



VERITAS

Dominican Congregation of St. Mary

Vol. XIII, No. 6-8, Dec. 2004 - Feb. 2005

17 St. Mary's to St. Louis for Cluster: *Inter-congregational assembly Feb. 18-20 draws 340+*

The long-awaited, thoroughly planned meeting of the Cluster of seven Dominican Congregations coming together in St. Louis is slated for Feb. 15-18. Seventeen of St. Mary's sisters plan to attend.

Therese Leckert, who also serves as assistant (formerly "Vicar General") to St. Mary's prioress

Angeline Magro, and who ministers four days a week at St. Mary's Dominican High School, chairs the Cluster Coordinating Committee. For detailed information about the Cluster, replete with photos and interviews including many St. Mary's sisters attending the September gatherings in Columbus (200 sisters) and New Orleans (158), see their Fall 2004 newsletter at dominicancluster.org/

Looking forward to this February assembly, St. Mary's own **Robin Richard**, who has sister friends in all seven congregations, said at the September meeting: "We heard St. Paul's hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance. That really touched me... I've

Alliance - Cluster - Federation

Before there was a Cluster, there was the Dominican Alliance, which now has eleven member congregations. There is also a federa-

tion of Dominican Sisters, USA (7000 sisters, 2000 associates). St. Mary's was involved in the beginnings of all three, and continues to be. See dominicans.us/Federation

been waiting for congregational walls to come down... I have wonderful hopes for the Cluster with a new birth for all of us!"

Delia McDonald said "how wonderful it is to be part of a group where all these tremendous works are being done. Each of us is doing our own small part, but when you realize how outreaching, and what a force to be reckoned with this Cluster will become, it's really exciting..."

The gathering in St. Louis represents the third in a seven-cycle plan of discernment which began in 2003. Here, members from the seven congregations will evaluate reflections from the working groups following up the September 2004 meetings in Columbus and New Orleans. These reflections will be shaped into viable alternatives for reconfiguration, naming potentials and limitations. The alternatives will be considered separately in each congregation in summer 2005.

Dorothy Dawes noted that the fruit is already being reaped in closer collaboration

It's becoming more and more evident that we need to look up from the desk... and realize that working in the context of one... congregation is no longer enough. We are looking at new ways of connecting.

Anne Lythgoe, OP.
Dominican Communicators Network, Jan. 2005



Cluster: a dominican journey in faith

Pray for...

Elsie Doskey McCarthy, 65, **Betty's** sister, died February 7 of pancreatic cancer.

Mary C. Daniel's brother, Albert, who died December 26.

Sr. André Becker, O.S.U., sister of Sr. Gertrude, died recently. Both made retreat with the community at St. Mary's for several years.

Judene's cousin, Violet Peterson, 74, died recently in Iowa. Joseph Culotta, **Mary Ann's** uncle, died Jan. 19 in New Orleans.

Mariana Wood, OP HOUSTON, died Jan. 2 of cancer. Ana was a great friend to all.

Dorothy Stang, SND DE N, 74, died as a martyr Feb. 12 among the poor in Brazil.

At the motherhouse

St. Mary's welcomes a new member of the motherhouse community, **Sister Mary Osanna Hymel**, who ministered for many years at St. Joan of Arc School in LaPlace. Sister was school librarian, and has brought her skills to the motherhouse library. Recently she has been helping out at St. Anthony of Padua School library.

Sister Rosemary of Zambia, see page 3.

From the editor

Thanks to **Janie Brock and Dorothy Frank** for stamp \$, etc. for Veritas. Dorothy and Diane have moved, and are still very active in their parish, St. Stephen's. Janie thanks all who have been praying for her wellness.

Religious Pioneers will soon be on WRBH, Radio for the Blind, 88.3 FM, 2:30 - 3 PM weekdays, authors and volunteers reading. Our book now has her ISBN; a few left of the first printing, and we plan to reprint in paperback before long.

See Iraqi insert from Dominicans for Peace.

On the www:

dominicancluster.org/ NEW!
dominican-sisters.net/stmarys/
stmarysdominican.org/ (DHS)
dominicancollegealumnae.org/
dominicanconferencecenter.org/
rosaryville.org/
religiouspioneers.org/

Veritas is edited by Dorothy Dawes, OP, and published quarterly by St. Mary's Congregation, New Orleans. Views expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the administration. Deadline for news items is the fifteenth of the month (but check for delays). News may be sent to the editor: <dawes@dominican-sisters.net> or 504-861-8155. *Veritas* is circulated to sisters of St. Mary, to St. Mary's Dominican Associates, and to others in the Dominican family. May be copied with permission.



