

Summer 2021 & Autumn 2022

The Southern Star

ISSUE #27— Double Edition

Newsletter for the Dominican Sisters of Wanganui

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From the carved frieze inside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris,
depicting Epiphany & Easter



“Start being brave about everything, driving out darkness and spreading light as well.
Don’t look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything.”

- Saint Catherine of Siena

LETTER FROM MOTHER Prioress GENERAL

Mother Mary Madeleine, O.P.

M*agnificat!*

In imitation of Our Blessed Mother, we can only thank God for the many blessings and graces which He has bestowed on our congregation these past six months. This is a special edition of our newsletter combining two together since we missed the deadline for the summer edition amidst all the goings-on here at St Dominic's.



Firstly, we were able to finish the 2021 academic year as normal despite the restrictions which were placed on the education sector here in New Zealand. During the second week of the holidays, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Dominicans in New Zealand, the Sisters had the opportunity to visit the beauties of the Wairarapa. Nothing beats going out into nature to refresh the mind and soul after a very difficult two years under the covid regime. The Sisters were able to undertake some amazing walks with breath-taking views involving swing bridges, seals, lighthouses, and sheep.

After Christmas we had a very beautiful, rejuvenating retreat preached by our chaplain, Father Elias O.S.B. The theme was "Union with God" with conferences that included many edifying stories exemplifying how to live religious life faithfully and cheerfully. This was followed by a ceremony on the Feast of

the Epiphany with one Sister making final profession and five others renewing their vows. The following week, two Sisters and their young lady helpers ran the "Our Lady of Loreto Camp" for 36 girls. On the Sunday, January 23rd, four novices were received in our Dominican Third Order and eight more in Samoa on February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. School then started a little bit later than usual since we had initially planned to do it by correspondence, but were able to find a means to return to the classroom—to everyone's relief.

Also, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a request to enter the convent came from one of our first boarder graduates to the delight of all of the Sisters. She entered as a pre-postulant on the eve of the feast of St Thomas Aquinas, in time to see the annual debating competition at the girls' school on his feast day, March 7. On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, another Sister, who had been waiting for the



LETTER FROM MOTHER prioress GENERAL: Continued...

approval of her New Zealand residency for over two years, was able to make her final profession with all of the secondary pupils in attendance for the Solemn High Mass and ceremony. This was followed by a morning tea and three performances from the girls about our patronesses for this academic year. The School Theme for the year is “Daughters of the Church” in honour of three anniversaries being celebrated this year: the 20th anniversary of the founding of our congregation, which claims the seraphic Saint Catherine of Siena as one of its principal patronesses; the 400th anniversary of the canonization of St Teresa of Avila, one of the most valiant daughters of Holy Mother Church; and the 450th anniversary of the birth of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, who was a model daughter of God in a whole spectrum of vocations.

The first school term ended with a recollection day for all of the pupils on Spy Wednesday, and then the Sisters began preparations for our Easter ceremonies. Our new library building was finished just in time for Our Lord to repose there on Holy Thursday and throughout the Triduum before books and shelves filled it. During the Easter break some boys from the secondary school assisted the Sisters with moving books into our new library, which was blessed, along with our new refectory, on the Feast of St Catherine of Siena, April 30, by Father Elias. We are again having meals in the monastic style with the tables in a “U shape” and the Sisters sitting only on one side. Two Sisters walk up the middle waiting on the rest, serving from the junior sisters to the senior sisters and ending with the superior. This practice was instituted into our Order in memory of the occasion when angels appeared to St Dominic and his brethren in the refectory at St Sixtus in Rome. The brethren were without food and the angels came to serve them starting with the juniors and ending with Our Holy Father, St Dominic. There is no talking during the meal as we listen to the reader who provides nourishment for our souls while we are nourishing our bodies with food. The ability to maintain greater silence and recollection by not having to move from the table to collect food individually but rather having more room for two Sisters to move freely in order to serve the sisters instead, is a joy to one and all.



The space that was created by moving into the new refectory for meals allows us to have our weekly chapter of faults next to the refectory. This used to take place in a classroom at school. The next projects include the making of wooden monastic refectory tables, extending our community room, and a covered cloistered walkway between the convent, new library and the novitiate wing, Loreto.

