Dear Friends,

In this issue of The Flame, we acknowledge and thank profusely our benefactors who have so generously shared their prayers and donations with us during this past year. Many of you have been so faithful over the years and we especially thank you for that faithfulness. And we welcome and thank those who have joined us in our mission this past year. We give thanks continually to God for your generous spirit.

Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, is the focus of our newsletter this spring as it celebrates its centennial. Lacordaire is an independent, college preparatory school rooted in the Dominican tradition. It serves a diverse student body, coed pre-k-8 and young women in grades 9-12. Its challenging curriculum, enrichment programs, and nurturing atmosphere are all attractive features for its students. We know you will enjoy reading about Lacordaire, one of our beloved sponsored ministries.

As we enjoy the freshness of spring with its new growth and promise of renewed life, know that we hold all of you in our prayers. In return we ask that you pray for us as we listen to and preach the gospel each day to the best of our ability. May we continue to bear fruit just as the gospel is bearing fruit in you. We are ever so grateful for each of you. And may the Lord continue to bless you, your family, and loved ones.

Gratefully,

Patrice Werner, OP
Priress
The Sisters of Saint Dominic held their Second Calendar Raffle during July, August, and September, 2019, and it was a big success. Lightning did strike three times with second time winners. Yes, it can happen!

Thank You

again to all who participated.
We appreciate your good spirit.
Now, we’re planning the 2020 3rd Annual 3-Month Calendar Raffle!
So, we hope you will . . .
“STAY in it, to win it!”

John T.
Dover, NJ
September 4, 2019 $500

Jim C.
Olean, NY
September 6, 2019 $100

Pat W.
Caldwell, NJ
September 9, 2019 $100

Marie M.
Catonsville, MD
September 11, 2019 $100

Franziska F.
Manchester, NJ
September 13, 2019 $100

Geraldyne Y.
Caldwell, NJ
September 16, 2019 $100

Claire S
Cedar Grove, NJ
September 18, 2019 $100

Carrie & Joseph G.
Piermont, NY
September 20, 2019 $100

Maryellen N.
Ridgefield Park, NJ
October 16, 2019 $100

Val P.
Riva, MD
October 18, 2019 $100

Pat W.
Caldwell, NJ
October 21, 2019 $100

Judith L.
New York, NY
October 23, 2019 $100

Kathy B.
Long Branch, NJ
October 25, 2019 $100

Gene B.
Manasquan, NJ
October 28, 2019 $100

Joyce C.
South Amboy, NJ
October 30, 2019 $100

Meg K.
Breezy Point, NY
November 1, 2019 $100

Eileen I.
Caldwell, NJ
November 4, 2019 $100

Nancy T.
San Diego, CA
November 6, 2019 $100

Jackie N.
Freehold, NJ
November 8, 2019 $100

Ginny G.
Neptune, NJ
November 11, 2019 $100

Franziska F.
Manchester, NJ
November 13, 2019 $100

Kevin B.
Port Reading, NJ
November 15, 2019 $100

George D.
Naples, FL
November 18, 2019 $100

Corinne T.
Jersey City, NJ
November 20, 2019 $100

Geraldyne Y.
Caldwell, NJ
November 22, 2019 $100

Mark V.
Lynch Station, VA
November 25, 2019 $100

Jackie N.
Freehold, NJ
November 27, 2019 $100

Jim & Fran P.
Caldwell, NJ
November 29, 2019 $500

Congratulations!

to all our winners!
“The authentic Dominican disappears into the people she serves; she reappears in the people she empowers.” Written fifty years ago, these words describe a significant movement in the parallel histories of Lacordaire Academy and the emerging Catholic Church.

