

# *From this Holy Mountain*

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*"From the rising of the sun  
to its setting, may the Name  
of the Lord be praised."*

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*A Simple Bride of Christ:  
Celebrating 50 Years*

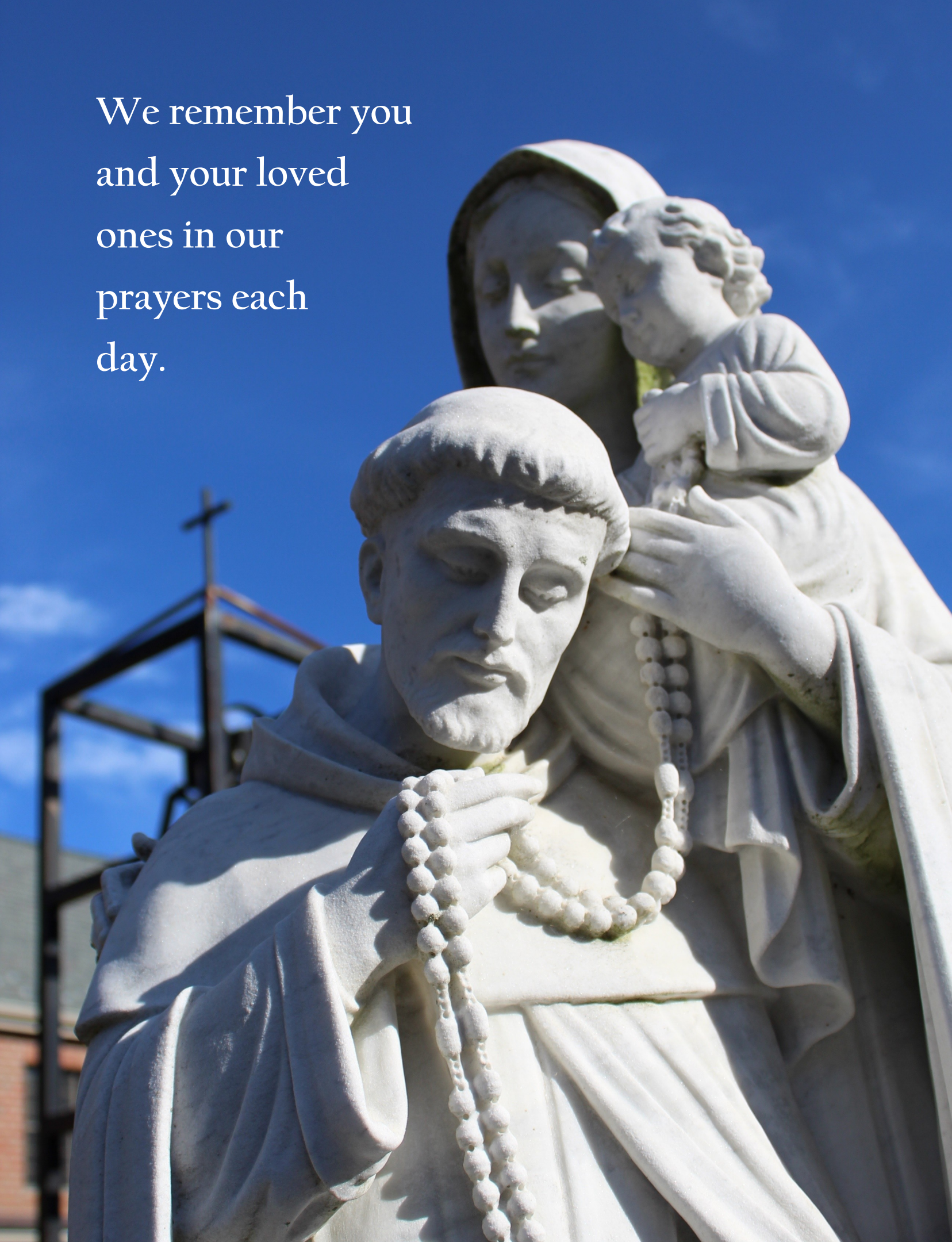
*Friends Spotlight:  
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*Contemplata Allis Tradere:  
Gathering around Mary*



We remember you  
and your loved  
ones in our  
prayers each  
day.







Dear Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Blue Mountain! Have you seen our trees...the ones you so generously donated nine years ago to grace Monastery Road? The gorgeous *arbor vitae* are thriving and are symbolic of the growth that we have experienced since our move to Linden 11 years ago. Thanks to you, our community overflows with blessings daily as your love, prayers and support sustain us in our life of worship.

