NEPAL

A PILGRIMAGE, A JOURNEY, AN ADVENTURE!
THE FLAME
SISTERS OF SAINT DOMINIC OF CALDWELL, NJ

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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.

Community Leadership
Patrice Werner, OP, Prioress
Elsie Bernauer, OP, Vicarress
Eileen Ivory, OP, Councilor
Patricia Tavis, OP, Councilor

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A Message from the Prioress

So many to thank for so much! As we dedicate this issue to families and loyal friends, we look back to your years and years of dedication to the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell. Your long-standing concern for us, your generosity and kindness have given you a special place, not just in our ministry but in our lives. We have always depended on you for our fundraising social events and for a generous response to our mailings. We appreciate too, that we have been named in a number of wills and bequests. This financial assistance helps us as we care for our sick and infirm and comfort our aging members. We continue our mission strengthened by your backing and ever present interest.

How do we thank you, our friends and partners for all the good you have done? We do it the best way we know. Each day as we gather to pray we remember especially our generous benefactors in words of love and gratitude.

Gratefully,
Patrice Werner, OP
Prioress
On October 2, during a joyous Vespers Service in the Motherhouse Chapel attended by Sisters, Associates and family, Ruth Shriver and Carol Harris were received as Dominican Associates. During the ceremony, Ruth and Carol signed their Covenant Agreement and received the Associate pin which they will now wear with pride and be able to use the initials OPA after their name. Other Associates present were then asked to renew their commitment.

Who are Associates? Women and men 18 years or older who embrace the Dominican charism to praise, to bless, and to preach. They journey with the Caldwell Dominicans in carrying forward its mission to develop a passion for contemplation, to promote social justice, and to recognize the sacredness of all creation. An Associate is an extension of the Dominican family.

Both of our recent Associates certainly embrace the Caldwell Dominican charism. Ruth Shriver has known our Sisters for over twelve years engaging in spiritual direction with Sister Alice Uhl, OP. Ruth is involved in her home parish of Saint Catherine of Siena in Cedar Grove. She is part of the Shepherd of Service program and the Prayer Shawl ministry. Ruth volunteers at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church’s food pantry and makes quilts for Saint Joseph Hospital Pediatric Ward. Ruth is also a member of the Caldwell Dominican Universe and Creation committee.

Carol Harris is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Jersey City where Sisters Carol, Elise, Alice and Luke minister. Through volunteering many years with the Sisters and Associates, Carol decided she wanted to deepen her relationship with the Caldwell Dominican Sisters by becoming an Associate. Carol volunteers in the food pantry at our Lady of Sorrows, is a member of the RCIA team and participates in the craft club to make items that are sold for the benefit of the parish’s outreach program.

Presently there are eight new candidates in formation discerning to become Associates in the fall. If you are interested in knowing more about the Associates, please contact Corinne Thompson at corinney817@aol.com or Sister Donna Marie O’Brien, O.P. at dmobrienop@hotmail.com.
On October 7, 2016, Sister Pat Stringer and eighteen friends of the Caldwell Dominicans fastened their seat belts and settled in for the “first leg” of a twenty-four hour flight to Kathmandu, Nepal. “Why Nepal?” each traveler had repeated as they accepted Sister Ann Marie Rimmer’s tantalizing invitation to “a journey, a pilgrimage, an adventure to the beautiful and somewhat unknown country of Nepal.” Caldwell University President Dr. Nancy Blattner, one of the first to respond, had her own reasons. As Caldwell’s president, she welcomed this opportunity to visit the native land of an outstanding group of the University’s international students. As a Dominican Associate, Dr. Blattner along with Dominican Associate Christl Pilot, embraced the Order’s call to “a mission on the frontiers of religious experience.”

Two years ago, when Sister Ann Marie moved into Sacred Heart Convent adjacent to Caldwell University, she was invited to join a small Campus Ministry group of faculty, staff, and students who met regularly to meditate together. Among the students who attended, those from Nepal attracted her curiosity. “There was something about them - a gentleness, an indefinable spirituality beneath their distinctive courtesy.” She searched through Buddhist and Hindu writings but found no words to explain this quality. Then, when the tragic 2015 earthquake drew the world’s attention to Nepal and everyone asked, ‘What can we do to help?’ the people of Nepal responded: “Come and visit us.” Ann Marie decided that listening to their truth meant “to allow your heart to be broken by the sheer beauty of the place and the graciousness of its people.”

