



# THE FLAME

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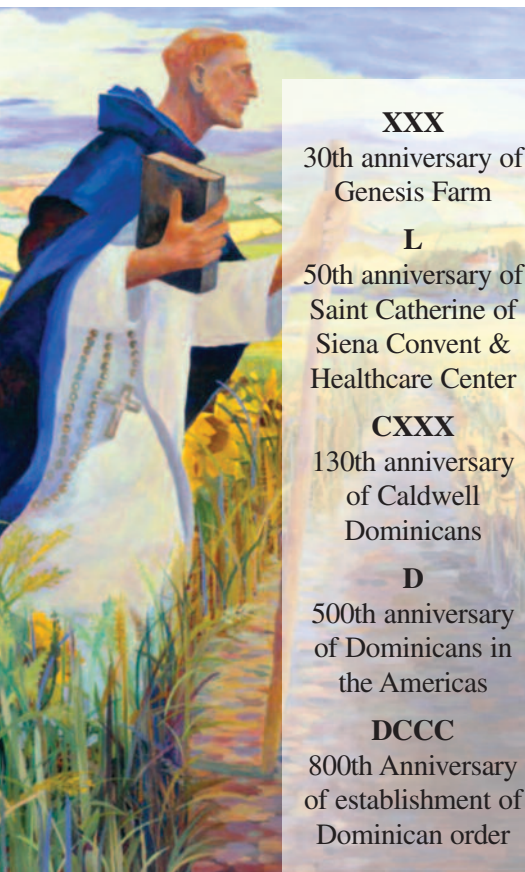
“it seemed to set the earth on fire”

## CALDWELL DOMINICANS



### Milestones

The mission to teach, preach & justly minister to all of God’s people remains relevant as the Dominican Order celebrates its 800th year.



**XXX**

30th anniversary of Genesis Farm

**L**

50th anniversary of Saint Catherine of Siena Convent & Healthcare Center

**CXXX**

130th anniversary of Caldwell Dominicans

**D**

500th anniversary of Dominicans in the Americas

**DCCC**

800th Anniversary of establishment of Dominican order

Photo Credit: Dominic’s Path by Maureen E. Carey, Ph.D.

### A Message from the Prioress

*Real milestones . . .  
come to the door of memory unannounced . . .  
Our lives are measured by these.  
Susan B. Anthony*



My dear Friends and Benefactors,

Milestones serve travelers by showing the distance from whence they have come and often indicate how much of the journey still lies ahead. They offer security, hope, a feeling of accomplishment, and yet impel the traveler forward.

This year we Caldwell Dominican Sisters celebrate a number of milestones:

The **30th Anniversary** of Genesis Farm where people from all over the globe come to learn the mysteries of Creation as they realize some of the awesomeness of life in an expanding Universe and sustainable ways to live on Earth.

The **50th Anniversary** of Saint Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center where our infirm and elderly Sisters, religious from other congregations, priests, and some of our own family members receive the care reflecting the compassion of Jesus Himself.

The **130th Anniversary** of our Congregation as Preachers of the Word of God through ministries of teaching, pastoral care, health care and the arts.

The **500th Anniversary** of the Order of Preachers in the Americas where from the beginning Dominicans have spoken, written, taught and worked for the rights and dignity of all peoples.

The **800th Anniversary** of the Order of Preachers in the Church through which women and men, lay, ordained, cloistered and apostolic members engage in proclaiming the Gospel where it has yet to be heard.

But as Susan B. Anthony remarked there are other milestones, less obvious, perhaps, by which our lives are measured. Among these we count the daily generous gifts of prayer, time and treasure shared with us by each of you. There is no measuring post for these milestones of goodness, at least not here on earth. It is clear, though, that any good we are able to do, we do as your sisters, your partners. So, you see, our lives are measured in no small way by the milestones of your giving. Our Gracious God will mark these milestones of yours with blessings now and in eternity! We pray this daily!

*Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P.*

Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P.  
Prioress



THE FLAME

SISTERS OF SAINT DOMINIC OF CALDWELL, NJ

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MISSION STATEMENT

Affirmed by Chapter 2005

"We, Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, are a community of vowed women religious responding to God's call and united in our quest for the unfolding revelation of God. We preach the Word of God through our lives of contemplative prayer, study and ministry in response to the needs of our time.

