

Voices

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WINTER 2009

Adrian Dominicans Reflect on Presidential Inauguration

Prioress Attends Ceremony in Washington

Our country experienced a great historical event in the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the first African American President in U.S. history. **Sister Donna Markham, OP, Prioress**, was invited to attend the Inauguration because of her position as Chair of the National Board of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA). Following is her reflection on her experience. In addition, we asked our Sisters and Associates worldwide for their reflections on this occasion. Some of their responses follow.



Sister Donna at the inauguration in Washington, D.C.

“Although we were bearers of the now infamous ‘purple tickets,’ Father Larry Snyder and I were miraculously able to get into our designated area in time to witness Joe Biden and Barack Obama take the oath of office. Larry is the President of CCUSA and I currently serve as Chair of the National Board. After an uneventful ride on the Metro, we found ourselves relegated to a two-mile-long sea of purple ticket holders in a tunnel under the river and, having stood there for over an hour with no movement, decided to get out and take our chances to find another way to the security gate. Fortunately, we were able to find the gate and stand in a somewhat smaller mass of humanity (perhaps a hundred thousand or

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Adrian Dominicans Meet Diverse Needs on Northern Frontier

Answering the “call to mission” to serve where the needs are greatest, four Adrian Dominicans ventured to Anchorage. The Anchorage contingent includes: **Sister Ann Romaine Fallon, OP**; **Sister Lorraine Reaume, OP**; **Sister Jacqueline (Jackie) Stoll, OP**, and **Sister Josephine (Jo) Gaugier, OP**. The four have been able to grow and learn while ministering and living in community.

They were soon to discover the many mysteries

that are Anchorage. With wandering moose and days of limited sunlight, the Anchorage area encompasses some 138,985 square miles known as South-central Alaska. It is geographically challenging terrain with a severe climate.

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so!) and crushed our way to the gate. We made our way sprinting to the standing section just behind the Senators’ families and guests, where we did have a view of the stage.

“Being part of this historical event was absolutely thrilling. Strangers were hugging each other and most of us wept when the final words of the oath were uttered and the cannons were fired. It is hard to imagine a crowd of millions so happy and so generally respectful of one another. Later in the afternoon we joined a reception with leaders from other not-for-profit groups. No tickets to the inaugural balls, however. Just as well, since we had likely already walked ten miles that day!”

– Sister Donna Markham, OP,
Prioress, Adrian, Michigan

“At Detroit’s Capuchin Soup Kitchen a rather small TV set with borrowed rabbit ears and rows and rows of plastic dining room chairs were arranged for viewing the events of January 20.

From early morning, probably 300 people ate meals and then stayed to view the proceedings.

The audience was mostly African American men with just a few of us women. For all of us, there was a great sense of positive energy, pride and hope. Viewers danced, cried, cheered, hugged and, sometimes, fell silent as they watched Barack Obama become president of the United States. Our hometown favorite, Aretha Franklin, did not disappoint. Folks actually stood as the oath of office was administered and rousing applause gave affirmation to the inaugural speech. It was a great

event to witness surrounded by so many people of limited income, and yet people of hope and faith.

“One of the moms I serve remarked, ‘Just think. In 1955 Rosa Parks (for whom our youth program is named) couldn’t sit in the front of a bus. Today an African American man is sitting in the oval office as president of the United States.’ The hopes of generations have been realized. A vision has come true.”

– Sister Nancyann Turner, OP,
Livonia, Michigan

“I gathered with Adrian Dominican friends to watch the inaugural but it was really later, alone, while watching the TV coverage of this historic event that I was moved to tears. Listening to countless personal stories about what this movement

was there when the world changed!’ It was the millions of people of all races, standing in the cold for hours, shoulder to shoulder in peace and hope, knowing that their only view would be a giant TV screen (if they were lucky) but satisfied and joyful that they would always be able to say, ‘I was there.’ What a gift to every American to have lived to see this day!”

– Sister Margaret Heinz, OP,
Adrian, Michigan

“With anticipation and pride I invited Father Ed Ruane, OP, Vicar of the Order residing at Santa Sabina, to watch the televised ceremony from my community at Villa Rosa here in Rome. I have heard impressions of people of many different nationalities who also looked forward to this

day with an ‘out-pouring of hope’ for ‘engagement’ with the world, transparency, and concern for justice for all peoples. It seems like a dream! And may it come true!”

