

# WOMEN

WINTER 2012

## Dominican Sisters of Sparkill ~ Blending Goals and Missions

The goal and mission of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill calls and challenges us to be:

*"joyful women of prayer and compassion...proclaiming the reign of God through a ministry for justice...with reverence for all creation...(Mission Statement) wherein we focus on the enablement of the poor, of the powerless, of the oppressed and of the spiritually deprived people of our times."*

*(Goal/Congregation's Constitutions, No.19)*

Our Sisters 'bring these words to live' in a myriad of ways responding to the needs of people spanning from New York to Missouri to Montana and in several other states within the US and across the globe to Pakistan. When you drive onto our Motherhouse grounds you are greeted with the words on a welcome sign: **Dominican Sisters of Sparkill ~ Women Making a Difference.** Reflecting on this statement we humbly say "For What Has Been – Thanks! For What Will Be – Yes!"

When you were invited to participate in our November 2011 Calendar Raffle we briefly told you about ministries that would benefit from your generosity. It is because of your response that we are able to support:

**The Family Program - Enrichment Activities** for the children and women who come to The Family Center, E. St. Louis, IL. This program addresses issues relating to the needs of families who continue to experience generational poverty and powerlessness in society. The program is a catalyst for strengthening family life and helping children to broaden their world through



Sr. Carol Lehmkuhl, OP

educational and experiential activities – ones that develop an appreciation for places outside the distressed and crime-ridden neighborhoods they live in and witness around them. The program provides for acquiring knowledge beyond, for the most part, the less than adequate classroom instruction they receive. Since 1993 under the direction of Sr. Carol Lehmkuhl, OP along with a very dedicated staff and many volunteers The Family Center lives its mission of "...providing a system of support to individuals and families based on nurturing relationships that reflect positive regard for their innate goodness, strengths, diversity, and dignity."

For further information about The Family Center visit their website: [www.familycenterestl.org](http://www.familycenterestl.org)

**Our Father's Kitchen** is an outreach program at Sacred Heart Parish, Monroe, NY. Started because of a strong desire on the part of the parish's pastor who wanted to meet the needs of the hungry in southern Orange County, NY the parish's Outreach Committee established Our Father's Kitchen. It is a response to the declining economic conditions and the increasing unemployment that is affecting so many people. Its first meal was served on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Our Father's Kitchen welcomes all, regardless of color or creed and is open every Wednesday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Takeout is available for those who are homebound and volunteers provide transportation to and from the kitchen for those who do not drive. The mission of Our Father's Kitchen is threefold which is to: *Provide nutritious meals to those who hunger; Provide referral information to those in need; Provide an outlet for socialization to the lonely and disenfranchised.* The Kitchen is dependent on the donations of businesses and individuals which enable this outreach program to assist in fostering the goal of working toward ending hunger. It is only through this local generosity that the



# Blending Goals and Missions

program is successful. Sr. Rose O'Rourke, OP is the Director of Religious Education for Sacred Heart Parish and works closely with the coordinators and volunteer staff at Our Father's Kitchen.

For further information about Our Father's Kitchen visit [www.sacredheartchurch.org](http://www.sacredheartchurch.org) (Monroe, NY)

**Safe Outdoor & Indoor Play Equipment** for students & an **Anti-Bullying Training Program** at St. John Chrysostom School, Bronx, NY. True to our congregation's commitment to a ministry for justice and peace, St. John Chrysostom continues to be



dedicated to newly arrived immigrant children. City streets in low income areas do not afford children opportunities for safe and cooperative outdoor and/or indoor play. Often they do not learn how to play together, collaborate, compromise, and settle disagreements. The Anti-Bullying Training will offer specific skills to guide students to settle difficulties peacefully. The children will be taught to identify bullying situations and respond to others with compassion and understanding. The play equipment/ techniques allow for exercise times that help relieve the tension and anger which often leads to serious problems. Sr. Mary Mooney, OP, Principal, knows the benefit of this program: that the entire school community - administrators, teachers and students - will gain greater respect and tolerance for each other - a life-long pursuit.

