

Weavings

Women making a difference

SUMMER 2026

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Anchored in hope

The Magazine of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Dominican Convent of
Our Lady of the Rosary
Office of Communications
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SUMMER 2026

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On Cover

Clockwise, starting upper left:

The newly elected Leadership Team following the Closing Mass of Chapter 2026; Sisters Margaret Breslin and Margo Saich planting seedlings in the St. Joseph Garden; Albertus Magnus High School students greeting Sisters Maureen and Patricia Conway during the school's Prayer Service of Remembrance; and Sisters Nazia Shafi and Philomena Victor planting trees during an Earth Day celebration in Loreto, Pakistan.

From the Prioress ...

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the beauty and abundance of summer, we do so with hearts filled with gratitude for the countless ways your prayers, encouragement, and generosity continue to make our mission possible. In May, we brought our year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill to a close—a milestone that invited us to remember God's faithfulness across generations and to give thanks for all those who have shared in our mission.

Since our founding in 1876, when Alice Mary Thorpe and her small group of Sisters began caring for destitute women and children in New York City, the Spirit has continued to lead us in preaching the Gospel through lives of prayer, compassion, justice, and service. Today, together with our Associates and countless friends and partners in mission, we remain committed to responding to the needs of our time with hope, courage, and love.

Hope is the theme of this issue of *Weavings*, and it is a question that speaks to each of us: ***Where do we find hope today?***

For our Sisters and Associates, hope is found in the relationships that draw us together and remind us that God continues to work through ordinary moments and faithful people. I experienced this in a special way when I had the privilege of offering the invocation at the 2026 commencement of St. Thomas Aquinas College, a ministry founded by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. As I looked upon the graduates, their families, faculty, and staff, I was deeply moved by the spirit of community, joy, and purpose that filled the day. Echoing the words of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, "Were not our hearts burning within us?" (Luke 24:32), I found myself filled with renewed confidence that the Spirit continues to inspire new generations to seek truth, serve others, and build a more compassionate world.

You will find many signs of that same hope throughout these pages: the joyful gathering of Welcome Day at Dominican Convent; the celebration of 125 years of our Dominican presence in Missouri; the renewal of commitment by our Associates; moments of mission shared in photographs and stories; and our ongoing efforts to care for our common home as faithful stewards of God's creation. Each story reminds us that hope is not simply something we possess—it is something we nurture together through lives of generosity and faithful service.

Thank you for walking with us throughout our sesquicentennial year and for continuing this journey with the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill into the future. May the stories in this issue renew your own sense of hope and remind you that God is always creating something new through hearts willing to love and serve.

With gratitude and prayers,

Sister Irene Ellis, OP
Prioress



SISTER IRENE ELLIS, OP
Prioress, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill



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continue to carry out our
mission and ministries.**

Which includes caring for
our retired Sisters who have
dedicated their lives to service.
Please consider making a
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THREADS OF WISDOM AND GRACE

THROUGH THE LENS

"With God all things are possible."

—Matthew 19:26

In May, I underwent a complicated surgery to replace the lens in my left eye. Because of that experience, I have found myself reflecting on the miracle of sight—one that so many of us tend to take for granted (until it is threatened!). Following my surgery, I gradually experienced the effects of the new lens. I watched the pupil in my left eye growing larger until it matched the size of its counterpart in my right eye. As it got larger, I was able to see better. My new lens both sharpened and brightened my vision.

The state of our world has had me thinking also about hope—the challenge of it, the need for it, and the ultimate foundation on which it rests. And I've realized that a good way to think of hope is as a lens that I can choose to use. How do I look at my world? Do I have the audacity to look at the world through the lens of hope?

I'll admit that viewing the world through the lens of hope seemed a tall order until I realized that, in many

ways, hope is really nothing more and nothing less than trust. When I trust someone, I place my hope in that person, that one who is always "there for me." And who is there for me more than God? After all, hope should be a given for Christians precisely because, in Jesus, God is with us—God is always there for us. And God is...well, God is **God!** The One for whom nothing is impossible!

As I continue to rejoice at my improved vision from the new lens, I am also realizing that the more I choose to look at my world with hope, the more clearly I see and trust the reality my faith proclaims: God is with us so we shall not fear. ●

SISTER MARGARET PALLISER, OP

Sister Margaret earned a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and is the director of the Congregation's Office of Dominican Life.



Sparkill Dominican Sisters Go Solar!

Care of the Earth is very important to the Sisters and a congregational commitment as outlined in our Corporate Stance on climate change. After considerable discernment, we have chosen to install solar panels on our motherhouse property in Sparkill, New York. Solar energy is a renewable resource that will reduce the Congregation's carbon footprint while generating long-term cost savings for the Sisters.

With your help, we will be able to reduce the initial cost of installation. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

- Greatly reduces electrical bills
- Clean, renewable energy
- Low maintenance
- Increases value of property



If you would like to make a gift towards this project, please visit:

sparkill.org/make-a-donation
or call 845-359-4179.

ANN HAGOPIAN

When Ann Hagopian first walked onto the grounds of the Dominican Sisters in Sparkill, she was not looking to become an Associate. She was searching for home.

Born into an Armenian family in Damascus, Syria, Ann's story is one shaped by resilience, migration, faith, and the quiet strength of community. Her family carried deep memories of loss and survival. Her father, orphaned as an infant after the Armenian genocide, was raised in Lebanon by sisters who cared for orphaned children. "That's why I always felt connected to sisters from the beginning," says Ann.

Ann grew up in Syria, speaking Armenian, Arabic, English, and French. She described her childhood as happy and stable, surrounded by family and supported by her father's shoe business. But as unrest slowly grew in the region, families began encouraging their children to build lives elsewhere.

After marrying at age 24, Ann came to the United States with her husband, carrying both hope and uncertainty. "Leaving my family was very hard," she shared. "I missed them very much."

Soon after arriving in New York, Ann answered a newspaper advertisement for a position at Salesian Missions in New Rochelle. The word "Salesian" immediately caught her attention. "I went to Salesian High School," she recalled. "It felt like God was showing me something familiar when everything else was new."

What began as a small clerical job became a long career of growth and leadership. Though shy and uncertain about her English, Ann steadily took on greater responsibilities, eventually helping reshape a child sponsorship program so that support could better reach entire schools and communities.

Life also brought deep sorrow. While raising her two sons, Ann lost her husband to brain cancer. Yet even in grief, she continued moving forward with courage. "What is worse than losing a husband?" she remembered thinking when asked to step into a difficult leadership role at work. "I could do the job."

Years later, after her sons settled in Rockland County, Ann often drove past the Dominican Sisters' campus in Sparkill and found herself drawn to it. She remembered thinking, "One day, I will live here."