VISION STATEMENTS 1995

We will reclaim our passion for contemplation, and choose this as our lens through which we make decisions, live our lives, minister, and perceive our world. We will hold the promotion of Justice as top priority in every area of our Congregation. We will commit ourselves to deepen our studying, living and teaching the mysteries of the universe and the sacredness of all creation. We resist the ongoing devastation of our planet by a contemplative scrutiny of our use/abuse of Earth's gifts.

Development Office

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Community Leadership

Sister Arlene Antczak, OP, Prioress  
 Sister Luella Ramm, OP, Vicarress  
 Sister Patricia Stringer, OP, Councilor  
 Sister Elsie Bernauer, OP, Councilor

Visit our new and improved web site at:

[www.caldwellop.org](http://www.caldwellop.org)

Also look for Caldwell Dominicans – Sisters of St. Dominic on [LinkedIn](#) [in](#)

Caldwell Dominicans Celebrate 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

...Remembering Together Our Past – Sharing Our Future...

With roots in the 13th century, the worldwide Dominican Order is amazingly relevant in the 21st century. Founded by St. Dominic Guzman eight centuries ago, the Order's call to praise, bless, and preach the love of God remains unchanged. This is the Order of Preachers, and the need for such an order is greater today than in all the centuries past. The truth of Christ's Word is the very hope of the world today, and the Dominicans are committed to spreading that gospel.

A community of women first embraced the charism of St. Dominic in the early thirteenth century. In 1206, while Dominic was parish priest at Fanjeaux, France, and preaching throughout the region, women came together under his leadership at the monastery of St. Mary in nearby Prouille. In 1233, Jordan of Saxony, second Master of the Order, founded Holy Cross Monastery, Regensburg, Germany. In 1853, four Dominican sisters of Holy Cross came to New York, to work with German immigrant children. Their foundation, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, led to foundations in New York and Jersey City. The Jersey City community became a congregation in the diocese of Newark on December 16, 1881. A tuberculosis epidemic subsequently led to moving the sick, the novices, and finally the congregational offices to the healthier air of Caldwell.

At Homecoming on December 17th, Prioress Sister Arlene Antczak proclaimed a year of celebration commemorating the one hundred thirtieth anniversary of the congregation. Events will be announced on our website: [www.caldwellop.org](http://www.caldwellop.org) and in *The Flame*.

Note from the Director of Development

In the secular world, globalization, teamwork and strategic partnering are the best practices essential to organizational success and longevity. These same tenets – global reach and collaboration – are what mission and ministry have been about for the Dominicans going back 800 years. Now that's sustainability!

This year we celebrate many milestones, anniversaries and achievements. We invite you to follow our story both online and in future newsletters as we celebrate our Lifetime Achievement Jubilee during 2012.

While our 130th anniversary is noteworthy, of equal significance is the personal dedication and commitment of Sisters who have given over one thousand years of faithful service to their community and to you. Imagine - five Sisters celebrated a Golden Jubilee (50 years); six Sisters celebrated 70 years and eight Sisters celebrated 60 years!

The Sisters' commitment never ends – they never retire. They continue to minister strategically for peace and human rights for all, address such tough topics as human trafficking (the modern day version of slavery), or retire from a profession only to head up our technology initiative, support the development office serving as writers, editors, photographers, and recording your kind donations.

Much of their work is able to continue due to your generous support. Please know through your participation in the Sisters' ministries, you too are making a difference in the world.

In Peace,  
 Rosemarie Scannapieco  
 Director of Development

I want to help make a difference.



The two Honoras.



Sisters Veritas, Nora & Veronica warm up with cups of hot tea.

As a part of the Northeast Five OP Congregations' Committed Collaboration Project working with the OP Sisters of Montebello, South Africa, Honora Nolty (Amityville) and Honora Werner (Caldwell) spent two weeks with the sisters in Montebello. Despite the challenges of language (the Montebello sisters speak Zulu as a first language and English as a second or third, while the Americans spoke only English) laughter and hospitality are universal for Dominicans!

The sisters met 6 days a week to reflect on Dominican Spirituality, to experience the Universe Story, and to learn some basic preaching skills. Each day they viewed a segment of the DVD, *A Journey with Dominic and the Order of Preachers* and discussed its application to our lives. Topics included Saints



Listening to playback of singing during morning prayer.

Connecting Continents



Sister Venencia prepares to light the flame for the Cosmic Walk, Motherhouse Chapel.

