

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

100TH ANNIVERSARY
SACRED HEART CHAPEL

November 22, 2014

Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary
Sparkill, New York

œ Program œ

œ Reception œ

Welcome

Sister Joanne Deas, OP
Administrator, Dominican Convent

œ Presentation of Awards œ

Invocation

Presentation of Honorees

Sister Mary Murray, OP
President, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Frank Bradicich, Alumnus, 1930-1941
St. Agnes Home and School for Children

Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, SC, President
St. Thomas Aquinas College

Sister Ursula Joyce, OP, Executive Director
Thorpe Village & Dowling Gardens

Remarks

His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



∞ 100th Anniversary Mass ∞
Sacred Heart Chapel

4:30 P.M.

Following the Presentation of Awards,
our guests are invited to Sacred Heart Chapel
for the Celebration of the Eucharist with
His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan,
Archbishop of New York.



Sacred Heart Chapel

The Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary was founded in 1876 to care for destitute women and children in New York City. In 1884 the Sisters came to Rockland County in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children in their care. Following a devastating fire in 1899 that destroyed their complex of buildings in Sparkill, the Sisters began the process of rebuilding.

A temporary chapel was built, but it soon became inadequate for the growing number of Sisters and children. The foundation stone for Sacred Heart Chapel was laid in May 1913, and this magnificent building was dedicated on October 20, 1914, providing a fitting place for the Sisters and children to worship and to be spiritually nourished.

The outer walls of the semi-gothic building are of tapestry brick trimmed with limestone. The interior has a clerestoried nave 128 feet long and 75 feet wide, divided by columns and arches. A large crucifixion scene (by F. Baraldi) towers above the main altar which, along with the two side altars, is carved from Carrara marble. High in the nave, one finds the twelve Apostles represented in fine fresco style. In 1925-1926, stained glass was installed in the three immense Gothic windows (one in each arm of the transept and one in the rear) and in thirty small windows in the walls of the nave. The Peragallo pipe organ was installed in 1932, and in 1936 the terrazzo floor and marble mosaics were laid, and wood paneling was installed, along with new choir stalls. The Stations of the Cross were erected in 1937.

Over the years, more than 1100 Dominican Sisters of Sparkill and thousands of children in their care have called Sacred Heart Chapel their spiritual home. Today, the Chapel is used for major congregational celebrations, for St. Thomas Aquinas College's Baccalaureate Mass, for weddings, for funerals, and for concerts and other special events.

In celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill give thanks to God for this sacred place that has served as the spiritual heart of their many ministries as they have evolved over the years.



New St. Agnes Chapel, Sparkill, N.Y. - 1914



St. Agnes Boys Choir - 1971



Sacred Heart Chapel - Christmas, 1936



DOMINICAN CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

175 Route 340 Sparkill, NY 10976-1047
(845) 359-6400 www.sparkill.org Fax (845) 359-6053

November 22, 2014

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 100th anniversary of our beloved Sacred Heart Chapel. Since its dedication on October 20, 1914 Sacred Heart Chapel has been an important part of the Dominican Sisters' life and mission. It has served as a sacred place of worship, not only for the Sisters, but for the children of St. Agnes Home and School, the students of St. Thomas Aquinas College, and the residents of Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens, as well as so many other guests and visitors.

The Dominican Sisters have chosen to mark this centennial celebration through a series of educational, musical, and social events beginning in January 2014 and concluding with today's celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel 100 years ago. This year has been one of joy for our congregation. We hope that all those who have participated in these events have also experienced that same joy, as old friendships were renewed and new friendships begun.

"October 20, 1914, will always be a memorable day in the history of the community, for on that day the new Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Sparkill was dedicated by His Eminence, Cardinal Farley" (from the Archives of the Dominican Sisters). One hundred years later, our community is honored to once again welcome the Archbishop of New York to celebrate with us. We are so pleased to have His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan with us today.

In the name of our Dominican Sisters and Associates, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to each of you for your friendship and support. Please join us in giving praise and thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed on our congregation. We look forward to Sacred Heart Chapel's next 100 years, standing as a sacred house of worship, "a house of prayer for all peoples" (Mark 11:17).

God bless you!

Sister Mary Murray O.P.

Sister Mary Murray, OP
President



Novices - 1961



Profession Day - 1945



The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

“We are joyful women of prayer and compassion
who proclaim the reign of God through ministry for justice
and reverence for all creation.”

