

St. Cecilia Chapter Dominican Laity

"May our lives always witness to others the gifts of our common life as Lay Dominicans"

Laudare

End of Lay Dominican Study Year 2012-2013

Welcome to the Family!



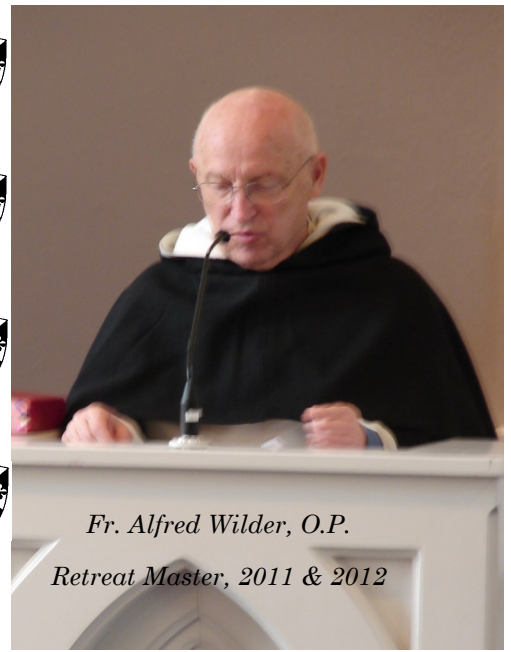
*Five individuals were received into the Order as Candidates :
Carlos Guerra and his wife Viola; Vicky Barnes; Karen Danish;
and Mary Wilhelm*

(Also pictured is Sr. Henry Suso, O.P. the Religious Assistant)



Something new at this year's Day of Recollection, was lunch catered by one of our own: Mrs. Georgette "Cissy" Rampino, O.P.

Cissy has blessed each of the monthly Chapter Meetings this past year with baked goods which simply defy description! Needless to say, Cissy is going "*straight up!*"



*Fr. Alfred Wilder, O.P.
Retreat Master, 2011 & 2012*

Pictured above are three Sisters who received their veil this year. As is the custom, each year those who made their First Vows come and talk to the Dominican Laity and share their spiritual journey into the religious life.

Pictured above (left to right) are: Sister Agnes, O.P., Sister Bernadette Marie, O.P., and Sister Mara Grace, O.P.

It is always a highlight of the year when the Sisters share their faith journey with us. They are a visible *contradiction* to a secular culture of materialism and relativism.



Also received this year into the Order as Candidates were Cornelia Laux and Ralph Fuller

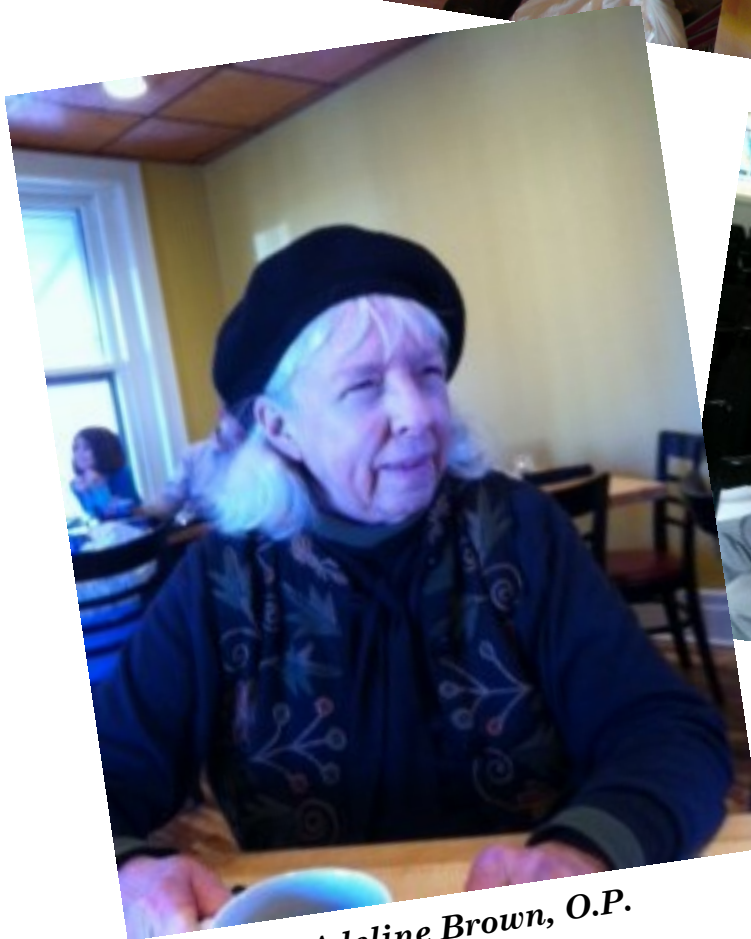
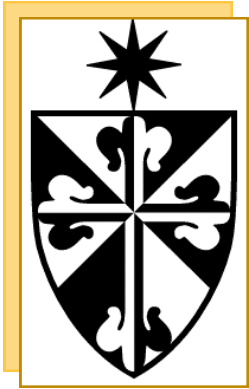