On the Feast of Pentecost another ex-pupil came for a two week visit and requested to be admitted to the convent. She has been accepted and will join as a pre-postulant this month. We sincerely thank you, our dear family, friends and benefactors for your generous support and we ask that you unite with us as we continue our prayers of thanksgiving to God and Our Lady for their care and protection over our congregation, especially in this year of the 20th anniversary of our foundation – *Magnificat!*



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Day of Peace

Beep... Beep...beep. Rose drowsily fumbles to switch off her alarm. “Oh. What day is it?...Do I have to go to the petrol station before work today?...” Rubbing her eyes and getting out of bed, she slowly realized that it was her ‘holiday’ of the month. Relief broke into a smile as she played mentally on the term ‘holiday’—*true*, it was truly a ‘holy-day’... It was her monthly day of recollection on a day-off from work. “God bless the retreat master who suggested these monthly ‘breaks’”—they were something she had come to look forward to. She went to the woodstove to throw on some more logs, and settled near the light of the fire, to make her meditation. She made sure to focus her intention for the day and ask for the graces needed—“Today, I’m going to really try to be recollected...to understand what our Lord wants of me, what He’s asking of me right now...”

Later, as she got ready and prepared breakfast, she mused, “It’s really more about ‘spiritual survival’ now... I can’t miss having my day of recollection each month...” As she relaxedly munched her toast, she contemplated how this monthly time really helped to keep sanity in her busy, full life, and helped to keep God in His proper place in this life.

After she gathered up her books and iPhone plus

headphones and other necessities for the day, she drove to the church to make a morning visit. “I really envy those who have the luxury of daily mass,” she thought as she pulled into the parking lot. “At least I can be with our Lord.” Rose spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament not only praying, but also reading, and even listening to some sermons and conferences which she had saved on her phone. She didn’t stay all day in the church, though; there was time for a nice walk, a good lunch, even a nap—since she was still exhausted from her work schedule over the past week.

This is a pleasant story—sounds like something from the 1940’s, minus the iPhone—it seems too good to be true. Actually, it is a true account, with details taken from an interview with the real-life ‘Rose,’ a young woman who has been making a monthly retreat for the past several years amidst a fast-paced life. She explained that this day was a golden, two-fold opportunity for her to come back to: 1) God, and 2) herself. It was for her an occasion to find some serious quiet time to really see life as it was, not as it appeared superficially, as it sped past her each busy moment. It was her time to try to be more recollected so that she might find out “what He wants from me.”

Father Edward Leen, when writing of yearly retreats,

makes some points which we may also apply to a monthly recollection day:

“I would ask you to form a picture for yourselves in your meditations. Let each person for herself follow out by an effort of thought this picture. Go back through time nineteen hundred years. You have heard of this remarkable Man whose speech was stirring the multitude, who was speaking of sublime things, whose words were shattering all conventions, whose words were moving human souls and answering to their innermost aspirations. Think of yourselves as stirred by all this, and resolve to bring yourselves into the presence of this Man who seemed to be of heavenly origin, as one whose experience was not merely of earthly things. Think of yourselves as being dissatisfied with yourselves, as feeling that your life had not the worth and significance that it should have, that you yourself are not what you might be. Think of yourselves as believing that this Man has the power to make you what you should be, and then placing yourself right in His path and seeking and searching for what He has to say to you, what judgment He has to pass on you now and the life you are leading.

“Making a Retreat is literally this. It is a deliberate placing of myself in the path of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with a view to grasping what is His view of my life and conduct, accompanied by a resolve to shape that life and that conduct in accordance with His decision, judging to be wrong what He judges to be wrong, judging that I should become what He says I should become, and henceforth arranging my life in accordance with the light I have received. It is a thing of dreadful responsibility to place oneself squarely in the presence of Jesus Christ because in presence of Him you are in presence of reality and that reality has an utterly shattering effect—it is merciless and relentless in face of the vast growth of unreality in our souls. How much of what we do and what we say is unreal and untrue! Who can stand the test of that reality? Just as the straw passes through a fire and is no more, so a vast amount of what passes through our lives will, after contact with that Divine reality, blaze into fire and go up in smoke. It is then a tremendous thing to make a real Retreat. We are committing ourselves to the unknown.

“To make a good Retreat postulates certain conditions.

“We must approach this contact with Jesus Christ with a generous heart and we must consent that our will and desires be completely at the disposal of the Holy Spirit and be prepared to do exactly what Our Lord directs, to take whatever direction He gives, to make any renouncement He demands of us.”