– *Congregational Mission Statement*

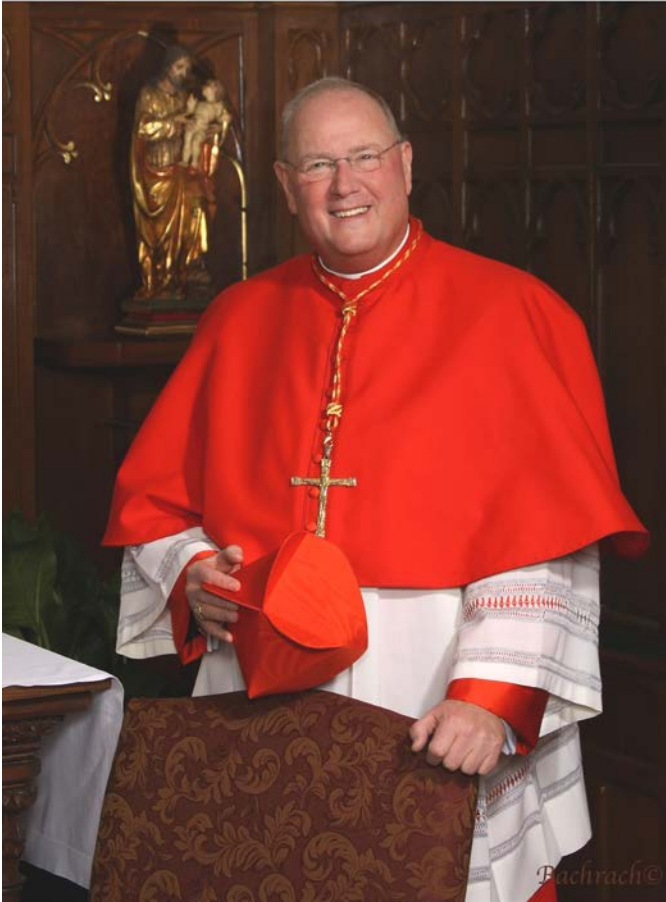
Packed into these few words are decades of faithful response to the Gospel by generations of Sparkill Dominicans. When a shared vision of the needs of the People of God leads to a ministerial response supported and encouraged by the membership, those ministries become corporate commitments. In commemorating the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Chapel today, we honor our corporate ministries that found their home here in Sparkill. These ministries were the fruit of a spiritual vision nurtured by prayer in Sacred Heart Chapel. The alumni, students, faculty, residents, staff, and administrators of these ministries continue to find a spiritual oasis in this place of worship.

In 1876 our founder, Alice Mary Thorpe, responded to the needs of destitute women and children living in squalor by providing for them a home and opportunities for learning. She and our pioneer Sisters began a tradition of service to those in need. Abandoned and orphaned boys and girls were raised by the Sisters first at Holy Rosary Convent in Manhattan and then at St. Agnes Home and School for Children in Sparkill from 1884 to 1977.

By the 1950s hundreds of Sparkill Dominicans were engaged in teaching in many elementary and high schools in New York and Missouri. St. Thomas Aquinas College was founded to ensure that Sisters were professionally prepared to carry out this ministry of education. The early Sister faculty members sometimes struggled against great odds to bring the College into existence. From humble beginnings, STAC has grown to serve tens of thousands of students and to play an important role in providing affordable, quality higher education in and beyond Rockland County.

In the 1970s thousands of senior citizens throughout New York were burdened by exorbitant rents that greatly exceeded their fixed incomes. Faced with limited options, they were often socially isolated and deprived of community activities. In response to these needs, our Sisters supported the building of Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens in order to develop not only housing but also life-enhancing community for the residents and their families.

These corporate ministries serve as testament to the providence of God and the courage of Dominican women who believed in what they were doing and who, as an apostolic congregation committed to ministry, were willing to back up that commitment with every talent, every cent, and every acre they had!



His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

November 22, 2014
Feast of St. Cecilia

Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary
175 Route 340
Sparkill, New York 10976-1047

Dear friends in the Lord:

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Chapel, it is a joy to extend my sincere congratulations to the Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Dominican sisters have served Rockland County since 1884 by providing education and spiritual nourishment for children in need; offering housing for the elderly; and, through passionate advocacy for the poor and marginalized in our society.

The founding of the Sacred Heart Chapel in 1913 was a great gift to the congregation's growing number of Sisters, and children in their care. I am pleased that the chapel continues to be used today to celebrate weddings, funerals, and other congregational celebrations.

By living out your mission to be joyful women of prayer and compassion in your devotion to the Lord, under the patronage of Mary, Our Mother, you continue to bring the light of Jesus and the Gospel to many of God's people.

