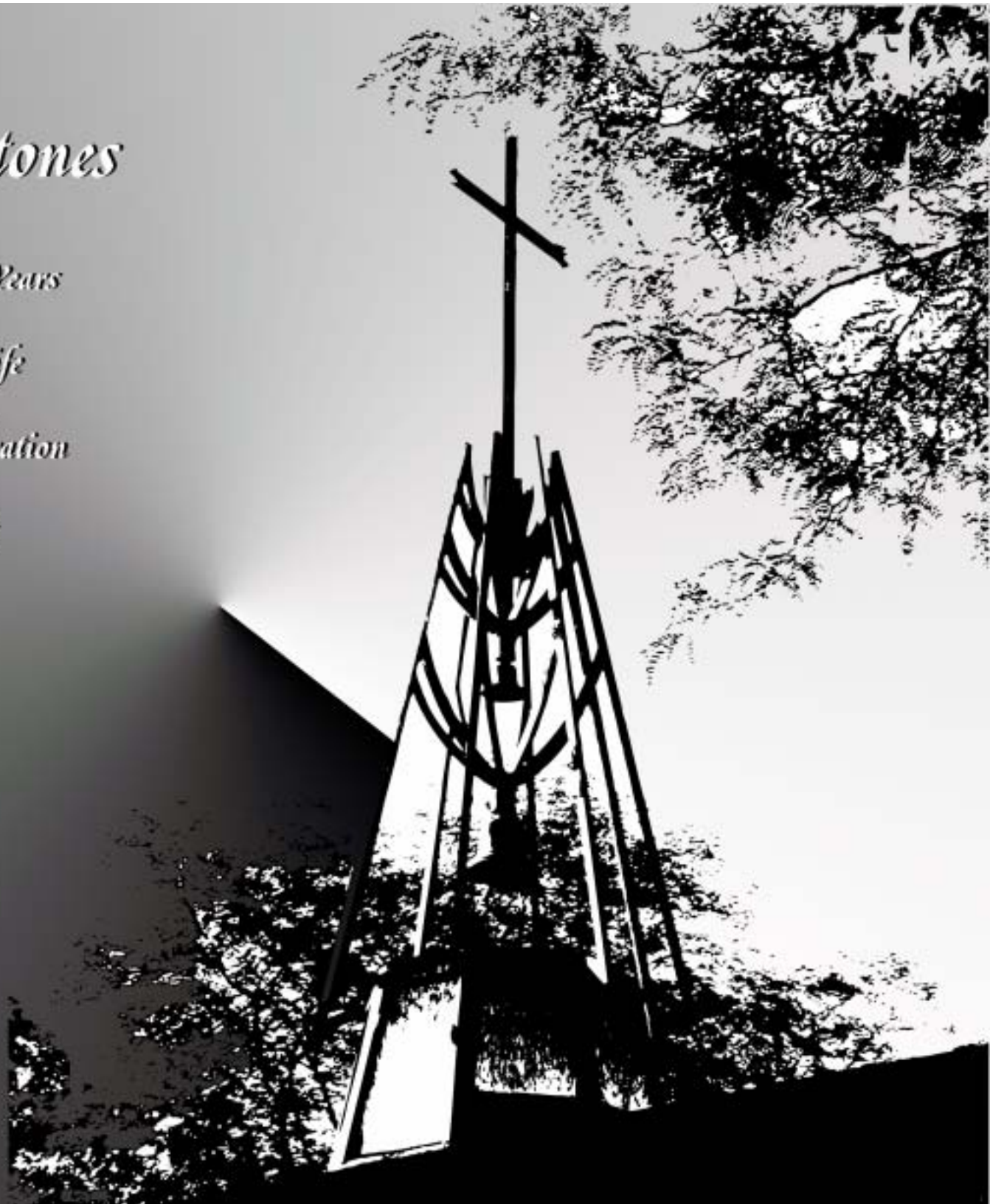


# *Monastic Milestones*

*Celebrating One Hundred Years  
of  
Dominican Cloistered Life  
and  
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration  
in the  
Archdiocese of Detroit*

*Monastery of the  
Blessed Sacrament  
1906 - 2006*



# **MONASTIC MILESTONES**

**Celebrating  
One Hundred Years**

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and  
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**in the**

**Archdiocese of Detroit**

**Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament  
1906 - 2006**

**Praise and Thanks be to God!**

## ***DEDICATION***

+

*With grateful hearts  
we dedicate our Centenary Celebrations  
to Mary, our heavenly mother  
through whose Immaculate Heart  
we have offered our praise and adoration  
to Jesus in the Eucharist  
for the past 100 years,  
and to you  
our devoted friends and benefactors  
who have encouraged us  
supported us  
prayed with us and for us  
and who now join us in thanking Almighty God  
for His goodness  
throughout the years.*







*Outside Chapel at Christmas in the Detroit Monastery*



*Outside Chapel at Christmas in the Farmington Hills Monastery, 2005*



*Sr. Mary Louis lighting candles in outside chapel*

*Celebration of the Eucharist in Detroit*



*The centennial celebration on April 1, 2006, with our Provincial, Fr. Michael Mascari, presiding*

*The Cloistered Sisters' Chapel*  
*Adoring the Lord in Detroit (left) and Farmington Hills (right).*





## *MONASTIC MILESTONES*

### *BEGINNINGS OF THE JOURNEY*



“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,” goes the saying. The journey we are celebrating really begins, as does every life’s journey, in the heart of God and on his “road map.” Scanning over the thousand and one intersecting acts of divine providence that led to the founding of our Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, we go back 800 years to the recognizable milestones of our particular journey: the founding of the very first monastery of Dominican Nuns by St. Dominic himself in the year 1206 on the edge of the little French town of Fanjeaux.

The very presence of St. Dominic, a Spaniard, in France, is another fascinating milestone in the journey into history we are considering. Having accompanied his bishop, Diego de Acebo, to France on a mission for the King of Spain, Dominic, then a Canon Regular of St. Augustine, soon found himself, along with Bishop Diego, embroiled in what has come to be known as the Albigensian Heresy. Many people who had been influenced by the heretical teaching fell under the sway of these two zealous preachers, among them nine noble ladies. So ardent were they in their love for God and the pursuit of truth

that they wished to dedicate their whole lives to that quest by following Christ more faithfully as religious under the guidance and direction of St. Dominic.

It has been said that Dominic never intended to found a new Religious Order in the church, much less a monastic one, but he prayed and in answer to that prayer was given a miraculous sign from heaven indicating the exact place where he was to gather these women as associates and supporters of his “Holy Preaching.” The “Seignadou,” (Sign of God) as it has come to be called, pointed to a chapel at the foot of the hill of Fanjeaux which was dedicated to Our Lady under the title of St. Mary of Prouilhe. After obtaining this chapel and its adjacent land from the Bishop of the place, Dominic gathered these women, now eleven in number, and on December 27, 1206 clothed them in the white tunic, black veil and black woolen cloak (or cappa, as it is sometimes called), which was henceforth to constitute the habit of the nuns. Thus was born what was to become the first-formed branch of the Order of Preachers: the Nuns! It was not until 10 years later, in 1216, that the male branch of the Order was formally approved by Pope Honorius III. Its unique mission of preaching was confirmed by the Pope in the following year. So we are commemorating not only our own Monastery’s



100 years in the Archdiocese of Detroit but the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the very founding of the Dominican Nuns as the first members of St. Dominic's "Order of Preachers."

### *A LEAP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC*

To recount the history of the Order since that time would take us too far afield so we shall concentrate on the establishment of the Cloistered Dominican Nuns in the United States from the Monastery in Oullins, France. This monastery had been endowed by the generous gift of a noblewoman of the area with the understanding that upon reception of the endowment, the monastery would commit itself to Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. A milestone, indeed, for Oullins as well as for the many monasteries who would issue from it here in the United States and particularly for our own Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament. It was at this Monastery in Oullins that two Americans, Mother Mary of Jesus and her niece, Mother Mary Emmanuel received their formation as Dominican Nuns with the intention of bringing Cloistered Dominican Life to the United States. Their cherished desire was realized in 1880

when Bishop Michael A. Corrigan formally invited them to make a foundation in his Diocese of Newark, New Jersey. Sisters Mary of Jesus, Maria Dominica, Mary Emmanuel and Mary of Mercy, then a novice, left Oullins on June 24, 1880, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, to establish the new foundation.