On August 20, 2018 three Caldwell Dominican sisters ceremoniously drew to completion a decades-long process of disappearing from Lacordaire Academy. In the convent chapel, they assembled to pray together as the final sisters’ community to occupy the mansion that had housed both school and home for close to a century. A small group of former faculty and staff represented the one hundred fifty Caldwell sisters who had served generations of children and their families there. As those sisters’ names were solemnly intoned, everyone silently shared bittersweet emotions. Wistful letting go of a beloved space gradually segued into gratitude for all the men and women who once shared and are now continuing Lacordaire’s educational ministry. In their ritual of remembrance, Caldwell sisters seemed to “disappear and reappear.” Reflecting on the scene at the symbolic level, this transition of an iconic convent into an office building becomes a metaphoric mirror for an historic movement within the Church: the empowerment of the laity.

A year later on October 24, 2019, parents, trustees, faculty, staff, and students—past and present—assembled on the lawn in front of the former convent, now James Hall, to launch the public celebration of Lacordaire Academy’s first One Hundred Years. Only forty of those in the crowd of five hundred were Caldwell sisters with only one sister on the school’s staff. But as Bishop Manuel A. Cruz concluded the Centennial Mass, a sturdy chorus of pre-k voices proudly preempted the spotlight for a spirited rendering of the Dominican Magnificat. A sense of fulfillment surged through the crowd. Spontaneously and unconsciously, the youngest students and oldest alumnae of the Lacordaire community formed a living symbol of an empowered laity.
On January 16, 2020, a site visit from editors of the Flame confirmed abundantly that Lacordaire is unlikely to forget its Dominican heritage. Nor is it likely to minimize its debt to the lay colleagues who have animated its extraordinary vitality. Throughout our interviews and observations we juxtaposed Lacordaire’s inherited traditions with its present reality. We also compared that reality with the school’s presentation of itself on its attractive and informative website. This process affirmed that Dominican values and Lacordaire traditions pervade the school’s culture and curriculum. The two traditions most prominent in documents and comments from Lacordaire staff are collaborative leadership and education through the arts. A striking example, combining both Dominican and Lacordaire traditions, welcomes visitors at the high school’s main entrance: a stunning abstract montage representing Saint Dominic’s legendary Orange Tree. The artifact was created collaboratively by Sister Gerardine Mueller, OP, and Saydi Callahan Keefe, Director of Admissions. On the wall of the Admissions Office hangs another Keefe artwork that brings the two traditions together: a painting of cherry blossoms inscribed:

A Beautiful Life: A 100 Year Legacy of the Dominican Sisters
In gratitude for their vision, leadership, and love for the children of Lacordaire Academy

A wall is now reserved for a companion artifact expressing the gratitude of the Dominican sisters for their lay partners in mission without whom Lacordaire would never be celebrating a hundred-year history. Among these many dedicated lay professionals, the person most often cited is Brian Morgan, Lacordaire’s first lay Head of School. Having weathered the storm of being the first male administrator at this all-girls school, Dr. Morgan immediately united the three school levels into one academy. The positive impact of this decision is universally remembered as transformative. At the end of Dr. Morgan’s ten years, Christine James, Board of Trustees Chair and Sister Luella Ramm, OP, Board Member and Former Chair summarized his administrative style. Brian Morgan left “an indelible mark of passionate, collaborative, mission-centric leadership.” Between 2007-17, he led the academy through two accreditations from the Middle States Association whose reports provide reliable contemporaneous evidence for reality at the time of the visitation. One committee’s commendations affirmed that Lacordaire’s “mission remains as a strong thread woven throughout the fabric of the school’s community.” The visiting committee also found themselves “in awe” of the unifying effect of the academy’s immersion in the arts: “We can honestly say that you are growing young Renaissance women and men here.”
Dr. William Hambleton, who succeeded Dr. Morgan as head of school, continued to support the challenging and innovative curriculum of enrichment programs in addition to the nurturing atmosphere of the academy.