Faithfully in Christ,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



Most Rev. Dominick J. Lagonegro, D.D.

Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York
Episcopal Vicar of the North-West Vicariate
of the Archdiocese of New York

Residence: Saint Kateri Residence
24 Sloane Road
Newburgh, New York 12550

Phone: 845-391-8819

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October 22, 2014

Sr. Mary Murray, O.P.
Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary
175 Route 340
Sparkill, N.Y. 10976-1047

Dear Sister Murray,

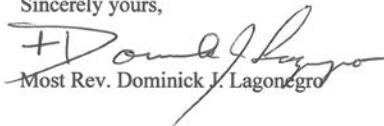
It is with great joy that I read your letter about the one hundredth Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sparkill.

From my days at St. Theresa in the Bronx, to my years at St. Vito in Mamaroneck and my time at Holy Trinity in Poughkeepsie, I have had the privilege to know and work with so many of the wonderful Sparkill Dominicans. The Sisters showed me the great spirit of St. Dominic and the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.

I know the center of the Sisters spirituality over the years has been the Sacred Heart Chapel. As you celebrate this anniversary and reflect on all the magnificent events that have been celebrated in the chapel, it must bring joy and happiness to the Sisters.

As your order continues its great work for the Church, I will pray for God's blessings on you and all the sisters.

Sincerely yours,



Most Rev. Dominick J. Lagonegro



November 22, 2014

Dear Sisters of the Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary,

It was in April of 1976 when I first entered the Chapel of the Sacred Heart. It was an unforgettable experience. The twelve Apostles, whose paintings ornate the upper lodge of the nave, bent over me in welcome, and I felt as if truly arriving home. Since that day I returned to this sacred place alone and with friends from Hallel and the community of the Oratorians of St. Philip Neri. We knelt on the mosaic floor where so many young women in humble prostration consecrated their lives to Jesus. Since the first encounter, and during these 38 years, the Sacred Heart Chapel has stood for us as an icon of love bonding the community of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, the Hallel Missionaries, and the New York Congregation Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

Ever since we were allowed to establish ourselves on the property of the Dominican Sisters in 1982 and to this day, the support we have received not only exceeded all expectation, but was indispensable to our work and to our very existence. I will say, with infinite gratitude, that without the help of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill we would not even be what we today are, a center of evangelization and an Oratorian community of priests serving the people of God.

From the deepest of our hearts we congratulate the Sisters on this historic occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Chapel. We thank them for their boundless generosity and love, and wish them divine blessings reserved to those who welcome the poor with love.

Fr. George J. Torok, C.O., Provost

Fr. Vladimir Chripko, C.O., Fr. Martin Kertys, C.O., Fr. Francis Conka, C.O.,
Fr. Roman Palecko, C.O., Fr. Tom Kunnel, C.O.

NEW YORK ORATORY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI
175 Route 340 | Sparkill, NY 10976-1047
info@nyoratory.org



The Veritas Award

TO PRAISE ✠ TO BLESS ✠ TO PREACH

On this occasion of the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Chapel, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill have instituted the Veritas Award to recognize individuals, groups, or institutions that have made a significant contribution to advancing the mission of the Dominican Sisters. The award celebrates dedication to the ideals and values of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.

Veritas (“Truth”) is one of the mottos of the Order of Preachers—the Dominicans. It points to the heart of the Dominican tradition: to be messengers of the liberating power of truth and the embodiment of truth in the person of Jesus. Dominican preachers proclaim truth in whatever situations they find themselves. Recipients of the Veritas Award participate in Dominican preaching in myriad and diverse ways as they live out the gospel of Jesus by word and action.

The Veritas Award features a representation of the beautiful mosaic that graces both the nave of Sacred Heart Chapel and the entrance of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary in Dominican Convent. It uses the traditional black-and-white Dominican shield, crowned by the word *Veritas* and surrounded by the Rosary and another Dominican motto: *Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare* (“To Praise, To Bless, To Preach”). All of these elements are seen against the background of a brilliant burst of light, representing the power of truth to dispel the darkness.

St. Agnes Home and School for Children



LAUDARE ✠ TO PRAISE

In 1884 Mother Dominic Dowling led the Dominican Sisters to Rockland County in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children in their care. The original eleven “cottages” and the first chapel were destroyed by a devastating fire in 1899. Almost immediately the Sisters began the process of rebuilding and, in 1902, the children moved into the new St. Agnes Convent, a massive building which served as motherhouse/novitiate for the Sisters and orphanage/school for more than 500 boys.