Happy jubilee year
 to **Sister Marguerite Brou (1945)**
 and **Sister Mary Teresa Mittelbronn (1930)!**

Coming up

Feb. 18-20 IN ST. LOUIS: Cluster Assembly - Third Cycle. See page 1.

Sat, Feb. 19, 4 PM AT OUR LADY OF WISDOM: Memorial Mass for **Sr. M. Aloysius Ott**.

Thurs, Feb. 24- Sun, Feb. 27 AT DCC: Dominican Alliance Eco-Justice meeting

Sat, Feb. 26 ON DHS CAMPUS: St. Mary's Dominican Gala, 6:30 PM or 8 -12 PM.

Sun, Feb. 27 AT ST. RITA'S: Archdiocesan jubilee Mass & reception. *Rsvp by Feb. 18.*

Fri, Mar. 11, 4 -5 PM AT VERITAS HALL: Cluster task force & subcommittees.

Sat, Mar. 12 IN MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL: 9 AM Mass, 9:30-NOON, NOFDA meeting; lunch.

Apr. 16, 17, 22-24, DHS play. Save a date!

May 28-29, Congregation Assembly: Cluster Fourth Cycle.

June 3-10, Motherhouse Retreat

In, out, and about . . .

On Dec. 12, **Mary C. Daniel**, St. Mary's Promoter of Preaching, gathered a circle of St. Mary's sisters who delved deeply into the meaning of Preaching in their lives. Present were **Angeline, Dorothy D, Robin, Jeanne, Jordan, Lorraine, Robin, Rose, Shirley**, and **Therese**.



"Igniting our Passion for Mission: Authority, Accountability, Responsibility" was the topic for a Formation Conference Jan. 15-16 at Our Lady of Wisdom, presented by **Maria Beesing**, OP, and **Ann Walters**, OP, directors of the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in St. Louis. St. Mary's sisters attending were **Angeline, Carmelite, Delia, Hilary, Jeanne, Joel, Lorraine, Mary, Rose**, and **Waldia**.



Foreseeing that the Super Bowl would conflict with Mardi Gras parades, Srs. **M. Jeanne** and **Lorraine** invited all to a pre-Bowl open house at their new location, St. Dominic Community, 2222 Lowerline, on Jan. 23. Guests included **Angeline, Carmelite, Colette, Dorothy D., Joan, Joel, Jordan, Mary, Robin, Rose**, and **Therese**. Family pet, Mini-Schnauzer **Annie**, helped with the gracious hosting.

Also on Jan. 23 was the St. Peter's, Reserve, 75th anniversary celebration, where **Angeline** was presented a plaque in appreciation of all the sisters who taught at the school since it began in 1930.

"A Conversation on Stem Cell Research" was presented Jan. 23 by Jayaraman Rao, MD, neurologist, and Kevin Wildes, SJ, bioethicist, also the new president of Loyola. **Mary C. Daniel** arranged for the enlightening program, which provided key distinctions in areas of confusion.

Mary was awarded a scholarship by the Parkinson's Action Network in recognition of "qualifications that make you an

outstanding advocate for increased federal funding for Parkinson's research." She attended the Parkinson's Action Network 11th Annual Forum in Washington, DC Feb. 5-9. "Visiting Congresspersons on Capitol Hill was an invigorating experience, especially with (her cousin) **Sen. Mary Landrieu** and **Rep. Bobby Jindal**. Our group from Louisiana know we were heard because we have results already," Mary said.



Sr. Rosemary (OP ZAMBIA) visited the motherhouse Jan. 3 with **Sr. Jo Ann** (OP COLUMBUS) Rosemary is studying at Ohio Dominican, (St. Mary of the Springs). She presented an inspiring prayer service, and slides illustrating their ministry, thanking the sisters for their generous support, especially in preventing AIDS among infants in their ministry.



On Feb. 10, **Sisters M. Carmelite, Jeanne, Paulette**, and **Waldia** joined with **Archbishop Alfred Hughes** and sisters of the archdiocese for "Vespers in Celebration of Consecrated Life," and a reception.



