Sister Patricia Hogan, OP, will joyfully tell you, "LOVE is the reason why I have missioned for 40 years at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic School."
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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
catholic 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.

VISON 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,

On August 8 we celebrated the Feast of Saint Dominic,
founder of the Order of the Preachers. As followers of
Dominic, we have been richly blessed and gifted by our
Dominican tradition of preaching. As a congregation,
we strive to preach the Word of God through our lives
of contemplative prayer, study, and ministry in response
to the needs of our time.

Sister Patricia Hogan, OP, and her ministry in the parish
school of Our Lady Help of Christians are featured
in this edition of The Flame. Sister Pat's passion for
Truth overflows in her expertise and excellence as
an administrator and teacher. Young lives are being
transformed by the impact of a Catholic school
education. Compassion, justice, peace, and love reign
in her school and overflow into the community.

Because of your generous heart and friendship, we
have been able to carry on with our varied ministries.
Always know how truly grateful we are to you, our
donors, as we continue to seek your assistance in
meeting our needs.

We hope you will enjoy and be inspired by this fall
issue. In the words of a Dominican blessing, May God
Creator bless you. May God Redeemer heal you. And
may God the Holy Spirit fill you with light.

With our unending love, hope, and joy,

Patrice Werner, OP

Priess
August 4, 2018 was a day bombarded by heavy wind and rain. As I quickly moved through the first floor of the Motherhouse, I turned toward the registration table to welcome our guests who had come to celebrate our Dominican Journey. I was warmed by the loud laughter, voices, and greetings. The rain had not dampened the long awaited reunion of former members of the Caldwell Dominicans, associates and sisters. The one hundred plus attendees were not deterred by the blistering wind and rain!

For a year the Former Members’ Core Committee that I was honored to co-chair with Jane Selinske, met regularly to plan this celebration of shared history, shared values, and shared lives. Together with Jane Albert, Barbara Brandes, Marie Hogarty, Cathy Bouton Ochs, and Sister Pat Stringer, OP, the shape of the day unfolded. Gathering for prayer in the chapel, witness talks by former member, Sister Rosemary Castelli, Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley, OPA, and Sister Alice McCoy, OP, set the tone for the poignant slide presentation that followed. As larger than life images appeared on the wall, we were all transported to a previous time as faces of Caldwell Dominicans, familiar places, and shared mission evoked oohs and aahs from the audience.

A delicious meal was then shared amidst continuous conversation and laughter. The crowd filling the dining room and overflowing to the Peace and Justice Room, toasted one another and once again broke bread together. Options were given to the celebrants for the afternoon. Some chose to tour the new Sacred Heart Convent where the old Saint John’s house once stood, while others gathered to share memories of deceased sisters and loved ones. Others found places to sit with old friends to catch up on lives. The culmination of this glorious day was the celebration of Mass with Father Michael Hanly, deliberately planned for Saint Catherine’s Convent so the sisters there could be an integral part of the day. Sister Honora Werner, OP, preached and all sang familiar hymns accompanied by former member, Angelina Rispoli, and the gifted voices of Sister Judy Rudolph and the scola from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Jersey City.

SPIRITS WERE ENERGIZED AND FRIENDSHIPS RENEWED ON AUGUST 4, 2018 AS ALL DID INDEED CELEBRATE OUR DOMINICAN JOURNEY!

- Kathy Detlet

Below: Sister Rosie Castelli and Sister Genevieve Marie Long, OP

Below left: Jane Albert and Sister de Monfort Kinchellagh, OP

Below right: Angie Rispoli, Pat Kelly, and Sister Marge Jaros, OP
SISTER PATRICIA HOGAN, OP
Expanding the Embrace of the Catholic Word

As principal of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic School in East Orange, New Jersey, Sister Patricia Hogan makes sure that the school’s identity is expressed in both upper and lower case “catholic” action. Curriculum, decor, and daily prayer are faithful to a Roman Catholic religious tradition, while a school community embracing every race and religion celebrates an inclusive catholic culture.

Sister Pat’s office reflects her personality and priorities. In this exceptionally spacious room, the desks of the principal and her secretary occupy minimal space. Walls covered with photographs of graduates and multiple images of Jesus Christ identify her ministry’s motivation. Numerous plaques of recognition for community service and professional excellence trace the scope of her “parish without borders.” On every available surface, useful things to be shared or given away await delivery to strangers in need.

At the center of this hospitable clutter, sits a huge philodendron. Its healthy new growth mirrors the vitality of a firmly-grounded leader reaching out to each new opportunity to make God’s love a concrete reality for the family Sister Pat feels called to serve.