For further information visit: [www.sjchrysostom.org](http://www.sjchrysostom.org)

**Healthy & Nurturing Educational Environment** at the Primary School, Pakistan. This program, under the direction of Sr. Nusrat Lewis, OP, benefits the younger school age children who live in a remote area of



Multan coming from very poor families, most not able to afford school fees/ tuition. The staff at the Primary School knowing that these children

have limited options for learning the 3R's have committed themselves to offer free educational opportunities. This outreach brings to life the words of our mission as a congregation - *we reverence all of creation.*

**On-going Education** of our Candidates, Postulants and Novices in Pakistan. As women are discerning a vocation/ calling to our congregation they are invited to both live and minister with us. Many come from families who are not able to afford to send their daughters to college or to participate in teacher training classes. Because of their dedication as educators our Sisters provide the opportunity to pursue a higher education in a nurturing environment. This complements the 'journeying' with the women, as together they deepen their relationship with our God.



**LifeWay Network Safe House** is a program that provides long-term housing for women survivors of human trafficking in the New York metropolitan area. LifeWay Network collaborates with thirty religious congregations, (which includes the Dominican



Sisters of Sparkill), as part of the New York Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of Persons. Short term emergency housing, intensive case management, health care, legal and immigration counseling, translation and educational opportunities are among the myriad of services offered through LifeWay. The Women's Committee of the Sparkill Dominicans support the work of this program - knowing their goal/mission and ours respectfully respond to the *needs of the powerless.*

For further information visit: [www.lifewaynetwork.org](http://www.lifewaynetwork.org)

Your support is also assisting us as we continue to **offer holistic, compassionate care to our retired and infirm Sisters.** This past year you helped us install a new generator at our Motherhouse (which kept the lights on during tropical storm Irene and this past October's early snow storm) and as we embark upon another project of up-grading the sound system here at Dominican Convent.

We end with *words of gratitude*: It is your friendship and generosity that enables us to bring to life the words of our goal and mission as a congregation as our commitment to a Ministry for Justice resonates with the goal and mission of the projects/programs that you are helping us support. From Sr. Carol and the staff at The

Family Center, Sr. Rose and the people of Sacred Heart Parish, Sr. Mary and the staff at St. John Chrysostom School, Sr. Nusrat and our Sisters in Pakistan, the members of our Women's Committee and the LifeWay Network, and our retired/infirm members – THANK YOU for helping us be *Women Making a Difference*.

A listing of the November Calendar Raffle Winners is on page 8.

## Our Initial Membership Program

### Welcome Renee Asmar

On September 8, 2011 we welcomed Renee Asmar as a first-year candidate into our congregation. During the welcome prayer service Sr. Mary Murray, OP, President, presented Renee with a copy of our constitutions and directory Call and Response, inviting her to study our 'guide and rule of life'. She prayed that Renee would *...receive instruction and insight into the ideals and practices that our Constitutions hold for each one of us*. Sr. Mary



also presented Renee with a rosary as a pledge of our unity through prayers for her as she begins this journey with us.

Sr. Eileen Sullivan, OP, Director of Candidates, presented Renee with our congregation's pin as a reminder of *'the community of Dominican Sisters who will walk with you, pray with you, celebrate with you and get to know you'*.

Renee lives at Albertus Magnus Convent, Bardonia, NY and ministers at our congregation's high school Albertus Magnus and also at St. Paul School Elementary School in Valley Cottage.

Renee shares: *"These past months have been challenging and demanding while enabling me to experience a depth of joy and peace. Both living in community and my ministry is deeply fulfilling and life-giving – for this I am most grateful"*.

### Our Second Year Novice Christine DeAnna

lives at the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate, St. Louis, MO. Originally from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Chris met the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in 1995,

when she became a parishioner of Epiphany of Our Lord parish in St. Louis. Her journey of discernment has been a growth experience and one she describes as continuing to build upon the foundation she received as a child from her family. She strongly believes that the women who have answered God's call to live as Sparkill Dominican Sisters are compassionate, faith-filled women who bring a humanness to living in community, both with whom they live and those they serve through ministry. Chris' professional experience, as a nurse and social worker, finds her called to serve those most in need of and at greatest health care risk. The canonical year, a year apart from full-time active ministry, will enable Chris to deepen her awareness of what it means to give of oneself joyfully, generously and through faith.