We may be asking, “How can this apply to me? In the world, with a family, or job, or study—life is very

full and it’s not even possible to make it to a yearly retreat although we might want to.” A monthly recollection, a monthly day put aside—‘me-time’ as the world would view it—is, on the contrary, a possible option for everyone to use to rejuvenate their soul, and re-focus one’s soul—seeing how well her past resolutions have been kept, how to do better next month and grow closer to our Lord.

A few practical guidelines may be useful when beginning such a practice.

TIME

Some may find it useful to schedule this day to coincide with the First Friday or First Saturday; others may arrange with their spouses so that they each take a different ‘day-off’ while one covers the household and minds the children for the other that day. If that is not possible, another alternative may be to make an arrangement with a friend, to take care of each other’s children on the other’s ‘day-off.’ Finally, for singles—if it is not possible to arrange on the ‘ideal day’—it suffices to just choose one day off each month to dedicate to this resolution. Whatever the timing, it is important to make it concrete: to schedule the specific day and hold oneself to it. Of course, the dinner still needs to be made; certain duties may still have to be completed—but they can be done in a more recollected, peaceful manner, even listening to a sermon, perhaps, while doing so.

PLACE

This will likely be a matter of trial and error until one finds what works best for him or her personally. Nevertheless, some examples may be useful: one’s local chapel or church, of course—at least at some point of the day, a park or lake or somewhere quiet outside, a library, perhaps, for a quiet, inside ‘hide-out’, even possibly getting a coffee or tea somewhere and sitting outside to think while sipping it; perhaps even a friend or family member’s house, where they know what the goal and plan is for the day, and if it is not a distraction, by all means utilize one’s own home—as long as one could keep themselves in ‘retreat mode’ there. It is a matter of finding places that work for each individually, that help to relax and to unite oneself to God.

WHAT

In the beginning, it will be necessary to be more strict and regulated with the schedule set for oneself to make sure it is really a retreat day and not just a ‘pleasure’ day. One should plan out the order of the day and do her best to stick to it. ‘Rose’ related in our interview that when she began these days of retreat, she was hard on herself—perhaps too strict—staying in the chapel all day and trying to fill up every

moment with prayers, saying every prayer and litany that she knew, spiritually packing the time to the brim. This 'extremeness' did not last, and while it did do the job of keeping her serious and spiritually-focussed on this monthly day, she was able to lessen the strictness and become more relaxed once she got into a routine.



The day may be filled with holy exercises such as: a holy hour, spiritual reading, rosaries, stations of the cross, meditation, listening to recorded sermons or conferences, and, as we are both body *and* soul and grace works through nature, intermingling it with relaxing exercise: a bike ride, a swim, a walk, a hike, even a nap, if need be. The soul can focus better if the mind and body are not neglected, so making sure that peace and 'unwinding' are part of the plan is part of the ideal programme. One may decide even to treat oneself to breakfast as a part of this day 'put aside.'

Fr Croiset, SJ, director of St Margaret Mary, wrote in his book on *Devotion to the Sacred Heart* of several means to grow in a true devotion and love of the Sacred Heart, including the idea of a day of recollection monthly. We will allow his words, which are all the more precious, since the book in which they are contained received approval from Our Lord Himself, to confirm the previous points:

"However sincere our resolution to love Jesus Christ ardently may be, we have need to renew from time to time the considerations which caused us to adopt it. We can recommend no better means of renewing these salutary considerations, and with them the fervor which is their ordinary effect, than to make a day's retreat each month.

"This pious practice cannot be too much recommended to all classes of people, as a means both to preserve themselves in innocence, and to make fresh progress in virtue.

"That Jesus Christ is infinitely worthy of our love seems to us to be self-evident... How is it, then, that we love Him so little? Is it because we refuse to acknowledge the infinite obligations we are under of loving Him? It does not appear so: the reason is rather that we forget His benefits. The tumult of the world, the cares connected with our material wants, the dissipation by which our souls are wholly engrossed in exterior things, prevent us from thinking often on the great mysteries which would inspire us with sentiments of gratitude; we should, from time to time, after the example of our Divine Saviour, retire at least for some hours into solitude in order to rekindle this half-extinct love of Jesus Christ by serious meditation. This is the end which we propose, and the fruit which we expect to reap from this monthly retreat.

