Dear Friends,

Pope Francis recently encouraged us all to go out and interact with our brothers and sisters, to share and "become the Word in body as well as spirit." What wonderful words to live by – to live the gospel in even the smallest things we do and say in our day to day lives. We are pleased to share with you in this Good News the ways in which we continue to strive to live the gospel.

We are delighted to share with you ministry reports from our mission school in Guatemala, our summer camp for girls, our two schools here in Houston, our justice ministry, and our Dominican Family. We are also pleased to share the many celebrations that we have had in our community over the past few months: several of our sisters’ jubilees, our newest sister’s first profession and the reception of a new candidate into our community.

Lastly, included in this issue is our Annual Report of Gifts. The sisters and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. We are immensely grateful to you for supporting our mission and ministries and for remembering our retired sisters. Thank you for your friendship and for the many ways you have touched our lives. We invite you to celebrate Mass in our chapel any Saturday evening at 4:00 pm or to learn more about becoming a Dominican Family member. We would love to visit and to reconnect with you. May God continue to bless you, heal you and fill you with light.

Blessings to you and your family,

Carol Mayes, OP
Prioress

ON THE COVER
Sculpture of St. Dominic on our motherhouse grounds by Sr. Mary Peter Tremonte, OP+

Thank YOU

We gratefully acknowledge all those who contributed to this issue:

Barbara Bellomy, St. Agnes Academy
Sr. Patricia Casey, OP
Sr. Heloise Cruzat, OP
Sr. Adrian Dover, OP
Sr. Annette Dworsky, OP
Sr. Mary Magdalen Hanel, OP
Greg Hardin, St. Agnes Board
Sr. Wanda Jinks, OP
Sr. Carol Mayes, OP
Sr. Miriam Oliveros, OP
Paula Porter
Sr. Ceil Roege, OP
Greg Schockling, OP Family
Deanna Werner, St. Pius X
NUNS ON THE BUS FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Houston was the first stop in Texas for the Nuns on the Bus tour for Immigration Reform. Dominican Sisters Lavergne Schwender, Eleanor Cresap and Ceil Roeger greeted the bus when it arrived on our motherhouse grounds on June 7th.

That evening, more than 100 people arrived for First Friday Forum, sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Pax Christi Texas and the Dominican Sisters of Houston and held at the Dominican Center for Spirituality. People came to hear stories from the sisters’ travels on the bus and to hear the importance of raising our voices to pass common sense immigration reform with an earned path to citizenship, a position advocated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. The next morning, Sisters Eleanor, Ceil, and Mary Oanh Ta (Lovers of the Holy Cross Congregation in Vietnam) rode on the bus to a press conference where Sister Simone Campbell, Sister Ceil and Alejandro Zuniga from Fe y Justicia Worker center spoke to the urgency of making our voices heard. Following the press conference, the bus traveled to the offices of Mi Familia Vota, where a phone bank was initiated.

At its annual gala in October, the St. Pius X High School Foundation awarded Anna Marie Pulido Hidalgo ‘59 and Harold G. Hidalgo, Sr. ’59 the Del Sarto Humanitarian Award for their generosity and commitment to the community. The theme of this year’s gala was An Evening of Latin Elegance, and the event raised more than $450,000. Notable attendees included long time benefactors and friends of the School Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza, Bishop George Sheltz, Sr. Carol Mayes, OP, Raye G. White, Trini Mendenhall Sosa, and Head of School Sr. Donna Pollard, OP.

ST. AGNES ACADEMY CELEBRATED 50 YEARS

In September St. Agnes Academy celebrated 50 years at the Bellaire Boulevard location. More than 70 alumnae and parents attended the “50 Years on Bellaire” celebration and talked about what it was like to be the first students during the age of the Beatles and a lightly traveled Southwest Freeway. Members of the Class of 1964, who were the first to graduate at this location, and Head of School Sr. Jane Meyer, OP sang their senior song, and guests watched a short video on the building of St. Agnes from vacant lot, to project dedication, to girders in the ground and move-in day.