At the time, she knew little about the Dominican Sisters. But one afternoon, after noticing a sign for "Women Making a Difference," she decided to walk inside, where she encountered Associate Mary Ryan. When Ann asked if there was something she could do to help the Sisters, Mary welcomed Ann into Dominican Convent and introduced her to Sister Eileen Loftus.

Shortly thereafter, Ann began volunteering with the Sisters, helping wherever she was needed. She remembers the warmth and openness she encountered from the very beginning. "[The Sisters] opened their hands and received me," she said gratefully. In 2017, Ann became a Sparkill Dominican Associate and eventually moved into Thorpe Village, something she had quietly hoped for years earlier.

For Ann, the Associate relationship is less about programs or titles and more about belonging. "You lose your family," she said, "and then you find a new family." She speaks often of the peace she experiences among the Sisters—in their prayer, their kindness, and their simple daily presence. "As much more than I'm giving," she said, "I'm receiving."

Hope, for Ann, is found in prayer and community. It is found in being welcomed. It is found in small acts of care, shared meals, flowers arranged together, answering phones at reception, or simply walking across campus and seeing familiar smiles. During difficult days, Ann finds strength in prayer.

Today, Ann remains deeply involved in the life of the community while also caring for her family, including her beloved grandson. Whether helping with flowers, volunteering at a reception, or joining community prayer, she continues to live what she values most: to pray, to help, and to receive.

When asked what she would say to someone considering becoming an Associate, Ann smiled gently. "Try it," she said. "You'll like it." ●



150th Anniversary Mass

May 3, 2026

Reflections from the Veritas Choir

"On May 3rd, I went to the 150th Anniversary of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill and it was a great experience! My impressions of the Dominican Sisters who were celebrating their years of religious life were that they were some of the most elegant and faithful women I have ever seen. The way they sat and prayed with such beauty and grace really made me smile. I learned that the mission of the women is to be joyful and God-fearing women who wake up every day to spread kindness, love, compassion, and the word of God. I witnessed women surrounding each other with love and always lifting each other up. I saw women who love themselves and each other which makes me SO proud to be connected to the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. I felt a sense of joy in the chapel! The way we sang, prayed, and all found our true confidence brought me the biggest smile. The love and happiness were something I was glad to be present and witness. I had a great time, and I would give up any Sunday morning to be with the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill!"

—Angelica Acerbo '28



Molly Forde '27 and Angelica Acerbo '28 with Sister Jeannine DeClue

"As someone who has been in Catholic schools my whole life, being in the chapel made me have so much pride to be connected to the Sisters in more ways than one. The love and care that these women have for each other and for the community that have helped develop is so evident, and they beam light that is unwavering and unmatched." —Elyssa Chery '28

"Being at the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill 150th Anniversary Mass made me proud to be a student at Albertus Magnus. Sometimes at school, we just think about classes and sports, but seeing the Sisters reminded me that our school has a 'soul.' We were founded by women who are brave and selfless. Knowing that I'm part of the 'Sparkill family' makes me want to represent the school better because I'm carrying on the legacy they started decades ago." —Bella Rodriguez '29

"I'm so happy I came to sing for the 150th Anniversary Mass! I was in awe of the Sisters celebrating their 50th, 60th, 65th, 70th, and 80th year of religious life, as their dedication to the Catholic faith is prominent. The women who consistently express their deep love for our Lord are an inspiration for younger women who are looking to grow in their faith and in their relationship with God.

In the chapel, there was a strong sense of joy that felt like a wave of warmth. The joy was caused by a combination of the group singing the beautiful hymns and the feeling of true faith, love, and peace. I sense a tight-knit and compassionate community dedicated to ministry for justice. I felt proud to be connected to the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill when I witnessed the pure joy fostered during the Mass. It was a beautiful experience to sing during a lovely Mass celebrating 150 years of meaningful work, selfless service, and strong expression of faith. Thank you for the opportunity to sing at this Mass!"

—Bella Brosnan '29 •



Members of the Veritas choir: Scarlett Maikish '27, Elyssa Chery '28, and Annalise Padron '26

Truly a Year of Joy!

Reflecting on Our 150th Anniversary

On May 3, our Sisters and Associates gathered for our annual Foundation Day Mass honoring this year's Golden and Diamond Jubilarians. This joyous occasion also concluded the Congregation's 150th Anniversary Year celebrating our founding on May 6, 1876.

Looking back on this year, we are grateful for the special opportunities it provided to celebrate and reflect on our history and legacy. The September 2025 Open House at Dominican Convent in Sparkill welcomed families, friends, and alumni, as well as current and former co-workers with whom we have served. Additionally, friendships were renewed at the October 2025 Mass and luncheon at Holy Spirit Parish, celebrating our 125-year presence and service in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Our sesquicentennial celebration year also held moments when we were filled with hope as we envisioned the new ways our Dominican heritage and values are shaping and guiding our path into the future. The presentation by Sister Barbara Reid in February 2026, **Light Shining in the Darkness**, energized our thinking about Dominican Life in the context of cosmic consciousness, setting the stage for an exciting April when we met in Chapter to consider our future as preachers of hope.

Words simply fail to convey the depth of our joy during this year of celebration—so we share with you a few images that are truly pictures worth a thousand words! You can also view our new video featuring highlights of our journey from 1876 to living our mission today at tinyurl.com/sisters150video. ●

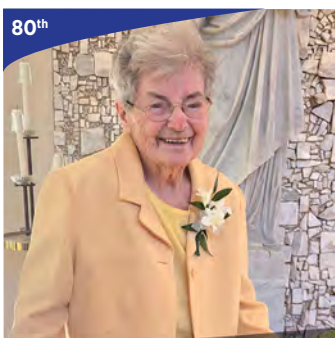
SISTER NANCY RICHTER, LEADERSHIP TEAM, OP



"...we envisioned the new ways our Dominican heritage and values are shaping and guiding our path into the future."

