Greetings from your friends in Adrian! I write this letter with a heart full of gratitude as I reflect upon the friendship and care you have shown our Sisters. Your partnership with and financial support of the Adrian Dominican Sisters continue to be a blessing each day. Therefore, it is with great joy that I share this August newsletter with you as our way of staying in touch and sharing how you are making a difference in the lives of our Sisters and the people with whom they minister.

Earlier this year, we asked you to consider contributing toward our sustainability efforts. Thank you for responding and for joining with us to care for our Earth! To learn more about our ongoing efforts, I invite you to view our most recent copy of Voices in Mission and Ministry, available online at http://www.adriandominicans.org/publications.aspx. If you prefer, drop me an email and I’ll send you a copy in the mail!

Know that we continue to hold you in our prayers and are grateful for your love and care. Blessings to you — today and always.

With gratitude,

Amy Palmer, MA, CFRE
Director of Development
apalmer@adriandominicans.org

Wheelchair-Accessible Salon Almost a Reality

Brock Bentley from Krieghoff-Lenawee removes old floor tile during initial stages of renovation for the beauty salon.

Very often, the simple things in life make a great difference. For many of our Sisters in the Dominican Life Center, having one’s hair professionally cut or styled can bring a feeling of renewal and joy. And it is a true blessing, especially for those facing mobility challenges, to be able to experience this treat “at home.”

Thanks to your generosity in responding to our Wish List in February, the new beauty salon at the Dominican Life Center is close to a reality. To date, you already have donated more than $7,500 for this special project, which will add joy to Sisters’ days and provide a cost-effective way for the Congregation to meet their personal-care needs.

Construction on the expanded, refurbished, and wheelchair-accessible beauty salon began in July. Soon, the 250 Sisters living on campus will be able to enjoy a haircut, permanent, or style in a space with accessible styling chairs, mirrored salon stations, three shampoo sinks, and two dryers.

We still are accepting gifts for this project via www.adriandominicans.org/WaystoGive/WishList.aspx.
As donors, you are doing much to brighten the lives of retired Adrian Dominican Sisters. Beyond that, through your generosity, you also are helping younger Adrian Dominican Sisters in their ministries. Just this month, a group of our Sisters joined together to get to know one another better, deepen their relationships, and plan for ministries in the years to come.

Adrian Dominican Sisters from the United States, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines gathered with specially invited Dominican Sisters from other congregations for Deepening Our Relationships August 2-5, 2018, at the Adrian Motherhouse. The event for Sisters 65 and younger culminated with the First Profession of Vows of Sister Katherine Frazier.

“We were so grateful for this opportunity to host a representation of our Sisters from the Philippines and the Dominican Republic at this gathering. And as we grow smaller in numbers, it is certainly the generosity of our benefactors that will allow our Mission to flourish through the ministries and call of these women,” said Sister Patricia Siemen, OP, Prioress of the Congregation.

The focus of the Deepening Our Relationships gathering was a vital part of one of the four Enactments of General Chapter 2016. “I felt it was really important as we face so many changes that the heart of our community grows stronger and stronger through us getting to know one another,” Sister Pat explained. “Because of the size of our Congregation, we only know those we’ve been able to live and work with. We need time to pray and play, get to know each other, and explore our passions for this life and how we will carry Dominican vowed life into the future.”

Sister Pat has great optimism for the future as the Adrian Dominican Congregation becomes more involved with other Dominican congregations in the United States. “There are real gifts in the kind of connections with each other that are forged as we get to know one another.”

You are a vital part of these growing connections as you continue to partner with the Adrian Dominican Sisters in their Mission into the future. As these connections are forged, the Congregation will continue to strengthen partnerships with you, as well as with Associates, Co-workers, and other members of the Dominican family. Thank you for continuing to be such a vital part of the future of the Adrian Dominican Sisters.
All of you are special, giving of yourselves generously to help the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Mission and ministry and retirement years. Members of the Heritage Society continue that giving spirit even after they pass on to the next life, through wills, charitable bequests, or specific insurance policies. And, like all of our donors, each has a story to tell.

Paul Conrado became a member of the Heritage Society out of gratitude for the education he received at Holy Cross School, Santa Cruz, California, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Paul’s father passed away when Paul was only 4 years old — a year before he started kindergarten. “By that time, and I imagine even earlier, I believe that the good Sisters had stopped charging my mother any tuition, for myself and my sister and brother.” Four older siblings already had graduated from Holy Cross.

“I have a memory of classmates bringing a small envelope to the teacher, once a month, I guess, and I had none to bring them,” Paul recalled. “In later years, I assumed that was the tuition payment.” He believes that he attended Holy Cross tuition-free for all 13 of his years at the school.

“That’s deserving of my sincere gratitude, and it is why I have such a strong feeling for the goodness and education that I received there,” said Paul, who went on to attend Santa Clara University, a Jesuit school in Santa Clara, California, on a half-scholarship.

Like Paul, we all have stories. What in your story with the Adrian Dominican Sisters draws out your generosity and connects you to the Mission and Vision?

For more information about the Heritage Society, contact Amy Palmer, Director of Development, at 517-266-3480 or apalmer@adriandominicans.org.
As one of our valued benefactors and supporters, you are cordially invited to visit the latest art gallery exhibit at INAI: A Space Apart on the Motherhouse campus. The work of two distinctive Adrian Dominican artists — Sister Aneesah McNamee, OP, a graphic designer, and Sister Alyce Van Acker, OP, a painter — are being showcased in a special exhibit, *Soliloquies: Two Voices*. The exhibit runs through Sunday, October 28, 2018, with an artists’ reception from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 8, 2018. INAI is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with extended hours until 8:00 p.m. Thursdays.

You are welcome to visit INAI: A Space Apart at any time. In addition to the art gallery, INAI also offers quiet spaces for reflection and meditation — just what is needed so often in the midst of busy and often complicated lives.

Formerly the studio of Sisters Barbara Chenicek, OP, and Rita Schiltz, OP, world-renowned and award-winning designers of sacred space, INAI: A Space Apart is adjacent to Weber Retreat and Conference Center on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters’ Motherhouse, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian. Enter the eastern-most driveway of the complex and follow the signs to Weber Center. For information, call Weber Center at 517-266-4000.

### 2017-2018 Annual Report to Build Upon Hope Theme

Watch your mailbox this fall for the Adrian Dominican Sisters’ 2017-2018 Annual Report, *Hearts of Hope*.

The annual report draws on the theme of the 2017 Christmas Appeal and focuses on how, with your generous support, we have helped to bring hope to a troubled world.

The annual report includes profiles of donors and stories of the partnership between a Catholic parish and public-school students, how people served by the Adrian Dominican Sisters have found hope in their lives, and ways in which you can continue to be involved.

Thank you for continuing to be a source of hope for those who are hurting in this world.