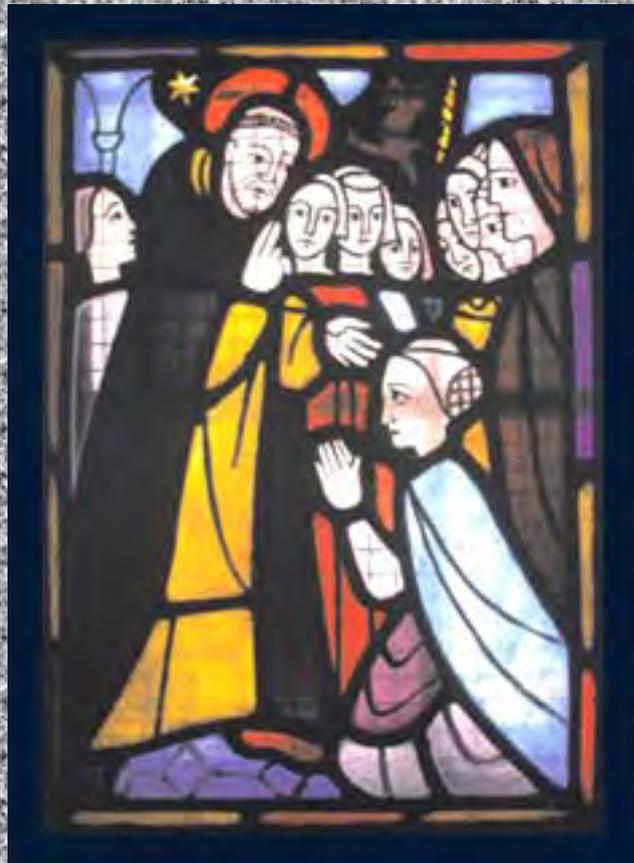


# DOMINICAN MONASTERIES

**A Historical Directory of  
Communities of Dominican Nuns  
World-Wide**



*Part 3 NORTH AMERICA*

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## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **Monasteries by country in chronological order of foundation**

#### **CANADA**

Berthierville	1925
Squamish/ Vancouver (Surrey)	1999

#### **CARRIBEAN**

Trinidad	1874
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#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Bronx (Hunt's Point) NY	1889
Buffalo NY	1905
Farmington Hills (Detroit) MI	1906
Linden VA (Lacrosse)	1909
Summit NJ	1919
Menlo Park CA	1921
West Springfield MA	1922
Los Angeles CA	1924
Syracuse NY	1925
Lancaster PA	1925
Elmira NY	1944
Marbury AL	1945
Lufkin TX	1945
North Guilford CT	1947
New Castle DE	2006

#### **Suppressed monasteries in USA:**

- Newark NJ – founded 1880 from Oullins, France, closed 2004
- Catonsville MD – founded 1899 from Union City, closed 1980
- Union City NJ– founded 1891 from Perpetual Rosary, Belgium/France, closed 2008
- Cincinnati - founded 1915 from Newark, closed 1989
- Albany NY – founded 1915 from Detroit, closed 1970
- Camden NJ – founded 1900 from Union City, closed 2013

## **CANADA**

**Monastère Notre-Dame du Rosaire**

**Formerly at Berthierville, transferred in 2012 to :**

**Dominicaines de la Trinité, Pavillon Saint Dominique**

**2712 avenue Laflèche**

**Shawinigan G9N 6H5**

**Québec**

**☎ 819 731 0166**

**Founded from Prouilhe in 1925.**

In the beginning, a lay Dominican, Mme Claire Pelland offered her house to shelter the young foundation. In 1931 the long-cherished dream of establishing a Canadian Prouille began to take shape: half of the first wing of the monastery was completed which allowed the young community made up of five founding Quebec women and twelve recruits to move. It took thirty years to complete the construction of this majestic edifice with both vast and sober "beautiful lines," built for fifty nuns. In fact, the community reached a total of forty-five in the late 1960's. A guesthouse (8 - 15 rooms) has been flourishing for many years. For a long time Berthierville was the only Dominican monastery in Canada. While the community was still large, they helped many other monasteries (two sisters in Norway for over 25 years, a sister at Langeac for one year, a sister in Burundi for 10 years, and in Douala, then Portugal and finally a sister in Switzerland for almost 10 years).