Catherine, Albert & Thomas as well as Eckhart, the Florentines, and the Peruvians –especially Martin de Porres, their favorite! They also reviewed the presence of the Order through the centuries in Latin America and Asia. Some of the elder Montebello sisters recounted the history of the Congregation while Sister Michael talked about the history of the Dominican Sisters of Africa (DSA), the resources they share, and the challenges they face.

The Sisters learned and relearned the Universe Story through placards, a video, and the Cosmic Walk. They



Sister Honora with Montebello Novices.



Dominican Spirituality.



Presentation of gifts at Sunday Eucharist, Chapel, Montebello Motherhouse.

noted how often Dominican sisters and brothers through the centuries found creation to be a true revelation of God.

They prayed as preachers every morning, doing lectio divina (divine reading) with the Gospel for the feast of Mary Magdalene. The two Americans delighted in the lively liturgies– especially the beautiful, spirited singing of the Montebello sisters. On their last night there, the Montebello sisters presented an evening of entertainment that had all present laughing, reflecting, singing and dancing.

The Sisters Community in Durban hosted the Americans on their last Sunday. Sister Lethiwe (Prioress) expressed gratitude for yet another experience of collaborating with US Dominicans, and hope for many more such times in the future. The two Honoras agreed!



Sisters confer about the tomb of St. Dominic, Bologna.

Every Evening a summary of the day's activities, along with photos, was posted on the internet. The Montebello Sisters were delighted each of the following mornings to find themselves on Facebook - and hearing from people in the US who read the postings was a thrill for us all!

To Read more – friend us on Facebook



# Our Beloved St. Catherine's



Rev. Mother Aquinas.

## St. Catherine's Anticipates 50th Year

In the mid 1950's, when Mother Aquinas visited the sick in the simple infirmary, one floor above her office in the Motherhouse, she recognized the limitations of the tiny rooms and dark corridor and dreamed of a separate facility for the care of the sick and aging sisters. She did not live to realize her dream, but when Mother Dolorita assumed her office, the dream, along with the other responsibilities, became hers. In less than two years, a fundraising campaign was underway, engaging the entire community in the process.



Ground was broken for Saint Catherine's Infirmary on December 28, 1960. The building was dedicated in September, 1962, and the new facility was functional by December of that year, with fourteen patients and five staff members. Recent renovations, staffing increases and reorganization of the second floor of St. Catherine's have allowed it to become a certified health care facility.

This fall the community will begin plans to celebrate fifty years of service at St. Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center. [Share the Journey](#)

## The Vision . . .

St. Catherine's Convent, located on the Motherhouse campus, opened on December 12, 1962 when fourteen sisters who were patients moved into the new building, along with several sisters who would serve as staff. Prior to the building of St. Catherine's, care of the infirm sisters took place on the third floor of the Motherhouse building. For most of those early years the Motherhouse had no elevator and very limited facilities. But there was loving care and very competent medical supervision. During the 1950's, seeing the many limitations, Rev. Mother Aquinas dreamed of the day when more adequate space and facilities could meet the community's health care needs. Her successor, Mother Dolorita, was able to bring that dream into reality.

But the history goes back even further. Mother Catharine Muth, the Congregation's first Mother General, worried about the number of her sisters in Jersey City who were becoming ill, especially with tuberculosis. The Caldwell area was then known as "the Denver of the East" because of its clear air and open spaces. After acquiring property in the area, Mother Catharine moved the Motherhouse from Jersey City to Caldwell expressly to support the future health of her sisters. The few sick sisters were housed in the Motherhouse after its completion. In 1917 John Byrider, the brother of Sister Charles, purchased a house on Ryerson Avenue and provided for its outfitting as a proper infirmary for the sisters. The new location came to be known as St. John's Convent in

■ [Continued on Page 6.](#)

## From Dream to Reality . . .

When Mother Aquinas' dream for a more appropriate space was taken up by her successor, Mother Dolorita, a major fundraising effort was undertaken. The effort was unique in several respects. First of all, because Caldwell College was also in need of additional residential and laboratory space, it was decided to combine that effort with the building fund for the new Infirmary. Secondly, in addition to fundraising at the institutional level, every sister in the community became involved in parishwide efforts in both the Newark Archdiocese and the Paterson Diocese where Caldwell Dominicans staffed many parish schools. The needs of the elderly and infirm sisters had broad appeal to the many Catholics in northern New Jersey who had been educated by the Dominicans. The building of St. Catherine's took two years, with a groundbreaking on December 28, 1960, and the move-in of the Sisters on Dec. 12, 1962. A new era was about to begin.



