Continuing Education
MISSION STATEMENT
We, the Houston Dominican Sisters, publicly commit ourselves to study and address the crucial justice issues of our times. We assume the risks inherent in preaching and teaching the gospel. We will work to transform social structures which oppress the powerless, ministering with them in our common struggle to remain faithful to the Word of God. 1991

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT
We, the Houston Dominican Sisters, commit ourselves to a deepening of personal and communal spiritual life which grounds us and moves us to action. We will develop a consciousness of local and global environmental issues; we will live and act in an ecologically responsible manner. We will advocate the transformation of those social conditions which oppress women and children. We will sensitize ourselves to racial discrimination and commit ourselves to work for equality for all persons, especially those caught in systemic discrimination. 1992

CORPORATE COMMITMENT
We, the Houston Dominicans, moved to a strong reaffirmation of our Mission and Directional Statements, pledge ourselves to renewed accountability for the commitments they embody. With one voice we claim our Dominican tradition as “Communities of the Holy Preaching,” and embrace our call to be women preachers of justice. 1997

LEADERSHIP
Marygrace Peters, O.P. Prioress
Adrian Dover, O.P. Vicaress
Pat Casey, O.P. Councilor
Antoinette Carter, O.P. Councilor

The Good News is published twice a year by the Dominican Sisters of Houston, Texas 6501 Almeda Rd. Houston, TX 77021-2095 713-747-3310 Fax: 713-747-4707 E-mail: houstonop@domhou.org

We welcome correspondence at the above address.

Printed on Recycled Paper

FROM THE PRIORESS

Educational tradition

This edition of the Good News has a clear emphasis. Nothing is more natural to Dominican life than study and the mission of education. When universities were new to the medieval cities of Europe, the Dominicans were among the first to engage their efforts to promote the intellectual life. We Houston Dominicans have retained the zest for the educational mission in all of its aspects for nearly 125 years. We celebrate that in many ways in this issue. One installment of the Good News cannot comprehensively embrace all of the ways in which education is central to our life and mission, but we are happy to highlight a few and to rejoice with you over them now.

I recently reread the text of a speech by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, delivered on September 14, 2005, to a conference on Catholic elementary and secondary education at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Many of you may remember that prior to his appointment to the Vatican in 2003, he was president of St. Thomas University here in Houston. The speech was titled “Characteristics of Catholic Schools,” and I recommend it to anyone interested in the role of Catholic education in the world. Archbishop Miller describes several components which must be present if a school is to have a genuinely Catholic identity: inspired by a supernatural vision, founded on a Christian anthropology, animated by communion and community, imbued with a Catholic worldview, and sustained by the witness of teaching.

The articles in this issue of the Good News reveal some of the ways in which Houston Dominican Sisters embody Catholic principles and continue the mission of education to build up the community of believers, evangelize culture and serve the common good of society, be it in our community-owned high schools like St. Agnes Academy, at the completion of its 100th anniversary year, or at St. Pius X High School marking its 50th anniversary year, in literacy programs, Guatemala, or wherever it is that we find ourselves engaged in the ministry of education. Thank you for partnering in this mission with us.

Marygrace Peters, O.P.
Two schools celebrate Dominican legacy

The Dominican Order has a rich history of preaching the Gospel. As part of the Order of Preachers, the female communities historically lived out their charism as teachers.

The Dominican Sisters of Houston can point to two thriving high schools as examples of their own contribution to Dominican education: St. Agnes Academy and St. Pius X High School, both of which are marking milestone anniversaries.

St. Agnes has just finished its 100th jubilee year, while St. Pius is beginning its year-long celebration of 50 years.

**St. Agnes Academy**

Sr. Jane Meyer, head of school at St. Agnes and an alumna, is proud to work alongside the “outstanding faculty, staff, Board of Directors and Foundation Board. All are committed and dedicated to furthering the mission of St. Agnes.” A former teacher herself, Sr. Jane is quick to point out that “teachers are the heart of our school – they are the ones that breathe life into our Dominican mission.”

St. Agnes Academy was founded in 1905 by Mother Pauline Gannon, opening to students in February 1906. The school was originally located on Fannin Street, close to what would become bustling downtown Houston.

