Education

College purchases Dominican Sisters’ property in Newburgh

The Dominican Sisters of Hope, whose administrative offices are in Ossining, have sold their 13.1 acre property on Powell Avenue in Newburgh to Mount Saint Mary College.

Abel R. Garraghan, chairman of the Mount Saint Mary College board of trustees, noted that the Sisters in Newburgh have expressed their intention to eventually sell their property for some years.

Sr. Lorelle Elcock, OP, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, and Fr. Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, president of Mount Saint Mary College, were authorized to sign a purchase and sale agreement for the property. After college discussions with financiers, contractors, and the local planning board, the property transfer was closed on July 13, 2011.

The Dominican Sisters, who retain an easement to access a private cemetery on the property near Gidney Avenue, spent 128 years at this site.

“Our mission of education began here in Newburgh when four Sisters of Saint Dominic traveled from New York City in 1883 to establish Mount Saint Mary Academy,” recalls Sr. Elcock. “Mount Saint Mary College was later founded by the Sisters as a natural extension of its mission. In 1973, the Sisters formally separated the college from the congregation and subdivided the campus. We are happy that, with this sale, the Dominican Center will be integrated into the college campus.

New Paltz ranks first in nation for providing study abroad opportunities to diverse students

The State University of New York at New Paltz has won the 2011 Innovation Award, conferred by the Diversity in Global Education Network. This accolade recognizes New Paltz as a leader among the nation’s colleges and universities for implementing creative, practical strategies that bring study abroad opportunities to diverse students.

“Our primary purpose is education, in view of the vision and mission of Mount Saint Mary College,” said Fr. Mackin. “Our strategic plan calls us to achieve academic excellence while creating holistic living-learning spaces,” he noted. “And our number of resident students has grown. Our purchase of the Dominican property is a unique opportunity to help fulfill our strategic plan, design a better living-learning environment, and add some parking and green space.”

Garraghan, a trustee since 2004, noted the Mount has been a good neighbor, exemplifying stability and growth, and renovating and maintaining properties.

The Center for Governmental Research in Rochester, N.Y., estimates the regional economic impact of Mount Saint Mary College at $125 million per year.

Over the years, the college has invested millions of dollars in Newburgh, provides a homeownership initiative program, and has long been a favorite event site for city and other not-for-profit groups.

According to Fr. Mackin, nearly 40 percent of Mount Saint Mary College students are first generation college students.

“We need to steward our resources carefully,” he observed. “As an independent college, students and families invest in us to do that. We’re challenged not to rest on laurels, but to improve constantly and build for the common good, to continue to provide ‘Hope’ for today’s young women and men.”

Ranking a Top-Tier Regional University (North) by U.S. News & World Report, and with federal recognition for community service, Mount Saint Mary College offers strong career preparation in education, health professions, business, psychology, social services and liberal arts.