– Sister Rose Ann Schlitt, OP, Santa Sabina, Rome, Italy

“Yesterday, I had an unexpected invitation to witness the inauguration at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Lexington’s center city. The day began with prayer at the church, led by several of the local ministers, including a Catholic sister with whom I had gone to the church. Then we went to another room and were able to witness the D.C. festivities on a giant screen. The audience was a group of 50 - 75 homeless people who had come from the Catholic Action Center. They were so excited and happy - and proud! The cheering was



Nancyann
Turner, OP



Margaret
Heinz, OP



Rose Ann
Schlitt, OP



Maria Goretti
Browne, OP

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contagious and there were several occasions we all rose to our feet!”

– Sister Maria Goretti Browne, OP, Lexington, Kentucky

“We experienced this wonderful event glued to our TV in Northern Manitoba on the Cree Nation Reserve. The people here knew how excited we were. They are impressed with Barack’s sincerity and have also commented that he seems to be a spiritual person with good leadership ability.”

– Sisters Sue Gardner, OP, and Ellen Kennedy, OP, Nelson House, Manitoba, Canada

“I watched the inauguration here in the Dominican Republic with **Sister Ana Feliz, OP**. We have agreed here that Barack Obama looks ‘Dominican,’ and why shouldn’t he, because the majori-

ty of our DR people are mulato as is our new president. It made me proud of the USA in a new way and, despite the challenges he

God was doing a ‘new thing.’ I saw that peace was possible and people everywhere were reaching out to one another in love.



Carol Gross, OP



Sue Gardner, OP



Ellen Kennedy, OP



Jeanine Boivin, OP

faces, I believe inauguration day was a celebration of hope.”

– Sister Carol Gross, OP, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

“I felt connected to the whole world as joy and hope spread on every face. It was a time of prayer and emotion as I realized that

President Obama’s speech was so inclusive! It’s almost like he used our Mission Statement for his outline! I have new hope for our country and I am once more proud to be an American, but we have much work to do!”

– Sister Jeanine Boivin, OP, Warren, Michigan 

(“Northern Frontier,” continued from page 1)

Each of the sisters felt a very personal call that compelled her to share her very unique gifts in response to the needs of the Anchorage community.

Mission to Education

As the first Adrian Dominican to arrive in Anchorage, **Sister Ann Fallon’s** impact on the community was almost instant. As an education consultant, her initial task was to open a diocesan office to support the three Catholic schools in the Anchorage community. Two weeks after opening the office, Archbishop Roger Schwietz, OMI, told Sister Ann that people had expressed a need for a new school in the valley.

“The valley is about one hour from Anchorage,” Sister

Ann explained. She called the parents, asking if they were willing to serve on a committee to determine if this was what people wanted. The committee, made up of representatives from the three parishes, was formed. After an initial survey and phone calls to area families, the Committee received 900 responses in favor of starting a new school. They had only scratched the surface of what would evolve into a whirlwind project. To get the ball rolling, the local paper ran a feature on their plans for a new school.

“At the suggestion of one of the pastors we held town hall meetings,” Sister Ann explained. “We had meetings at each parish. At the smallest parish we had 100 people.” The town hall meetings kept the momentum heading in the right direction. Sister Ann and her team focused on whether to build, or find an existing building to rent or renovate.

The Holy Spirit kept moving the team forward. A few days after the town hall meetings, one of the women who had attended contacted Sister Ann with an idea for the school building. The

woman suggested a small strip mall that was for sale in the area. Sister Ann and the construction crew took a look at the five-store strip

Originally a strip mall, Our Lady of the Valley School now houses a library, classrooms a computer lab and offices.



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Father Luzvimindo Flores (Fr. Luz to everyone), pastor of Our Lady of the Lake in Big Lake, during Catholic Schools Week in the Our Lady of the Valley school chapel.

(“Northern Frontier,” continued from page 3)

mall with stores that were not connected. Sister Ann saw the potential. They contacted an architect and the owner of the strip mall. As luck would have it, the owner was willing to lease the property. He was also a professional contractor and took over the construction. With the selection of the location and the contractor, construction began.