In 1963, the school moved to its current Sharpstown location, taking its stained glass, its stairs and its spirit with it.

Sr. Jane points to this move as one of two milestones of note in the school’s history; the second being its centennial.

“St. Agnes Academy is now located 9000 Bellaire Blvd. The Dominican tradition and Academy education continues from Fannin Street to Bellaire Boulevard.”

Sisters Francis Assisi Scanlon and Thomas Aquinas (Ruth) Coburn, principal, open the cafeteria expansion at St. Pius X High School with the help of David Pope in the mid-70’s.

“In connection with our centennial,” she said, “we have entered a major capital campaign to raise $12 million to build a Center for the Sciences and Student Services Center, to renovate our Fine Arts Center, to renovate our chapel and to increase our endowment fund.” Sr. Jane said that construction has begun on the two new buildings, and they will open in June 2007.

Sr. Jane’s own experience at St. Agnes led to her religious vocation: “The Dominican Sisters were wonderful role models. Not only did they exude a spiritual dimension in their lives, they were happy and they had fun. They were marvelous teachers, and we knew they loved us. I wanted to serve the Church and I wanted to teach.”

So in 1981, Sr. Jane found herself in the administration at St. Agnes and has been there since.

“I feel blessed, as an alumna, to have been part of the past, privileged to be an active participant in the education of our present young women, and am energized and committed to securing the future for our young women yet to come.”

And that future looks... 

**Continued on Page 4**

---

**Inside this Issue**

Page 2: Letter from the Prioress
Pages 3-4: Two schools celebrate Dominican legacy
Page 5: At the School in Guatemala
St. Catherine’s Montessori
Pages 6-9: Our Partners in Mission
Page 9: Mystery Sister, T’ai Chi news
Page 10: Getting to Know:
Srs. Barbara Ann Collins and Julian Giglio
Page 11: Dominican Family Ties
Back page: Calendar of Events

**On the Cover**

Pictured in the left column are students at St. Agnes Academy, from Fannin Street Girls to Academy Women. In the right column are images from St. Pius X High School. Photos from St. Agnes Academy, St. Pius X High School and the Dominican Sisters’ Archives.

---

www.houstonop.org Fall 2006 The Good News, Page 3
bright. With enrollment continuing to increase — the current ninth-grade class is the largest ever at 235, the senior class is also the largest ever at 208, with total enrollment at 849, the highest ever except for the period when Katrina evacuees were counted — Fannin Street Girls and Academy Women will continue to carry on the Dominican legacy.

Sr. Jane’s pride in the school shows: “At St. Agnes, we have always empowered our girls to stand tall, to be proud and confident, to speak up, to be women of prayer, to have a sense of purpose, a love of justice and service; a call to lead with integrity and compassion; and a commitment to community and family life – the hallmark of a Dominican Education.”

St. Pius X High School

Sr. Donna Pollard first came to St. Pius X as a teacher and coach. She left to complete the novitiate and graduate studies, then returned as head of school in 1991. Sr. Donna has served the school for 22 years and counting.

Her synopsis of the school: “We have a diverse student body, faculty and staff (ethnically, socio-economically, racially, and degrees of ability), who have now taken on the Dominican charism as their own — they have fully embraced the pillars of prayer, study, community and preaching and truly see themselves as Dominican.”

Sr. Donna points out that St. Pius, celebrating 50 years of education, is the only one of the three Catholic high schools founded in 1956 still owned, operated and administered by a religious community.

Three of the six women who founded the school participated in the Golden Jubilee celebration on September 17: Sr. Doloretta Bieter, Sr. Margaret Conrad and Marion Pongrace.

St. Pius’ enrollment remains steady at more than 600 students annually over the course of 12 years. “The class of 2006 had 171 graduates — the third largest class in the history of the school,” according to Sr. Donna. She said their highest enrollment was 690 students.

Sr. Donna is particularly proud of St. Pius’ diversified curriculum that seeks to accommodate students’ learning differences. The school has a committee working to add staff and expand facilities for this program.

St. Agnes Academy students pray in the school’s chapel.