But today as a result of successive deaths, there came a point when only 13 nuns remained at the monastery (3 other sisters are in a nursing home) and the average age was quite high. Quebec has experienced the religious crisis that we know, and the Church has been impoverished. It is in this context that the community, remaining fragile, still enjoys vibrant vitality filled with the desire to communicate, especially through welcoming guests and the liturgy. There have been few vocations of young women in the traditional communities in Quebec for several decades, but in recent years, older women have asked

The beautiful monastery had become too large and the maintenance well above the sisters' physical and financial resources. Several solutions were studied to try to keep the monastery in Berthierville. All led to a stalemate - until an apostolic Dominican community (Dominicaines de la Trinité) offered to share one of their houses where the nuns would be tenants, with each distinct community occupying half of the house, so as to maintain their proper identities. An agreement of mutual support in solidarity, mutual respect and friendship was drawn up and even, some projects in common with the surrounding Dominican Lay Fraternities, where each unit has its own quality and vitality. The feasibility study involved both a material plan and a plan for the mission of the nuns in their future diocese and at the heart of the Order. Despite the pain of leaving their birthplace, the sisters experienced a unanimous determination to live this as an opportunity to renew Dominican life in the choice of voluntary poverty for free and deeper relationships. The nuns moved to their new location at Shawinigan Quebec in September 2012.



*Monastère de Notre-Dame du Rosaire, Berthierville, Québec*



*The nuns' new location with the Dominicaines de la Trinité, Shawinigan QC*

**CANADA.**  
**Queen of Peace Monastery**  
**Box 1745**  
**Garibaldi Highlands BC**  
**Vancouver VON 1T0**  
**☎ (001) 604 815 0993**  
**Founded from Farmington Hills in 1999**

In the 1990's the then Master of the Order, Timothy Radcliffe asked for volunteer nuns for an English-speaking foundation in the west of Canada, this country being so vast, and Berthierville, French speaking, being the only monastery of the Order and situated at the eastern extremity. The monastery at Farmington Hills agreed to sponsor the project and nuns from various monasteries volunteered. Five sisters arrived in British Columbia on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

Thanks to generous support from Archbishop Exner of Vancouver, the foundresses were able to occupy a small house in the grounds of the Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre at Surrey BC. The sisters were subsequently able to acquire a large house at Fort Langley, with a large barn that enabled them to fulfil one of their ambitions, to produce artwork inspired by monastic life. But local planning permissions were strict, and they were obliged to maintain some agricultural activity and building a chapel would have been difficult.

After much searching they acquired land in a more remote location in the Upper Squamish Valley north of Vancouver. The arrival of a new prioress, Canadian but having recently been prioress of Prouilhe, as well as several other new sisters gave the foundation a new impetus and it went forward to achieve canonical erection in 2009 and to embark on an ambitious building plan for a new monastery. This is now coming to fruition as the sisters moved into the new buildings and the chapel was consecrated on August 8th 2012. The new monastery, built of local timber provides a beautiful sacred space in the silence of Canada's awesome natural beauty.



## **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**Rosary Monastery**

**St Ann's Avenue**

**Port of Spain**

**☎ (868) 624-7648**

**Transferred from Venezuela in 1874**

Dominican nuns arrived in Trinidad as refugees from Venezuela. Their community had been established since 1816 in Caracas. However, Venezuela experienced a period of religious persecution during the regime of General Antonio Guzmán Blanco and the nuns, fourteen in all, were expelled in 1874. Offered haven in Trinidad, it was not until 1884 that they were canonically instituted and could begin receiving postulants. This delay was due mainly to the assumption during those ten years that the nuns would eventually return to Venezuela. While a few sisters did in fact return, the Rosary Monastery has become part of the Catholic landscape of Trinidad.

After a brief stay at the Belmont Orphanage and a longer stay at Calvary Hill, Port-of-Spain, the Rosary Monastery moved to Henry Street, next to Rosary Church, at the site occupied at present by St. Rose's Girl's School. Eventually, in 1930, having grown in numbers to thirty-three, the nuns moved to their present location in St. Ann's. Life at the Rosary Monastery is one set up on the triple pillars of enclosure, fidelity to community and sharing in the works of the community.

