

Weavings

Women making a difference

SUMMER 2019

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"Go and Tell"

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Sister Marie Hess's
**RECIPE FOR
SUCCESS**

SUMMER WEAVINGS 2019

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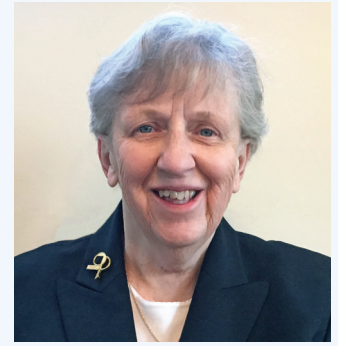
On Cover:

Sr. Marie Hess, OP



Dominican Sisters of Sparkill proudly
announce their participation in the
AmazonSmile Program.

From the President ...



SISTER MARY MURRAY, OP
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill President

Dear Friends,

In my reflections on my trip to Rome this past May (see page 10), I wrote of being hope for our world. One of the ways you bring hope to our world is through your dedicated support of our Congregation. Your prayers and monetary contributions this past year have enabled us in many ways to be beacons of hope for others who need our support. The projects to which you have contributed have enabled hope to become alive for so many others.

Very often you are described as our “partners in mission.” That remains very true, but these days I am reflecting on how you also share in a communion of hope—a communion of people coming together in different ways to share in our common mission of caring for others in the spirit of the Gospel.

You have the deepest gratitude of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill and, in their name, I thank you so much. You are always remembered in our communal prayers. May your families and loved ones enjoy a very peaceful summer!

God bless you!

Sister Mary Murray O.P.

Sister Mary Murray, OP



THREADS OF WISDOM AND GRACE ...

Where am I?

It happened again this week. I was lost on a back road in upstate New York. I had wonderful, detailed directions to my destination, but they were useless because I didn't know where I was. No matter how good your map is, you won't get far if you don't know your starting point! (That's the beauty of GPS—it tells us exactly where we are!)

The same thing is true of our spiritual journey. If we don't know where we are, spiritual “maps” and guides won't be much help to us. We need to know where we are in order to take the next step forward.

Sometimes I can be afraid to identify my true “location,” i.e., where my heart is. I can want to pretend

that I am “better positioned” in my relationship with God than I really am. But until I am humble enough to look at myself and “own” the truth of my situation (usually not where I would want to be!), I won't make much progress in my journey. For Jesus speaks directly to our hearts. If we are not “there,” we can't hear his voice.

A vacation can sometimes provide an opportunity to spend some time apart, a graced time for us to get our bearings, to own where we really are. And when we accept ourselves—with all our failings—we find that Jesus is right there, speaking to our hearts. May each of us have a blessed vacation soon!

SISTER MARGARET PALLISER, OP

Sister Margaret has a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and is a member of the leadership team at Sparkill.



Please join us for our next
Dr. J.T. Vincent Lou lecture
on September 24, 2019

Diversity Is Our Strength

Navigating the intellectual and faith challenges
of becoming *e pluribus unum* — “one out of many”

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Th.D.
Professor of Theology, Fordham University

Dominican Convent, Sparkill, NY

Free and Open to the Public

Dominican Sisters
of Sparkill

“Go and Tell...”

SISTER PATRICIA HOGAN, OP

Saint Mary Magdalen is the patron saint of the Dominican Order. Why? Because Mary was the first to preach the good news that Jesus rose from the dead! And, as the Gospel story tells us, after hearing Mary's witness, eventually the disciples came to believe for themselves.

All Dominicans—both vowed Sisters and lay men and women Associates—are called to a “common charism” to praise, to preach, and to bless. Like Mary Magdalen, they are called to *go and tell* the good news of Christ's resurrection through the “pulpit of their lives.” And so it happens that sometimes those around the Sisters and Associates, as with the disciples, also come to believe for themselves.

In this way, the community of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill is growing in strength and numbers in the cities and countries where they live—in parishes close to the Motherhouse, further afield in St. Louis, Missouri, and at a very great distance from the Motherhouse in a most unexpected country—Pakistan.

