
The Dominican Sisters of Wanganui ♦ New Zealand



Sister Madeleine and Mother Michaela outside the impressive façade of Corpus Christi Church in Tynong, Australia in preparation for the relocation of the Motherhouse in January 2012.



Sisters Therese and Rose scrape away on St. Michael's Day.



Sister Catherine in a state of nervous excitement on the subs bench at the teachers versus students netball game.

loving mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that we may bear much fruit for Holy Mother the Church.

St. Michael's Day

At the end of the month we celebrated the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel which was also the Feast Day of our Mother Prioress. The Sisters rallied around to prepare a celebration worthy of mention. It began with Sisters smoking out the kitchen trying to make pancakes for 17 people before the start of School. **Mother was overjoyed to find "some delightful person" had ordered the book she had secretly desired for her Feast Day along with a few other goodies.** It was remarkable! A miracle in fact! In lieu of lectures, the novices had a day off, and in the evening we prepared a bit of a, what one might call, "an amateur musical recital." **We were very fortunate to have the presence of a visiting flautist from the U.S.A who was able to play sweetly amidst the reverberations of two booming cellists, a one-handed organist (Sr. had broken her arm in a recent Roll-a-thon fundraiser), a few conductors equipped with wooden glockenspiels, two confident recorder players and a group of choral singers.** There was much delight and surprise when all managed to end in harmony at the last bar, and the audience with Mother at the head, gave out thunderous applause to the voice of an overly confident recorder player who insisted we could take requests.

Exam Success

After the September holidays, it was all hands on deck as the Seniors underwent a week of mock exams and are now preparing for upcoming Cambridge examinations. As part of our ongoing pro-

Australia

In September, Mother and two Professed Sisters flew to Australia to visit St. Thomas Aquinas School in Tynong and to look at an adjacent piece of land called "the green wedge" where our future Motherhouse hopes to be. Fr. Delsorte, the local Prior, was in high spirits as he showed the Sisters all the facilities the school had to offer and the newly decorated Church. The only disappointment of the trip was not meeting any kangaroos!

Next year will mark an important step in the history of our congregation as Mother heads a brigade over to Australia to begin work on the establishment of a Motherhouse, hoping to have the patronage of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, and leaving a community of Sisters to run our first foundation, aptly named after our Holy Father, St. Dominic. Please pray our community continues to grow under the

The Dominican Sisters of Wanganui ♦ New Zealand

essional development as teachers, Sister Catherine gave a talk to staff on student motivation, high expectations and the link they have to academic success. It was certainly an inspiring talk and it is encouraging to review our school statistics. Although only a small school, St. Dominic's College has been awarded 4 Top Centre Awards since 2007. To gain the award, students must come in the top few percent in NZ and/or in the world. Sister Catherine pointed out that although our students are not like the great St. Thomas yet, with high expectations and hard work, all have the ability to achieve.

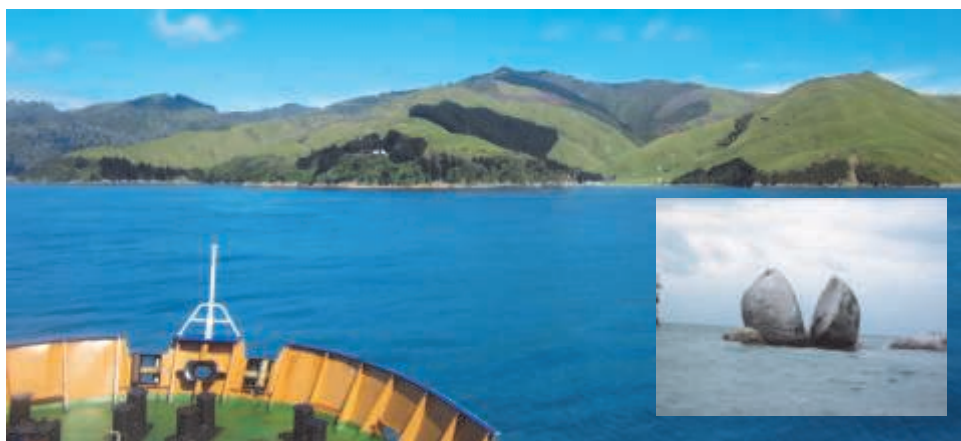
The Holy Rosary

The month of the Holy Rosary began with a Sunday of contemplation to prepare the Sisters for the upcoming Feast of the Holy Rosary. On this day (1st Class for Dominicans) our Cappas are hung up until the Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena and one of our most powerful weapons unveiled – the rosary - which we always wear by our side. With a true Dominican spirit, we expect to re-double our efforts for the Rosary Crusade, for more postulants, for our new foundation, for our school children, for the salvation of souls and....for more gigantic carrots like the one in the photo. Deo Gratias. Ω



Isabella on the ropes.

The girls' camp at Nelson, South Island in December was full of high adventure.



Wonderful scenery from the antipodes.



*Postulant, Miss Klingers (right), and giant carrot.
Miss Klingers is now Sr. Mary Thomas.*

"My Lord, if this is to be my exile, what will heaven be like!"