It is with JOY in my heart that I write this letter today! Because of you, our 2016 Annual Christmas Appeal has brought, and will continue to bring, much JOY to the world. Your overwhelming response enables the Dominican charism to be shared with others, both far and near. Your generosity also ensures our Sisters will continue to receive excellent health care as they enter their elder years.

We are so excited to share with you some wonderful news inside this edition of “Your Generosity ... Our Service.” You’ll hear from one of our Development Volunteers, Sister Therese Mary Foote, OP, as she gives an account of her very important ministry here on campus. We’re also happy to have one of our Associates, Deb Carter, describe Associate Life and what it means to her. Finally, you will read about the new and exciting ways we are supporting one of our schools in the Philippines. It is an undertaking that has the potential to reap incredible blessings!

Enclosed within this newsletter, you also will find a survey that we invite you to complete. Please tell us what we are doing right and what we could do better. We can’t wait to hear from you!

Many blessings to you for a JOYFUL 2017.

Gratefully,

Amy Palmer, CFRE
Director of Development

Join the Sustained Giving Circle of the Adrian Dominican Sisters

We are excited to announce our newly named monthly giving group — the Sustained Giving Circle of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Over the years, the Congregation has had a dedicated group of donors who give on a monthly basis. This type of giving is easy and stress-free. Most important, it strengthens our efforts to live out our mission to Seek Truth, Make Peace, and Reverence Life.

If you choose to provide this kind of valued support, you will be enrolled as a member of the Congregation’s Sustained Giving Circle. You will receive special communications from us throughout the year and be acknowledged in our Annual Report and other publications. Your gift can be increased, decreased, or canceled at any time.

If you are interested in learning more about this special way of giving, we invite you to visit us online at www.adriandominicans.org/waystogive. You also may contact us at 517-266-3480 or development@adriandominicans.org to request a monthly giving form. Thank you for considering this option for giving — and for the support you give us each and every day!
Thank You Calls to Donors
Enhance Connections

One of our goals in Development is to make sure that you, our donors, realize how deeply the Adrian Dominican Sisters appreciate and value you. Sometimes, the best way to communicate this is to hear personal, heartfelt words of gratitude.

That is the mission of 15 retired Adrian Dominican Sisters, who devote their time to calling donors and thanking them for their contributions on behalf of the Congregation.

“We’re just extremely grateful for any aid for us to carry on our ministry and to care for us during our last days,” said Sister Therese Mary Foote, OP, who has been a volunteer caller since August 2015. Speaking with donors helps to keep the connection between them and the Adrian Dominican Sisters more personal, she added.

Sister Therese Mary especially wants donors to know not only of the Sisters’ appreciation for them, but of their constant prayers for all donors.

“I say to everyone that you are the first persons we mention that we pray for before every Mass. The list of intentions always begins with, ‘Let us pray for our benefactors.’ ” In her phone calls, Sister Therese Mary also makes it a point to ask if the donor has any special intentions for which the Sisters can pray.

Sister Therese Mary appreciates the connections she makes with the donors she calls — whether they’re former Sisters, Associates, former students of Adrian Dominican Sisters, people who knew Adrian Dominicans from parishes, or relatives and friends of Sisters.

“One of the things that I experience in making these calls is that the Holy Spirit just jumps right out at you,” whether it’s making a personal connection or listening to a donor who needs to talk, Sister Therese Mary said. “That’s one of the sacred things about this ministry.”

You Are in Our Prayers

Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.

– Psalms 54:2

Please know that our Sisters are praying for you throughout the year. You are remembered at our daily Mass. Please contact us at anytime with your specific prayer intentions. We know prayer works!
Deborah J. Carter has been involved with the Adrian Dominican Sisters in numerous roles since 1982. That’s the year she began working for Siena Heights College (now University) as an academic advisor at its first degree-completion center in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She retired in September 2015 as the Dean of the College for Professional Studies (CPS), coordinating seven degree-completion centers in Michigan, the online learning program, and a theological studies program offered in partnership with the Diocese of Lansing.

Deb has been an active Associate since the mid-1990s. Most recently, as a member of the Advisory Board for Associate Life, she has also stepped up her long-time role as a donor to the Congregation. “I became an Associate because I was drawn toward a group of joy-filled women with whom I shared a set of basic principles, values, and aspirations,” Deb said. On hearing that St. Dominic had “left the confines of the monastery to go out to where the people were,” Deb joyfully connected with the saint. “I felt that I was hit by a thunderbolt as I realized that, in many ways, we were doing just that by taking education off the main campus in Adrian and out to communities through online learning and degree completion centers,” she said.

Her formal and informal association with the Adrian Dominican Sisters has “fundamentally and profoundly impacted how I behaved professionally,” Deb said. “It has really seeped into everything — my friendships, my personal life, and my family.” For example, she said, in spending quality time with her grandchildren, Caroline and Patrick, she emphasizes the need for kindness. “I can see myself being present to them and knowing that I’m having an influence on their development.”

Deb believes that donors also are motivated by the inspiration they receive from the Sisters and their own commitment to the Sisters’ mission and ministry. She encourages interested donors to take the next step — to explore the possibility of becoming an Adrian Dominican Associate.

“I would be happy to talk with anyone who might be interested in joining our Sisters and Associates in this grand adventure.” If you’re interested, email Deb at dcarter2@sienaheights.edu and write “Associate Questions” in the subject line.

**Who are Associates?**

Did you know that a group of women and men have made a commitment to become Partners in Mission with the Adrian Dominican Sisters? They are called Associates, and there are more than 200 throughout Michigan, Ohio, Florida, California, and 15 other states, as well as in the Dominican Republic!

Associates share in the life and Mission of the Adrian Dominican Sisters through a non-vowed commitment. They live independent lives while participating in ministry in their parishes or in society and attending mission groups and gatherings of Sisters. Associates respond to a call to live the Dominican charism in their lives and seek inspiration from the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

If you would like information, please contact Mary Lach, Director of Associate Life, at 517-266-3531 or mlach@adriandominicans.org.
Catholic schools make a tremendous difference in the lives of students and in their local communities. With this in mind, the Adrian Dominican Sisters have begun a campaign to expand the Dominican School of Angeles City, in the impoverished Barangay (village) of Mining, Angeles City, in Pampanga, the Philippines.

“The school aims not only to provide the children with an excellent, affordable, faith-filled education, but also to instill in them the social justice values of the Catholic Church,” explained Sister Zenaida Nacpil, OP, Chapter Prioress of the Our Lady of Remedies Mission Chapter, based in Pampanga.

The Sisters in the Remedies Chapter opened the Dominican School of Angeles City six years ago when they were an independent Dominican congregation. They merged with the Adrian Dominican Sisters in 2011. From an enrollment of three students, Dominican School of Angeles City now serves 238 students in kindergarten through 10th grade.

A three-story building is being constructed to accommodate 11th- and 12th-grade students, with six more classrooms and spaces large enough for school Masses and physical education.

The school is located near the Clark Freeport Zone, dubbed the “entertainment capital” of the Philippines, and the children are at risk of becoming involved in the sex trade, or worse, human trafficking. Their poverty — as the children of carpenters, welders, marketplace vendors, and public transportation drivers — makes them especially vulnerable.

Because of these challenges, the addition to the school is vital for the future of the children and their community. The school will provide not only academic training but vocational training for high school students, equipping them to work in such areas as eco-farming, care-giving of children and the elderly, and computer technology.

“Please help us build a school where more students will be able to attain their dream of a Catholic education in the K-12 program,” said Sister Arsenia Marie Puno, OP, guidance counselor. “Please help us with your financial gifts from God for this sacred endeavor.”

To make a donation, visit www.wonderwe.com/ADSDomSchool or contact Amy Palmer in the Adrian Dominican Sisters Office of Development, 517-266-3480 or apalmer@adriandominicans.org.