Chris shares: *"In the months since beginning this journey together, I have felt challenged and tested...my journey continues and I thank God for the women who are my example of fidelity and encourage me to go where I feel God is calling me – for I know the people we meet along the way are God's gift."*

In Pakistan we have several women: Srs. Nazia Hadayet, Sumaria James, Uzma Raheel, and Philomena Victor in various stages of our novitiate/initial formation program. As they continue their studies and provide local community service, they are deepening their understanding of and commitment to our goal and mission as a congregation. We are delighted to share in the joy of Sr. Zubeda Tarcis as she made her final vows as a Dominican Sister on November 27, 2011.



We ask you to pray for Srs. Renee, Christine, Nazia, Sumaria, Uzma, Philomena, Zubeda, and the women discerning their vocation as a Dominican Sister of Sparkill.



## St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY Celebrating 60 Years of 'Enlightening the Mind Through Truth' 1952-2012

The education of its members has always been important to the Dominican Sisters. As requests were made for Sisters to minister in schools from grades K-12 and beyond providing qualified educators became a more critical need. Hence in an effort to conform with the desires of the Sacred Congregation of Religious and the requirements of the Regents of the University of the State of New York regarding the education and training of our members St. Thomas

Aquinas College was established in 1952. Although STAC is no longer owned by the Dominican Sisters the administration of the college regularly reminds the staff and students of its rich heritage. This is reflected in its mission:

*"St. Thomas Aquinas College is an independent liberal arts college which provides education at the undergraduate and graduate levels for students from all traditions. In continuing its Catholic heritage and the spirit of its founders, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, the College is committed to the principle of enlightening the mind through truth, as exemplified by Thomas Aquinas, and to the Classical and Judaeo-Christian ideals which have contributed to the development of humanity. Accordingly, the College is dedicated to the development of each student consistent with the individual's resolve to work and ability to achieve."*

Through the years since its humble beginning as a Sister Formation College, STAC has known continuous growth and outstanding success. The Dominican Sisters are grateful to the many dedicated Sisters who have been or presently are members of the staff as teachers, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees. We are especially blessed with today's leadership Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, SC, President and the staff, faculty, and most especially the students – all part of the STAC community.

### *Congratulations! St. Thomas Aquinas College*

For further information visit: [www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu)

## 2nd Annual Twilight Golf Tournament Saturday, September 24, 2011

Hosted by: The Friends of the Dominican Sisters



On a delightfully crisp Fall day the 2nd annual Twilight Golf Tournament took place at the

Paradise Valley Golf Club in St. Louis, MO. Thirty four foursomes participated and had lots of fun and could boast about getting some eagles, birdies, achieving par, and trying hard for a hole-in-one. The dinner that followed had close to 150 in attendance and there were opportunities to purchase raffles and bid on silent auction items. The Dominican Sisters are very grateful to The Friends of... and their event planning committee. They are truly a blessing in our lives! To view a photo show of the golf outing visit our website: [www.sparkill.org](http://www.sparkill.org), click into Development and Annual Events and enjoy! For more information about The Friends of... visit [www.friendsofthedominicansisters.org](http://www.friendsofthedominicansisters.org)





Sr. Maureen Massett, OP (center)



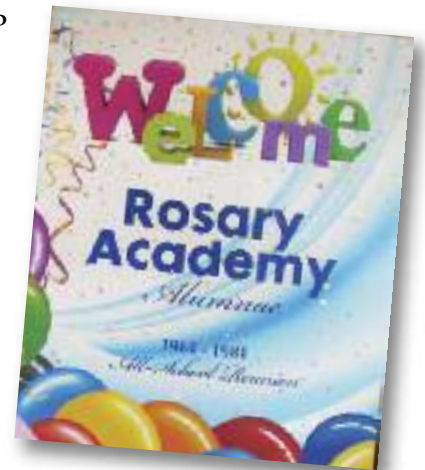
Sr. Nora Doody, OP (center)

