If you have the desire to Serve
You are called to the Work

Sister Anne Halpin, OP ministers at Saint Anastasia Catholic Church in Saint Augustine, Florida.
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.

Dear Friends,
You may have heard these words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, “There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit.” So often we are recognized and thanked by others who have been touched by our lives and ministries. Yet we could not do what we do without the prayerful support and kindness of you, our benefactors.

As benefactors, you participate in helping our sisters and associates achieve our mission of proclaiming the truth as we

• Recognize and explore the sacred oneness of all creation within our unfolding universe
• Nurture the contemplative and creative spirit of all whose lives we touch
• Respond to issues of justice and needs of the poor
• Support our immigrant neighbors at grave risk
• Strive to protect and preserve our natural resources
• Study, research, and educate others, whether that be in universities, academies, at our farm, in our retreat center, in parishes, etc.
• And devotedly care for our infirm sisters and residents at Saint Catherine Convent and Health Care Center.

We are forever grateful for your prayers and generous support. Know that we remember you in our community prayer and Eucharistic liturgy each day. You truly are the unseen angels in our lives.

Patrice Werner, OP
Prioress
As I prepared to address over one hundred faces who had gathered in the Motherhouse chapel for Homecoming, I couldn’t help but be touched by the reality of our theme: *Find Joy in the Journey*. Indeed, the Caldwell Dominicans had done just that! For the audience for Homecoming 2017 not only welcomed sisters, but many associates and had invited me, a former member to offer the morning prayer, give the presentation, and facilitate discussion. That kind of invitation spoke to me of joy… joy in recognizing that we do share a history and our journey, though taking different paths, remains connected and respected.

The words of Meister Eckhart, the Dominican mystic, were the focus of my inspiration when he writes, “God is always needing to be born.” This challenges all of us to acknowledge and to surrender to the fact that the presence of God within each of us yearns to be manifested in our lives. We are the beloved; we need to act as such. Difficult? At times, yes. Unworthy? No. For we cannot allow our excuses to block this call, this reality, this truth. Our joy ultimately comes from acknowledging the presence of God within that needs desperately to be born in our world, whether we are sisters, associates, former members… whomever… we are called to the same challenge.

After time of quiet reflection on questions that followed the presentation, all discussed which question seemed to stir them. Animated discussion took place with some feedback at the end so all could benefit from one another’s insights. A simple ritual ended my part of the morning. Each table was given a small bowl with fragrant oil and asked to bless the other with the oil, strength for the journey ahead, acknowledging that we do not have the grace for the end of the journey yet, just the grace for today.

Caldwell Dominican novice, Gina Scaringella then spoke about her novitiate experience in St. Louis with Dominican novices from several communities. As she shared about her daily routine of prayer, study and ministry one could not help but smile at the changes in novitiate when one was not permitted to leave the Motherhouse for one year and a day! Sister Gina expressed a genuine connection with her Caldwell Dominican Sisters as well as gratitude for their support while such a distance from home.

A beautiful remembrance designed by Sister Gerarda with the theme, “*Find Joy in the Journey*,” was presented to all in attendance by the community’s leadership team. Such joy culminated with a festive luncheon where old friends gathered and plenty of laughter and conversation could be heard beyond the old refectory (dining room) walls.

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FOLLOWING IN THE DOMINICAN SPIRIT

When the parishioners of Saint Anastasia, in Saint Augustine, Florida, welcomed Sister Anne Halpin, OP, into their community three years ago, little did they know they were welcoming not only a follower of our Dominican saints, Dominic de Guzman and Catherine of Siena, Martin de Porres and Rose of Lima, but one who embodies their spirit. Sister Anne has always been a woman with a generous heart and a cheerful spirit. She is one who possesses a love and compassion for those who live on the margins.

Sister Anne is part of Saint Anastasia’s Homeless Ministry, a total church ministry of giving, sorting, and distributing items that will aid those who are homeless and anyone in need. Through this ministry the dedicated team “seeks to quench the thirst of Christ in serving the homeless of Saint Augustine.”

The Saint Martin de Porres Donation Room receives clothing, toiletries, blankets, sleeping bags, food, diapers, and other baby supplies for the homeless living on the streets. It also solicits home appliances that can be sold at the local Saint Vincent de Paul thrift store. While Sister Anne is totally involved in this ministry, she also identifies and engages new volunteers who can assist in the homeless ministry either with preparing meals at the Wednesday night downtown feedings, or in driving donations to the ends of the county where donations don’t always make it.

In addition to all of the above, Brian Schoonover, Business Administrator and Director of Community Outreach for the parish, has seen first-hand the short and long-term effects that Sister Anne’s ministry has on the community.

“I have also personally witnessed Sister Anne ministering to the homeless in a variety of other capacities, and in particular, by simply listening to them. Sister Anne is an example and mentor to many homeless as she lends her ear to them as they share their very special stories. The faith sharing that she engages in with the homeless is something that is truly priceless.”

Sister Anne is not only part of the parish’s Homeless Ministry, she is called the heart of it, according to Lori Adelfio, who serves as the parish receptionist and edits the parish bulletin.

“It’s a blessing to know that our parish is helping God’s people in need. Although Sister Anne is never one to accept praise, because she says she is just one part of this wonderful ministry to the homeless, she is at the heart of this ministry. With Sister Anne at the center, working in the Saint Martin de Porres Room at Saint Anastasia, each area in need gets the help it requires. She and her network of helpers are indeed the hands and feet of Christ and this ministry is a blessing to its local community and our parish.”
Besides serving the needs of those within the parish, this team also serves the needs of the Wildflower Clinics in the area. Wildflower Clinics are sponsored by the Good Samaritan Health Care Centers, Inc. They provide free medical and dental services to all qualifying Saint John’s County residents who are medically uninsured and unable to afford health care. Doctors, dentists, hygienists, nurses and students donate time and services to those who come.

Caroline Volk, a nurse with the Wildflower Clinic’s Outreach Team, has said that with Sister Anne and the parishioners’ help their mission has expanded to include the mental and spiritual wellness. The need is great. “Sister Anne is always there to offer spiritual guidance, a listening ear and ashes every Ash Wednesday. At the clinic Sister Anne oversees the distribution of the many gifts acquired through the parishioners. A gift as small as a clean pair of socks is so much more, as it shows the homeless folk that people care and sows the seeds of healing in their hearts.”

Through those who have witnessed her ministry, we, too, are well aware of the many gifts Sister Anne brings to her ministry. She reflects the wisdom and listening heart of Saint Dominic, the courage and compassion of Saint Catherine of Siena, and the loving care for those who lack the basics of life represented by Saint Martin de Porres and Saint Rose of Lima. May her ministry and those of the dedicated team of Saint Anastasia’s continue to flourish.
ASSOCIATES DELIGHT IN PREACHING

In the long and illustrious history of their Order, Dominicans have always been identified as preachers. Eight hundred years ago, Dominic de Guzman, founder of the Dominican Order, saw the need for well educated preachers to go out among the largely illiterate populations of that time to instruct them in the true meaning of the teachings of Jesus and the tenets of their faith. So it is today, as it was then, that Dominicans cherish truth, study, community and the ministry of preaching.

Associates share in this mission and have produced a number of very talented and prolific preachers. Among them are two outstanding ones who have carved out careers that incorporate preaching in all its many aspects: Dr. Virginia Grancagnolo and Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley.

Dr. Grancagnolo (Ginger to those who know her) is a dynamic, joyful person whose warmth and openness envelop her audiences sparking an immediate connection with them. She studied at C. W. Post, Fairleigh Dickenson, Montclair and Fordham universities and holds doctoral degrees in education and ministry. Her academic background has brought her into the fields of education, psychology, theology and Christian ministry. For the past forty-three years Ginger has enjoyed a private counseling practice, as well as giving lectures at parishes and to the general public. In keeping with her Dominican roots, Ginger participates in the Lumen Center, presenting sessions on “living a faithful and Spirit guided life.” She has authored eight books that speak to how the grace of God, in Ginger’s words, allows us to find our way into real healing, truth, forgiveness and love.

Dr. Lewis-Mosley (Valerie to those who know her) can rightly claim that she has been healing people both physically and spiritually her whole adult life. Earning a B.S. in nursing from Boston College led to her professional life at Cornell Weill-New York Hospital and continuing study at New York University in nursing leadership. Valerie’s continual search for knowledge and avenues to assist people through difficult periods in their lives brought her to Seton Hall School of Law and a M.A. in health law. She also responded to a pull toward pastoral ministry (M.A. Immaculate Conception Seminary) and religious education (Master Catechist Certification Institute of Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University) that culminated in a Ph.D. ministry from Drew Theological School in 2015. Currently, Valerie is an Adjunct Professor of theology at Caldwell University. She has preached for many associate gatherings and also recently presented a program entitled, “Crossing the Racial Divide,” for a community study day. Her gracious manner and her beautiful, rich voice enhance the deep commitment that she professes: “to go wherever the Holy Spirit leads me to heal mind, body and spirit through proclamation of the Word.”

Ginger and Valerie represent what Vatican II prophetically declared: that all members of Christ’s church are called to holiness and need to feel empowered in proclaiming the Word. Asked to share their own unique insights on the subject of preaching by the laity, both responded to a set of questions posed to them.
When and under what circumstances did you realize that you had the gift of preaching?

Ginger: I don’t really think that I have a gift. As a child I had severe learning disabilities due to dyslexia so I devised ways to get by in school. I assumed people were either smart or perceptive and that I was the latter. I kept praying and trusting in whatever way my inner spirit directed me, and as the grace of God navigated my course I promised myself that I would never let go of learning and trusting in the power, plan and purposes of the Lord.

Valerie: I have been a lector and catechist for thirty-five years and it was during the teaching of the faith that I began to realize that preaching was integral to my ministry of teaching. A dear friend often would ask, “When are you going to begin preaching—you do know that the Lord has called you?” Over the next several years, through the movement of the Holy Spirit, various Episcopal and Lutheran churches requested me to be the speaker at their Women’s Day services. Eventually, I was asked to preach at a Catholic prayer service. That was the beginning of the personal realization that this was my calling and that the Holy Spirit would provide the opportunities for preaching and teaching.

What are the positive effects of your preaching on others?

Ginger: Whenever I share with others an experience or insight about my everyday journey with Jesus, I am always deeply amazed at the process the Lord uses to help and lift us. Every difficulty in life is a corridor of grace allowing us to find our way into real healing. I have seen it lead to a greater quality of living and loving.

Valerie: My teaching and preaching the Word of God influenced my mother to return to the consistent witness and practice of her Catholic faith and, likewise, for my sister who returned to the practice of attending Mass on a regular basis. My discussion of Jesus’ grace and love influenced a mature man of thirty-eight to re-visit the Jesus’ experience. He became evangelized and catechized in the Catholic faith and is currently a Eucharistic minister, head of the parish Finance Committee and president of the Men’s Ministry. He also became my husband (21 years February 14, 2018.) Also, several undergraduate students in my theology class are seeking to connect with the Catholic faith.

What makes some people hesitate to become “preachers of the Word”? What advice would you give them?

Ginger: Preaching is not a special gift to some only; it is through our baptism that we are all able to respond to Jesus’ promises to us and to give him praise. Some will preach the Word by speaking, while others will do so by compassionate service-- listening to those in need, singing and all forms of creative expression that bring joy to the giver and receiver. We are all invited to let his face shine through our own.

Valerie: It is a disordered belief that only clergy are called to proclaim the Word of God. It is by the right of our baptism that we are called to participate in the mission of the Church, which is to spread the Word of the Gospel. Simple conversations in our own stations of life can be our pulpit and opportunity—and if the Holy Spirit calls us to a more public expression BE NOT AFRAID.

Valerie quotes the prophet Jeremiah (20:9) in her description of the call of a preacher. It “is like a fire…imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary holding it in.” Valerie cannot help but preach God’s name and his Word. The Dominican family is blessed that the fire is still powerful and glowing in these two wonderful women, Ginger and Valerie, Dominican Preachers of the Word.
"When Irish eyes are smiling" describes Ann Murtha. She loved life, she loved people, and she loved music, dancing, and singing. Needless to say, she loved Ireland. She spent six months of her sabbatical there. Her joy was contagious even in the last years of her life.

This Irish lass was born on April 30, 1931 in Hoboken, New Jersey. Ann was introduced to Dominican life at a young age. Her mother and father were Third Order Dominicans. The family had great devotion to Saint Martin de Porres so it was no surprise that Ann chose Sister Mary Martin as her religious name.

Ann’s ministries were varied. She loved each one because of the people she served. She was teacher, principal, pastoral associate and chaplain. As a hospice chaplain, she tried to bring joy as well as peace to her patients. Because of her love for people and for Dominican life, she served for many years as Director of the Caldwell Dominican Associates.

“When Irish eyes are smiling, you can hear the angels sing.” And Ann right along with them!
Thank You!

For the gift of your friendship...
For the gift of your treasure...
For the gift of your prayers.

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Mrs. Eileen Zysk
Paul Sansone, a linguist and scripture scholar, has been a familiar name and face at the Lumen Center for almost 10 years. When you encounter him, he is friendly, unassuming, and welcoming. Underneath all this lies a scholar with a great depth of knowledge and learning cultivated over a number of years of study into his most favorite topic, the Word of God.

To most this would be a topic bringing on intimidation and a sense of ignorance. Paul is happy to invite all who come, into his world. He has managed to make what could be intimidating pleasurable, leaving one with a desire for more. Whether he is with his group on Thursday evening studying the language of ancient writings or delving more deeply into literature about scripture, you are congratulated and encouraged for your desire to learn. As in medieval times the invitation to study scripture, was an invitation to EAT THE WORD. When one eats something it disappears and becomes one with them, influencing their actions and insights.

Consider this your introduction to Paul?

Contributors: Raj Aitwal, Maria Cianci, Patricia Crowley, OP, Kathleen Dellet, Anne Helpin, OP, Mary John Kearney, OP, Jeanne Adrienne Kierce, OP, Mary Lanni, OPA, Mary McGuinness, OP, Gerarda Panek, OP, Patricia Tavis, OP, Alicia Skinner