Fund-raising has become a full-time effort for Sister Ann. “This diocese is poor,” she explained. But she discovered that she is surrounded by very resourceful individuals. They discovered a foundation that could pay for some of the construction costs. “The woman in the Development Department prepared a grant request for \$100,000 with a restriction that we would match the funds,” she explained. “My friends and acquaintances were interested in what was going on in Anchorage and made donations. I told them that we had \$60,000 already, and if we had another \$40,000 we would get the match.” With the help of many senior citizens and interested parties, the construction was paid for in full. The school opened on August 20, 2007, less than three months after the groundbreaking.

In their first year Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School welcomed 42 youngsters in pre-K through seventh grade. With construction complete and school in session, the final steps included developing the support system necessary to sustain the school.

Ministering to the Homeless

The experience and talents among the Adrian Dominican team mirror the needs of the Anchorage community. **Sister Jacqueline Stoll**, better known as

Sister Jackie, is wearing multiple hats in her call to service. Her key ministries include: part-time coordinator/nurse practitioner at Brother Francis Shelter; Nurse Practitioner for the Parish Nursing Program; and Administrative Coordinator for the Safe Environment Program (as mandated by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to ensure safety for children).

The ultimate goal in Anchorage is to foster and enable people within the archdiocese to take over and lead the ministries. Sister Jackie feels that the Adrian Dominican team has been blessed to be able to work with individuals in the community who embrace the collaborative efforts to develop the ministries.

Sister Jackie’s service to the homeless community has enriched the Brother Francis Shelter, which can sleep 250 adults a night. Sister Jackie ministers here as a part-time coordinator and nurse practitioner. The second shelter serves women and children.

Sister Jackie has felt compelled to serve the homeless for some time. She sees patients two days a week, supplementing the doctor’s twice-monthly visits.

“This may seem limited but it is more than they would have otherwise,” she explained.

“Within the last six months most of the services and health centers were affected by government cuts.”

“The main resources have gone away,” she added. “We are working with other service providers to help meet the needs.”

The shelter clinic is set up to provide urgent care. “We deal with a lot of colds, flu and wound infections,” she explained. “The goal is to prevent individuals from going to emergency rooms. This population has little or no access to clinics. Because hospitals are not accessible, others wait until care need is critical.”

Her skills as a nurse practitioner have also made a great fit in the Parish Nursing Program. “The focus is on physical, mental, and spiritual health,” she said. “It is a grassroots level of bringing spirituality into the overall picture of health. It continues the healing of Jesus in the parishes.”

As the coordinator of the Anchorage Safe Environment Program, Sister Jackie conducts background checks on clergy, religious employees, and volunteers and offers training on sexual abuse, reporting, and boundaries.

Developing Future Lay Leaders

Answering the call to work in Anchorage was a natural extension of **Sister Jo Gaugier’s** previous work in faith formation. “Some of the needs corresponded with my own experience,” Sister Jo explained. “I had always been in Michigan teaching and involved in lay leadership. The needs in Alaska called me.”

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Sister Jackie with a patient at Brother Francis Shelter in Anchorage

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Photo: Pam Kyzer



Sister Jo, second from left, with Scripture and Leadership Training (SALT) group in Anchorage

Bringing more than 20 years of experience in faith formation, Sister Jo focused on developing new lay leaders for the archdiocese. Her faith formation initiatives in the past year included the development of Scripture and Leadership Training (SALT).

During the first year, SALT welcomed 25 participants at two sites. “This year we started two additional sites using teams of people who participated the first year,” Sister Jo said. “The response to the SALT program has been heartening. I have enjoyed working with lay leaders who are so enthused.” The first year of the program has also produced a participant who has become a co-coordinator. This has been an important step in growing the program.

SALT is just one offering through the archdiocese, however. In conjunction with Seattle University, some 17 adult laypeople are able to study for a ministry degree via on-line learning and monthly classroom sessions offered through the Archdiocese.

According to Sister Jo, life-long faith formation is a goal for the Office of Evangelization. To that end, she would like to find ways to expand educational opportuni-

ties and mentor new lay leaders to develop programs that become ongoing and lasting.