"We can find solitude in our own house. We can even make this monthly retreat without... dispensing ourselves from any of the duties of our state. It is sufficient that we withdraw for the day... in order to examine ourselves and see whether there is any point in which we have relaxed the practice of virtue; whether we acquit ourselves punctually of the duties of our state; whether we have gained greater love and gratitude for Jesus Christ; whether we have made some progress in virtue; what fruit we have drawn from the reception of the Sacraments.

"No more efficacious means could be proposed to make constant progress in virtue. Only one day each month is asked for...Indeed, we must confess that we have little love for Jesus Christ, if we refuse to consecrate one whole day each month to Him."

In conclusion, as Father J.P. de Caussade, author of the classic *Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence*, held that "the whole essence of the spiritual life consists in recognizing the designs of God for us at the present moment" and uniting oneself with those designs—it seems that one cannot do better than to put aside time regularly in order to discern these designs and conform our lives to them. As Our Lord told St Catherine of Siena, "As long as you are pilgrims in this life you are capable of growth, and he who does not go forward, by that very fact, is turning back...The soul is never so perfect in this life that she cannot attain to a higher perfection of love....Be ever ready to grow in greater perfection."

Photo Nook

...a place for past-pupils to share notable events in your lives...

24th January 2022

Elizabeth, née Smith, was united in Holy Matrimony with Jonathan Mauchline at Saint Anthony's Parish. Their shared love of flying was fittingly included on this special day.

Deo Gratias!



23rd February 2022

Xenia, née Magnoli, and Kolbe Hungerford-Morgan welcomed their first child, Felicity Maria, into the world on 23rd February & into the Catholic Church on 27th February. *Deo Gratias!*



MY LAST RETREAT

By
EDWARD LEEN C.S.B.

A MERCIER PRESS PUBLICATION

THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART

FR. JOHN CROSET, S.J.

Books quoted
in O.P. Corner
article

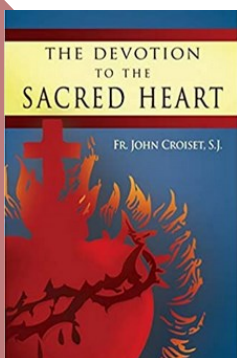


Photo Nook

...a place for past-pupils to share notable events in your lives...



One of our graduates, Anne Loay, has begun her own boutique — *SAINTE VERONIQUE* — for the sewing and sale of beautiful, hand-made clothing. We include some information from her website, www.sainte-veronique.nz.com, so that all might be able to benefit from the beautiful garments which she designs and creates with her sister.

Explained on their website:

SAINTE VERONIQUE is the name we chose as she is the patron saint of the finest natural fabrics. What better name to describe our pursuit for high quality materials and craftsmanship than Sainte Veronique because who doesn't love to give their children the best?

That is why we endeavour to provide with our handmade pieces that which is lacking in our modern day - bespoke handmade-to-last garments.



As a regular section of the *O.P. Corner*, we invite you to share with us and your fellow alumni, in the *Photo Nook*, notable events in *your lives* that have taken place recently. Please send photos with captions (eg. date, event, etc.) to o.p.corner@opsisters.org.nz



SUMMER: News from St Dominic's Convent

Wanganui, NEW ZEALAND

Saint Cecilia Concert

Question: what trembles, dances and then sits perfectly still? Answer: the fingers of a pianist at a recital. At the Saint Cecilia Recital on 28th November 2021, a number of elegantly dressed young ladies performed enchanting music to an attentive audience of Sisters, parents and fellow pianists. Learning to play a musical instrument (as those of us who have tried, know) involves many hours of solo duelling with stiff fingers, scary key signatures, confusing fingering notation and all the rest of the musical gremlins that bombard the music studio when we try to practise. Perseverance is the only remedy; and at a recital the grand fruits of all those hours in front of the keyboard (or behind the strings) are displayed, bringing joy, delight and inspiration to all.

Thank you, girls, for a lovely performance!