In 1922 a large school and workshops were built, along with baseball diamonds, football fields, and handball courts, and the boys also received music instruction that led to the formation of a pipe and drum corps. In their distinctive bright blue-and-gold uniforms, they performed regularly at St. Agnes and at public events throughout Rockland County.

Sacred Heart Chapel was truly the spiritual home for the St. Agnes boys. There the boys received the sacraments and attended Sunday Mass. Sisters prepared the boys as altar servers and trained a wonderful boys’ choir. They learned a wide range of sacred music, and a highlight of Solemn High Masses was hearing the boys lift their voices in praise, especially their beautiful rendition of the *Regina Coeli*.

Many graduates of St. Agnes served heroically in World War II. The Sisters wrote to the men in the armed forces, keeping them in touch with the news from home. To honor the graduates who were killed in World War II, alumni and other benefactors raised funds to build St. Agnes Memorial Gymnasium, which still stands on the property.

Since the closing of St. Agnes in 1977, the St. Agnes Alumni Association keeps the “House’s Kids” in touch with each other through its website and annual gatherings. It comes as no surprise that some of the graduates who later became residents of Thorpe Village have stated that they wanted to return to Sparkill because “St. Agnes had been the only home they ever knew.”

Although its buildings were demolished in 1979, St. Agnes Home and School for Children lives on in the hearts of the boys who lived there and of the Sisters who cared for them. Their lives have been hymns of praise to God.

Frank Bradicich

VERITAS AWARD RECIPIENT



Frank Bradicich was born on May 6, 1924 in Brooklyn, NY. When his mother was taken ill and was no longer able to care for her children, Frank, then aged 6, and his brothers John and Joseph, and his sister Barbara came to live at St. Agnes Home and School for Children. There, under the care of the Dominican Sisters, Frank remained until the age of 17, successfully completing his formal education. He went on to trade school to become an electrician's apprentice.

In 1942 Frank enlisted in the US Navy and served our country for the duration of World War II. He was assigned to the destroyer USS Hickox and attained the rank of Electrician's Mate Petty Officer Third Class. During the War, Frank received 5 Navy medals, 16 Battle Stars, a US Navy Commendation Ribbon, and served with great honor in the liberation of the Philippines, receiving the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and the Medal of Service from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for his service in Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

When Frank left the Navy he was accepted in the NYPD and in 1947 graduated third in his class. A police officer in the City of New York for 34 years, Frank served in the 9th, 77th, 80th, and 120th precincts and retired at the rank of Lieutenant, having received two meritorious Police Duty Awards and a NYPD Unit Citation. His career then continued at Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co., where he began as Assistant Chief of Security and retired as Second Vice President of Corporate Security in 1990.

As an officer of the NYPD Anchor Club, Frank honored and remembered his roots at St. Agnes, arranging to have as many as five buses of St. Agnes boys coming to the club's annual Orphan's Day Outing to Coney Island. Frank has also been an active member of the St. Agnes Alumni Association, serving as one of its officers for many years and attending their annual picnic each August.

Frank is a very devoted family man, having married Anne Haran in 1948. They are the parents of daughter Carol, who is married to Frank Sheridan, and the proud grandparents of Catherine.

Over the years, Frank has been active in his Catholic faith as a member of the Holy Name Society, Nocturnal Adoration Society, NYPD Holy Name Society, and Knights of Columbus. Currently, he serves as a Eucharistic minister in Holy Child Parish in Staten Island where he also visits homebound parishioners.

At the age of 90 Frank Bradicich, along with his family and friends, is thrilled to participate in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Chapel, the very heart of the home where for 11 years he deepened his faith in God, prayed with his classmates, and pursued his academic studies. He was and still is very proud to call himself a St. Agnes "House's Kid." The Dominican Sisters rejoice in the opportunity to recognize Frank as a wonderful representative of the thousands of St. Agnes alumni who have lived wonderful lives in praise of our God.

St. Thomas Aquinas College



PRAEDICARE ✠ TO PREACH

With a Dominican reverence for study and a commitment to providing the best education possible for their students, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill place great importance on preparing Sisters for the ministry of teaching. In January 1952, the Congregation solidified plans to establish a college in Sparkill. Later that year, the Board of Regents of the State of New York granted approval for the Congregation to operate a teacher education program for the Sisters. Thus began St. Thomas Aquinas College, named for the eminent medieval Dominican scholar and theologian.