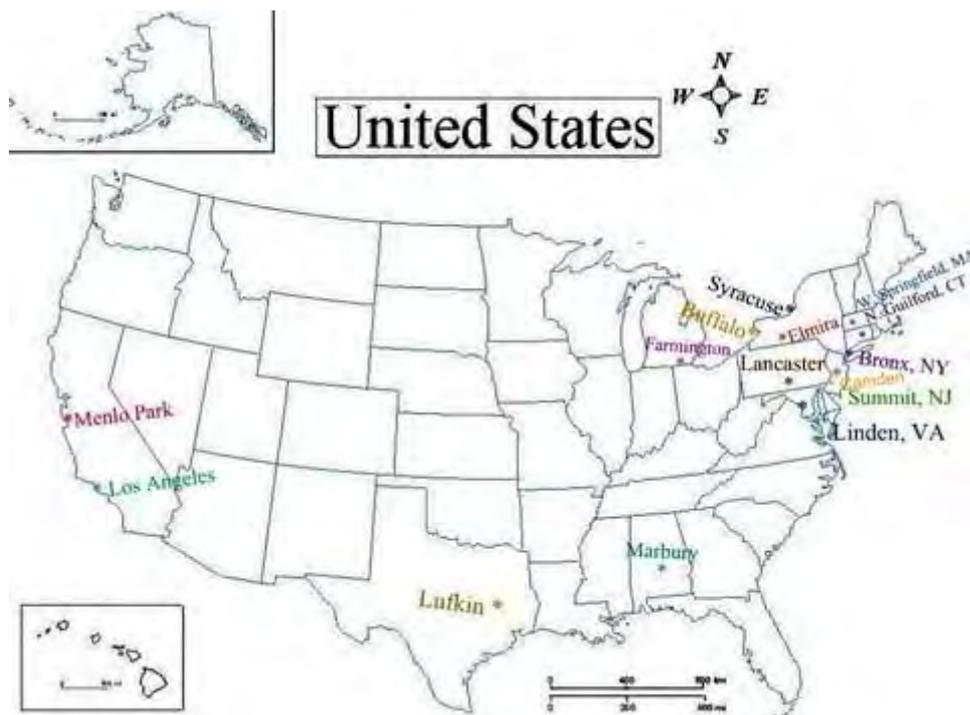
It is a life of silence, and retirement from active participation in the world in order to witness, in the words of one nun, "to a holistic way of living." The nuns' routine incorporates prayer (participation in the Eucharist and liturgy of the hours, as well as private prayer), study and manual work. They are engaged in the making of altar bread, organic gardening, farming, art, repair of statues, woodwork, pottery, reproduction of icons and the making and selling of cards. In addition, members of the public often seek the advice, solace and counsel of the nuns, either by visiting or by making prayer requests over the telephone.



## Dominican Monasteries in the United States of America - Introduction

Historically there have been two branches in Dominican monastic life in the United States, determined by the “root” from which the foundation was made. The first Dominican monastery in North America was founded in 1880 at Newark NJ from Oullins, France. Like their founding monastery, Newark and those communities founded by it maintained a tradition of perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Some twenty years later, Sr Rose de Ste Marie Wehrlé, foundress of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary in Europe made a first foundation in North America at West Hoboken (Union City) in 1891). These sisters maintained perpetual recitation of the rosary. These monasteries never had a centralised form of government. Ultimately, towards the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century they became assimilated into the mainstream of cloistered Dominican nuns – with one exception, Milwaukee founded in 1897. Since 20?? the majority of monasteries of North America are grouped together in an Association for mutual support and fraternal solidarity.

In this directory, the monasteries are presented in alphabetical order by state.



*The map shows the concentration of Dominican monasteries in the north eastern states.*

**ALABAMA**  
**Monastery of St Jude**  
**PO Box 170**  
**Marbury AL 36051-0170**  
**☎ (205) 755-1322**  
**Founded from Catonsville MD in 1944**

The Dominican Monastery of St. Jude began as a vision of Mother Mary of Jesus, a Dominican sister in the monastery of Catonsville, Md., in 1936. She saw “a crowd of angry black people with clubs in hand engaged in a violent struggle.” A Dominican brother, whom she recognized as Saint Martin de Porres, passed among them. The crowd calmed down and the clubs were replaced with rosaries. St Martin pointed to a monastery on a hill, and there she saw Dominican sisters of all races praying with arms outstretched. She felt God was indicating His desire that there should be an interracial community “where any young woman who wished to live the cloistered, contemplative life would be welcome.”

Many bishops were contacted and asked if an interracial community would be welcome, however the replies were not too encouraging. Many thought it a noble idea, but unsuitable for their area, or at that time or for the people of their diocese. In 1944 the foundresses were finally welcomed by Archbishop Thomas Toolen of Mobile, Alabama.

There still was the question of where to build such a monastery. A break came in contacting Father Harold Purcell, who had established the city of St. Jude in Montgomery to give black people their own church, school, hospital and social service center. Fr. Purcell intended to establish the cloistered sisters in a building adjoining the Church of Saint Jude in Montgomery. He could not build, however, because of the shortage of materials in wartime. There was a house available in Marbury, thirty miles north of Montgomery. All he needed to do there was to make suitable adaptations to turn a frame farm house into a temporary monastery. The foundresses, Mother Mary Dominic, O.P., and Mother Mary of the Child Jesus, O.P. left the monastery at Catonsville, Maryland, on August 17, arriving in Marbury the next day. The small frame house was ideally situated in a quiet, country spot. Named for Saint Jude, the Saint of the Impossible, the monastery is proof of his powerful intercession and patronage. With the Bishop's approval the community decided to remain in Marbury. In the early 1950s the nuns began to solicit funds to build a permanent monastery on the adjoining hilltop. There were countless responses to the request, "Just throw a brick at us! Each one is 14 cents." Bishop Toolen turned the first spadeful of earth on November 13, 1952. The community moved into this new Monastery on the Feast of Saint Jude, October 28, 1953.