Cornerstone installation, Mother Dolorita, Archbishop Boland, and other guests.

Upon the retirement of Sister Dolorine in the late 1950's, Sister Michaelann (Sr. Jacqueline Scanlon) succeeded her as head nurse at the Motherhouse, while Sister Georgine Marie continued as her assistant. The food service for the sick was provided for many years by Sister Ann Dominic, with rotating help from the novices and younger sisters. As plans evolved for the new St. Catherine's building, Sister Michaelann served as a kind of professional advisor to Mother Dolorita, who relied on her expertise in the healthcare field. Many of the space and equipment provisions which are still functional today were the recommendations of Sister Michaelann. The second floor of St. Catherine's was designated for the care of the sick with living space for the nurses as well. When the move from the Motherhouse was made in 1962, Sisters Michaelann and Georgine Marie continued as nursing staff while Sister Ann Dominic managed the new kitchen facilities. Sister Mary Thomas joined

■ [Continued on Page 6.](#)

## Saint Catherine's Tomorrow . . .

As we look ahead to the future: technologies will change, healthcare regulations will require that we upgrade, and our responsibility to assess and plan for the future care of the retiring Sisters will continue.

Yes, these costs will be a challenge but history has shown that with the help of our faithful donors, Saint Catherine's will continue to remain home as well as healthcare center.

**Be Part of Our Future**

# An Evolving Dream!

## Renovation and Licensure . . .

In the mid-1990's during Sister Joan Doyle's term as Prioress it was decided to apply to the State of New Jersey to be licensed as a skilled nursing facility. St. Catherine of Siena, Inc. became a separate corporation in March of 1998 and undertook the licensing process. Extensive interior renovations were required as well as an increase of skilled nursing and other staff in order to fulfill state requirements. Licensure was granted in 2001 for the operation of a 30-bed skilled healthcare facility to be known as St. Catherine of Siena Healthcare, Inc. As a licensed facility, St. Catherine's is now able to accept a limited number of clergy and religious of other communities as well as members of the sisters' families as space permits. The annual state inspections have consistently passed with high praise from the evaluators.

## Chapel Renovations . . .

By 2006, after forty-five years of the building's existence, the heating, air-conditioning, lighting and sound systems in the chapel area were acknowledged to be quite inadequate. New flooring was long overdue and better handicap-access in both the main chapel and the choir loft were deemed necessary. The centerpiece of the sanctuary renovation was a new tabernacle, designed and handcrafted by Sister Gerardine Mueller. The finished design depicts nine angels crafted in vivid colors of ceramic cloisonné. The original marble altar was moved from the sanctuary to the floor level and a marble ambo for proclaiming and preaching the Word of God was placed in the rear center, facing the congregation. The stained glass windows, also the design of Sister Gerardine in 1962 when the building was first built, were removed, cleaned and restored. The traditional pews were replaced with more comfortable chairs facing each other in accord with ancient Dominican custom. Upon completion of the renovations, the chapel was re-dedicated at a solemn Mass in May, 2007 and remains the heart of daily activity at St. Catherine's.



Tabernacle in St. Catherine Chapel.



St. Catherine Chapel dedication.

## Saint Catherine's Today . . .

Over the years the convent has been blessed by warm and sisterly leaders, currently Sister Jane Marie. The welcoming environment which she and her sisters have been able to create makes St. Catherine's in many ways a hub for the larger Dominican Community. Sisters from on and off campus enjoy coming to visit, participate in the liturgy, and take part in holiday cookouts. The professional staff now consists of Deirdre Radtke, LNHA, Administrator; Annmarie Snedeker, Director of Nursing; Kathryn Richards, Activities Director; and Sister Patricia Mahoney, Pastoral Care Coordinator, along with an active support team. As Saint Catherine's begins its fiftieth year, it remains so much more than a residence and healthcare facility. It is truly home, a family-friendly place where all are encouraged to live life as fully as they're able and where visitors are always welcome. Above all, it's still a powerhouse of prayer!

## This beautiful building is now 50 years old and is feeling its age. Our current "Wish List" includes:

### Technology Upgrades:

- Electronic Charting for Nursing Staff
- An interactive Adaptive Therapy System for residents' use
- Upgrade of Medical Alert System

### Building Infrastructure:

- Generator
- Cold-Water Piping
- Modify Dining Room to maintain quality standards

- Masonry Improvements
- Upgrade Kitchen Equipment
- Improve Entry Ramp to accommodate emergency access of medical personnel and equipment

**More details to follow.**

## Golden Jubilarians

On September 24, 2011, five Sisters celebrated fifty years of loving service as Caldwell Dominicans.



*Golden Jubilarians (left to right): Sisters Geraldine Yerg, OP; Patricia Crowley, OP; Suzanne Janis, OP; Ellen McMabon, OP; and Alice McCoy, OP.*

Community, family, and friends joined them at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Verona as they marked the occasion with prayers, hymns, renewal of vows, and a Mass celebrated by Monsignor Michael Desmond, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Caldwell.

Each of the five has been energetically engaged in ministry since first profession.

## Dominican Sisters Homecoming – December 17, 2011

Two very special milestones were observed at the Caldwell Dominican Homecoming. Six Sisters were honored for seventy years and eight Sisters for sixty years of service in the life and mission of the Sisters of St. Dominic. That amount of dedication in years is almost incalculable!



### Celebrating Seventy Years

*Sisters Ann Dominic Vano, Marietta Anne Harding, Mary Kathleen Malarky, Elizabeth Marie Mason, Margaret William Mc Donald. Absent: Sister Eileen Byrne.*



### Celebrating Sixty Years

*Sisters Mary Agnes Gore, Bertrand Austin, Michel Rodgers, Augustine O'Donnell, Lenore DeCoster, Joan Doyle, Mary Claire Weber. Absent: Sister Gilbert Frey.*

Sister Frances Michael Murphy (d. November 9, 2011) would have enjoyed her Golden Jubilee this year. We posthumously honor her 50th year of service to the Caldwell Dominicans.

To read more about each Sister's Journey, please connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

## The Vision

■ *Continued from Page 4.*

appreciation for his generous gift. By 1925 additional housing was needed for the Academy boarding students and the sick returned to modestly renovated space on the third floor of the Motherhouse.

A special aspect of the Infirmary arrangements in the Motherhouse was the ease of access by the sick to the third floor choir loft of the convent Chapel. From this secluded vantage point the sisters could join the larger community for daily Mass, recitation of the psalms and the rosary, as well as quiet times of private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. These sisters became a powerhouse of prayer for the needs of the growing Community as well as for the many intentions that were recommended to them by family, friends, and benefactors. Many of these elderly sisters still said their private prayers in German, having come to America at or before the turn of the century! In the years preceding the building of St. Catherine's, Sister Dolorine was the lead infirmarian, ably assisted by Sister Georgine Marie.

## From Dream to Reality

■ *Continued from Page 4.*

the staff as sacristan for the new Chapel facilities.

In addition to the healthcare floor, ample space was to be provided for the increasing number of aging sisters on the first and third floor. These sisters were able to gather for daily Mass in the first floor chapel and come to the first floor dining room for their meals. In the early years, Sister Ann Dominic continued to staff the kitchen but eventually a food concession was engaged. One feature reminiscent of the Motherhouse experience was the second floor choir loft from which the sick might participate in daily Mass and community prayer. An in-house cable tv channel brings the Mass into every bedroom so that the more confined patients may still enjoy liturgy and other programming that is provided. The careful planning for the layout of the building has made it possible for aging residents to transition to an assisted living status as seamlessly as possible. In the early 1970's, thanks to two significant benefactions, a swimming pool was added to the enclosed garden at the south end of the building.

## We Remember Those Who Have Gone Before Us...

**The Sisters of Saint Dominic are grateful to all those who have given in memory of a deceased family member, friend or co-worker. The following list\* includes deceased individuals whose family members listed the Sisters of Saint Dominic as recipients of memorial gifts during the year 2011.**

Sr. Mary Rose Fallon, OP  
Mr. John Cetera  
Mrs. Catherine Tavis  
Mrs. Elizabeth Ciangio  
Sr. Joyce Vincent, OP  
Mrs. Evelyn Schultz  
Ms. Jean Ciangio Hertig  
Sr. Maura Campbell, OP

Ms. Viola H. LePore  
Ms. Peg Schneider  
Mrs. Julia Krug  
Sr. Barbara Cowan, OP  
Sr. Mary Evelyn Mulcahy, OP  
Ms. Mary V. O'Connor  
Mr. Robert L. Ponzini  
Ms. Amelia Thompson

