



## ORDER OF PREACHERS



### The Mission and Future of Vicariates in the Order



The General Chapter of Rome began the process of the restructuring of the Order through the reorganization of the entities of the Order which is to be completed in the 2016. With the clearly defined objectives of promoting the apostolic mission and the regular life of the brothers, it is expected that, at the end of this process, “there will only be Provinces and Vice-Provinces as autonomous entities in the Order”. (ACG 2010, Rome, n. 201).

The decision of the General Chapter was to keep in the general law of the Order a single category of vicariates called provincial vicariate which must have a convent and at least 15 friars with active voice, with the statutes of each province specifying the different aspects of the organization and the government of the vicariate (cf. LCO 384)

In line with this, the recent General Chapter of Trogir requested that the Master of the Order organize a meeting for priors provincial and vicars provincial with the objective of actualizing the ongoing restructuring process that affects in a very particular way the existing provincial and regional vicariates (cf Acts GC 2013 Trogir, no. 169). In the spirit of the preparations for the celebration of the Jubilee of the Order in 2016, the meeting will allow the exchange of experiences among the vicariates in various parts of the world and lay down the fundamentals for a new stage in the vocation and missionary expansion of the Order.

The meeting took place at the Angelicum, Rome from July 7 to 11, 2014. To prepare for a fruitful deliberation, fr Bruno Cadoré had earlier sent out questionnaires to the intending participants and received their responses. The objectives of the meeting were;

- to promote the life and mission of the Order in particular significant places
- to promote the restructuring process started in 2010
- strengthen bonds of unity among provinces and their vicariates.
- exchange of experiences among vicariates in various parts of the world
- lay the foundations for a new stage in the missionary expansion of the Order (2016)

Provincials of provinces with vicariates or missions outside their territory, general vicars of those vicariates in preparation for their integration into province, regional priors and provincial vicars, some brothers from communities outside the territory of their provinces and some invited guests were present at the meeting. The



members of the General Curia led by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadore where at hand to organize and coordinate the meeting.

There were presentations from various speakers all centred on the mission of the Order especially as it concerns vicariates. In his presentation titled, “Vicariates in the Mission of the Order”, fr Bruno enlightened the participants on the varied dynamics of the existence of vicariates in the Order. There were other presentations on Preaching and Community, Vocations and Formation and Orientation for the Statutes. There were opportunities for group discussions from where evaluations and proposals for the future were made.

To lighten up the atmosphere, the brothers had a guided tour of the Convent and Basilica of Santa Sabina and the Convent and Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. The Convent of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva which was at one time the seat of the General Curia of the Order is now the provincial house of the Roman Province of St Catherine of Siena in Italy. The tomb of St Catherine of Siena is also located inside the Basilica.

The participants unanimously agreed that the meeting was very informative and forward looking on the mission and apostolates of the Order especially as it concerns vicariates. After the meeting, the brothers are now more equipped to carry out this mission more fruitfully.  
fr Bonaventure Agbali, OP

### **12th General Assembly of the Inter-Africa of the Order of Preachers (IAOP)**

«The challenges of the Dominican mission in Africa today.» This is the theme of the 12th General Assembly of the IAOP celebrated in Nairobi (Dimesse Sisters Spiritual Centre), Kenya, from 21 to 26 July 2014. Presided over by the Coordinator of the IAOP and Socius of the Master of the Order for Africa, brother Gabriel Samba, this Assembly gathered thirty-eight participants from Africa, the General Curia (Santa Sabina, Rome) and elsewhere. The major Superiors of the eight entities of the IAOP as well as their Delegates were all present, except the Delegate of the Provincial Vicariate of Angola. The Master of the Order, Brother Bruno CADORE and the representatives of the different branches of the Dominican Family in Africa took also part in this Assembly during which Africa as a Region celebrated the Jubilee of the 8th centenary of the confirmation of the Order and the 40th anniversary of the Inter-Africa.