Nine years later, this proto monastery of Dominican Nuns in America was sufficiently established to be able to make its first foundation in the Bronx, New York City. Our foundation in Detroit would follow in 1906, as well as two later foundations in Cincinnati in 1915 and Los Angeles in 1924.

A quick glimpse at the city of Detroit in 1906 shows a population of approximately 300,000 residents. The early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century provided a golden age of opportunity and invention not only for Detroit but for the whole country, and while there was much wealth there was also much



*Mother Marie Dominique,  
Foundress of the  
Oullins Monastery*



*Above and Below: Monastery of the Blessed  
Sacrament in Oullins, France*



*continued on page 10.*



*Monastery of St. Dominic, Newark, New Jersey*



*Mother Mary of Jesus,  
Foundress*



*Mother Mary Emmanuel,  
Foundress*



*Mother Mary of Mercy,  
Foundress*

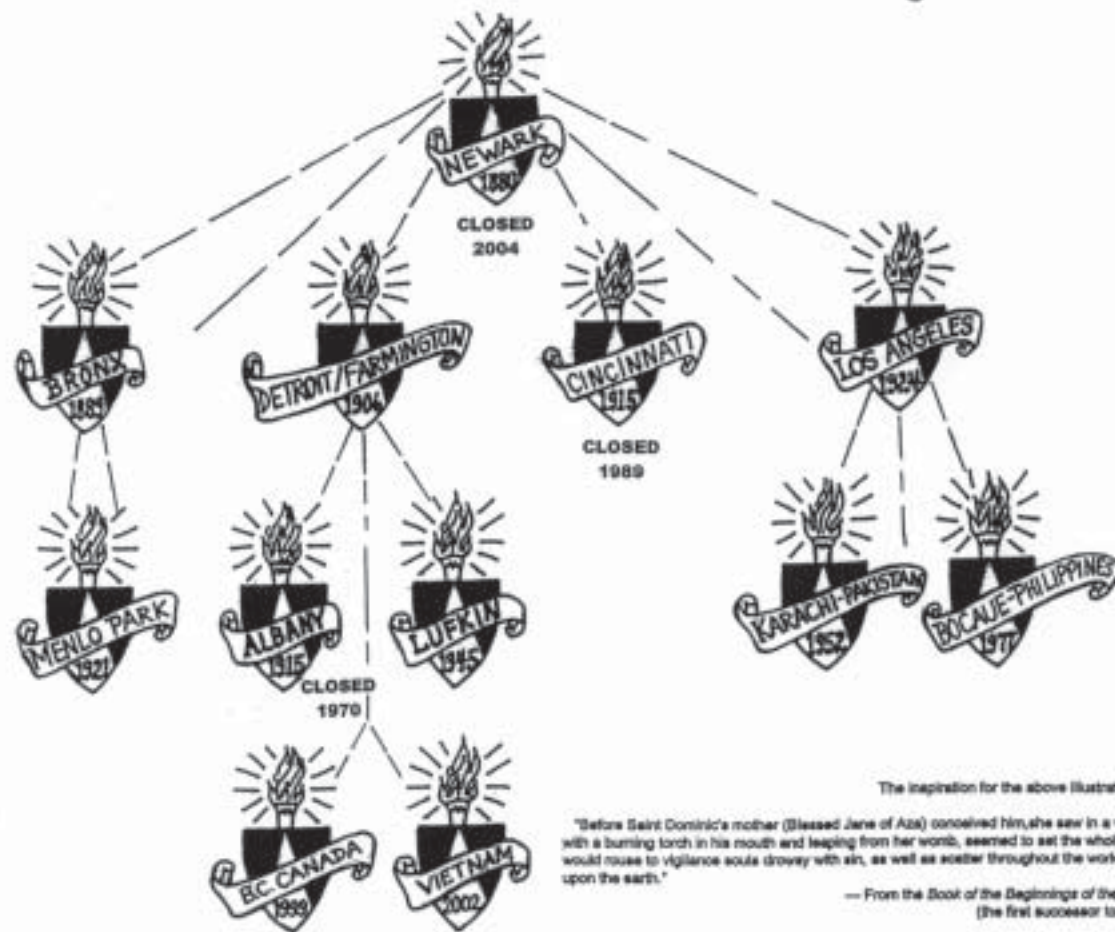


*Archbishop Michael A. Corrigan,  
Bishop of Newark*



*Mother Maria Dominica,  
Foundress*

Symbolic Summary of Monasteries  
 Stemming from St. Dominic's Monastery in Newark, N.J.



The inspiration for the above illustration:

"Before Saint Dominic's mother (Blessed Jane of Aza) conceived him, she saw in a vision that she would bear in her womb a dog who with a burning torch in his mouth and leaping from her womb, seemed to set the whole earth on fire. This was to signify that her child would rouse to vigilance souls drowsy with sin, as well as scatter throughout the world the fire which the Lord Jesus Christ came to cast upon the earth."

— From the Book of the Beginnings of the Order of Preachers by Blessed Jordan of Saxony, (the first successor to St. Dominic as Master General of the Dominicans)



*Detroit in 1906*  
(Photo from the Detroit Publishing Co. Collection)

poverty. It was in this milieu that the seven foundresses departed from the monastery in Newark, New Jersey to bring Dominican Cloistered Contemplative Life, coupled with Perpetual Adoration, to the Archdiocese of Detroit.

### ***THE HIGHWAY WEST***

Reaching out to spread Dominican Cloistered Life and Perpetual Adoration further abroad in the United States, Mother Mary Emmanuel, who had become the prioress of the Newark monastery, applied to the bishop of Detroit to make a foundation in his diocese. It is to the credit of Bishop John S. Foley that he received these Dominican Cloistered Nuns sight unseen and without any previous plans to accept a contemplative community in his diocese. But accept us he did and with the largesse provided by his trusted and able protege, Fr. Francis Van Antwerp, who advised: "Let them come; I'll take care of them." Father Van, as he was endearingly called by all, was true to his word till the day of his death.



*Bishop John S. Foley*

*The Sisters of the Second Order of Saint Dominic, coming from the Monastery of Saint Dominic, Newark, New Jersey, are received into the Diocese with the agreement that the Right Reverend Bishop will furnish them with the necessary priestly ministry for daily Mass and the Sacraments, and, moreover, that the Right Reverend Bishop will protect them in the faithful observance of their rule and Constitutions, such as they are bound to follow them. The Sisters, on their side, being deeply grateful for their admission into the Diocese, promise to the Right Reverend Bishop that they will persevere in the observance of their rule and Constitutions, and they will, moreover, devote themselves both by day and by night, according as their number will allow, to the adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed in their chapel.*

+ John S. Foley  
Bishop of Detroit  
(Dated: June 23, 1905)

Fr. Van found the first temporary home for the nuns on 1189 Woodward Avenue in the Murphy Mansion as it was called. He enlisted the help of many of his parishioners at Holy Rosary Church to join the volunteer adorers who helped the sisters maintain Perpetual Adoration in the early years. Among the young ladies in the group was Louise Kalt, who was to enter the



*Foundresses of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit*



***Mother Mary Emmanuel***  
*December 20, 1850 -  
November 28, 1928*



***Mother Mary Theresa***  
*March 24, 1859 -  
October 25, 1934*



***Mother Mary of the Visitation***  
*January 12, 1860 -  
January 22, 1938*



***Mother Mary of the  
Infant Jesus***  
*April 2, 1886 -  
August 17, 1969*



***Mother Mary of the  
Sacred Heart***  
*June 14, 1883 -  
November 16, 1942*



***Sr. Mary Joseph***  
*August 10, 1873 -  
July 17, 1948*



***Sr. Mary of the Nativity***  
*February 14, 1859  
November 27, 1928*



*Fr. Francis Van Antwerp*

Monastery taking the name, Sister Mary of Jesus. She later became the Mistress of Novices and then Prioress for many terms. Providence reserved for her the task of building our new monastery here in Farmington Hills to which we moved in 1966. But we are getting ahead of the story.

After a little more than a year and a half in the Murphy Mansion, the little group had to find a new habitation when the house was sold in November of 1907. The nuns made their new home in a small house on 1180 Cass Avenue where they lived for two years. From the beginning they were receiving inquiries by would be postulants. The living quarters on Cass Avenue were inadequate for the growing community, and the chapel where they sang the Divine Praises before the Blessed Sacrament by day and by night was extremely small and unsuitable to accommodate the many faithful who wished to come for Eucharistic adoration. Mother Mary Emmanuel realized that it was time to build a permanent home for the community in a real monastery, finally

established as “The Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament.”