A strong sense of family radiates from this school community where generations of students return as teachers and/or parents, and suggests why Sister Pat’s sentences always begin with “We.” She reports every accomplishment as the achievement of the family. Over the past forty years, this family has evolved as it became home to multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious immigrants and refugees from Africa, Haiti, the islands, and lately from the Mid-East.

A Catholic school that’s multi-religious?
How does that work?
“We welcome everybody . . . All religions, including Muslims. We have a Muslim teacher. She has no problem with our Roman Catholic prayers and liturgies. We have no problem with her Muslim garb. And she loves us. She says, ‘Here I learned just one thing: that God is God. And that he loves us all.’

Top Right: Sister Patricia and Yvens St. Pierre
Left: Sister Patricia and the first grade class
When the first Muslim student came to register, Sister explained to the parent: “This school is definitely Catholic, but we welcome everybody.” Undeterred, the parent replied: “That’s exactly what I want. I want my child to learn about everybody.” “The Muslim boy who wanted to pray and sing hymns with his Catholic classmates, found it hard to fast for the whole five weeks of Ramadan. So we supported him and prayed a special Ramadan prayer for Muslims. He was elated.”

Along with the changing face of the parish, the role of principal has also evolved, beyond the classroom into homes and the neighborhood. Family needs call today’s principal to serve as social worker, nurse, grief counselor, and human rights advocate.

Sister Patricia Hogan, OP, personifies the definition of “catholic” in every sense of that word. She shares with her staff the work load, which ranges from writing grants for scholarships, to weekly food shopping for a homebound parishioner, helping complete paper work for immigrants, and saving the life of a young cancer patient by contacting Public Service persistently until power is restored. To all of these needs, “We respond as a family.”

Right: Father Max blesses throats on the feast of Saint Blaise.
Right below: Sister Eleanor Uhl teaching first grade.

Below: Sister Patricia with Student Council members, Class of 2018.
Left to right: Kelsey J., accepted at Saint Vincent Academy; Rodeline A., Saint Vincent Academy; Shaniya C., Paramus Catholic; and Arissa E., a private school in Massachusetts.

Forty years ago, Sister Pat’s creative leadership at Saint Ann’s School in multi-racial, riot-torn Newark attracted the attention of Bishop Joseph Francis, Newark’s first African-American bishop. So, when Our Lady Help of Christians School was on the brink of closing, it was she Bishop Francis called to the rescue. When the bishop promised his support, she was quick to point out that his best contribution would be to appoint the right pastor. “Who would you want to work with”? he asked. Apparently, the prelate obeyed her criteria and as time went on Sister was called by the diocese regarding a replacement when the pastor at the time was called to serve in another parish. Her reply was: “Father Max, a beautiful Haitian priest.” The church is now open 24/7 for different groups every night. Some religious cultures hold all night vigils. “The children love Father Max to death. When he hears confessions for them, the line includes even those who aren’t Catholic. He never turns anyone away. He is completely comfortable when all religions participate in liturgy: planning, doing readings, acting as altar servers. It’s wonderful!”

Father Max’s motto aptly encapsulates Sister Patricia Hogan’s life and its impact:

“This is what you do: you share who you are. You never know who that might affect.”
Sister Mary Claire Weber, OP

Sister Mary Claire Weber, OP, was the sixth of seven children who grew up in Livingston, New Jersey. She and her four sisters were excellent skaters who were the delight of the skating rink participants. Their mother made special outfits for them and, as they came out on the rink every Friday night, onlookers cheered in amazement.

When Sister was a sophomore in high school her father died at age 48. His death had a profound impact on her and the family. Through the prayer and sorrow she experienced at that time, she heard a call from within to enter religious life. After speaking to her mother and waiting until after graduation, she entered in the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell in 1951.

She had known a few Dominican sisters where she had attended Saint Aloysius grade school. Their joy for life, dedication to teaching, and care for the students had a tremendous influence on her life, especially Sister Rita Joseph who became her sponsor and Sister Dolorita who later became the Reverend Mother.

Sister Mary Claire’s life was touched by the holy in many personal ways. “One was at the end of postulant year,” she recalled, “when we became novices. As we knelt before the bishop, he called us by our new religious names. This reminded me of Jesus when he called his apostles and changed Peter’s name, commissioning them to go out and tell the good news everywhere, and so must we.”

Sister claims many other joyful moments that she has had over the years. “Moments of celebration as a Dominican sister for 67 years and I am so happy God chose me to be where I am. My most memorable moment was when I pronounced my final vows and said, ‘until death.’”

In 2001, at Saint Catherine of Siena school in Cedar Grove, the staff and students celebrated her 50th Jubilee. “At an appointed time all stood up, each holding a photo of me on a popsicle stick and sang congratulations. That really touched my heart.”

