

News about our newest members...



Our novice, **Christine DeAnna**, is currently on the Christmas break for the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate. As the other novices will be going in their home communities, she will use this time to connect with our Sisters in St. Louis and in New York, to experience the Christmas season at Dominican Convent, and to absorb more of the culture of the congregation.

Some highlights of Chris's four months at the CDN include: courses at Aquinas Institute on the vows and on the history of religious life; weekly pastoral ministry at St. Augustine's Parish; a gathering of "younger" Dominican Sisters (under the age of 45); weekly lectures and workshops with the St. Louis Intercommunity Novitiate program; visits to several Dominican motherhouses (e.g., Kentucky, Springfield, Mission San Jose); and a trip to the McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies (River Forest, IL) and to the LCWR *Women and Spirit* exhibit when it visited the University of Notre Dame (where she also had the joy of visiting with Sr. Susan Dunn).

If you want to read more about life at the CDN and the reflections of Chris and the other novices about their experiences, do visit their blog at:

<http://collaborativedominicannovitiate.blogspot.com/>.



Our first-year candidate, **Renee Asmar**, has now been residing at Albertus Magnus Convent for four months. Her life is filled with a variety of ministry commitments: working half-time as a teacher's assistant for pre-K students at St. Paul's School in Valley Cottage and half-time in the Development Office at Albertus Magnus High School, where she also teaches a senior class in theology. She has also been giving presentations on "Living Out the Catholic Faith" for parents of students from both Albertus and St. Paul's.

Having quickly become a familiar presence at the various alumni and student events at Albertus, Renee was honored by the student athletes at their annual Fall Sports Awards event. The football team gave her a commemorative football to thank her for "inspiring and moving their hearts" by her words and by the way she is present to them.

In addition to her ministry, Renee has begun studying our Constitutions, the history of the Dominican Order, and the history of our forms of congregational government. She also participates in an intercommunity formation program which has met on several weekends during the fall semester.