# Rosary Academy All-School Reunion

## Saturday, October 22, 2011

Rosary Academy High School was opened by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in 1964. The school was located across from Dominican Convent on Route 340. Due to a decline in the number of students and other circumstances the school closed in 1981. Through the years individual classes got together for reunions. And then along came a very enthusiastic committee and a 'dream became a reality'. On a gorgeous Fall afternoon 265 alumnae and former faculty attended the first *Rosary Academy All-School Reunion*. The gathering was held at Dominican Convent and was truly a wonderful and blessed day. Photo shows of the seventeen years that Rosary welcomed students and Rosary Academy Today (now Venture Center and the Rockland County campus of Long Island University) were viewed. In between catching up with classmates and teachers a delicious luncheon was enjoyed. The day ended with the regularly scheduled 4:00 liturgy at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, where the 'Rosary Women' joined our Sisters and friends from Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens, senior housing on our motherhouse grounds, for the perfect ending to a great afternoon.

Sr. Maureen Massett, OP who was part of the faculty from 1976-80 shared these words: *'Rosary Academy was responsible, yes, for laughter. But for so many other things to remember and so much to be grateful for. The lessons and values learned need to be remembered... for the teachers at Rosary Academy made every effort to educate 'fine young women.'*



Anyone who looked around the room at the assembled group could only agree that the alumnae of Rosary Academy should be very proud of their many accomplishments. May the spirit and memories of Rosary Academy live on!

Note: The Alumnae Committee met on Dec. 2, 2011 to 'look to the future' – which includes keeping in contact with each other and to host a second all-school reunion. (date/year TBD) As plans unfold we will 'be in touch.'



Maris Donnelly Connington, Class of 1972 shared these words: *"Today we can all be grateful for the girls we were and the women we are...through the years we had the opportunity to thank our families for their support, guidance, and perseverance...Today we also thank our teachers! For they gave us the structure, the foundation that is still strong today."*

*To view a photo show of the reunion visit our website: [www.sparkill.org](http://www.sparkill.org), click into Development and Annual Events, scroll down the page, wait for the show 'to load' and enjoy!*

## Thank You!



On behalf of the Dominican Sisters, Thank You for your generous Christmas gifts. As promised you

and your intentions were remembered in our prayers throughout the Christmas season and especially during the Christmas Novena of masses December 17th – 25th offered in Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel at our Motherhouse, Dominican Convent. For us this is both a privilege and honor. We thank you for your generous support and on-going friendship. It enables us to respond to the needs of people throughout our world and to proclaim our Congregation's goal and mission.



### IN MEMORY OF...

Sr. Celeste Marie Reichert, OP  
June 28, 2011

Ann Malsich (Associate)  
July 27, 2011

Sr. Marcella Roeger, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Catherine Aloysius  
August 19, 2011

Sr. Joanne Regina Arcouet, OP  
August 23, 2011

Sr. Jean Harvey, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Christopher Mary  
August 26, 2011

Sr. Grace Marie Petraglia, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Mary Antoninus  
August 26, 2011

Sr. Sandra Magnini, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Mary Anthony  
October 23, 2011

Sr. Jeanne Miceli, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Marianne Francis  
October 28, 2011

Sr. Dorothy Burns, OP  
Religious Name: Sr. Elizabeth James  
October 31, 2011

May their souls and all the souls  
of the faithful departed rest in peace.

## Special Invitation to use/order our Memorial & Special Occasion Cards

See Insert for information or visit our website

[www.sparkill.org](http://www.sparkill.org)

*'It is one thing to say that we believe in justice for all, but quite another to actively seek social justice for the poor in our midst.'*



After extensive research, Sr. Judith Brady, OP is convinced that a huge gap exists between talking about justice and actually doing justice for the poor. In *A Place at the Table: Justice for the Poor in a Land of Plenty*, Sr. Judith explores why concern for the poor is an issue of social justice and needs to be incorporated more fully into contemporary Christian religious education. She skillfully synthesizes information on poverty, approaches to poverty in the US, justice in the biblical and social sense, how poverty is addressed in Church documents, the ways that Catholic church leadership has advocated for the poor, theological reflection based on liberation theologies, and finally ways to encourage the growth of justice as a primary focus in education.