Here is just a sampling of the gifts showered on us: our beloved diocesan priests and Dominican friars who generously serve as Mass celebrants, confessors and teachers; a dynamic group of benefactors who launched the St. Catherine de Ricci Guild to help offset our monthly expenses; the Friends of St. Dominic's who continue to host the annual *Laetare* Benefit which helped to pay off our mortgage; the

boys' basketball team of St. Paul VI High School which raised funds to purchase a John Deere riding mower; friends and neighbors who shop, donate food and house supplies, cart away our trash, and pitch in to help with projects big and small.

Truly we are blessed that Bishop Loverde welcomed us to this diocese and that Bishop Burbidge continues his legacy of unparalleled support. Your generosity is a radical witness to the value that monastic life has for the Church and the world. Your goodness ensures that it will continue on Blue Mountain uninterrupted.

With our deep gratitude and constant prayer,

Sr. Mary Fidelis, O.P.  
Prioress





# *A Simple Bride of Christ: Celebrating 50 Years*

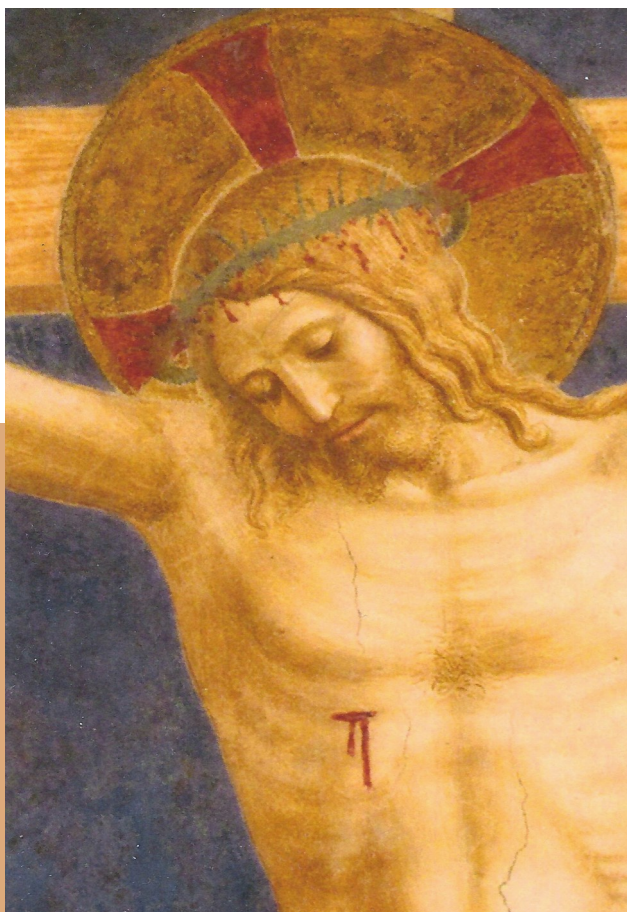
*The following is from the homily given by Father Romanus Cessario, O.P. at the celebration of Sister Mary Paul's Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession, January 25, 2019.*

What is contemplation? Saint Thomas Aquinas, whose feast day follows this joyous occasion, supplies the simplest definition, “Contemplation,” he writes, “refers to a simple gaze upon a truth.” In a word, contemplatives look at God. Their gaze, their look, their regard remains “simple.” In this context, simple does not mean easy. Simple points rather to the lack of complexity that characterizes the contemplative act. After all, God’s simplicity ranks among his highest perfections. Those on earth who regularly practice the “simple gaze” of the utterly Simple become

themselves as simple or uncomplicated as their humanity allows. The Dominican nun stands among us as a living witness to the priority of the divine initiative, which fits so comfortably into the theological dynamics of Dominican life.

The Rule that Dominicans follow puts love first. The contemplative, the Dominican nun, excels at loving. Indeed we learn that contemplation emerges as a loving gaze. “Although the contemplative life consists essentially in the intellect,” writes Aquinas, “it has its beginning in the will, since one is prompted by charity to the contemplation of God.” The completion of fifty years of contemplative life does not imply that Sister Mary Paul has memorized an encyclopedia of revealed truths. The contemplative is not a walking enchiridion of Catholic dogmas. Contemplation terminates in an embrace. Truth to tell, a half century of contemplative life engages the Dominican nun in a love affair of overwhelming proportions. *Vita Consecrata* puts it this way:

“The monastic life of women and the cloister deserves special attention because of the great esteem in which the Christian community holds this type of life, which is a sign of the exclusive union of the Church as Bride with her Lord, whom she loves above all things.”



“Sister Mary Paul’s title, ‘of Christ,’ signals her attachment to the person of the Savior. No wonder Sister chose for her souvenir card a detail of Fra Angelico’s fresco, Christ on the Cross. Dominican contemplation finds its moorings in the mysteries of Christ’s life, especially His dolorous and glorious Passion.”

# Friends Spotlight: Mary Hastens to the Hill Country

By Holly McShurley



"[This land] was destined for a higher purpose that would benefit many..."

When my mother and I looked out over the panoramic vista from the old orchard, little did we know that we were looking down on the very site that would hold the answer to our prayers. You see, the entire orchard land, was for sale at the time, and there were various possibilities for its development, one of which was a golf course, another, a housing development. As we walked the property to enjoy the views for perhaps the last time, we stopped at the summit and bemoaned the future plans for this beautiful land. We became more and more convinced that such a place, with such breathtaking beauty, was surely not meant for just a few fortunate people to enjoy but was destined for a higher purpose that would benefit many; perhaps a retreat center?

We both knew of only one way we could do anything about it: pray! In my passion I exclaimed, "If only I had a miraculous medal with me, I would plant it right here on this spot!" To this my mother replied, "I have a miraculous medal."

We looked at each other with that delight children with a wonderful secret show on their faces. Digging with our hands and a nearby stone, we planted my mother's medal and prayed some very fervent petitions to our Blessed Mother that the land would be given a holy use and purpose that would be for the good of many people. With that, we left it all in her hands.

What a surprise and delight it was to find out a few months later that St. Dominic's Monastery was in the planning stage of moving up to the very land my mother and I had been looking over on the day of our prayer! Not only would this land be used for a higher purpose, but Jesus himself in the Holy Eucharist would be making His home on the mountain! Not only would this land serve many people, but through the silent intercession of prayer and sacrifice, the spouses of Jesus would be bringing incredible benefits to the Church and the entire world. No one can accomplish great things like Mary!



# July 22nd: The Seignadou of Fanjeaux

## *St. Dominic founds the Nuns*

*T*he hours passed by as he knelt there on that memorable July night in 1206, his heart full of his great desire to found a convent where women he rescued from heresy might worship God in peace. He did not know how or where, but he was convinced it must be now. The rest he left to God.

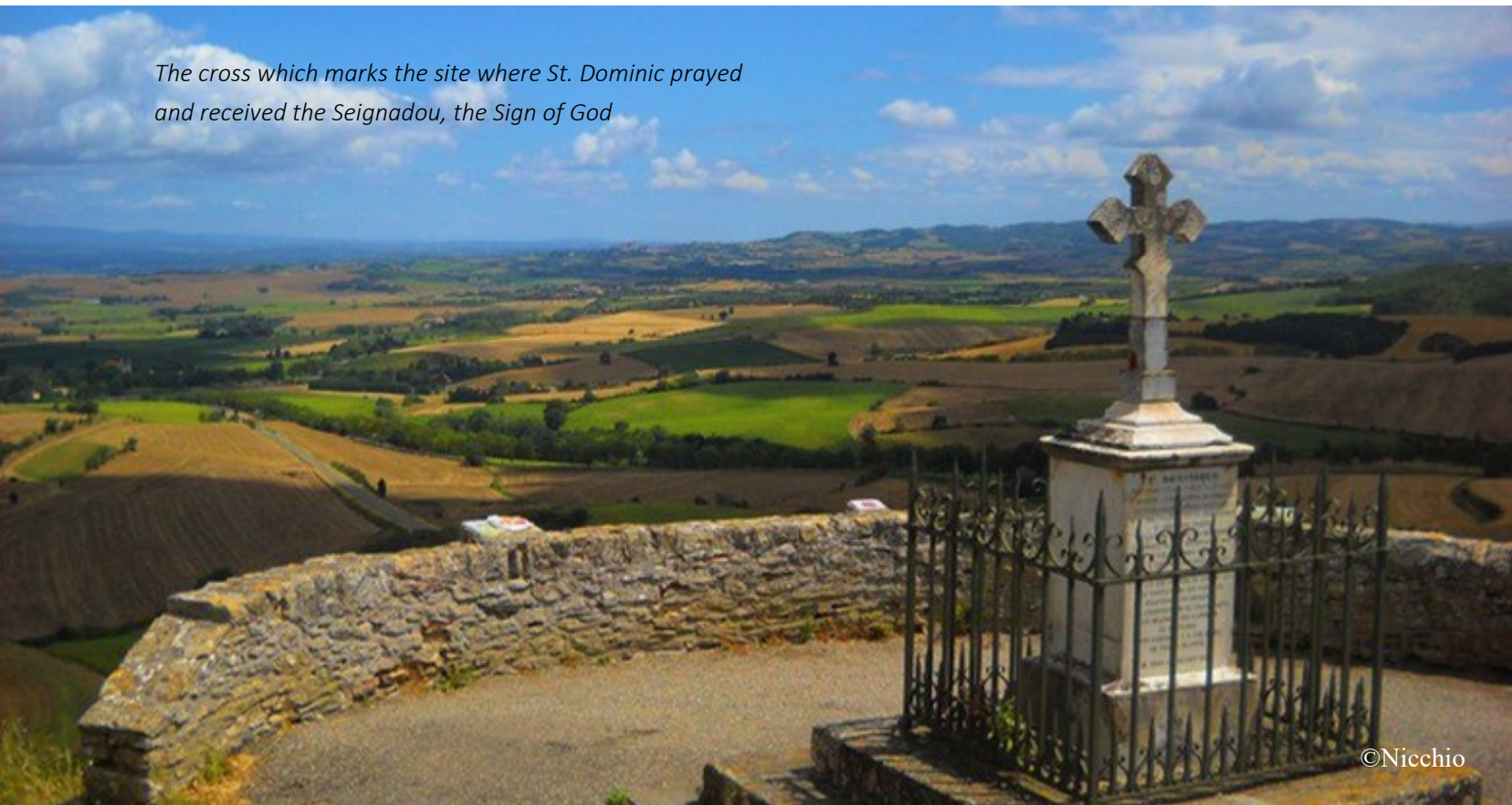
As he prayed for light the stars came out above him. Suddenly, as he gazed into the night, he saw a globe of fire like a meteor dart from the sky and circle over a spot near the foot of the hill on which he knelt. Then it fell upon the ground and rested there. It was the Sign of God for which he had so greatly longed. On the spot where it had fallen, his convent was to rise.

This community in Prouille would be the first nuns of the Order of Preachers. They would be the support of the daily life of the friars and would help in their apostolate by prayer and sacrifice. From the first day the Saint gave them a precise aim for their existence. To pray day and night; to offer their prayers and mortifications both for the souls to be saved and for those who were working for their salvation; for himself first, and for all other valiant apostolic workers, past, present, and to come; such was the special end which Dominic the Preacher set before his firstborn at Prouille, and in them, before all who were to follow them.

Adapted from:

*In St. Dominic's Country* by C.M. Antony

*The cross which marks the site where St. Dominic prayed and received the Seignadou, the Sign of God*



# *Contemplata Aliis Tradere*

*By Fr. Joseph Martin Hagan, O.P.  
Ordained May 25, 2019*

*I*n our day, the Church calls repeatedly for a New Evangelization, that is, for a renewed proposal of the faith to a people forgetful of Jesus Christ. The need is clear, from the plummeting numbers at Sunday Mass, to the shortening lines outside of the confessional.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, St. Dominic met a similar crisis in southern France, where large swaths of the baptized were abandoning the faith. The Holy Spirit stirred in Dominic's heart, filling him with a grace of preaching, and in turn, Dominic mobilized an Order of Preachers to revive Christendom and to convert the nations.

Yet before Dominic founded the apostolic wing of his Order, he first established a monastery of Dominican nuns. In 1206, he first gathered together holy women to pray within a cloister, ten years before he sent out friars to preach throughout the world. For Dominic, the contemplative precedes the apostolic.

In this ordering, Dominic imitates what began at Pentecost, at that First Evangelization. Before the Apostles preached the Gospel to the world, they first gathered in the Upper Room, a cloister of sorts, and there, they devoted themselves to prayer in the presence of Mary.



The success of our day's New Evangelization depends on its faithfulness to this First Evangelization, and here, Dominic's Order is exemplary. It is not just about developing better advertisements, better homiletic skills, or better business practices. First, we must gather around Mary in the Upper Room and implore the Holy Spirit.

*"...we must gather around Mary in  
the Upper Room and  
implore the Holy Spirit.  
This is the privileged vocation  
of the Dominican Nun."*

This is the privileged vocation of the Dominican Nun. Through her prayer, she calls down graces that win the world for Christ.

This is the privileged place of the Nuns' chapel. It is an Upper Room, where the Holy Spirit continues to come and enkindle the hearts of His preachers.





**St. Dominic's Monastery**  
2636 Monastery Road  
Linden, VA 22642

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**Mass Times:**  
Friday & Sunday: 11:00 a.m.  
Remaining weekdays:  
Usually at 7:00 a.m.

**St. Dominic's Monastery**  
2636 Monastery Road  
Linden, Virginia 22642  
[lindenopnuns.org](http://lindenopnuns.org)

**For Prayer  
Intentions:**  
[monastery@  
lindenopnuns.org](mailto:monastery@lindenopnuns.org)

*Please consider joining our  
**St. Catherine  
de Ricci Guild**  
to help support the nuns  
on a monthly basis.*



**Benefits of membership:**

- A perpetual membership in the Monastery's Eucharistic Adoration Association, which includes a weekly Mass for your intentions and a daily remembrance in the prayers and good works of the nuns
- An invitation to join the nuns for Vespers on a Sunday evening in the fall, an opportunity to meet and greet the nuns, followed by a wine and cheese reception at a nearby winery.

Visit our website for more details on how to register to make a monthly donation through Faith Direct: [www.lindenopnuns.org](http://www.lindenopnuns.org).