Several members of the Nashville Chapter have daughters who are Dominican Sisters. Pictured above are Sister Hannah, O.P. and her mother, Mrs. Marilyn Barnes, O.P.

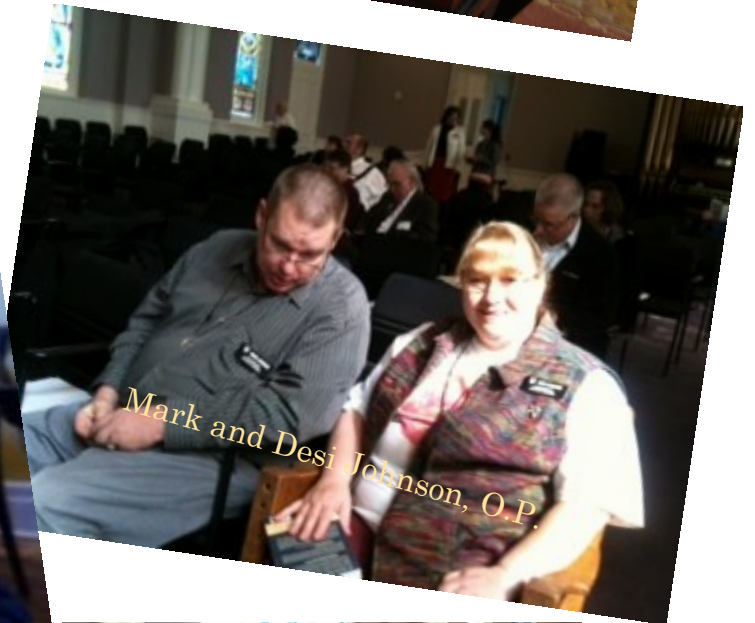
Pictured to the right are: Cynthia and Allan McMillen. There are numerous couples in our Chapter giving real meaning to the term “soul mates.”



Just one of several "Breakfast Tables" guaranteed to "lead you into temptation"
The Editor, Marilyn Barnes, O.P., Cara Pryor, O.P., and Laurale Curtsinger, O.P.



Ms. Adeline Brown, O.P.
Addie made her Final Promises at
the recent Annual Day of Recollection
this past February



Mark and Desi Joanson, O.P.

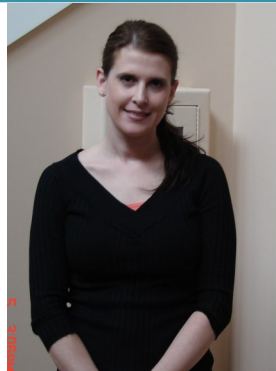


Brad Schepisi & Marge Lang, O.P.



DOMINICANA

After reading "The Dominican Soul" by M.M. Philipon, O.P., the Inquirers were given an assignment to write a short paragraph starting with "*I, name, am a Dominican soul because...*" It is with great joy that the *Laudare* shares with everyone these moving statements of those who will be received into the *Order* next fall.....



I, Alan McMillen, am a Dominican soul because in my quest to become a more informed Catholic through various Bible studies, classes, and lectures, I was introduced to the Lay Dominicans. Initially my main focus was learning and not so much structured prayer, frequent confession, strong Marian devotion, or trying to save others, in other words...selfish me. I have, since my progressing in Inquiry, opened my heart, mind, and soul to God. I started daily prayer; frequent Rosary, Morning Prayer, frequent confession. I have a calming, inner peace and focus. I have always had a gift of silence, but now I have a path to follow.

I, Ralph Fuller, am a Dominican Soul because I love The Lord with my whole heart and soul. Because I was trained by Sisters in school, I always loved the Order and this has stayed with me up until now at 80 years of age. Since I lost my Mary and my son, Mark, this Lay Dominican Chapter has made me strong in my love for the Church.

I, Rebecca Schepisi, is a Dominican soul because I love to help, care for, and nurture those around me. I feel a great sense of happiness learning about my faith and sharing it with others. I enjoy being around other fellow Lay Dominicans as they have the same interests as I do. I have a deep appreciation of the Dominican Order.