With the approval and blessing of Bishop John S. Foley, the search for suitable property and generous benefactors was begun. The sisters received permission to take out a loan in order to expedite the work. Building plans were drawn up, studied and agreed upon. Fund raising continued with the support of many of the parishes in Detroit, as well as by repeated donations large and small of the faithful benefactors who rallied to their aid. All of them realized the importance and efficacy of Perpetual Adoration in the Archdiocese and each of them, be it priest, sister or lay person was an ardent lover of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

At last enough funds were available to begin. The date for the official Ground Breaking was set for Monday, September 4, 1908. There was electricity in the air as the sisters pondered the significance of the coming event. Their dream of having a permanent home where they could live their religious, monastic life to the full with the privilege of uninterrupted Adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament by day and by night along with the Solemn Celebration of the Divine Office were being realized after only two years in Detroit. These sisters and those who would follow in their footsteps had no other reason for existence than to praise, to bless, and to preach by the witness of their dedicated lives and the power of their unceasing prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the salvation of souls.



*View of Woodward Ave. in 1906. The Murphy Mansion would be north of this home located at 1123 Woodward (Photo from the Detroit Publishing Company Collection.)*

## *A PERMANENT HOME*



*“Come let us adore”  
Entrance Gate  
9704 Oakland Ave.*

In the short span of one year, the new building, though only half completed, was deemed ready to receive the sisters. The address of the new “Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament” was 9704 Oakland Avenue, just a few blocks away from Blessed Sacrament Church which was later to become the Archdiocesan Cathedral. How fitting to be in such close proximity to the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Detroit, an Archdiocese which has always been and remains supportive of our Hidden Apostolate of Prayer.

For several days, the community hosted an Open House to give the public the rare opportunity to enter the cloister and view the space which the Nuns called their home: the cells (bedrooms), the refectory (monastic dining room), the host room where altar breads would be baked, the sewing rooms etc. Due to lack of funds, the monastery could be only half completed with the unfortunate result that the parlor had to be converted into a temporary chapel until construction could be resumed. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of either the nuns or their benefactors; in fact it spurred them on with greater confidence in the Providence of Almighty God who had begun this work and would surely bring it to completion.



*Laying the cornerstone*

On June 25, 1911, the cornerstone of the new chapel was laid amid great enthusiasm and ceremony. No fewer than fifteen priests accompanied the Right Reverend Bishop John Foley, who mounted the raised platform to lead the chanting of the Miserere (Psalm 50) and the Litany of the Saints. The choir from Holy Rosary Church furnished other music and hundreds of our friends and benefactors joined in the ceremonies which were concluded by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on what would later be the site of the altar.

Though the ceremony of laying the cornerstone had taken place, the challenge of raising the money to complete the monastery chapel remained. Bishop Foley came to our aid with a letter that he sent to all of the parishes of the Diocese. It was dated November 11, 1911 and reads as follows:



*Rev. Dear Father,*

*The good sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, engaged in the erection of a new chapel adjoining their Monastery in Detroit, have asked me for a letter of commendation of their work. I give it most gladly and willingly.*

*The object of their sublime vocation, the perpetual adoration of Our Divine Lord in the most holy and adorable Sacrament of His Love, should be a motive of our exertion in their behalf. What we do in this is for Him who has done so much for us, even unto dwelling with us in the Tabernacle, our Friend and Consoler.*

*For this end I have given the good Sisters permission to solicit the kindness and charity of your Reverence in aiding them, if within your power.*

*Yours faithfully in Christ,*

*+John S. Foley*

*Bishop of Detroit*

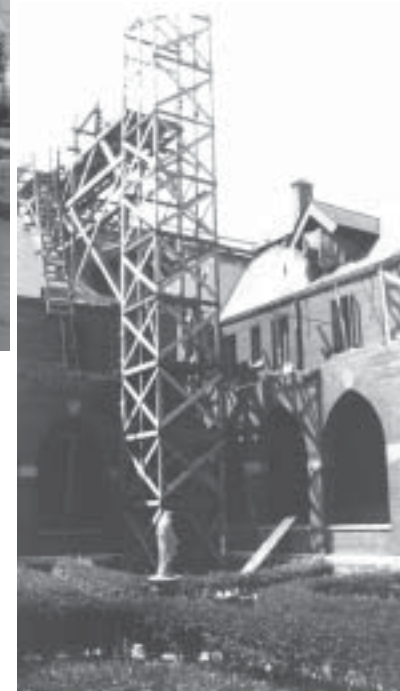
*(Dated: November 14, 1911)*

Thus, with help of the generous people of our Detroit parishes, the chapel and remainder of the monastery were completed in the short span of nine months. On March 25, 1912, Feast of the Annunciation, our Chapel of Perpetual Adoration was formally dedicated by the Bishop E. D. Kelly, assisted by Bishop Thomas Fallon of London, Ontario. Innumerable clergymen, both Diocesan and Religious, were present. None of those present would ever forget the electrifying moment when Bishop Kelly ascended the white marble steps to enthrone the Blessed Sacrament in the Niche above the altar for adoration by the grateful nuns and public alike. After all the excitement settled down Mother Mary Emmanuel and the nuns entered deeply and peacefully into the living of their Dominican Monastic life in their new monastery. Vocations flourished.

*continued on page 21.*



*Construction of the Monastery on Oakland Avenue*



## *Inside the Oakland Avenue Monastery*



*Laundry*

*Sisters at work in the kitchen  
At right, SM Incarnate Word,  
SM Immaculate Conception,  
SM Michael & SM Annunciation  
(also at oven, below)*



*Above, making Altar Breads in the Host Room  
From left, SM Immaculate Conception,  
SM Visitation, SM Agnes, SM Mercy*

*Below, making vestments in the  
community room/workroom*





*Sr. Mary of the Sacred Wounds making rosaries*



*Below, office corridor*



*Below, refectory (dining room)  
with SM of the Incarnation  
at the reader's stand*



*Refectory place setting*

*Typical "cell" (bedroom)*



*Top center, SM Visitation  
at the snow plow  
Below, winter scene with pet  
St. Bernard dog*



*Master General Manuel Suarez with the Sisters c. 1948  
Below, a sister makes profession of vows before  
Mother Mary of Jesus (seated)*



*At left, sisters working  
in the garden*



*Far left, novices in 1947  
At left, novices in 1923*







*Sr. Mary Louis de Montfort*



*At left,  
Mother Mary of Jesus  
with postulant,  
Sr. Mary Rose*



*Clippings from a  
newspaper story  
Above, Sr. Mary of the  
Pure Heart is at the  
camera*



*Left, she and her twin  
sister, Sr. Mary of the  
Visitation, are shown  
making hemp slippers*

*In the ancient tradition, the nuns make their own  
slippers with braided hemp soles and wooden tops.*



*Above, novitiate orchestra in 1961  
Below, sisters with pet dog*

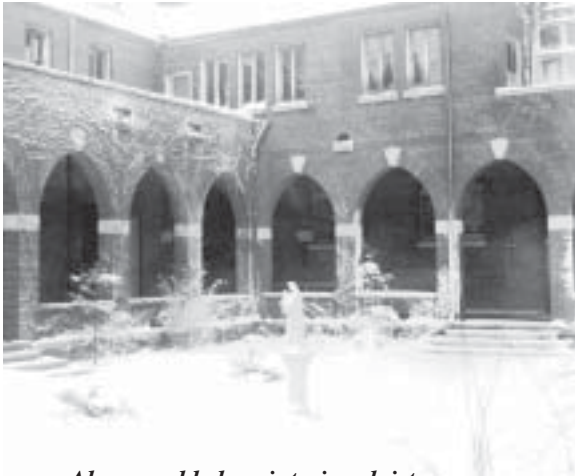
*Below, SM Margaret  
rings the tower bell*



*The Sisters in the summer of 1956*



## *Outside Photos of the Oakland Avenue Monastery*



*Above and below, interior cloister*



*Above, garden entrance; below, Sacred Heart statue at front of Monastery*



*Extern shrine. From left, SM Anthony, SM Louis (as a postulant), SM Anastasia and SM Grace*



*Below, sisters working in the garden*



## **MORE MILESTONES - ONE MADE OF GOLD**



*Albany Monastery*

By 1915 Mother Mary Emmanuel, in her zeal for the glory of God, felt that it was time to establish yet another Dominican Monastery of perpetual adoration in America. On November 21, 1915 seven nuns departed from Detroit to make a foundation in Albany, New York. Mother Mary Emmanuel was appointed by her new Bishop as the Prioress of the new foundation, thus leaving the Detroit community without their beloved foundress. Mother was to end her days in Albany in 1928, greatly mourned by the nuns in Newark and Detroit and of course, by her sisters at the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.