Lacordaire’s distinctive dedication to the visual and performing arts traces back to the 1920s and prevails throughout its history. Archival documents record that the founders’ first public relations initiative was to attract neighborhood attention to the young school by mounting musical and dramatic performances on the front lawn. Critics in the local press routinely reviewed these productions. Many years later, Sister Arlene Antczak (secondary school principal, 1974-9) remembers especially the annual spring musicals like Oklahoma, and Fiddler on the Roof. Directed by Apollo Dukakis from Montclair’s Whole Theater, students of all ages received a very professional introduction to theater arts. Sister Mary Immaculate had no trouble recruiting voices for the chorus, while student artists happily spent hours building sets designed by Sisters Miriam Therese and Mary Pat Reid. “Since two thirds of the student body were in the cast or crew, it was a very unifying experience for the whole school,” Sister Arlene recalls. “The spirit that prevailed before, during, and after the spring musical cannot be captured in words. It made a positive impact on all.”

And the impact of this communal experience extended beyond the stage. Art students who had experienced the magic of inventing beauty from limited resources went on to transform a storage closet into a small meditation chapel.

Members of Lacordaire’s current faculty express a similar appreciation for the power of the arts to foster personal development through teamwork, creativity, and resourcefulness. Because the entire faculty embraces the vision of a curriculum that extends pre-k through 12, no one was surprised in 1996 when Lacordaire announced the opening of its First Annual Elementary School Shakespeare Festival. Today, the walls and hallways of the premises display visual evidence that Lacordaire continues to build on its tradition of immersion in the arts. Regardless of talent or lack of it, every student from pre-k through grade 12 is expected to participate in artistic activities, curricular and extra-curricular. Teachers of history, literature, religion, and science routinely incorporate art into their courses as a source of knowledge and as a creative form of problem solving. Their approach to teaching reminds past faculty of Sister Mary Daniel’s legendary Classical Heritage course which included a hands-on study of archeology.

Lacordaire’s current administration encourages gifted teachers to design new courses inspired by their personal discoveries as they model the enjoyment of life-long learning. Head of School, Megan Mannato, describes Lacordaire’s constantly updated college prep curriculum as “rigorous” and her faculty as “passionate about teaching.” Undoubtedly, this explains why for five consecutive years, Essex Magazine has voted Lacordaire: The Best Private School in Essex County.
Earning and maintaining such a distinction has not been easy. Lacordaire demonstrates that being small has both advantages and disadvantages. In the area of extra-curricular activities, Lacordaire faculty stress its benefits over its limitations. From a small cohort of students, success demands that every one participate. Teamwork begets socialization, encourages thoughtfulness of others, and develops a sense of individual responsibility for the group’s achievement. Students can observe this model of shared responsibility among faculty members, each of whom is expected to share administrative and extra-curricular responsibilities.

Kaitlyn Tashjian, OPA, for example, teaches religion, serves as Director of Guidance, Mission Designee, and Campus Minister. In addition to training student preachers and arranging liturgical ceremonies and retreats, Kaitlin’s daily ministry is to maintain the richness of the Catholic tradition while interacting with a student population. Most Lacordaire parents, even those of many different faiths or of none, choose a religious school because they equate religion with morality, and they hope the school will supply the moral training they want for their children.

At the time of its founding, Lacordaire served wealthy Catholic families in an America where Catholics were a despised minority accused of threatening influence from a foreign power—the pope of Rome. Today a school where fourteen different languages are spoken at home offers an ideal setting for teaching the Gospel’s “preferential option” for “the Other.” Eileen Berg Angolia, who graduated from the upper school and has been teaching French at Lacordaire for nineteen years, created an example of how moral education can be gracefully integrated into an appealing honors course. The “Othering in Literature” course explores different forms of discrimination against otherness in masterpieces of world literature from ancient myth to modern “flash fiction.”

Lacordaire’s administration and staff consistently exemplify the paradox that the skill required to sustain a sacred tradition is adaptability to change.