Retreat & Profession Ceremony

Trahe me. “Draw me.” With this motto, the Sisters’ retreat for the Christmas holiday of 2021-2022 was launched. Taking as his theme simply “Union with God,” the ultimate goal of religious life (and all human life), Father Elias, O.S.B., led the Sisters on a tour of the interior life and showed how God is continually making use of the little opportunities in our lives to draw us closer to Himself. Above all, Father emphasized that the animating spirit in all these matters is charity. “*The charity of Christ presseth us*” and we respond by asking Him to “*draw me.*” As St. Therese of the Child Jesus points out, the souls we love are drawn along with us, since no one goes to heaven alone.

On January 6th, one of the sisters had the joy of making her vows until death in the hands of the Mother Prioress General. As Father Elias, who conducted the ceremony, remarked in his very beautiful sermon, this ceremony is really an everlasting affair; unlike sacramental Matrimony, the bonds of which dissolve at death, the nuptials of the spouse of Christ last forever. Such a ceremony has not been held in this church for some years, and so several of the school girls attended a Perpetual Profession for the first time, and some even travelled from hours away on their summer holiday to attend the occasion. The junior Sisters who were due to renew their temporary vows also did so on this feast of the Epiphany, 2022.

Deo Gratias!



SUMMER: News from St Dominic's Convent

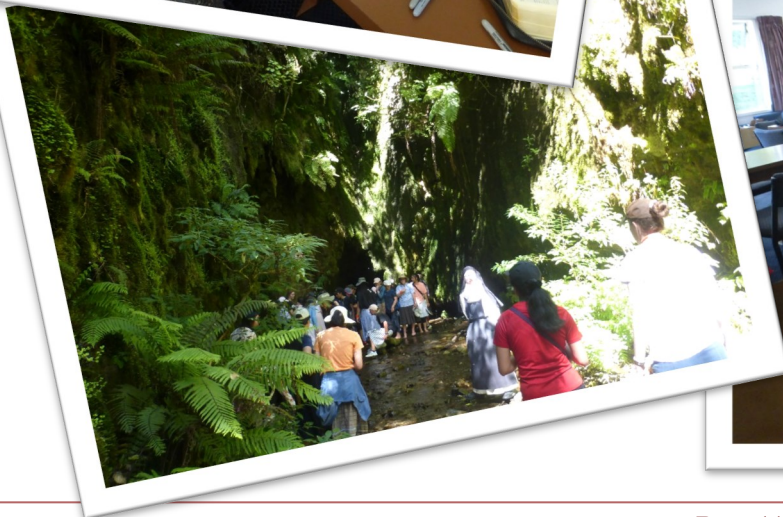
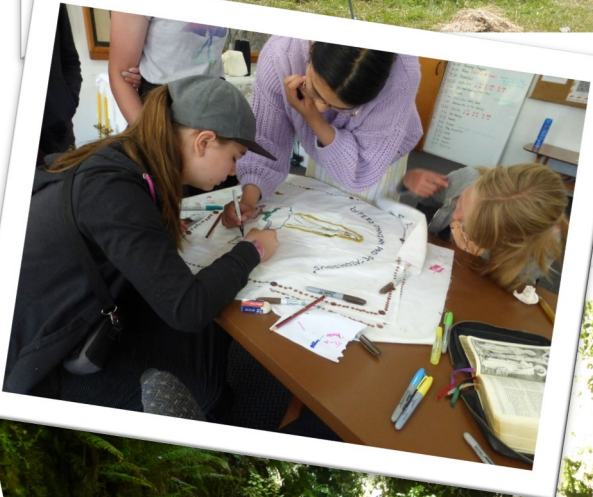


Our Lady of Loreto
Girls' Camp

Girls' Camp

"Girls here, girls there, girls, girls, everywhere; Up and down and left and right and centrrrrrrre....." Sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad" (middle section): these lines, written and performed by the St Agnes Team, succinctly captured the atmosphere at Sixtus Lodge from 17-21 January, 2022! Thirty-six girls attended the Our Lady of Loreto Camp, along with Sisters, Camp Helpers (whose assistance with activities and meals was both outstanding and indispensable), and our Camp Chaplain, Fr Elias, O.S.B., in scenic Apiti. Horse-riding, archery, outdoor course teambuilding, bushwalking, hut-making, treasure-hunting, flag-designing, origami rose-making, song-writing, and acting were some of the many activities campers engaged with in a full and happy week. However, underlying all the many activities was something much more important: the development of a lovely spirit in all the girls who embraced the camp's theme, *generosity in small actions*.