Upon the death of Bishop Foley in 1918, Most Rev. Michael J. Gallagher was appointed Bishop of Detroit to succeed him and like his predecessor, was most supportive of the nuns and their apostolate of adoration and intercession. He would play a unique role in the next milestone in the history of our Monastery which was reached in 1930. The community



*Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart*

had petitioned the Holy See as far back as 1923 for the privilege of taking Solemn Vows but for some reason this was not granted until December of 1929. The document granting the permission arrived on Christmas Eve of that year but it was deferred until April 30, 1930 when Bishop Gallagher himself received the Solemn Vows of the Prioress, Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart who, in turn received the Solemn Vows of each of the remaining 21 members of the community. The sisters had longed for this day for years and had prepared themselves for it spiritually with the help of the instructions of their Dominican brother, Fr. Thomas a Kempis Reilly, OP. His words would remain indelibly inscribed in their hearts: "Solemn Vows represent the most sacred form of personal consecration in the Church outside of the priesthood and constitute the sisters as "Nuns," properly so called."

In 1937 Bishop Edward Mooney succeeded Bishop Gallagher as Archbishop of Detroit. Created Cardinal in 1946 he, had through the years, expressed in many ways his appreciation for the presence of the Cloistered Dominican Nuns in his Archdiocese and (to jump ahead for a moment) was especially supportive of the public celebration in 1956 of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our presence in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Cardinal recognized that the power of prayer surpasses anything that the powers of this world could accomplish and encouraged both the nuns and the faithful in their devotedness to the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which the Monastery



*Monastery of the Infant Jesus in Lufkin, Texas*

provided. It was a wonderful celebration and a tribute to the lively faith of our friends and benefactors.

The community continued to prosper and grow, spiritually and numerically. With our number reaching beyond fifty when Mother Mary Imelda was elected prioress in 1944, the decision to make a new foundation was reached. Mother Mary Imelda herself led the group of 15 foundresses to a site in Lufkin, Texas where the Monastery of the Infant Jesus, begun in 1945, continues to thrive.

### ***THE EVENTFUL SIXTIES***

In the late 1960's Detroit was blighted by the unfortunate race riots that devastated the homes and lives of hundreds of its citizens, white and black alike. Violence and rage continued in many areas of the city, some of it in the vicinity of our Oakland Avenue Monastery. The sisters experienced several attempts of break-ins to the monastery and were growing apprehensive. We were advised by many, including the chancery officials, to change our location for the safety and well being of the sisters. An equally pressing reason to consider moving was the increasing amount of repairs that the building needed. Was it worth spending all that money on it? The difficult decision was finally made to relocate. Plans were begun to build a new monastery somewhere in the suburbs where we could live our contemplative life free from the fear of disturbance and harm. Mother Mary of Jesus Kalt was the Prioress at the time and when she asked his advice and permission, Cardinal Mooney gave not only his blessing and encouragement to launch an all-out Building Fund Campaign, but generously donated the piece of property on which the monastery now stands.

Through the efforts and connections of our beloved Extern, Sister Mary Louis de Montfort, a group of prominent businessmen of Detroit were contacted. After some deliberation, they decided to hire a professional fund-raising firm to map out and track the phases of the campaign. It was to be called the "Challenge Campaign." When Cardinal Mooney died in 1958, Cardinal John Dearden was welcomed as the new Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Our new Cardinal gave the same approval and support as did his predecessor, even appointing one of the diocesan priests to oversee our building efforts and to advise Mother Mary of Jesus and her Council on matters pertaining to its erection. The Challenge Campaign officially began in early 1964. By midyear we had enough funds to begin plans for the Groundbreaking Ceremony which took place on August 16, 1964. The laying of the Cornerstone followed on June 27<sup>th</sup> of the following year, 1965.



*Adrian Dominican sister, Sr. Brigitta, joins our externs at the laying of the cornerstone in 1965*



## *A NEW HOME*

Twenty one sisters had lived and died on Oakland Avenue, the last death being on June 24, 1964. They were buried in the vaults beneath the monastery and they too had to be relocated before we could move to our new home. Again we experienced the solicitude and kindness of the Archdiocese. The Cardinal provided a large section of Holy Sepulcher Cemetery for our use. Curiosity ran high as the nuns peered out the windows to watch the caskets lifted in the air to be transported on the special trucks which would take them to our Cemetery plot for re-burial.

One year later, on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1966, the big day arrived. Thirty four nuns boarded the bus provided by the Sisters of Mercy and headed for their new home in Farmington Hills. It was the Feast of the Sacred Heart that year and for most it was a day of sorrow and joy commingled. Sorrow to leave the hallowed ground of the “old monastery” as we now refer to it, for the new and modern building of the “new” one. Tears were shed, to be sure, but hearts were filled with gratitude for the new home that the goodness of our friends and benefactors had provided so that our life of praise, petition and perpetual adoration could continue.

Settling in was exiting and somewhat confusing: the corridors were so long, the rooms so many and so bright in striking contrast to the poorly lit halls in the traditionally built building on Oakland Avenue. We felt we were in a dream land and thanked God daily for the realization of the dream. Papal Enclosure and full observance of the monastic schedule were not to be formally established until the Cardinal himself could come to do the honors. On July 1, 1966, Feast of the Precious Blood, Cardinal John F. Dearden, accompanied by the then Fathers Joseph Imisch, Thomas Gumbleton and Joseph Schoener, (all three have since been made Bishops) arrived to celebrate the Eucharist and conduct the Dedication Ceremonies. Despite the heat, the pews were filled and no one seemed to mind the length of the ceremonies and speeches that were given.

The Promotor of the Dominican Nuns in the United States, Fr. Albert Drexelius, OP, delivered an inspiring homily. After the Mass the Cardinal spoke, thanking God for the presence of the community in the Greater Detroit area and the power of the nuns’ prayer and witness for the diocese, the church

*continued on page 28.*



*Transfer of Coffins*



*Community memorial monument  
designed by one of the sisters*

## *Farmington Hills Construction*



*Our Blessed Mother oversees the construction*

*At right, Sr. Karen and SM Raphael look out over the construction site*



*Below, SM Louis assists with the groundbreaking*



*Below, monastery from the back*

*Facade during construction*



## *Moving Day*



*SM Louis hands the keys to  
Mother Mary of Jesus*



*Mother Mary of Jesus smiles  
broadly as the move begins*



*Above, sisters get help loading  
items onto the bus*



*At left, sisters boarding the bus  
provided by the Sisters of Mercy*



*Safely home, the sisters offer  
prayers of thanksgiving*



## *Farmington Hills Monastery*



*Above, the community room and workroom  
Below, the kitchen*



*Above, a typical cell  
Below, the refectory*



## *Farmington Hills Monastery*



*Clockwise from top left:*

*Chapter hall/library*

*SM Elizabeth, SM Pure Heart  
and SM Visitation working at  
the printing press*

*Laundry room*

*Sisters baking altar breads*



*continued from page 23.*



*Father Albert Drexelius*

and the whole world. He praised the faith and charity of our benefactors and assured them in our name of our continued intercession for their needs and intentions. Imagine the thrill and awe of the nuns and guests alike as the Blessed Sacrament was placed in the monstrance and then lifted up to the niche on the electric elevator that had been specially designed for this purpose. Perpetual Adoration was begun in Farmington Hills. Another milestone had been reached.

### ***NORTHEAST TRAVELERS TAKE THE RETURN ROAD***

Four years passed and “29575 Middlebelt Road” began to feel like home to the sisters. New friends and benefactors continued to come to the Monastery to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and to solicit the prayers of the community for themselves and their loved ones. Meanwhile, the nuns of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, New York were experiencing daily hardships due to the lack of vocations and funds. Though these sisters had many friends who supplied them with food and goods for their day to day living, finances remained tight and the bills mounted. The community was aging and many of the elderly were chronically ill. Father Albert Drexelius was appointed by the Holy See and the Master General of the Order to advise and direct

the sisters regarding the future of their Monastery. Was there hope for the future or should they think in terms of amalgamating with another monastery? After much prayer and consultation, the latter move was decided upon. When Father Drexelius phoned Mother Mary of Mercy, our prioress in Farmington Hills, to tell her of the decision, she unhesitatingly offered to accept all or as many of the sisters who would choose to come to Farmington. Cardinal Szoka, who by then had been appointed Cardinal Archbishop to replace Cardinal Dearden after his resignation in 1980 also gave his approval. Mother Mary of Mercy lost no time in renovating and expanding our Infirmary so as to be ready to receive and adequately care for the beloved elderly sisters who would soon become part of our monastic family.