I, Brad Schepisi, am a Dominican soul because of a great love for the truth and a desire to spread the truth. I also have a great love for prayer. It is my hope that my prayer life would precede everything I do in this life. I also have a great love of study; to learn and to understand. I have a great love for the Christian community that extends from the upper room of Pentecost. Finally, I have a great love for apostolic activity. "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Luke 19:40) Perhaps Dominicans are like those stones that would cry out.





I, Viola Guerra, am a Dominican soul because I have always been in love with The Lord. Jesus captivated me since my first Communion. He is with me throughout the day. I am more with Him when I am in silence.

I, Carlos Guerra, am a Dominican soul because I enjoy long hours in silence before the Blessed Sacrament, especially when reading Sacred Scripture.

I, Mary Ann DeMaioribus, am striving to be a Dominican soul. I do live by faith and it means everything to me. I am anxious and pray that my family and friends share my Catholic faith also. As I am a recent widow, my life is much more silent now than ever before. I go to daily Mass. I love moments spent in adoration. I like to read spiritual books and would love to be able to lead others to the Catholic Church. I am joyful and love our Pope and the magisterium. I have asked the Blessed Mother to take my mother's place since her death. I am striving to be a true Dominican. Jesus, help me.

I, Carolyn Gallardo, am a Dominican soul because I have faith in God, my Catholic faith, and love for the Blessed Mother. Until a few weeks ago, I never knew being so close to a religious order was possible. I didn't grow up in a Catholic home, but later converted to the Catholic faith. Happily, I have the opportunity and freedom to attend daily Mass. I also have silent and undisturbed time to pray the Rosary and do spiritual reading.



I, Mary Wilhelm, am a Dominican soul because of my three-year desert experience. It was at that time that the Lord taught me how to praise Him. He taught me how to seek the truth and how He would reveal it. I am a Dominican soul because He now has been teaching me how to preach. I am a Marian soul, also. The Blessed Mother has always been with me at my side even the times that I have forgotten to ask. She always makes herself known to me in various ways. Lastly, in celebrating my birthday on August 6th, the feast day of St. Dominic's death, I have a reminder of who I am to model in life.



I, Ken Auerweck, am a Dominican soul because the torch of Saint Dominic is on fire. I am searching for the Truth in my constant study of Sacred Scripture and the CCC. I am in constant conversation with The Lord. The Dominican community is a source of knowledge that helps me prepare for the preaching mission of the Order. My knowledge of the Catholic faith has grown. I have taken the Word of The Lord out to family, friends and co-workers, sometimes with caution, but always looking for an opportunity to share the faith.

I, Lynn Davis, am a Dominican soul because I want the Lord's love to flow through me into all I touch. My heart is quiet as I wait on The Lord asking for direction, clarity, and discernment. I love to read about The Lord and find great joy in simple quiet and contemplation. I have a naturally joyful heart.

I, Karen Danish, am a Dominican soul because I want to live, defend, and propagate the faith. I have the grace to spend and prefer many hours in prayer and meditation. I have a deep desire to study, to be knowledgeable about the faith. I am a contemplative soul who lives in union with God, having given up everything of this world.

Paul Maeng am a Dominican soul because prayer is part of my life, and it affects every part of my life. Prayer orders my heart to love my neighbor as I love myself and my family. I trust that God will use my prayers to help others around the world who are in need. I am often thinking about charity as the key to Dominican life - reaching out and helping people who are in need. Through our study group, I have gained knowledge in Truth, Love, and Charity to be a light of God.

[Paul is not pictured]

Pictured below are a number of reliquaries containing relics of several Dominican Saints which were exhibited during the Day of Recollection this past February.





I, Lorraine, am a Dominican soul because I love my Catholic faith and thirst to know more about it. I enjoy and yearn for the opportunity to spend time in quiet silence with adoration. Raised with Marian devotion and prayer, this only increased when in college the Sisters gave me a Miraculous Medal and asked me to consecrate myself to Mary. I have felt many graces from Mary since then. I found my true vocation with the Lay Dominicans...focusing on the True, Good, and Beautiful.

I am a Dominican Soul.....

I, Vicky Barnes, am a Dominican soul because I have decided to follow Jesus in a very special way. I desire God, I love communion with Him, I want Him to abide in me, to dwell within me. I want to bring glory to Him in my life. I am a Dominican soul because I find comfort and guidance in His Word.