Lacordaire celebrates its first hundred years with gratitude, not only for the inspiration of its ancient foremothers, but for the loyalty, tenacity, and resourcefulness of its contemporary partners. Lacordaire steps forward into its next century with confidence in an empowered laity, the asset that is proving to be one of Lacordaire’s sturdiest traditions.
Leading the Way to Sustainability

Since our founding in 1881, the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell have been women who sought to engage one another and those whose lives we touch with a sense of wonder about life’s meaning, beauty, and truth in all its forms. Historically, our roots go back to understanding the growth cycle of the land as we depended on small farming for sustenance. So our lives in community have been intertwined and supported by our natural world over these past many years. But growth in knowledge, experience, and a deepening understanding of the universe has not always kept pace with the impact of human behaviors on the life of the planet.

The Universe and Creation Committee was formed as an outgrowth of the 1995 Community Chapter’s Vision Statement regarding our deep concern for the environment and the need to take action that would make earth literacy a priority in our ministry.

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.

This commitment has been reaffirmed at each Chapter since 1995.

Several key initiatives and actions have been taken by the Universe and Creation Committee within the last year with the support of the full community and where possible the collaboration of our educational institutions. The Committee conducted a survey of the institutions on our grounds in Caldwell to determine the sustainability initiatives undertaken by each. This initiative includes the Motherhouse, St. Catherine Convent and Healthcare Center, Caldwell University Dining Services and Facilities, Sacred Heart Convent, and Mt. St. Dominic Academy. Each institution developed ways to address issues of climate change, recycling, use of sustainable materials, and energy use. These initiatives were published in our weekly newsletter, Keeping in Touch (KIT), so everyone would be aware of what is being done to green our institutions. A brochure with these initiatives https://caldwellop.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Sustainability-Initiatives.pdf was prepared and distributed to
groups with whom we are affiliated. Feedback showed how everyone was excited and amazed with the results.

In addition the Committee works to raise consciousness about the urgency of issues relating to the planet and promote a deepening understanding of the sacredness of all creation. Materials are provided for discussion and reflection to our Universe and Creation study group and to the Mission Designees in our institutions, and the Congregation is alerted to major issues affecting the planet through weekly publications in KIT.

Other initiatives have included distribution of materials in Advent and Lent for reflection, invitation to people to write reflections and poetry on nature, presentations on climate change, fundraisers for the needy, and protests both locally and nationally. Networking with other groups assist in generating collaborative efforts on behalf of eco-justice initiatives.

Last year the Committee developed and distributed a land ethic [https://caldwellop.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Land-Ethic.jpg](https://caldwellop.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Land-Ethic.jpg) that gives a concrete way to live our Vision Statement. This includes the land, which encompasses soil, air, water, plants, animals, and people. In response we are called to be life-giving and creative participants in the ongoing life of Earth and its resources, especially in our own bioregion and on the land where we live. The guidelines underscore our pledge to preserve the integrity, sustainability, and beauty of the community of life on the land entrusted to us, and to evaluate present and future consequences of decisions regarding the land in the context of our mission, vision statements, and land ethic.

Sisters Elsie Bernauer, Mary Pat Reid, Mary Agnes Sullivan, Catherine Waters, Marge Jaros, Eleanor Uhl, Kaitlyn Tashjian, Jeanne Goyette, Kathy McFarlane, Alice Uhl, Marie Mueller

Hydration Station at Mount Saint Dominic Academy
Sister Doris Ann Bowles, OP

Sister Doris Ann Bowles, died on November 1, 2019 in Saint Catherine of Siena Healthcare Center at the age of 97 having served God as a Caldwell Dominican sister for 79 years. Born in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sister began her lifelong relationship with the Caldwell community at the age of nine when her family came to the United States. Her teachers at Saint Mary’s High School in Rutherford were not surprised on August 30, 1941 when she chose to enter the community and made final profession August 24, 1948.

Sister Doris Ann’s education included a BA in English from Caldwell University, an M.A. in speech and drama from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and doctoral studies in administration at New York University. Most of her professional life was devoted to the education ministry: teacher in two parish schools, Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport, CT and Saint Michael, Union; teacher and principal in three private schools Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City; Union Catholic High School, Scotch Plains; and Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Caldwell, NJ. Her unique style combining effective communication skills with a commanding presence marked her term as Superintendent of Newark Archdiocesan Schools. Her other administrative ministries included: Director of Operations, New Community Corporation, Newark and Director of Marketing, Siena Village, Wayne.