On April 29, 1970, the remaining sisters of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception arrived in Farmington Hills to join us and continue their lives as Dominican Nuns as members of our community.



*Sister Mary of Mercy (standing fourth from left), then prioress, with the Sisters from Albany*



God, in His loving Providence had provided that our new monastery had enough rooms and living space to accommodate our new sisters. It was touching to realize that one of the original foundresses of the Albany community, Sister Mary Aloysius, was among those returning to her mother community of Detroit. Yes, our God is all provident and caring.

Time passed quickly and the two communities blended and continued to flourish under the leadership of Sisters Mary of Mercy, Mary Joseph and Mary Emmanuel Filipiak. Cardinal Szoka quickly became a true father and shepherd to the community and used to visit us at least once a year to celebrate the Eucharist and then have a warm and friendly visit with us in our community room. These were days that we treasured and have been continued by Cardinal Szoka's successor, Adam Cardinal Maida, our present Ordinary and advocate.

### ***UNEXPECTED MILESTONES APPEAR ON THE ROAD***

Two more milestones were yet to be reached. From 1994 to 2000 Sister Mary Thomas was prioress as well as a member of the International Commission of Dominican Nuns. During that time frame, with the approval and encouragement of the Cardinal, an Endowment Fund was established. Through the generosity of the many friends and

benefactors of the Monastery who responded to our need, we felt able to face the future with confidence, knowing that funds would be available to care for our elderly and sick sisters and to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

In the meantime, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, Master General of the Dominican Order, asked Sister to consider his request that the community of Farmington Hills sponsor a new foundation of Dominican Nuns in British Columbia, Canada. After much prayer and deliberation by the Council and Chapter of the community as well as continuing consultation with the other Dominican monasteries in the United States who were all asked to collaborate in the venture, it was finally decided that Farmington would take responsibility for the new entity. Sister-volunteers from various monasteries would be selected with the approval of their prioresses and Chapters. Our Prioress, accompanied by Sr. Mary Angela from the Los Angeles Monastery, traveled to Vancouver to meet



*Sr. Mary Aloysius*



*From left, Master General, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe; Provincial, Fr. Donald Goergen; with then Prioress, Sr. Mary Thomas*

Archbishop Exner and his Chancellor, Msgr. Gregory Smith to discuss the possibilities and obtain the necessary permissions. The Archbishop was most favorable to accepting the Cloistered Dominican Nuns into his Diocese, even offering the use of Rosemary Heights, the Archdiocesan Retreat Center, to house the sisters until more suitable housing could be found. Thus it was that on November 27, 1999, the First Sunday of Advent, two of our sisters and another from Lufkin set off for Surrey, Vancouver to join the other foundresses to bring Dominican Contemplative Life to British Columbia. The fledgling community of the Queen of Peace Monastery has since relocated to Langley, BC. Their number has grown to eight, including another professed sister from Farmington plus a postulant who is residing with us here in Michigan to receive her initial formation in the religious life.



*From left to right: Sr. Maria Rose, Fr. Joseph Luat, Sr. Mary of the Trinity & Sr. Theresa Tam*

Monastery in her country. She lost no time in contacting the superiors of her Congregation and those of the Dominican Order while continuing her communication with our prioress here. With visa in hand she returned to the United States and to our monastery on August 29, 1999. By that time Sister Mary Rose Figura had been elected prioress and she, along with Sister Mary Trinity, our Novice Directress and the whole community received our Vietnamese sister with great joy. In May of the following year Sr. Maria Rose was joined in the formation program by Sister Theresa Tam Bui who had also been released from her apostolic Dominican Congregation to help establish a Dominican monastery in Vietnam. In 2001, after Sr. Theresa had completed her program, Sister Mary Rose and Sr. Mary Trinity, accompanied her

Another surprise of the Holy Spirit in our regard was our sponsorship of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Vietnam. It all began when Sister Maria Rose, an Apostolic Sister from a Dominican Congregation in Vietnam, came to visit our monastery while she was in the United States in October of 1998. Sister told us that although there were five Congregations of Dominican Sisters in Vietnam and a well established Province of the Dominican Friars, the only entity lacking to the full presence of the Dominican Family in her country were the Dominican Nuns!

Sister Maria Rose returned to Vietnam with an even greater interest and desire to have a Dominican



*Fr. Manuel Merten was the main celebrant at the Mass of Solemn Profession. Sr. Mary Rose, left, was the prioress*

back to Vietnam where along with Sr. Maria Rose they met Fr. Manuel Merten, OP, the representative of the Master General of the Dominican Order. With intense collaboration with the Vietnamese Prior Provincial, Fr. Joseph Luat, OP as well as with the superior generals of the five Dominican Congregations of Sisters arrangements were finalized for the foundation. The official founding date was October 23, 2002. Sr. Maria Rose returned to Farmington Hills in 2004 to complete her formation as a Dominican contemplative nun. When Sister made her solemn profession of vows on February 5, 2005, she became the first Dominican nun in Vietnamese history. Fr. Merten presided at the Mass of Solemn Profession. Sr. Theresa Tam has since returned to Farmington for final preparation for Solemn Vows June 28, 2006 in the presence of our Master General, Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP. Four other Vietnamese sisters are also here participating in the Novitiate program and will return to Vietnam after professing their Solemn Vows a few years hence. With such solid beginnings, the Dominican nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit will be able in the future to receive and form their own native women in the Dominican cloistered way of life and charism.

Besides our beloved Vietnamese, we are also privileged to have had three sisters from Africa join us: one from the Dominican monastery in Nairobi, Kenya, another from the Monastery in Bambui, Cameroon and one from a Dominican Apostolic Congregation in Nigeria. In addition, six sisters have joined us from the Monastery of Saint Dominic in Newark, New Jersey, the very monastery from which we were founded a century ago, upon its closing in March 2004. Another significant milestone for them and for us.

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our monastery, the community numbers forty two sisters. We face the future in joyful hope knowing that God will continue to provide as He has so remarkably done in the past. Surely He continues to call young women to his service and that of the Church in a life totally dedicated to praise, adoration and the study of Sacred Truth which is Himself. We pray that many will answer that call! There is no life more rewarding.

So very much more could be written but mere words could not express the gratitude in our hearts to God and for our remarkable friends and benefactors who have supported us in our life of prayer throughout these past 100 years. You have been and are People of Faith and of Hope and of genuine Christian Charity. We remain forever indebted to each of you, both in life and in death. God is never outdone in generosity and what you have done for us, He considers as done for Himself. So we thank you in His Name and hope by the help of his grace to continue our life of adoration and praise for another 100 years as the journey continues. May God bless you all!

*Sister Mary Thomas Michalek, OP and Sisters*



*The sisters from the Monastery of St. Dominic Newark, New Jersey. Left to right in back row: Sr. Mary Margaret, Sr. Mary Cecilia, Sr. Clara Marie. Front Row: Sr. Mary of the Holy Child, Sr. Mary Magdalen, Sr. Mary of Jesus*



*Post Script: THE PERENNIAL QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU DO ALL DAY?*



*Sisters praying the Divine Office  
(Liturgy of the Hours) in Detroit Monastery*

We follow a schedule of prayer, work, study and fellowship that is very similar to that envisioned by Our Holy Founder for the very first nuns in Prouilhe in 1206, give or take a few conveniences such as electricity, central heating, gas stoves, microwaves, washing machines, computers, etc. (Although some of these “conveniences” bring with them their own problems!) In the vision of St. Dominic, “The friars, sisters, and laity of the Order are to preach the name of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world; the nuns are to

seek, ponder and call upon him in solitude.” One of the most beautiful passages of our Constitutions sums up the meaning of our life as follows: “The whole life of the nuns is harmoniously ordered to the continual remembrance of God. By the celebration of the Eucharist and the Divine Office, by reading and meditation on the Sacred Scriptures, by private prayer, vigils and intercessions” (so well enshrined in our special charism of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by night and by day) “they should strive to have the same mind as Christ Jesus. In silence and stillness, let them earnestly seek the face of the Lord and never cease making intercession with the God of our salvation that all men and women might be saved.” And since we live in a world in which many of our brothers and sisters must “eat their bread in the sweat of their brow,” our Constitutions also state: “. . .the nuns should give an effective corporate witness to the world by working diligently, living frugally.” And finally, since all work and prayer and no play would make us a sad specimen of Dominican contemplative life, we also take time for play and joyous conversations, once again following the example of our Holy Founder of whom the Constitutions states: “No one was more joyful or more community minded.”



