

100th Anniversary

This year St. Dominic's Monastery is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation! The community began in 1907, when the founding nuns courageously set out from their Dominican Monastery in Union City, New Jersey with the intention of establishing a contemplative monastery in Baker City, Oregon. After two years, the bishop requested that the nuns take on the active apostolate of teaching in his diocese. Rather than forsake their contemplative vocation, the nuns decided they could no longer remain in Baker City. They began a search for a diocese that would welcome contemplative nuns. The bishop of LaCrosse, Wisconsin invited them to his diocese. In 1984, due to the loss of priestly ministry, the nuns again had to uproot and they relocated in Washington, D.C. There they converted a private dwelling into a temporary monastery, adequate for their needs at the time, with the dream of one day building a traditional monastery. By 2002, the nuns had outgrown this temporary space. Lacking a proper area for formation of the younger Sisters and an infirmary to care for the elderly nuns, the time had come to begin planning for the construction of the long-awaited permanent St. Dominic's Monastery.



**“Go up into the hill country,
bring timber and build the house,
that I may take pleasure in it
and receive my glory, says the Lord.”**

After much prayer, discussion and consultation, the nuns purchased a large tract of fertile land (a former apple orchard) near Linden, Virginia. Here the new monastery will sit atop Blue Mountain, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. This beautiful property will provide the much-needed space and ensure the silence and solitude essential for the contemplative life.

The New St. Dominic's Monastery

Warmly welcomed by Bishop Paul Loverde into the Arlington diocese, the ground work and construction of the monastery began in June of 2006. The project will be completed in two phases. Phase I of the building project will consist mainly of the nun's cloister: a small temporary chapel; cells, where the nuns pray, study and sleep; a Novitiate area, for the formation of our young Sisters; a kitchen; refectory, where the nuns gather for common meals; a laundry; work rooms; and an infirmary. Areas unique to monastic architecture and essential to Dominican life will also be included: a Chapter room, a sacred space for solemn community gatherings; a library, since study is an important part of the life of the Dominican nuns; and the cloister corridors, surrounding the inner courtyard, a place rich in symbolic meaning in the monastery. Phase I will also provide a modest living space for a Chaplain and a small chapel where the lay faithful can participate in the liturgy with the nuns. Planned for Phase II of this project are a monastic chapel and bell tower; quarters for a resident Chaplain; accommodations for guests and a small endowment for the future upkeep of the monastery.



Monastic Chapel



Refectory



Cloister Corridor



Inner Courtyard

A Resurgence of Religious Vocations

The Church is witnessing the beginning of a resurgence in religious vocations among the “John Paul II Generation.” Young women are again choosing a life of absolute dedication to God and a radical separation from the world and are seeking entrance into contemplative monasteries. They know that God is worth their life. Our way of life at St. Dominic’s Monastery is characterized by the traditional values that are attracting young women: centrality of the Eucharist, a life of liturgical and private prayer, unreserved obedience to the Pope, a life lived in common, a strong Marian devotion and the wearing of the traditional Dominican habit. These are supported by a life of radical withdrawal from the world through papal enclosure and a life of silence and penance. We look forward to the future with great confidence that God will continue to bless our community with vibrant young women who desire to belong completely to Him and His Church in the contemplative life. The new monastery was planned with this in mind. It will provide not only for the present needs of the community, but for its future as well.



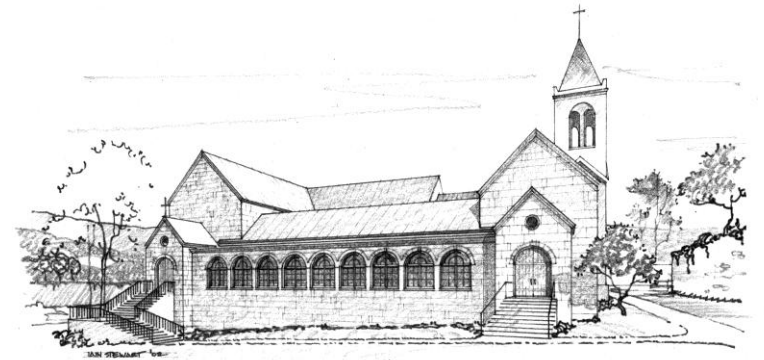
“Nothing is impossible with God”

Through the profitable sale of the Washington, D.C. property, donations from benefactors and a frugal way of life, 70% of the construction costs have been realized. Knowing “nothing is impossible with God,” we have moved forward with this project. With the help of our faithful benefactors, who have confidence in the power of prayer, St. Dominic’s Monastery is becoming a reality. We are still in need of financial assistance. Would you prayerfully consider making a donation to our monastery? Your tax-deductible gift will not only assist us in the completion of the monastery, but you will also share in the merits of a weekly Mass offered for our benefactors and will be remembered in our daily prayers and sacrifices.

St. Dominic’s Monastery P.O. Box 539 West Springfield, MA 01090

St. Dominic’s Monastery

Linden, Virginia



**Anticipated arrival of the Dominican Nuns:
November 2007**