On Monday July 21, 2014, after the opening Mass presided over by Coordinator of the IAOP, brother Gabriel Samba, the Assembly began with the presentation of the reports of the members of the Coordinating Committee. On Tuesday 22th July, the Master of the Order presided over the Eucharist of the feast of St Mary Magdalene and received the Solemn Profession of two brothers from the Provincial Vicariate of Equatorial Africa: Sebastian Nkoa Ayissi and Patrick Dangavo Yando. The Assembly went on with the presentation of the reports of the Major Superiors and of the guests. Brother Jean-Jacques Pérennès (Director of IDEO in Cairo, Egypt and former Socius of the Master of the Order for Apostolic Life), who was the main speaker and moderator of the Assembly (together with brother Mike Deeb), addressed the Assembly on Wednesday morning 23rd July. In the afternoon, Brother Bruno spoke to the Assembly on theme of mission. He said that “mission is preaching communion and living it.” On Thursday morning 24th July, the Assembly listened attentively to the presentations of bother Franklin Buitrago Rojas, Secretary General of the Order and Coordinator General of the Jubilee, and the one of brother Javier Pose, Socius of the Master of the Order for Latin America and the Caribbean and also Chairman of LCO and Restructuring Standing Committee. Their interventions helped the participants to better understand the approach and objectives of the Jubilee celebration of the 8th centenary of the Order, as well as the restructuring of the structures of the Order, in connection with the mission.

The Assembly had the joy to welcome and to share the experiences of many members of the Dominican Family: Sr Faustina Tayo Jimoh, Coordinator of Dominican Sisters Africa (DSA) ; Sr Juliette Kilanir, Coordinator of the Union of the Nuns of the Order of Preachers in Africa ; Félix Foko representative of the lay Dominican Fraternities in Africa; brother José Bolaboto, Delegate of the Cooperator bothers of Africa; Anthonia Umenwobi from the Dominican Youth Movement of Nigeria who came to speak of the first African Congress of this Movement, which is to be held in Ilorin, Nigeria, from 28 July to 3 August 2014. Brother Liboire Kagabo, one of the pioneers of the Inter-Africa and first IAOP Coordinator gave a testimony



on late brother Thomas Kamainda on the beginnings of the Inter-Africa. Brother Benoît-Joseph Colonval, superior of the community of the Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean presented the outlook for future foundation in Madagascar. For reasons beyond his goodwill, the superior of the new foundation of Malabo, Equatorial Guinea was unable to attend this meeting.

The various reports and interventions of the guests allowed the Assembly to pin down the major challenges of the Dominican mission in Africa today and meet five dominant points namely: communication, collaboration, financial autonomy and new religious movements. Reflections from groups had the merit to identify these challenges in terms of gaps, and make proposals for a renewal of apostolic life. The Assembly elected the new members of the Coordinating Committee. It also reviewed and adopted the Statutes of the Inter-Africa.

The new IAOP team is as follows:

Coordinator of the IAOP: Br. Gabriel SAMBA (Provincial Vicariate of Equatorial Africa)

Syndic of the IAOP: Br. Prudence HATEGEKIMANA (Provincial Vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi).

He takes over from brother Emil Blaser from the Vicariate General of Southern Africa.

Councillor of the IAOP for Justice and Peace and the Dominican Family:

Br. Mario RUI (Provincial Vicariate of Angola). He takes over from brother Mike Deeb from the Vicariate General of Southern Africa.

Councillor of the IAOP for Formation: Br. Marie-Victor KISYABA (Vicariate General of St Pius V, D.R. Congo). He was unanimously re-elected for a second term.

Councillor of the IAOP for Intellectual Life: Br. Paul AKIN-OTIKO (Province of St Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana). He takes over from brother André Adoba from the Vicariate General of St Pius V, D.R. Congo.

Fr. Gabriel Samba, op.

**Blessing of the New Monastery of Dominican Nuns in the Diocese of Dassa-Zoume, Benin Republic**

On Friday July 11, 2014, the feast of St Benedict the legislator of monastic life; a new Monastery was blessed for the Dominican Nuns, in Bogoun, a village about thirty kilometers from Dassa in Benin Republic.

This new monastery is a foundation of the monastery of Our Lady of Peace of Rweza, Burundi. The four founding Dominican nuns: Sr Noémie MURERWA, Sr Severa NIZIGIYIMANA, Sr Rose Marie SIMAZEYOSE et Sr Languide HAKIZIMANA were installed in their monastery at the end of the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Clement AHOUANDJINO, op, from the Dominican convent of Cotonou.