*Procession on Summer Rogation Days (the  
three days before the Ascension) during  
which prayers of petition are offered for  
spiritual and material needs*

**The Dominican Family**  
*Friars and Sisters*

Friars, Nuns, Sisters and Laity of the Order, all claim St. Dominic as founder, father and unflinching intercessor. In each succeeding generation, the sons and daughters of Dominic seek to live out the legacy of life he left us. From the very beginning Dominic cultivated

*continued on page 43.*

***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***



*Right, Dominican cardinal, Mario Luigi Ciappi, OP, visits the Nuns.*

*Left, Bishop Melczek and Fr. Michael Monshau, OP*



*At left and below, During the 1987 visit of Pope John Paul II, the sisters were blessed to attend the papal Mass at the Silverdome*



*Mother Teresa visits us*



**WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY**



*Receiving the Precious Blood*



*Above, the sisters pose in front of the Chapter Hall mosaic with Dominican artist whose work it is, Fr. R. A. Zarlenga (standing to right of crucifix). Also present are fellow Dominicans, Brother Henry and Fr. Frendo*

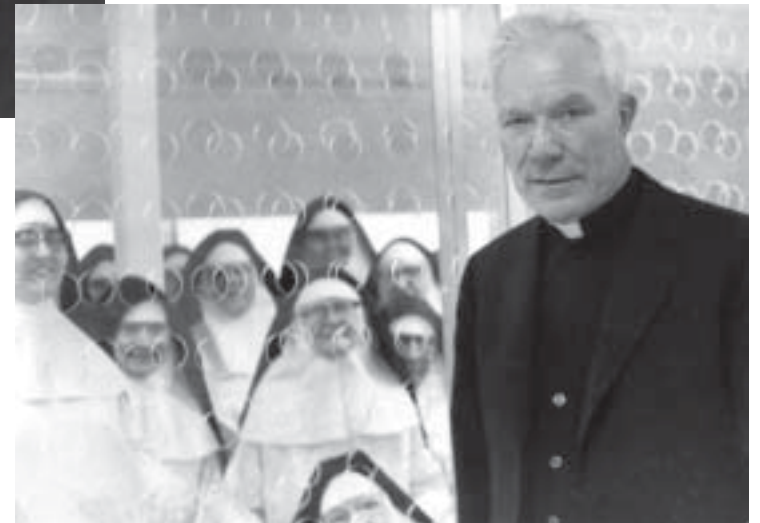
*Below, Cardinal Szoka and his secretary (and future bishop), Fr. Dale Melczek, visit with the sisters in the backyard on Corpus Christi Sunday*



*Above, Benediction with Fr. Tim Myers during our Corpus Christi procession in 1970*



*A visit with Fr. Peyton, right*





**WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY**

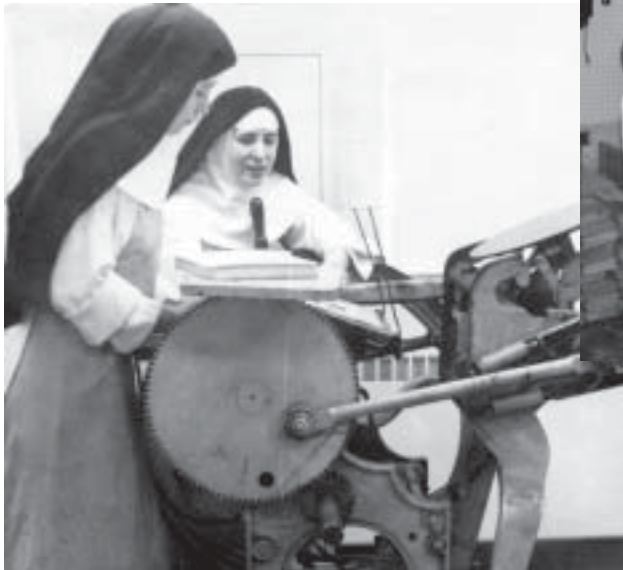


*Above, Sisters work in the yard while, at right, Sr. Theresa Tam prepares wood for icons*



*Above, Sr. Miriam, PG and Tasha*

*Below, SM Magdalen and SM of the Visitation at the old printing press*



*At right, working in the kitchen (from left to right) SM Peter, Sr. Maria Rose, SM Thomas and SM Joseph Kanja*



***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***



*Above, Fr. Manuel Merten, OP, prepares to give a lecture  
Below, Sr. Mary of the Trinity teaches a class to the  
novitiate sisters*



*Above, Sr. Mary Vincent studies in the library while,  
at left, Fr. Augustine DiNoia, OP, emphasizes a point  
Below, Sr. Mary of the Savior conducts a singing lesson  
in the novitiate*





***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***

*Climbing in a fallen tree*



*Baseball champs!*



*Playing volleyball*

*Peering through their badminton raquets are, from left to right, SM St. Catherine, SM of the Pure Heart, SM of the Visitation and SM of the Sacred Wounds*



***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***



*Above, from left to right,  
SM of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Sr. Maria Immaculata &  
SM of the Visitation*



*Above, the sisters prepare to make a CD recording  
Below, SM of the Savior plays the violin while  
SM Immaculata accompanies her on the piano*



*Left, SM of the Sacred Heart and  
SM Grace perform for the community*



*SM Rose poses with an autoharp*



***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***

*Recreation during a power failure*



*SM Elizabeth looks on as SM Joseph provides “first aid” to SM Rose*



*From left to right: SM Divine Heart, SM Compassion, Sr. Miriam, SM Paul, SM Mercy and SM Agnes at a community recreation*

*The extern sisters perform a skit for the community*





***WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY***



*Sr. Anna Maria rescues a fallen bird while Sr. Marie Dominic feeds Jimmy, an orphaned squirrel*



*Sr. Mary Joseph, Coco and Sr. Mary Elizabeth*



*The “flying machine” to fly Oscar south for the winter*



*Sr. Mary of the Heart of Jesus with her bird*

*Oscar, our adopted abandoned duck*





*WHAT WE DO ALL DAY: PRAYER, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY*



*Winter fun!*



*WHAT WE DO ALL DAY*

*Like the wise virgins of Scripture, with lamps alight, we await the coming of our Bridegroom*



*In the twilight of the day and of years, the twins keep vigil*

*continued from page 32.*

a healthy interdependence among his followers. The friars, be they clerics or brothers, were to be helpful to the nuns in their needs both material and spiritual. The nuns on their part, would provide for the brethren a haven from their travels but more importantly, they would be the soul of the Holy Preaching by their prayer and penance so that the Word of God, when preached by their brothers, would bear abundant fruit in the lives of their listeners.



*Fr. Martin McCormick*

Throughout these past 100 years we have been amply nourished and guided by our Dominican Friars and we wish to publicly thank in a special way the Provinces of St. Joseph and St. Albert whose members have touched our lives through the Sacraments, spiritual direction, conferences, and studies in scripture, theology and the spiritual life. We are particularly grateful to the Prior Provincials of St. Albert's Province for taking on the responsibility of the Chaplaincy of our Monastery. It was Fr. Donald Goergen who graciously offered to meet our need when our beloved chaplain from the Roman Province, Fr. Hyacinth Peter Frendo, was no longer able to sustain the post due to his failing health. The two succeeding provincials, Fr. Edward Ruane and Fr. Michael Mascari have continued that commitment by appointing the finest of the friars available. Our current chaplain, Fr. Martin McCormick,



*Fr. Hyacinth Peter Frendo*

### *Our Recent Prior Provincials*



*Fr. Donald Goergen*  
1985 - 1994



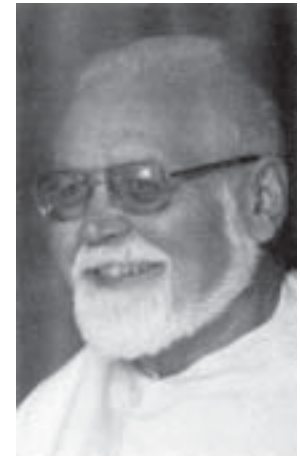
*Fr. Michael Mascari*  
2003 - Present



*Fr. Ed Ruane*  
1994-2003



is confirmation enough of that. The esteem which our brethren have for us, the contemplative nuns, is matched only by the like esteem we have for them. This was evidenced very poignantly when our beloved chaplain, Fr. Richard Weber, became terminally ill while in Farmington Hills. Fr. Weber chose to remain here rather than to return to Chicago. The nuns lovingly watched over him until he was admitted to Angela Hospice where he died on January 7, 1997.