JUBILARIANS 2026

80th



80th

Sister Elizabeth David Scannell

75th

Sister Margaret Breslin – Margaret Kevin
Sister Eileen Loftus – Margaret Maureen

70th

Sister Marilyn Dunn
Sister Mary Dunning – Mary Elizabeth
Sister Agnes Bernard Waugh
Sister Maureen Foy – Michael Denise
Sister Jeannine DeClue
Sister Helen Robert Boyd
Sister Claire MacDonald – Jude Marie
Sister Elizabeth Slenker – Amata
Sister Catherine O'Leary – John Mary
Sister Eileen Barrow – James Marian
Sister Margaret McPartland – Michael Patrice

65th

Sister Nora Doody – Noreen Patrick
Sister Judith Brady – Judith Mary
Sister Patricia Broderick – Sean
Sister Eileen Cunningham – Theresa Patrick
Sister Eileen Sullivan – Helen Timothy
Sister Margaret McGirl – John Catherine
Sister Rose Edwin Pfannebecker
Sister Mary Jo Heman – Claude Joseph
Sister Kathleen O'Connor – Catherine Peter
Sister Mary Margaret Grey – Marita Frances
Sister Catherine McKillop – Catherine George
Sister Catherine Rose Quigley
Sister Ann Gregory Bischof

60th

Sister Margaret Jennings – Sean Ann
Sister Dorothy Kelty – Regina Catherine
Sister Aileen Donovan – Rita
Sister Mary Murray – Rose Matthew

50th

Sister Margaret Sweeney – Thomas Virginia

75th



70th



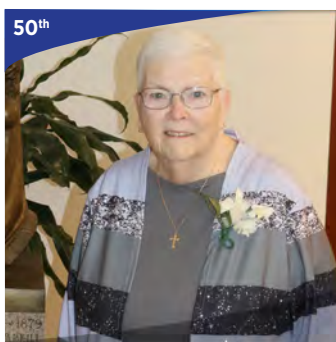
65th



60th



50th



Hope Flourishes *in Pakistan*

For three Dominican Sisters serving in Pakistan, hope is not found in grand gestures or easy answers. It is discovered through prayer, nurtured through learning, strengthened in community, and carried forward in service to others.

The stories of Sisters Philomena Victor, Rushana Younas, and Nazia Shafi reflect the living legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in Pakistan. Rooted in the Congregation's mission and charism, their experiences demonstrate how formation, ministry, and community continue to foster faith, leadership, and hope for the future.

Hope Through Formation

For Sister Philomena Victor, opportunities for professional and spiritual development have been a source of both challenge and grace. Through leadership seminars, spiritual formation programs, and community life workshops offered through the Dominican Sisters International Confederation (DSIC), she has gained new skills while deepening her understanding of her vocation and ministry.

The journey has not always been easy. Balancing studies, ministry, community life, and prayer has required perseverance. There were moments when unfamiliar ideas and new responsibilities pushed Sister Philomena beyond her comfort zone. Yet, it was often in those moments of challenge that she experienced God's presence most deeply. "I felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding me

in different ways and helping me to understand new concepts," she reflects.

For Sister Philomena, hope is more than optimism. It is the assurance that God remains active in the world and continues to call Dominican women to respond with faith, courage, and generosity.

Hope in Presence and Service

Sister Rushana Younas first encountered the Dominican Sisters through an English language program. What began as curiosity, gradually became a vocation as she came to know the Sisters and their spirit of service.

Sister Rushana spends weekends visiting the sick and homebound, bringing holy Communion, companionship, and encouragement. Those visits have taught her something profound about hope. "I went to encourage them, but I always left encouraged myself," she says.

Hope also lives in her classroom. Many of her students come from families struggling with poverty and hardship. Rather than focusing on their limitations, Sister Rushana sees their potential. She listens to their concerns, offers support where she can, and reminds them that they are not alone.

Her ministry has been shaped by the guidance of Sisters Nusrat, Noreen, and Monica, whose mentorship has helped her better understand religious life, deepen her



Sisters Nazia Shafi and Philomena Victor plant trees with students and staff at an Earth Day celebration at the Ibn-E-Mariam Girls High School in Loreto



Sister Rushana Younas with her students at the Dominican Middle School in Multan



Sisters Mifra Gulshan and Philomena Victor bring Holy Communion to the sick in Loreto's village.



Sister Philomena Victor with children in sacramental preparation at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Loreto.

spiritual life, and appreciate the value of community. Their example continues to influence the way she accompanies others.

For Sister Rushana, hope is often found in simple acts of presence—being there for someone who needs encouragement, a listening ear, or a reminder of God's love.

Hope Rooted in Trust

For Sister Nazia Shafi, hope has its roots in a childhood experience that changed the course of her life.

Growing up in a farming village near Loreto, Pakistan, Nazia eagerly awaited visits from the Dominican Sisters who came to pray the rosary with local families. When she became seriously ill as a child, she asked her father to call the Sisters. During a rosary prayer with one of the Sisters, she made a promise to God: if she recovered, she would dedicate her life to Him. Soon afterward, her health returned.



Sisters Rushana Younas and Nusrat Lewis with students at the Dominican Middle School in Multan.

Looking back, Sister Nazia sees that experience as the beginning of her vocation and the foundation of a lifelong trust in God. She says the greatest lesson she has learned is to trust in God in every situation.

Today, Sister Nazia serves as principal in Loreto, the very community that helped nurture her faith. She works closely with students, especially those facing challenges, offering guidance, encouragement, and practical support. Having experienced homesickness and discouragement herself, she understands the importance of helping young people to feel seen, valued, and cared for. "That is hope," she says. "They know they can ask for help."

A Legacy Carried Forward

Sisters Philomena, Rushana, and Nazia share a common conviction: hope grows through relationships. It is found in mentors who encourage growth, communities that offer support, opportunities that expand horizons, and ministries that allow God's love to be shared with others. Their stories remind us that the Dominican charism is not simply a legacy of the past. It is a living reality, continually renewed through study, prayer, community, and service. ●

SISTER NAZIA SHAFI is currently the Principal of the Ibn-E Mariam Girls High School and Primary School in Loreto. Sister Philomena teaches at the IBN-E Mariam Girls High School in Loreto. Sister Rushana teaches at the Dominican Middle School Raza Abad, Multan. When the Sisters are not busy with school, they study, pray, and participate in parish life, including visiting and bringing communion to homebound parishioners.

GENERAL CHAPTER MEETING 2026

April 6, 2026, Dominican Convent, Sparkill, New York

Every four years, the Dominican Sisters gather for a week-long General Chapter meeting to pray, plan, make decisions, and elect new members of leadership who will be charged with carrying out the Congregation's vision in ensuing years.

The General Chapter provides an opportunity to assess how the Congregation has lived its mission and stewarded its gifts, talents, and resources that God has given over the previous four years and allows the Congregation to discern where God is calling us to move forward in the coming four years.

Remarks from Our Keynote Speaker, Father Timothy Cardinal Radcliffe, OP

Our keynote speaker for the 2026 General Chapter meeting was Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP, who invited those assembled into reflection with his session, *How Are We Preachers of Hope?*—a question that continued to resonate throughout the week. Co-workers and Dominican Sisters in leadership from Blauvelt, Hope, Amityville, and Caldwell were also present for his remarks at Dominican Convent.

Father Radcliffe entered the Dominican Order in 1965, was ordained to the priesthood in 1971 and taught Scripture at Oxford University. He was later elected Master of the Dominican Order (1992-2001). He prefers to be called Brother Timothy and has spoken at hundreds of conferences and written

numerous articles and 10 books. Recently, Pope Francis asked him to lead a three-day retreat for participants in the Synod on Synodality in October 2023. He returned to deliver the preparatory retreat in October 2024, part of the same synod. On October 6, 2024, Pope Francis announced that Brother Timothy would be created a cardinal, granting him a dispensation from the ordinary requirement that cardinals are also bishops. He participated as an elector in the 2025 papal conclave that elected Bishop Robert Prevost as the new Pope Leo XIV.

In his remarks to the General Chapter assembly, Brother Timothy emphasized the importance of listening and learning together, with hearts full of resurrection hope. He quoted Jesuit theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reasons to hope." He continued, saying, "The Eucharist is the sacrament of hope, and no moment was as bad as the last supper." In an allusion to



Matthew 14, he affirmed that every small kindness that people share, "even the small bits of our bread," is an act of "mad hope" that can be enough to feed 5,000 people.

In addition to living as people of hope, Brother Timothy said that teaching is "not only a job but an opportunity to experience the meaning in life, a vocation." Schools embody the deepest respect for humanity, and teachers are called to see in people's faces the face of Christ. As St. Paul observes in Corinthians 1:13, we shall see God face-to-face and be known.





Sisters gathered at Chapter (l to r): Sisters Margaret McPartland, Elizabeth Graham, Dorothy Kelty, Maureen Robinson, and Irene Ellis



The newly elected Leadership Team including (l to r): Sisters Aileen Donovan, Diane McSherry, Marie Peter Buckley, Irene Ellis, Nancy Richter

Recalling the logotherapy approach advanced by Viktor Frankl in his 1946 book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Brother Timothy highlighted that those who survived in the Auschwitz concentration camp had a "why" in a place that had no reason. He asserted that "Dominicans go on living as long as we can think."

He asked those assembled to reflect on what we had learned

that day. This question led to a reflection on beauty and poetry; in short, how have we loved God's creation today? The power and healing of music can resonate in every situation, even after the Last Supper (Matthew 26), when Jesus and his disciples "sang a hymn and went to the Garden of Gethsemane."

Throughout our lives, Jesus has promised to remain with us: "I am with you to the end of time" (Matthew 28). Brother Timothy said that when we remain committed to this promise, "we live in hope and fidelity to our convictions. Our hope is kept alive by reaching out

to those who are different with a smile, handshake, or embrace. By remaining, we celebrate the need for each other and preaching becomes a dialogue as much as a proclamation." He encouraged all gathered to reach out and act as Jesus' hands of touch, healing, and laboring.

Brother Timothy cited Simon Tugwell, OP, "You don't go to chapel to do something. You go to let God do something." He concluded, "Prayer can reshape our approach more than another's opinion. Be with people who are with people who pray."

Leadership Team Elections

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill Leadership Team was elected at the General Chapter through a prayerful process that involved the entire membership of the Congregation. These Sisters accept the responsibility of leadership in implementing the directives of the General Chapter during a term of four years. They bring a wealth of experience, insight, and

valued gifts to this ministry. With deep gratitude and hearts full of hope, we warmly welcome the newly elected members of the leadership team who will lead us into this new chapter of our shared life and mission: Prioress, Sister Irene Ellis; Sister Marie Peter Buckley; Sister Diane McSherry; Sister Aileen Donovan; and Sister Nancy Richter. ●



Sisters in Leadership from neighboring Dominican Congregations (Blauvelt and Hope) along with Dominican Convent staff in attendance.



Father Timothy Cardinal Radcliffe, OP

Albertus Magnus High School

A New Generation of Hope

“A person of hope knows that the Lord is present and finds peace and joy through working for the good of others.” —**Pope Francis**

At **Albertus Magnus High School**, hope is found in ordinary moments that shape extraordinary lives. It begins in morning prayer, grows through acts of service, is strengthened in community, and blossoms whenever young people discover that even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference.



For **Sister Diane McSherry, OP**, Campus Minister of Albertus Magnus High School, these moments reveal the heart of Dominican education. Day after day, she witnesses students learning that hope is not something we simply wait for—it is something we live.

Each morning begins in the school chapel, where students and faculty gather in prayer before the day unfolds. Throughout the year, students participate in Midnight Run, sharing food, clothing, and conversation with people experiencing homelessness in New York City. They volunteer at local food pantries, participate in Days for Girls, join the school's Preaching Team, and build meaningful relationships with the Dominican Sisters in Sparkill.

These experiences are far more than service projects. They become encounters that shape hearts, deepen faith, and awaken a lifelong commitment to justice and compassion. As Sister Diane reflects, “Our students become bearers of hope through these selfless expressions of love.”

That hope comes alive in the students themselves.

Hope Through Action

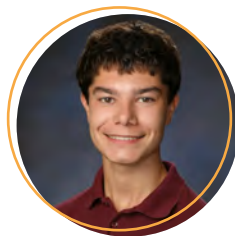
Like many teenagers, **Shannon Nelson** sometimes feels overwhelmed by the violence and injustice she sees in the world. She wonders how one person can possibly make a difference.



Through experiences such as Days for Girls, Cycling for Peace, and opportunities to preach alongside the Dominican Sisters, she has discovered that hope is less about changing the entire world and more about faithfully responding to where we are called.

“I know I cannot fix all the injustices in our world, but I feel that I am taking action and my voice is being heard.” Her conclusion beautifully captures the Dominican spirit: “Hope does not come in some big, grand gesture, but rather the small, selfless acts that an individual and community takes every day to change the world.”

Hope Through Kindness



For **Tyler Parks**, hope appeared unexpectedly while working at a summer camp.

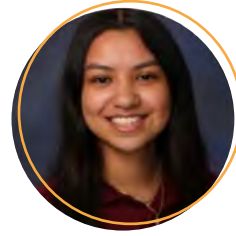
One of the boys in his group had recently arrived from Brazil and spoke very little English. Tyler worried that the boy would feel alone. Instead, another camper reached out in friendship, soon followed by the rest of the group. Before long, the language barrier no longer mattered.

Watching children choose kindness reminded Tyler that hope often begins with the simple decision to welcome another person. “It made me realize that [kids in] this upcoming generation ... are growing up to be incredible people who will shape our world in the future.”

Hope Through Community

Amelie Quintana finds hope both in the wider world and in the everyday life of Albertus Magnus.

She acknowledges the pain caused by war and division, yet she also notices countless signs that





SisterNusrat Lewis with students at the Dominican Day Mass at Albertus Magnus High School



Albertus Students at the Dominican Sisters Olympic Games



Falcon Food Drive

peace is possible. She finds hope in people from many nations celebrating together, in teachers who stay after school to help struggling students, and in classmates who welcome newcomers with kindness and respect.

Her reflection is both simple and profound: “Love continues to prevail.”

Those four words remind us that hope grows wherever people choose compassion over indifference and community over division.

Hope Is Already in Us

Together, these reflections reveal something beautiful about Dominican education. Hope is not simply taught; it is practiced. It grows through prayer that leads to action, study that deepens understanding, and service that transforms both the one who gives and the one who receives.

As the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill celebrate 150 years of preaching the Gospel, the Albertus Magnus community offers a living witness that the Dominican charism continues to shape hearts and minds for the future. Students are learning not only how to succeed academically, but how to become people of truth, compassion, justice, and peace.

As Pope Francis told us, “The secret is realizing that hope is already in us.”



Rooted in history and facing forward in hope, these young people are carrying the Dominican mission into the future—one prayer, one act of service, and one relationship at a time. ●

Shannon Nelson, Tyler Parks, and Amelie Quintana are all rising seniors at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, New York.



All Souls Remembrance Prayer Service — Preaching Team with Sisters Maureen and Patricia Conway

On Holy Ground

Brother Michael Harlan's Dominican Roots

Brother Michael Harlan, OFM, has spent more than four decades serving the Church across a remarkable variety of ministries. Today, he serves as Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Franciscan School of Theology in California. A professed member of the Franciscan Friars, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he has ministered in provincial leadership, higher education, retreat ministry, parish life, hospital chaplaincy, and outreach among the poor and marginalized.

Over the years, Brother Harlan has become known for his gifts in community building, hospitality, pastoral care, and leadership. Yet, when asked about the roots of his vocation and ministry, his story leads him back to Sparkill—and to the Dominican Sisters.

"My connection started when I was born in 1956," he says. "My grandfather was the chauffeur for the Dominican Sisters."

His grandfather, Mr. Edward Harlan, began working for the Congregation in 1942 and lived with his wife in an apartment above the garage that once stood where Thorpe Village is located today. As a child, Brother Harlan often visited his grandparents there, hearing stories about the Sisters and witnessing the deep mutual respect that existed between his family and the Congregation.

"[For my father,] it was more than a job," he recalls. "There was a



Brother Michael Harlan with Sister Maureen Robinson

great affinity and connection to the Sisters. My grandmother always said the happiest 18 years of her life were the years they lived here on the convent property."

The family's connection only deepened over time. When Thorpe Village opened in 1981, Brother Harlan's grandparents were among its first residents, returning to the very place where they had once lived. Later, his godmother, his aunt, and eventually his mother would also call Thorpe Village home.

For Brother Harlan, these connections make the Dominican motherhouse more than a familiar place. "It feels like holy ground," he says. "Being here today is like coming home."

Growing up in Sparkill, Brother Harlan encountered the

Dominican Sisters at every stage of life. Although he attended public school, the Sisters taught his religious education classes and prepared him for the sacraments at St. John's Parish in Piermont. His family regularly attended Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel on the convent grounds, making the Sisters a natural part of his faith formation. "My parents were my first teachers of the faith," he reflects, "but the Sisters were part of that foundation, too."

An uncle later encouraged him to apply to St. Thomas Aquinas College rather than attend a local community college. The decision would prove to be life-changing.

At St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican Sisters again played an important role in shaping his future. Among them was Sister

Anne Fidelis Fitzgerald, who became a trusted mentor as he discerned his vocation. When Brother Harlan shared that he was considering religious life, her advice surprised him.

"Go out and work first," she told him. "Then you'll know what you're supposed to do."

After graduating with a business degree and working in Manhattan for several years, Brother Harlan discerned a call to religious life and eventually entered the Franciscan Friars.

Another influential mentor was Sister Patricia Ann Riley. Brother Harlan took four English courses with her and remembers her as an outstanding teacher whose encouragement left a lasting mark on his life. "She was always very affirming," he recalls. "No matter what, she encouraged you."

Sister Patricia Ann recognized his gifts and invited him to serve on a Middle States accreditation committee as a student—an opportunity that provided an early experience of leadership and institutional service. Looking back, Brother Harlan sees a connection between the writing, communication, and organizational skills he developed

in her classroom and the work he later carried out during nearly two decades in Franciscan leadership and administration.

Their friendship continued long after graduation. Sister Patricia Ann remained interested in Brother Harlan's life and ministry, even checking in on him through his mother while she was a resident at Thorpe Village. "She always wanted to know how I was doing," he says.

Over the years, the Dominican Sisters continued to reappear throughout Brother Harlan's life and ministry. He encountered them in retreat settings, educational ministries, and through shared work among those most in need. During his years serving the Franciscan community, he became connected with the Dominican Sisters ministering in Peru. Through a collaboration with Franciscan Brother Declan McCabe, Sister Maureen Robinson brought her nursing expertise to support outreach efforts for women and children. For Brother Harlan, these encounters reflected a shared commitment among religious communities to serve those on the margins.

Reflecting on the Congregation's impact, he describes the Dominican Sisters as "joyful women" who consistently make a difference in people's lives. "You see needs and respond to them," he says. "I've seen that throughout my life."

He points to the Congregation's commitment to prayer, education, and social justice as enduring hallmarks of its mission. Whether founding schools and colleges, supporting older adults through Thorpe Village, teaching

immigrants English, or serving communities around the world, the Sisters have remained faithful to their Dominican call. **"The encouragement the Sisters give to people, their presence, their prayer, and their outreach—that's the legacy," he says.**

One Sister who embodies that legacy for him is Sister Cecilia LaPietra. Brother Harlan admires the way she recognized the needs of immigrants seeking to learn English and responded with determination and compassion via One to One Learning, supported by the Congregation's commitment to mission.

Today, as a Franciscan leader, educator, and lifelong friend of the Congregation, Brother Harlan sees his own story as inseparable from the story of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. "I wouldn't be where I am today without my roots here in Sparkill."

Those roots stretch back generations—from a grandfather who drove the Sisters throughout the Northeast, to family members who found a home at Thorpe Village, to a young student whose faith and vocation were nurtured by Dominican women educators.

Brother Michael Harlan is more than a friend of the Congregation. He is part of the family. And after 70 years of shared history, faith, friendship, and ministry, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill remain, for Brother Harlan, a place of belonging—a place he simply calls holy ground. ●

Sister Jeanne Shary interviewed Brother Michael Harlan in June 2026 during Brother Harlan's visit to Dominican Convent.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without my roots here in Sparkill."



We advocate for policies that address climate change, protect our rivers and oceans, and promote peace with all creation. We believe that each person has a responsibility to do what they can.

In Dominican Convent, we have taken significant steps to reduce our environmental footprint.

Together, we have converted to LED

lighting, installed energy-efficient windows and HVAC systems, improved sustainable landscaping practices, and committed to renewable energy through the planned installation of solar panels.

Recognizing the growing threat of plastic pollution in our water, food, and bodies, we have reduced single-use plastics and transitioned to recyclable products in our dining services. We advocate with local officials for stronger protections for our water supply and healthier communities.

Our sisters compost, cultivate herbs and vegetables in raised beds, and care for the land around our motherhouse. Our Associates have renewed our wildflower pollinator garden.

Beyond our campus, we collaborate with others who share our commitment. We celebrate Earth Day with the community of St. Thomas Aquinas College and participate in ROAR, a network of religious congregations dedicated to the well-being of the Hudson River bioregion.

As Pope Francis reminded us, “creation is crying out.” We hear that cry in communities affected by extreme weather, in polluted waterways, and in the loss of biodiversity throughout our world.

As Catholics, we are called to be faithful to care for creation, to seek the common good, and to live the Gospel values of justice, compassion, and hope.

Most importantly, we bring this commitment to prayer. Every year, we observe the Season of Creation from September 1st through October 4th. We include care for creation in our daily prayer and give thanks for the gifts of Earth and all living things.

Grounded in gratitude and guided by faith, we move forward together. Responding to the call of Pope Leo XIV and Pope Francis, we embrace our responsibility to act with urgency, wisdom, and hope to protect the precious gift God has entrusted to us. ●

A DOMINICAN COMMITMENT TO GOD’S CREATION

In his encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis called the world to urgent action in response to environmental degradation and the social injustices linked to climate change. He reminded us that all creation is interconnected and that caring for our common home is both a moral responsibility and an expression of faith.

Today, Pope Leo XIV continues that call, urging the faithful to deepen our ecological awareness and respond with courage, compassion, and action.

For the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, care for creation is not a new commitment. It is rooted in our spirituality, our mission, and our understanding of God’s ongoing revelation through creation.

In 2004, we adopted our Land Ethic, affirming that our shared values and beliefs regarding the Earth emerge from Scripture, the teachings of the Church, and our Dominican commitment to seek truth and act justly. Guided by this vision, we pledged ourselves to responsible stewardship of the land entrusted to our care.

In 2021, we deepened that commitment by joining the Vatican’s *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, a global initiative inviting Catholic institutions to embrace integral ecology and create sustainable futures.

What does this commitment look like in practice?

As individuals, we have become more aware of the impact our choices have on the environment. We continue to study, learn, and grow in our understanding of ecological justice. We recognize that care for creation requires ongoing conversion—a willingness to examine our habits and make changes for the sake of future generations.

2026 LOU LECTURE

Presented by Dr. Barbara Reid

Each year, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill host the Lou Lecture Series, which invites renowned guest lecturers to provide learning, reflection, and dialogue rooted in the Dominican commitment to study and justice. Future presentations will continue to bring together scholars, leaders, and members of the wider community to explore issues that speak to the needs of our world today and inspire hope for the future.

Light Shining in Darkness: Finding Hope Through Faith, Study, and Creation

On February 17, 2026 at Dominican Convent in Sparkill, Sisters and friends gathered both in person and online for an evening for the 2026 Lou Lecture featuring a lecture by Sister Barbara Reid, OP, centered on faith, hope, and the wonder of Creation. Welcoming those assembled, Sister Irene Ellis reflected on the long history of



Sister Barbara Reid, OP
delivers her presentation.

*...contemplation of Creation can
renew our hearts and help us face
the future with hope.*

the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, whose mission since 1876 has carried them from New York City to communities across the United States and around the world in service of justice, compassion, and care for creation.

Sister Barbara Reid, OP, is a biblical scholar and the President of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, who invited those present to rediscover hope through awe, contemplation, and God's presence in Creation. Reflecting on Scripture and the stars, Sister Barbara reminded listeners that prayer and study lead us toward humility, wonder, and a deeper relationship with God.

She connected the light of the stars in Scripture with the human search for hope and justice, noting that throughout the Bible, God continually calls people by name—and they respond, "Here I am." In the same spirit, she suggested that contemplation of Creation can renew our hearts and help us face the future with hope.

The gathering reflected the enduring Dominican commitment to study, contemplation, and preaching that speaks to the needs of our time. Rooted in history and facing forward in hope, the evening became a reminder that faith, learning, and community continue to light the way forward. ●

SPRINGING FORWARD AT SPARKILL

Community Events and Sacred Spaces

This spring, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill celebrated the vibrant return of community life and the completion of vital improvements at Dominican Convent. From high-energy gatherings to serene spaces of prayer, here is how your support helped us blossom this season!

Designer Bag Bingo

Laughter, suspense, and a touch of friendly competition filled the air at this year's Designer Bag and Restaurant Bingo held on March 11, 2026 at Dominican Convent in Sparkill. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of 65 friends and generous sponsors, this new event was deemed a success, raising more than **\$6,000** in mission-critical funding while bringing together new faces for a wonderful afternoon of community with the Sisters!



29th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Monday, May 18th dawned sunny and clear at Blue Hill Golf Course as the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill hosted their 29th Annual

Charity Golf Outing. Families and friends filled the course and clubhouse throughout the day, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere that has become a hallmark of this annual event. This year, 80 golfers enjoyed a day “in the swing” on Blue Hill’s two scenic nine-hole courses, testing their skills on both the Lake and Pine sides.

More than a fundraiser, the annual outing continues to be a cherished gathering of friends, families, supporters, and community partners united in support of the Sisters’ mission and ministry. We are deeply grateful to our new and longtime friends, generous supporters, family members, sponsors, and volunteers who helped us raise **\$66,889** to benefit the mission and ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill!

Our 50/50 raffle winners were Kevin O’Hagan (\$4,178), Joan Gervatoski (\$2,507), and Florence Puccio (\$1,671). We are especially grateful to those winners who generously donated all or part of their winnings back!

St. Joseph’s Garden Update: A Sanctuary of Peace

Nature and devotion meet in the newly completed St. Joseph’s Garden at Dominican Convent. This beautiful green space provides a tranquil oasis for reflection, prayer, and



community enjoyment. The completion of St. Joseph’s Garden was made possible by the generous support of **Michael Mullins**, who has lovingly dedicated the garden in memory of his wife, Cannella. A special plaque on-site honors her legacy, reading: *Dedicated in honor of Cannella Mullins by her beloved husband, Michael Mullins and daughters, Elizabeth, Caron, and Jennifer*. It will stand as a peaceful respite and a beautiful testament to love, family, and faith for all who visit. Looking ahead, we plan to continue nurturing this sacred space through seasonal clean-up days, adding vibrant plantings, and the possibility of building a peaceful gazebo.



Audio-Visual Upgrade: Enhancing Our Connections

Prayer and liturgy at the Dominican Convent and Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel received a major upgrade in June, with the installation of new audio-visual equipment. Featuring state-of-

the-art sound, projection, and streaming capabilities, this project ensures that our sisters—and our larger Sparkill community joining via livestream—can better utilize these sacred community spaces for meetings, social gatherings, public outreach, and prayer. Thanks to the support of our community, we were able to raise more than **\$216,000** to fund this transformational project! Our Sisters, Associates, and staff offer their deepest gratitude to all of the generous donors who made this project possible. ●



If you would like to make a gift towards any current or future projects, please visit:

sparkill.org/make-a-donation
or call **845-359-4179**.

Mission Moments

Our mission is lived not only in grand gestures but in the beauty of everyday encounters.

Whether we are serving in classrooms, walking alongside those on the margins, or gathering in prayer, these "mission moments" reveal the heartbeat of our life together. As you view these photographs, we invite you to pause and witness the joy, service, and connection that define the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. These images capture the spirit of our 150-year journey—a story of faith and hospitality that continues to unfold in every corner of our community.



East Side Heart & Home Family Center



Groundbreaking for STAC Track and Field at Dominican Convent



Welcoming Sister Martina Phelan, OP



Days for Girls gathering



St. Thomas Aquinas College graduation



Sister Nusrat Lewis at Albertus Magnus High School Dominican Day



Dominican High School Preaching Conference



Food Drive pick up at Dominican Convent



St. Louis Associate gathering

COLLEGE PREACHING *Conference*

At the closing liturgy of The National Dominican College Preaching in Action Conference, sponsored by the Dominican Youth Movement USA, which took place May 19-24, hosted at St. Thomas Aquinas College, the six STAC student attendees, promised to “preach with their lives” by:

- **Deepening their commitment to the Four (founding) Pillars of the Dominican Order— Prayer, Study, Community, Service**
- **Increasing their connection to the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, the college's founders**
- **Creating opportunities to collaborate with the various faith-based (on-campus) student groups**

This is the Action Plan that will be incorporated into STAC's Mission and Ministry Program during the 2026-2027 academic year.

The gathering of students and mentors from six colleges/universities, founded within the Dominican traditions, along with gifted presenters who shared their insights and wisdom, all agreed that the conference empowered attendees to “put their faith into practice and awaken within them their call to be Preachers of the Good News!”

Sessions spanned from the spirituality of preaching to responding to the signs of the times through Catholic Social Teaching, to a deeper understanding of the Dominican Charism and traditions, which focused attention on leadership through listening, preaching, and praying. The result is a deeper understanding of the Four Pillars of the Dominican Order. Students participated in a

day of service at sites that emphasized their responsibility to care for our earth and learning about the global vision of the Dominican Order. A highlight of the week was an ice-cream social hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.

For the St. Thomas Aquinas College students and their mentor Sister Peggy Scarano, the conference provided a connection to the college's Mission, Vision, and Values. The students reflected:

“I learned a lot about the Dominican Sisters/Order and the worldwide impact they are making.” – Drew Basile

“The conference was inspiring and meaningful for me – learning to pray through art and what real discernment is will definitely bring me into my senior year with renewed enthusiasm.” – Laila Wright

“The week was a spiritually refreshing time for me, reminding me that faith becomes more meaningful through the people you share it with.” – Ria Jose

“The Dominican values and traditions I learned about will definitely help deepen my faith and trust in God and open myself to other religious backgrounds.” – Alec Pierre

“I feel blessed with the many connections I made with the students and mentors from the various colleges, being able to share my faith with them.” – Victoria Calabro



Group (l-r) Alec Pierre, Jude Petersen, Laila Wright, Sister Peggy Scarano, Drew Basile, Ria Jose, Victoria Calabro

“The presentations and discussions on prayer and worship made an impact on me that will stay a part of my life as I share the Word of God.” – Jude Petersen

“Journeying with young women and men and their mentors, studying together, sharing prayer, and participating in a day of service – what a blessing!”

– Sister Peggy Scarano, Co-Director of STAC's Mission and Ministry Program

During morning and evening prayers, hymns were sung and many times the group shared the **Dominican Blessing**: May God the Father bless us; May God Redeemer heal us; May God the Holy Spirit fill us with light.

All who participated in the 2026 National Dominican Preaching in Action Conference agreed that it was a wonderful experience and are proud to consider themselves a member of the Worldwide Dominican Family. St. Dominic Be Our Guide! Amen! ●

Founded in 1999 the Dominican Youth Movement USA, through high school, college, and young adult programs, makes the connection between the traditions of the world-wide Order of Dominican Sisters, Brothers, and Priests (Friars) while providing leadership training and preaching opportunities. The college program began 25 years ago, held at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

For more information, visit:
www.dym-usa.org, www.sparkill.org,
or www.stac.edu.org

One to One Learning

It was almost a year ago that I joined One to One Learning as a volunteer teacher. There was fear of the unknown, self-doubt, as well as the many challenges we were facing as a nation, but thanks to Sister Cecilia and the Dominican Sisters, their words of encouragement helped reduce my anxiety. I would also recall Maya Angelou's quote, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

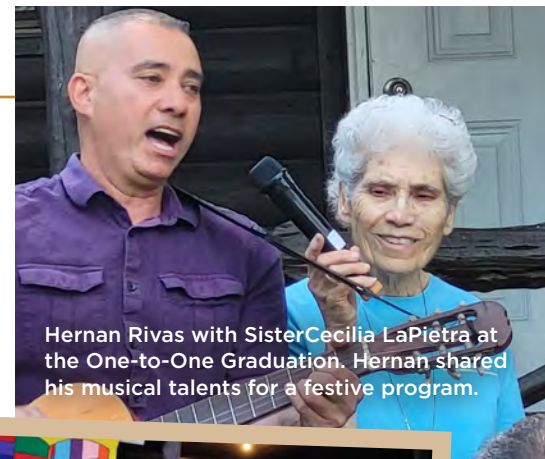
During the last weeks of class at One to One Learning, Sister Cecilia would announce how many classes were left and how quickly we were approaching our much-anticipated day of recognition. It was a countdown to summer. The excitement was tangible—we would be wearing matching t-shirts, and all students, regardless of their level of learning, would receive a certificate of achievement. Some students were already registering for classes in September with high hopes of getting the same teacher.

There was much to celebrate: students' accomplishments; new and returning teachers; Sister Cecilia

and the One to One Learning staff; newborn babies; and facing the unknown together while finding solutions to whatever challenges came our way.

One to One Learning has educated and empowered individuals for almost 30 years, but education and empowerment go both ways. My goal as a teacher is to ensure that my students learn to communicate in English and to provide the tools necessary to navigate everyday situations. Yet, in

this process, my students demonstrated the importance of showing up for themselves and their classmates, even after a long day at work. They also showed what a gift it is to be in each other's presence, laughing, sharing stories, and helping



Hernan Rivas with Sister Cecilia LaPietra at the One-to-One Graduation. Hernan shared his musical talents for a festive program.



Associate Yesenia Kopperman with her students at graduation.

each other with pronunciation and workbook activities. Through my students, I witnessed the true meaning of humanity and the effects of extending kindness and compassion to one another.

The impact of One to One Learning goes beyond teaching English as a Second Language and Civics for the Citizenship Test. It is a community of volunteer teachers, students, and staff who come together to do the best we can until we know better. Because when we know better, we do better for ourselves, our families, and especially our communities. I am grateful to One to One Learning for the opportunity to share my skills and knowledge to enhance others' lives, and I look forward to doing so again in September.

YESENIA KOPPERMAN,
Associate, is Special Assistant to the Prioress and Co-Director of Associates.



Yesenia Kopperman with her students.



Ministry Grants *Seeds of Hope*

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill are proud to support the transformative work of organizations and ministries that align with our mission to preach the Gospel and promote justice, peace, and care for creation.

*This year, we are honored to provide a total of **\$69,150 in grants** to support these essential efforts.*

■ Mental Health in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sister Rosemary Jeffries, RSH, Executive Director of the All-Africa Conference, requested Global Sisterhood funding to provide mental health training for women in six African countries, especially in some of the world's poorest communities. Sisters from multiple congregations in each country are collaborating on this project. Because seeking mental health support and discussing trauma are often stigmatized in Africa, the effort will include informed, encouraging messaging to promote understanding and reduce stigma. Through this grant, we join others in supporting Global Sisterhood as Dominican Sisters Making a Difference.

■ Capuchin Family Ministries—Summer Outreach Week

Summer Outreach Week provides high school students with an opportunity to express their faith through direct service to others. We join with the Capuchin Family Ministries, a community of friars, teenagers, mentors, and families dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel by serving a vulnerable population. The students are involved in various ministries and sites—such as the parish Bible School and the distribution of clothing and food to the homeless. Our support will enable Albertus Magnus High School students to live out the Dominican Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community, and Service.

■ Restoring Hope Through Immediate Support

East Side Hearth and Home Family Mission is rooted in the belief that every person deserves dignity, stability, and the opportunity to thrive. Through the Direct Assistance Program, funds will support our Sister Carol Lemhkuhl's commitment to addressing the injustice of inflation and poverty, especially for single moms and their children. This grant supports our Congregational Goal and 2022 Direction Statement by providing financial assistance to the most vulnerable during these challenging times.

■ Mindfulness for All: A Program for Adults with IDD and Caregivers

This grant will further the ministry of Marydell Faith and Life Center (MFLC) by addressing not only people with IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) but also their caregivers. In 2024, MFLC began a program to create a safe physical space for adults with IDD to spend time on MFLC grounds, overseen by highly trained staff who facilitate guided mindfulness activities. The program also supports the caregivers. The grant will help fund a weekly program for adults with IDD and their caregivers. The weekly program will be on Marydell's grounds and provide appropriate activities and resources for both the IDD participants and their caregivers.

■ Retreats and Sessions for Women's Empowerment

The Teresian Sisters are seeking funding for spiritual retreats and formation sessions to support and strengthen their religious life in Central Africa. Their charism focuses on proclaiming the good news of liberation. The Congregation is dedicated to serving the most vulnerable in society. To achieve this mission, they need to empower the suffering women and the sisters ministering to them. Our support will assist our Global Sisterhood family.

■ Celebrating Our Heritage

The desire to celebrate the Heritage of the Ramapough Mountain Indians for Children and Elders is the request of this Grant. The program will educate children and elders, and enable them to learn and appreciate the history, spirituality, treasures, traditions, and contributions of Native Americans. The funding is for educational programs focusing on the richness of their ceremonies, care of the earth, cultural preservation and community welfare. The Dominican Sisters' 2022 Direction Statement called the members to act collaboratively and broaden our relationships. This request invites us to collaborate with those who inhabited and cared for the earth before us.

■ Organizing for Immigrant Justice and Defense

Proyecto Faro has been and will continue to be committed to addressing the current regime of terror against immigrants in this country. To accomplish this goal, they are requesting assistance to hire an organizer to successfully scale up their infrastructure, including a coalition of faith leaders to activate their congregations; building up their partnerships with Haitian and other Caribbean immigrants; recruiting and training more community members and allies to ramp up involvement in getting the Safety and Dignity for All Act passed in Rockland and NY4All and CARE for immigrant Families legislation passed in New York state. Their request resonates with our Congregational Goal and Direction Statement—to face forward in a world in desperate need of healing and renewing peace and compassion.

■ Installation of Solar Panels

The title of the Pakistan Project is Installation of Solar Energy System in the Sister Purissima Hostel in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. The proposal will address the need to ensure the safety and well-being of the hostel girls. Frequent and prolonged power outages impact the learning environment. The installation of solar panels will provide uninterrupted electricity and reduce dependence on expensive grid power, ensuring a more stable and comfortable environment for the girls. We join our Pakistani community in meeting the needs of our Pakistani family.

■ Days for Girls

Days for Girls is a worldwide organization that we have been part of for several years. The program provides access to materials and education, vital to removing the stigma and limitations of menstruation for girls throughout the world. The kits are distributed to underdeveloped countries. Days for Girls involves our Dominican Sisters, volunteers from Albertus High School, and students from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC). It not only addresses the pressing needs of our international family but also provides an opportunity to live out our commitment to ministry for justice and reverence for all.

■ Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference

The Annual Dominican High School Preaching Conference provides high school students with an opportunity to embrace and move forward the Dominican charism. It empowers young teenagers to discover and deepen their inner preacher through the four pillars of Dominican life: Prayer, Community, Study, and Service. The program invites students from Dominican schools across the country to connect. This multifaceted experience allows students to explore new horizons. ●



Share Your Story!

Do you have a memory, reflection, or experience of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill that has touched your life? Help celebrate and preserve the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill legacy for the next 150 years! Submit your stories that have shaped our community to the *Sacred Story Project*.

The *Sacred Story Project* is a multi-media initiative where we collect your memories and stories of the Sisters through audio interviews, video testimonials, written stories, and photographs from Sisters, Associates, mission partners, family members, and friends. These memories will be shared on our website and social media and preserved for future generations.

***Submit your story
by viewing this QR code.***





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Join Us!

6th Annual
CYCLING FOR PEACE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
9AM - 1PM • Rain or Shine!
Early Registration \$25 • Day-of \$30 • Kids Under 18 Free!
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Join the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill for our **6th Annual Cycling for Peace** event! Bring your bikes and game day attitude to celebrate a day of fun in support of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill's mission!

Register Online!



Music • Games • Prizes • 50/50 Raffle • Food Carts • Ice Cream
Free T-Shirt & Goodie Bag Provided with Registration
Register online or by mail before September 10th
For questions, please call (845) 359-4156 or email pmcallion@sparkill.org