



Order of Preachers



Welcome to our New Website

I will like to welcome you all to the new website of the Order. Here in the curia, we have always desired to communicate more effectively within, with all members of the order and with the outside world. That desire has given birth to this new website.

This is a more dynamic, interactive and effective website. It is going to be the central hub for all Dominican websites and it will help us to do our work better in the curia and to reach out to you and the entire world more effectively.

With this website, you will receive prompt updates on happenings in the curia. Our brothers, sisters and laity are doing a lot in their different provinces, vicariates, missions, projects, institutions etc. in different parts of the world. This new website will be a medium for them to share their experiences with you.

To go with the new website, we are creating a network of contributors (brothers, sisters and laity) who will constantly feed the webmaster with happenings in the Order. You are therefore assured of prompt updates on happenings in the Order from all parts of the world.

With links and pages in popular social network sites like Facebook and Twitter, we aim to reach out to those who frequently visit the social networks especially the young.

We are grateful to Bro. Eric Salobir, OP, the Promoter for Social Communications and his team for the new website. They have put the new website together and they are managing it.

You are cordially invited to be a part of this new experience of the Order on the web. As you surf, your feedbacks will certainly help the brothers to continue to improve on the website.

Bro. Bruno Cadoré, OP
Master of the Order



Rev Fr Kevin O'Rourke Passes On

Rev Fr Kevin David O'Rourke, a foremost Dominican canon lawyer and ethicist is dead. He died on the 28th of March at the age of 85. Fr O'Rourke is of the Province of St. Albert the Great in Chicago, USA.

He was born on the 4th of March, 1927 at Oak Park, Illinois. He attended Fenwick High School, Oak Park, Illinois and served in the US Navy during World War II. He attended the University of Notre Dame for a year before entering the Dominican Order in 1947. The following year, he made his first profession and at the completion of his basic formation, he was ordained a priest on the 27th of May, 1954.

In 1952, he earned a licentiate in philosophy from Aquinas Institute of Philosophy in River Forest, Illinois and another licentiate in theology from Aquinas Institute of Theology in Dubuque, Iowa in 1954. He got his doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome in 1958.

Fr O'Rourke began his career as an academic bioethicist in 1958 at Aquinas Institute in Dubuque, serving as dean there, 1969-72. Since 2000 till his death, he was teaching at Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He was one of the leading Catholic voices in health care ethics in the USA. He has written several books and hundreds of articles. He was perhaps best known as the co-author, with Dominican Father Benedict Ashley and Sister Jean deBlois, of "Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis." May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Radcliffe at Flame Congress 2012

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe joined Olympic medallists, athletes, clergy and religious in Wembley Arena on 24 March for a National Youth Congress organized by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation of England and Wales. The event emphasised sport because of the upcoming summer Olympics in London. In his address to over 8000 young people who had come from all over Great Britain, fr. Timothy said: "In the Olympics, thousands of athletes will be in competition for gold medals. And this is wonderful and good. But for the greatest gold medal there is no competition, and that is for being yourself, for you are loved as you are. Dare to love others as they are too. St Catherine of Siena said to a friend: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Bishop Fisher launches bioethics book

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, who is bishop of Parramatta in Australia and professor in moral theology and bioethics at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family in Melbourne, launched an important new book on bioethics in March 2012. Entitled 'Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium', the book is published by Cambridge University Press and is widely available through online retailers. Bioethical issues are extremely topical these days, and Catholics may often feel uncertain of how to respond. Bishop Fisher makes a vital contribution by clearly explaining the Catholic understanding of the human person which provides the framework for a moral analysis of the bioethical issues current today. Specific issues are considered at length, such as abortion, the use of embryonic stem cells, and euthanasia. He also grapples with the role and responsibilities of Catholic hospitals, considers how Catholic politicians should act, and explains what the conscience is and how it is exercised and formed. Throughout, Bishop Fisher reflects on real-life examples, uses vivid illustrations to explain his position, and his tone is always compassionate, thoughtful, and non-judgmental.

Dominican Volunteer Preaching the Good News

Luke Samy, DVI volunteer in the Philippines write a letter

He writes: "Oxford may well have trained my mind to think, but the largely solitary life of the doctoral student had allowed my heart to grow cold and too focused on myself... Being with the children has taught me much about what it means to be truly human, and to appreciate more fully what Our Lord meant when He said that we must become like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The virtue of the children lies in their capacity to love without restraint, to embrace others without any fears of being hurt or embarrassed or put out of their way.

Photos of his mission

Read the complete report



Salamanca mission : Two brothers from the Curia in the Philippines

From theory to practice

Br. Olivier Poquillon, OP (Permanent Delegate to the United Nations) and Br. Carlos Rodríguez Linera, OP (General Promoter for Justice and Peace) visited the Philippines from January 4 to 23 to promote Justice and Peace by bridging the gap between the Academy and the grassroots. Getting in touch with the Dominicans in UST, Navotas, and Bicol, they got to know the situation and gave some recommendations on how the poor can help themselves and how our study can benefit from our practices. They hope that their visit will strengthen the network among the local and international Dominican Family, so that we all could continue to carry on our mission as Preachers of the Gospel.

Source: PHILDOM, the official newsletter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines

Dominican Sisters in Cambodia and Thailand

Dominican Sisters International's Coordinator visited some Sisters' communities

Sr. M. Fabiola Velásquez M., OP, DSI International Coordinator, recently visited our Dominican Sisters in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. She writes: "Dear Sisters and Brothers who come to our web-site, after having been in the Asian Pacific from January 27 to February 15, I want to use this means to cut across the distances that separate us and with this letter connect with you while wishing you a fruitful Lenten journey. During these weeks outside Rome I first had the joy of going to Thailand with Sister Lucia Fernandez, director of the Dominican Volunteers. There we visited several communities and areas of mission of her congregation, the Missionary Sisters of Saint Dominic.

Dominican Brothers Protest in Favour of Religious Freedom

Last Friday a group of friars attended the rally outside of HHS headquarters here in Washington to protest in favor of religious freedom. There were speakers and prayers, bloggers and journalists, members of the media, religious, priests, and just ordinary people.

For those of us at the rally it was clear what an injustice it is that churches and the hospitals, universities, schools, social services agencies, and publishers they operate will be forced to buy contraceptive and abortifacient drugs for their employees and students. For supporters of the contraceptive mandate it is just as clear that the ability to postpone or completely avoid pregnancy is so obviously fundamental to women's rights that all employers should provide it for their employees.

Rallies and slogans do allow for a show of unity. They express to government officials and media that some people are serious about certain issues or truths. The trouble is, though, that the rapid exchange of slogans is unconvincing. We interpret short, context-less statements based on our own presuppositions. This is good for energizing crowds and showing strength, but it is not a means of sharing the truth.

Jesus faced just such a sound-bite opposition in his trial before the Sanhedrin. Mark reports:

Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'" Even so their testimony did not agree. (Mark 14:56–59)

Just like posters, slogans, and bumper-sticker arguments, the testimony against Jesus relies on triggering existing assumptions rather than rational argument. Look at the main accusation: "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'" Every Christian knows that this saying refers to Jesus' death and resurrection, but taken out of context by men looking for a revolutionary to put to death it can be twisted.

Before he faced the Sanhedrin, St. John reports that Annas, the deposed high priest and father-in-law of Caiaphas the reigning high priest, questioned Jesus about his teachings. Christ's answer is telling: "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said" (John 18:20–21).



The Gospels show that Jesus carefully revealed himself over the course of his ministry. He taught publicly. Remember what he said when they arrested him: “Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the scriptures may be fulfilled” (Mark 14:49). The chief priests could have heard Jesus teaching, but they already had an agenda. Caiaphas had given the unwittingly prophetic advice that one man should die for the sake of the people (John 18:14).

Christ’s refusal to defend himself helped to bring about the divine plan. Catholics and indeed people of all religions are right to rally for religious freedom. But it is important to remember that the Gospel isn’t spread by pithy retorts. Our short-term outcry cannot replace the long-term efforts of preaching.

The Gospel radically challenges our assumptions. As we see in the Gospel, the chief priests were not ready to let go of their assumptions, and neither are our many of our contemporaries. If we want to lead all mankind to Christ and the ultimate freedom that comes from God, we need to make the slow case and challenge the assumptions that underlie those things we protest.

Maryknoll Sisters work with Maasai women in Tanzania

Emusoi Center for Education

Sr. Mary Vertucci, OP, writes from Tanzania about the Emusoi Center for Maasai women: “I am working at Emusoi and I will probably be here for a long time. We began in 1999. At present, 3 Maryknoll Sisters, besides myself are working at the Center. Sr. Maureen, a part-time English teacher, Sr. Jeri helps with communications and supervises all the grounds and Sr. Jareen, a young sister who just came to Tanzania last year. She is teaching our pre-secondary students and teaching computer and helping out with administration!” The newspaper Mail & Guardian from South Africa published an article on the Center Emusoi: “It’s as if they speak with one voice, the young Maasai women who have escaped being sold into marriage -- at least for now -- to pursue an education.”

Read the full article on on Mail&Guardian

U.S. Dominicans Preach through Technology

Websites, Facebook, Twitter, Ustream and You-Tube videos.

Sr. Barbara Kelley, OP, writes: Our holy Father, Saint Dominic, was in many ways a man of his times. He preached the Word of God through the media available to him: walking from town to town, praying, and spending a pivotal evening in a tavern, preaching the Gospel face to face to an innkeeper who believed the heresies of his day. Saint Dominic’s sons and daughters in the 21st Century United States preach in the “taverns” of our own time and culture: not only face to face, in parishes, classrooms, hospitals and prisons, but through websites, Facebook, Twitter, Ustream and You-Tube videos.

The Rosary and Lent

Lent is a time when we can rediscover prayer. It is the occasion to pick up the beads again to meditate with Mary the mysteries of the Lord’s life.

We could think that Lent is the period of the liturgical year which goes well with the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. In fact, it is what comes readily to mind.

The meditation of those mysteries will be the opportunity for us to unite with those who suffer in their body and heart, to pray for those who are persecuted for justice sake, because of their attachment to Christ. And how not to think about our brothers and sisters hounded and killed because of their faith in Nigeria, Near and Far East, in India and so many other places?

It will allow us to remember those who attempt to lighten the pain of those who suffer, who help the dying or struggle against all the injustices. They are the Simon of Cyrene who help to carry so many crosses!

Finally, it will give us again and always the opportunity of giving thanks to the Lord who has loved us so much that He died on the cross to save us!



But let us not think that Lent is only linked with the Sorrowful Mysteries!

The liturgy itself reminds us of it since in March we will remember the Annunciation, the first of the Joyful Mysteries!

During Holy Week, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, a Mystery of Light!

And let us not forget that the Resurrection, a Glorious Mystery, was announced by Christ to his disciples! He will suffer and die, He who is the Resurrection and the Life!

So, during this Lent, with our Rosary – all of our Rosary – let us resolutely take the road to Jerusalem!

Fr. Louis-Marie ARIÑO-DURAND, o.p.

General Promoter of the Rosary

Visit Rosarium, the official site on the Rosary of the Order of Preachers !