

75th Jubilee of Foundation



1944-2019

DOMINICAN MONASTERY OF ST. JUDE
MARBURY, ALABAMA



Dominican Monastery of St. Jude, 143 County Road 20, East, Marbury, Alabama 36051; MarburyDominicanNuns.org

On August 17, 1944, our Mother Foundresses and a novice departed from Catonsville, Maryland. It was a hot afternoon when they arrived in Montgomery, Alabama where a priest and two Sisters met them at the train station and took them to meet Fr. Harold Purcell, the founder of the City of Saint Jude in Montgomery. To them, it was the end of a journey... a journey which had taken them from Baltimore, Maryland to California, and now, to the Deep South.



The Dream ~ 1930's

How did it all begin? Mother Mary of Jesus, the prioress of the cloistered Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary in Catonsville, Maryland, saw as in a vision a race riot, with a crowd of angry people with clubs in hand engaged in a violent struggle.

Then the scene changed and the same mob knelt in prayer, each one with a rosary in hand. On the hill in the distance there was a monastery with Sisters of all races praying the rosary with arms outstretched before the Blessed Sacrament.

Mother Mary of Jesus felt that God was indicating His desire that there should be an interracial community where any young Catholic woman called to live the cloistered, contemplative life would be welcome. Mother Mary of Jesus died on November 18, 1939, having confided her "dream," as she called it, to Mother Mary Dominic.

The Foundation ~ 1940's

When a young woman was denied entrance to Catonsville because of her race, the time seemed right. Mother Mary Dominic and Mother Mary of the Child Jesus obtained permission to write bishops around the country. "Wonderful idea, but not prudent in my diocese at this time," many responded. After several years and a few false starts, our Foundresses were given permission to write just once more. Mutual friends put them in touch with Bishop Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile, Alabama. He extended a kind welcome and introduced them to Fr. Purcell, who had long desired a monastery of Contemplative Sisters at the City of St. Jude. Since construction materials were not available during wartime, Fr. Purcell renovated the rectory at the Resurrectionist Fathers' Holy Ghost Mission out in rural Marbury to serve as the first monastery for the new

(The story of our history continues on the back page.)



OUR FOUNDRESSES

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt. 13:44) The Dominican contemplative life is the treasure that our Mother Foundresses found, and thought worth everything to obtain and to make possible for others to embrace as well.



Mother Mary Dominic of the Rosary, O.P., (R) born in Baltimore in 1893, worked as a highly competent executive secretary after high school, until at age 25 she was free to enter the Dominican monastery in Catonsville, Maryland. Mother Mary of the Child Jesus, O.P., (L) born in Chicago in 1915, entered the monastery after high school and professed perpetual vows a few years before accompanying Mother Mary Dominic in

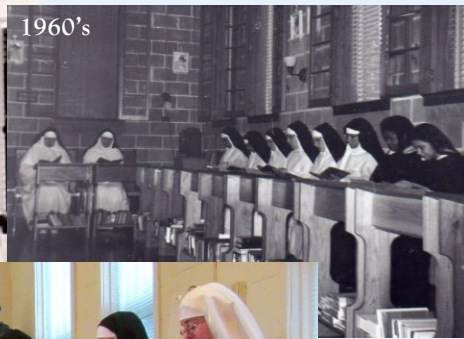
YOU ARE IN THIS STORY

Faithful friends and benefactors, from those who knew Mother Mary Dominic in the early days, to all those who provided us with bricks, hammers, and other building materials for the monastery, to our dear friends today who step up to help with monastery upkeep, groceries, and special projects – THANK YOU! These 75 years could not have been without your support. Blessed be

75 Years of Praise



1960's



2010's

Singing Divine Praise

Our Foundresses arrived in Alabama with their books for the Divine Office, and taught the pioneer Sisters to sing the medieval Dominican chants which we continue to sing today in the original Latin as we give voice to the official prayer of the Church, the Bride of Christ.

THE CHANT OF THE DIVINE OFFICE



1970's



2000's

Veritas: Study of Sacred Truth

St. Dominic gave doctrinal study as an authentic observance to his sons and daughters. We study not to earn academic degrees, but to increase our contemplation and love for God, in awe before God and His Creation.



1980's

Community Life "ONE MIND AND HEART IN THE LORD"



2010's



1940's



2010's



1940's

UT OMNES UNUM SINT - 'E'

➔
Mother Mary Dominic had to reject the too-heavy baldicchino that Mr. Brown, our workman, first made for the altar. That night, a crest-fallen Mr. Brown dreamed of a young boy who asked him what was wrong, then showed him how to make a baldicchino for the altar just the way Mother wanted it. Whistling cheerfully, Mr. Brown constructed it the next day.



1960's

Eucharistic

HISTORIC MONASTRANC

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Jesus at the heart of our self-offering to God. The generosity of the archbishops and priests of the Holy Mass and provide

Liturgical Processions

Whether to pray for our deceased Mothers and Sisters, or to bless the grounds on Rogation Days, processions remind us of our life's pilgrimage towards



1960's

ise and Intercession



1990's



1940's



1950's



1940's

"THAT ALL MAY BE ONE"



1940's

2010's

Perpetual Rosary AS OUR LADY'S

Hour after hour, the Sisters
succeed each other praying
the Rosary, for Mary's honor and in
intercession for the needs of the world.
Our Mothers bequeathed to us a tender
love for Our Lady, in our Dominican
spirit, as we live out Total
Consecration to Jesus through Mary.



2010's

Our Daily Work IN THE HOUSE . . .



1960's



1940's

Offering our lives to God for
the salvation of souls across
the decades.

Adoration

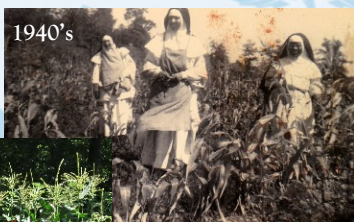
CE MADE BY FR. PURCELL
' continuing presence in the Eucharist is
We have been incredibly blessed by the
of our archdiocese over the years to offer
us with spiritual care.



1950's



2010's



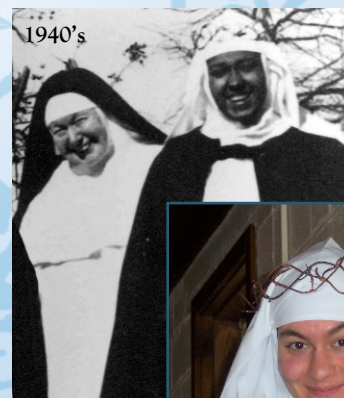
1940's

. . . IN THE GARDEN

Vocations

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Sister Mary of the Rosary, our first candidate to enter and
persevere, received the habit on December 11, 1945.
Sister Mary St. John of the Incarnation, our most recent
candidate, received the habit on May 1, 2019.



1940's



2010's



2010's

The Building Days ~ 1950's

Aspirants came and tried their vocation and in time the first two young women persevered to make Perpetual Vows, June, 13, 1950. As more Sisters were received, the little house began to bulge at the seams. Dreams and plans for a "real monastery" were discussed and put away for a future day. To ease the strain of limited space, the Sisters installed a folding stairway to the attic. On Archbishop Toolen's next visit, he was shown their achievement and asked again for permission to build.

Archbishop considered a moment, looked at Mother Mary Dominic with a twinkle in his eye and said, "Yes Mother, go ahead. If the Sisters can help, you will save a lot on expenses."

On January 1, 1953, the bulldozer arrived to begin construction. On October 28, 1953, the Sisters

moved into the new half-built monastery, which was completed over the ensuing years as funds allowed, forming the simple yet cherished building we have today.



Bessie, one of the cows which provided us with fresh milk daily until 1962 – if you had the knack!



Our community was founded as a monastery of cloistered contemplative Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, a branch of the Dominican family specifically dedicated to honoring Our Lady and interceding for souls through the perpetual recitation of the Rosary. From the beginning, our Mother Foundresses had desired to continue our life of Rosary devotion more closely united to the Dominican Order as papally enclosed nuns. With a new edition of the Church's canon law and the

Civil Rights: Ahead of the Times ~ 1960's

Sheltered within the cloister walls, the Sisters were already living the harmony and equality before God and man that were so hotly contested in society during this time. Young women continued to be drawn to give their lives to God in our community; in the monastery, no racial tensions arose to mar the focus on love of God and of the Sisters. When Mother Mary Dominic went to her eternal reward on July 20, 1966, she knew that her life's work had been an offering acceptable to God. Today, we continue to give our lives to God for the salvation of souls, grateful that our community is no longer unique in admitting young women of any race.



need for updated Constitutions, the time seemed ripe. On August 15, 1995, all the Sisters in the community joyfully pronounced their Solemn Profession as Nuns of the Order of Preachers.

New Millennium, New Life ~ 2000's - present

As the Sisters embraced their vocation with renewed zeal, the seed of new life God had prepared began to flourish. A new generation of young women again sought to give their lives to Christ for souls, and found in the monastery that *hidden treasure* worth everything to gain: the glowing light of charity, the beauty of

Keeping Tradition ~ 1970's - 80's

As the tumult of the '60's and '70's rocked both society and the Church, the cloister at Marbury represented an

oasis of stability and tradition to the young women who entered during this time. Until her death on June 2, 1980, Mother Mary of the Child Jesus wisely protected the community from disturbances and ensured that the Sisters received authentic Catholic teaching.

Our hidden life of consecration continued, although as the years passed fewer young women sought to join. In the midst of the Sisters' daily joys and trials, God was reaping great graces for souls and preparing the seed of future growth.



From Sisters to Nuns ~ 1990's

The Community Today ~ 2019