Campers were encouraged to imitate Our Lady of Loreto in the way she lived her quiet, everyday life, and each of the six teams were given a patron saint who exemplified this spirit: St Agnes of Rome, St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Joan of Arc, St Jacinta Marto, Ven. Anne de Guigné, and Ven. Teresita Quevedo. Spurred on by Father's engaging and inspiring sermons at the daily Masses, the campers, through their many hidden acts of virtue known only to Heaven, surely rejoiced the hearts of their patronesses. May they ever continue to do so!



Dominican Third Order



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany, which fell this year on 23 January, the feast of St Raymond of Peñafort, saw the reception of four new novices in the Third Order of Penance of St Dominic. Brother Simon Ballachi, Sister Agnes Maria, Sister Mary Joanna and Sister Mary Magdalen were given Our Lady's scapular and their new religious names by our chaplain, Fr Elias O.S.B., here in Wanganui. Afterwards, Sisters and Tertiaries gathered at the home of one of the Tertiaries for the blessing of the small Third Order library which they have begun to collect.



A few weeks later, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, eight new novices were received in Samoa: Sister Maria Dominica, Sister Louis de Montfort, Sister Mary Jane of Aza, Sister Maria Rose of Lima, Sister Imelda Lambertini, Brother Martin de Porres, Brother Vincent Ferrer and Sister Clare Gambacorta. This was also an occasion of great joy for the Sisters as well as for the new novices, whose reception had had to be postponed more than once due to lockdowns and other unforeseen circumstances in Samoa. May Our Lady and St Dominic continue to protect and foster the growth of this branch of their Order!



AUTUMN: News from St Dominic's Convent

Wanganui, NEW ZEALAND

St Thomas Aquinas: Debates

Is letter writing irreplaceable as a means of communication? Should everyone have a personal library? Is it virtuous to be fashionable? These questions seemingly never go out of date, for they were topical (indeed, one might say, thematic) issues during the lives of Saints Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila and Jane Frances de Chantal, and are still crucially relevant today. No surprise, then, that when these topics featured on our annual debating day (feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, 7th March) the exchanges were fast, furious, witty and pointed.

Father Erik Ladner SSPX, graciously agreed to judge the debates, and rounded off the intense intellectual exchanges with expert feedback and encouragement. Having thoroughly thrashed out the pros and cons of letters, libraries and fashionable dress, our debaters left their audience more deeply appreciative of the finer cultural details of life. Shall we go write a letter?



AUTUMN: News from St Dominic's Convent

Children of Mary Ceremony

The Children of Mary Sodality held a reception ceremony on the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 31st May. Into the Sodality were received ten girls as aspirants, while nine current aspirants made their consecrations to our Lady and became full members of the Sodality, receiving their cloaks. Reverend Father Ian Palko, director, reminded the sodalists that *"one is a child of Mary for life"* and that no matter where they go or what they do in life—at work, play, as a mother or as a religious—they should always remain under their Mother's mantle and faithful to their desire to imitate Her.



(above) Cloaks waiting at altar rail for girls to don after their consecration. (left) Aspirants with lit candles preparing for and making their consecrations to our Lady in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, their director and fellow sodalists. (below) Newly consecrated sodalists receiving their cloaks, medals and manuals; and finally a group photo, with newly-received aspirants in front and newly consecrated sodalists in centre.



Profession Ceremony: “He who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him”¹

When a religious makes perpetual profession, she becomes forever a spouse of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Although the vows are made until death, the reality of this great grace continues for all eternity. She becomes one spirit with Him and is forevermore intimately bound to the Sacred Heart to share His joys as well as His sorrows and becomes a mother of souls through her prayers and self-sacrifice. The feast of the Annunciation not only commemorates Our Lady’s *fiat*, but also remembers the day on which Our Divine Saviour took on His Humanity forever. In her prayer to the Most Holy Trinity, Blessed Elisabeth of the Trinity expresses a desire to be “another humanity in which He can renew His whole mystery.” This, in a sense, is what a religious says “*fiat*” to when she makes perpetual profession.

By a mysterious and loving permission of Divine Providence (because this is not the usual day for it), one of the sisters was privileged to make her final profession on the beautiful feast of the Annunciation. The ceremony took place during the secondary school Mass, which was attended by the pupils and staff of the boys’ and girls’ secondary schools. Also in attendance were the Standard 1 boys and girls with their teacher, an alumna of St Dominic’s College.

After the Mass, the girls’ school celebrated with cake and skits performed by the girls on the lives of the three patrons for this academic year: St Catherine of Siena, St Teresa of Avila, and St Jane Frances de Chantal: three women who are also “one Spirit with Him.”

¹ 1 Corinthians 6:17



Photo Chronicle—Summer

Life in St Dominic's Convent and the Girls' College



Singing at the Final School Mass before Summer Holidays 2021 (above)

Sisters about to cross the swing bridge {right}

Many braved threat of very inclement weather and made it safely to the top of a beautiful walk by the Castlepoint Lighthouse. {below}



After visiting a different lighthouse at Cape Palliser, the Sisters were treated to an up-close seal experience at the neighbouring beach, with a whole colony sun-bathing —pups and all. **Never** could one get this close in a zoo!



Photo Chronicle—Autumn

Life in St Dominic's Convent and the Girls' College



HOLY WEEK: Procession in the convent enclosure on Palm Sunday {above}, Holy Thursday Adoration in the recently finished future library {below}, Office of Tenebrae {below}, Easter Vigil blessing of the Paschal Candle in our cloister {above right}, Father Elias incensing the Paschal Candle—at the Easter Vigil {right}.



{above} The Sisters were very pleased to receive newly-ordained (and New Zealand-vocation) Reverend Father Mikhail Del Rosario to offer a first Mass after Easter as he visited his home country after ordination.

Deo Gratias!



Construction Chronicle— *Summer & Autumn*



Construction of the extension to the Refectory and new Library went steadily, as long as it wasn't a rainy day, over the summer. Roofers came to lay the tiles. {Above & Left} Before the interior walls and ceiling were completed, inside the roof were hung huge nets to prevent wood pieces from falling inside.

{Above}

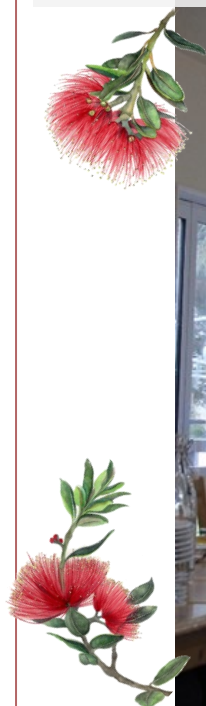


On the Feast of St Catherine, Father Elias blessed the freshly painted new refectory and the budding library, still amidst the process of being unpacked and shelved.





The Sisters were very grateful to the boys from the parish who assisted with assembling the book shelves and carrying boxes of books from storage to new library. {Above left} The new extension & library seen facing to the east, with Loreto to the left. {Above right} The Sisters now happily occupying the new refectory—during monastic grace and meals—pleased to have the space to pray & eat in greater recollection. {Above, right & below} Thank you for your prayers and monetary contributions!





*Please assist us to continue in our
Contemplative & Active Apostolates*

Please consider helping us out—whether with gifts of cash or regular monthly donations. The stipend we receive is minimal, so we are truly grateful for every little effort and sacrifice that helps us to continue living our traditional Dominican way of life.

Thank you to those who have already pledged regular donations—these gifts, no matter how small, do make a difference!

May Our Lady of the Rosary reward your generosity and kindness to the Spouses of Her Divine Son. The Sisters pray specially for you during our weekly Chapter.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

AUSTRALIA

Westpac Account Name: Dominican Sisters of Wanganui
Westpac Account BSB Number: 033-636
Account Number: 334285

NEW ZEALAND

Westpac Account Name: Dominican Sisters of Wanganui
Westpac Account Number: 03-0791-0728558-00

Please note that the banks in NZ no longer accept cheques. Apologies for the inconvenience.

All donations now qualify for a 33% TAX REBATE from the IRD.

Please quote our NZ Charities Services Number: CC37884

UNITED STATES

Account Name: Dominican Sisters of Wanganui
Wells Fargo Bank, A/C # 2 015 569 425, Routing # 1210 42882
Cheques can be made out to “The Dominican Sisters of Wanganui” and sent to:
Dominican Sisters, Attn: Loren Vaccarezza, 2240 Paragon Drive, San Jose, CA 95131
All donations to our U.S. account now qualify for a tax deductible receipt!

OR VIA PAYPAL

Visit our website at <https://www.opsisters.org.nz/fundraising>