St. Agnes Academy and St. Pius X High School can look different from the outside — comparing a 100-year-old school for young women to a 50-year-old co-ed institution. Sr. Donna sees similarities, though. “In both of our schools, we have strong mission statements that flow out of the Dominican Sisters of Houston Mission Statement, Directional Statement and Corporate Commitment. My vocation energizes me to continue this mission in and through our students, faculty and staff. Our congregation and both schools have a strong emphasis on social justice and in continuing a comprehensive service learning program for our students.”

Along with offering an excellent education, both schools are passing the Dominican legacy on to another generation, the next preachers.

While the Dominican Sisters of Houston prepare to celebrate their own anniversary — 125 years in Texas — these two schools are only two examples of the many schools where the sisters have made a mark.

Patrick Spedale, director of campus ministry at St. Pius X High School, performed as St. Dominic at the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference, attended by students and faculty from both St. Agnes and St. Pius.
In 1966, Sr. Edna Ann Hebert and Sr. Shirley Owens began a two-room preschool in the old St. Agnes Academy Auditorium. This school served 45 children from ages three to six. The sisters envisioned an environment where children — regardless of race, religion or economic background — could meet their highest potential through Montessori education.

Their dream was St. Catherine Montessori, and now it’s been realized!

After being housed by other Dominican schools, St. Catherine got its own facility in 1983. Located in a former armaments museum near Reliant Park, the school ran out of space as the enrollment continued to grow.

After a five-year capital campaign, St. Catherine Montessori began the school year in its new facility.

Montessori celebrated its grand opening at its new location at 9821 Timberside, a part of Stella Link Redevelopment Association’s South Campus in Southwest Houston.

This new facility is LEED certified: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a national standard for high-performance “green” buildings. It is one of the first buildings in the greater Houston area with the certification.

St. Catherine is the only Catholic Montessori school in Houston that serves preschool through ninth-grade students. This vibrant community represents more than 11 countries and six religious denominations.

With an emphasis on faith and a sensitivity to diversity, St. Catherine continues to educate and inspire young people today thanks to the vision of the Dominican Sisters.

Sr. Edna Ann still teaches at St. Catherine Montessori. Beginning in August 2000, she became director of The Reading Center, a non-profit, donation-funded center that provides individualized reading instruction to children with reading challenges from public or private schools. Sr. Shirley Owens is now Montessori Director at Sacred Heart School in Rockport, Texas.

The Houston Chronicle published a story about Sr. Theresa Macey’s 40 years of service in Guatemala in its Saturday, August 12, edition. If you are interested in sponsoring a student or would like to receive a copy of the article, contact Sr. Fran Boddeker at 713-747-3310, ext. 335.
Thanks to each of you for your continued support and friendship. With our gratitude, Mass is offered monthly in the chapel at St. Dominic Villa for friends and benefactors of the Dominican Sisters of Houston and for our Guatemala Mission beneficiaries. A monthly Mass is also offered in honor or in memory of those for whom memorial donations have been made. We would like to acknowledge the following donors for their gifts from January 1-June 30, 2006. Your gifts enable the sisters to strengthen and continue their ministry.

Sr. Jane Abell was named the Pax Christi Texas Peacemaker of the Year at Pax Christi Texas’ annual retreat. She’s pictured with Stephanie Weber, Associate Promoter of Peace and Justice, left, and Sr. Cell Roeger, Promoter of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation for the Houston Dominicans and Justice Resource Person for the Dominican Alliance.
Jubilee 2006 consisted of three celebrations. First, the sisters celebrating 60, 50 and 25 years in the community renewed their vows with more than 800 friends and family present at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on Saturday, Aug. 5. The next day, a special service was held for Sr. Miriam Ulm and the Golden Jubilarians, as Sr. Miriam is still recovering from her fall last year. Finally, two sisters commemorated 75 years as Dominicans during a family celebration at the Villa on Sept. 8.

This special pull-out section was not designed as a retelling of those celebrations, because they were truly unique events. It is meant as a special keepsake for those who were there, a glimpse at the festivities for those unable to be with us, and a way for all of us to keep in mind the sisters who celebrated their lived commitment to the communities they serve and to the Dominican Sisters of Houston.

