



VERITAS

Dominican Congregation of St. Mary

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Cluster 7 take plunge into Cycle Four: and the journey continues . . .

When sisters first heard several years ago of "Cycle Four" of the Cluster process, it seemed like a far distant concept. Since then, women from the diverse Dominican congregations have pooled their strengths and their best talents in openhearted good will to see what can be hoped, for the sake of the Mission. Sisters have come together "whether convenient or inconvenient," to search out what can be achieved by building a whole, as yet unseen, of their seeming disparate parts, acknowledging their sisterhood, and experiencing their unity as Dominican women.



Therese Leckert As St. Mary's meets May 28-29 weekend to weigh three options presented, six other congregations are meeting through the summer. These Fourth Cycle meetings are held, in the process designed by the Cluster Coordinating Committee, "within our individual congregations and include reflections on the alternative structures from the perspective of various working groups. With this information, members will identify significant implications for each alternative structure and may offer changes and suggestions."

The sisters are engaged in a process of discernment inviting each person:

- To enter into a prayerful, reflective process with a heart free and open to

God's will

- To trust in God's spirit present in oneself and others
- To gather information for discerning
- To study and sift the information discovering implications
- To make a decision based on Dominican mission and values



Cluster: a dominican journey in faith

Maximum participation in the Cycle Four assemblies will enable each member to feel a sense of ownership of the decision.

The seven process cycles began in Fall 2003 and Winter 2004, and are structured along a timeline that culminates in 2006.

See www.dominicancluster.org/

Jeanne Moore and Luisa DeRouen (Eucharistic Missionary Dominicans) serve with **Waldia** and representatives of the other five congregations on the CCC; **Therese**, who was unanimously elected chair in June 2002, Rene Weeks (GREAT BEND) and Barbara Rapp (KY) are the Executive Board.

Carmelite and **Delia** serve on the reconfiguration subcommittee; Waldia serves as the liaison with the CCC.



Happy jubilee
year
to
**Sister Mary
Michaeline
Green,**
(Jun. 16, 1955)

**Sister Mar-
guerite Brou**
(Jan. 6, 1945)

**Sister Mary
Teresa Mit-
telbronn**
(Aug. 6, 1930)

Pray for...

Therese's father, John Leckert, Sr., 91, who died March 29 after a long illness.

Delia's brother, **Harry McDonald**, 74, who died April 22 in Texas. Pray also for his wife Betty, recovering from a stroke.

Judene's cousins, Jack Wadle, who died Mar. 7 and Robert Donnelly on May 7.

Margaret C. Wark, 94, (ST. ANTHONY '26, DHS '30, employed at SMDC many years) died May 4.

Fr. Val McInnes, seriously ill with myelodysplasia, which can lead to leukemia. Friends are praying to John Paul II. "Val" was a friend of the late pope, and is a friend and brother to St. Mary's sisters.

Pat Blanchard, DHS vice -president, recovering from knee replacement.

-- for **Sr. M. Theophane**, for continued healing for Srs. **M. Damian, Isabel, Marguerite, Sr. M. James, Anne and Teresa**.
--for our employees and their loved ones.

John Latham, Mary's brother-in-law, and Gayle Johnson, her niece, both with cancer.

Coming up

Fri, June 3 - Fri, June 10, Motherhouse Retreat: fr. David Caron, (ST. MARTIN) and Sr. Arlene Scott (ADRIAN).

Sunday, June 12, 3 pm at St. Anthony's: Jubilee Mass & Celebration for **Sr. M. Teresa** (75 years), **Sr. Marguerite** (60), and **Sr. M. Michaeline** (50). All are welcome!

*Hammond, May 7-- Nine Springfield Dominican sisters and Bishop Robert Muench were joined by **Angeline, Waldia, and Michaeline**, as they celebrated the founding and completion of nineteen years at at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. They have left a splendid legacy of Dominican education there.*

A jubilee year

On Feb. 27 **Waldia** and **Lorraine** represented the community at a Mass for Jubilarians at St. Rita Church; Srs. **Teresa** and **Marguerite** were unable to attend. Others being celebrated this year in the Archdiocese of New Orleans include **Frs. Edmund Akordor** (25 years ordained), **Neal McDermott, OP** (50 years ordained), **Val McInnes, OP** and **James Carter, SJ** (50 years professed).

From the editor

Dear Readers:

You can now access **Veritas** on our website, <www.dominican-sisters.net> You will see the Veritas Button on the home page. Please let us know by email (see below) when you get it, and tell us if you are willing to be taken off the mailing list.

About Religious Pioneers: In the fall of 2005 we hope to have a new printing in paperback. If you live in the New Orleans area, you can hear the book on 88.3 FM weekdays at 2:30-3 pm. --dmd

On the www:

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In, out, and about . . .

Gonzales, LA, March 2-- Srs. **M. Colette, de Montfort, Jeanne,** and **Jordan,** joined **Marjorie** and the St. Teresa Parish community with friends from Paulina and the surrounding area at a Memorial Mass for **Sr. M. André.** Sister, who died Dec. 12, was inducted into the Parish Hall of Patrons.



Motherhouse, March 12-- New Orleans Female Dominican Academy was the name adopted in 1861 by the group of seven founders when they incorporated their modest beginnings. Now as NOFDA, the assembled congregation unanimously approved a revised charter and bylaws. The corporation will be "comprised of the elected Prioress and Councilors of the Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary." One sister said it was the "Least boring of all the corporation meetings I ever attended."



Chicago, April 21-24-- St. Mary's was represented at the Federation Convocation of Dominican Sisters USA by **Angeline, Denise, Jeanne, Joel, Judene, Robin, Shirley,** and **Therese,** among 500 Dominicans from 24 congregations. The theme was "OP: One Planet, One People, One Preaching." During the closing banquet, convocation organizers surprised Sinsinawa Dominican **Mary Nona McGreal** by honoring her more than 70 years of Dominican mission and ministry. Nona is an educator, author, and historian. She served as president of Edgewood College, co-authored the *Faith and Freedom* reader series, and most recently has published a book about the founder of the Sinsinawa Dominicans, Samuel Mazzuchelli. She is the director of Project OPUS, which aims to tell the story of the Dominicans in the United States. The first volume of that history, *Dominicans at Home in a Young Nation*, was published in 2001.
-- from *Dominican Life*: <domlife.org>

On May 1, **Mary C. Daniel** became Director of the Dominican Conference Center, and **Carmelite Zibilich** Assistant Director. **Lander Osteen** continues as Operational Director. The two sisters (each has other ministries) replace **Joel Gubler**, who has served as Director since **Charlotte Fenerty Ewing** retired in 2001. Of her new assignment, Carm says, "We were busy from the start. This week we had a full house of trombone players, for a trombone festival at Loyola. We are a good working team. We enter all transactions in a log, which helps communication."



Sr. Joel is embarking on a sabbatical much to her liking. She will visit Dominican Alliance ecology sites, observing sustainable farms in Springfield IL (Jubilee Farm), Columbus (Shepherd's Corner), Akron (Crown Point) OH, and the Dominican Earth Project at St. Catharine KY. September-December she will participate in the Eco-Spirituality and Arts program at Springbank Retreat Center, SC, including Native American Spirituality and Arts.



Baton Rouge, LA, May 25-- St. Mary's jubilarians are recognized on page 2 of the *Catholic Commentator*, diocesan paper. **Sr. M. Michaeline** has been superintendent of Catholic Schools there since 1977.



And the journey continues . . .

From the Master of the Order On the death of Pope John Paul II (excerpt)

The Master, fr. Carlos Aspiroz Costa calls John Paul II, an alumnus of the Angelicum, "a worthy model of a pastor of the Church."

He knew the Order, and expressed his love for it while still in his native Poland. . . He told fr. Vincent de Couesnongle (then Master of the Order) in Cracow in 1977 that he truly loved the Order, and that he knew it very well. Soon after his election as Bishop of Rome he told the Master how much he expected from St. Dominic's children through their dedication to study and teaching. . . In 1983 he told the Chapter presided by fr. Damian Byrne that "he felt as family" with the Order. and that he counted on it in the task of evangelizing the world.

In 2001, he told fr. Timothy Radcliffe and the Chapter of Providence that he was convinced that the Spirit had raised up the Order of Preachers, preeminent in its poverty and mobility in the service of the Gospel, committed unceasingly to the contemplation of

the truth of the Incarnate Word in prayer and study . . . and to pass

on to others through preaching and teaching, the fruits of that contemplation. "The history of your Order indicates that the Gospel will be preached in fresh and effective ways in a fast-changing world only if Christians follow the path of contemplation which leads to a deeper relationship with Christ. . . The Church and the Successor of Peter look to the Order of Preachers with no less hope and confidence than at the time of your foundation."

In February 2002 he summarized his message with these unforgettable words: "Following the teaching of St. Dominic and of so many Dominican Saints, you are called to be teachers of truth and holiness" . . . Thank God for the gift of John Paul II who also wanted to be an itinerant preacher.

-- Carlos Aspiroz Costa, OP

May 18, St. Louis-- **Sr. Waldia Warden** gave a workshop on Canon Law to inter-congregational novices and directors.



May 20-- **Sister Mary James Hunt-Fabacher** who arrived in New Orleans on the "Orphan Train" in April 29, 1909, celebrated her 98th birthday, with sisters and family. She especially enjoyed the children, having been a primary teacher for many years. Although her sight and hearing are impaired, her mind is keenly alert, and all have high hopes of her becoming St. Mary's first centenarian.



Sarah Hunt-Fabacher, Apr. 29, 1909 with adoptive father

May 23-- **Sylvia Bourgeois** was elected coordinator of the motherhouse for a third one-year term.



May 25-- **Sr. Waldia**, Board of Directors chair, and **Sr. M. Dominic Savio**, member of the Board of Incorporators, attended the Mass and second graduation of Henriette Delille Middle School. Nine girls graduated, and nine of last year's ten came to honor their friends. Waldia offered "Words of Wisdom" to the graduates in St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in Gentilly Woods, where the school is located. Sr. Carmen Marie Bertrand, SSF is principal. Msgr. Doug Doussan, pastor, presided.



One Planet, One People, One Preaching