

BLESSED MARGARET OF CASTELLO CHAPTER, BOISE, ID

CHAPTER HISTORY



From our modest beginning in 1997 studying together and applying for chaptership, 13 members became inquirers in 1998 while the Chapter was still in Formation. Blessed Margaret has been watching over us, and in July 2004 we were actualized as a full fledged chapter allowing those of us who were ready to become Life Professed in a ceremony at Holy Apostles, Meridian in August, 2004. Others came committed to Temporary Profession and some new members became Postulants.

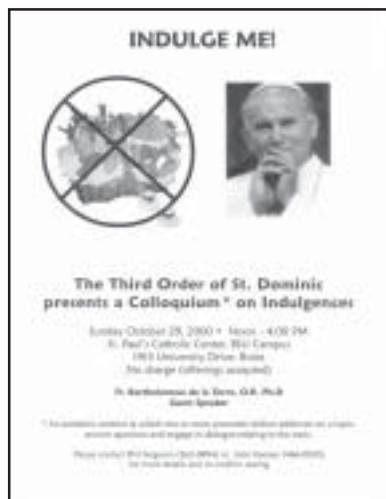


We have been mentored by Fr. George Matanic, OP and Fr. Bart de la Torre, OP, who have visited us throughout the years to participate in meetings or retreats. Below Fr Bart



sits with Stephanie DeNinno OPL, on the left, our Prioress during formation and Gayle Boyer, OPL, last year's LPC rep.

Our Formation Director, John Keenan, OPL, has wisely guided us into formation through the production of a Colloquium, open to the public and directed mostly at Catholics in the Boise Diocese (the state of Idaho). Starting in 2000 on October 28th, our first Colloquium was on centered on Indul-

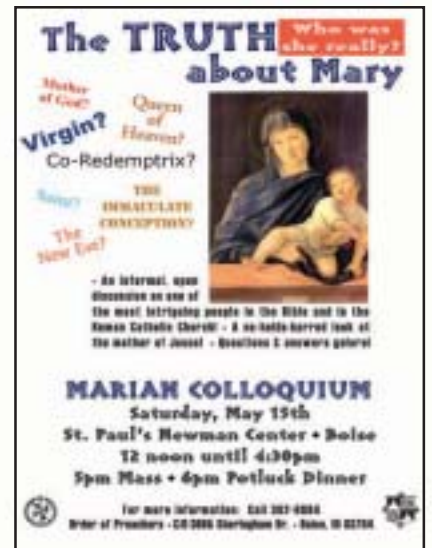


gences. We had about seven people making presentations who prepared thoroughly for months. The result was an excellent presentation and a great opportunity of firming our knowledge of indulgences and the church history on them.

Last year, on May 15th we presented our second Colloquium: the subject was Mary. We wanted to explore a lot of controversial issues about her, especially in light of the popularity of the fictional novel "The Da Vinci Code".

We raised a few eyebrows but did not get as much controversy as we had expected.

This year we are tackling the Eucharist. Mike Turner, OPL is the chairman of the committee who is just now organizing the talks. The conference is coming up on October 8th. We are exploring ways to engage the teen groups at the local parishes.



HOMEDALE DOMINICAN CHAPTER HOUSE

The initial development of a Dominican “home” started with the donation of 25 acres of property by Mark Gross and Gwen McGarvey and the dream to create a retreat center. The Dominican property adjoins two other members’ personal property (Leslie and Bonnie Fitzpatrick) of 15 acres. Together we have 40 acres. We plan on creating a center which will include a chapel, meditation gardens, custodial quarters, quarters for guests to stay in, and a parcel of ground for maintaining a community garden and a few farm animals to help support the facility. Blessed Margaret has inspired us to name this facility after her (Villa Bendita Margarita, or, Blessed Margaret’s House) that it might serve as a beacon to those who are seeking healing and solitude for the purpose of spiritual renewal.

We’re also exploring income producing ideas for the center as a way to make us self sustaining.



On Good Friday, 2002, we erected a rough-hewn wooden cross which stands as a sentinel over the hillside. The Chapter House was mostly finished inside in the early months of 2004. A well has just been dug and electricity is planned soon. The building can serve as a meeting and prayer center and with an office/ bedroom space downstairs and two dorm rooms upstairs



will soon be able to house retreatants and visitors. Food prep can be handled “next door” at the Fitzpatrick’s until the kitchen is finished. The picture on the right shows an interior shot of the chapel/meeting room at the end of the day.



Dorothy Brown, OPL, through a labor of love, designed and created a funeral pall (casket drape for the funeral mass) for Gwen’s casket using cream linen fabric that Gwen herself had been saving for a special occasion. Dorothy

also made a pillow cover of the same fabric for inside the casket. The pall will be available for all our funerals.

With approval from local authorities and the Boise diocese, Gwen was buried on the hillside down from the cross facing west. The county had just approved our request to name the road leading into our property “Sanctuary Lane”. Sub-Prioress Stephanie DeNinno, OPL, generously purchased the road sign which was temporarily erected on July 22, the feast day of St. Mary Magdalen and the day Gwen



was put to rest. Father Tim Ritchey, Pastor of Holy Apostles Parish in Meridian officiated at both the funeral and the gravesite services.