Sr. Mary Brenda, home on her annual visit from Kenya, joined the celebration. The gathering of 800 was made up of people from across the country and across the world.

Photos on this page by Sr. Wanda Jinks
Antoinette Boykin: In retrospect, I feel my life was filled with many, many blessings — now especially. In the Villa, we have everything we need, and we live in a home of tender loving care.

Jordan Gabriel: I always wanted to be a sister and work for God. My childhood friends, Srs. William and Albertus, were Dominican Sisters and encouraged me to enter. I've had 75 happy years working for an inspiration. I appreciate the individuality of Dominican spirituality and the continuous encouragement to pursue studies and to “assume the risks inherent in teaching and preaching the Gospel.”

Lou Anne Hill: When I was 17, a Dominican asked me if I had ever considered joining a religious order. I was shocked and said, “No,” but I said I would pray over it. The more that I understood the Dominican motto, “Veritas,” the more I felt have had these wonderful experiences as a missionary in Guatemala and spiritual growth living in community and discovering the meaning of prayer, love, mercy, justice and inner peace which give me life.

Carol Mayes: To be a Dominican describes who I am. To be Dominican defines my spirituality, my world view, my understanding of the value of relationships, my commitment to justice.

Rita Marie Owens: As I reflect on these 50 years, I am filled with gratitude for having been a principal, teacher, D.RE., adult educator and a co-founder of Wellsprings. Our Dominican spirituality is holistic and is rooted in study. I love my community and am so grateful to our God for calling me to be a Dominican.

Miriam Ulm: I continually give thanks to our dear God for the many blessings He gives me. These fifty years in which our Lord has let me serve Him and His people have all been a gift.

Silver Jubilarians (25 years)

Deborah Clark: Being a Houston Dominican over these past 25 years has meant having another home and family: a place to call home and a family to call mine. My return "home" to "my family" in
Dominican Sisters and encouraged me to enter. I’ve had 75 happy years working for God and providing and caring for the sisters.

**Diamond Jubilarians**

(60 years)

- **Amelia Akers:** The decision to become a religious, and, in particular, a Dominican Sister of Houston, is the most important one that I have made. Now, after sixty years, I have never regretted that decision. Being permitted to remain an individual was (and is) very important to me. Of equal importance are those people whom I have met and who have remained a part of my life.

- **Paula Enderle:** The renewal of my vows in the presence of all the gathered community was a significant moment for me. I sensed a strong affirmation that my life thus far had meaning, and in that fleeting moment, I caught a glimpse that gave my life and the vows new meaning and purpose: to live simply, to love inclusively and to listen deeply in a more human way.

- **Mary Frances Heins:** From first grade to senior year in high school I had Dominican sisters teaching me. They were pray over it. The more that I understood the Dominican motto, “Veritas,” the more I felt that it was right for me to take vows.

- **Gertrude Pena:** This has been the most rewarding choice I could have ever made, as it reminded me each day to re-center my purpose in God. Passing on the knowledge and Spirit that was passed onto me became my greatest joy.

**Golden Jubilarians**

(50 years)

- **Barbara Ann Collins:** My introduction to Dominican Sisters began with my baptism, which took place in the sisters’ chapel. It seems I was destined to become a Dominican! I have had many rewarding experiences during my years as a teacher.

- **Adrian Dover:** I feel so privileged to have been a Dominican Sister for 50 years. My ministry and my life have been filled with love and support from so many. The years have flown by, and I hope I have many more years to serve and to love in this congregation.

- **Theresa Macey:** I am so very grateful to my loving God that I made the choices I did 50 years ago. If I had not, I wouldn’t place to call home and a family to call mine. My return "home" to "my family" in 1999 was my biggest joy.

- **Kas Spletzer:** What I have learned being a Dominican is that there is no other order for me. I am happy as a preacher, and there are many ways of preaching through my ministry.

The jubilarians renewed their vows on Saturday, August 5, at St. Vincent de Paul Church with over 800 sisters, family members and friends looking on.

On Sunday, August 6, a celebration was held in Warren Chapel at St. Dominic’s Village for Sr. Miriam Ulm, center, and the Golden Jubilarians.
The following is taken from the reflection delivered by Sr. JoAnn Niehaus at the celebration of the 75th jubilarians on Sept. 8, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, in St. Dominic Villa with family and sisters. The Gospel reading for the day was the genealogy in Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23.