Within 15 years, STAC had added buildings, expanded course offerings to accommodate the granting of the various degrees, and opened its doors to include both laywomen and men. By the late 1960s, STAC was well on the way to becoming the premier institution of higher education it is today. The years of hard work and sacrifice and the substantial financial risks that the Congregation had undertaken to ensure a future for STAC have borne much fruit, and the Sisters have seen their hopes fulfilled in the subsequent growth and expansion of the College under the exemplary leadership of the Board of Trustees to whom the Congregation entrusted the College so many years ago.

Today, STAC has 21 educational buildings and offers students a choice of over 100 undergraduate majors, minors, and specializations, and 5 graduate programs in education and business. In recent years, St. Thomas Aquinas College has been regularly ranked as a Top Tier Regional University. Its athletes compete in eighteen different collegiate sports in the NCAA Division II and the college has ten club and intramural programs. In keeping with the Sisters' commitment to provide quality education for those who might otherwise not be able to afford college, 80% of STAC students receive financial aid to pursue their education.

The Dominican Sisters rejoice in STAC's commitment to forming compassionate individuals who are socially responsible and spiritually grounded. The students are afforded numerous opportunities to do their part in building a better, more just society and to gain valuable experience in concrete actions of community service that reflect the Judeo-Christian values on which the College was founded. As future leaders of the world they will shape, the students become articulate members of society, truly prepared to "preach the good news of the Gospel" by living out their Alma Mater's motto—*To Enlighten the Mind with Truth*. This is indeed the hope the Dominican Sisters have for each graduating class that has gathered in Sacred Heart Chapel for the annual Baccalaureate Mass since that first graduation class of 30 Sisters in 1958.

Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, SC

VERITAS AWARD RECIPIENT



For the past 20 years, St. Thomas Aquinas College has been moving forward with great energy and vitality, thanks to the dynamic leadership and the contagious spirit and enthusiasm of its eighth president, Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, SC. The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, who founded STAC, could not have hoped for a more effective leader to carry their dreams for the College into the 21st century.

Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick is a native of Wellesley, MA, the second of five children born to William and Muriel Fitzpatrick. There, at St. Paul School and Elizabeth Seton High School, she was educated by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax. Inspired by the Sisters' mission, Margaret joined the congregation "to give joyful witness to love: the love of God, of one another, and of all persons."

After receiving her B.S. in Mathematics from Boston State College, Dr. Fitzpatrick earned an M.A. at Fordham University, where her thesis on "Discipleship" explored the commitments for action derived from one's spirituality. She went on to Columbia University, where she earned an Ed.M. in the area of counseling and student development and an Ed.D. in higher education. Her research examined the role of higher education in serving society and the engagement of students in fulfilling that societal responsibility.

Dr. Fitzpatrick came to the Sparkill campus in 1995 from St. John's University where she served as Senior Vice President. She was attracted to STAC for many reasons but especially because of its commitment to provide the opportunity for a college education to all students, its origins as having been founded by a congregation of women religious, and the College's mission so wonderfully expressed in its motto: *To enlighten the mind through truth*. She sees this motto being lived out daily by the entire STAC community—students, faculty, and staff—each person maximizing his or her potential as together they work to create a better society. For this to happen, she works tirelessly to create a spiritually grounded environment that continually stretches the community toward that "enlightenment through truth" that brings hope to our world.

When she speaks of the Dominican call to preach, Dr. Fitzpatrick points to the College's mission to develop articulate and independent members of society who strive to become responsible citizens and leaders in shaping the diverse world community and who live in a manner exemplifying the principles of service, mutual respect, and individual responsibility. Serving on numerous boards, including those of the Nyack Hospital Foundation, the Catholic University of America, St. John's University, and the United Way of Rockland among others, she models social responsibility for her students, inviting them to preach by their words and actions as they take their place in our world.

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill celebrate Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick's commitment to the mission of St. Thomas Aquinas College and recognize with gratitude her 20 years of stewardship of the Dominican charism of its founders.

Thorpe Village & Dowling Gardens

BENEDICERE ✠ TO BLESS



Thorpe Village

While the Dominican Sisters had a long tradition of providing shelter as a congregational ministry, their decision to undertake the construction and management of a multifamily housing project was a daring endeavor. Inspired by Pope John XXIII's call for renewal in the Church and the clear directive of Vatican II's call to women religious to embrace anew the vision of their founders, the Sparkill congregation

looked to their founder, Alice Mary Thorpe, who had responded with such courage and compassion to the cries of the needy. Inspired by her example, the Sisters sought to meet the challenges of the needy in new and creative ways.