Ministering to a Multi-Cultural Community

The opportunity to preach and serve in a multi-cultural environment resonated with **Sister Lorraine Reaume**. Some of her responsibilities include Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and sacramental preparation. As pastoral associate and key repre-

sentative of the Hispanic ministry, she has been building an infrastructure to support the Hispanic community’s experience at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

Sister Lorraine’s interest in serving the Hispanic community began with her missionary work in Bolivia. “I loved the language and culture of Bolivia,” she said. “I yearn for that experience of learning from each other. It is like Our Lady bringing people together. We can honor each other’s differences and become better people.”

Sister Lorraine’s words reflect a passion for creating a community based on faith, trust and respect. As the point person on the staff representing the Hispanic community, Sister Lorraine is busy as the member of several committees and an attendee of all Hispanic events.

Sister Lorraine has had a tremendous impact on the multi-cultural development within the parish. She is quick to point out that her experience has helped her grow as well. “I am learning the delicate balance in communicating

with non like-minded persons. It has been a good opportunity to learn to just be patient. Be professional.”

Sister Lorraine has found that her ministry is one of dialogue. The various cultures produce dialogues between people of different theological and political beliefs. She has been a part of a number of meetings to discuss differences respectfully.

One of her newest projects includes Faith in Action. As a Board member she works with members of 15 other congregations from different Christian groups, responding to the needs of the people in each respective community.


The ministries that have been refined and created at the hands of the Adrian Dominicans will long serve the population. The people of Anchorage have left a lasting impression on the Adrian Dominicans as well. “I was amazed at the generosity of so many people who are happy we

Photo: Ron Nicholl



Sister Lorraine serves as a Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Anchorage

are here as a community,” said Sister Jo. “It is rewarding and heartening at the same time.”

Karen Shellie, Detroit Dominican High School ’80, is a free-lance writer from the Ann Arbor area. 

Diamond

Jubilee

A time of love
Of recalling memories
Of present-telling
Of celebrating
Of gathering
Of seeking
Of remembering
Of giving to
continual life

— Lorraine
Gold



Frances
Barfield, OP



Anne
Baxter, OP



Andrea
Broutin, OP



Thomas James
Burns, OP



Mary Elizabeth
Crimmins, OP



Joan
Delaplane, OP



Jean
Denomme, OP



Madeline Mary
Dervin, OP



Elizabeth
Flaherty, OP



Grace
Flowers, OP



Magdelaine
Hill, OP



Marie
Houle, OP



Jane Irene
Hutton, OP



Jeanette
Jabour, OP



Betty
Jenkins, OP



Jean Marie
Jeziolkowski, OP



Nelda Ann
Klein, OP



Mary Ann
Konieski, OP



Joyce
LaVoy, OP



Patricia Anne
Lynch, OP



Aileen
McClain, OP



Catherine
McKillop, OP



Anastasia
McNichols, OP



Geraldine
Megel, OP



Mary Sharon
Moran, OP



Bernice
Nofs, OP



Mary Louise
Putrow, OP



Barbara Mary
Sainay, OP



Eleanor
Stech, OP



Mae
Tack, OP

Year

Golden

and gratitude
ories of beginnings
and future-hoping
g with family
with friends
forgiveness
g the deceased
thanks and
ing with joy.
e M. Mordenski, OP
den Jubilee



Sean Eileen
Allgeyer, OP



Beverly
Bobola, OP



Mary Jean
Clemenger, OP



Delores
DeBets, OP



Teresa
Disch, OP



Mary Ann
Ferguson, OP



Dorothy
Glaister, OP



Marie Carmen
Gonzales, OP



Patricia
Janowicz, OP



Jo Ann
Jauquet, OP



Therese
Johnson, OP



Jean
Keeley, OP



Rosemarie
Kieffer, OP



Joan
Krajewski, OP



Christa
Marsik, OP



Mary Diane
McMeekin, OP



Joan Christine
Meerschaert, OP



Mary Kay
Moran, OP



Emilie
Petelin, OP



Peter Anthony
Schulte, OP



Sarah Ann
Sharkey, OP



Mary Emidio
Singer, OP



Susan
Van Baalen, OP



Joan Marie
Weithman, OP



Helen
Wilson, OP



Jane
Zimmerman, OP



Rosemary
Zuccaro, OP

Silver



Barbara A.
Matievich, OP



Profession of Iraqi and American Dominicans ~ What God Can Do

"The final profession of our Sisters Heather and Diana preaches to us all that peace, reconciliation and love are truly possible in our world. We express our sincere gratitude and thanks to God for the lives of these two beautiful women." – **Sister Donna Markham, Prioress**