I, Yolanda Galo, am a Dominican soul because I share in the apostolic mission of a Lay Dominican. I dream of something more...the Holy Spirit strengthens my efforts during the mission of teaching. I would like to go deeper.



I, Cornelia Laux, am a Dominican soul because all my life I have been seeking the truth, studying, praying, seeking silence, being watchful for like-believers, and proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ. My reception has been an affirmation that I have a vocation. I will present myself to Him and drink the cup.



*A SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION ON THE LIFE OF JESUS AND THOSE
WHOM HE CALLED TO
PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP WATER...*

By Mike (St. Albert) Lucas, O.P.

Do the deep and murky waters intimidate us or strengthen our faith?

Our Lord tells Peter: *“Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”* Peter like all of us has an excuse ready for God’s call. *I have worked all night and have caught nothing; I am tired and don’t see the point.* But at the insistence of Our Lord, they cast their nets into the deep. When they had done, this they caught a great number of fish to the point of their nets tearing. Peter called to the others and, together, they brought in the fish. Simon Peter fell to his knees and tells the Lord to depart, for he is a sinful man.

Our Lord tells each of us that failure isn’t what will defeat us as Christians; but the lack of faith to get back up and try again and again. How many times must I forgive my neighbor, seven times? Forgiveness is only one of the ways we ask God to cleanse our hearts and walk closer with him. We must remember that the Apostles fell short of Our Lord’s expectations many times, but Our Lord told them that His Grace is sufficient (as He tells us). The deep murky waters we will experience every day will test us; but not defeat us.

Just as Jesus uses this opportunity to test and teach His Apostles, He will use us today and tomorrow. When you feel your efforts to evangelize and spread the Word of God over the waters that you cross in your journey, remember, that His Grace is sufficient, and deep and murky waters are always in the journey. Embrace them as an opportunity to put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch. *“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”*

When the apostles brought their boats to shore....

they left everything and followed Him...

“In reality man always lives according to one spirit or another; whether it be according to the spirit of nature...or according to the spirit of faith... Faith which is a gift of God, is like a spiritual sense enabling us to hear the harmony of revealed mysteries, or the harmony of the voice of God... Faith is aided by the gift of understanding, which makes man penetrate the meaning of the mysteries, and by the gift of wisdom, which makes him taste them... When the light of faith has cast the splendor of its truths on our understanding, our will immediately feels the warmth of celestial love.”

*-from “The Three Ages of the Interior Life” by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P.
(pp. 170-171, Vol. 2)*



Ex Libris....

-Mr. George Bercaw, O.P., Editor

I, George Bercaw, am a Dominican Soul because.... I love books! I love to read... Study is second-nature to me.... I love to learn.... I suspect that I have had a Dominican Soul since my conception. For me, reading is a form of prayer: it is my mind at Adoration.... Faith seeking understanding... A way of 'knowing' and 'loving' the One I find on the pages, between the lines, in every thought and idea that elevates my being.

This past year, we have instituted an ambitious study program with one thought in mind: to provide a solid program of spiritual formation as Lay Dominicans. The program of study has involved quite a bit of reading, homework assignments, thoughtful reflection, and prayerful contemplation of the Dominican Charism.

The efforts of those who served on the Formation Team involved a lot of work, collaboration, and prayer, Their labors have been met with an enthusiastic response by those in the Inquiry, Candidate, and Temporary study groups.

*On behalf of the Formation Team, I want to encourage everyone to devote some amount of time this summer to reading; especially, Dominican authors. Over the past two years, I have written in the *Laudare* reviews of a number of books which would be well worth the time to read. You might consider them.*

"Teach me to seek you, and when I seek you, show yourself to me, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, nor can I find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in desiring you, and desire you in seeking you, find you in loving you, and love you is finding y

-from, the Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. 1, page 185

ST. CECILIA CHAPTER DOMINICAN LAITY

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1:30 to 2:00

Inquirer Gathering

2::00 to 2:15

Opening Prayer and
Announcements

2:15 to 3:15

Individual Group Meetings

3:15 to 3:30

Short Business Meeting

3:30 to 4:30

Large Group Meeting and Speaker

4:30

Clean-Up Activities

4:45 to 5:15

Liturgy of the Hours



Prayer for the Consecration of Our Country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom, which has been its heritage.

Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our president and on all officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity.

Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise and honor you and give our country and ourselves to your sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow prophesied by Simeon, save us from degeneration, disaster, and war.

Protect us from all harm. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you who bore the sufferings of your Son in the depths of your heart, be our advocate. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the will of your divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.

-Amen