

WOMEN

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PG. 2

Welcome to the home of our Sisters.

PG. 3

Our Gathering space helps us transition from the busy world to the quiet, contemplative one of the Chapel.

PG. 5

The treasures of Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel: the altar, sculptures, stained-glass windows, and more.



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

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL

With its striking, soaring shape, Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel stands before Dominican Convent like a magnificent work of sculpture.

Formally dedicated by Edward Cardinal Egan on September 10, 2001, Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel is the very heart of Dominican Convent, motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.

THE ENTRANCE

The Chapel is entered through the main entrance of Dominican Convent. To the left of the entrance door is a floor-to-ceiling arrangement of stained-glass window panels of our Dominican saints. Created by Sister Elizabeth Slenker, they give witness to our Dominican Heritage.

SAINT DOMINIC

Prominent in our outdoor gathering space is a life-sized, bronze statue of Saint Dominic, the 13th century saint who founded the Dominican Order. This beautiful sculpture was created by Sister Rose Marie Morris.



Sister Adele Myers designed the mosaic border surrounding the sculpture, using the words of Saint Dominic's Last Will and Testament, interspersed with symbols associated with Dominic and the Order of Preachers.





HERE, WE GATHER

OUR BEAUTIFUL GATHERING SPACE HELPS US MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE BUSY WORLD OF EVERYDAY LIFE TO THE QUIET, CONTEMPLATIVE ONE OF THE CHAPEL.



ALICE MARY THORPE

As you enter the gathering space, immediately visible is a bronze statue of Alice Mary Thorpe, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.

Sister Rose Marie Morris sculpted the future Mother Catherine Antoninus as a young woman arriving in America from England in 1872.

Her pose reflects her willingness to do whatever God asks of her. Her strength, kindness, and perseverance continue to be an inspiration to us all today.

ALICE MARY THORPE
1844-1879



ETCHED WINDOW

Sister Lillian McNamara describes the inspiration behind her design of the large etched window as “the glory of God shining forth through all creation. Song of songs, melody of light in harmony with the earth, warming the seed that unfolds and reaches up, once again to touch the source of all life.”

THE DOMINICAN SHIELD

Placed within the granite tile floor in the center of the gathering space is a mosaic of the Dominican shield with the motto of the Dominican Order: *Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare* which means “To praise, to bless, to preach.” The mosaic is an exact replica of the mosaic on the choir floor in Sacred Heart Chapel,



the Motherhouse chapel from 1914-1967. The eight-pointed star around the shield is formed by two squares (a design element that is also used for the Chapel’s tabernacle). The star is a symbol frequently associated with St. Dominic, prayed to as “Day star of the world” in his litany.



ALTAR RAIL

A section of the altar rail from Sacred Heart Chapel can be found on the upper level “bridge” above the gathering space. This walkway gives our infirm Sisters access to the Chapel balcony to participate in the liturgical life of the congregation.



CHOIR SEATS

The choir seats in the gathering space came from Sacred Heart Chapel; installed in the early 1900s, they remained there until 1933 when they were moved to the chapel in Rosary Villa, later a part of St. Thomas Aquinas College.



Welcome to our Chapel

Upon entering the Chapel, one is struck by the lofty ceiling, the warmth of the wood, and the light entering through many windows, projecting ever changing patterns and colors onto the walls. The arrangement of the worship space, with choir-to-choir seating facing the altar and ambo (lectern), reflects our belief that we are participants rather than spectators at liturgy.

The custom-made Peragallo pipe organ and Walter piano mark the choir section.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a place conducive to meditation and prayer.

The granite holy water font, designed by Willy Malarcher, greets worshippers as they enter. Continuously flowing water is a constant reminder to us that our initiation into the Church began with the waters of Baptism.



Virgin Mary



MADE OF EXQUISITE CARRARA MARBLE, THE STATUES OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND ST. JOSEPH PREVIOUSLY ADORNED THE SIDE ALTARS IN SACRED HEART CHAPEL.

THE MOSAIC PANEL FRAMING THE STATUE OF THE VIRGIN AND CHILD ORIGINALLY STOOD BEHIND THE ALTAR IN THE SMALL ORATORY THAT WAS PART OF DOMINICAN CONVENT WHEN THE BUILDING WAS FIRST OCCUPIED.



St. Joseph

Our Sanctuary



The importance and significance of the sanctuary is emphasized by its central location within the Chapel and by the distinctiveness of its design and furnishings.