With vacant land available because of the closing of St. Agnes Home and School for Children, the Sisters wanted to use it in a socially responsible way. They began a feasibility study, traveling throughout the Town seeking ideas from neighbors, church and civic groups, and business and political leaders. The one need identified above all others was the lack of affordable senior citizen housing in Orangetown, especially crucial given the growing number of older adults in the area. Convinced that the sponsorship of senior housing was consistent with their mission of service, the Sisters began the work of securing funding, obtaining the necessary zone changes and other Town approvals, and working on all the other tasks necessary to bring the dream to reality.

After seven years of planning, Thorpe Village finally opened its doors as a senior housing community of 200 independent living apartments built on 10 acres of land formerly used as play fields by the boys of St. Agnes. Since welcoming its first residents in August 1981, Thorpe Village has provided safe, affordable housing to over a 1000 seniors, offering them social, recreational, and health maintenance programs as well as transportation to shopping and opportunities for community service.

Dowling Gardens

As residents of Thorpe Village aged, many could no longer live alone safely without additional services that Thorpe Village does not provide. The Sisters then envisioned another setting that would allow for frail but otherwise healthy persons to maintain their independence in a non-medical setting. Named for Mother Dominic Dowling who purchased the Sparkill property in 1884, Dowling Gardens opened in February 1996 with 111 apartments built on a 5-acre site behind Dominican Convent. It offers apartment living with opportunities for socialization, a restaurant-style meal each day, housekeeping, an emergency call system monitored onsite, and a variety of social and recreational program and other amenities to keep residents active and involved.



Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens have proven themselves to be a blessing—to the residents, their families, the Sisters and staff, and to the community of Rockland County.

Sister Ursula Joyce, OP

VERITAS AWARD RECIPIENT



Sister Ursula Joyce traces her roots to Harrison, NY, where her parents, William and Beatrice Joyce, had come from County Mayo, Ireland, in search of a new home in this country. It was in New York that they raised their two children, Ursula and her older brother Bill.

When Ursula was 5 years old, the family settled in the Bronx. She met the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill at St. Joseph School on Bathgate Avenue. Her relationship with the Sisters deepened during her four years at Aquinas High School, and she entered the congregation after graduation.

Sister Ursula earned a B.S. in Education from St. Thomas Aquinas College (a member of its first graduating class!), an M.S. in Psychology from St. John's University, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Fordham University. She continued with post-doctoral studies at Lehigh University, Eastern Michigan University, New York University Medical School, and Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

As an educator, Sister Ursula has taught at levels from elementary school to graduate school. A licensed psychologist, from 1963 to 1983 she held a variety of positions at St. Thomas Aquinas College, including Chair of the Psychology Department and Director of Student Personnel Services. During her tenure as vice president of the Sparkill Dominican Sisters (1972-76), she coordinated the development of Thorpe Village. In 1994, she had a similar role in the development of Dowling Gardens. Since 1981, she has served as Executive Director of Dominican Sisters of Sparkill Senior Housing Ministry, overseeing both Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens.

To gauge Sister Ursula's impact on the quality of life within Rockland County, one must go beyond Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens and look at her extraordinary involvement in community affairs. She has served as a founding board member and past president of United Hospice of Rockland, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas College Board of Trustees, a founding board member of the Center for Safety and Change (formerly Rockland Family Shelter), a member of the Rockland County Commission on Human Rights, a board member of Home Aides of Rockland, chair of the Rockland County Child Care Coalition, chair of the board of Albertus Magnus High School, and vice-president of the school board of the Sparkill Union Free School District.

As part of the celebration of their first 100 years (1876-1976), the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill published a history of the congregation titled *The Vision Is Tremendous*. Sister Ursula Joyce is living proof that the "vision" is still tremendous among the Dominican Sisters! Her compassion for those in need, her ability to "read the signs of the times," her many skills and competencies, and her unwavering persistence in pursuing the vision of safe, affordable, quality housing for the elderly have provided the sure foundation on which Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens now stand.

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill celebrate Sister Ursula Joyce as one who clearly embodies the congregation's mission—a *joyful woman of prayer and compassion who proclaims the reign of God through ministry for justice and reverence for all creation*. She is a blessing among us, truly a "woman making a difference."

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,
RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
17th District, New York

lowey.house.gov

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November 22, 2014

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
175 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976

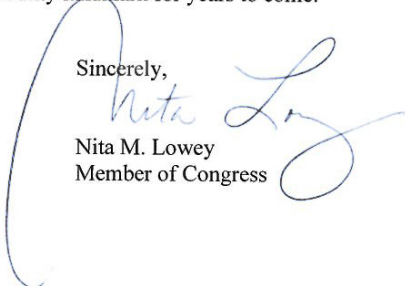
Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to everyone gathered at the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill's 100th Anniversary Celebration of Sacred Heart Chapel. I want to extend my best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

On this truly special occasion, I congratulate Frank Bradicich, Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, and Sister Ursula Joyce as you honor them. They should be celebrated for their hard work and extensive community involvement. Certainly, these distinguished individuals are more than deserving of this recognition and I thank them for their tireless commitment to help strengthen and improve the lives of others.