REPORT FROM GUATEMALA

Sr. Miriam Oliveros, OP, principal of our Guatemala mission school San Vicente de Paul, reports that another great school year recently ended, and the sixth graders graduated at the end of October. During the past year the children participated in several activities. In September they celebrated their Independence Day with a parade and dramatic plays. For the feast of San Vicente de Paul, the children created murals showing San Vicente’s works, and many children dressed up like the saint during their grand procession. The school’s music teacher started a choir this year, which the children love, and Sr. Miriam boasts that they all sing so well! Sr. Miriam also reports that the poorest children continued to receive food, clothing, financial aid and medical assistance from the school through our donors.

DOMINICAN SUMMER CAMP FOR GIRLS

Our campers, counselors and sisters enjoyed another successful summer camp experience this past July. The week-long camp is held every year at Circle Lake Camp in Pinehurst, Texas. Girls enjoyed archery, baking, crafts, swimming, singing and zonball. This year, campers celebrated and learned about St. Dominic. Patrick Spedale, Campus Minister at St. Pius X, joined the celebration and dressed as St. Dominic for the day. Next summer, our camp for middle school girls will be held June 29th – July 5th.
Our community celebrated several jubilees over the past few months. In June, four sisters celebrated their Diamond (sixty year) Jubilee with the Most Reverend Joseph Fiorenza, Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston, presiding over the jubilee Mass. In August, Reverend John Rooney presided over the Golden Jubilee (fifty years) Mass of four sisters, and in September, Sr. Denise Bordages, OP celebrated 75 years with the Dominican Sisters of Houston.

**Sr. Denise Bordages, OP**  
(75th Diamond Jubilarian)

is a native Texan born in Beaumont. She attended St. Anthony High School in Beaumont as well as Dominican College in Houston. She was in active ministry for over 40 years, teaching in Beaumont and Houston area schools such as St. Agnes Academy, Christ the King, All Saints, Dominican High, St. Mary, St. Pius X High, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Anthony. In retirement, she served as a volunteer for the Ministry with the Aging in Beaumont and worked with the Archives at the Dominican Sisters Motherhouse. Sister Denise currently resides at St. Dominic Villa where she serves in prayer ministry.

**Sr. Marilyn Vanden Bosch, OP**  
(Diamond Jubilarian) is from Shreveport, Louisiana and graduated from St. Anthony High School in Houston, Texas. Sr. Marilyn received her B.A. in English from Dominican College in Houston. She taught elementary and junior high students for 40 years at several schools including St. Austin School in Austin; St. Augustine, St. Peter, St. Christopher, St. Jerome, St. Anne and Seton Junior High in Houston; St. Francis de Sales in Riverside, California; and St. Mary’s in Orange, Texas. Sr. Marilyn is presently retired and living at St. Dominic Village.

**Sr. Assumpta Campbell, OP**  
(Diamond Jubilarian) is a native Houstonian from Assumption Parish and attended St. Agnes Academy in Houston before joining the Dominican order. She has been in active ministry for over 50 years. Sr. Assumpta has served as campus and parish minister at St. Mary’s in Port Arthur, St. Agnes, and Newman Hall at the University of Texas in Austin. She tutored at St. Peter the Apostle in Houston; taught at the School of Environmental Education at Camp Kappe in Navasota; and served as the Visitors’ Experience Coordinator at Circle Lake Retreat Center. She is currently serving in Care Ministry at St. Mary’s Parish in Taylor, Texas.

**Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP**  
(Diamond Jubilarian) is originally from St. Joseph’s Parish in Newark, New Jersey. Sr. Charles Anne graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Newark and received her B.A. in Education from Dominican College in Houston and her M.A. in Counseling and Education from Lamar University in Beaumont. During her 58 year career in education, Sr. Charles Anne taught in Galveston, Nederland and Houston; served as an elementary school principal in San Bernardino, California; and served in various diocesan associate superintendent positions. Sr. Charles Anne has served as a council member for the Dominican Sisters and is currently the Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese.

**Sr. Barbara Leah White, OP**  
(Diamond Jubilarian) is a native Houstonian. She graduated from St. Agnes Academy, received her B.A. in English from Dominican College and her M.R.E. from University of St. Thomas. Sr. Barbara taught
elementary and junior high students for about twenty years at St. Mary’s in Port Arthur; St. Elizabeth’s in Port Neches; St. Francis de Sales in Riverside, CA; St. Frances and St. Thomas More in Houston; and Queen of Peace in LaMarque, Texas. For fourteen years she served as Religious Education Director at various locations such as All Saints School in Houston; Sacred Heart Parish in Conroe; St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Houston and St. Jude Parish in Beaumont. Although retired from active ministry, Sr. Barbara volunteers at the Villa and ministers in Spiritual Care at St. Dominic Village.

**Sr. Patricia Casey, OP**  
(Golden Jubilarian) was born in Kansas City, Missouri. She moved to Houston with her family at the age of nine and graduated from St. Agnes Academy. Sr. Pat taught in Catholic elementary schools in Houston, Nederland, Galveston and Austin. She later served as Assistant Director of Newman Hall in Austin, Campus Minister at University of Houston, Director of Campus Ministry at Lamar University in Beaumont, and as a faculty member in formation at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. Pat has served the congregation in the Treasurer’s office and as a Council member. She is currently a member of the Council as well as our Vocation and Formation Director.

**Sr. Anna Marie Flusche, OP**  
(Golden Jubilarian) is a native Texan from the Church of St. Thomas in Pilot Point. Sr. Anna Marie graduated from Ursuline Academy in Dallas. She has used her musical and literary talents to serve St. Michael Church and St. Christopher School and Church in Houston. For nine years, Sr. Anna Marie chaired the St. Agnes Academy Music Department.

Sr. Anna Marie is currently the organist at Hosanna Lutheran Church and author of *The Life and Legend of Gerbert of Aurillac: The Organbuilder who became Pope Sylvester II.*

**Sr. Ann Huffstetter, OP**  
(Golden Jubilarian) grew up in Houston, Texas and graduated from St. Pius X High School. Her ministry began in education at St. Pius X High School in Houston and Kelly High School in Beaumont. Sr. Ann has served as a Physical Therapist Assistant at St. Joseph Hospital in Houston and Memorial Hospital in Palestine. She is currently a Physical Therapist Assistant in Elkhart, Texas and also serves as music minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Palestine, Texas.

**Sr. Lavergne Schwender, OP**  
(Golden Jubilarian) is a native Houstonian and grew up in St. Christopher Parish. Sr. Lavergne graduated from St. Agnes Academy and began her ministry in education in Houston at Sacred Heart School and St. Pius X High School. She also served as the Administrator of Newman Hall in Austin. After law school, Sr. Lavergne served as Assistant Harris County Attorney and Attorney of Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network. She served her community as Treasurer and legal coordinator. She is currently the Executive Director of Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network.

In June Rosie Robleto was warmly welcomed as a Candidate by the Dominican Sisters of Houston, Congregation of the Sacred Heart. Rosie has been living in community since February 2012 and discerning her call to religious life as a Dominican. She recently completed the application process to continue her discernment as a Candidate. Priorress Sr. Carol Mayes accepted Rosie’s request.

In September, we gathered to celebrate Kelly Biddle’s profession of first vows. It was a beautiful ceremony with many members of Kelly’s family in attendance. Kelly’s novice director at the collaborative novitiate in St. Louis, Megan McElroy, OP, gave the reflection. **Welcome Kelly!**
This fall, the Dominican Family started its sixth year in style with a kickoff potluck dinner and two special lectures following dinner. First, Lucy Caire, a Dominican Family member and Houston artist, explained the inspirations behind her beautiful artwork, Reflection, that hangs in the Dominican Sisters Center for Spirituality Meeting Room. The threefold focus of Reflection begins with the Cosmos; then highlights the seasons of the year with the promise of change, growth, renewal and rebirth; and finally draws in Dominican spirituality of prayer, study, ministry and community. After her presentation, Ann Doyle and Becky Rushing, Dominican Family members and teachers in theology at St. Agnes Academy, walked those present through their trip through the lands of Dominic with a slide show on the wonderful sights they visited.

In September, the Council of the Dominican Sisters of Houston sponsored an in-service for the Boards of Directors and Foundation Boards of our two schools, St. Agnes Academy and St. Pius X High School. Sr. Jane Meyer, OP and Sr. Donna Pollard, OP, the Heads of School of our two high schools collaborated with the Council in conducting the in-service. The Board of Directors from St. Catherine's Montessori joined the in-service. St. Catherine's was founded by the Dominican Sisters of Houston and continues today in the Dominican tradition. Our guest presenter was Sr. Mary Hughes, past prioress of the Dominican Sisters in Amityville and a past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). St. Agnes Board Member Greg Hardin noted, “Sr. Mary's talk on the importance of Dominican charism and how we continue the strong Dominican traditions for generations to come was the highlight of the morning. The group table discussions prompted deep thought and spirited insight. The morning ended with a beautiful blessing of all the attendees as we prepared ourselves for the coming year.”

On Saturday, September 21st we observed the International Day of Peace with people from all over the world to encourage worldwide peace and nonviolence. In 1981, the United Nations established the International Day of Peace to devote a specific time for the United Nations, its member states and all people to promote the ideals of peace and to show their commitment to peace in all viable ways. We held a prayer service in the Villa chapel followed by a ringing of the bells for peace. During our prayer service we prayed: “Prince of Peace, Lead us to ways of healing and reconciliation; we pray with those who suffer and struggle. Bless us with your reconciling love that knows no boundaries as we seek to live in community, justice and peace.”
We are truly blessed to have such generous and loyal support from so many donors. Thank you for valuing the mission and ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Houston and for allowing us to carry out successfully our work for the people of God. Your gifts to our Partners in Mission Annual Fund are inspiring and support all of our sisters’ work. Your loyal support of San Vicente de Paul School in Guatemala helps to enrich the lives of so many children. And finally, your generosity towards our retired sisters is deeply appreciated. Thank you for honoring them for their many, many years of service. May God bless you, heal you and fill you with light.

Thank you!

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Dominican Society

We are deeply grateful to these individuals who gave leadership gifts of $500 or more to our Partners in Mission Annual Fund during the August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013 fiscal year. We are blessed to have their faithful commitment to our mission.

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annual Report of Gifts

AugusT 1, 2012—JuLy 31, 2013
We are deeply grateful to these individuals who generously supported our Annual Fund during the August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013 fiscal year. We are blessed to have their faithful commitment to our mission.

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(Gifts received from August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013)

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Partners in Mission Annual Fund: $ 418,500
Major Gifts: $ 360,000
Retirement Fund: $ 95,300
Honors, Memorials & Other: $ 32,500
Grants: $ 144,200
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Sr. Kitty Carter, OP
Sr. Carita Ulm, OP
Sr. Stephen Anne Zawacki, OP
Sr. Pat Casey, OP
Sr. Stephen Anne Zawacki, OP
Sr. Maureen Crosby
Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP
Sr. Heloise Cruzat, OP
Mary Louise and Edgar Hancock
Sr. Dorothy Cruze, OP
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
Sr. Annette Dworsky, OP
Mary and Brian Berwick
Ronald and Kathleen Broussard
Sally and Gene Dworsky
Chris Eheman
Agnes Jenschke
Douglas and Ramona Krenek
Gladys LaMere
Kathryn and Max Murdock
George and Georgia Svatok
Sr. Justin Farinella, OP
Alice Calvin
Derick and Cindy Drummond
George and Lynn Hogan
Lois Maldonado
Betty Rickman
Sr. Jo Rita Fertitta, OP +
Jo Rita and Steve Lyle
David and Hedly Frenzel
Sr. Carita Ulm, OP
Sr. Benignus Galiano, OP
Sr. Mignonene Konecny, OP
Alma Garza
Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP
Mike and Cecelia Gravett
Sr. Carita Ulm, OP
Sr. Julie Greig, OP
Derick and Cindy Drummond
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
Sr. Stephen Anne Zawacki, OP
Hanel Family & Friends
Sr. Mary Magdalen Hanel, OP
Bob Harville
Kitty Inman
Muriel Slack
Sr. Edna Ann Hebert, OP
Yvonne Jacobs
Sr. Mary Frances Heins, OP
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
Marilyn Eddy Herring
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
Ivan Hudson +
Kitty Inman
Sr. Mary V. Hugger, OP
Sr. Carita Ulm, OP
Sr. Kevina Keating, CCVI
Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP
Sr. Cornelia Marie Knezek, SSCJ
Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP
Vlasta Kutra +
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
Sr. Thomas Ann LaCour, OP
Sr. Carletta LaCour, OP
George Laird, Ed.D
Sr. Charles Anne Solomon, OP
**In Memoriam**

**Sr. Nicholas Fahey, OP.+**

**JUNE 25, 1914 – AUGUST 24, 2013**

Sr. Nicholas was born in Ballindooley, Galway, Ireland. She immigrated to Houston and joined the Dominican Sisters in 1930 at the age of sixteen. Sr. Nicholas earned her B.A. degree from Dominican College in Education and English and began teaching in 1932. She taught in most of our grammar school locations including Houston, Galveston, the Sabine Area, Nacogdoches, Whittier and Riverside, California. She served as principal at St. Anthony’s in Beaumont for ten years and as principal of Sacred Heart in Galveston. Upon leaving school ministry in 1987, Sr. Nicholas continued to employ generously her many skills and talents as pastoral minister at St. Dominic Center, receptionist at our motherhouse, Villa sacristan from 1996 to 2001, and volunteer at S.E.A.R.C.H, a center for the homeless near downtown, from 1996 to 2004. Sr. Nicholas passed away two months into her 100th year and gave 83 years of faithful service. She will be remembered as a gracious woman who was always ready to help, often quietly behind the scenes and the wider world.

**Sr. Jo Rita Fertitta, OP.+**

**JANUARY 15, 1928 – OCTOBER 30, 2013**

Sr. Jo Rita Fertitta, OP was born in Beaumont, Texas and graduated from St. Anthony High School. In 1945 she joined the Dominican Sisters of Houston. Sr. Jo Rita earned her BA from Dominican College in Houston and her MA at Incarnate Word in San Antonio. Her love of teaching and dedication to her students extended over 60 years. She taught at Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, and Seton Jr. High/Assumption in Houston; Holy Rosary in Rosenberg; St. Mary in Galveston; St. Elizabeth in Port Neches; and St. Mary in Orange. In Galveston and Port Neches she served as both principal and teacher. Sr. Jo Rita’s junior high students often returned to thank her for the excellent math background she gave them to succeed in high school. Sr. Jo Rita served as Director of Formation of our young sisters from 1964 – 1968. Her artistic talent was widely known, and her needlework and her paintings of landscapes, bluebonnets and other themes were treasured.
Today’s Kindness Grows Tomorrow’s Blessings

The Dominican Sisters of Houston’s legacy in Catholic education and services is deep rooted, and we continue today to serve and to preach the Gospel. When you name the Dominican Sisters of Houston as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy, trust, or retirement plan, you help ensure the future of our mission. If support of our mission and sisters is part of your legacy giving in your will or estate plans, please let us know. We would love to thank you for your generous commitment. If you are considering remembering the sisters as part of your estate planning, please contact us today at 713.440.3707.

Dominican Remembrance
A Dominican for life. A gift for eternity.

Visit our gift shop inside St. Dominic Villa for a variety of handmade items such as baby accessories, seasonal crafts, needlework, and gifts for any occasion.

Monday – Friday from 9:30 am – 3 pm and Saturdays following 4 pm Mass Please call ahead (713.440.3720) and we will meet you at the shop!