*Fr. Richard Weber*

St. Catherine of Siena, herself a member of the early Order of Penance of the Blessed Dominic, remains the inspiration for the establishment of many groups of women who devote themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy under the patronage and spirituality of St. Dominic. Though not cloistered, these women, formerly called the Third Order, are a vital part of the Dominican Family and recognized by the Church as Apostolic Religious. Our community has been especially blessed by a long standing relationship with our Adrian Dominican Sisters which began in the early years of our foundation and continues to this day. Nor do we forget the bonds with the Oxford and Grand Rapids Dominicans here in Michigan as well as with the Dominicans of St. Mary of the Springs in Ohio, the Springfield Dominicans in Illinois, the Racine, Caldwell, Kentucky and numerous other Apostolic Dominican Congregations throughout the country. St. Dominic's Family is, indeed, large, spacious and well connected in spirit and ideals.



*Members of the Dominican Laity*

### *Dominican Laity*

Our Lay Dominican brothers and sisters, are also part of the Dominican Family. Going back many centuries, the Friars as well as the Nuns always attracted devoted lay people who wished to share in the spiritual riches and works of the Dominican charism and way of life. St. Catherine of Siena seems to have been the first Lay Dominican who, under the guidance of Dominican Friars, would have a somewhat formally organized following. These and those of the centuries to come would live in their own homes fulfilling their family obligations and careers while at the same time embracing the following of Christ and Dominican charism. Instructed in Christian Doctrine and imbued with the spirit of the Gospel they embrace the Order's mandate to preach the Word of God in all circumstances by their manner of life and relationship to all of God's people.

In the course of time, groups of Dominican Laity began to multiply throughout the world and become more formalized as Lay Chapters under the auspices of the various Provinces of the Order. In the United States, here at our monastery, the Blessed Sacrament Chapter of St. Albert's Province was established in October of 1995. Karen Sabourin and Lois Tomaszewski, delegates from the

Wisconsin and Chicago Chapters of the Dominican Laity, sponsored an Open House inviting those interested to come and learn more about this special way of living their Christian lives as Dominicans in the world. The response was favorable and the little group of initiates has grown to twenty professed members who meet monthly here in our Guild Room for prayer, study and personal exchanges. The growth continues with the addition of two new members who are beginning formation.

*Friends of the Monastery*

Legion they are, these men and women who have always been there to help us in every need and circumstance of the past one hundred years. Can we call them Dominican? In a non technical way, we can say “yes,” since they have been and continue to be part and parcel of the life of the Monastery.



*Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by the Guild Ladies*

*Luncheons,  
Rummage*

*Sales, Card Parties, Christmas Bazaars, Antique Sales, Raffles, the making of items for sale in our gift shop - you name it, our friends sponsored it either as individuals or in tandem with the Infant of Prague Guild which was organized in 1938 and flourished until the end of the century. The sixty-eight years of devoted service and assistance to the monastery by these tireless women of the Guild (and often their husbands), most of whom have gone on to eternal life, marked many a milestone in our history and development. Each of them, along with our countless other benefactors, living and deceased, will be forever remembered in our prayers.*



*Fr. Marty, with members of the Society, display the quilt which was one of the prizes in our first sweepstakes drawing*

As in the past, so now in the Twenty First Century, a new group of supporters has come into being: the *Society of the Blessed Sacrament*. In contrast to the Guild, whose main thrust was to assist us financially, the Society aims to support us spiritually by promoting devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, to Our Lady and the Rosary and by encouraging vocations to the monastery and the religious life. Membership is open to

both men and women who share in the prayer life of the community and its charism. Meetings are held monthly and begin with the praying of the Rosary and the offering of Holy Mass followed by a social gathering in the Guild Room with a brown bag lunch and added refreshments. Noted speakers on spiritual and religious topics are invited to give presentations after which there is an interchange of questions and sharing of experiences. The members of the Society often assist at special functions of the monastery by helping our Extern Sisters in welcoming our guests, ushering or other gestures of hospitality. For their prayer and devotedness we are grateful. For them and their families we will ever intercede.



*Volunteer, Pat McCleary, records a prayer request for the nuns*

and offer sympathetic hearing to those in need. Every intention is faithfully noted on the “prayer list” and then sent inside to the cloister where it is daily posted on the bulletin board for the attention of the nuns as they pass by on the way to the chapel. To each of these women we say: “The gift of your friendship and assistance is priceless to us and to the countless souls you assist in the name of Our Lord and in ours as well. It was He who said: ‘Whatever you do for the least of mine, you do for Me.’”

### ***Faithful Benefactors***

Perhaps you have never visited the monastery, but have sent in Novena petitions or phoned to ask that prayer be offered for your special intentions or those of a loved one.

### ***Volunteers of the Monastery***

And how could we forget that most faithful group of friends, our “volunteers?” For year upon years, these wonderful men and women have volunteered their time. The desk volunteers greet the countless visitors who come to the Monastery to pray, to ask for the prayer of the nuns, to seek Enrollment Cards or to browse through the book and gift shop. They answer the phones, take messages



*Sr. Anna Maria with Society President, Mary Ellen Tarpley*



*Meeting the Sisters following a celebratory Mass are Gina & Fred Raupp, who also volunteer their time at the Monastery, and Sr. Loretta Ann Walsh*





*Mr. Frank McLaughlin (at the keyboard) and members of Our Lady of Refuge choir provide the music for our annual Corpus Christi Procession*

Or you may have read in Echoes, our quarterly newsletter, of a need we had and then sent in a donation to help meet it. And then there are the wonderful people who bring us food and grocery donations. We take this occasion, dear friends, to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May God reward you abundantly in this life and in the next. This is our prayer for you and all those who have assisted and continue to assist us in any way. And may the next One Hundred Years find our nuns faithful and flourishing, surrounded by a multitude of friends and benefactors as generous and loving as each in the past one hundred years have been. Amen. Alleluia. Thanks be to God!

*For your love and support we thank you and ask God's blessing upon each and every one of you.*

*Following our 100th anniversary Mass on April 1, 2006 our current prioress and subprioress, along with two former prioresses greeted our guests. From left, Sr. Mary Joseph Fox, Sr. Mary of Mercy Houle, Sr. Mary of the Blessed Sacrament Kuczala (subprioress), Sr. Mary Rose Figura (prioress) and Sr. Mary Thomas Michalek (who was re-elected prioress on May 26)*



*You Will Know Them by the Love They Have for One Another*



*Sr. Helen Mary and Sr. Mary of the Trinity*



*Sr. Mary Thomas (standing) with the infirmiry sisters*

*Sr. Mary Louis and Sr. Mary of the Assumption*



*Sr. Mary of the Infant Jesus and Sr. Mary Raymond*

*You Will Know Them by the Love They Have for One Another*



*Our twins, Sr. Mary of the Pure Heart and Sr. Mary of the Visitation*



*Above, Sr. Mary of the Heart of Jesus with Sr. Mary Patricia*



*Sr. Mary Peter and Sr. Mary Imelda*



*Sr. Mary Emmanuel gives a ride to a sister*



## *Our Prioresses and Their Terms of Office*



*Sr. Mary Thomas Michalek*  
2006 -  
1994 - 2000



*Sr. Mary Rose Figura*  
2000 - 2006



*Sister Mary of Mercy Houle*  
1988 - 1994  
1967 - 1973



*Sr. Mary Emmanuel  
Filipiak*  
1982 -1988  
1973 -1979



*Sr. Mary Joseph Fox*  
1979 -1982



*Mother Mary of Jesus Kalt*  
1961 - 1967; 1945 -1954  
1940 -1941



*Mother Mary Agnes  
Bradish*  
1954 -1960



*Mother Mary Imelda  
Des Rosiers*  
1941 -1945



*Mother Mary of the  
Infant Jesus Ultcht*  
1934 -1940



*Mother Mary of the  
Sacred Heart Campbell*  
1928 - 1934



*Mother Mary of the Visitation Donovan*  
1922 -1928



*Mother Mary (Alphonsa) of the  
Blessed Sacrament Dubuorg*  
1916 - 1922



*Mother Mary Emmanuel Noel*  
1906 -1916

*The Sisters of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Sr. Mary of the Divine Heart*



