



Joyful Praise



Dear friends,

May the feast of St. Dominic find Christ's own peace abiding in your hearts! As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of our monastery's dedication to the service of the Lord, we have a lot to praise and thank God for. He has indeed *"looked with favour on his lowly servants,"* and we are blessed beyond measure. In humble gratitude, we want to share some of the marvelous works God has done in our community over the past year. As we joyfully *"offer a sacrifice of praise"* in the liturgy, in study, in manual labour and enjoyment of God's creation, we pray, in union with you and our world: *"Grant us peace; Lord, grant us peace."*

"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." (Mt. 9:38)

In the fall, the Lord blessed us with a bumper crop from our organic gardens. From kneading and fermenting sauerkraut in stoneware crocks for our refectory table, to sharing fresh vegetables with the local parish in return for donations, our hearts overflowed with gratitude (and our freezers with zucchini and rhubarb!)

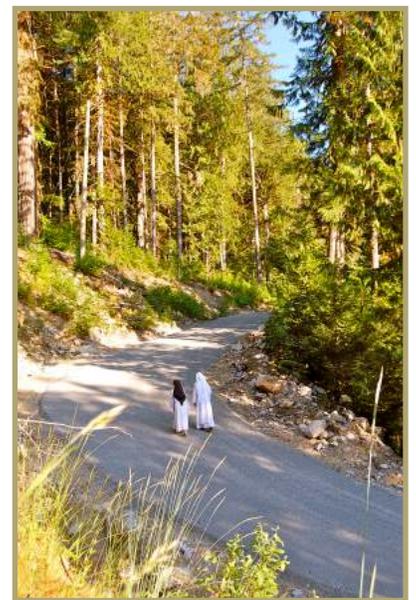


The "harvest" continued on October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, as Sister Marie Thomas of the Divine Word received the holy habit of St. Dominic. Born in Prince Rupert in northern British Columbia, and raised in Whistler, Sister is so grateful to be able to answer God's call in her "home and native land" of Canada. Please pray for her perseverance and joy in the Lord!

In November, Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, (formerly of the diocese of Prince George) blessed our annual retreat with his wise and faith-filled preaching on God's Mercy. Even a mid-retreat flood couldn't distract us from reaping this harvest! What better way to conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee Year united with Pope Francis?



Speaking of floods, thanks to your generous support we raised our well house (*see left*) and finished the emergency road on the east side of our property (*see right*). This means that the community will have safe drinking water and a way for medical personnel to get in and out, even if the main driveway is damaged or underwater.



Blessed be God!



And we can't mention "harvests" without expressing our heartfelt gratitude for our local labourers in the Lord's vineyard—particularly Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, the priests of our archdiocese, and our friends in surrounding communities—who brave snow, floods and the occasional herd of elk to minister to our spiritual and temporal needs. May the Lord reward you a thousandfold for your generosity, and grant you His own joy in the harvest!

"I shall bless the Lord at all times; praise of Him is always in my mouth." (Ps. 34)

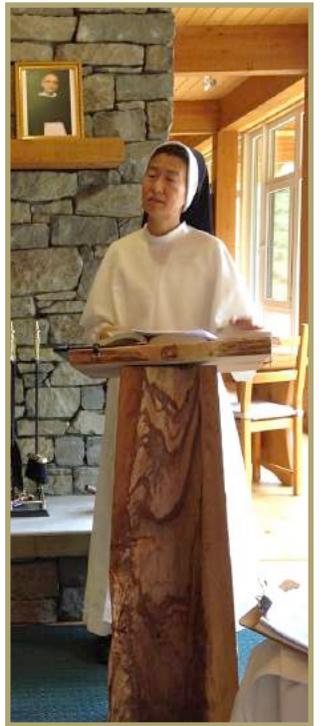


*Have you ever
considered
remembering
Queen of Peace
Monastery in your
will?*



*“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart;
and you will find rest for your souls.” (Mt. 11:29)*

In the New Year, God blessed us with an abundance of initial and ongoing formation classes. Carole Ouellet returned in January for another intense week of instruction on the kora, a West African instrument that enhances our liturgy. The novices studied monastic history with Sr. Denise Marie, OP, of our Summit NJ monastery, and liturgy with Fr. Michael Monshau OP, via Internet video conferencing.



As these classes unfolded, we had the joy of “meeting” brothers and sisters from at least ten other communities or orders! We pray that these bonds of friendship built while studying will last long after the Internet links expire.

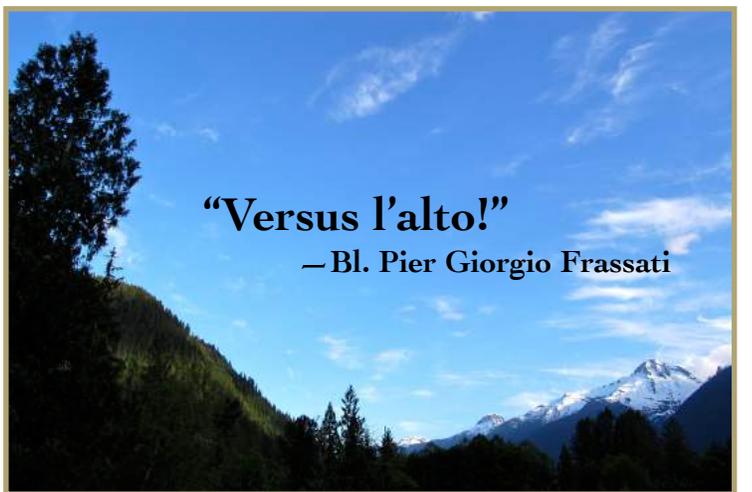


In the non-digital realm, Sr. Gabriella Yi, OP, of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation visited in May to give the whole community a lecture series on Christology in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. And, of course, individual sisters continue to study and pray over everything from papermaking and Patristics to woodcarving and God’s Word!

A final blessing of the spring was a visit by Papal Nuncio Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, who combined a joy-filled fraternal visit with several rich and soaring talks on the Holy Trinity—just in time for Trinity Sunday.

We close with a heartfelt word of thanks to each and every one of you for sustaining us in our lives of prayer, and for your prayers. Your faith, intentions and trust in God inspire us on a daily basis to *“give praise to the Lord, for He is good; his mercy endures forever;”* and to offer more fully our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord. United in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, we *“always give thanks to God for you.”*

Until next time, in the words of a 20th century lay Dominican especially loved by our novices:



“Versus l’alto!”
— Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

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