Ironically, Ann Marie herself was prevented from making the journey. After the pilgrims’ return, she assembled them to share photographs and personal experiences. All agreed that Nepal’s most attractive feature is its people: their un-rushed calmness, warmth, and self-reliance. Everywhere the visitors saw these virtues uniting the people in the work of recovery from the earthquake’s devastation. In this tourist-dependent economy, hospitality toward strangers goes beyond pragmatism. Accommodations at Rokpa Guest House lived up to its webpage promise: “a beautiful stay for a beautiful cause.” The cause is Rokpa’s home for orphans, “street kids,” and children in need of food and medical attention. When they grow up, these children serve as volunteer staff for the guest house. American shoppers found bargains astonishing, but a universal resistance to tipping or any form of “charity” proved even more remarkable. None of the financially poor Nepalese acted like “victims.” The Americans speculated, Why not? Nepal’s history suggests that because these people have never been colonized by foreign oppressors, they harbor no residual resentments.
The visit coincided with the great festival of Dashain. Sister Pat Stringer, having served in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, was accustomed to a culture saturated in Christian customs, artifacts, and rituals. Nepal was her first encounter with a deeply religious, totally non-Christian religion. She was most intrigued by mysterious traditions like the Temple of the Monkeys and the cult of the Child Goddess. Her visit to Nepal gave her a new appreciation for the dominant characteristic of Nepal’s polytheistic Buddhist and Hindu culture: an inclusive tolerance of all religions.

Surrounded by exotic religious art and rituals, it was not surprising that American visitors sought a more familiar spiritual experience in nature. For Nancy Blattner, the fabled Mount Everest provided such an opportunity. Having hiked to a vantage point opposite the summit, she sat in the morning mist prayerfully waiting for dawn to reveal the snowy peak in all its glory. But the fog persisted and Mount Everest remained invisible. “I knew it was there, but all I could see was the mist,” she explained. “This is like faith, I thought. We pray to God, believing that He is there though we never see Him.”

Caldwell’s trip to Nepal was experienced deeply by the students who had inspired it. Thinking of themselves as unexceptional, they expressed surprise and gratitude for their relationship to the University. In the words of one student: “Your trip to Nepal has strengthened our emotional bond. I feel so loved and cherished here at Caldwell. I feel like I am at home. I want to thank you from the deepest core of my heart for accepting our Nepalese community at Caldwell with such an open heart.”

(Anamika Sharma Paudel, ’20)
Educating Young Women for the Past 125 Years

A Rich History

We are thrilled that Mount St. Dominic Academy has begun a year-long commemoration of the school’s 125th Anniversary. The Mount’s rich history, built on academic excellence and Christ-centered values, has been shaped in the Dominican tradition of educating young women in mind, body, and spirit. When four Dominican Sisters from Ratisbon, Germany, sailed for America in the summer of 1853, no one would have predicted that a fantastic uncharted legacy would unfold.

Bold Steps

In 1884, Mother Mary Catharine Muth took a bold step and set out 20 miles from her familiar Jersey City community to establish a convalescent home in Caldwell, NJ. This brave venture would become a new mission for her and those who would follow in her footsteps. Having the wisdom and foresight to purchase various parcels of land, in 1892 Mother Catharine and the Dominican Sisters of Jersey City were granted permission to lay the cornerstone for the Motherhouse. It is said that the resources for the new building were so limited that each brick used in the construction was carried by hand, by the Sisters, up the hill from the railroad station below.

An Unbreakable Cornerstone

Not only was it a significantly difficult task for these young Sisters to carry bricks up the hill to lay a strong foundation, it is also richly symbolic. The dedication and value that the women religious placed on themselves is remarkable. The importance placed on self-sufficiency and being productive members of society was critical.

Since 1892, the Sisters of St. Dominic and the entire Mount community have faced much adversity—the Great Depression, wars, and natural disasters to name a few. Despite these trying times, the mission to open young minds to learning and experience life by embracing the four pillars of Dominican life—Study, Prayer, Mission and Community—has proven to be an unbreakable cornerstone for educating young women for the past 125 years.
Our Present and Future

Dedicated to educating young women from a variety of ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds, today the Mount community encompasses more than 300 students from over fifty communities across seven counties in northern New Jersey. In recent years, graduating classes have been awarded an average of $13 million in scholarships and grants from competitive colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. Each year, students perform a collective 10,000+ hours of community service, while participating in numerous sports, fine and performing arts, as well as other extracurricular activities.

The young women who successfully complete their secondary education at Mount St. Dominic Academy receive excellent academic preparation as well as the foundations of the four pillars to continue their pursuits in all aspects of their lives. The overall environment of our Christian community at the Mount inspires students and guides them throughout their lifetime.

Celebration of MSDA 125th Anniversary

Proud to recognize our history and our future with a year-long celebration, “Empowering our Past, Present, and Future Young Women of the Mount” Mount St. Dominic Academy invites you to celebrate with us.

There are a number of events planned throughout the course of the year for students, alumnae, current and former parents, and our greater school community. Be sure to visit msdadacademy.org throughout the year for updated information. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Calendar of Our Year-Long Celebration in Honor of the 125th Anniversary of Mount St. Dominic Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 5</td>
<td>Spring Musical Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 23</td>
<td>Dad’s Night Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 28</td>
<td>Dominican Day/Day of Giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 30</td>
<td>Mother Daughter Communion Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 13</td>
<td>Meghan Doyle Run/Family Fun Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 3</td>
<td>Recognizing Alumnae Class of ’67 &amp; ’92 Baccalaureate Mass &amp; Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 15</td>
<td>Happy Hour by the Hudson River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 21</td>
<td>Mothers of Mount Alumnae - First Ladies of 1890s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 22</td>
<td>Sights and Sounds of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 10</td>
<td>125th Gala Evening</td>
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For more information about attending any of these events please contact Tracey Taylor at 973-226-0660 ext. 1130.
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 2016.*

Sr. Brigid Brady, OP  
Sr. Eileen Byrne, OP  
Ms. Dorothy Coffey  
Sr. Patricia Costello, OP  
Ms. Marie Curtis  
Sr. Catherine Daly, OP  
Sr. Lenore DeCoster, OP  
Mr. Joseph Decoteau  
Ms. Doris Donahue  
Sr. Agnes Duggan, OP  
Mr. Alphonso Guitterrez  
Mr. Bernard Hehl  
Ms. Catherine Hooper  
Mr. Robert Klett  
Ms. Edith Ledy  
Sr. Anne Marie Lennon, OP  
Sr. Margaret William McDonald, OP  
Sr. Margaret Thomas McGovern, OP  
Mrs. Mary Personette  
Mrs. Kay Philips  
Mr. Edward Rice  
Mr. Harold G. Schultz, Sr.  
Mrs. Margaret Sheridan  
Sr. Jane Marie Smith, OP  
Ms. Evelyn Staba  
Mrs. Mimi Streleck  
Mr. Paul Tone  
Sr. Ann Dominic Vano, OP  
Mr. William Weber

The following list includes estates from which the Sisters of Saint Dominic received bequests during 2016.*

Mr. Raul J. Adler  
Ms. Margaret E. Cawley  
Mr. George Conrad, Jr.  
Sr. Roxane Cooper, DHM  
Ms. Mary C. Henderson  
Mr. John Herrmann  
Ms. Alice White  
Rev. Peter F. Lennon  
Ms. Mary A. McNamara

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.

Sr. Ann Dominic Vano, OP

Sister Ann Dominic Vano, OP, bore the names of two saints “at the heart of the Church.” Most of us remember a grandmother as “the heart of the family” and so, the grandmother of Jesus, St. Ann! When we celebrate the feast of St. Dominic, in the entrance antiphon of the Mass we recall him as speaking from the midst of the Church. During her 75 years of Dominican life Sister Ann ministered always from the heart of the Church. Early years found her making a clean and comfortable home for her sisters in the domestic Church. All those years she spent in the kitchen of the Infirmary, she made the tastiest meals (and snacks!) for the frail elders there in that domestic Church. In the parish Church she opened the minds of little ones to the goodness and bounty of God. Then she moved to the wider Church of the parish’s social ministry to the people most in need. For decades she mobilized the people of St. Michael’s in Union and beyond to offer food, clothing, refuge—and friendship to those living on the margins. Among those, she showed special affection and attention to people with developmental disabilities. Who can forget her tireless work among the campers at Camp Fatima or those exciting Christmas parties she hosted—with the help of hundreds of men and women she lured into service! Even as she became frail herself, her concern for all in St. Catherine’s continued. Who was left in Chapel at dinner time? Who was still in her room? Ann checked on all of them! Well named, this woman who preached with a lifetime of service from the heart of the Church, now enjoys her place in the Church Triumphant! We will never forget her example and spirit!
Sr. Margaret Ann Ryan, OP ~ Sr. Peggy

As the Sisters gathered in the cemetery for Sister Peggy Ryan’s burial, we sang, “Go now in peace, faithful friend of God!” How fitting for her who had served as a Dominican Sister for 49 years! She learned God’s love from her parents, Mary Agnes and John, from the Dominican Sisters in New Milford, from the Sisters of Notre Dame in Fort Lee, and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton. She studied formal theology at St. Bonaventure’s, but her ongoing theological formation came from her students! In Dover, Jersey City, Bridgeport, Caguas (PR), Caldwell and Ho Ho Kus Peggy learned—in English, Spanish and the language of the heart—what it means to be a faithful friend! As the Community Communicator for the Congregation, Peggy communicated that art of friendship and shared it among the staff of the Motherhouse and so many Dominicans across the USA in her collaborative endeavors. When she moved to St. Catherine of Siena Convent and later St. Catherine of Siena Health Care Center she continued to teach and learn what faithful friendship with God and others means. Her world never shrunk despite her physical limitations! During those delightful vacations in Pennsylvania with her sister Marilyn and brother-in-law Barry she found more people with whom to share her genius for friendship. Like her own hero, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Peggy allowed no obstacle to impede her inclusive love mirroring that of her Divine Friend.

As she goes now, we pray “that she takes our love with her into Paradise.”
FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR TREASURE...
FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP...
FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR PRAYERS.

Every attempt has been made to include the names of all those who have participated in making our missions a success and in providing care for our Sisters who reside at Saint Catherine Convent & Healthcare Center. We would like also to thank those of you who may have sent us a holiday gift that was not recorded in time for this publication. And we regret any unintended omissions.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob D. Abbey
Mrs. Joseph Adelhard
Mrs. Victoria R. Adik
Mr. Raul J. Adler
Ms. Ruthie Affuso
Ms. Beverly Schunk Afonso
Ms. Jill Agostini
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Agresti
Mr. & Mrs. Constante Alejandro
Ms. Lois Alex
Mrs. Annemarie A. Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Amato
Ms. Joann Alkes
Ms. Janice Abramo
(All About Cleaning NJ, LLC)
Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. Allan
Mr. Joseph Aloiso
Mrs. Delores A. Alu
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Amanata & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ambio
Mr. Robert Anastasio
Mr. & Mrs. Lester E. Anderson Jr.
Mrs. Lillian K. Anderson
Mr. Nels P. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Andrea
Ms. Marion Andreko & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Byron E. Andrews
Ms. Dolores Angelini
Mr. & Mrs. Dominick Angelosante
Mr. & Mrs. Gino Angelozzi
Ms. Barbara Anguella
Rev. Sebastian A. Angius
Mr. Joseph G. Anonuevo
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ansbro
Mr. & Mrs. Eustace Anselmi
Sofia H. Anthony, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Antico
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Antonelli
Ms. Evelyn Appel
Ms. Genevieve Fitzgibbon Appel