Here is his report:

The ceremony began with Mass concelebrated by a dozen of priests among whom were Father Leonard AGOSSOU, pastor of Notre Dame de Fourvière Dassa Cathedral, representing Bishop Benedict GOUDOTE, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Dassa-Zoumè, Father Mathieu AMONLO, Chancellor of the Diocese and Father Yves AKOVOYEKAN parish priest of St. Raphael Soclogbo, the parish under which the Sisters belong. The Mass was sung by the following choral groups: Hanye, Arigbo choirs, and the Youth Choir; it was well attended by several religious and lay faithful among whom, was King Toffon Tozé II of Soclogbo.

In his homily the chief celebrant congratulated the nuns for their endurance and presence. He based his homily on the Gospel reading of the day where Jesus said: "Whoever leaves land, family ...will receive a hundredfold." He then presented the example of the life of St. Benedict, whose feast day coincided with the celebration, he the spiritual master and legislator of monastic life. He also explained that the word of Christ is actualized in the lives of the nuns who left their native Burundi, and now receive a hundredfold of friends and the presence of the multitude of the lay faithful who attended the Mass testify to this truth.



The blessing of the monastery presided over by Father Leonard AGOSSOU took place at the end of the Mass. The structure comprises of a chapel, refectory, a living room and six bedrooms. At the end of the ceremony, sister Languida HAKIZIMANA thanked all those present on behalf of the nuns, not forgetting the various workers who built this gem, particularly the artist who made the tabernacle. This festive day ended with the fraternal meal which left the participants happy.

Fr. Clément AHOUCANDJINO, o.p.

### **The students meeting of the Inter-Africa of the Order of Preachers (IAOP) took place in Kinshasa**

The Delegates of the student brothers of the IAOP met at Saint Dominic Convent, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 7 to 12 July 2014, for their training session. There were fifteen brothers from the eight entities of the IAOP (Nigeria and Ghana, West Africa, D.R. Congo, Southern Africa, Rwanda and Burundi, Equatorial Africa, Eastern Africa, and Angola), to reflect anew on formation and mission in Africa, in the context of the Jubilee of the Order (800 years of its confirmation) and the 40th anniversary of the Inter-Africa OP. Brother Dieudonné BIGIRIMAN, Delegate of the student brothers of the Provincial Vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi takes stock of the session.

The theme of this meeting was: "Formation to face the challenges of mission in Africa today." In a climate of discussion and exchanges, discernment, prayer and contemplation, the student brothers reflected upon the required formation to carry out the mission of the Order in Africa today. They began by assessing the resolutions of the previous session held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 2010, and they shared the different experiences of their curriculum. This exercise helped to gather views about formation in different entities of the IAOP. The brothers proceeded to a retrospective review of the history of Inter-Africa OP. This review was based on the text of brother Liboire KAGABO, first Coordinator of the IAOP which he presented to the formators at their session in October 2013 in Bujumbura. From this review, there has been much progress. Nevertheless, serious questions arise in the future. Some entities retreated home again. There is a risk of regression if nothing is done. After this review, brother José BOLABOTO, Delegate of the cooperator Brothers of African spoke about the formation of cooperator brothers in Africa and its involvement in training. He called for the cooperation of everyone to face the challenge.

This and many other challenges identified by the students call to action. Issues related to poverty, to ethnical conflicts, governance, corruption, war and violence of all kinds, human traffic and many others of this kind are challenges to the Dominican mission in Africa. Many efforts have been made to address these challenges. The brothers, in all entities, have been engaged in various activities pertinent and exciting, but the way to quench the thirst for justice and peace of the African people is still long. Hence, the students reflected upon the type of formation needed to respond effectively to these challenges of the mission. A formation of experts is needed to better address these challenges.

Brother Vivian BOLAND, Vicar of the Master of the Order and delegate Socius for initial formation exposed the ongoing project of the Ratio Formationis Generalis for 2016. And Brother Gabriel SAMBA, Socius of the Master of the Order for Africa closed the session emphasizing on the importance and relevance of the theme of Mission in the Order today.

We thank brother Mike DEEB, Permanent Delegate of the Order to the United Nations for facilitating this meeting, brother Marie Victor KISYABA, IAOP Councilor for Formation for having organized this meeting, and all the brothers of the Vicariate General of Congo for their fraternal welcome.

Fr. Dieudonné BIGIRIMANA, op.

### **Oranges From Dominic's Tree**

*A collection of poems from Dominican friars, sisters and laity.*

The New Priory Press of the Province of St Albert the Great, USA has just published a collection of poems titled, Oranges from Dominic's Tree.