So, Marbury became home to Dominican sisters, something that no doubt would have come as a surprise to long time residents. “At that time, to see a sister was quite an attraction,” said Mother Mary Joseph, a black woman who is proof that the monastery still holds to the ideal of an interracial community. The sisters come from all over, from as near as Auburn and from as far away as Syracuse, N.Y.



## **CALIFORNIA**

**Monastery of the Angels**

**1977 Carmen Avenue**

**Los Angeles CA 90068-4098**

**☎ (323) 466-2186**

**Founded from Newark NJ in 1924**

The Monastery of the Angels was founded in 1924 by Mother Mary of the Eucharist and four companions from the Dominican monastery at Newark NJ. She had a great devotion to the Guardian Angels and hoped to make a foundation in their honour one day, and so was delighted to respond to the invitation of Bishop Cantwell for a monastery in the diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles. The nuns crossed the continent by train and at first had no buildings of their own, then temporary accommodation in a two storey house at 728 West 28<sup>th</sup> Street. IN the 1930's, their numbers increased and it became urgent to look for a permanent site for a monastery. In 1934 they were able to acquire a suitable property, a beautiful mansion house on the three acre Giroux estate in Hollywood. The sisters earned their living with embroidery work, vestments and altar breads. A new purpose-built monastery was completed on Christmas Eve 1948. The original mansion was retained as a retreat centre in the first instance, but later demolished to make way for an orchard and vegetable garden. Sewing gave way to baking and new buildings were added: infirmary, work rooms chaplain's quarters. Over the years the monastery proved popular with people associated with the movie industry in the surrounding area and some retreats were organised especially to cater for their needs.

By the end of the 1950's, the Monastery of the Angels was able to make a foundation – at Karachi, Pakistan; nine sisters left in December 1959. In 1977, a second foundation was made at Bocaue in the Philippines. Three sisters from Los Angeles accompanied six Filipinas who had come to California for initial formation.



## **CALIFORNIA**

### **Corpus Christi Monastery**

**215 Oak Grove Avenue**

**Menlo Park CA 94025-3272**

**☎ (650) 322-1801**

**Founded from Bronx NY in 1921**

Corpus Christi Monastery was founded in response to a desire of the Western Dominican Provincial and the Archbishop of San Francisco to have a contemplative monastery in this area whose purpose would be to honour and promote devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Father A.L. McMahon, OP had been working on this project as early as 1908, but it took until May 29, 1921 to clear away all the difficulties involved in establishing this shrine of love and adoration. On that day eight Dominican Nuns set out from their monastery in the Bronx, New York to begin the new foundation in California. The Sisters were housed temporarily in the home of a Catholic lady in San Francisco who gave them hospitality until a suitable property could be found for a permanent monastery.

By April 9, 1928 the new home in Menlo Park was ready and the Sisters joyfully moved into the newly constructed gothic building on Oak Grove Avenue. Here the community grew and flourished. The public chapel is open all day.

In the spirit of St Dominic and the first foundations, there is a small community of friars living nearby, one of them serves as chaplain the nuns, the others have various ministries in the area.



**CONNECTICUT**  
**Monastery of Our Lady of Grace**  
**11 Race Hill Road,**  
**North Guilford CT 06437-1099**  
**☎ (203) 457-0599**  
**Founded from Summit NJ in 1947**



In 1946, the prioress of the Dominican Monastery in Summit, New Jersey accepted a gift of land in North Guilford for the express purpose of founding a monastery on it. As vocations at Summit had flourished there was no problem about finding foundresses. Fifteen sisters came to North Guilford in 1947, and established the first monastery in the 17<sup>th</sup> century farm house and barns already on the property. All went well until two days before Christmas in 1955 a fire razed the entire structure to the ground and took the lives of three of the sisters. The community lived together in West Haven in an unused county home for orphans (provided by the state) until the spring of 1958 when the new monastery was completed and they were able to return to North Guilford.

It is of special interest that after the devastating fire in 1955 there was found in the debris of the destroyed farmhouse-monastery a burnt page from a Missal used at Mass on which the only remaining legible words were *Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus*. When the time came to carve words over the entrance of the new monastery chapel, the sisters remembered the scrap of burnt paper, and those special words seemed a most appropriate choice for the inscription: *Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus*.

The number of sisters continued to increase and in April 1965, twelve sisters left to make a foundation in Nairobi, Kenya. This was so successful that by the late 1980's, all of the American sisters were able to return home.