The floor pattern of two squares, one encompassing the ambo [lectern], the other the altar, represents the intertwining of the Spirit within the life of the community. These squares gather us together for the sharing of the Word and the Eucharist. The altar, ambo, and candlesticks were designed by Willy Malarcher.

The altar's design, with its simple and attractive proportions and blend of maple, limestone, and Siena marble, gives this sacred table a noble dignity.

The Siena marble angels at the front of the ambo were part of the altar rail in Sacred

Heart Chapel, where they marked the entrance to the sanctuary. Here, they serve as reminders for the gathered community to reverence the Word of God proclaimed at the ambo.

The graceful and elegant Presider's chair and processional cross were designed by Carl Rattner who describes the cross as expressing the redemptive nature of Christ's struggle, reflecting the sadness of the Crucifixion while aspiring to what is joyful.

The Stations of the Cross, made of cast marble, are recessed into the wall between the statue of Our Lady and the Eucharistic Chapel. They were created by Sister Mary Peter Tremonte, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Houston, Texas. The twelfth station is a large image of Christ crucified, clearly visible throughout the Chapel.



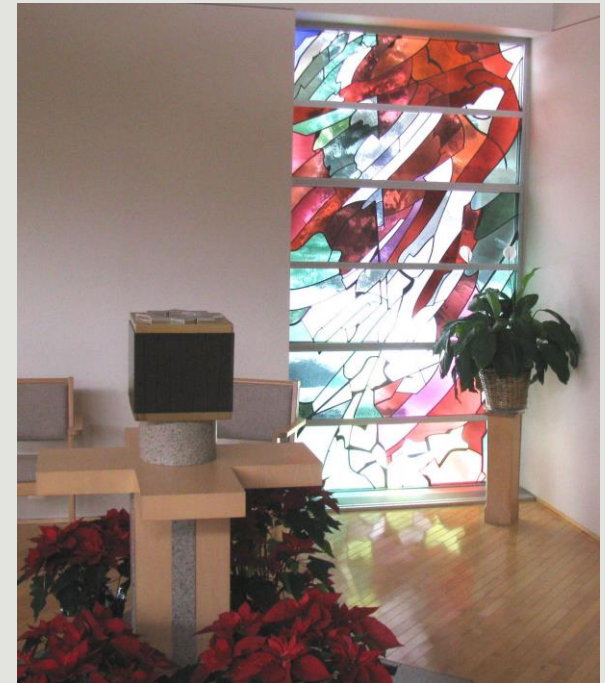
EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL

The Eucharistic Chapel is a small, intimate area ideal for private prayer and contemplation. The tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp were designed by Willy Malarcher. The simple bronze tabernacle rests upon a circular granite base set on a cross-shaped pedestal of wood. The top of the tabernacle, which is visible from the balcony, is crowned with a polished metal star formed by the interweaving of two squares, signifying the connection between Baptism and Eucharist.



STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

The mystical and spiritual is expressed without the use of specific imagery in three large stained-glass windows: the Eucharistic Chapel, the Resurrection window (balcony), and the Choir window (near the organ console). The artist, Harriet Hyams, speaks of the biblical symbols of wind, fire, and water as the themes that manifested themselves in her thoughts and feelings as she designed the windows.



Choir Window



Resurrection Window



ROSARY GROUP SCULPTURE

ORIGINALLY SITUATED IN THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF ST. AGNES CONVENT, THE ROSARY GROUP SCULPTURE DATES TO THE EARLY 1900S. IT DEPICTS THE VIRGIN HOLDING THE CHILD AND GIVING THE ROSARY TO SAINT DOMINIC, WITH SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA KNEELING TO THE RIGHT. THE SILVER ROSARY IN OUR LADY'S HAND WAS BLESSED BY POPE JOHN PAUL II AND PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION BY CARDINAL EGAN.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross were also placed on the balcony level to accommodate our infirm Sisters. Carved of wood, they were part of the chapel used by the Sisters until Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel was built.

NATURAL LIGHT

The many clear windows throughout the Chapel bathe our worship space in natural light, connecting outer and inner space. They enable us to reflect on the beauty of the natural world while reminding us of the connection between the changing seasons and the liturgical year.

THE BALCONY

The balcony completely surrounds the body of the Chapel. A glass rail provides an unobstructed view of the worship space, fostering a sense of unity among all members of the community.