## Description

The title of this anthology, *Oranges From Dominic's Tree*, comes from the tradition that Saint Dominic planted an orange tree in the garden of the Priory of Santa Sabina in Rome. A series of orange trees have grown in that garden for almost nine hundred years, each taken from a shoot of the previous tree. Dominic's tree still produces oranges. The orange is an appropriate metaphor for the poem. A good poem, like a good orange, should be small, beautiful, flavorful and nourishing.

It is edited by Fr. Matthew Powell, O.P. and you can get a copy online by going to their website. You will find other great books on the site.

## **New Priests and Deacons for the Province of Nigeria**

*On the 19th of July 2014 at Dominican Community, Ibadan, Nigeria.*

It was yet another period of joy, laughter and praise to God Almighty as the Dominican Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana, celebrated the ordination of five of her brothers. Friars Jude-Mary Chukwuebuka Owoh, Paul Oerhime Akpomie and Clement Chibueze Uzoanya were raised to the Order of Priesthood, while Friars Patrick Neil Morrison and Joseph Osahon Osunde to the Order of Deaconate.

The Ordination mass was celebrated by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Gabriel Leke Abegunrin, the new Archbishop of Ibadan Archdiocese, on the 19th of July, 2014. This will be Archbishop Abegunrin's first ordination mass after receiving his Pallium. The ordination took place in the House of Studies of the province, St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Ibadan. The ordination celebration was graced by many priests and religious within and outside the diocese.

As most recent celebrations in the House of Studies, a cake was made by our super-chef Friar Uchechukwu Odikpo. It had the Bible which is handed to deacons, and the altar vessels including the host handed to priests at their ordination. All of these features of the cake looked real (I mean like real book and metal) but they were all eaten up after the official cutting.

It is pertinent to note that Friar Samuel Onyiba who was supposed to be ordained with the trio will be ordained in his hometown, Nanka in Anambra State (Eastern part of Nigeria). His ordination will be part of the celebration to round off the centenary anniversary celebration of the arrival of Christianity to Nanka. He will be ordained by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Paulinus Ezeokafor, Catholic Bishop of Awka on the 26th of July, 2014, exactly 7 days after his other brothers were ordained.

fr Paulinus Okechukwu Onyenuru, OP

## **Solemn declaration regarding the situation of Christians in Iraq**

*Open letter from The General Chapter of the Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin*

The General Chapter of the Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin meeting in Tours, France who are present in 36 countries, including Iraq since 1873, declares being extremely upset about the tragic situation of Christians in Iraq.

We totally agree with the declaration of "very deep concern" of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on July 20, 2014.

The Chapter members are requesting that the national and international media make known this "crime against humanity."

We implore the Government Leaders of the Super Powers and International Institutions to do all that they can to put an end to this organized massacre of a people, a culture, and a history dating back thousands of years.

We ask them set up as quickly as possible places of welcome worthy of these exiles and refugees.

The General Chapter is fully united with the efforts of Pope Francis, the Churches of Iraq, the Bishop Conferences of the various countries, and all the Order of Saint Dominic denouncing these elementary



Human Rights violations. We entreat all women and men of good will to work for peace for all, in order that each one can live in security on her and his land, with respect of his and her faith and identity.

### **An update on the situation in Iraq from the Dominican Sisters**

Dear sisters, brothers, and friends

We would like to update you on the situation here in Iraq, especially in the province of Nineveh. The two Chaldean Sisters (who belong to the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate) and the three orphans were released on Monday, July 14th. The sisters told me that they were treated well. We thank God for their safety. However, their car was taken away with the valuable items they had with them, also the ISIS took the keys of their convent in Mosul. Moreover, the ISIS gave the sisters a message to inform the Patriarch and the bishops. The message is that the Christians have three choices:

- To be converted into Islam
- To pay Aljizya (pay tribute) to ISIS
- To leave Mosul with only their clothes on.

Patriarch of the Chaldean Church Mar Louis Sako informed Christians of Mosul the message and via bishops and religious of Mosul and told them to leave the city as soon as they can; so they started leaving on July 16th.

On July 18th we were surprised to hear that the ISIS started taking possession of belongings of Christians who were leaving the city; belongings included money, personal documents, passports, cars, and all valuable items. These families arrived to the Christian villages disheartened as the ISIS did not only take possession of their belongings, but also the properties of Christians and Muslim Shiites (their opponents). These properties were marked with a letter “N” for “Nazerene” to indicate Christian properties and “R” for “Rafidheen” which means rejecting to indicate Shi’i Muslims who are rejecting the ISIS control.