## **DELAWARE**

**Caterina Benincasa Monastery**

**6 Church Drive**

**New Castle DE 19720-1211**

**☎ (302) 654-1206**

**Founded from Elmira NY in 2006 (awaiting canonical erection)**

This foundation, the first in the United States for some sixty years, began in 2006, with a small group of professed nuns from different monasteries. Each of them had a particular talent that they hoped to be able to develop within the context of Dominican monastic life, for example art, a commitment to ecumenism or study and writing. They came to the conclusion “Why not do something new ourselves?” and so formulated a proposal that was sent to the Master of the Order at the General Chapter of Bogota in July, 2007. They met with the friars in Delaware and gained the approval of Bishop Michael A Saltarelli. A home was found in a former convent on the site of Holy Spirit Parish in New Castle.

They moved to Delaware on November 25, 2007, Solemnity of Christ the King, and stayed with the Benedictine sisters at St Elizabeth Convent in Wilmington whilst the convent building was being prepared for occupancy. On December 2, 2007, First Sunday of Advent, Bishop Saltarelli presided at a solemn Mass of welcome in the diocese. On December 8, 2007, the sisters moved into the former convent at Holy Spirit Parish, now renamed “Caterina Benincasa Dominican Monastery.”

The sisters needed a community to sponsor them. The monastery of Elmira was surprised at the request but affirmative. Sr Miriam, prioress, Sr David Marie, sub-prioress, and Sr Anna Marie, novice mistress, visited in June 2008. On July 28, the community voted unanimously to sponsor the foundation.

On April 20, 2009, Fr Carlos Aspiroz-Costa, Master of the Order, visited. Sr Miriam and Sr David Marie from Elmira were present for the occasion. New Castle, Delaware. On November 10, 2008, the New Castle sisters were accepted unanimously by both council and chapter as permanently transfiliated members of the Elmira community. On July 24, 2010 word was received that the Holy See had approved the foundation. Caterina Benincasa Monastery was now on a firm footing in all directions.



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Monastery of the Mother of God**  
**1430 Riverdale Street**  
**West Springfield MA 01089-4698**  
**☎ (413) 736-3639**  
**Founded from Catonsville MD in 1922**



Sr Mary Hyacinth of Jesus was the foundress of West Springfield. She was sent from Camden NJ to Catonsville Md to be novice mistress. Because the exercises and prayers were in still in French there, Sr Mary Hyacinth was needed for the English speaking girls who were pursuing their vocation. Eventually they knew an English speaking foundation was needed. On September 8, 1922 Mother Mary of the Crown came to Springfield, Massachusetts, accompanied by Sister Mary Hyacinth. They petitioned the Ordinary of the diocese, Most Reverend Thomas Mary O’Leary, to accept them in his diocese. He asked how much money they had for the foundation; the sisters replied “Five dollars” . The bishop asked if they thought they could make a foundation with that, to which Sr Mary Hyacinth retorted “ No, I can’t, but our Blessed Mother can”. And so the bishop said: “Come, come to Springfield in the name of God and Mary. This will be our gift to Our Lady on the feast of her birth.” Bishop O’Leary appointed Sister Mary Hyacinth as the prioress of the new community. She was then twenty-nine years old.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1922, in torrential rain, five sisters joined Mother Mary Hyacinth. There was also one postulant. They were received with great charity at the House of the Good Shepherd where Mother Mary Hyacinth awaited their arrival with hope and joy in this new venture. During the weeks that followed Mother Mary Hyacinth made preparations for the new foundation. After much searching they found a house at 80 Ingersoll Grove in Springfield. On November 9, 1922 the Monastery of the Mother of God became a reality.

Over the next three years, the community started to grow and flourish. And Mother Mary Hyacinth started looking for a more suitable spot where the sisters would be close to the people of the diocese and yet set apart for enclosure, in an atmosphere of silence and solitude. One day she approached the door of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Nye, asking if they would be interested in selling their property because it was situated on a lovely hill in West Springfield. Of course, they were not. But within a very short time Mr. Nye suddenly died, and Mrs. Nye did not feel that she could remain in the large estate. There were two parties interested in the sale: the Springfield Country Club, who could pay cash, and the Dominican Nuns, who only had promises. Bishop O’Leary was hesitant at first to give his approval since the nuns were so poor. The nuns continued to pray and to hope. Suddenly

the Bishop had a change of mind and, with his backing, the property was purchased. The Sisters moved into the Nye mansion on October 23, 1925. Renovations followed.

Five years later another milestone was reached. With the approval of Rome, the community took on the Constitutions of the Second Order, with full Divine Office, including Matins at midnight, the monastic fast, papal enclosure and solemn vows. Twenty years later it became apparent that a proper monastic building was needed. The old Nye mansion was both too small for the number of sisters and physically deteriorating. Plans for a new monastery, a “real” monastic building, were drawn up and a building project was begun. Thus the present building was erected, with the community taking residence in 1956.