For further information about *A Place at the Table...* visit Twenty-Third Publication's website. The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill applaud all of Sr. Judith's work in writing this book, which was published in 2008. (ISBN 978-1-58595-609-8)

# Looking Ahead ~ Special Events in 2012

*Mark your Calendar!*



## Special Raffle: Queen Size Handmade Irish Design Quilt

Made by: Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP  
Drawing: March 17, 2012  
Tickets will be mailed  
in early February

## Trivia Night, Saturday, April 21, 2012

\$20 pp – \$160 per table of 8  
Raffles & Silent Auction  
will be part of the evening's fun

*Hosted by:*

*Friends of the Dominican Sisters, Sparkill/St. Louis*

For information visit:

[www.friendsofdominicansisters.org](http://www.friendsofdominicansisters.org)

or e-mail: Bob Laughlin @ [bob@ojlaughlin.com](mailto:bob@ojlaughlin.com)

The Friends of... will be hosting the

## 3rd Annual Twilight Golf Tournament

on Saturday, September 15th  
Details to Follow

## (NY) 15th Annual Golf Tournament Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Blue Hill Golf Course,  
Pearl River, NY

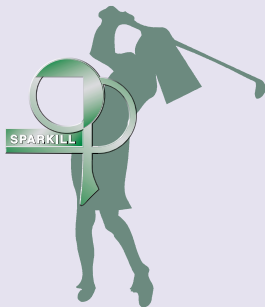
Dinner to follow: Old Tappan Manor,  
Old Tappan, NJ

Invitations will be mailed in early April

For advanced information contact:

Sr. Peggy Scarano, OP

@845-359-4173 or [peggy.scarano@sparkill.org](mailto:peggy.scarano@sparkill.org)



We Invite You to Visit our Website  
[www.sparkill.org](http://www.sparkill.org)

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE DOMINICAN SISTER OF SPARKILL

- Click the link *Who We Are & Our Mission*
- Click the link into *The Center Shop* located at Dominican Convent for sale items that range from books, cards, candles, CD's + much more
- Click the link into *Faith Life* and read about Retreat and Vacation opportunities at Villa St. Joseph, Saugerties, NY and/or Villa St. Dominic, Glasco, NY
- Click the link into *Development* for Special Events, Ways to Help, our most recent newsletter, and how to make a donation via our site

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Center Shop  
845-359-4070

Villa St. Joseph  
845-246-4531

Villa St. Dominic  
845-246-8941

Development Office  
845-359-4173

*The Dominican Sisters  
are members of:*



*The National Catholic  
Development Conference*



*The Rockland (County)  
Development Council, Inc.*



*To Make a Donation, go to  
Development's Home Page  
on our website and  
Click: Make a Donation.  
Thank You!*

# NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS



Tuesday, November 1	\$100	Jacquelyn Berardini, Bronx, NY
	\$50	Sr. Gloria Lowe, OP
	\$50	Sr. Catherine Viggiano, OP
Wednesday, November 2	\$75	Martin M. Pelland, Tucson, AZ
	\$75	Marcel Catafago, Hicksville, NY
	\$50	Mary G. MacDowell, Okemos, MI
Thursday, November 3	\$100	Beverly Gieselmann, Clinton, MO
	\$50	Sr. Lorraine LaRocca, OP
	\$50	M/M David Peters, Whitney Pt. NY
Friday, November 4	\$125	Mary Gallagher, New York, NY
	\$75	Betty DeGennaro, Pittston, PA
Saturday, November 5	\$50	Florence Maloney, Massapequa Pk NY
	\$50	Ellen Maloney Owens, Rego Park, NY
	\$50	Judy Linden, New York, NY
	\$50	Dennis Walsh, Whiting, NJ
Sunday, November 6	\$100	Michael Rooney, Allendale, NJ
	\$100	John P. Powell, Chesapeake, VA
Monday, November 7	\$75	Claire McCabe, Bronx, NY
	\$75	Srs. Elizabeth Hasselt, OP & Lillian McNamara, OP
	\$50	Scott Fischer
Tuesday, November 8	\$100	Patricia Ryan, Tarrytown, NY
	\$50	Julie Negron, Hawthorne, NJ
	\$50	Angie Kivlehan, West Nyack, NY
Wednesday, November 9	\$100	Ellen Tambini, Nanuet, NY
	\$100	Peggy Faha, Wayne, PA
Thursday, November 10	\$100	Catharine Diekemper, St. Peters, MO
	\$50	Dan Hartmann, Little Egg Hbr, NJ
	\$50	Helen M. Grumo, Hicksville, NY
Friday, November 11	\$100	Frank Bradicich, Staten Island, NY
	\$100	Waverly Thompson
Saturday, November 12	\$100	Margo Gilbert, Bronxville, NY
	\$100	Daniella Capone, Pearl River, NY
Sunday, November 13	\$100	Richard & Sue Dallavalle, Maryland Hts, MO
	\$100	Cathy Cassel, New Windsor, NY
Monday, November 14	\$150	E. Kathryn Giglio, Alexandria, VA
	\$50	Claudine Hutton, Wyckoff, NJ
Tuesday, November 15	\$100	Margaret Falloon, Manalapan, NJ
	\$100	Jean Liptak, Nanuet, NY
Wednesday, November 16	\$75	Mr/Mrs Jerome Peirano, Baroda, MI
	\$75	Pauline Abel, Port Jefferson Sta, NY
	\$50	Vincent Mistretta, W Hempstead NY
Thursday, November 17	\$100	Sr. Margaret Thomas Morahan, OP
	\$100	Jean Levy, Hicksville, NY
Friday, November 18	\$75	Colleen Carolan, Pearl River, NY
	\$75	Colleen Laughlin, Ballwin, MO
	\$50	Kathleen Nolan, Clifton, VA
Saturday, November 19	\$125	Sr. Rosemary Sullivan, OP
	\$75	Sr. Patricia Connolly, OP
Sunday, November 20	\$100	Harvey Kittenplan, E. Elmhurst, NY
	\$50	Sr. Genevieve Marie Dorrian, OP
	\$50	Bette Schmittgens, St. Louis, MO

Monday, November 21	\$100	Laura Wolyniec, Airmont, NY
	\$100	Richie Howley, Bronx, NY
Tuesday, November 22	\$150	Sr. Jean Thomas McHenry, OP
	\$50	Sr. Margaret Harrison, OP
Wednesday, November 23	\$50	John Sirianni, Philadelphia, PA
	\$50	Joe Hyland
	\$50	Sr. Anne McNeive, OP
	\$50	Martin Tiernan

## THANKSGIVING DAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

	\$1000	Peggy Bowler, Bronx, NY
	\$500	Marirose Rehagen, Gaylord, MI
	\$500	Sr. Sheila Brennan, OP
Friday, November 25	\$125	Sr. Suzanne Laughlin, OP
	\$75	Sr. Eileen Cunningham, OP
Saturday, November 26	\$200	Mary Manning, Bronxville, NY
	\$100	Sr. Maureen Daly, OP
	\$100	Joetta Branan, Cincinnati, OH
Sunday, November 27	\$100	William Furey, Pomona, NY
	\$100	Srs. Meg Sweeney/Pat Niblock, OP
Monday, November 28	\$100	Christine Schuller, Lake Como, NJ
	\$100	Mary & Hugh Donohue, Jacksonville, FL
Tuesday, November 29	\$100	Edith Frank, Somers, NY
	\$100	Sr. Eileen Monnelly, OP
Wednesday, November 30	\$100	Joan H. Martin, Brooklyn, NY
	\$100	John Rose, Bronx, NY

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OF  
OUR WINNERS!**