*Sr. Mary Imelda*



*Sr. Mary St. Catherine*



*Sr. Mary Magdalen*



*Sr. Maria Immaculata*



*Sr. Mary of the Rosary*



*Sr. Mary Cecilia*



*Sr. Mary Margaret*



*Sr. Mary of the  
Holy Child*

*Sr. Mary of the  
Incarnation  
Died March 25, 2006  
May she rest  
in peace.*



*The Sisters of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Sr. Mary of Mercy*



*Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception*



*Sr. Mary Joseph*



*Sr. Mary of Jesus*



*Sr. Marie of the Annunciation*



*Sr. Mary of the Incarnate Word*



*Sr. Mary of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Sr. Mary Vincent*



*Sr. Therese Marie*



*Sr. Mary Thomas*



*The Sisters of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart*



*Sr. Mary Rose*



*Sr. Mary of the Compassion*



*Sr. Mary Grace*



*Sr. Marie Dominic*



*Sr. Mary Joseph Kanja*



*Sr. Mary of the Savior*



*Sr. Mary Nuhra*



*Sr. Mary of the  
Trinity*



*Sr. Miriam*

*The Sisters of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Sr. Mary Peter*



*Sr. Clara Marie*



*Sr. Anna Maria*



*Sr. Faustina Marie*



*Sr. Maria Pia*



*Sr. Mary Francis*



*Sr. Mary Rebekah*



*Sr. Elizabeth*



*Sr. Jean Marie*



*Sr. Mary Angela*



*Sr. Mary Columba*



*Sr. Maria Dominica*



*Sr. Mary Magdalen*



*Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart*



***Queen of Peace Monastery  
Langley, British Columbia  
Canada***



*Sr. Mary Bernadette*



*Sr. Mary Regina*



*Sr. Elizabeth*





*Sr. Maria Rose Huong*



*Sr. Theresa Tam*



*Sr. Therese Khanh*



*Sr. Jeanne Hao*



*Sr. Pauline Ve*



*Sr. Anna Duyen*



*Sr. Paul Nhien*

***Monastery of  
Our Lady of the Holy Spirit  
Viet Nam***

With praise and thanksgiving to God...



Adam Cardinal Maida  
1990 -



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

ARCHDIOECESIS OF DETROIT  
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD  
DETROIT MICHIGAN 48226

January 9, 2006

Dear Sister Mary Rose and Members of the Cloistered Dominican Community of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament:

As you celebrate your 100th Anniversary on April 1, 2006, in the name of the Church of Detroit, I offer prayerful congratulations and best wishes! The presence of your monastery within the Archdiocese has truly been a "powerhouse" of prayer and support for priestly ministry. Your witness and example of faith by increasing perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for one hundred years has borne incredible fruits for our whole Church of Detroit and for your own monastery.

One hundred years ago, six sisters arrived in Detroit from Newark, New Jersey, to found a monastery on Oakland Avenue near what was later to become Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Now, your community has forty-three professed sisters and has been the source for the establishment of two new foundations in Vietnam and Vancouver, British Columbia. The grace of God is truly at work in you, with you, and through you!

I look forward to celebrating your 100th Anniversary on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 18, when you will be concluding your weeklong novena of praise and gratitude. In the meanwhile, please know of my personal gratitude and prayerful remembrance. Through your contemplation and adoration of the Lord's presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament, you are truly signs of hope and encouragement, pointing us on the way to the fullness of life in God's presence in the Kingdom.

With great joy and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Cardinal Maida".

Adam Cardinal Maida  
Archbishop of Detroit

# 100 Years of Dominican Contemplative Life in the Archdiocese of Detroit

John Samuel Foley  
1888 - 1918



Michael James Gallagher  
1918 - 1937



Edward Mooney  
1937 - 1958



John Dearden  
1959 - 1980



Edmund Szoka  
1981 - 1990



# ORDO PRAEDICATORUM ORDER OF PREACHERS



Bro. Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa  
Master of the Order



## FRATRES ORDINIS PRAEDICATORUM CURIA GENERALITIA

On April 1st, 1906, some Dominican nuns arrived in Detroit. They were the founders, the living stones of a new monastery, so that the long chain of prayer initiated by Saint Dominic in Proailhe may continue and grow all over the world.

And, as in the Holy Scriptures, we can give praise to our loving Father for He inserts us in a rich and fruitful history: Proailhe generated Rome and Madrid, which generated many others. Then Oullins (France), generated Newark (NJ), which generated Farmington Hills, seven hundred years after Proailhe was founded. And, as we are about to celebrate the eight hundred years of that first Dominican foundation, we have even more reasons to praise the Lord, for other monasteries can already say: we were founded by Farmington Hills! So that the praise, the blessing and the preaching initiated in the twelfth century in a remote place of South-western France continues and grows.

At the heart of the Dominican vocation there is the desire to know God and to make Him known to others. God's knowledge comes from study and prayer, both done in a community, which is itself the first expression of our desire to preach. In the beginnings of the Order, monasteries and priories were known as the "Holy Preaching". Indeed, the source of all prayer is the Eucharist in which God gives himself, and allows us to be one with him in the mystery of Holy Communion. Hence it is really a privilege to be able, day and night, to adore the Lord made flesh in His sacrament. Granted to Oullins, the Perpetual Adoration continues to be the practice in Farmington Hills, and there is no doubt that it is a source of grace not only for the nuns but also for the friends and visitors of the community, who benefit from that most remarkable devotion.

Indeed, in an age of efficiency, one may ask: what for? The answer is in the smile of the sisters, which shows the plenitude of a life given to God. The answer is in the continued miracle of women so different and nonetheless united in prayer for the sake of God and for all the sinners, for each one of us. The full answer, of course, will be known when, in the Father's house, we will see the invisible but real links between each one of us and these women praying for us, the flows of grace obtained by their faithfulness in front of the Holy Sacrament.

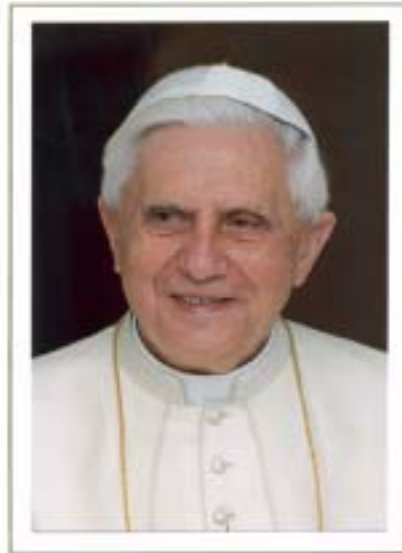
"Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart" (Ps 90, 12): it is good that anniversaries provide us with the opportunity to thank God for so many blessings, but also to thank all the nuns who, through their fidelity, made and are making this history possible and fruitful. It is also but fair to give thanks for all the benefactors and friends of the community who helped and supported the monastery.

At Saint Dominic's prayers, may God continue to bless the nuns of Farmington Hills, may His Spirit help them to guide many to His Son, so that a rich history of grace may go on for many other centuries!

Rome, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Bro. Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa OP  
Master of the Order

# His Holiness BENEDICT XVI



*On the happy occasion of the centenary of the Dominican Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills, I send cordial greetings to the members of the monastic community and willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abiding joy and peace in the Lord.*

*From the Vatican, 15 February 2006*

*Benedictus PP. XVI*



**H**is Holiness Benedict XVI

cordially invites the requested

**A**postolic Blessing to

**R**ev. Mother **M**ary Rose **F**igura, **O. P.**

and to the **D**ominican **C**hurch of the **M**onastery of the **B**lessed **S**acrament

**F**armington **H**ills, **M**ichigan

on the occasion of the **H**undredth **A**nniversary of the **F**oundation of the **M**onastery

and invokes an abundance of divine graces

1<sup>st</sup> April 1906 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006

Ex Aedibus Vaticanae die 12 - 4 - 2006.

*Luigi Bommarito*  
Subsecretary  
Supernumerary Secretary





Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament  
Yesterday... today... and tomorrow.