In 1958 eight Sparkill Dominicans traveled to Pakistan. From the beginning, their ministry was education. Over the years, their work in the field of education dramatically improved the lives of the men, women, and children in the communities around them. The children came to their schools from impoverished homes. But when they graduated, they ended the cycle of poverty by going on to colleges and into professional life. This transformative story continues today in the lives of young men and women that the Sisters educate.

From the beginning, a second ministry has also radiated from the lives of our Sisters in Pakistan—the ministry of being peacemakers. The Beatitudes teach us that peacemakers shall be called “children of God.” One could easily say that nowhere is peace more needed than in the country of Pakistan.



“So that woman, who is the first to encounter Jesus...now has become an apostle of the new and greatest hope,” — Pope Francis





CLOCKWISE IN PHOTOS: Sisters and Associates in St. Louis giving the Dominican blessing; Mary Varghese with Sr. Catherine Edward Carragher; and Associates and Sisters praying at Sacred Heart Chapel of Sparkill, NY.



Sixty years have passed since our Sisters began their healing ministry after their ship sailed into Karachi. The Sparkill Dominican circle in Pakistan has continually grown ever wider. The community now spans three cities, with five schools and a hostel that provides a home to 30 girls. This year, seven young Pakistani women took steps in their journey towards becoming vowed Sparkill Dominican Sisters. One young woman made her final profession, two others took their first vows, and four more are in formation as novices.

Since 1980, here in the U.S. our Associates have participated in the life of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill through their involvement in prayer, study, and ministry. Associates are engaged in all walks of life and preach the Gospel through their work, their art, and their very lives. Each Associate's commitment

is unique. They are nurses, teachers, businesspeople, married, single, parents, grandparents—all members of our Dominican Family! In the many ways they are ministering, there is a common thread: their desire to *go and tell*, to share their lives and their hearts by living our Mission Statement by being “joyful people of prayer and compassion who proclaim the reign of God through ministry for justice and reverence for all creation.”

Sharing her thoughts on the growing community of Sparkill Associates, Co-Director Ellen O’Sullivan said: “I believe that as our congregation continues to offer a home where men and women can experience their faith and form community, they will seek to walk with the Sisters just as our past and present Associates have done. There is a hunger in our world for the type of Church that religious congregations offer!”



“For 48 years, Sister Marie has been recognized as a petite powerhouse by the Cardinal McCloskey team and by the youngsters they serve.”



SISTER MARIE HESS'S *Recipe for success*

SISTER LESLEY BLOCK, OP

An hour with Sister Marie Hess is a visit with someone who lives and breathes the spirit of Alice Mary Thorpe, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. As Director of Preparing Youth for Adulthood at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, Sister Marie radiates love and trust, compassion and understanding, and vision and enthusiasm—all hallmarks of the life of Alice Thorpe.

In 1971, after 15 happy and successful years as a teacher, Sister Marie was asked to consider a position at Cardinal McCloskey Home for Children where she had spent many summer vacations as a volunteer. Like Alice Thorpe, Sister Marie responded in trust, accepting the challenge to create a program to prepare at-risk youth in foster care, ages 14-21, for independent living as self-supporting adults. Careful planning was required to create a program that recognized the unique skills of each staff member, creatively engaging each one in building a team that would achieve the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty and hopelessness for the young people in their care.

For 48 years, Sister Marie has been recognized as a “petite powerhouse” by the Cardinal McCloskey team and by the youngsters they serve. She is widely known for being able to command the

attention of any group by saying softly, “Excuse me.” Sister Marie approaches each youngster with what she describes as a “recipe.” She identifies the “ingredients” that she finds in the individual and designs a plan for using them to facilitate the growth needed for successful adulthood. Education is key, and every facet of the program is designed to stimulate learning in the broad sense and on many levels. Young people learn to respect themselves, to believe in their potential, to trust that they can overcome obstacles, and to envision a realistic and positive future.

