



Making the Light shine brighter!

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Ps. 119:105)



The Centennial Campaign for the Dominican Nuns

Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary

1919 - 2019



Your word is a *Lamp* to my feet. Ps. 119:105



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just imagine for a moment...devoting your entire life to the salvation of God's people. This is exactly what the Dominican Nuns of the Rosary Shrine do daily, as they touch the world through a life of prayer and sacrifice.

Come visit the chapel and hear the beautiful voices of the Nuns singing daily Mass, join them for the hours of the Divine Office and the Rosary, or see the 400 year-old relic of the Shroud of Turin on display for public veneration. The chapel is open daily from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Check the sisters' website: www.summitdominicans.org, for the schedule for Mass and the Divine Office.

For almost 100 years, the Monastery on the Hill has been home to the Nuns of the Order of Preachers, commonly known as the Dominican Nuns. Through living simple cloistered lives of prayer, the Nuns continue to illuminate God's love and will.

Many are unaware that much needed construction to the Monastery building was halted due to the Great Depression. Now approaching its centennial anniversary, the Monastery continues to strive to answer the Church's call for the New Evangelization by providing a quiet place for prayer and adoration.

Though the Monastery, as it sits on the corner of Springfield Avenue, has done its best to serve the Nuns and their vocation, it is in desperate need of repair and expansion. I invite you to learn firsthand the many possibilities to help the Nuns meet their needs and the spiritual needs of all God's people.

It is the mission of the Dominican Nuns to continue ***Making the Light Shine Brighter***. In order to meet their mission and provide additional living, working and retreat space for their community, the Nuns rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. With the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, they will further be able to light the path to God's love and will for all His people to see.

I ask that you make a commitment to support the ***Centennial Campaign – Making the Light Shine Brighter*** by making a donation. The campaign goal is \$4 million, and I hope that you will be able to make a contribution. Your generosity will help the Dominican Nuns of the Rosary Shrine continue their dream to illuminate God's love and will, as they remain a wonderful reminder of the presence of prayer in Summit, surrounding communities and beyond.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Brian G. Plate
Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila, Summit, NJ

“Dear Sisters,
Coming here to hear
you pray and sing
saved my life. Thank
you and God bless
you always!”

*-from the Chapel
Intention Book*



Who are the *Dominican Nuns*?

To be a contemplative nun means to live a life of praise and adoration of the Triune God, interceding for the Church and the world!

On a hill at the gateway of Summit sits the beautiful Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary. It is often unnoticed by people driving by or is thought to be just another Catholic Church. Some are curious but hesitant to stop in, and ask the questions: What is a monastery? Who lives here? Why are these women here? Aren't they wasting their lives?

The Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary is the place where the Nuns of the Order of Preachers (popularly known as the Dominican Nuns) reside. Unlike most religious sisters who engage in many and varied apostolates, we live a cloistered life.

St. Dominic de Guzman gathered the first nuns together in 1206 to preach the Gospel for the salvation of souls. We are cloistered, not to hide from the world, but to touch intensely the

heart of the world through a life of prayer and sacrifice, interceding with the Father of Mercies for the universal Church as well as for the needs and salvation of the whole world.

Established nearly 100 years ago, the "Monastery on the Hill" has been home to nuns from all over the country and the world living simple lives of prayer, work and study centered around the praise and worship of God in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and the Divine Office. We have the privilege of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament united with the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

Our monastery is the only cloistered monastery in the Archdiocese of Newark and the only Dominican monastery in the State of New Jersey.

WHAT IS A CLOISTER?

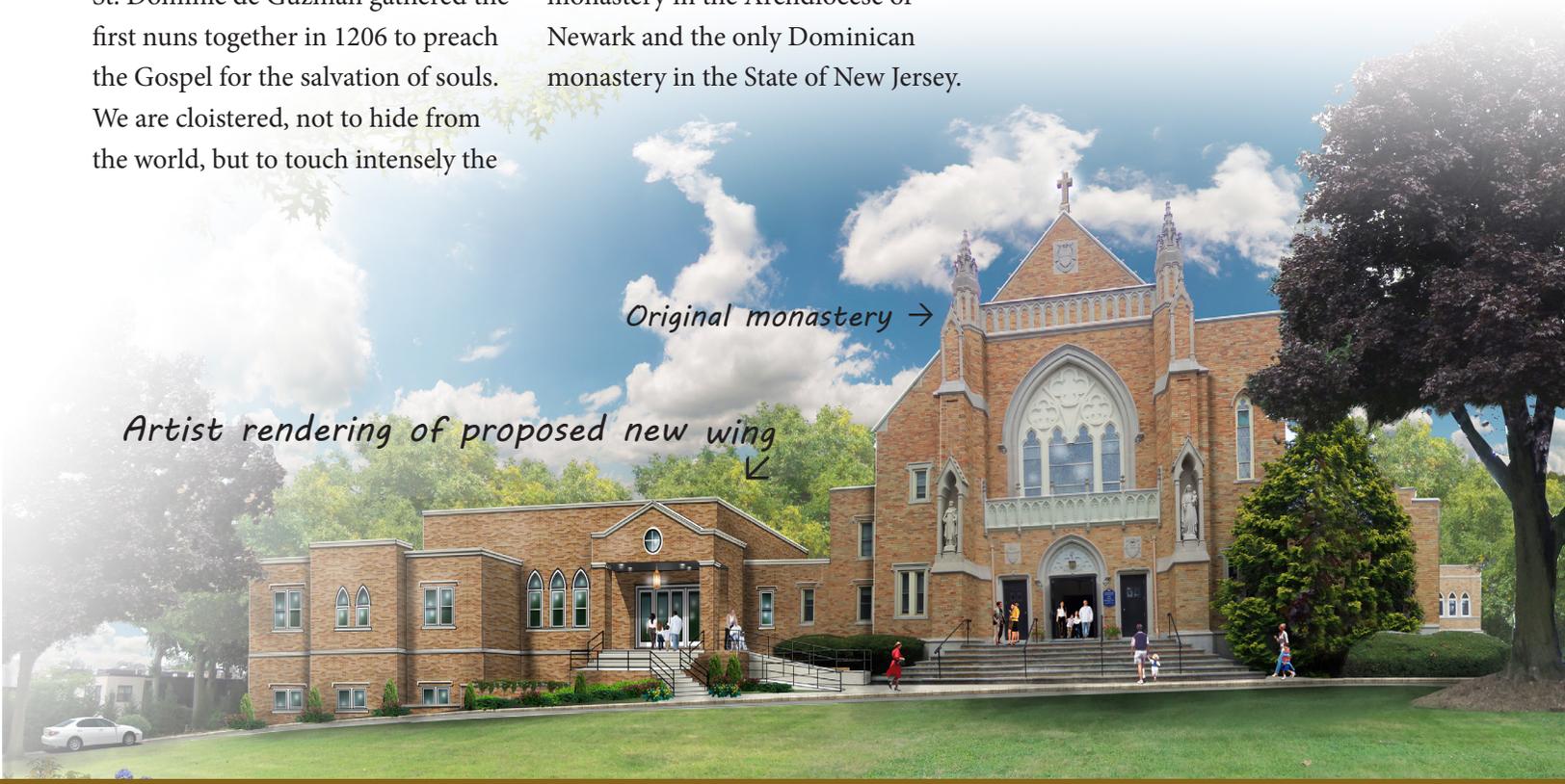
The Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary is a special place because it is above all where God is praised and loved. As women free for God alone, we need the freedom of the cloister to devote ourselves totally to God.

The cloister is a sacred space which, instead of restricting us, opens us up and expands the horizons of our hearts.

Touching the heart of God we touch the heart of the world, standing before God like Moses on the hilltop, arms raised in prayer while the battle rages below. We may be in one sense, as he was, above the struggle, but it is our prayer, as it was his, that turns the tide of the battle.

Original monastery →

Artist rendering of proposed new wing ↙



An *Oasis* of prayer in the heart of New Jersey

In a world where God is more removed from society than ever before, monasteries are vital reminders of God's presence among us. As St. John Paul II said, monasteries are also, "a reference point for all people, bearing them in His heart and helping them to seek God."

Our monastery with Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, is an **OASIS** in the desert, nourishing all who come to be fed on the Bread of the Word and the Eucharist.

Our monastery is a source of **LIGHT**, the Light radiating from the Word celebrated daily in the Sacred Liturgy and from Jesus Himself in the monstrance.

Our monastery is a place of **SILENCE** in an increasingly noisy world where everyone can come and kneel in love and adoration as the Father says to each one, "This is my Son; listen to Him!"



The Needs of a Growing *Community*

When our present monastery was built in 1939, the nuns sacrificed necessary living space in the cloister for a bigger chapel for the pilgrims coming to the monastery. The sisters have used empty cells (monastic bedrooms) for work and sewing rooms and office space. We need these rooms for the new vocations entering our community.

The need for additional work space for our Seignadou Soaps and Cloister Candles has forced us to put our exercise equipment in a 10 X 10 room with no windows or ventilation. Our elderly sisters in need of physical therapy have had to use the public space of the refectory (dining room) because it is the only room big enough. Since the refectory is close to the nuns' chapel, the silence is disturbed by the voices of visiting physical therapists and nurses. We need an appropriate area for caring for our sisters' physical needs.

Over the years our "closet" gift shop has expanded to every available space in the chapel vestibule, blocking doors, and even spilling into the narrow hallway. Yet another monastic cell is used for storage space for the sprawling gift shop. With the creation of Seignadou Soaps and the development of monastic crafts such as candles, woodwork and needlecraft, a real gift shop is needed which will make it possible to offer the Sisters' work and help toward our daily expenses.



Welcoming all to *Rosary Shrine* **TODAY**

In the past ten years or so, the need for more guest space has become crucial as we increasingly host young women on retreat discerning their vocation as well as the families of the sisters from all over the country.

More and more we receive requests from priests and religious to come to the monastery on retreat. Due to the lack of guest rooms, a dining area, and kitchen facilities, the community has regrettably had to decline such requests.

The increased interest in participating in our life of prayer needs a response. Our Dominican charism impels us to become a “radiant center of Charity.” Although we are cloistered, we are Dominicans, and our way of participating in the New Evangelization is to do all we can to make it possible for everyone to experience the love of Christ through prayer and silence.



Making the Light shine brighter!
Our dream is to complete our monastery...

by building a 5,500 square-foot addition, which will make it possible for us to respond to what we believe is God's Will for us as we near our centennial. The new addition will provide the following:

- 3 guestrooms (bedroom and bath) for women discerning their vocation, priests, and religious and the sisters' families
- Multi-functional Dining Room with self-serve capability for guests
- Sitting room for guests
- Gift shop for monastic crafts, Catholic books, and quality religious items
- Separate women's and men's restrooms for monastery visitors
- Two visiting parlors
- Work rooms and exercise/therapy room for the Nuns
- Phone rooms
- Elevator
- Universal Access into both the monastery chapel and the new addition
- New configuration of the driveway, widening both the entrance and drive itself, as well as providing additional parking



Our History

1919

The first nuns lived in the Ter Mer Estate on 63 New England Avenue, but quickly outgrew the house and needed a real monastery. In 1921, just two years after the nuns came to Summit, a group of women arrived to make a pilgrimage honoring Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1924, a fieldstone grotto was built dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. By the 1930s, thousands of pilgrims were attending the annual Pilgrimages.

1925

Due to the unexpected growth of devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, the need for a monastery became more pressing. By 1925, plans were drawn up and the cornerstone laid for the current location on Springfield Avenue. However, the Great Depression halted the much-needed construction for another ten years.

1939

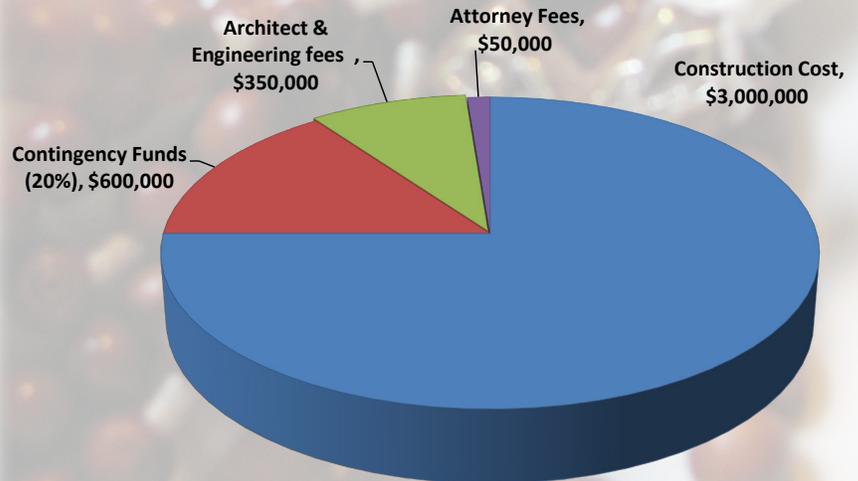
Finally, in 1939, the Bishop gave permission to resume building on the condition that everything—church and monastery—be built on the existing incomplete structure. Because of the number of pilgrims, the nuns sacrificed living space for a complete chapel that seats 350 people. However, this left the nuns' living space, working space, and the chaplain's apartments crammed around the chapel.

1963

Grateful for a new monastery, the nuns made the old house on New England Avenue a guest house for the sisters' families and a retreat center for guests. However, in 1963 the old house had to be torn down, leaving the sisters with no facilities to care for guests. A small area in the monastery basement was renovated as a single guest room, inadequately serving the needs of the community for many years.

OUR GOAL! \$4,000,000

Estimated Design and Building Costs



“ The Grand Summit Hotel has been close friends and neighbors with the Dominican Nuns for the past 20 years. Our relationship has been based upon trust and respect and we have formed a sense of community with the Sisters. We will continue to support their endeavors as we can. The hotel is forever indebted to them for their continued support and fellowship. Personally, my family has benefited from spiritual support of this association.”

—Mark Giangiulio

General Manager, Grand Summit Hotel

The nuns of Our Lady of the Rosary Monastery live to pray for the rest of us—for those who seek their friendship and spiritual support, and those who do not even know they exist. They inhabit and maintain a kind of powerhouse of prayer that helps illuminate all of our lives with the presence of Christ. Our financial assists help to keep that light aloft, by insuring the continued health and welfare of these women who so willingly, happily, plead for the rest of us before the Blessed Sacrament. Every donation I have ever made to this wonderful community has been a small-but-delightful way to join in the lived sacrifice of joy.



—Elizabeth Scalia

Author of *Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in*

Everyday Life, and the popular blogger known as The anchoress



How Can I Help?

Without you, our friends and benefactors, our life of prayer and praise for the Church and the world would never have been possible throughout the past century! As we begin our next century of praise and intercessory prayer we know you will continue to be with us both in prayer and support. Many of you have asked how to help us turn our plans into a reality.

- **Prayer**—*without God's help we know we can't do it!*
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Donations of Service and Materials**

THE MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY is incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Therefore, donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. There are many ways you can help us reach our goal!

Please consider the following:

- Gifts of Cash
- Gifts of Stock
- Gifts from Retirement Accounts
- Gifts of Property, Life Insurance, Annuities, Wills or Bequests
- Corporate Matching Gifts

	Total Pledge	4 Annual Payments	10 Quarterly Payments
	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$100,000
	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$50,000
	\$250,000	\$62,000	\$25,000
	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$5,000
	\$25,000	\$6,250	\$2,500
	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
	\$15,000	\$3,750	\$1,500
	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
	\$5,000	\$1,250	\$500
	\$1,000	\$250	\$100

Reflecting on how long I've been coming to the Shrine, (I'm estimating around 12 years) and from the moment I stepped into the Adoration Chapel, I have been filled with a spirit of deep gratitude. This precious time with Jesus has transformed my life.

—Marcia Reina

Rosary Shrine is my favorite home away from home. When I walk in there I feel like it is a piece of heaven on earth.

Thank you, my dear Dominican Nuns for sharing your home with me! I am so very grateful for your prayers, love and presence.

—Mary Elizabeth Decker



Your Gift Can Be Given in Memory or in Honor of a Loved One

Memorials are special ways of honoring the people we love, whether they are living or deceased. These memorials are often made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for blessings received from God.

The dollar amounts associated with Naming Opportunities do not reflect the actual cost of each item, but rather the honor of the memorial and the need to cover the cost of the entire project.

Naming Opportunities

DEDICATE THE NEW WING	\$1,000,000	Guest Rooms (3)	\$250,000
		Crucifixes (12)	\$ 5,000
MAIN ENTRANCE & LOBBY		Coffee Nook	\$ 35,000
Upper Level Covered Entry	\$ 75,000	Upper Level Back Foyer	\$ 50,000
Ramp to Chapel	\$ 35,000	Furnish a room (12)	\$ 2,500
Foyer	\$ 75,000		
Upper Level Front Hallway	\$ 50,000	LOWER LEVEL	
Gift Shop	\$500,000	Elevator	\$300,000
Votive Memorial Wall	\$250,000	Sewing Room	\$225,000
GUEST WING		Exercise-Therapy Room	\$150,000
Large Parlor Interior	\$100,000	Office (2)	\$100,000
Large Parlor Exterior	\$100,000	Lower Level Covered Entry	\$ 50,000
Small Interior Parlor	\$ 50,000	Lower Level Foyer	\$ 50,000
Small Exterior Parlor	\$ 50,000	New Garden Wall	\$ 75,000
Dining Room	\$250,000	Guest Patio Garden	\$100,000



Dear Friends,

Please help us in our endeavor to complete our monastery building! By expanding it with a 5,500 square feet addition, we can enlarge our gift shop which is an important source of income for us. The new wing will also include visiting parlors and guest rooms for priests, retreatants, our families and the young women that are arriving in increasing numbers to inquire into our way of life. While we ask for nothing in return for our prayers, we invite you to be a part of our dream to better welcome all to Rosary Shrine! We can't do it without you! Please consider making a charitable donation which will be most gratefully received.

We are here on the corner of Morris and Springfield Avenues to give glory to God day and night and to pray on behalf of your intentions. Many do not know that our chapel doors are open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily! Like a mother with open arms, we rejoice to see people coming in to pray to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed. In addition, you are encouraged to call, write or email us with your prayer requests. There is always a sister in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with Our Lady's Rosary in hand praying for you and for the world.

Thank you for your generous support!

You remain in our hearts and prayers.

Sr. Mary Martin, O.P.

Prioress

prioress@summitdominicans.org

P. S. Scan the QR code to visit our website, www.summitdominicans.org, and learn more about the charism, history and community that is the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary!