It was 75 years ago that Mother Catherine Kenny received the vows of our two young sisters, Jordan Gabriel and Antoinette Boykin.

Two Mothers later, Sr. Antoinette became the one we all called Mother during her six years in office.

And since then six sisters/daughters became Mothers: Srs. Mary Louise Dolson, Jane Abell, Carol Mayes, Paula Enderle, Heloise Cruzat and Marygrace Peters. (And five of them are in this chapel today!)

So this is our abbreviated genealogy:

Six generations of mothers and sisters/daughters from Mother Mary Agnes Magevney to Mother Antoinette,

Six generations from Mother Antoinette to Sr. Marygrace Peters.

The next generations are in the mind of God.

Our celebration today is to honor Sr. Jordan and Sr. Antoinette for their 75 years of professed religious life. It is our honor and privilege to do so. Toi told me recently that the hardest thing she had ever done in her young life 75 years ago was leaving home … home in Beaumont and their family cottage in Colorado. But she clung to the promise of Jesus that “those who leave Father and Mother for my sake will have a hundredfold in this life and happiness in the next.” And before too long she was given the privilege, as we all were, of visiting her home again. We all thought in terms of leaving our families behind when we entered, but we never really left them. Instead we gained another great family, our Dominican Family.

In these last 75 years, think of the numbers of students who have been “children” of Sr. Antoinette in her teaching life in high schools of St. Agnes, and in Beaumont and Port Arthur, and her many years in administration at Dominican College. Think of how many of us have pronounced or renewed our vows in the hands of Mother Antoinette.

And think of the numbers Sr. Jordan has nourished and nurtured over these years, as much with her sweet disposition as with her delicious meals, from the lowly student and everyday Sister to his Excellency Bishop Wendelin J. Nold. We all benefited from her cheerful, generous, faithful service.

Like our foremothers in scripture, in the Dominican Order, and in our own congregation, these two sisters are taking their place in our history. Like Mary, they said their “Yes” and meant it! They have been faithful daughters, good friends, sincere partners, strong leaders, and tender mothers.

So on this birthday of Mary, we celebrate your birth among us in the Dominican Family.

Happy 75th Anniversary, Sr. Antoinette and Sr. Jordan. You have been and are a blessing to us all.
Seven women gathered to explore the idea of a religious vocation during the weekend of Sept. 15-16. Sr. Pat Casey led the retreat called “Hearts Ablaze,” along with help from other sisters.

Elaine C. Hudson
Kathryn, Heather & John Hughes
W. E. Hughes
Jean Hunter & Family
Oscar, Linda & Victoria Hurtado
Cecilia Ibarra & Lloyd van Oostennik
Margaret Inman
Michael & Elizabeth Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Jacobs
Kathy & Jim Jamail
Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Jamail
Mr. Robert Lee Jamail
Margaret R. James
Pat Loranc Jankowiak
Johnnie & Janis Jansky
Jim & Linda Janssen
Laurel & Daniel Jeffers
Mrs. Colleen A. Jennings
Dr. Anthony Jennings & Mrs. Nancy Jennings
Mrs. Connie Jiminez
Reggie Johnson

Glenda M. Henry
Patricia V. Higgins
Gary & Sue Hodge
Lawrence & JoAnn Hogan
Ed & Edna Mary Hogan
Mark & Mariam Holt
Holy Rosary Church Vacation
Bible School
Holy Rosary School
Jacob & Maria Honey
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Horan
Patricia L. Hord
Richard & Renee Horton
H. Leon Howard
Mark & Leesa Howard
Mrs. Roberta B. Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hrin, Jr.
Jean Marie Hudson

Daniel G. Johnson
Frann Johnson
Aurelia & Gerald Johnson
Christopher & Alicia Jones
Mary T. Jones
Jimmy & Nancy Jones
Mr. Lucien Jones
Gilbert & Leona Joseph
Juarez Family
Diane Reinbolt Judd
Mrs. Lucy L. Junca
June & Bill Jung
Cecilia & Jackie Junger
Magdalen Kainer
Carol A. Kanewske
Dan R. Kaspar
Dottie Ferretti Kasprzak
Margie Kavanagh
Marilyn B. Kelly