With her characteristic humility, Sister Marie insists that it is the McCloskey team, not just herself, that has made it possible for countless youths to succeed in college or vocational school and to move on to contribute to their communities as self-supporting adults.

22ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Teeing up “fore” the Sisters

On Monday, May 6, a bright and sunny morning (after many days of rain!) greeted 125 golfers and benefactors as they gathered for the Dominican Sisters' 22nd Annual Golf Tournament at Patriot Hills Golf Course in Stony Point. Facing beautiful hills, the golfers enjoyed a mouthwatering BBQ before proceeding to the challenging 18-hole course. That evening, the Sisters and their sponsors shared with the golfers and their guests a delicious dinner followed by the presentation of prizes and the annual 50/50 Raffle. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to everyone who helped to make this outing such a magnificent success!

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Holiday Inn, Orangeburg-1 overnight for 2 with hot breakfast
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Levity Live, Palisades Mall-4 tickets
Lifetime Fitness, Montvale-1 week complimentary
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New York Giants Football-poster
Patriot Hills Golf Course-complimentary foursome
Ridgewood Savings Bank, Paul Fitzpatrick-golf balls
The Time Hotel, Nyack-1 overnight for 2
Unidine Corporation-tote bags, bottled water and magnetic clips
Vineyard Vines-men's tie
TNT Virtual Golf, Palisades Mall-gift card
West Nyack Florist-\$35 gift certificate

Thanks to our golf bag sponsors

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Many thanks to our Sisters that provided prizes

Sr. Joan Beairsto
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Sr. Margaret Casey
Sr. Pat Cody
Sr. Anne Connelly/Sr. Marie Jean Dempsey
Sr. Joan Correia
Sr. Ann Eigenbauer
Sr. Dorothy Farley
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Sr. Grace Hogan
Sr. Lorraine LaRocca
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Sr. Kathleen Logan
Sr. James David McDonough
Sr. Madeline Murphy
Sr. Kathleen O'Connor
Sr. Maryann Summa/Sr. Daniel Catherine
Sr. Peggy Scarano
Sr. Mary Shea
Sr. Margaret Teahan
Sr. Margaret Tiernan

Tournament Prizes

Gerry & Diane Farley
Carl Ferraro
Bill & Rose Werner

Special Thanks to

Dave Fusco & Gina Kelly at Patriot Hills Golf Course
Our 2019 Golf Committee members for their time and efforts to make this tournament a success.

Our Sponsors, Golfers and Donors for your continued support all these 22 years!

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill for your prayers and support. We are Women Making a Difference in the lives of people throughout the world!



Communion of Hope:

WOMEN RELIGIOUS GATHER IN ROME

SISTER MARY MURRAY, OP



CLOCKWISE IN PHOTOS: Pope Francis with Sisters Carmen Sammut and Patricia Murray; Sister Mariana from Zambia and Sr. Mary; Dominican Sisters International Leaders

DURING TWO WEEKS in May of this year, I was very fortunate to be able to attend two international assemblies of women religious from around the world. The first assembly was composed of women religious from many different congregations and traditions. Eight hundred fifty major superiors came together in communion with one another to share ideas, insights, and concerns while seeking to discover common themes and issues relevant to religious congregations today.

The second assembly represented eighty-five congregations of Dominican women religious. Here, too, the Sisters gathered in communion with one another to listen, learn, and identify and embrace common themes of relevance to religious life today.

During each of the assemblies,

the link between the environmental effects of rising global climate change and its direct detrimental effect upon the most vulnerable populations was spoken of with great concern. Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si* was referenced as a critical document addressing the link between environmental degradation and social issues, such as worldwide migration, trafficking of women and children, extreme poverty with whole populations lacking food, water, homes, and other basic necessities of life, while often experiencing violence, death, and separation of family members.