## **MICHIGAN**

**Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament,**

**29575 Middlebelt Road**

**Farmington Hills MI 48334-2311**

**☎ (248) 626-8321**

**Founded at Detroit from Newark NJ in 1906**



The "Old" Monastery in Detroit, 1906-1966



The Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in the Archdiocese of Detroit was established as an act of thanksgiving to God on the seven hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Monastery of Our Lady of Prouille by St. Dominic. Mother Mary Emmanuel Noel, one of the four American foundresses, and six other nuns left the Monastery of St. Dominic, Newark, New Jersey, came to Detroit on Passion Sunday, April 1, 1906, to bring Dominican contemplative life to Detroit. A first temporary home was found for the nuns at the "Murphy Mansion" on Woodward Avenue.

It rapidly became necessary to start looking for land on which to build a permanent monastery. Benefactors were of course also necessary. Things went ahead rapidly and sisters moved into the first part of the new building in 1909; the chapel remained yet to be built however. In June 1911 the cornerstone was laid and amazingly enough the completed chapel was dedicated with great ceremony on March 25<sup>th</sup> 1912 – just nine months! This monastery flourished and in 1915 it was possible to envisage a foundation. The Prioress Mother Mary Emmanuel went with six other foundresses to Albany New York on November 21<sup>st</sup> of that year. Another foundation followed at Lufkin, Texas in 1944.

In the 1960's, Detroit was blighted by unfortunate race riots that devastated certain areas of the city; Oakland Avenue was not spared these disruptions and the nuns were advised to consider relocating. A building fund was launched and Cardinal Mooney gave the piece of property at Farmington Hills on which the monastery now stands. On June 17<sup>th</sup> 1966, the community moved house, and was delighted with its new spacious and airy accommodation.

The community has continued to flourish and has made two more foundations, one in the West of Canada, the other in Vietnam.

## **NEW JERSEY**

**Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary**

**543 Springfield Avenue**

**Summit NJ 07901-4498**

**☎ (908) 273-1228**

**Founded from Union City in 1919**

The fourteen foundresses left Union City on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1919 for their new home, only one and a half hour's drive away. The sisters had purchased a pleasant Tudor style mansion on the Ter Meer estate on New England Avenue, Summit. Within three months the community was sufficiently well installed to be able to resume the prayer of the rosary day and night. Almost immediately the monastery attracted groups of pilgrims desiring to make processions in the grounds and to pray the rosary. In 1921 the bishop gave permission for the construction of a grotto chapel in the grounds and the pilgrimages became a regular event. Donations, usually modest, from these pilgrims enabled the Dominican nuns to flourish and to build.

Indeed it soon became necessary to make plans for a new building as the sisters as they welcomed new vocations became ever more cramped for space in the old house. Fortunately the community was able to purchase land adjoining their monastery at the end of 1924. The cornerstone was laid in 1925 but unfortunately building had to be abandoned until some debts were liquidated. It would not be completed until 1939! The large public chapel was dedicated on 15<sup>th</sup> September and Archbishop Walsh invited the faithful to come and pray there regularly. This would indeed be the case during the impending World War, during which the sisters established a little farm for the community's subsistence with two milking cows and two hundred chickens.

As soon as the war was over, in 1945 the prioress, was offered 197 acres of wood and farmland in North Guilford Connecticut to found a monastery. At this very same moment there was a marked increase in vocations at Summit (fifty one sisters in all) and this was interpreted as a favourable sign for the foundation project. Indeed fifteen sisters (one for each decade of the rosary...) left on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1947.

In the 1950's the monastery together with all of those from the Perpetual Rosary tradition in the United States became officially affiliated to the Dominican Order; this opened the perspective of papal enclosure and solemn vows which the nuns greatly desired. Their petition was granted by Rome in Arch 1955.

The 1970's saw a second foundation, this time in the Philippines. Young Filipina women came for formation at Summit, and five sisters left to make the foundation. The foundresses were to settle at Cainta near Manila on land donated by the Cardinal Jaime Sin.

The community at Summit has continued to flourish, even in these times of rarity of vocations. They have diversified their activities to include scholarship and publishing, printing and soap making. They were early pioneers in seeing the advantages that the use of Internet can bring to a monastic community.



