

From This Holy Mountain

A Publication of the Dominican Nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery - Linden, Virginia - Winter 2021 Issue

*"Jerusalem, arise and stand
upon the heights, and behold
the joy which comes to you
from God."*

Baruch 5:5; 4:36

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Dear Friends,

On Christmas we behold the triumph of humility. Christ was born into a poor family and laid in a humble stable. Simple shepherds were the first to seek Him. Behold, they found the Lord of heaven and earth, who had become a lowly child, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Thus, on Christmas it was in humility that heaven's glory was made manifest. He humbled Himself to share in our humanity, that we might become sharers in His divinity.

On Christmas the humility of God triumphs over man's pride. God did not abandon us when, through sin, we had lost His friendship. Indeed, so great was His love for us that God sent us His Son to be our Savior. Jesus shared our humble human condition "so that, raising up in Himself all that was cast down, He might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom" (*Preface II of the Nativity*).

On Christmas let us rejoice in this grace, this triumph of humility, that our glorying may be not in ourselves but in the Lord. As St. Augustine tells us, "what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make His only Son become the Son of Man, so that a son of man might in his turn become a son of God?"

Please know how grateful we are for your faithful support of our monastery. Without you, our contemplative way of life would not be possible. In gratitude, you and your families will be remembered in a novena of Masses celebrated in our monastery Chapel this Christmas season. May God bless you for your goodness to us. You remain ever in our prayers.

With our grateful prayers,

Sr. Mary Fidelis, OP

Prioress



Friends Spotlight: A Rare Opportunity

By Victoria Hughes



In a world that seems so broken and increasingly forgetful of God, faithful Christians often feel discouraged. It is not clear how individual efforts alone can address the world's serious problems and make a lasting positive impact.

Challenging this dark picture, the nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery have made an important decision. After much prayer, they have decided to move forward with plans to complete St. Dominic's Monastery—and most importantly—build a permanent Chapel.

Their decision is both practical and optimistic. At a time when monasteries are closing, St. Dominic's is growing—attracting young women who are called to devote their lives to God. St. Dominic's Monastery

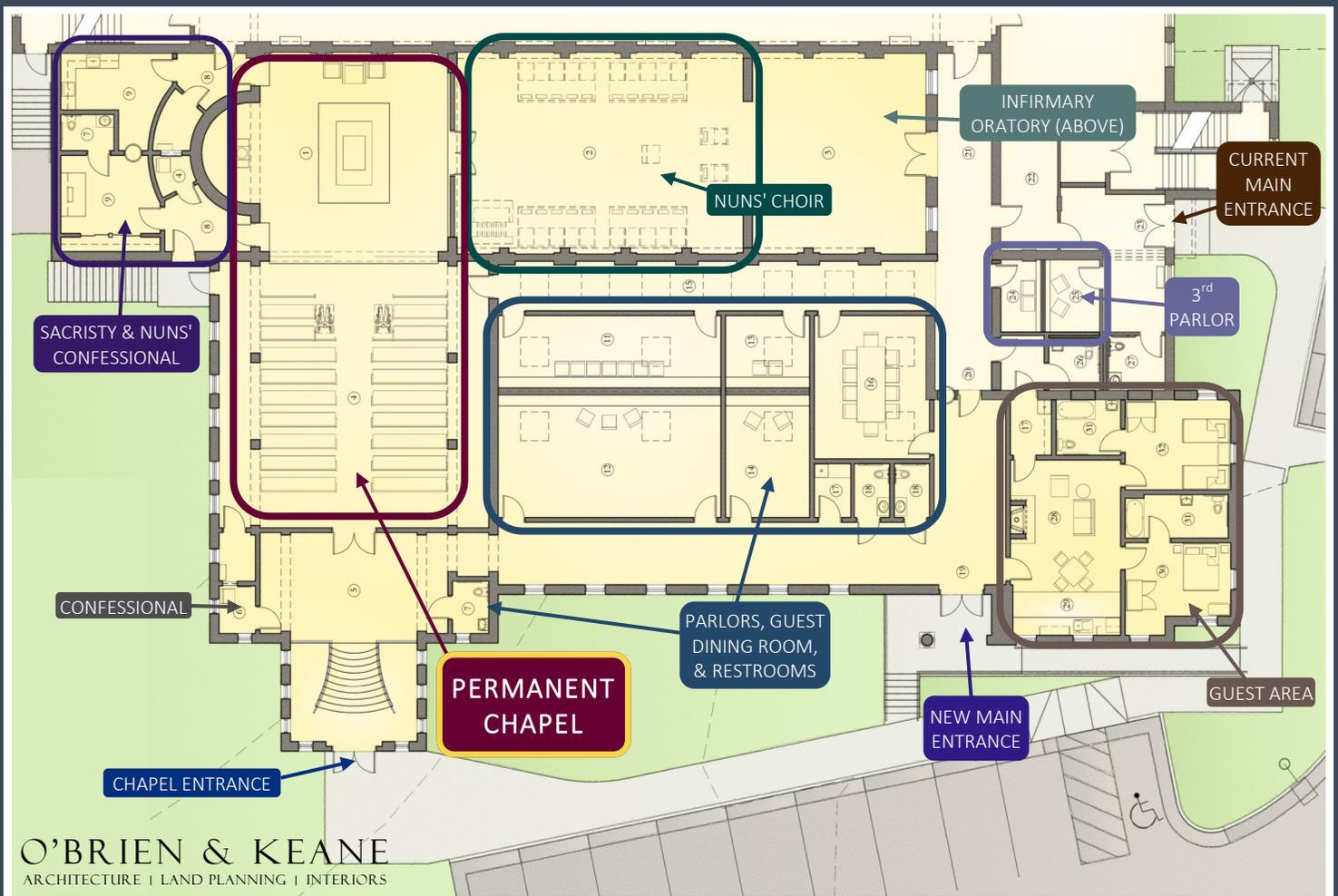
includes eight solemnly professed nuns, with several nuns in formation and other young women who are exploring a vocation. The average age of the nuns at St. Dominic's is 45 with half of the community 34 or younger.

Since the nuns' arrival in Linden in 2008, a number of aspirants have entered for a period of discernment and five young women have persevered and made solemn vows. As a result, living space inside the enclosure is needed to accommodate the current nuns and growing community. The community anticipates that the completed monastery will attract more vocations to the beautiful site on Blue Mountain. *(continued next page)*

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The permanent Chapel, with greater seating capacity, is needed to accommodate the growing number of people who visit St. Dominic's Monastery seeking a tranquil place of prayer. It will offer more visitors an oasis of God's presence in our noisy, distracted world. It will enable the nuns to welcome more of the Faithful for Mass, while inspiring visitors to draw closer to God. The monastery's current small temporary chapel seats twenty-five; the permanent Chapel will seat four times as many.

The nuns moved into the partially completed St. Dominic's Monastery in 2008. Due to lack of funding, the completion of the monastery was postponed.





St. Dominic's Monastery's current building includes the following:

- Temporary Chapel that can seat 25 visitors
- Cells for 24 nuns
- Small infirmary and a refectory that can accommodate 14
- Temporary guest rooms for 2 overnight retreatants
- Small parlor for visitors

Completing St. Dominic's Monastery will add 22,300 sq. ft. for the following:

- Permanent Chapel that seats 110 visitors
- Adequate living space for 24 nuns including larger refectory, chapter room, library, classroom, music room, hermitage, parlors and an infirmary upgrade
- More space for overnight retreatants and visiting families of the nuns

Most importantly, the permanent Chapel and completed monastery will be a discreet but crucial

presence, a silent witness to the truth of God's existence in a world which has become increasingly forgetful of God.

The proposed budget to complete St. Dominic's Monastery and build the Permanent Chapel is \$8.5 million. Through the generosity of many, the nuns have already received \$3 million in gifts for the construction. The nuns are inviting others to join in supporting the completion of St. Dominic's so it can serve as a beacon affirming God's love for those who are seeking His peace and mercy. Truly, this is a rare opportunity to make a lasting positive difference.