In the face of this, what is the call of the Gospel today? What is God

asking of us? The theme of the first assembly, "Sowers of Prophetic Hope," led to many discussions, prayers, and our determination to be contemplatives in action today, sowing seeds of hope personally, communally, and in solidarity with others to bring healing to our world.

The second assembly echoed this theme of being contemplatives in action, seeking communion with our sisters and brothers around the world. Such topics as interreligious dialogue, intercultural dialogue, and international formation programs for all religious stirred our imaginations and strengthened our conviction that together we can be beacons of hope in our world today. As Pope Francis has said: "Prayer leads us forward in hope."

THE MANY
MINISTRIES OF

Sister Connie Bauer, OP



Meet Sister Connie Bauer, a Dominican Sister of Sparkill for 57 years. While her ministries have changed over the years, she has continually served the people of God with wisdom, love, humor, and compassion.

For many years, Sister Connie taught in elementary school. Then she completed nursing school and worked in a pediatric rehabilitation center. In 2002, Sister Connie retired from her nursing career, but quickly found another way to share her gifts in a new ministry—as the receptionist at St. Catherine Laboure, a thriving parish of more than 2100 families in suburban St. Louis.

As the voice and face that parishioners and visitors encounter when calling or visiting the parish office, Sister Connie brings a quality of presence that has helped to establish St. Catherine Laboure Parish as a place of warm welcome and gracious service. When people arrive at the parish office, they are impressed by her kindness, her compassion, and her desire to serve—qualities that have made her a valuable part of parish life and ministry. Well-loved by both parishioners and coworkers, Sister Connie is described as a genuine ambassador for the parish, its very own “mega greeter.”

In addition to managing the normal secretarial tasks and daily demands of a parish office, Sister Connie oversees and trains the youth who fill the



role of receptionist on the weekends. Oftentimes she volunteers her time to help with various parish events.

For the past six years, Sister Connie has served as a Co-Director of the Sparkill Dominican Associates in St. Louis. She has helped the Associates understand the mission and charism of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, encouraging them to grow spiritually and to become involved in the Sisters’ ministries.

As a teacher, Sister Connie challenged her students to be all they were capable of being by letting them know she believed in them. As a nurse, she was gentle and caring with her young patients, supporting them as they recovered. Today, as a parish receptionist and ambassador, she welcomes those who come in need, helping them experience their parish as their “home.”



DR. J.T. VINCENT LOU LECTURE

The Dr. J.T. Vincent Lou Lecture is made possible because of a generous gift from Dr. York and Noelle Chynn that enables the Sisters to offer educational forums on social justice topics at Dominican Convent.

HEARTS OF STONE AND HEARTS OF FLESH

SISTER EILEEN M. CUNNINGHAM, OP



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cardinal Tobin with Sr. Margaret Palliser and Sr. Mary Murray.

The Dr. J. T. Vincent Lou Lecture on May 2, 2019 was an evening of inspiration and challenge. Our Sisters gathered with many friends from the local community to hear Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, share his vision of the potential of our faith: “As Catholics, we can be beacons to the world by reflecting the light of Jesus Christ ... living out the mystery of the Incarnation and choosing goodness and willingness to delve into the messiness of real human suffering.”

When asked what he thought was the greatest challenge we face today, Cardinal Tobin responded that we are challenged as a nation and a Church to address the “breach between faith and life.”

According to Cardinal Tobin, the Church is suffering from a kind of *cardiosclerosis*—a hardening of the heart. Drawing on Scripture, he reminded the audience of God’s promise: “I will put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” [Ezekiel 36:26]. Using Luke’s account of the

Samaritan who helped an injured traveler whom others had bypassed, the Cardinal remarked: “Samaritans see things differently.”

The audience was deeply moved by Cardinal Tobin’s words about the fear that can be seen etched on the faces of so many immigrants who could easily despair as they encounter almost insurmountable obstacles in their efforts to escape terrorism, poverty, and political upheaval. Cardinal Tobin remarked “Indeed, those who come to our border risk their lives in search of safety and opportunity. They need flesh-hearted Samaritans to console them in the face of atrocities, insults, separation, and deportation.”

