



# MONASTERY BELLS

LIFE WITH THE CLOISTERED DOMINICAN NUNS

website: [www.lufkintxnuns.org](http://www.lufkintxnuns.org)

Blog: <http://lufkintxcontemplativenunsop.blogspot.com>

Fall 2012

MONASTERY OF THE INFANT JESUS 1501 LOTUS LANE LUFKIN, TX 75904

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH



Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year of Faith, beginning October 11, 2012 and ending November 24, 2013. In his apostolic letter *Porta Fidei*, the Pope said, "It is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize. Today as in the past, he sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the peoples of the earth." As you will read in this issue of *Monastery Bells*, we are trying to do our part to evangelize—even from inside the cloister!

### FAITHFUL - FOR 50 YEARS...

On April 28, 2012, Sister Miriam of the Precious Blood, OP renewed the vows she first professed 50 years ago. Little did she know then where her Dominican vocation would lead her! Sister Miriam began her Dominican monastic life at the Monastery of St. Dominic in La Crosse, WI (now relocated to Linden, VA).



Eventually, Sister transferred to our monastery in Lufkin, but before she could come, God called her to spend a few years at the Dominican monastery in Nairobi, Kenya! In 1999, she made one other missionary trip to help found the new monastery of Queen of Peace in western Canada, but is now settled permanently here in Lufkin. Sister is currently in charge of the Infant Jesus Guild department, where she answers mail and sends out prayer cards and enrollments. We wish Sister Miriam many more years of prayer and faithful devotion to our Lord!



### ...AND FOR 60!

On July 2, 2012, Sister Mary Lucy of the Incarnation, OP celebrated 60 years of Dominican contemplative life. At 89, Sister is still getting around on her own two feet (with the help of a walker) and still playing the violin at Mass and other special occasions. Her fidelity to prayer and her determination to stay mentally and physically active are an inspiration to us all!



### FAITH-FILLED FRIARS



FR. BRUNO, OP

On July 10, 2012, Fr. Bruno Cadore, Master of the Order and his vicar, Fr. Ed Ruane, paid a brief visit to our monastery. There was only time for some quick photos and an hour of conversation, but we will long remember what Fr. Bruno told us about the nuns and their preaching role in the Order. "One way of preaching for the nuns is liturgical prayer," he said. "The energy of the prayer is a reality. The fact that every day, 20 or 30 sisters

try to pray, try to be silent, try to open the way from the earth to the sky, knowing that they are not those who open the way, but go step by step with the One Who does it... I think this is one of the missions of the Order.

The nuns do this in the name of all the Order." He continued, "You have to pray, and you have to sing, and you have to wait for the Lord's Presence...not for yourselves, but for the world." We were greatly encouraged by Fr. Bruno's words and inspired to continue to make our choral prayers beautiful and reverent, in order to reach many more people—those who visit us in person and those we will never know who benefit in some mysterious way from our prayers. We hope Fr. Bruno will be able to make another (perhaps longer?) visit to our monastery before his term as Master ends in 2019!



*Faith is an invitation.* To what? *A celebration.*

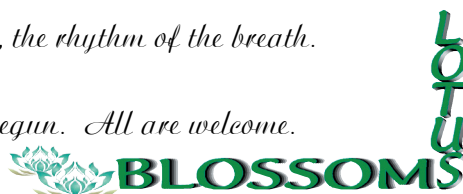
Who will be there? *The Host. The guest.*

Will there be music? *The beating of the heart, the rhythm of the breath.*

*"Be still and know that I am God." PS. 46:10*

*A mutual gaze. A dance. The feast has begun. All are welcome.*

*"Lord, it is good that we are here." MK. 9:5*

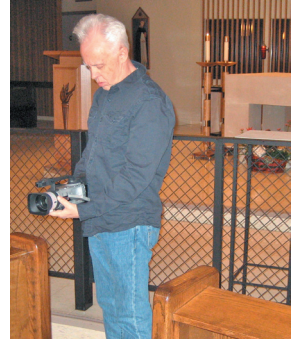


## SPREADING THE FAITH: THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

In keeping with the New Evangelization, we have been gradually expanding our media presence. Our newsletter, “Monastery Bells”, is sent out several times a year and helps keep our readers up to date on life within our cloister. You can see more pictures and learn more about our Dominican monastic life through our newly redesigned website. It has a **new** address, too: [www.lufkintxnuns.org](http://www.lufkintxnuns.org). You can submit prayer requests at the website as well.