In a beautifully moving and historic ceremony, an Iraqi Dominican and an American Dominican together celebrated their profession of perpetual vows. **Sister Diana Momeka, OP**, of the Congregation of St. Catherine of Siena in Mosul, Iraq, and **Sister**

Heather Stiverson, OP, of the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, of Adrian, together took their final vows June 22 in Holy Rosary Chapel on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Motherhouse.

The Profession of Vows took place during a bilingual Mass, presided over by Dominican Friar Jim Barrett, OP, of the Central Province of St. Albert the Great. The sacred ritual brought together two languages, two Catholic rites, and members of two countries at war. Sister Diana's profession of vows took place in the Eastern tradition while she knelt before her prioress, **Sister Maria Hanna, OP**. Sister Heather placed her hand in the hand of Sister Donna Markham, OP, Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, following the Roman Rite. Both rites included the blessing of the sisters as they lay prostrate and the singing of the Litany of Dominican Saints.

The profession was a culmination of years of friendship. For three years, a small group of young Dominican Sisters from Iraq have lived and ministered with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, both at the

Motherhouse in Adrian and in the Congregation's sponsored institutions, St. Rose Dominican Hospital in Henderson, Nevada, and Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, Illinois.

"This is a sign of hope and reconciliation," said Sister Maria. "We are transcending the actions of our countries through our solidarity while sharing common life as Dominicans; we feel we are with family."

In her reflection during the Liturgy, **Sister Durstynne Farnan, OP**, Director of Vocations, reiterated the theme, "This is a day of Radical Amazement at what God can do in our lives." She reflected on the June day in 2007 when Diana and Heather drove together to New Orleans to serve those who had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. During this "peace mission," the two discussed the possibility of taking their final vows together. One year later, Sister Durstynne noted, "They are ready to pronounce publicly their perpetual profession of vows as Dominicans: an order that is over 800 years old."

Sister Durstynne further reflected on the two women's unique call from God. "Both women have listened to God's call in their lives and have answered with their 'Yes.' "

"Their profession of perpetual vows today is the way in which they want to follow Jesus," she continued. "Love is the source of Heather and Diana's joy. Love is the essential condition of their intimate friendship with the Lord. Remaining in Christ's love, they, Diana and Heather, and you and I are promised that we will bear much fruit." ☩



Adrian Dominican Prioress, **Sister Donna Markham, OP** and Iraqi Prioress, **Sister Maria Hanna, OP**, receive the Final Vows of Sisters Heather and Diana

Sister Patricia Magee Celebrates Vows

In the company of members of the Congregation, her family and her friends, **Sister Patricia Magee, OP**, professed her First Vows as an Adrian Dominican Sister at St. Catherine Chapel on the Motherhouse campus in Adrian on August 8, the feast of St. Dominic.

“I intend, as an Adrian Dominican Sister, to live the Dominican charism among my sisters,” Sister Patricia stated. “I intend to further the mission of Jesus Christ wherever that may lead. I intend to continue to pray, to study, to preach and to live in community. I intend to accept, by the grace of God, the growth and blessings that will come to me through this life.”

She pronounced her vows before


Sister Donna Markham, OP, Prioress of the Congregation. Her formal witnesses were **Sister Mary Ellen Youngblood, OP** and **Sister Margaret Richard Pillon, OP**.

The Director of the Associate Program since 2006, Sister Patricia is the daughter of Josephine and Floyd Pettis. She first met the Adrian Dominicans as a student at Rosary High School in Detroit. She received her B.A. from Siena Heights College and went on to earn her Master’s of Education from Marygrove College. Her ministries included teaching at Holy Trinity School in Detroit and serving as the director of religious education at St. Peter Parish in Harper Woods, Michigan.

Sister Patricia, herself an Associate before she entered the



Sister Pat prays during her First Profession of Vows in St. Catherine Chapel

formation program to become a vowed member, is in charge of a program of 200 Associates. 

Something of God’s Magnificence ...

Sister Cynthia Broderick, OP, professed perpetual vows as a Dominican Sister of Adrian on November 29 at St. Nicholas Church in Evanston, Illinois. **Sister Donna Markham, OP**, Prioress of the Congregation, received her vows in the presence of Sister Cindy’s family; friends; students from Regina Dominican High School; other Dominican Sisters; and her witnesses, **Sister Mary Alice Naour, OP**, and **Sister Ellen Burkhardt, OP**. The Profession of Vows took place in the context of a Mass, celebrated by Father Michael Kyte, OP.

Sister Corinne Sanders, OP, during a reflection on the day’s Gospel, said, “Today, Cindy will confidently bring to fullness a hope, a desire, a pursuit that has led her to this day. She and the Dominican Sisters of Adrian will place our lives in one another’s hands and profess life.”

During the profession ceremony, Sister Cindy offered her statement of intent: “It is my intent to give the whole of my being to God in service of God’s people as a Dominican Sister of Adrian. I profess my full ‘Yes’ to God and promise you, Sister Donna, and all my sisters that I will continually strive to grow deeper in my love of, and commitment to, our lives together in prayer, study, community and preaching all for the sake of the mission of Jesus. I commit myself today for life into the unknown mystery that is to come, trusting in God’s guidance and support for whatever our future holds.”

After professing her vows, Sister

Cindy received her ring, symbolizing her fidelity to Christ. Sister Donna then affirmed her final profession. “From the moment you began your journey with our Congregation, you were clear in your desire to grow in our Dominican life.”

Sister Cindy was born in Edmond, Oklahoma. She received a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology/Pastoral Ministry from Quincy University, a Franciscan university in Quincy, Illinois. She earned her Master’s Degree in Theology from the Aquinas Institute of Theology.

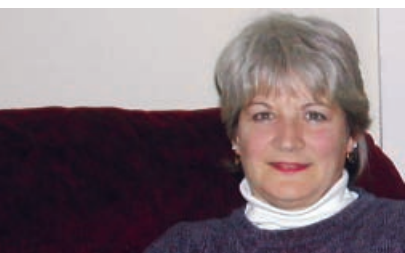
After meeting Adrian Dominicans at Aquinas, Sister Cindy began her formation on September 1, 2001. She has served at Regina Dominican in campus ministry and as a teacher and assistant athletic director. 

Sister Donna and Sister Cindy, St. Nicholas Church, Evanston, Illinois



Associate Profile: Kathleen Stratton

*With this issue of Voices, we begin a series of profiles of Adrian Dominican Associates, those who share in the life and mission of Adrian Dominican Sisters without a vowed commitment. Associates may be men or women, single or married, but they must be at least 21 years old and share the ideals and values of the Congregation. For information on the Associate Program, contact **Patricia Magee, OP**, at 517-266-3531 or pmagee@adriandominicans.org.*



Associate Kathleen "Kat" Stratton met the Adrian Dominican

Sisters through her volunteer work at Cedar Hill Enrichment Center, a retreat center co-founded by **Sisters Kathryn Cliatt, OP** and **June Racicot, OP**.

Kat is now the executive director of Cedar Hill, which is located in Gainesville, in the foothills of northern Georgia. Her ministry at Cedar Hill "is expressed through our vision as a center of spirituality, ecology and Earth education." The center offers days of reflection for individuals; spiritual companioning; day-long group retreats; and regular, monthly programs such as the Reading Group, Drumming Circle; and Sacred Circle, an afternoon of prayer, conversation and ritual.

"We offer retreat days for corporations as well as being a place for area nonprofits," Kat explained. "This benefits the community by helping those in other ministries find ways to de-stress from the rigors of nonprofit outreach." As a member of the Cedar Hill staff, Kat lives in community with Sisters Kathryn and June. She looks to them as friends,

mentors and advisors. "They continue to share their wisdom and insights with me which is a tremendous help in continuing this ministry," she said. "It's not only their words I treasure. It's their values lived every day in just the ordinary aspects of life."

Kat felt drawn to the Associate Program through her experiences of Kathryn and June. She was deeply touched by how they lived their lives. "Their presence in this county is reflected in the nine nonprofits founded by them," she said. "These two women truly walk the talk, and I felt called to learn more about the Adrian Dominicans." When she read an article about the Associate Program in the Winter 2001 issue of *Voices*, she took it as a "divine invitation."

An Associate since May 8, 2004, Kat enjoys her time with Adrian Dominican Sisters, especially the times that her mission group and the Mission Council meet at Cedar Hill. These meetings give her the opportunity to "visit and share with all the women who have worked so hard and faithfully over the years to live the Dominican charism," she said. "They are all so vibrant!" Kat added that staying connected with these women is the most fulfilling part of being an Associate. This connection is a "true gift in my life."

Kat would recommend the Associate Program to women and men "who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Divine and who are searching for that special place that so many are looking for today: community." Being an Associate "has brought a richness and fullness to my life that I would not have imaged," Kat explained. "I would encourage anyone to explore this program and see how we can build a strong future."

Associate Program Welcomes New Members

This past year, the Adrian Dominican Associate Program proudly welcomed eight new



members. **Mary Alice Babka, Jo Curran, Dee Joyner, Dolores (Dodie) Nelke, Beth Moritz, and Carol Williams** were accepted into the program during a ceremony and reception at Aquinas Institute, a Dominican graduate school in St. Louis, Missouri. Also attending the ceremony and reception were Adrian Dominican Sisters **Peggy Coyne, OP; Joan Delaplane, OP; Maribeth Howell, OP; Katie McGrail, OP; Patricia Walter, OP;** and Director of Associate Program **Patricia Magee, OP.**

Andre Poissant and **Maria Aceto** became Associates during a special Sunday liturgy in Holy Rosary Chapel in Adrian. Andre, a social worker who graduated from Siena Heights University, was mentored by **Sister Marcine Klemm, OP.** Maria, a nurse at St. Rose Dominican Hospital in Henderson, Nevada, was mentored by **Sister Charlotte Francis Moser, OP.**

Passion for Preaching

It comes as no surprise that Adrian Dominican Sisters have a passion for preaching, since the Order of Preachers was founded by St. Dominic, a preacher who gave its members the mission to proclaim the Word of God by preaching, teaching, and example. “We’re all called to continue that preaching,” said **Sister Pat Brady, OP**, of Westchester, Illinois. “Preaching is much more about what you do with your own life.” In 1999, Sister Pat began the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference, which has become an annual event in which students of high schools sponsored by Dominicans explore the charism of preaching. Vatican II encouraged all religious orders to reflect on the charism of their mission. As the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans reflected on their identity as preachers, as well as teachers, of the Word.

Canon Law considers the homily to be part of the liturgy and reserves the homily to ordained priests or deacons. “Lay persons are allowed to give reflections on the Liturgy of the Word when it is necessary or advantageous,” said **Sister Sara Fairbanks, OP, PhD**, assistant professor of theology at Barry University in Miami. Lay persons can be admitted to preach in a church or oratory if it is necessary in certain circumstances or if it’s advantageous in particular cases, according to Canon Law. “Liturgical preaching is even broader,” Sister Sara said, citing the absence of a priest or the presence of a language barrier as examples of meeting the necessary or advantageous conditions. Liturgical Law allows non-ordained persons to preach at other times, such as after communion during a Eucharistic celebration; Liturgy of the Word or

Reconciliation services; during retreats; and at funeral rites.

Sixty-three percent of parishes today have lay ministers, of which 50 percent have preaching roles in their ministry, according to Sister Sara. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops promulgated a decree on lay preaching in 2002. Approved by the Holy See, the decree permits lay liturgical preaching except within the celebration of the Eucharist at the time reserved for the homily. “Lay preachers are displaced persons in the liturgy,” Sister Sara wrote in an article about the subject, “Displaced Persons: Lay Liturgical Preachers at the Eucharist,” *Worship*, Vol. 77, No. 5, Sept. 2003. “By failing to proclaim positively the rightful place for lay preaching, the bishops allow for a variety of pastoral practices. Lay preachers may well be compelled to preach at the beginning of the liturgy as part of the introductory rite or at the end of the liturgy after the post-communion prayer or perhaps somewhere in-between,” she wrote.

Sister Sara chairs the Adrian Dominican Preaching Commission, which is comprised of women representing chapters throughout the Adrian Dominican Congregation. Other members of the Preaching Commission include Adrian Dominican **Sister Rosa Monique Peña**, Vicaress of the Congregation; **Sister Cathy Olds**, Chapter Prioress of the Dominican West Chapter; and Chapter representatives, **Sisters Maria Goretti Browne, Joan Delaplaine, Mary Pat Dewey, Patty Harvat, Mary Irene Walker and Jeanne Wiest**.

“Preaching is not just from the pulpit,” Sister Jeanne said.

“Preaching begins with God’s Word and how we use the scriptures to touch people’s lives.

As a pastoral associate for St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Eagle River, Wisconsin, Sister Jeanne has participated in team homilies for Christmas and Easter with Father Bob Koszarek, pastor of a group of small parishes in the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. “We’re not giving separate homilies but crafting one together,” she said, giving the example of one in which she took on the role of Mary Magdalene and Father Bob gave St. Peter’s impressions of seeing the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Whether preaching in the pulpit or in the classroom, on inner city



Sister Jeanne Wiest preaching with Father Bob Koszarek

streets or in prisons, or in the everyday life of grocery shopping and communal living, Adrian Dominicans continue to claim the heritage of their founder, Dominic. In all of their ministries and actions, they strive to preach: to “speak the Gospel word in the transforming power of the Spirit according to the needs of our time” (Adrian Dominican Constitution and Statutes, #6).

Duane Ramsey is a free-lance writer who has written articles for business journals, newspapers including The Detroit News, magazines, and religious publications such as Faith Magazine. Duane lives in Toledo, Ohio.



Sister Rosa Monique Peña, Vicaress of the Congregation



Women In Our History

Sister Agnes Serridge 1848–1923

— by Catherine Podvin, OP

In the Congregation's beginnings, record keeping was not as important as it is at present. There are sisters about whom we know very little. Sister Agnes Serridge is one of them.

Nothing is known about Sister Agnes Serridge's early life, not even her baptismal name. We know only that she was born in Germany in 1848. We know, too, that Sister Agnes left Germany for the United States, but there is no record of when. We do know that she met the New York Dominicans and was attracted to their lifestyle. She was well into her thirties when she made her decision to join them.

She entered Holy Rosary Convent on Second Street in New York City as a lay sister. Records show that she professed her first vows on August 22, 1885, in her thirty-seventh year.

Almost immediately after profession she was sent to Michigan. There Sister Agnes served at St. Joseph Hospital in Adrian for several years, mainly in the large brick building dedicated in 1896. She later ministered in Michigan at St. Agatha in Gagetown and St. Michael in Port Austin, and in Ohio at SS. Peter and Paul in Sandusky. Her last and longest assignment was in Chicago, at St. Columbanus, where the community numbered among its members several lively young sisters. Although she was inclined to be stern, she was patient with the young sisters and they liked her.

Frugality was a way of life in those years. Sister Agnes was thrifty by nature, also a deeply prayerful person, one who believed in and practiced self denial. She was in charge of the kitchens on the missions where she served, and she was not overly generous with the food that she prepared for meals. She discouraged snacking, and the sisters soon learned to stay out of the kitchen except at meal times. Desserts such as cakes appeared only when Mother Camilla Madden was visiting.

Some of the young sisters told stories about the ways they thought up to outwit her. They would sneak snacks and have parties when she was out of the way. At St. Columbanus, even the superior entered into these deceptions. One night she planned a cake and ice cream party for the sisters, and put Sister Agnes to bed with a hot drink.

Sister Agnes contracted pneumonia, and after a long illness she died on April 3, 1923, in the seventy-fifth year of her life. Her death occurred two months before St. Joseph Province, Adrian, became an independent congregation under the title "Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary." She lies at rest in Circle One of the Congregational cemetery.

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