Sacred Heart Chapel was built to provide space for the Dominican Sisters and the children of St. Agnes Home & School. Today it is the spiritual home to many and used for congregational masses, weddings, prayer gatherings, lectures, concerts, and funerals. I commend the Dominican Sisters on their commitment to their faith, and I am confident that Sacred Heart Chapel will remain a Rockland County landmark for years to come.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE WHIP

CHAIR:
MENTAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEES:
ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS



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STATE OF NEW YORK
DAVID CARLUCCI
SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT

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November 22, 2014

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
175 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone gathered at the 100th Anniversary of the beloved Sacred Heart Chapel. Congratulations on reaching this momentous milestone and to this year's honorees Frank Bradicich, Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, and Sister Ursula Joyce. Additionally, I would like to thank Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, who will celebrate this mass to conclude the year of celebration.

Since 1914, the Sacred Heart Chapel has been a staple in our community. I applaud the Dominican Sisters for your many years of fellowship and dedication. I join you in honoring this special occasion, to be celebrated not only by the parishioners, but by the entire Rockland County community.

Once again, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carlucci".

David Carlucci
New York State Senator
38th Senate District



**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Allison-Parris County Office Building
New City, New York 10956
Tel. (845) 638-5122
Fax. (845) 638-5856

Edwin J. Day
County Executive

November 22, 2014

Dear Friends of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill:

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to send my best wishes to the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill as they bring this year of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Chapel to a close.

The Sacred Heart Chapel has served as an extraordinary house of worship for many during the past century and will remain as a spiritual place of inspiration in our community.

Congratulations to the honorees who have been an integral part in helping to shape the history of the Sacred Heart Chapel: Frank Bradicich, Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick and Sister Ursula Joyce.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable celebration!

Very truly yours,

Edwin J. Day
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Legislature of Rockland County



HARRIET D. CORNELL
Legislator – District 10

Chair – Environmental Committee
Chair – Special Committee on Transit

Economic Development Committee
Budget & Finance Committee

October 26, 2014

Dear Dominican Sisters,

The year-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of your beloved Sacred Heart Chapel is drawing to a close, and I wish to express my joy at the commemorative activities which have taken place and the one soon to be held. Sacred Heart Chapel is indeed a very special place; but it is also very special to have the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill as part of the Rockland Community with your heartfelt social concerns about children, the elderly and access to education—which you have translated into actions and which will continue long after the year of celebration is over.

I offer my congratulations and appreciation to those very special and very worthy individuals who are being honored at the closing celebration: Frank Bradicich, who, from 1930, spent 12 years as a resident student at St. Agnes Home & School for Children; Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, SC, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College; and Sister Ursula Joyce, OP, PhD., Executive Director of Thorpe Village & Dowling Gardens.

I look forward to being with you on November 22—hopefully in person but surely in spirit and in prayer.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harriet Cornell".

Harriet Cornell
Rockland County Legislator

The Legislature of Rockland County



PATRICK J. MORONEY
Legislator – District 15

November 22, 2014

Government Operations Committee
Multi Services Committee
Planning & Public Works Committee

Congratulations to our Dominican Sisters of Sparkill on the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Sacred Heart Chapel.

We are most grateful to salute Frank Bradicich, of St. Agnes Home and School, Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick of St. Thomas Aquinas College, and Sister Ursula Joyce of Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens for their ongoing contributions to the success of their ministries.


The Chapel has opened its doors to so many, extending warmth, peace and serenity to those who entered. Over the past 100 years there have been many stories to share, especially with the children entrusted to the care of the good Sisters of the Dominican Congregation, who received kindness, care and spiritual nourishment.

The sun has reflected through the stained glass windows of the Sacred Heart Chapel, shedding light upon and welcoming newborns in Baptism, couples in Holy Matrimony and comforting grieving families in funerals. The Chapel walls have enveloped the elderly and infirm in its love, the poor and wealthy alike, the joyous and the mournful.

And still, it stands a century old, a beacon of beauty reflecting the ministries of the Dominican Sisters who have so unselfishly given of their lives to care for our society with their knowledge, insight and goodness.