As she reminisces about her teaching, tutoring, and being assistant principal serving as dean of discipline, she constantly recounts moments of seeing God in each child. If they were misbehaving she never corrected them but would say, “Should you be doing that? Let me see God in you.”

Her students also saw God in Sister Mary Claire. A former student remarked, “I blossomed as a person under Sister Mary Claire’s guidance.”

Each day Sister challenges herself to be a better person, teacher, and co-worker than the day before, her way of bringing Christ to others. Her words of wisdom: “You can achieve almost anything in life if you believe it is good for you and others.”

Currently, in her 85th year, Sr. Mary Claire is recovering from cancer surgery at Saint Catherine of Siena Health Care Center. As a resident there, she and others will benefit from a new nurse call system granted through SOAR. However, Sister looks forward to the day when she can return to her ministry to love, be with, and tutor students every day.
A special Thank You to all who participated and helped make the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell’s first calendar raffle a great success!

Rick & Gilda P.
Fairfield, NJ
July 3, 2018 $100
Jean B.
Irvington, NJ
July 4, 2018 $500
Jeanne C.
Bedminster, NJ
July 6, 2018 $100
Joan N.
Whiting, NJ
July 11, 2018 $100
Patricia W.
Tacoma, WA
July 13, 2018 $100
Mary Immac. M., OP
Caldwell, NJ
July 16, 2018 $100
Jay Z.
East Hanover, NJ
July 18, 2018 $100
Patricia P.
Bloomfield, NJ
July 20, 2018 $100
Donna C., OP
Caldwell, NJ
July 23, 2018 $100
Leona F.
Bonita Springs, FL
July 25, 2018 $100
Denise U.
Longview, TX
July 27, 2018 $100
Amy E.
Verona, NJ
July 30, 2018 $100
Natalie S.
Lander, WY
August 1, 2018 $100
Kathleen M.
Manasquan, NJ
August 3, 2018 $100
Claire S.
Verona, NJ
August 6, 2018 $100
Mary C.
Warren, NJ
August 8, 2018 $500
Sharon & Mark G.
Linden, NJ
August 10, 2018 $100
Frances B.
Plainfield, NJ
August 13, 2018 $100
Liz D.
Caldwell, NJ
August 15, 2018 $100
Mary Joseph B., OP
Caldwell, NJ
August 17, 2018 $100
Rev. William M.
West Orange, NJ
August 20, 2018 $100
Samuel & Judy C.
Fairfield, NJ
August 22, 2018 $100
Patricia L.
Bloomfield, NJ
August 24, 2018 $100
Kathleen D.
Chatham, NJ
August 27, 2018 $100
Marge C.
Brunswick, ME
August 29, 2018 $100
Claire H.
Port Charlotte, FL
August 31, 2018 $100
Connie Q.
Verona, NJ
September 3, 2018 $500
Janice A.
Belvidere, NJ
September 5, 2018 $100
Patricia D.
Denver, CO
September 7, 2018 $100
Paul F.
Cedar Grove, NJ
September 10, 2018 $100
Sharon K.
Nutley, NJ
September 12, 2018 $100
George P.
Jupiter, FL
September 14, 2018 $100
Joan F.
Hamilton, NY
September 17, 2018 $100
Mary Lou S.
Toms River, NJ
September 19, 2018 $100
Kathleen D.
Newtown, CT
September 21, 2018 $100
Joan S.
Verona, NJ
September 24, 2018 $100
Regina C.
Hazlet, NJ
September 26, 2018 $100
Michael M.
Hoboken, NJ
September 28, 2018 $100

Natalie S.
Lander, WY
August 1, 2018 $100
Kathleen M.
Manasquan, NJ
August 3, 2018 $100
Claire S.
Verona, NJ
August 6, 2018 $100
Mary C.
Warren, NJ
August 8, 2018 $500
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Joan S.
Verona, NJ
September 24, 2018 $100
Regina C.
Hazlet, NJ
September 26, 2018 $100
Michael M.
Hoboken, NJ
September 28, 2018 $100

Congratulations!

to all our winners!
SISTERS OF SAINT DOMINIC OF CALDWELL

2018 Jubilarians

Sister Joanne Marie Beirne, OP, holds both a B.A. from New Jersey City University, Jersey City, and an M.A. from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut. These put to excellent use in her many years of teaching at a number of schools: St. Mary, Wharton; Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport, Connecticut; St. Therese, Paterson; and St. Virgil, Morris Plains, where she also served as youth minister. She continued that ministry at Ascension parish, Randolph, where she was also the Dominican Apostolic Volunteers coordinator and pastoral associate. At St. John the Baptist parish in Allentown, Sister continued her work as youth minister as well as engaging in parish ministry. She continued both of these at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Skillman and then moved into baptismal and parish ministry at Ascension, New Milford. She concluded her years of active ministry as parish minister at St. Anthony of Padua in Butler. Currently Sister Joanne tutors at the Success Research Center at Caldwell University.