Paul & Ilanna Kuntz
Pat Kutra
Mrs. Bernadette Kuykendall
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin LaBrie
Carrol & Alice LaCour
Debbie LaCour
Rick Lahrman
Dolores A. Lamb
Leland Landry
Ira J. Landry
Ms. Heidi M. Lange
Constance & Benson Langliniais
Deborah & Donald Lassus
Catherine & John Latz
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Laurent
Kathleen Lawton
Albert L. Leary Estate
Frank & Barbara LeBouef
Josephine Dragana LeClyuse
Martin & Claudia LeCornu
Juanita Ledet
Ron & Susan Legnon
Barbara & Tommy Leicht
Jennie & Philip Leman
Lemon Cake Cafe
W. K. & Rosalie Leonard
Rosalie K. Leone
Mr. & Mrs. Terry D. Lester
Barbara E. Levy
Pauline Liggio
Amy Lins
Annie D. Loeve
Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Lombardo
Gloria Lopez
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Lopez
Kathleen & Roy Lopez
Jerome D. Losack, Sr.
Jasper & Deborah Lovoi
Paula & John Lovoi
Gabriela Lugo
Mrs. Helen P. Luna
Dorothy M. Lundelius
Mrs. Carol R. Lynch
Amelia Lyons
Ruby Reed Lyons
Donna & Ron MacDonald
Mrs. Mary C. Magnuson
Carol Mahoney
Richard & Barbara Maicach
Merium & Don Malik
Eugene E. Malish
Barbara M. Malley
John & M. C. Mann
Ms. Jo Frances Manuel
Annie Marie Maranto
Jaime Mardis
Gerald Mardis
Robert I. Marshall,
LTC USAF RET.
Sarrah Walford Martin
Mabel & Lawrence Mazoch
Mike Mazzola, Jr.
Kathleen M. McAuliffe
Cathy McColl
Rev. D. Stephen Stephen McCrate
Wills & Nancy McDonald
Col James G. McDonald, USAF (Ret)
Leslie A. McDonald
Mrs. Marilyn McEvoy
B. E. McGill, Jr.
Veva McLain

Continued on Page 8
Sr. JoAnn Niehaus, left, visited the Lemon Cake Cafe family — Barbara Dodd, Sylvia Cadena, Charles Heineke, Chef Inell Dyer Klein, and Heights Tower Residents’ Council President Robert Cairns. The Lemon Cake Cafe, located inside Heights Tower at 330 West 19th Street, sets out a piggy bank to collect donations for the sisters. The staff doesn’t accept tips, but rather encourages diners to leave their gift to the Dominican Sisters of Houston. The Lemon Cake Cafe is open 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. seven days a week. Sylvia was taught by Sr. Helen Arnold and Sr. Mary Margaret. Her niece, Bernadette, is a St. Pius X High School graduate. She suggested the piggy bank to Inell over the summer.
Dominican Guess Who

This feature in the Good News gives you facts about a Houston Dominican along with a picture of them as a younger sister and asks you to “guess who” it is.

- She decided to become a nurse to contribute to World War II, but left nursing behind when she entered the convent and became a teacher.

- This sister enjoys compiling books about her life or topics that interest her.

Our mystery sister was a teacher and principal.

Guess who!
The answer is on page 10.

Colleen C. Vice
Enrique & Hortensia Villafranca
J. Antonio & Criselda Villalon
Joe D. Vrabel
Nancy Wagner
Susan H. Walker & Family
Dr. & Mrs. Williams D. Wall, IV
Christine & Mark Ward
Rev. Daniel Warden
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Weber
Wilson & JoAnn Weber
Mrs. Margaret Zagst Weeks
Roger & Pat Wegner
Barbara Welch
Betty Lou Wellons
Mr. & Mrs. Larry G. Wells
Joseph & Rita Welsh
Barbara & Richard West
Connie B. Westman
Marty White & JR Remington
Barbara A. White

The Williams Companies, Inc.
Mrs. Maude M. Williams
Dr. Carol F. Williams
Georgiann O’Neill Wilmot
Mrs. Mary Clare P. Wilsford
Dr. Charles J. Wilson
Ms. Patty Winkler
Mary Grace Wohlwend
Cynthia M. Valdes Wong
Richard & Barbara Woods
Connie Woodward
Kathryn A. Woollard
James & Reni Xavier
Mrs. Doris Yordanoff
Rodney Young & Eli Burick
Mary Anne Zapp Estate
Ms. Eldia U. Ziegler
Philip & Barbara Zinnsmeister
Penafriancia Zoha
Stacy Lynne Zubik

Kathleen & Santo Scorsone
Pat & Jerry Scroggins
Steven & Robyn Seide
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Sellingsloh
Mrs. Olivia F. Serio
Joanne & Ann Serio
Seton Catholic Junior High
Regina N. Sharpe
Patsy Starr Shaw
Richard A. Sheehy Family
Mary & Leon Shelton
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Siler, Jr.
Mr. J. Earl Simpson
Anna E. Skele
Eric & Mary Ann Smith
Mr. Pat O. Smith
Martha Pfaff Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Wickham G. Smith
Paul Smith
Mrs. Cleo Hudnall Smyth
Gerri & Larry Snider
Mollie Anna Solomon
Rita Sommer
Catharine Sonnenberg
Jarrid & Tiffany Spiegel
St. Agnes Academy
Mrs. Ethel S. Stalinsky
Anne R Steinman
Patrick Underwood
Dr. & Mrs. Charles P. Turco
Karen E. Tuel
Amelia Tudon
David & Paula Trzcjik
Amelia Tudon
Karen E. Tuel
Dr. & Mrs. Charles P. Turco
Patrick Underwood
VFWM Spindletop Post 1806
Jackie & Barry Vail
Mr. & Mrs. David Valden
Barry & Patricia Veazey
Vicki & Victor Vecchio
J. C. & Verna Verde
John I. Vice

In Memoriam
Sr. Joan Marie (Ruth Marguerite Lucille) Reilly, O.P., entered into eternal life June 14, 2006, 79th year of vowed life

T’ai Chi Chih classes open

Sr. Carletta LaCour teaches T’ai Chi Chih, a form of movement for relaxation and meditation.

Her current courses — T’ai Chi Chih Level I & II — run through November 14 at 6-7:30 p.m. on Mondays and 9:30-11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Dominican Sisters’ Meeting Room. The cost of the class is $50; $20 registration fee and $30 payable by the third session.

Sr. Carletta also offers private instructions if her schedule allows. She enjoys incorporating Scripture with the movements. For more information, call Sr. Carletta at 713-747-3310 or 713-741-8298.

Advancement Office News

The Dominican Sisters welcome Barbara Abell to the Advancement Team. As Director of Advancement, Barbara will work closely with the sisters and Dominican Partners in Mission to continue the community’s effectiveness in advancing the Dominican mission. Barbara can be reached at 713-665-2537 directly, 713-747-3310, ext. 335, and at babell@domhou.org.
Srs. Barbara Ann Collins and Julian Giglio know the value of a loaf of good banana nut bread. Two of them are worth a computer in some circles. Sometimes one can get you an oil change.

With these creative minds, there is no limit to the things they can achieve, which is evidenced in CHRISTUS Literacy Center in Galveston, now celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Srs. Barbara Ann and Julian opened the doors to students in 2001 after converting a shelter for children into a learning center. The house is owned by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the electricity bills are paid by CHRISTUS Health and a staff of professional volunteers give their time to teach. Even the sisters take no salary: the Dominican Sisters have made a gift of their service to the people of Galveston. In this situation, Sr. Julian’s banana nut bread trades are important!

English courses are morning-long, running 9-noon. Students begin in classrooms, broken into three learning levels. At 10:30, they take a short break in the “recreation room,” which Sr. Julian explains is the historic house’s kitchen.

After the break, the students head upstairs to the computer labs. The sisters have procured 16 computers for the school through grants and donations. The entire course is offered at no cost. Students are asked only to buy their books, which can be loaned to those who are unable to afford them. There are currently 26 students in the course, though Sr. Barbara Ann says they can accommodate 36.

Among the success stories, the sisters recount the tale of a Colombian woman who came to them speaking no English. She’s now a substitute teacher in public schools.

Several level-three student stood up to speak to recent visitors. They all spoke about the sisters’ care, the community that has formed among the students and their own experiences in learning a new language.

In their tales, it is obvious that they have found more than English skills at the CHRISTUS Literacy Center. In their words and in their smiles, you can tell that they’ve found a home, too.

For more information, contact the Literacy Center at 409-621-1337.
Clara Maresh Schmidt Adams attended Catholic school in Sealy, Texas. When it came time to raise her children in Rosenberg, she sent them to Holy Rosary School, a Dominican school. She instantly became part of the family, as did her daughter, Dorothy Schmidt Maczali.

Dorothy fondly remembers her days in Rosenberg, her mother driving the sisters to and from the Houston convent. She specifically remembers the school picnics Srs. Edwardo Daly and Marie Fertitta chaperoned at her grandfather’s farm. “We had the weenie roast and climbed trees.” She specifically remembers Sr. Bernard from those days because “her habit was always crooked.”

Dorothy said, “I was very blessed to be educated by these forward-looking, outstanding women.” Dorothy went on to teach at St. Mary School, St. Pius X High School and St. Agnes Academy just to name the Houston schools.

As Dorothy reflected on the legacy of education her mother gave her, she saw a little of her mother in those Dominican teachers. “The way I see Dominicans is that we are very independent and knowledgeable. I see Mom growing into independence and maturity of spirit. She stood on her own.”

And even at 95, Clara Adams shows her Dominican love for creation, leaving cookies in her driveway so that birds will come closer for her to see.

Clara Adams valued Catholic education

Clara Adams, now 95, ensured that all of her children received Catholic education.

Kitty Inman: Smiling face at the Villa

“My whole life has been enmeshed with Dominicans,” Kitty Rynd Inman explained. Her Dominican education began in first grade at St. Mary of the Purification, continued through St. Agnes Academy, Sacred Heart College, and continues today at St. Dominic Villa.

While Kitty’s older sister was Sr. John Dominic Rynd, who passed away seven years ago, there are other Dominican connections as well. Kitty’s mother was a St. Agnes graduate, as was a niece of hers. Two grandchildren have graduated from St. Pius X High school.

“I really firmly believe that St. Agnes, even in those years, prepared us for college as much as they do today because of the standards being different,” Kitty said of her own high school.

Kitty learned from her parents and the Dominican sisters that you teach by example, and she has learned that “spirituality is how you live your life.”

With five children and ten grandchildren, Kitty says she has been blessed and wants to bless others. “I feel like I have to give back in return.”

One of the Villa Volunteers, Kitty serves as a receptionist. More than simply answering a phone, Kitty says her volunteer position “is the most fun job in the whole world.” She interacts with the sisters, and she gets to strengthen the Dominican roots that run so deep in her family.

Sr. Maria Geheb told the story of when Sr. John Dominic helped clean a convent she was visiting despite protests that she was a guest.

“I’m never a guest in a Dominican convent; I’m home,” John Dominic replied.

Much the same, Kitty Inman isn’t a visitor at the Villa; she’s at home.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Villa, contact Dottie Ross at 281-293-7767.

Kitty Inman: Smiling face at the Villa
THE GOOD NEWS is online!!! Visit houstonop.org to view the digital edition.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October-November: T’ai Chi Chih classes
- Oct. 21: National Weekend of Faith in Action Against the Death Penalty event
- Nov. 3-4: Arts and Crafts Sale
- Dec. 2: Advent Day of Prayer
- Dec. 10: Annual Retirement Collection
- Dec. 16: Advent Brunch
- February: Lenten Day of Prayer
- Feb. 24: St. Agnes Academy Gala
- March 11: Celebration of 40th anniversary of Dominican Sisters in Guatemala
- Sept. 29, 2007: Beginning of year-long Dominican celebration of 125 years in Texas

For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at 713-747-3310.

Sr. Carita Ulm displayed her crafts last year at the Arts and Crafts Sale. This year’s sale will be November 3-4 at St. Dominic Villa.