Sister Doris Ann is remembered fondly as a charismatic teacher and administrator who identified gifted colleagues and developed their talents by sharing responsibility with them and delegating to them projects both practical and creative. Her own personal satisfaction was greatest when she successfully empowered the less-gifted with competence and confidence.

Sister Doris Ann was predeceased by her parents James and Phoebe and her five siblings: Jessica, Molly, Sister Kevin OSB, George, and Leo Bowles.

Sister Mary Claire Weber, OP

Sister Mary Claire Weber passed away peacefully just as the sun was rising on November 26, 2019 in Saint Catherine of Siena Healthcare Center in Caldwell, NJ. A woman filled with unending joy and kindness, Sister Mary Claire served her God and the Sisters of Saint Dominic for 68 years. A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated for her on November 30, 2019 in Saint Catherine Convent Chapel.

Sister Mary Claire grew up in Livingston, NJ, with her loving parents and six siblings. She attended St. Aloysius School and Grover Cleveland High School both in Caldwell, NJ. Sister entered the Caldwell Dominicans in 1951 and made first profession in 1953. It was in 1953 that Sister began her ministry as an elementary school educator. Sister’s warm and patient ways suited her well for loving service in elementary education. Sister continued to serve God’s children and families at Sacred Heart School, Dover; St. Boniface, Jersey City; St Catherine, Mobile, Alabama; St. Michael, Union; Ascension, New Milford; and St. Catherine, Cedar Grove where Sister remained a loving presence for 40 years.

With a gentle spirit, a love for life, and someone who saw goodness in everyone, Sister brought the message of God’s never ending love to all who came to know her.

The songs she selected for her sending forth – “Climb Every Mountain” and “Be Not Afraid” spoke of her courage, strength and her ability to always remain positive and to enjoy each day of her life. Sister remained faithful to her family and to her Dominican family keeping before her our Dominican motto to “Praise, to Bless and to Preach.”
The Sisters of Saint Dominic are grateful to all those who have given in memory of a deceased family member, friend or coworker. The following list includes deceased individuals whose friends and family names us recipients of memorial gifts during 2019.*

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Mrs. Virginia White

We Remember Those Who Have Gone Before Us…

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 coworker. The following list includes deceased individuals whose friends and family names us recipients of memorial gifts during 2019.*

We are grateful

We hold all of our donors and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers.

The following list includes estates from which the Sisters of Saint Dominic received bequests during 2019*

Ms. Dolores R. Hogan
Mr. Frank J. Roettinger, Jr.
Ms. Frances Ruhlman
Mr. Hugh M. Williams

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

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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.
Sister Anita Constance, is a Sister of Charity from Convent Station, New Jersey. For fifteen years she served as the Director of Pastoral Care at the Villa, a healthcare facility for her Congregation. This was a position Sister loved which enabled her to share her gift of caring for the elderly. She also served as the Director of Xavier Center, a retreat facility at Convent Station. Since that time, Sister Anita has become committed to the ministry of the Word. As an itinerant preacher she is often found giving retreats, presenting days of prayer, offering the healing touch ministry, or meeting with an individual for spiritual guidance.

At the invitation from the National Board of Matt Talbot, Sister Anita is honored to be a practicing director of Matt Talbot Retreats for Recovery.

With her wide experience of presenting on various spiritual topics, the Lumen Center has been fortunate to have Sister Anita as a frequent presenter. Her topics have ranged from Martha and Mary, Mary the Mother of Jesus, Various Forms of Prayer, and People of the Passion to name just a few. Her ability to integrate visual images into her programs has touched the hearts of those in attendance.

She is the author of several books, including *Night Vision: Praying through Change* and *A Cup of Grace to Go: What Jesus Might Say to Start Your Day*. She is on the Lumen Center Advisory Board.

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