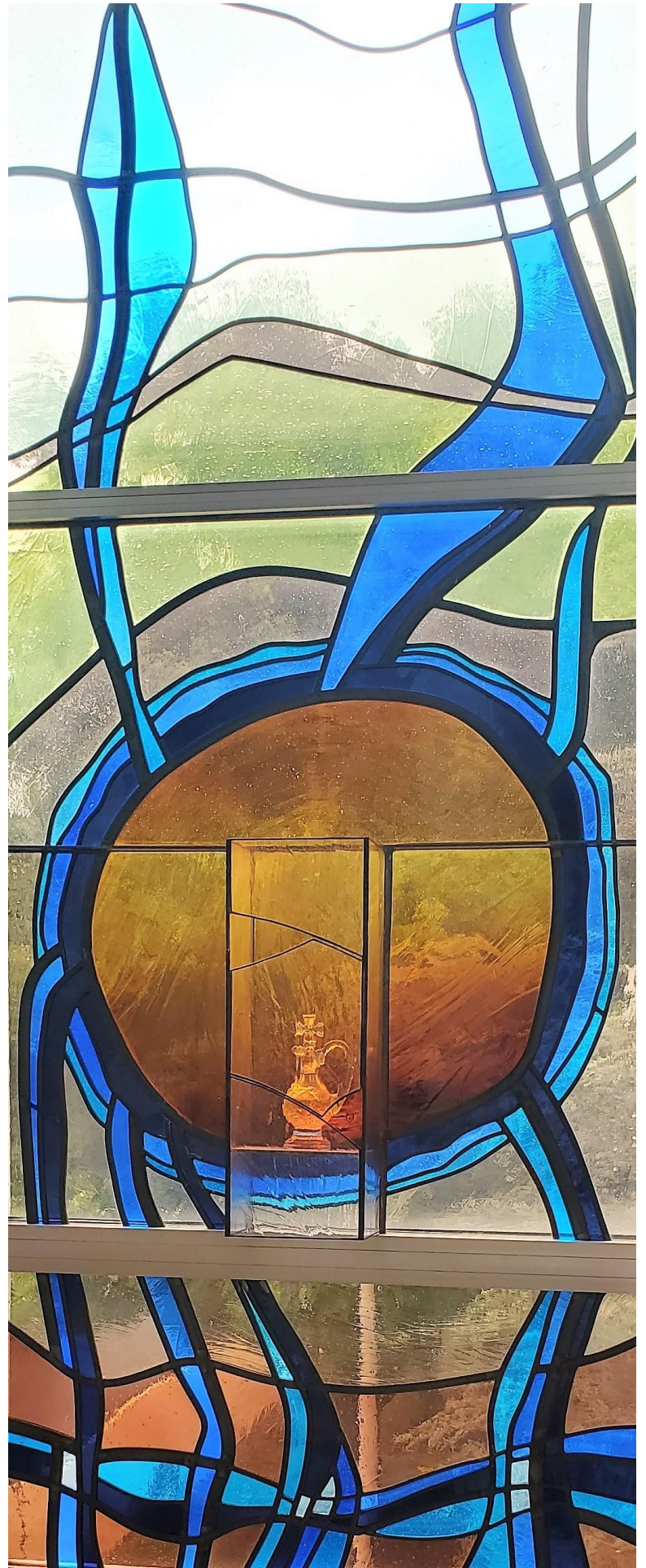


RECONCILIATION ROOM

In the Reconciliation Room we are forgiven and made whole through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sister Adele Myers designed the stained-glass window which speaks of living water, permeating, cleansing, and purifying. The simple wooden cross dates to the turn of the century. It was in a temporary chapel in St. Agnes Convent that was used until Sacred Heart Chapel was built in 1914.



A stained-glass window designed by Sister Adele Myers is directly above the window in the Reconciliation Room. These two windows are united in concept and design. Attached to the brilliant circle of hand-blown glass is a container crafted from antique glass. Designed by Sparkill Associate Cecilia Volpati, it contains the Holy Oil used to anoint the sick.



Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

STANDS AS A TESTIMONY TO THE FAITH, HOPE, AND DREAMS
OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL.



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WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR OUR GENEROUS BENEFACTORS, OUR GIFTED ARTISTS, AND OUR CHAPEL DESIGN TEAM:

ARCHITECT Martin Holub Architects | CONTRACTOR Werner Construction Corp | LITURGICAL DESIGN CONSULTANT Willy Malarcher