That generated fear and horror among the people of towns around Mosul especially the closest Christian towns like Karakosh and Talkef. Despite this, the Church in cooperation with locals in these and other villages is trying to provide places to live and food supply for the arriving refugees; despite the fact that these towns still lack water and electricity. People are cooperative in order to provide water -they are digging wells. As for electricity, the best we can get is six hours a day. We ask your prayers for God’s protection in this time of crisis.

The violence is not only centred in Mosul. Along with Mosul in a nearby town called Tal Afar, which is mostly Muslim Shiites, the ISIS expanded their control and obliged people there to leave the town. They are staying at Khazir refugees’ camps.

We were informed that the coming days will be even more difficult. The central government is intensifying the random airstrike over Mosul.

We will have our annual retreat this week, despite the hard situation, so that the convent might be a prayer place at this troubled time.

Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena, Karakosh-Iraq  
(We have removed the name of the particular sister who sent this update to us for security reasons)

### **Archbishop Bernardito Auza of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic is Vatican's New Envoy to the UN**

For Filipinos, the appointment of a compatriot as the new permanent representative of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York is a cause for rejoicing. For the Order, however, we joyfully find in Archbishop Bernardito Cleopas Auza a brother in the family of St. Dominic, and a coworker in realizing the Order's mission.



Ordained as a priest on 29 June 1985, and as bishop on 3 July 2008, Archbishop Auza began his training for the priesthood at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Tagbilaran City, in his native province of Bohol in the Philippines. His link with the Order of Preachers began at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where he obtained his Bachelor and Licentiate degrees in Philosophy and Theology. It was during his stay in the UST Central Seminary that he became part of the Dominican Family as a Tertiary, an identity that he continued to acknowledge and live in the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic, even after he left the confines of the seminary to pursue higher studies in Rome.

In the Eternal city, he found himself once more in the company of Dominicans as he completed his Licentiate in Canon Law and Doctorate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome. After his training at the Pontificia Accademia Ecclesiastica, he proceeded to perform diplomatic service for the Holy See, including the post as Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti, during which he played a pivotal role in the international relief efforts for the victims of the earthquake in the country in 2010. On 1 July 2014, he became the first Filipino to be appointed as the Vatican's envoy to the UN in New York, succeeding Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

Archbishop Auza's appointment will benefit not only the Church's work of promoting justice, peace, and humanitarian concerns in the UN, but hopefully also the Order's presence in the same arena since 1966 through our own permanent representative. We look forward to a reinforced Dominican collaboration, especially in adopting UN mechanisms to assist the evangelizing work of our brothers and sisters in diverse levels of ministry.

### **Signs of the Earth's degradation: Do we care?**

I am currently reading a book entitled "Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth," a collection of essays edited by Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee. In the contribution offered by Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga Nation, the chief reflects on the wisdom his people received a long, long time ago in prophecies—namely, that there would be a degradation of Earth.

The Onondaga were told that two very important signs would warn them of the extent of this degradation. One would be the acceleration of the winds. "When you see that the accelerations of the winds are growing, then you are in dangerous times." The other way to tell the extent of Earth's degradation would be in the way people treated their children. "So when you open up the newspapers today, they talk about exploitive sex and children, they talk about homeless children... To us, it's a severe indication of the degradation. Society doesn't care."

I couldn't help but reflect on the truth of this Native American intuition in light of growing concerns about global climate change, and the seemingly unending stream of undocumented children crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Massive wildfires on the West Coast, an unprecedented number of tornadoes throughout the nation's heartland, and torrential downpours along the East Coast are all indicative of the accelerations of the winds. And the treatment of children, many of whom are unaccompanied, by the intransigent U.S. Congress give credence to the Onondaga's received prophecies. In the chief's words, it would seem that "Society doesn't care."

The vast majority of these child migrants come from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, an area which has become one of the most violent regions on earth. These countries struggle with levels of violence which have been described as tantamount to an undeclared regional war. ("Flee or die": violence drives Central America's child migrants to U.S. border," *The Guardian*, July 9, 2014). The *New York Times* addressed this tragic situation last Sunday ("The Children of the Drug Wars: A Refugee Crisis, Not an Immigration Crisis," July 13, 2014), highlighting Honduras, which has been plagued by gang violence and foreign drug cartels. Honduras, a primary transit point for U.S.-bound cocaine, has the world's highest homicide rate for a nation that is not at war. A permanent solution to this dilemma would be to deal with the root causes of violence in Honduras itself, as well as the insatiable demand for illegal drugs here in the United States, which helps to fuel the violence which these children are fleeing.



In a very real sense, the children on our border could be considered refugees fleeing armed conflict and fear of persecution. Just this past week, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees urged both the United States and Mexico to consider them as such, and not simply send them back into the sea of violence which they fled.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration recently called upon the Obama administration to reconsider its proposal for expedited removal of children fleeing violence in Central America. Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, chair of this committee, said, "This is a very vulnerable population which has been targeted by organized crime networks in Central America. To return them to these criminal elements without a proper adjudication of their cases is unconscionable."

In its Sunday, July 13, editorial, The New York Times states, "Smugglers are profiting mightily from the fear that propels children north and the fear that locks our country down. Republicans are feeding the cycle, stoking panic about a border assault, even to the point of demanding that President Obama call out the National Guard... The besieged border is a myth, and the arrival of a few thousand weary children in buses does not make the myth true."

At a press conference last week, House Speaker John Boehner insinuated that the crisis of unaccompanied children on the U.S. border was the fault of the president. The speaker said, "He's been president for five and half years! When is he going to take responsibility for something?" Is this a stunning example of projection? Congress has been the major obstacle to any meaningful immigration reform, which is all the more reason for us to do whatever we can to keep the pressure on Mr. Boehner and our elected representatives to rise above partisan politics and craft legislation which will deal with immigration in a comprehensive and compassionate manner.

Let me conclude by referencing another essay from the book "Spiritual Ecology." In addressing the evolutionary crisis of the human spirit, the authors (John Stanley and David Roy) refer to the ego-self, characterized by what Albert Einstein called the "optical illusion of separateness." They go on to suggest that the key point of the evolutionary crisis of the human spirit is that we can no longer afford to be limited by this illusion. We have to come to the realization that our original self includes the whole living world. "That kind of empathy, based on a holistic worldview, is essential. Without it we will not survive the ecological and social "great unraveling" that has already begun."

Imagine what might happen if Mr. Boehner and members of Congress were able to see the children on the border not as collateral damage of what they might term failed immigration policy, but rather as "our children?" It would seem that we have our work cut out for us...

Margaret Mayce, OP (DLC/Amityville). ngo@domlife.org

### **Hidden with Christ in God: The Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary**

The Milwaukee Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary are a contemplative community of Dominican Sisters who literally put these words into practice by maintaining a continuous Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to attending daily Mass and reciting the Divine Office, like all Religious, each sister prays the traditional 15 decade Rosary once or twice per day. Since their foundation in 1897, the Milwaukee Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary have prayed the Rosary around the clock for the needs of the Church and the world.

The tradition of contemplative Dominican Sisters has its origin in the community of contemplative women established in 1206 by St. Dominic in Prouille, France, who by their prayers supported the Dominican Order's work of preaching for the salvation of souls. In 1880, Fr. Damien Saintourens, O.P., Director of the Association of the Perpetual Rosary for the Dominican Province of France, founded the first community of Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary in Calais, France, with the help of Mother Rose of St. Mary who came from the Dominican Monastery of the Holy Rosary in Mauleon, France. The community in Calais moved due to religious persecution and eventually found a new home in Belgium. Fr. Saintourens was a fervent promoter of the Rosary worldwide, including in North America, and had established contacts in the United States and Canada. In 1891, Mother Mary of the Rosary, who had been among the first postulants to



enter the first community in Calais, came to the United States and founded the first American Perpetual Rosary Monastery in Union City, NJ. After serving there as prioress, in 1897 she established the Milwaukee Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary where she also served as the first prioress of the community. They have now been praying the Rosary continuously for over a century.

At each hour a sister contemplates the mysteries of Jesus' life from the point of view of the person closest to him: his mother Mary. This contemplation begins with the joyful mysteries, which celebrate our God who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14) through his Incarnation, Birth, and early life. At the center are the sorrowful mysteries, which recall the events surrounding the Lord's Passion, the sacrificial outpouring of his very life which won for us the gift of salvation. Finally, the prayer culminates with the glorious mysteries, celebrating Jesus' victorious Resurrection and Ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the Assumption and Coronation of Mary, the most perfect representative of the entire Church. While Christians in all states of life may not have the hour needed to pray the full Rosary each day, the practice of praying a single set of 5 mysteries daily and rotating among the sets of mysteries throughout the week is a way of contemplating Christ's life recommended by numerous saints.

The sisters are further supported in their life of contemplation by maintaining silence outside of community recreation times, which frees them from distractions and disposes them to listen to God. The Dominican observance of study further nourishes their prayer life, and the sisters find Scripture to be an especially helpful aid supporting their contemplation of Jesus' life through the Rosary. Many of the sisters also pray the luminous mysteries, added by Pope St. John Paul II in his 2002 Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, and enjoy Romano Guardini's book *The Rosary of Our Lady*. We see in the sisters' lives a reminder that Mass and liturgical prayer, times of silence, mental prayer, study, Scripture reading, and structured devotional prayer such as the Rosary are all important components of developing a life of prayer. While these components are individually beneficial in themselves, they are complementary and greatly nourish spiritual growth when integrated together into one's life.

The sisters are also models of evangelization. Even as they maintain the discipline of remaining hidden with the Lord inside the cloister as contemplatives, they give to others from the gifts they receive from the Lord. While physically committed to one location, through their prayer they engage in the worldwide mission of the Dominican Order and the missionary vocation of the Church. They also seek to share the treasure of the Rosary, which forms such an important part of their spirituality, by hosting a Third Order chapter and making Rosaries for the missions, by the Marian Shrine next to their monastery, and by their writings, including *The Rosary: Prayer for All Seasons* by Sr. Joanna Hastings, O.P.

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

For more information about the Milwaukee Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, to send the sisters your prayer intentions, or to inquire about vocations, please visit their website.

### **Fr Eric Salobir, OP has been appointed to the Vatican Media Committee**

His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, the Cardinal Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy announced several important new initiatives to improve the economic and administrative management of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

These changes initiated by the new Secretariat for the Economy are considered essential to address identified weaknesses and risks while also creating a new platform for improved economic management in the future.

All changes have been approved by the Holy Father and endorsed at the recent meetings of the Council for the Economy and the Council of Cardinals.

The changes affect: (1) APSA (2) PENSION FUND (3) VATICAN MEDIA (4) IOR



## Vatican Media

A committee has been appointed to propose reforms for the Vatican Media. The committee will publish a report and a reform plan within the next 12 months. The objectives are to adapt the Holy See media to changing media consumption trends, enhance coordination and achieve progressively and sensitively substantial financial savings. Building on the recent positive experiences with initiatives such as the Pope App and the Holy Father's Twitter Account, digital channels will be strengthened to ensure the Holy Father's messages reach more of the faithful around the world, especially young people.

The members of the committee come from Vatican staff and from senior international experts. They have been chosen for their expertise in communications while reflecting the universality of the Catholic Church.

Senior international experts: Lord Christopher Patten (UK, will act as President of the committee), Mr. Gregory Erlandson (USA), Ms. Daniela Frank (Germany), Fr. Eric Salobir OP (France), Ms. Leticia Soberon (Spain, Mexico), and Mr. George Yeo (Singapore).

Vatican staff: Mons. Paul Tighe (Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, will act as Secretary of the committee), Giacomo Ghisani (Vatican Radio), Mons. Carlo Maria Polvani (Secretariat of State), Mons. Lucio Adrián Ruiz (Vatican Internet Service) and Prof. Giovanni Maria Vian (L'Osservatore Romano).

Father Eric Salobir o.p. is the General Promoter of the Order of Preachers for Social Communications.

While his educational background was in business, he has been involved in evangelization through the media since his entry into the Dominican Order. He first served as chief editor of an ecumenical radio station in northern France, and has developed new types of radio programs for evangelization. He was elected to the board of Directors of the French Federation of Christian Radios (FFRC) and he worked for four years to support Catholic mass media.

In 2002, together with a group of friars, he founded a retreat service online named « Retraite dans la Ville » (Retreat in the City), which became one of the key players on the French speaking Internet. In 2004 he became responsible for the communication of the Rosary Pilgrimage in France and forged partnerships with Catholic media to promote Marian activities.

In 2006, Father Salobir joined the team of the French catholic weekly show « Le Jour du Seigneur » (The Day of the Lord), on the public TV channel France 2. He has been responsible for the digital development and the production of a web series and short films, and has covered several celebrations of the World Youth Day.