If you're interested in more current news about the monastery, we encourage you to check out our blog, <http://lufkintxcontemplativenunsop.blogspot.com>, where we post commentaries on the lives of the saints and mysteries of the faith, occasional spiritual meditations, as well as monastery happenings. We're also happy to announce that two friends of the Monastery, Elaine Jackson (former journalism instructor) and Professor Reg Reynolds from Angelina College in Lufkin are putting together a documentary about the monastery. Elaine is working on the text and Reg is filming a series of videos to correspond with the text about our life. We hope to post these on YouTube soon—and we will have links to the videos on our website and blog, too, so they will be easy to locate. Through these, and other ways (such as “twittering” God in prayer and visiting him on his “facebook page”—the Bible!) we hope to do our part in helping to evangelize the world in the 21st century.



This lovely picture of St. Dominic was painted by the late Joe Stabile and is a favorite of ours. We include it here as a tribute to him. May he rest in peace.

## STUDYING THE FAITH



This August we had our third year of the Monastic Theological Studies Program. The topics for study were Patristics (the study of the Church Fathers), taught by Professor Noel Pretila from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, and Moral Theology, taught by Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, OP, professor at Providence College in Providence, RI, and well known for his work in bioethics. We are delighted to announce that Professor Noel Pretila successfully defended his doctoral thesis and became Dr. Noel Pretila just a few days after leaving us! Congratulations!



DR. NOEL PRETILA



FR. NICANOR AUSTRACO, OP

## I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. 2 TIM. 4: 7

Jesse Earl “Jay” Cormier, a dear friend of the Monastery, died August 16, 2012 at the age of 75. He will be greatly missed by all of the sisters, who remember his many kindnesses toward us, and especially the delicious “Cajun” Thanksgiving dinners he cooked for us for many years. A special Mass was offered for Jay at the Monastery and a tree will be planted here in his memory. We are so grateful for Jay’s friendship over the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Karen, and his children and grandchildren. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.



## GENERATING NEW FRIENDS

Several months ago, some of our benefactors and friends formed a group called Friends of the Monastery to promote financial support for the nuns here at the Monastery. Through their financial support, they are able to share in our prayers and good works. On behalf of the Friends, we invite you to join them!

This group has no officers and no meetings. The Friends do not collect any money. All of the donations, contributions, etc., go directly to the Monastery of the Infant Jesus.

The Friends’ first project is a generator to supply power in the Monastery infirmary and walk-in freezer and refrigerator in case weather conditions shut the electricity off for a long period of time as happened several years ago following a hurricane. Even a short period without electricity can be difficult for sisters in the infirmary, who are mostly elderly and ill and sometimes require medical equipment that needs electricity. Several experts are now studying the generator needs to determine the scope of this project. We need a lot more Friends to join in raising the money needed to purchase the generator. Thank you so much to everyone who has already responded to this project!

If you’d like to donate to the Generator Fund, please mark your contribution accordingly. If you prefer to give to the Monastery on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis, that is great also. We are now able to accept donations (and you can receive our greeting cards) on our website and on our blog, through **PayPal and credit card**. We also accept checks or cash. And you may wish to remember the Monastery in your will.

The Friends of the Monastery are building an email database of people who are interested in helping the nuns. If you would like to be included in the database, please send an email to Elaine Jackson at [ejackson1941@yahoo.com](mailto:ejackson1941@yahoo.com). For further information, you can email Elaine or call her at (936) 632-5914. Thank you so much for your support of the Monastery of the Infant Jesus and for being our Friends! You are always in our prayers!