With an B.A. from Caldwell University and a M.A. from Jersey City State College, Sister Kathleen Boyle, OP, (Sister Marie Patrick) has used her education well, as a teacher in numerous schools: St. Cassian, Upper Montclair; St. Elizabeth, Linden; Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; St. Frances de Sales, Abaco, Bahamas; St. Margaret, Bayou La Batre, Alabama; Mount St. Dominic Academy Grade School, Caldwell; St. Aloysius, Caldwell; and Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair. She first became administrative assistant, then coordinator and bursar at St. Catherine’s Convent and Health Care Center, Caldwell. Today Sister continues to serve the sisters and residents at St. Catherine’s in many gracious and helpful ways.

Teaching has been the primary ministry of Sister Miriam Cannavale, OP, (Sister Stephen Louise). Having earned a B.A. from Caldwell University and an M.A. in pastoral ministry from Seton Hall University in South Orange, Sister taught at St. Elizabeth, Linden; St. Venantius, Orange; Our Lady of the Lake, Verona; St. Philip the Apostle, Clifton; Christ the King, Hillside; Our Lady of Sorrows, Garfield; Ascension, New Milford; Mount St. Dominic Academy grade school, Caldwell; and St. Aloysius, Caldwell. Besides teaching at Mount St. Dominic Academy, she worked as an assistant in development, as alumnae assistant director, and as library director. More recently she has ministered as spiritual and bereavement chaplain at Garden State Hospice, Fairfield; Hospice of New Jersey, Bloomfield; Comfort Care Hospice, Pompton Plains; and Care Alternatives Hospice, Cranford.

Sister Lois Curry, OP, (Sister John Margaret) earned a B.A. from Caldwell University and two M.A.’s, one in European history from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and one in pastoral ministry from Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University, South Orange. She taught school at St. Brigid, North Bergen; St. Boniface, Jersey City; Mount Saint Dominic Academy grade school, Caldwell; St. Venantius, Orange; and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Roseland. Later she became part of the religious education teams at St. Philomena, Livingston; St. Theresa, Kenilworth; and St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills. Sister ministered at the Dominican Reflection Center in Ossining, New York, as communications representative. Following that, she became campus minister and an instructor in history at Caldwell University, and then a staff member at Sacred Heart Institute, Caldwell. Her final active ministry was as director of religious education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Boonton. Sister Lois is also the author of Women After His Own Heart, a history of the Dominicans of Caldwell.

Sister Donna Marie O’Brien, OP (Sister Joseph Dorothy) earned her B.A. at Caldwell University and a M.A. in sacred science from St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, New York. She began her teaching career at St. Philip, Clifton and continued it at Our Lady of Sorrows, Garfield. She then became principal at Sacred Heart School, Dover. She returned to Caldwell to teach and chair the religion department at Mount Saint Dominic Academy. Then Sister Donna Marie received a call that became her main life’s work. Sister was named principal at St. John the Apostle in Clark/Linden, a ministry that lasted thirty-four years. An innovative principal, Sister was among the first to bring technology to the classrooms and through her leadership led the way for St. John the Apostle to become a National Blue Ribbon School. She continues to serve the community as assistant coordinator, coordinates community funeral services, and serves on the Board of Trustees at Mount Saint Dominic Academy.

With a B.A. from Caldwell University, Sister Jeanne Catherine Sheridan, OP, became a teacher at St. Catherine, Elizabeth. She then went on to St. Mary, Rahway where she was teacher, director of religious education, basketball moderator, and director of summer bible school. At St. Catherine, Cedar Grove, Sister repeated her ministries from St. Mary’s and added Young Christian Students moderator to her schedule. At Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair, Sister taught, served as moderator for forensics, and was involved in administration. Later at Holy Angels in Little Falls, she ministered as teacher, student council moderator, and Math and religion coordinator. She also served as a driver for St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center and then as administrative assistant in the development office of the Sisters of St. Dominic, Caldwell.