We thank all our Sisters on this very special occasion, and wish them another century of dedication. May the Good Lord bless and keep them always.

Sincerely,


Patrick J. Moroney, Legislator
District 15

The Legislature of Rockland County



JOHN A. MURPHY
Legislator
Town of Orangetown – District 16

Budget & Finance Committee
Government Operations Committee

November 22, 2014

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
175 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976-1047

Dear Dominican Sisters of Sparkill:

It has been my joy for the past forty years to be a part of what I consider an oasis of humanity known as the campus of the Dominic Sisters of Sparkill, in particular Sacred Heart Chapel, the anniversary of which we are celebrating. Dominican Convent, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Thorpe Village, Dowling Gardens, St. Agnes Home and School for Children, and Rosary Academy For Girls are testimony to the vision, the mission, the greatness, the faithfulness to Christ's teachings and to the strength of the women who light up our world.

And at the center of this world is Sacred Heart Chapel, the eternal lamp of that light where we pray, and celebrate the sacraments, and yes, depart to our eternal lives. It is a sacred sanctuary where our spirituality is refreshed and the joy of doing God's work is savored. It is the home of all who embrace the vision of the Sisters. It is my own personal spiritual home.

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Chapel, a truly momentous occasion!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Murphy".

Legislator John A. Murphy
Legislator – District 16

The Legislature of Rockland County



NANCY LOW-HOGAN
Legislator – District 17

Chair, Economic Development Committee
Vice-Chair, Environmental Committee
Budget & Finance Committee
Government Operations Committee
Special Committee on Transit

October 15, 2014

Dear Dominican Sisters of Sparkill,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on the 100th Anniversary of your beloved Sacred Heart Chapel in Sparkill.

How wonderful it is to be able to celebrate all of the spirituality and joy that the Chapel has provided to thousands of children and adults since 1914!

We are so fortunate in Rockland County, and in Orangetown in particular, to have as a special part of our local history over 130 years of service and spirituality to those in need. The Dominican Sisters and the Sacred Heart Chapel are a revered part of that treasured history.

I would like to personally thank you and the Sisters who came before you, for your enduring spirituality and generosity. You are our prized possession, and we love and support you.

May God continue to bless the Dominican Sisters and those whose lives you touch each day.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Low-Hogan".

Nancy Low-Hogan
Rockland County Legislator
District 17

Town of Orangetown

Town Hall 26 Orangeburg Road • Orangeburg, NY 10962
Telephone: (845) 359-5100 ext. 2261 • Fax: (845) 359-2623
e-mail: supervisor@orangetown.com
website: www.orangetown.com



Andrew Y. Stewart, Ph.D.
Supervisor

Dear Sister Mary and the Dominican Sisters,

Allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to you and all the sisters of the Dominican Convent as you celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Chapel in Sparkill.

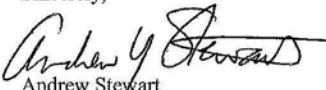
A great deal has changed in Orangetown over the past century, but the constant presence of the Dominican Sisters has been a blessing for this town. You have truly honored the spirit of Saint Dominic with over a century of work educating children, caring for the sick and needy, providing welcoming and affordable housing for seniors, and so much more. For as long as I have lived in Orangetown, I have been impressed by the kindness and compassion shown by every one of the Dominican Sisters I have known.

Sacred Heart Chapel is more than just a wonderful piece of architecture. It is a spiritually nourishing, sacred space that has hosted countless weddings, funerals, masses, prayer gatherings, and innumerable other memorable events. As you celebrate its first hundred years, let us all look forward to a second century that continues to build on the achievements of the first.

I join you in celebrating this momentous anniversary and congratulating the three remarkable individuals you have chosen to honor on this occasion: **Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, SC**, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College, **Sister Ursula Joyce, OP, Ph.D.**, Executive Director of Thorpe Village and Dowling Gardens, and **Frank Bradicich**, an alumnus of the St. Agnes Home & School for Children. I also join you in welcoming His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, to Orangetown. His presence vividly shows the impact the Dominican Sisters have had throughout the New York area.

Again, congratulations, and best wishes for an outstanding day of reflection, prayer, and celebration.

Sincerely,



Andrew Stewart
Town Supervisor

*Congratulations to our 2014 Veritas Award Recipients!
We thank God for your presence in our lives!*

∞ Special Thanks ∞

For giving their time and talents to make this afternoon an extraordinary celebration, we acknowledge with gratitude...

**THE SACRED HEART CHAPEL
100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

OUR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND STAFF

**ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF
OF DOMINICAN CONVENT**

OUR SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES