



SAILING TOWARD SURE VICTORY

Who cometh forth as fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array? Song 6:9

“Our victory is assured!” No one preparing for the Battle of Lepanto, on October 7th 1571 would have said this, not even Pope St. Pius V. Both spiritually and materially we are facing in our day forces more formidable than Ottoman Turks. But, once we understand the history of this battle and look at our own time through the eyes of Faith, with certainty, we will say one to another, “Our Victory is sure.”

In the 1500s the people of God were sorely in need of victory. The Church was besieged from within and without. Pope Pius V was facing an enemy burning with zeal for their cause. Few of the faithful understood the threat and most of the Catholics Princes were distracted by internal wars or with the exploration of the New World. Most were too indifferent even to consider defending the unity of the Church or the Glory of God.

Although Spain was distracted by her colonial activity in the Americas, King Philip II sent his half-brother, Don Juan of Austria, with several dozen ships to the aide of the Holy Father. More volunteers were gathered from Spain, Venice, the Papal States and other regions of Italy thus a fleet was cobbled together forming the ‘Holy League’.

How different this League was from the fearsome Christian armies of the past with their glory, power and well-trained armadas. However, the odd admixture of ships, fighting men, courage, and purpose which the Holy League managed to scrape together would have to be enough. The time of battle was approaching.



A glimmer of confidence strengthened the Christian side; a set of Venetian galleasses, ships with innovative side-mounted guns had joined the fleet. Their ability to fire from broadside when all the other ships, including those of the enemy, had only bow-mounted canons.

But the enemy held the advantage. The Ottomans had 30,000 fighting men onboard 288 ships 80 more ships than the Christian fleet of 208 vessels with an equal number of men onboard. However, the Holy League was equipped with more powerful ‘weapons’- not of troops, nor guns, nor ships. The most valuable contributions to the League’s armaments were made by the Archbishop of Mexico, half a world away, and by Pope Pius V from Rome.

Upon hearing of the threat from the Turks and the efforts to gather a force, the Archbishop of Mexico commissioned a replica of the miraculous image of Our Lady Guadalupe. The Archbishop touched the new image to the original and sent it to Philip II, telling him to mount it on one of the ships sailing against the Turks. His directive was obeyed and Our Lady’s image sailed into battle on the mast of the ship of the Genoese Admiral Giovanni Andrea Doria.

Pius V for his part asked all of Christian Europe to pray the Rosary for the success of the Holy League’s offensive. “Don Juan then issued to every man in his fleet a weapon more powerful than anything in the Turkish arsenal: a rosary. On the eve of the battle, the men of the Holy League prepared their souls by falling to their knees on the decks of their galleys and praying the Rosary.



Back in Rome, and up and down the Italian peninsula, at the behest of Pius V, the churches were filled with the faithful telling their beads. In heaven, the Blessed Mother, her Immaculate heart aflame with love, was listening. “Christopher Check, President of Catholic Answers, Institute of Catholic Culture



Sailing into the gulf, the enemy’s flags, emblazoned with a star and crescent moon, caught the wind. Affixed to the mast of the Genoese admiral, was the image of a beautiful maiden, shining like the sun, with stars on her mantle—and the crescent moon under her feet. Even though the battle began with the Christians at a disadvantage, had the Turks

known the power of the Woman clothed with the Sun, they might have questioned their arrogant confidence. The men who had together prayed the Rosary surely knew the words of the Song of Songs oft used to describe the Virgin Mother of God, “Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising,

fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array?” Song 6:9

As the fleets met, the wind that was against League’s fleet miraculously shifted 180 degrees propelling the Christian ships into perfect position. Had Our Lady already taken the helm?

The fighting lasted for five hours. Although the sides were evenly matched and both were well-led, the Divine favored the Christians. And once the battle turned in their favor, it became a total rout. By one count, all but thirteen of the Turkish galleys were captured or sunk. Christopher Check, Catholic Answers

Back in Rome, on that very day, simultaneous to the battle’s end, Pius V was busy in his study. Suddenly he rose and went to the open window. He said to his secretary:

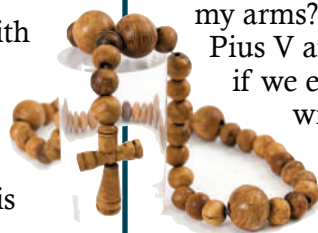


“This is not a moment for business; make haste to thank God, because our fleet this moment has won a victory over the Turks.”

Pope Pius V had been granted a vision of the victory. Another miracle had occurred, it was the evening of October 7th when the Pope gazed out his window, the courier with the report of the victory would not reach Rome until October 26th.

When Ottomans sailed out from their anchorage in the Gulf of Corinth on the morning of October 7th, 1571, it was not merely a human force – not even merely ships with side mounted guns – that they met. They met nearly 300 Christian men wrapped in the arms of the Queen of Heaven and armed with her Holy Rosary. Our Lady of Guadalupe had said to Juan Diego, “Am I not your mother? Do I not hold you in the crossing of my arms?” She proved herself true to Pope St.

Pius V and the men of the Holy League. And if we enter our battles, under her banner, with our Rosary in hand we can, in truth, all call each one to another, “Our Victory is sure.”



A 1500s rosary found on the ship Mary Rose. photo credit: The Mary Rose Trust/CC BY-SA 3.0

WELCOME, OUR NEW PRIORESS, SISTER MARY RANI VALIYAVEETIL, OP



In July our Vicar, Fr. Louis Marrone, op, Provincial of the Central Province presided over our Prioral Election. In reporting the results to the members of the Province he honored our sisters: “Recently, Sister Mary Peter completed three generous terms, the last two consecutively, as Prioress at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, and so that office became vacant. *Thank you, Sr. Mary Peter!*



The monastic chapter elected Sister Mary Rani, O.P., to the office of Prioress. Sister had been serving as Novice Mistress. Let us offer prayer

encouragement to Sister Mary Rani as she embraces this position of leadership in this community that is so important to our Province and to the Order.

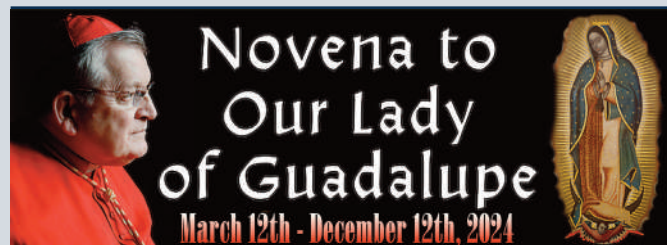
We welcomed Sister Mary Rani, O.P. on February 1, 2013 from the Dominican convent of Santa Maria in Kerala, South India, which was founded in 2001 by nuns from the Monastery of the Incarnation in Cangas, del Narcea in Northern Spain. In 2006, in response to their request for the assistance of a Nun who spoke Spanish and English, Reverend Manuel Merten, O.P., then Promoter for Nuns of the Order, ask for our Sister Mary of the Savior to be was sent “on loan” for three years.

As we were bidding Sister Mary of the Savior farewell, one of the sisters quipped, “Well, we’re loaning you to India, but you’ve got to bring home a postulant from India!”

Sister Mary of the Savior, of course, only on thing in mind, to help build the new community. However, the Lord’s ways are not our ways.” Sister Mary Rani, the first of Sr. Mary of the Saviors’s Novices to profess Solemn Vows. From her she learned of our charism of Perpetual Adoration which struck a responsive note in her soul.

Sister Mary Rani, in time. was appointed to a position of leadership in the new community, but she could not ignore the desire of her heart. After prayer and reflection she petitioned her superiors in Spain to allow her to transfer to our monastery on a trial basis. But soon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament captured her heart.

We doubt that in 2013 Sr. Mary Rani could even have imagined one day she would be elected Prioress the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament!



O Virgin Mother of God, we fly to your protection and beg your intercession against the darkness and sin which ever more envelop the world and menace the Church. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave you to us as our mother as He died on the Cross for our salvation. So too, in 1531, when darkness and sin beset us, He sent you, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac to lead us to Him Who alone is our light and our salvation.

Through your apparitions on Tepeyac and your abiding presence with us on the miraculous mantle of your messenger, Saint Juan Diego, millions of souls converted to faith in your Divine Son. Through this novena and our consecration to you, we humbly implore your intercession for our daily conversion of life to Him and the conversion of millions more who do not yet believe in Him. In our homes and in our nation, lead us to Him Who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in the world.

Unite our hearts to your Immaculate Heart so that they may find their true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever guide us along the pilgrimage of life to our eternal home with Him. So may our hearts, one with yours, always trust in God’s promise of salvation, in His never-failing mercy toward all who turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart. Through this novena and our consecration to you, O Virgin of Guadalupe, lead all souls in America and throughout the world to your Divine Son in Whose name we pray. Amen.

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke novena.cardinalburke.com

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

WHEN WORDS FAIL PERHAPS WE CAN TRY ONE OF ST. DOMINIC'S NINE WAYS OF PRAYER.

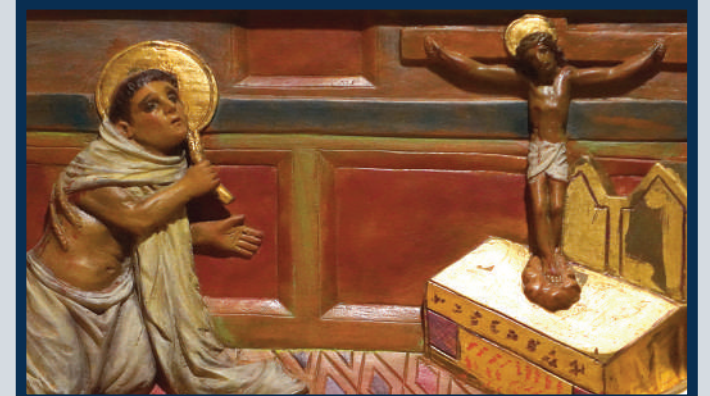
Out of curiosity, St. Dominic's brothers, from an upper window overlooking the Chapel, observed what they recorded as Dominic's Nine Ways of Prayer. Standing, bowing, kneeling - St. Dominic knew that the gestures of the body could powerfully dispose the soul to prayer. In this experience of bodily prayer, the soul in turn is lifted to God in an act of praise, thanksgiving, or supplication. His ways of prayer are a glimpse into the inner life of St. Dominic and his intense love for God.



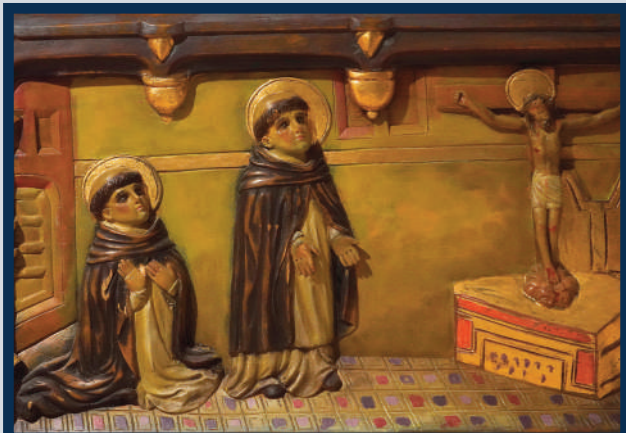
1. **INCLINATIONS:** The first way of prayer was to humble himself before the altar as if Christ, signified by the altar, were truly and personally present and not in symbol alone. He would say with Judith: "O Lord, God, the prayer of the humble and the meek hath always pleased Thee. Judith 9:16.



2. **SAINT DOMINIC** used to pray by throwing himself outstretched upon the ground, lying on his face. He would feel great remorse in his heart and call to mind those words of the Gospel, saying sometimes in a voice loud enough to be heard: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Lk 18:13



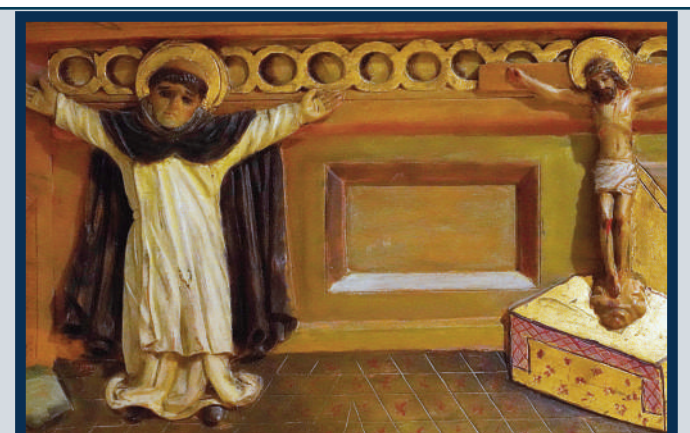
3. **PENANCE:** No one, however innocent, should withdraw himself from following this holy example ... rising up from the ground, he used to take the discipline, a cord or chain scourge saying, 'Your discipline has set me straight towards my goal' Ps.17:36



4. **GENUFLECTIONS:** He was so accustomed to genuflecting that, when he was on a journey, whether in a hostel or on the road itself or looking intently at Christ on the cross and kneeling down over and over again. He would return to his genuflections as to his own special art and his own personal service.



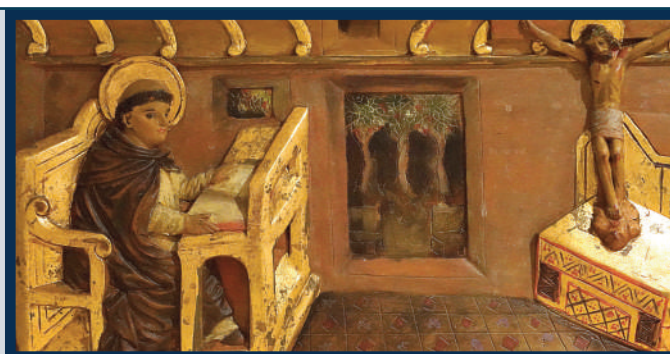
5. **CONTEMPLATION:** He would stand upright before the altar, not supported by anything, but with his whole body held erect. Sometimes he would hold his hands out, open, before his breast, like an open book, standing with great reverence and devotion, as if he were reading in the presence of God or as a priest does in the liturgy.



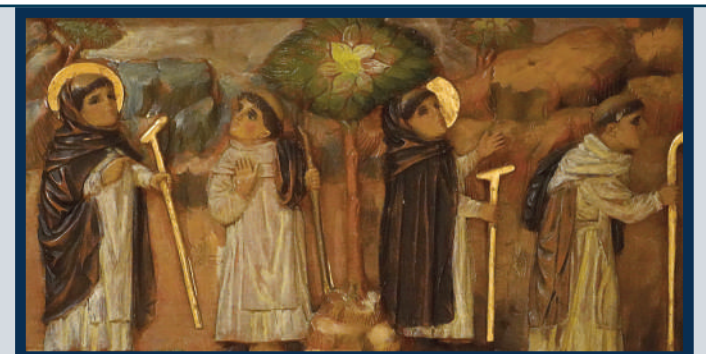
6. **EARNEST INTERCESSION:** Sometimes, as I was told personally by someone who had seen it, our Holy Father Dominic was also seen praying with his hands and arms spread out like a cross, stretching himself to the limit and standing as upright as he possibly could.



7. **SUPPLICATIONS:** He was also often found stretching his whole body up towards heaven in prayer, like a choice arrow shot straight up from a bow Is. 49:2. He had his hands stretched right up above his head, joined together or slightly open as if to catch something from heaven.



8. **SACRED READING:** Sober and alert and anointed with a spirit of devotion which he had drawn from the words of God which had been sung in choir or heard read during the meal, he would settle himself down to read or pray, recollecting himself in himself and fixing himself in the presence of God



9. **PRAYING ON THE JOURNEY:** As Dominic and his companions traveled by foot from country to country, he would walk by himself. He meditated upon the Scriptures and communed with the Holy Spirit. About his long solitary walk he would quote: "I will lead her into the wilderness and I will speak to her heart." Hosea 2:16

GOLDEN JUBILEE ~ 50 YEARS OF A DOMINICAN JOY
With God all things are possible. Matt. 19: 26

The Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, June 8th 2024, was a day of 'Dominican Joy' for Sr. Mary Catherine of the Divine Mercy, OP and our Community. With great emotion, Sister reaffirmed her Profession of Vows into the hands of Sr. Mary Peter, our Prioress. The effect of her 'yes' was certainly felt as an outpouring of graces from Heaven!



Fifty years ago, sister first became a daughter of Our Holy Father Saint Dominic as a Religious Missionary of St. Dominic in the Philippines. After fourteen years of teaching, being increasingly drawn to Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, Sister decided to transfer to the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, known as the Pink Sisters.



But, Sr. Mary Catherine, having a Dominican mind and heart returned to the Order of Preachers, as soon as Retreat Director, Father Gabriel O' Donnell, OP told her of the Dominican Cloistered Nuns. The effect of this decision is reflected in Sister's choice of Marian hymns for her Mass: *My Inmost Soul Rejoices* and *Oh be Glad My Soul Rejoice*.

With our longtime friend, Mrs. Elizabeth Spry as guest organist our Choir sounded like angels as we sang the Jubilation Mass of James Chepponis. For the Offertory a Schola of seven nuns was also accompanied in the singing of Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. And Mrs. Spry played a



Post-Communion meditation, Lucien Deiss' *With Eternal Love*, that created the perfect contemplative moment with our Eucharistic Lord. Her beautiful Prelude and Postlude proved to be perfect 'bookends' of our liturgical celebration. What a gift!

Fr. Andrew Hofer, whom sister considers her "little brother," was the Main Celebrant of the Mass, and Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, who has been her spiritual director for many years was the Homilist. Both friars are from the Eastern Province. Also concelebrating were our Chaplain, Fr. David Santoro, OP, and Fr. Jordan De Guire, OP both from the Central Province, Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, OP, from the Western Province, and a Trinity Missionary, Fr. Dieudonne Nsom, S.T. from Cameroon, West Africa.



The Public Chapel was filled with many well-loved friends and benefactors, half of them were Sister's Filipino friends from far and near. Most came to greet Sister after the Mass offering their love and congratulations. A wonderful luncheon was provided by a beloved benefactor with Filipino friends, adding Filipino-Chinese cuisine - something for everyone.



The Community had an additional day of celebration and enjoyed watching Sister open her gifts, many of which reflected Sr. Mary Catherine's love for gardening and cooking. Assorted baking ingredients, natural fertilizers, garden tools and a Chinese straw hat are just a few. One special gift, added an exclamation point on Sister Mary Catherine's Golden Year of Dominican Joy: a statue for Sister's garden of St. Dominic triumphantly raising his Torch of Truth.



2024 ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ OCTOBER 4 & 6
Preacher: Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P.



Father James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P. is a Dominican priest of the Province of St. Albert the Great Province. Father James-Pierce attended Indiana University, majoring in sports broadcasting.

Since entering the Order, he has earned Master's degrees in Theology and Divinity, as well as Certificates in Thomistic and Biblical Studies from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis.

Currently, Fr. James Pierce teaches and serves as Chaplain at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL, and serves as Promoter of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary in the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great - the Dominican Province of the Midwestern United States.

We are looking forward to Father's sharing with us his love for our Blessed Mother and her Most Holy Rosary.



Intentions: _____

Please check here if no acknowledgment needed ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

It's Sweepstakes time again at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament! The proceeds of this annual event help us to maintain our Monastery and the grounds. They provide us with peace of mind in the event that unexpected needs arise. And most importantly they allows us to continue our life of intercessory prayer and praise before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

So, once again we turn to you, our faithful friends, to support our 2024 Sweepstakes effort. *Enclosed in this issue of Echoes you will find nine tickets*, which we believe the Lord will use, with your help, to make this years Sweepstakes a great success.

As in the past, the grand prize will be \$1,000.00. There will be one second prize of \$500.00 and five \$100.00 prizes for the third place winners.

On Thanksgiving Day
the drawing will take place after our 7:15 AM Mass

You need not make a donation to be eligible to win.

Please, **REMEMBER** to write, *on every ticket*, the *name, address and phone number* of the person entering the Sweepstakes. You can't be a winner if your information is not on the ticket drawn!

“We thank our God every time we remember you.” Philippians 1:3



WEB ADDRESS: www.opnuns-fh.org
Donate on-line via PayPal or “Givng”
Prayer Line: 248-626-8253



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Please, share Echoes with your friends.

You may donate on-line via PayPal at www.opnuns-fh.org and please consider remembering us in your will.

ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

Please join us as we honor Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary with three days of prayer and petition.

Friday & Saturday - October 4 & 5 starting at 7:00 PM:

*PRAY THE ROSARY,
RECITE THE TRIDUUM PRAYER
CELEBRATE HOLY MASS*

Followed by Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church,

Sunday - October 6th at 10:30 AM:

*PRAY THE ROSARY,
RECITE THE TRIDUUM PRAYER
CELEBRATE HOLY MASS*

Followed by the distribution of Blessed Rose Petals

There will be no 7:15 AM Mass on any of these three days.

On Friday and Saturday: *The Chapel will be open from 8:00 AM-2:30 PM.
Our doors will reopen at 6:30 PM for the 7:00 PM the Rosary Triduum*

***Sunday the Chapel will open at 9:00 AM and
close at 2:30 PM***

**Father of holiness, for the journey
of your pilgrim Church on earth,
you have provided the
Virgin Mary as a sign and beacon.
Through her intercession, hear our
petitions, sustain our faith and
enliven our hope, that no
obstacle may divert us from the road
which brings us salvation. Grant this
through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**



** Please unite with us by
praying the rosary
at home
if you are unable to
join us in our Chapel .*