Sister Francis Margaret Smith, OP, earned a B.A. from Caldwell University and then taught at St. Mary, Rutherford, and Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport, Connecticut. She took a break from teaching to work on the kitchen staff at St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center. She returned to teaching, first at St. Agnes, Clark; then at St. Mary, Wharton; St. Elizabeth, Linden; and St. Francis de Sales, Abaco, Bahamas. She became a staff member at the Dominican Adult Daycare Center, Caldwell, and then head teacher and program supervisor at Mt. Camel Childhood Center, Newark. At Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair, Sister ministered as an administrative assistant, and then returned to St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center as a driver. She worked as administrative assistant in the development office of the Sisters of St. Dominic and then crossed the street to Marian Manor as a clerical assistant. She currently works as a volunteer at Mount St. Dominic Academy, Caldwell.

Holding a B.A. from Caldwell University and an M.A. in sociology from Boston College, Sister Mary Agnes Sullivan, OP, (Sister Ann Leonard) began her ministerial life as a teacher at St. Aloysius, and followed that by teaching at Mount Saint Dominic Academy grade school, both in Caldwell. She then became principal at St. Philomena, Livingston; and moved on as teacher and education coordinator at Project Link, Newark. Sister accepted an assignment as principal at St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City; after that becoming director of religious education at St. Gabriel, Saddle River. Finally Sister ministered as principal at Our Lady of the Lake in Verona for the next twenty-five years. While there she fostered in teachers and students alike a deep respect for earth instilling in them ecological principles to live by. Her excellence in education was also recognized by having the school she shepherded among the first to be awarded the National Blue Ribbon award.
SISTERS OF SAINT DOMINIC OF CALDWELL

2018 Jubilarians

With only two breaks in her sixty-five years in community, Sister Adrienne Fallon, OP, has followed her call as teacher. Earning her B.A. from Caldwell University, she began her ministry at St. Mary, Rutherford. This was followed by teaching at Christ the King, Hillside; St. Raphael, Livingston; St. Aeden, Jersey City; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Boonton; and St. Bridget, North Bergen. Then came the first of the breaks as she moved into patient care at St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center. She returned to teaching at St. Peter the Apostle, Parsippany; Holy Spirit, Asbury Park; and St. Denis, Manasquan. Sister coordinated religious education programs at St. Elizabeth parish in Whiting; and finally returned to teaching at St. Elizabeth, Linden. Today Sister is quick to respond to the needs of her sisters at St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center, Caldwell.

Having ministered from classroom to leadership office to community archives, Sister Patricia Mc Kearney, OP, has had a great variety of ministries as a Caldwell Dominican. She holds a B.A. from Caldwell University, a M.A. in history from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and a M.Ed. in education administration from Rivier University in Nashua, New Hampshire. She began as a teacher at St. Mary, Wharton, and went on to St. Catherine, Mobile, Alabama; St. Joseph, Union City; St. Margaret, Bayou La Batre, Alabama; Holy Spirit, Asbury Park; St. Venantius, Orange; St. Thomas, Fairfield; and St. Mary, Rahway. Then followed an assignment in which she was both teacher and director of religious education at St. Peter the Apostle, Parsippany. Leaving her classroom behind, she became director of religious education at a number of parishes: St. Pius X, Montville; St. Aloysius, Caldwell; St. Dominic, Bricktown; and St. Joseph, Bogota. Closing out her ministerial years, Sister became a pastoral associate at Mount Carmel parish, Nutley.

Sometimes teacher, sometimes principal, sometimes in more general parish ministries. Sister Catherine Gerard Kirchner, OP, first earned a B.A. from Caldwell University and later a M.A. in administration from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut. She began as a teacher at St. Aedan, Jersey City, and went on to teach at Ascension, New Milford; and St. Theresa, Paterson. She then became principal at St. Thomas More, Fairfield, and returned to the classroom at Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, Nutley, Sister ministered as director of religious education and pastoral assistant and at Blessed Sacrament parish, Roseland, as religion co-coordinator. At St. Joseph in Bogota, she worked as pastoral minister and then became assistant director of the Lumen Center, Caldwell. In retirement she happily drives sisters, serves as eucharistic minister, and is a frequent visitor to the sick.

Teaching has consumed most of the ministerial life of Sister Emma Patricia Murphy, OP. Having earned a B.A. at Caldwell University, Sister taught at Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair; St. Mary, Wharton; St. Catherine, Mobile, Alabama; Assumption, Lawrence, Massachusetts; and Mount Saint Dominic Academy Grade School, Caldwell. She joined the patient care staff at St. Catherine Convent and Health Care Center, Caldwell, before returning to academia. She was both teacher and principal at St. Peter the Apostle, Parsippany and then became receptionist at Marian Manor, Caldwell. She returned to Lacordaire as administrative assistant and then went to Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell, as finance office assistant. She is actively involved in justice issues, is an avid Scrabble lover, and a relentless knitter.

