“… to sustain the fundamental right of every person to pursue the fullness of life and to share in the common good.”

from the Constitution of Sisters of St. Dominic of St. Catherine of Siena – Article 8
A Note from the President
Maryann McMahon, OP

At our 2014 Chapter, sisters and associates, considering the nature of our community and the spirit in our lives, developed a path for the future. This took the form of direction statements. I would like to share them with you:

- live our mission, “Committed to Truth; Compelled to Justice,” by collaborating courageously with others to address societal needs.
- commit to grow as a hope-filled, contemplative presence actively engaged in a world hungry for meaning and basic human rights.
- engage in an over-arching study regarding our legacy: people, sponsored ministries, properties and finances.
- engage in intentional discussions about membership issues and associate relationship.

We will embrace the future by enacting our spirit-filled work.

Because we have chosen to follow these directions, what are we, the Racine Dominican Sisters and Associates, called to do? While these directions may sound specific to us, I can see contained in them, the universal call to live radically the Gospel message. Thus, these direction statements can pertain to every person of faith with but a little imagination.

Consider the following:
- How does my life truthfully reflect the values I espouse and live?
- How does the way I live address societal need and/ or basic human rights? What is my responsibility to be conscious of and respond to the needs of others?
- How does my use of personal and monetary resources affect the lives of those who will come after me? Will my actions be for the good or the detriment of society and the cosmos?
- What is the quality of all the varied relationships in my life? Are my relationships marked by love, compassion and integrity?

From where I sit, I know the Racine Dominican Sisters and Associates strive to live out these directions daily, each to a greater or lesser degree, always striving to grow and change in response to our evolving future. So may it be for us all!
What I’ll Remember Most...
Graduates of the Class of 2014 reveal some of the things that made their SCHS experiences unforgettable.

“Senior year I volunteered at the first Mass of the year to be an Extraordinary Minister. I had never done it before, but having been confirmed and wanting to get involved, I figured it was the perfect thing for me. I have done it at every Mass since. Becoming an Extraordinary Minister through SCHS strengthened my faith and gave me a deeper connection to Mass.” —Sarah Lory

“I will miss the community of St. Cat’s. Everyone knows everyone; I can walk down the hallways and know the name of everyone I pass. I love the sense of belonging the school gave me. If I was missing for a day, I know people would notice and genuinely care where I was. You can’t find that everywhere.” —Jessica Lange

After graduation Sarah Lory (above) attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to study biomedical sciences. “I job shadowed in different areas of the hospital and radiological technology was my favorite,” she says, “I am very excited for my future and everything it has to bring.”

All of this was done to strengthen our commitment to community, prayer, service and study, the pillars of the Dominican Order. These are values SCHS has stressed for 150 years.

We have nearly 550 students in 2014-15, a 15-year enrollment high. As you can see, special things are happening here.

Sometime this spring, as we begin our next fifteen decades, we invite you to take some time to help us celebrate all we’ve accomplished in the previous fifteen.

Visit the historic McGuire Gymnasium for a basketball game or say a prayer for our teachers and students. However you choose to get involved, you can do so knowing that the Dominican spirit and school pride that has typified St. Catherine’s for the last 150 years is alive and well today.

The 2015 Black & White Ball: Inspiring Minds and Spirits for 150 Years
On March 28, 2015, SCHS will celebrate its 150th Anniversary at the annual Black & White Ball. All proceeds from the Ball support the organizations and sports teams. Since its inception in 2011, the Black & White Ball has raised over $500,000 for student activities and athletics. Join us this year for a night you won’t forget as we journey through decades of tradition!

For more information, visit www.saintcats.org/black-and-white-ball.

Facts at a Glance
(As of Fall 2014)
- 530 students in grades 6-12
- Over $900,000 given annually in scholarships and financial aid
- 52% male, 48% female
- More than 35% students of color
- 70% of students on honor roll
- Average High School GPA 3.27
- Average Composite ACT: 23.4
- 100% graduation rate
- 97% college attendance rate

Clubs and Activities
- Angel Ambassadors
- Angel Arrangement
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Drama Club/SCHS Players
- Diversity Club
- Environmental Club
- Forensics Team
- Interact Club
- Lance
- Mock Trial
- National Honor Society
- Pep Band
- Students Against Destructive Decisions
- Student Council

Board of Directors
- Jill Mengesha, Chairperson
- Patrick Diem, Vice Chairperson
- Heather Orth, Secretary
- Cathy Duffy
- Maria Escobar
- Shari Geertsen
- Steven Johnson, MD
- James Kruse
- S. Patricia Mapes
- Chris McAuliffe
- Kate O’Brien
- Maria Pulice
- James Pruitt
- Linda Townsend Christ

If you wish to add a friend to our private, nontransferable mailing list or if you wish to be removed from the list, please notify: sponsorship@racinedominicans.org.
Bethany Apartments

I Can See Clearly Now...

It’s gonna be a bright bright, bright, bright sun shiny day…

These lyrics may just be swirling in the hearts of the women and children of Bethany apartments. The single-pane metal framed windows of the 1950s school-building-turned-apartment-building have been replaced by windows that look like “home.” It’s a beautiful sight!

This $98,700 window replacement was completed this fall. The project was funded from several sources: 51% came from Bethany’s own savings through Wisconsin Housing and Economic Authority (WHEDA), 30% came from the Wadewitz Fund of the United Way of Racine County, 10% from Racine Community Foundation and 9% from an amount set aside for capital improvements. It took a willing Board, an ambitious Executive Director, supportive funders and a hard-working window supplier/installer. That’s all!

I can see all obstacles… The Board of Directors is faced with a somber issue. Some of the families at Bethany Apartments receive government support for their housing. When accepting government funding, a not-for-profit organization (Bethany) carries out the objectives of the funding agency AND is accountable to that funding source for the use of the monies. This works really well when those providing the funds and those receiving the funds share the same objectives. Vigilance is crucial lest the mission of the ministry may be compromised.

Siena Retreat Center

Amazing Grace

You may wonder who plans and facilitates the retreats offered at Siena Retreat Center (SRC). Some retreats are given by guest presenters, or by the program staff who are unique in their own way! Meet our SRC program staff.

Plumbed from the depths of her spirit, beauty and passion surround S. Kathleen Bohn’s weaving retreat, a one-on-one experience during which Kathleen offers spiritual direction and teaches weaving as a metaphor for one’s own process of becoming.

‘Participants grow in the awareness of the NOW and living in the present moment rather than the past or future.’

S. Miriam Brown is engaged in the exciting spiritual journey of our times! Once described as ecstatic, Miriam brings that quality to her work. “I see in my being a variety of strains: Dominican study and the interflow of action and contemplation; liberal arts’ appreciation of the world’s goodness, truth, and beauty; mission exposure to societal relationships, cultures, and justice issues; and today’s exciting awareness of the universe story and our call to actively participate in the widening of spirituality and the energies of evolving consciousness — grace everywhere.”

“I do the work I love.” Touched by what is in her heart and in her life and in our world, Pat Shutts creates space for people to experience their own truth and the Divine in their lives… through ritual, music, beauty, art. Pat reflects, “…people come to recognize more their own identity, power and responsibility as bearers of the Divine right now, right here. … It’s what it’s all about.”

Senior Companion Prog.

In the Mood and we started to dance...

It was a sentimental journey back to the Big Band Era. The Howard Schneider Band played at Infusino’s Banquet Hall for participants and supporters of our Senior Companion Program, whose comments are peppered throughout this article. “The music was great – it was like a party. Everybody knew everybody and enjoyed the music and each other.”

A crowd of people delighted in the live music and the touch of their toes to the dance floor. “The fact that 350 people came with much excitement and generosity to a first time event for the Senior Companion Program shows how valuably considered this ministry is.”

The Senior Companion Program offers such events to provide appropriate and meaningful social opportunities for seniors and their companions. “I am so happy that so many from the community, including my 95-year-old mother, were able to spend an enjoyable afternoon with good people, good music and good food.”

The companionship benefits of the Senior Companion Program are provided to any senior citizen in the Racine area without cost. “…your program is priceless.”

I just live here in this old house of clay

As he and his companion entered the Tanzanian village, they would have to ask the right questions. Were there potters in the village? Were there places of pooled water following the rains? Were there places that were slippery when walking in the rain? Yes to any one of these questions would suggest that there was clay in the village. And if there was clay, the next steps were to build a kiln and to whittle forms to make tiles. And this is how villagers began making roof tiles for their homes. Interesting house preservation solution, wasn’t it?

In the settlements (slums) of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania’s biggest city, the people were not taking advantage of Habitat for Humanity’s efforts to build houses. Sent to trouble-shoot this situation, he talked with the inhabitants to learn what it was they needed to upgrade their housing. The answer was loans, loans so that the people could do the work themselves. As borrowers returned to repay what had been loaned to them, they brought friends and family who wanted to participate in the same way. Thus, Habitat for Humanity continued to provide housing in a new way.

And just who is he? Scott Metzel, the new Executive Director of our HOPES Center. Scott brings his knowledge of housing, micro-financing, and organizational leadership to HOPES from his 25 years of experience with Habitat for Humanity in Africa.
Another edition of

Dominican Roots

Learn how fiber is processed for knitting and felting at Eco-Justice Center

These fibers are carded (vertically aligned) and used, for example, to make felt hats!

Tufts of typically shorter fiber are held back and cleaned of debris by hand, a process called skirting.

Interesting?
GOOGLE the Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center.