Mrs. Patricia M. Bator
Ms. Donna J. Battaglia
Mr. Albert L. Battista
F. Stephen Bauer, D.M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Baum
Mr. Drew J. Bauman
Rev. John Bauman
Sister Mary Lou Bauman, OP
Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo M. Bautista
Sister Mary Rosina Bayliss, RN
Mrs. Yvonne Bays
Mr. Joseph F. Beaudette
Mr. John J. Becerra, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Becker
Ms. Margaret W. Becker
Ms. Nancy Becker
Mrs. Kay C. Beerman
Mr. Randy R. Beilsmith
Deacon John H. Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Frank P. Bellantoni
Mr. & Mrs. John Bender
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Bennet
Mr. Chris J. Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Daniel Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Bentley
Mr. Andrew D. Benyo
Mrs. Mary Jane Bergen
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Bernard
Rev. Albert J. Berner
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley C. Bestys
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Bette
Mrs. Eileen F. Betz
Mr. Eugene G. Bialas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bidinger
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Biglin
Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Biles
Mr. Joseph Billaer
Sister Mary Joseph Bircak, OP
Mr. & Mrs. Herman J. Birkner
Mr. & Mrs. Wil Biscardi
Mr. Horace G. Bischoff
Mr. James Bischoff & Ms. Ann M. Barbagello
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Bizzozero
Mr. Michael Black
Mr. Harry Blake
Dr. Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D.
Mr. George Blauvelt
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Bledsoe
Margaret Virginia Blum, OP
Ms. Irene Blumberg
Lacordaire Academy
Mr. Edward J. Bochniak
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Bock
Mr. Alexander Boehler
Miss. Elizabeth Bogert
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Mr. J. Haley Booth
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Ms. Anna Marie Borzelli
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Mrs. Joseph J. Brennan
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin P. Brennan
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Ms. G. C. Brice
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Brigham
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Ms. Jo Ellen Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence J. Brown
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Mr. Fran Bruns
Ms. Anna Marie Buber
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Mr. Kevin Buchan
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Mr. John Butchko
Ms. Donna Butler
Mr. & Mr. Edward Butler
Mr. & Mrs. James Butler
Ms. Joanne M. Butler
Ms. Catherine Butzko
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Dr. Anthony J. Candel
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Mr. Leonard V. Canino
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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony R. Cappiello
Mr. & Mrs. Philip J. Cappio
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel P. Caprio
Ms. Susan Capristo
Mr. Anthony R. Cardellino
Mr. Anthony A. Carella
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Carlin
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Mr. John A. Carluomo
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Mr. Joseph J. Carr
Mrs. Kathleneen M. Carr
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Ms. Phyllis P. Carroll
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Ms. Aido Castellucio
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Castoral
Ms. Teresito Casupanan
Mr. Ronald Catalano
Ms. Margaret M. Caterina
Ms. Harriet Caulfield
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Cavallaro
Mr. & Mrs. John Cavanagh
I place in you all my interests and desires... do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Son all spiritual blessings.

Dominican Sisters of Caldwell have always had devotion to Saint Joseph, but it was not until September 1929 that his statue was ceremoniously erected on campus. As Monsignor Roger McGinley blessed this image, the community prayed for Saint Joseph to be their chief real estate negotiator for an 85-foot tract of property that the owner was reluctant to sell. After that, on every Wednesday prayers to Saint Joseph for that intention were recited in every house of the community. Congregational archives preserve the record of Saint Joseph’s success: “It was our trust in prayer and especially, in the intercession of Saint Joseph that made us erect a new academy on the site facing Bloomfield Avenue.”

It is interesting to note that the attorney’s signature on the transaction documents was that of another Joseph: Mr. Joseph Brady, Esq., grandfather of the late Sister Brigid Brady, OP. Originally, the statue of Saint Joseph, surrounded by azalea bushes, stood on the crest of what is now University Drive. For three quarters of a century, it remained there. In 2005 when excavation for Dominican Hall began nearby, Sister Arlene Antczak, then Prioress, became anxious for the fate of the statue of the saint who had served the community so well. She instructed our maintenance crew to move it to a safer spot. They reverently transported the statue to the present site on the approach to the Motherhouse.