Thirteen Dominican Volunteers USA were guests at the Conference Center Feb. 18-20 for their midyear retreat. They joined the motherhouse sisters for the midday meals. **Sr. M. Jeanne**, who serves on the DVUSA Corporate Board and the Board of Trustees, hosted the group.



Angeline announced Jan. 21 that **Mary Herbert**, DHS '73, has been accepted by the congregation as an affiliate (six months to two years). **Rose Bowen**, as Affiliate Director, will assist her in fulfilling the requirements for candidacy (postulancy). Mary is Chief Financial Officer of the Orleans Levee Board. *Welcome, Mary!*

In appreciation to the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Mary, New Orleans, for their contribution to Catholic education at St. Peter School, Reserve, LA, and for the pursuit of religious and academic excellence instilled in the hearts of their students.

-- presented on the 75th anniversary of the opening of St. Peter School, January 23, 2005



Lois Marie Quigley – Sister Mary André, O.P.

Nov. 11, 1933 – Dec. 12, 2004

Lois Rosalie Marie Quigley was the fourth of eight children, first daughter of Marguerite Di Primo and Malvin Quigley. The first child died accidentally as a toddler; she had four surviving brothers and two sisters. She was born in the depths of the Great Depression to parents who gave their children middle names for the saint of their day of birth, managing somehow to send them to St. Matthias parochial school. Lois joined the band. When asked, "What did she play?" one of her brothers said, "She played the flag." The band uniform was important to her, for she loved her school, and the Dominican nuns who taught there. She was small, wiry, and a natural athlete, dedicated in competition. Sister Mary Anne McSweeney taught her in fourth and fifth grades, and continued as her dear friend and confidante till the end. At age twelve she used to go in her free time with two friends to the convent chapel to help young Sister Mary Isabel, and knew then that she wanted to be a sister. Lois found her opportunity after the sisters opened their aspiranture in Rosaryville, offering a high school program preparatory to entrance as a postulant.

Lois was energetic; she worked hard, and did all things well. In religious life, she took the name André, choosing the Canadian Brother André as her patron, and remembering her family's pastor, Fr. George André, who had died when she was seven. She found her niche in teaching with the challenging primary level, and later in religious instruction, preparing children for the sacraments. In the span of her fifty years as a nun, she overcame obstacles with grace and a disarming simplicity, willing always to be who she was; she knew how to pray, to work, and to play, and did each with equal fervor, intensely present to the moment.

Sister Mary André earned her Masters' degree in education at Oklahoma State University, and was pleased to be offered an assistantship as a Reading Specialist. In 1975 she became principal at Chanel Interparochial in Paulina. Eventually she moved

into her specialty as religion coordinator, and served fourteen years in that ministry at St. Theresa School in Gonzales.



She found a variety of ways to be of service: At St. Anthony's Camp Padua, she put in many hot summer days with multicultural groups of children, working creatively with her longtime friend Jay Sullivan. As a busy health care coordinator for the motherhouse, she worked part time at St. Clement of Rome parish in their religion program. For the sisters, she efficiently coordinated Jubilee Celebrations over many years. The occasions went smoothly: in managing an event, André was typically calm, cool and collected. She was unfailingly generous, always responding to a need, or a request; the recipient of her favor would have no clue of how inconvenient it might have been for her. She was famous for calling *everybody* "Sugah" in her unaffected, unvarnished New Orleans accent.

In 1970, she quietly became the first sister to actively participate in a Mardi Gras Krewe, parade, and ball, until 2004. Her brothers laughed at how she economized on beads, throwing them sparingly from the float, recycling beads, year after year. She did her part in the Krewe of Rhea as she did everything, unselfconsciously, without fanfare. It was part of her devotion to her family, and she thoroughly enjoyed it.

As she gradually came to terms with, and made peace with her cancer, she had an enormous yellow poster covering the wall beside her infirmary bed with the words made famous by Lance Armstrong: "LIVE STRONG!" It was signed by every child and adult in the St. Theresa's School community in Gonzales, her final mission, where she was so greatly loved and appreciated.

Sr. Waldia Warden, her novitiate classmate, was a special one of her many longtime friends: For her eulogy and a collection of photos from Sr. M. André's dynamic life, lived for God with all her strength, see "Memorials": www.dominican-sisters.net