## **NEW YORK**

**Corpus Christi Monastery**

**11230 Lafayette Avenue**

**Bronx NY 10474-5399**

**☎ (718) 328-6996**

**Founded from Newark NJ in 1889**

Corpus Christi Monastery is the oldest surviving Dominican monastery in the United States, a 115-year old branch of the first monastery of nuns founded by Mother Mary of Jesus (Julia Crooks of New York City). Having made her formation in Oullins, France, she founded the Monastery of St. Dominic in Newark, NJ, in 1880. This expanded rapidly, reaching a total of over fifty sisters in just nine years, and so they felt able to envisage a second American foundation. They looked towards “Hunt’s Point” the area of New York that is today known as the Bronx. On May 26th 1889, Mother Mary of Jesus and five other Sisters came to the Bronx, at the invitation of Archbishop Michael Augustine Corrigan. He requested the presence of a contemplative community of nuns with the special purpose of praying for the seminarians and priests of the Archdiocese of New York. This has remained the particular mission of these Dominican nuns to this day.

The land to build on was purchased, and by the time Corpus Christi Monastery was finished at the end of 1890, there were twenty nuns ready to move in.

Within the exceptional location of the city of New York, this monastery offers an oasis of peace and prayer to those who seek its hospitality.



**NEW YORK**  
**Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**335 Doat Street**  
**Buffalo, NY 14211-2199**  
**☎ 716-892-0066**  
**Founded from Union City in 1905**

The ranks of the Perpetual Rosary monastery at Baltimore were considerably increased in 1903 by the arrival of twenty-one exiled sisters from France, victims of political persecution. For practical reasons some of the American sisters now returned to their founding monastery at Union City. There two, the community was large, and so it became possible to envisage another foundation. And so the monastery at Buffalo was founded by five sisters from Union City in 1905.



In its turn, when the monastery at Buffalo was at its peak in the 1950's, the community sent eight sisters out to found another monastery in Elmira, New York.

The community is currently flourishing and makes something of a speciality of Gregorian chant. One of the nuns did the calligraphy and musical notation for a four volume Gregorian chant instruction book. They have also engaged in translation work, particularly of noted Dominican theologians and historians.



**NEW YORK**  
**Monastery of Mary the Queen**  
**1310 W Church Street**  
**Elmira NY 14905-1998**  
**☎ (607) 734- 9506**  
**Founded from Buffalo NY in 1944**



The Dominican Monastery of Elmira, New York is a daughter house of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary of Buffalo, New York, which in turn was founded from the Monastery of Union City, New Jersey. In January, 1944, Rev. Gerald Lambert of the clergy of the diocese of Rochester, New York, at the request of the Buffalo monastery consulted Bishop James E. Kearney about the possibility of establishing a foundation in his diocese. He gave a favourable reply, proposing the city of Elmira in the southern tier of the diocese since there was no cloister in that vicinity at that date. After consultation, Bishop Kearney gave his written permission to establish the foundation on the Feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, 1944.

On June 15, 1944, the house and property for the new monastery were purchased. The property consisted of four acres in a good residential section just outside the city limits of Elmira. The house had been uninhabited for three years and was the former country club of Elmira. Extensive repairs were needed on the building and the property but the basic floor plan of the house was favourable for monastic life. The date of departure from Buffalo was set for August 16, 1944. Rev. Mother Mary Cecelia of Jesus, Prioress of the Buffalo Monastery had asked for volunteers for the foundation from which she selected eight.

The first months of the foundation were very difficult ones for the nuns but the generous assistance of Rev. Gerald Lambert and the Ladies of Charity of the city was a great encouragement. However, the first Mass was able to be celebrated on the day after arrival, August 17, by Fr. Lambert and a second followed, celebrated by Fr. O'Brien the new chaplain. The enclosure fence was erected within the next few weeks and the community life was taken up immediately as far as was possible under the circumstances. In September of the same year the chaplain was received as a Dominican Tertiary by the Very Rev. Albert Drexelius O.P. chaplain of Buffalo Monastery. On his first visit, the bishop, himself a Dominican Tertiary, advised that the grille opening on to the sanctuary be enlarged so that the nuns might have a better view of the altar and the Blessed Sacrament. In February, 1945 the Rosary Confraternity was established.

On June 8, 1945 the monastery was canonically erected and enclosure established. In October the first public Rosary Novena was held here; and at the end of the same month our Bishop granted us the privilege of daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament a privilege which has been continued ever since without interruption.



**NEW YORK**  
**Dominican Monastery**  
**802 Court Street**  
**Syracuse NY 13802**  
**☎ 315 471 6762**  
**Founded from Camden NJ in 1925**

It was from the Perpetual Rosary monastery at Camden NJ that the sisters came to Syracuse, New York at the request of Mother Mary Louis Bertrand, who was then Prioress of Camden. Bishop Daniel Curley welcomed the new community which opened its doors on March 25, 1925. The patrons for the new foundation were Saint Dominic, who founded the first nuns in Prouilhe, France and also Saint Teresa of Avila, the great model for contemplative life. The patron of the grounds on which the monastery stands and its special protector is Saint Michael, the Archangel. Each Perpetual Rosary monastery, as it was founded, was also given a special mystery of the rosary—Syracuse has the mystery of the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

Mother Mary Louis Bertrand O.P. became the first prioress. The other sisters of the foundation were: Mother Mary Henri of Jesus, O.P.; Sister Mary Augustine, O.P.; Sister Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, O.P.; Sister Mary of the Holy Angels, O.P.; Sister Mary Magdalen, O.P.; Sister Mary Pius, O.P.; Sister Mary Raphael, O.P.; Sister Mary of the Ascension O.P.; Sister Mary Benedict, O.P. (Lay Sister); Sister Mary Sybillina, O.P. (Lay Sister); Sister Mary Margaret, O.P. (Extern Sister).

They were selected by Mother Mary Louis Bertrand without prior knowledge that they would be the founding community in Syracuse, and in obedience they all humbly acquiesced to this request to further the vision of Father Damian Marie Saintourens to spread the devotion of the rosary. These first sisters lived in great poverty, having no heating in the cold months and very little furniture. With the help of the nursing sisters of Saint Mary's Hospital and also the Franciscan Sisters down the road from the monastery, they received generous help both spiritually and physically.

In 1954 the first postulant was admitted to the Syracuse Monastery. (Before this time all the new members were sent to Camden New Jersey for their formation.) More young women were to follow and the novitiate grew under the watchful care and love of Sister Mary Theresa Ferguson, O.P. Sister Mary Paul was then Prioress and she held the position of Prioress many times during her life. She started a building fund which was used to construct the present monastery, which was completed in 1986.



## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

**1834 Lititz Pike**

**Lancaster PA 17601-6585**

**☎ (717) 569-2104**

**Founded from Catonsville MD in 1925**

Founded by the Perpetual Rosary monastery in Catonsville, MD (now closed). On June 10, 1925, Mother Mary of the Crown, OP, as Prioress, together with eight other sisters began a new house in South Enola, close to Harrisburg, PA but in an isolated location, which made life difficult for the sisters. Later in 1946, the Union City Monastery sent six sisters to help out as vocations were slow in coming, due to the remoteness of the area. Because of structural deficiencies, in the early 1950's it was decided to build a new monastery in Lancaster, PA. The sisters were able to move into their new home in May 1955. Under the direction of the Most Reverend George L. Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg, it was dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Mother Mary of the Immaculate Heart, OP was appointed Prioress.

At this time, this monastery experiences the same decline in vocations as is met by many religious groups in the Church, but the sisters remain confident that God in His Providence, will provide in due time.



## **TEXAS**

**Monastery of the Infant Jesus**

**1501 Lotus Lane**

**Lufkin TX 75904**

**☎ (936) 634-4233**

**Founded from Detroit in 1945**

In the 1940's the monastery at Detroit (now at Farmington Hills) was flourishing with over fifty sisters in community. Elected prioress in 1944, Mother Mary Imelda deemed it appropriate to make a foundation; this would be Detroit's second (after Albany in 1915). It was a brave decision to head for Texas, where Dominican nuns had never before settled, and in this geographically vast state, contact with Dominican friars would not be easy. Notwithstanding, the following year, 1945, the fifteen foundresses headed for Lufkin in the Piney Woods of East Texas where the new monastery was placed under the patronage of the Infant Jesus.

In its own words, the community has "weathered the heat and storms, the cool and fair skies of daily life to grow into a strong community. Today we number 25 sisters from throughout the United States as well as from Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Tanzania and Vietnam.



## **VIRGINIA**

### **St. Dominic's Monastery**

**2636 Monastery Road**

**Linden, VA 22642**

**☎ (540) 635-3259**

**Founded from Union City at Lacrosse, Wis 1909**

The community began in 1907 when the founding nuns courageously set out from their monastery in Union City NJ with the intention of establishing a contemplative monastery in Baker City, Oregon. After two years the bishop requested that the nuns take on the active apostolate of teaching in the diocese. Rather than forsake their contemplative vocation, the nuns felt they should move to another location. They were welcomed into the diocese of Lacrosse. Because of the lack of priests available to celebrate mass at Lacrosse in 1984, they relocated again to Washington DC; here they would be in close proximity to their Dominican Friars at the House of Studies. This "temporary" dwelling was to be home to the nuns for 22 years. In 2002, having outgrown the temporary accommodation in a converted private house the sisters began planning for the construction of the long awaited permanent St Dominic's monastery.

The nuns were able to purchase a former apple orchard near Linden, in the Blue Mountains, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley, a location able to ensure the silence and solitude essential for monastic life, yet only one hour's drive from Washington DC. On June 24, 2008, the community moved into the completed first phase of their new home. They await further funding in order to be able to commence phase two which includes a permanent chapel.

