideal setting for the Caldwell Dominicans’ 130th Anniversary Celebration on September 20 where, with a crowd of 340 looking on, Assemblyman Thomas Giblin presented the Sisters a Proclamation honoring the Dominican Sisters’ long history of community service. To view photos, please visit http://www.caldwellop.org/news.php

A Light Shall Shine Upon Us

The Christmas tree at Saint Catherine of Siena Convent & Healthcare Center was adorned with your prayer intentions this holiday season. Always, the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell keep you and your loved ones in daily prayer.
To share your special prayer requests with us, please visit: www.caldwellop.org.
Spiritual Enrollment Cards

Give a Gift of Prayer

About Our Artists:
The stained glass windows displayed on our cards were designed by Sister Gerardine Mueller for the Sisters’ Chapel in Saint Catherine Convent & Healthcare Center. Sister says that “the inner voice of the soul direct(s) the artist to ‘call forth in others’ a spiritual experience.”

Sister Gerarda Panek’s graphic designs speak to the importance of visual arts to the spiritual life: “In an age of ‘instant messaging’, I try to communicate God’s life and spirit among us in images that are compelling and immediately understandable.”

Instructions for use:
To include your loved ones in the liturgical prayers of the Sisters of St. Dominic simply complete the Prayer Request form and return it, along with your donation, in the envelope provided. To view the entire collection & order cards, please visit www.caldwellop.org, or

By mail: Sisters of Saint Dominic
Development Office
One Ryerson Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006

By phone: 973-403-3331 ext. 20
By email: development@caldwellop.org

We would like to thank our Dominican Friends for partnering with us in distributing our Spiritual Enrollment Cards.

If your business is interested in participating in our Dominican Friends Network, please contact the Development Office to arrange for a supply for your office, showroom or waiting area.

In Memoriam
Ever a part of our lives . . .

+Sister Georgine Marie Conrad, OP
Entrance into Life ~ March 12, 1924
Entrance into Dominican Life ~ Aug. 30, 1942
Entrance into Eternal Life ~ January 21, 2013

+Sister Nancy Bourk, OP
Entered into Life ~ April 22, 1934
Entered into Dominican Life ~ Sept. 8, 1952
Entered into Eternal life ~ January 2, 2013

+Sister Suzanne McCaffrey, OP
Entered into Life ~ June 16, 1936
Entered into Dominican Life ~ Sept. 8, 1962
Entered into Eternal life ~ August 14, 2012

+Sister Edith Magdalen Visic, OP
Entered into Life ~ March 13, 1921
Entered into Dominican Life ~ Aug 30, 1946
Entered into Eternal Life ~ May 25, 2012

+Sister James Marie Hannon, OP
Entered into Life ~ July 28, 1923
Entered into Dominican Life ~ Feb 2, 1943
Entered into Eternal Life ~ May 25, 2012

To read the Sisters’ biographies and say a prayer with us, please visit www.caldwellop.org/in-memoriam.php
Saints in Focus: Holding a Broom or a Basket of Bread, a Small Mouse Nestled at His Feet . . .

Martin de Porres stands among the saints, a man of dark skin in the white Dominican habit with the black scapular of a lay brother. Born in Lima, Peru in 1579, Martin was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed African slave. His mother raised him and his younger sister, Juana, in poverty after their father abandoned the family. Apprenticed to a barber, the young Martin learned from him how to administer medical treatment.

In 1590, Martin became a servant at the Dominican Priory in Lima. Within a few years, the Prior chose to overlook the Peruvian law forbidding persons of Indian or African descent membership in communities of religious, and invited Martin to join the community as a lay brother. He served the community as infirmarian, fund raiser, procurator, and almoner. He was known throughout Lima for his generous charity and for his gifts of healing. His kindness extended to all - including mice in the priory kitchen. All accounts show his character marked by deep prayer, joy, humility, and love for all of God’s creation.

Martin died on November 3, 1639. After his funeral Mass, his body was carried to its burial by the Viceroy of Peru, the Archbishop of Mexico, the Bishop of Cuzco, and the Judge of the Royal Court. Pope John XXIII canonized St. Martin de Porres on May 6, 1962.