For Sister Mary Ann O’Connor, OP, music has been her most cherished ministry. She earned a B.A. from Caldwell University and masters in music education from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She began as teacher and musician for St. John School in Jersey City and at St. Paul School, Irvington. She then took on the role of music specialist for Mount Saint Dominic Academy Grade School and followed that as music teacher and glee club director at Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell. She then went as teacher and musician to Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, and then to Caldwell University as associate professor of music and department chair. She served as music director at Our Lady of Peace, New Providence and then to St. Catharine School and Parish, Spring Lake, as music teacher and director of music ministry. Throughout her life, she brought joy in music through her teaching, concerts, musicals, and congregational singing.

Holding a B.A. from Caldwell University and a M.S. in administration from St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, New York, Sister Margaret Lucille, Peterson, OP, began as a teacher and rapidly became a principal. Her first assignment was as teacher at St. John the Apostle, Clark; and then at St. Thomas More, Fairfield. From there she became principal at St. Mary, Rahway, and at St. Antoninus, Newark. She returned to teaching at the lower school, Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair, and then became guidance counselor and teacher at St. Philomena, Livingston. For a time she served as community personnel director for the Sisters of St. Dominic, Caldwell, and later was elected to the community’s leadership team as councilor of life and mission. Following that, Sister served as guidance counselor and pastoral associate at Our Lady of the Holy Angels, Little Falls. Her final ministry was as resident manager of Lincoln Hill Village, a senior citizen living complex, in West Milford. Sister also served on the Board of Trustees of Marian Manor.
On a very warm Thursday, September 6, the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell hosted a Spirituality Day that brought together the faculty and administrators of the three sponsored schools of the congregation: Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell; Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City; and Lacordaire Academy, Upper Montclair. Hospitality for the day, including the relief of air-conditioning, was graciously provided at Mount Saint Dominic Academy and the Motherhouse. As the new campus minister at Saint Dominic Academy, I was privileged to attend.

The day celebrated the three schools’ common mission of preaching, which constitutes the heart of Dominican spirituality. “We all partake in the charism of Dominic,” said Sr. Patricia Tavis, OP, councilor on the Caldwell Dominican Leadership Team. Sr. Pat noted that we are all called to “shine the light of truth for those who can make the world a better place.” The gathering gave faculty and administrators a chance to pause and reflect amid the bustle of preparation for a new school year. Participants also had the opportunity to meet in groups with colleagues from each of the schools to hold discussions specific to their subject areas.

The opening prayer, led by MSDA Spanish teacher, Ana Serra-Prescott, included a video of the song “Dream Small,” sung by Josh Wilson. The song encourages perseverance in the simple good deeds we can all perform as we seek to live the gospel: visiting a widow, a father spending time with his children, “finding little ways where only [we] can help” because “these simple moments change the world.”

Dr. Nancy Blattner, OPA, president of Caldwell University, gave the keynote address. Lacordaire religion teacher and campus minister, Kaitlyn Tashjian, a Caldwell University alumna, introduced Dr. Blattner as a “fearless leader and humble servant” who embodies the Dominican pillars of study, prayer, ministry, and community. Dr. Blattner, a Caldwell Dominican associate, gave a presentation that, for me, a Dominican novice, was clearly rooted in the conviction that we who minister in Caldwell’s sponsored institutions are called to contemplate and then to share the fruits of our contemplation. Having spent my canonical novitiate becoming grounded in the Dominican charism of preaching, I heard Dr. Blattner’s remarks as a preaching on the need to be in close relationship with God in order to know fulfillment and to respond to life’s challenges in a healthy way.
Acknowledging that we all have lives filled with stresses, big and small, Dr. Blattner remarked that the variable is the amount of stress we will experience in a given day. Our response to stress can be less than perfect; Dr. Blattner noted that we all make mistakes; she reminded us that the only perfect person was Jesus. The key, she said, is to get back up when we have fallen. Of course, this is not easy, which led Dr. Blattner to joke that if anyone in the audience was able to “take a breath and go on” seamlessly when faced with stress, worries, or challenges, “Sr. Pat Stringer (promoter of the Dominican Charism and coordinator of the Spirituality Day) wants you next year” as keynote speaker.

Dr. Blattner reported that when faced with a challenging situation, it is her practice to go to those people she admires—those people who will ask, “Where is God in this? Are you asking for help?” She recommended five practices:

1. Start and end each day with prayer. Beginning the day with prayer will make us “less frazzled” and will help us to treat others reverently. Will we fail even if we pray daily? Yes, said Dr. Blattner, but we will still be better because we have prayed.