Victoria Hughes, a professional fundraiser and longtime friend of the community, serves as the head of our Capital Campaign Committee. She is a parishioner of St. Bridget of Ireland Church, Berryville.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

lindenopnuns.org

The Year of St. Joseph

Entrusting Ourselves to His Faithful Intercession

*T*he Church chants the following words in the Mass Introit for the Solemnity of St. Joseph: “Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over His household.” This liturgical text, brief and yet profound, points to St. Joseph as the wise and steadfast servant of God who cares for those who call upon him. He, to whom God first entrusted Jesus and Mary on earth, now watches over us with a father’s love from heaven.

We at St. Dominic’s can testify to the powerful intercession of St. Joseph. Never has he failed to provide for our spiritual and temporal needs. That is why our community has the custom of reciting together a prayer to St. Joseph each day. For many years we have been praying this prayer, petitioning him for a very special favor: *that God would provide the funds necessary for the*

construction of our permanent Chapel and the completion of our monastery.

It is no mere coincidence then, that this Year of St. Joseph has brought with it a noticeable increase in donations to our monastery, thus enabling us to move forward with plans for construction. Clearly, this is the work of God and He will accomplish it in His perfect timing!

Know that your generosity has been part of St. Joseph's answer to our prayers. We pray that, through his intercession, he may obtain for you and your loved ones every blessing and may abundantly provide for all of your needs. We invite you to join us in praying to St. Joseph that God will bring to completion the good work He has begun.



Prayer to Saint Joseph

(for the construction of the nuns' permanent chapel and the completion of St. Dominic's Monastery)

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful protector and intercessor, you are powerful with God and will never abandon those who call upon you. I implore your intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death and the special favor I now ask: *that God will provide the necessary funds for the construction of the nuns' permanent Chapel and the completion of their monastery.*

Protector of the Universal Church, be with her during these troubled times, and lead us, her members, in the path of holiness and truth.

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I am confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Our God Comes

By Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, O.P.

*O*ur God comes, He keeps silence no longer” (Ps. 50). This is the meaning of the Christian journey from Advent to Christmas: Into the dark silence of a world gone astray from its true destiny, God speaks the Word, who is His Son, and the world becomes bright with the radiance of angelic choirs, adoring shepherds and a star hovering over the manger where Jesus has been lain by His Virgin Mother.

Now the world and all who dwell there have a sure path to happiness and peace in following Jesus Christ, true God and true man, in His way of forgiveness, compassion and love. This journey changes the destiny of the world and offers a new life to those who, as shepherds and wise men of old, come to adore at the crib.

Advent is a season of tranquil prayer and expectation, but the commercialization of Christmas can overwhelm the weeks of waiting for Love Incarnate to come down from heaven to visit the hearts and minds of all believers. We rush into the frenzy of “holiday” gifting and partying and bypass the deep longing of God’s heart to capture us in the net of His unconditional love. The greatest of Christmas presents, God’s love in Jesus Christ, can be forgotten or overlooked. Jesus is the only one who can bring true happiness and His Christmas visitation is one of the highpoints in a Christian’s life of faith.

Advent acts of kindness, moments of prayer or visits to the Blessed Sacrament, generous outreach to the poor



or the praying of a daily rosary turn the hectic demands of this time of year to spiritual profit. Our hearts long for a fruitful journey from Advent to Christmas. A simple effort to be more attentive at Mass can yield a new confidence in the power of God’s grace to sustain our faith and heal our inner wounds. It is never too late to begin.

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*Please consider joining our
St. Catherine
de Ricci Guild
to help support the nuns
on a monthly basis.*



Benefits of membership:

- A perpetual membership in the Monastery's Eucharistic Adoration Association, which includes a weekly Mass for your intentions and a daily remembrance in the prayers and good works of the nuns.
- An invitation to join the nuns for Vespers on a Sunday evening in the fall, an opportunity to meet and greet the nuns, followed by a wine and cheese reception at a nearby winery.

Visit our website for more details on how to register to make a monthly donation through Faith Direct: www.lindenopnuns.org.

Mass Times:
Friday & Sunday: 11:00 a.m.
Remaining weekdays:
Usually at 7:00 a.m.

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**For Prayer Intentions
and Vocation Inquiries:**
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