



Branches on the Vine

MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2025



The medieval painting of Madonna and St. Thomas Aquinas in the church Chiesa de San Pietro Martire (Church of St. Peter Martyr) in Italy by an unknown artist of the 15th century. ADOBE STOCK

A NEW GUILD

THE MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF GRACE
ESTABLISHES THE AQUINAS GUILD.

- Story by Karen A. Avitabile

Earlier this year, on the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, and at the close of the triple jubilee marking his canonization, birth and death, the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace, a Dominican community of cloistered contemplative nuns, established the Aquinas Guild with St. Thomas as its patron.

“St. Thomas is our brother in the Dominican Order,” says Sister Maria of the Angels, O.P., prioress of the Monastery in North Guilford. The nuns follow the Rule of St. Augustine but that is given further specifics in the Dominican Constitutions. These refer to St. Thomas Aquinas as “our best master,” she says.

“The Constitutions also tell us that the nuns should nourish their faith especially on the mystical teaching of our Fathers, as well as of other theologians and authors, in particular those of the order,” Sister Maria adds. “In the study of St. Thomas, let them find their best master, whose doctrine the Church always commends and the order has received as patrimony.”

Known for his love of sacred truth, St. Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Dominican friar and priest, is also the Church’s foremost scholastic thinker and one of the most influential theologians in the Western tradition.

“The Guild was formed as a way of organizing our friends, new and old, and by offering them the opportunity to share in some of the aspects of our contemplative life, such as liturgical prayer and devotion to learning,” Sister Maria says.

Several people have been reaching out to the Monastery in various ways, she adds. A group of volunteers runs the Monastery Gift Shop and others have offered their help with yard work, wood stacking and growing some vegetables for the poor.

“One of the options that I am personally and particularly excited about is having some garden space (outside the enclosure)

that would serve as a sort of community garden where people can grow vegetables for the poor,” Sister Maria says.

Since the Guild was initiated, more than 100 people have registered. Members of the Guild who live in the area will be invited to participate in events to share in various aspects of Monastery life.

“Through the Guild we show our gratitude for their friendship and ongoing solicitude, which enables us to live a hidden life in the midst of the Church for the salvation of souls,” Sister Maria says. “Members of the Guild will share in the spiritual fruits of our life through the Holy Mass and by our prayer and penance.”

To enroll as a member of the Aquinas Guild or to see the schedule of Guild events, fill out the form online by visiting dominicannuns.org/aquinas-guild.



Upcoming Events



06/06 FRIDAY 6PM
MASS OF HEALING
 St. Peter Church, 99 East Main St, Torrington

Experience the Power of Healing — In these challenging times, many of us carry burdens – be it physical ailments like cancer and kidney disease, emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, PTSD and grief, or spiritual battles. YOU'RE NOT ALONE. Reconnect, find solace, and embrace the healing powers of our divine physician, Jesus Christ. A special Healing Mass with anointing of the sick will be celebrated by Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, pastor of St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington. The evening begins with the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Mass. Let's come together, share our stories, and experience the transformative power of faith. Remember, Jesus is still in the business of healing.



06/23-27 WEEKDAYS 9AM - 12PM
SUMMER CAMP - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 St. Catherine of Siena Church, 267 Stratton Brook Rd, West Simsbury

Trek into an unforgettable Alaskan adventure! Campers will dive into exciting games, fun songs, hands-on experiments, and engaging Bible stories—plus so much more! Along the way, they'll discover that Jesus is our True North. Join us as we explore how to find God in the world around us and understand why our faith is so important.

Open to students entering grades K–5. We especially welcome children from other parishes—whether their own VBS falls on a week that they are busy or isn't being offered this year
 Cost: \$65/person



Scan QR Code to sign up!

CROSSROADS4CHRIST **FRASSATI** **YCP**
 NEW HAVEN CENTRAL CT

Pentecost Vigil
Mass & Holy Hour

Saturday, June 7, 2025
 St. Joseph Church
 129 Edwards Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511

5:15 PM
 Adoration Holy Hour
 with Praise & Worship and a Reflection from Fr. Joseph MacNeill

6:30 PM
 Pentecost Vigil Mass
 celebrated by Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt

8:30 PM
 Young Adult Social
 with Food and Refreshments

Stay Connected
crossroads4christ.org
frassatinewhaven.org
youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/central-connecticut

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