“Hearts of stone and hearts of flesh” is an apt metaphor for the polarization that the Cardinal sensed in the USA upon his return after years of ministry overseas. Noting the current politic of polarization (red state vs. blue state; I win, you lose; my way, not yours), he explained that unchallenged bad politics can be personally harmful, overtaking faith and warping it, while leaving the political forum unbridled. A breach between faith and life can leave prevailing social needs unaddressed while harsh anti-immigration sentiments reign. He stressed “the river of life in the USA is flowing in the wrong direction. The teaching and values of our faith should direct our politics, not the other way around.”

Cardinal Tobin advocated for the creation of an immigration system that is just, humane, and responsive to the rule of law, one that would bear witness that our nation has certain values that must be upheld. He posited that the most humane solution would be “addressing the root causes of violence and poverty in the northern triangle of Central America.”

Encouraging his listeners to act in a way that reflects the light of Jesus Christ in the world, Cardinal Tobin left us with a clear mandate: “We live out the Incarnation by not failing to love—and that decision is transformative.”

Please visit our website for the link to this presentation in its entirety.

A visit to CAROLYN PALMER'S STUDIO

SISTER ANN EIGENBAUER, OP

DO YOU REMEMBER THE SONG LINE, “make new friends and keep the old”? It is a great blessing when good fortune brings the old and new together by renewing a relationship from long ago. This happened to Sister Bernadette Nonnon and Carolyn Palmer in March when Carolyn visited the Motherhouse to share her artistic practice with the Sisters. As a child, Carolyn attended St. Columba School in Chester, New York during the years that Sister Bernadette was a young teacher. Today, Carolyn is a world-renowned artist whose medium is clay and bronze. Among her many commissioned works are the four Popes who grace the narthex of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. In Lucille Ball’s hometown, Carolyn’s statue of Lucy captures the free spirit of the American icon; and, as I write this, her busts of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are in an exhibit at the Caen Museum, Normandy France, which started on D-day and continues until October 27th, 2019.

Recently, Sister Bernadette and I spent the afternoon in Carolyn’s studio. We were spellbound by the astounding gathering of historical figures, both religious and political, all of whom stood at attention while being molded into existence by this tiny and enormously talented woman. Mario Cuomo, Mother Teresa, the Wright Brothers, Mary



TOP: Carolyn finishing a bronze in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. **LEFT:** Carolyn, Sr Bernadette and Sr. Ann. **RIGHT:** Sr. Bernadette (circa 1966).

Undoer of Knots and, of course, Jesus form a circle around her as she sculpts. The historic figures from different centuries and all walks of life peacefully share her studio space. Their presence seems so real that we felt that if Carolyn rang a bell, they would form a parade. We were in awe of their eyes! Even when viewed from only a few inches away, somehow these *windows of the soul*—which were made entirely of red clay—sparkled with life.

Carolyn conducts extensive research on a new subject before beginning a piece. Once a sculpture begins to take shape, the clay image becomes someone she would like to invite to share their personal story. As lovely Carolyn waved good-bye, I thought of a line from a childhood song, “Make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold.” But when thinking of the community in Carolyn Palmer’s studio, the words become “one is clay and the other bronze.”

MINISTRY GRANTS IN 2019

& *Our Partners in Mission*

Our donors continue to make a difference around the world. Thank You!

Ministry to Trafficked Women, Emmaus House | *Ocean Grove, New Jersey*

- This grant will provide victims of trafficking access to retreats and support programs at Emmaus House. The funding will provide accommodations and cover other expenses for women in need of healing and support.

Emmaus House | *Ocean Grove, New Jersey*

- For 36 years, Emmaus House has offered healing and empowerment to women suffering from a variety of addictions and disorders. This grant will upgrade the aging facility, permitting the healing ministry to continue.

Loreto Hostel | *Pakistan*

- Thirty girls from poverty-stricken families, who otherwise could not attend school, will be housed in the Loreto Girls Hostel. They will receive lodging, nutritious meals, and religious education in a safe environment.

Education of Impoverished and Orphaned Children | *Bahawalpur, Pakistan*

- This project will benefit orphans and children from impoverished families who belong to the lowest class of society in Pakistan. It will provide them with a quality education regardless of race, religion, and caste.

Days 4 Girls Project | *Dominican Convent, Sparkill*

- United by a common desire to make a difference in the lives of young women in impoverished countries, this project brings together Sisters, Associates, and students from Albertus Magnus High School and St. Thomas Aquinas College. The grant will help create feminine hygiene kits for young women.

Summer Camp, East Side Heart & Home Family Center | *East St. Louis, MO*

- Serving children from a neighborhood in which there are no educational enrichment opportunities to keep children on track, this grant will fund a summer camp concentrating on STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) with the goal of stimulating their curiosity and preparing them for the future.

Women's Leadership, Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women | *Siena College, NY*

- A grant award that will fund a leadership training program—Women and Power—which is shaped by the Franciscan concept of compassionate leadership. Empowered by their newly developed skills, participants will be encouraged to share them with others.

Through Every Age, Benincasa Community | *New York, NY*

- The Benincasa Community is a Dominican lay community offering housing, supportive services, and faith education for adults. The grant will fund Through Every Age, a 9-month lay formation program for young adults who are longing to mature and deepen their faith life while working for peace and justice.

Children of HIV/AIDS, The Missionaries of Mercy | *Guntur, India*

- This grant award will help the Missionaries of Mercy in the Guntur District of India to address the needs of children living with HIV/AIDS. The goal of the project is to improve the lives of 75 children through nutritional and psychological support.

Exercise Your Mind, Your Body, Your Spirit, Dowling Gardens | *Sparkill, NY*

- The award will fund programs for the elderly population in Dowling Gardens by providing opportunities for residents to participate in a variety of learning and volunteering activities that will strengthen the residents and help them be more independent and self-determining.

JUBILARIANS 2019

75th

Sr. Julia Marie (Regina) Cody
Sr. James David McDonough
Sr. Jean Thomas McHenry
Sr. Anne (Anne Dolores) Connelly

70th

Sr. Winifred Marie O'Halloran
Sr. Elizabeth Anthony Gatto
Sr. Anne (Anne Christine) Simms
Sr. Rosemary (Paul Thomas) Kelly
Sr. Carolyn (Mary Carolyn) Bell
Sr. Catherine (John Cecilia) Viggiano
Sr. Patricia (Marie Vianney) Cody

65th

Sr. Marie (William Agnes) Hess
Sr. Carrol (Mary Germaine) Coble
Sr. Maurice Doody
Sr. Patricia Anne (Richard Patrice) Murtha
Sr. Mary (Marie Bernadette) Reynolds
Sr. Ann (Marie Anton) Eigenbauer
Sr. Mary Pius Fagan
Sr. Mary (Dominica) Joyce
Sr. Barbara (Mary Barbara) Paul
Sr. Patricia (Patricia Catherine) Clark

60th

Sr. Christine (Joseph Raymond) Corey
Sr. Lillian (Brendan Mary) McNamara
Sr. Eileen Richard Leavy
Sr. Margaret (Martin Therese) Tiernan
Sr. Daniel Catherine Connolly
Sr. Loretta (Loretine) Keller
Sr. Mary Ann (Janet Marie) Buhr
Sr. Cecilia (Francis Therese) La Pietra
Sr. Maureen (Kevin Maureen) Robinson

50th

Sr. Christine Gamache
Sr. Susan Dunn
Sr. Mary Schmittgens
Sr. Mary Shea
Sr. Grace Anne Hogan



80TH ANNIVERSARY



**Sr. Ann Louise
(Madeline Marie)
DeGennaro**



**Sr. Miriam
Joseph Schaub**



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SAVE THE DATE
13 NOVEMBER 2019

Sparks of Light

2019 Annual Awards & Reception

NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill