



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

(05.19.05)

Regina community celebrates Feast of St. Catherine of Siena

The students, faculty, staff and administration of Regina Dominican gathered for Liturgy on April 28 to celebrate the Feast Day of their patroness, the great Dominican mystic, Church reformer, and Doctor of the Church, St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380). St. Catherine's Feast Day is April 29, but the school community gathered a day early to observe it, taking the next day off to mark Dominican Heritage Day.

Sister Adrienne Piennette, O.P., President, welcomed the assembly, giving a brief history and background of the Dominican habit that she wore for the Liturgy.

The principal celebrant was Father Andrew Wisdom, O.P., vocations director for the Central Province of the U.S. Dominican friars. In his homily, Father Wisdom encouraged the students to think in a different way, leading them in the mantra: "If you think the way you've always thought, you'll choose the way you always chose. If you want to choose in a way you've never chosen before, you must think in a way you've never thought before." In our times, Father Wisdom pointed out, we can no longer afford to make the same choices we've always made, but must begin to think and act in a new way.

Father Wisdom pointed to the example of St. Catherine of Siena, a "remarkable woman" who brought God's message to kings and queens, the pope, the rich elite, and to the sick, the poor, and the common criminal. Unlike many Catholics of her day or our day, she did not see God as a scorekeeper who watches for us to make mistakes, or as a distant clockmaker who created the world and remained uninvolved, but as a "passionate lover" who was interested in every detail of her life.

Like St. Catherine of Siena, Father Wisdom said, we must put God at the center of our lives and serve our neighbor. As a young woman, Catherine joined the lay Dominican women and spent her life serving the poor and sick. "This is the heart of the Order, even today," he noted. "To be a Dominican is to walk with two feet...love of God and love of neighbor."

Students participated in the Mass in various ways. Serving as lectors were junior Lauren Strzepek and sophomore Emily Sloan. Serving as cantor, junior Meg Golembiewski and a volunteer choir led the assembly in song. Gift bearers were freshman Brigid Leyhane and social studies teacher Mr. Thomas Nelson. Sophomores Mary Cooper and Ellen Nicolau, both of Glenview, were sacristans.

Serving as Eucharistic ministers were seniors Megan Anton, Jennifer Chaput, Becky Dieschbourg, Mary Georgevich, Annie Kelley, and Sarah Niersbach; Sister Barbara Kelley, O.P., communications; Sister Joan Krajewski, O.P., social studies teacher; Sister Marion O'Connor, O.P., Chair of the Social Studies Department; Sister Sally Ormsby, O.P., Dean of Students; and Mrs. Natalie Rysavy, Chair of the Physical Education Department.

The St. Catherine of Siena Liturgy is one of many all-school Eucharistic Liturgies and prayer services coordinated annually by Regina Dominican's Campus Ministry Office and the Youth Ministry Team. Campus ministers are Mr. Douglas Gleber and Sister Cindy Broderick, O.P.