2. Create a sacred space. If the space cannot be physical, it can be internal. Dr. Blattner pointed to St. Catherine of Siena as one who knew the importance of this: Catherine made it a practice to create a quiet space for herself even when counseling the pope.

3. Repeat a mantra or short prayer throughout the day. Dr. Blattner cited “Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my soul,” and “God, help!” as examples.

4. Keep a journal.

5. Find someone with whom you can pray or with whom you can share reflections.

Each of these practices is simple, said Dr. Blattner, which makes it realistic to undertake them amid our stressful lives. She concluded by noting the need to start small, as the opening song had emphasized.

To round out the morning, faculty and administrators were grouped by their academic discipline or administrative role with colleagues from each of the three schools. Lunch followed in the Motherhouse dining room.

The day concluded in the Motherhouse chapel, where Sr. Alice Uhl, OP, guided us in a reflection based on Jesus’ blessing of the children in the gospel of Mark. Sr. Alice invited us to ponder, “What does Jesus want for the children? What does he want for teachers, administrators, parents?” The words with which Sr. Alice closed the prayer service provided a worthy answer to these questions: “Many blessings, have a wonderful year, and dream small!”

Sister Gina Scaringella, OP
Associates—what in the world are they? This question was very common as religious orders of women and men began to implement the documents of Vatican II concerning the revitalizing of their missions and the role of the laity in the church. During the seventies and early eighties, many congregations explored the idea of establishing groups of women and men who were attracted to the charism and spirituality of their orders, and sharing with them those identifying qualities. The men and women would not be vowed religious but would internalize the unique features of the congregation’s mission and then carry those features into their daily lives, homes, occupations, and prayer lives.

In the beginning they were known by different names: co-members, affiliates, co-journers, consociates, and co-workers, but regardless of what they were called the numbers of associates increased as the movement grew. In a survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in 2016, there were 35,000 associates in the various orders and congregations across the United States.

Our Caldwell Dominican associate group came into being in 1983 and its first directors were sisters. Associates were mainly women who had connections to the community through school, work, or parish ministries. As the membership
increased, lay leadership emerged and today the associates have a lay director and core group who plan the events of the year collaboratively with a sister advisor.

This year, among the seventy-six associates, there are teachers, nurses, administrators, business executives, former sisters and retired people. Imbued with the Dominican spirit, they have deepened their own spirituality and are equipped through knowledge and connection to carry the mission forward.

This summer sisters, associates, and former members of the community gathered together to share an extraordinarily nostalgic day entitled Continuing Our Dominican Journey. Tracing the roots of the Dominican Order and reflecting on the great faith of the early Dominican sisters who came to America from Germany was inspiring. Their courage, hard work, and indomitable spirit produced the unique Caldwell congregation of the twentieth century and into today. The institutions through which so many generations were nurtured and educated were the fulfilled dreams of their mission.

In September in the Motherhouse chapel, the reception of new associates took place during a prayer service and commitment ceremony presided over by Corinne Thompson, director of associates and Sister Donna Marie O’Brien OP, sister advisor. Five were received as associates: Nancy Kennedy, Patricia Russillo, Rosa Mirna Sanchez, Laura Ziegert and Reverend Francis Heinen. As chaplain for the retired sisters, Father Frank wanted to know what made Dominicans Dominican. He felt as an associate he could better understand our world view if he knew our charism and mission. His joyful presence at St. Catherine’s Health Care Center has already marked him as very Dominican.

At reception time all associates are asked to make a yearly commitment. Their commitment states their dedication to Dominican ideals:

I wish to renew my commitment to the active-contemplative mission and ministry of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, New Jersey.

I unite myself to Dominic, itinerant preacher… to Catherine, contemplative woman… to Thomas Aquinas, who inspires us to contemplatively study the theological and political issues of the day… to all Dominicans throughout the world as we carry out our mission to praise, to bless, and to preach.

So what in the world are Dominican associates? Associates are the daughters and sons of the worldwide Dominican family living the Dominican spirit and seeking to bring peace, justice, truth, and compassion to the world.

Mary Lanni, OPA
Sister Vivien Jennings, OP, went home to God on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Sister was 83 years old, had been a member of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell since 1952, and had made her final profession of vows on June 28, 1960.

Always an extraordinary woman, Sister Vivien served as Major Superior of the Caldwell congregation, was the founder of Link Educational Center in Newark, president of the Dominican Leadership Conference, prime mover in the development of Genesis Farm, the first Communications Director, and then President of Caldwell University. During her long years of service, Sister also ministered as Telecommunications Director at Barry University in Miami, Florida, and as Public Affairs Director of Catholic Telecommunications Network in New York City.

Sister also served as an elementary school teacher, a secondary school teacher, and a professor of English at Caldwell University.

She earned a B.A. in English from Caldwell University, a M.A. in English from Catholic University, an M.S. in communications from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in English from Fordham University in addition to post-doctoral studies in English at Oxford University, in urban education at Harvard University, and in finance at Columbia Teachers College.

While the women’s liberation movement was in full swing and often in a direction many found too strident and too lacking in compassion, Sister authored the book, *The Valiant Woman*, which offered a gentler view of what womanhood means and some of the best ways to live in that spirit, to help to bring about reconciliation between the world and the God whom it too often ignores. Though the book is now nearly forty-five years old, the truth of her insights, obviously based in a life of prayer, are as valid today as they were when the book was first published.

Sister “retired” from active ministry in 2010 and became a resident of St. Catherine’s Convent in the shadow of the Motherhouse where she had entered the community sixty-six years ago. Still active, Sister Vivien was nearly finished writing another book — this one on the virtue of hope. Working from Sister’s notes and from conversations she had had with some members of the congregation and her family, one of her nieces, in concert with a Caldwell Dominican, plans to finish this work Sister Vivien had begun.

Though in recent years Sister Vivien had suffered from various physical ailments, she never lost her drive, her care and concern for the lost and forsaken, and her great love for the God who brought her into being and who guided her faithfully throughout her life.

Sister Vivien is survived by a number of nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews. They, as well as her sisters in community, will miss her gentleness, her incisive mind, and her quiet smile.

Go with God, Sister. And, please, remember to pray for us.
Sister Anne Sullivan, OP

Sister Anne Sullivan, OP was born March 19, 1935 and entered eternal life September 25, 2018 at the age of 83. Her life was blessed by a loving nurturing Irish Catholic family. She was the second oldest of eleven children born to Leonard and Mary Edna Sullivan in the Bronx, NY and later lived in Tappan, NY. Her personality is described by many as keen witted, hard-working, and earnest in all she undertook whether it be fixing things with her tools and handiwork, cooking a fine delicious meal, or tackling all sorts of jobs. Her mother and father nurtured Sister Anne’s faith in God providing a wonderful home life surrounded day to day in sharing, family events, and celebrations with Irish good humor in the mix of it all. Her Catholic education from grade school through college extended what was present in her home and laid the foundation of her Dominican vocation in religious life.

Sister Anne entered the Sisters of Saint Dominic on September 8, 1957 after having graduated from Caldwell University. She made final profession on June 13, 1965. As a professed Sister, she was given the name Sister Anne Brendan, OP. Her ministry and service to the church spanned her life as an educator who dedicated herself to study, research, writing/publications, and teaching the Word of God at all levels – elementary, secondary, collegiate, and adult education. She spent her first 15 years in the elementary school and secondary school ministry not only teaching but engaged in extra-curricular activities. She served at Caldwell University, as well as at Seton Hall University, South Orange. While at Seton Hall she also served in the Office of Campus Ministry. Later she presented sacred Scripture as part of the Adult Education Series offered by the Archdioceses of Newark and New York. Sister Anne served on the Caldwell University Board of Trustees and the Lumen Center Advisory Board.

In her Dominican call to teach and preach, Sister Anne excelled in her studies earning a BA and teaching certificates at Caldwell University, an MA in Theology from Providence College in Rhode Island and an STD in Sacred Scripture and Theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary, Washington, DC. She spent a year studying at the Louvain School of Theology, Belgium, in sacred Scripture and theology. Sister Anne enjoyed many hobbies and loved to travel given many opportunities in the United States, Europe, and the British Isles. She was a woman who gave generously of her time and talents to her family, friends, and students.

Sister Anne’s ministry continued as a patient in Saint Catherine Convent and Health Care Center where she spent the last thirteen years of her life preaching through her acceptance of the progressive changes brought on by her affliction with Huntington’s disease. Through her personal transformation from the active life to that of dependency she witnessed what it means to bear the cross of suffering while continuing to bring joy to those around her. Her family, sisters, friends and former students are grateful for the gifts she generously shared.

Sister Anne, pray for us always.
Dr. Ginger Grancagnolo is a writer, lecturer and private counselor to many. She considers the Lumen Center, as well as the Mount, her home away from home. Each season she returns to the Center to share her insights and wisdom with those who attend her workshops.

For Ginger, fear prevents one from truly succeeding in life. Her use of easy and simple tools invites participants to break free of those fears, unlocking the divine power that is within them. Her approach includes humor and laughter. Stories of family, serious and humorous, bring laughter while deeper insights are presented. “We are meant to be happy, so let’s get to it!” proclaims Ginger.

Continue to Shine, Shine, Shine...
The World Deserves Your Glow!