Father Robert Wolfe, O.Carm.  
Ms. Jean E. Conlon  
Father Walter Reilly  
Father Bill Reilly  
Ms. Lizbeth Hudak  
Mrs. Elizabeth Vacca  
Sr. Francis Michael Murphy, O.P.  
Ms. Marie Juster

**The following list\* includes those deceased individuals who listed the Sisters of Saint Dominic as beneficiaries during the year 2011. We are so grateful.**

Ms. Jessica Bowles  
Mr. Edward Maciak  
Sr. Barbara Cowan, OP

Ms. Helen E. Tarrant  
Ms. Doris M. Meehan

Ms. Marie O'Brien  
Mr. Alan Richard Bailey

*Please consider the Sisters of Saint Dominic in your will or as a memorial recipient. For more information call our development office at 973-403-3331, ext. 19. We hold all of our donors and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers.*

\*If a name was inadvertently omitted we are truly sorry for the oversight as this was not intentional. Please let us know so that we may include your loved one in a future issue. Blessings to you always.

## In Memoriam *Ever a part of our lives...*



**Sister Frances Michael Murphy** was anticipating the celebration of her seventieth year as a Dominican Sister last December. But

God had other plans for her. She died peacefully on November 9 and we are sure she enjoyed a heavenly celebration, perhaps with some of her deceased classmates.

She was born Mary Murphy in Lawrence, Massachusetts and joined

the Sisters of St. Dominic in 1942. Her many years of religious life were devoted to the ministry of teaching as she served in a number of parish schools, including those in Newark, Bayou LaBatre (Alabama), Linden, Bridgeport, Roseland, Caldwell and Clark. She was principal and superior at St. Brigid's in North Bergen from 1961 to 1967.

After forty five years of teaching on the elementary level, Sister began a new career as pastoral minister to the sick and elderly at St. Elizabeth Parish in Linden. She brought the same love and kindness in this ministry that she had shown to her students throughout the years. During

her eighteen years of pastoral work she was a source of comfort, consolation, and joy to the people through her visits, her activities, and her ever present support.

In 2006, at the age of eighty-six Sister retired to St. Catherine of Siena Healthcare Center where she joined her Sisters in Community and prayer.

After a brief illness she ended her earthly journey in the same peaceful way she had lived her life.

Sister was always known for her calm and gentle ways, her dedication to mission, and her loyalty to the Dominican tradition. We can be certain this good and faithful servant was welcomed with joy to the kingdom prepared for her.



Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, NJ  
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# Our Hearts are Burning

THE FLAME  
 WINTER 2011/2012

## Legacy Donations — *Because of people like you, there can be people like us.*

When you give the gift of including the Sisters of Saint Dominic in your estate plans, you're giving the Caldwell Dominicans an opportunity to continue their mission and ministry in such areas as: maintaining their presence at the United Nations, working for peace and human rights, and supporting their sponsored works; view a complete list of our Sisters sponsored ministries at: [www.caldwellop.org](http://www.caldwellop.org). To learn more about annuities, trusts, and bequests, check our web site, call the Development Office at 973-403-3331, ext. 38, OR email us at [development@caldwellop.org](mailto:development@caldwellop.org).

Catherine Benincasa, known now as St. Catherine of Siena, was truly a Woman with an Attitude. Love was the attitude with which she met the poor and the pope, beggars and bishops, her family and condemned criminals, the sick and the pious. She imagined herself as a diver in the Divine Ocean of Delight (one of her images of God!). She saw all of creation in those Sacred Waters! Therefore she saw all as lovable! This attitude cost her a lifetime of suffering, but it resulted in many being brought to the Love of God. Catherine challenges us today to live beyond self, seek Truth, and to be patient, gentle, non-violent, optimistic prophets. She proclaims,

"If you are what you are called to be, you will set the world on fire!"

## Saints in Focus



*Photo Credit: Catherine on the Move by Maureen E. Carey, Ph.D.*

### Prayer of Saint Catherine of Siena

I gave you EYES to look at the sky and everything else and the beauty of creation through me.  
 I gave you your EARS to listen to my word and to pay attention to the needs of your neighbours.  
 I gave you your TONGUE to proclaim my word, to confess your own sins, and to work for the salvation of others.  
 I gave you your HANDS to serve your neighbors when you see them sick, and to help them with alms in their need.  
 I gave you your FEET to carry you to places that are holy and useful to you and your neighbors for the glory and praise of my name.