He is also the founder of the think tank OPTIC (Order of Preachers for Technology, Information and Communication), and he collaborated for eight years with the Permanent Delegation of the Holy See to UNESCO.

Three years ago, he was called by the Master of the Order to join the Curia of the Dominican Order, where he coordinates communication and develops preaching projects through the media. He has also designed the Dominican Order's private social network.

Congratulations Fr Eric.

## **Heaven on Earth in the Age of Social Media**

*Dominican Nuns of Mt. Thabor Monastery, Ortonville, Detroit, MI.*

Cloistered Nuns have the special calling of living heaven here on earth. Yes, it is true for all of us that our heaven or our hell can start in this life. Yet, in God's providence, some of the elect are asked to live in a very close way to Him. For example, in the Gospels we see that Jesus takes only Peter, James and John away on certain occasions. The greatest example is the account of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. Jesus is transfigured in glory before Peter, James and John for an instant (Mt 17:1-8).



Our series on Dominican Monastic Life in the United States continues as we head out to the upper midwest region. At Mt. Thabor Monastery, Dominican Nuns live out this calling to consecrated life to accompany Jesus on the mountain top. However, the nuns do not go up alone, but take the entire world in their heart and prayers.

Located about an hour northwest of Detroit in Ortonville, MI, the nuns began to occupy the monastery on August 1, 1973. The first feast the nuns celebrated in the new dwelling was the Transfiguration, hence the name. Mt. Thabor Monastery sits at the end of a long tree-lined entrance and was built next to a serene lake. This picturesque setting is a long way from the monastery's roots in Union City, NJ, where its two foundresses, Sr. Anne and Sr. Mary Martin, were members of the Blue Chapel Monastery. It was at this monastery that the nuns of the perpetual rosary devotion began in 1892 in the United States.

After the Second Vatican Council and its call for the renewal of religious life, Sr. Anne and Sr. Mary proposed a new mission to ponder a future contemplative mode of life within the monastic setting. An invitation from John Francis Cardinal Dearden in the Archdiocese of Detroit drew the sisters to an old home in a poorer section of the city in October of 1969. After the sudden sale of this first house, providence directed the sisters to Ortonville's country setting. The owners of the property gave it to the sisters with no down payment and 10 acres of land, encouraging the sisters to repay them in the future. The sisters were blessed with neighbors skilled in construction, who helped build the monastery. In the four decades since the original construction much expansion has taken place including a library, cloister increase, retreat house and a chapel enlargement to accommodate more worshipers for Mass and the divine office. During this time, one of the most important moments came on December 8 1999, when Mt Thabor monastery received its official aggregation into the Dominican Order.

Sr. Anne, the current prioress and one of the foundresses, shared a few insights about life at Mt. Thabor. The sisters, who chose to live a less radical form of enclosure, similar to Benincasa Dominican Monastery in Delaware, explained that the people who pray with them "become part of us," not to interfere but to "become part of [our] life." Sr. Anne recalled that in her days at the Blue Chapel Monastery, prayer requests for the nuns would come in by phone or written communication or perhaps in person. However, when Mt. Thabor went online with a website, the very first prayer request was from Belgium.

Regarding the use of technology and social media, Sr. Mary Joseph, who was solemnly professed in 2012 and manages online communication for the monastery, offered some perspectives on its reality: "We use social media knowing that the particular effort could result in a vocation to this monastery, but you quickly realize that these efforts (in using social media) are not just for getting vocations but are for the whole church and the new evangelization. It's a bigger mystery."

The key goals in founding Mt. Thabor were to observe the following pillars of monastic life: prayer and liturgy, silence, solitude, work (especially sewing), study, and recreation. After the Council's call for renewal there was a deep desire to foster and support the study of sacred truth. Much effort was put into the library wing, dedicated in 1995 under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas. And of course, the prayers of the nuns for the preaching of the Dominican Friars for the salvation of souls goes back to the very founding of St. Dominic's order 800 years ago. Sr. Anne said that the best way she has heard this relationship described in her 57 years in religious life is when a friar told her, "You supply the ammunition to do the battle".

The sisters pray for the whole world at Mt. Thabor Monastery and they are blessed to have such a peaceful setting in which to carry this call to be alone with the Lord, as were Peter, James and John. Why our Lord calls some to live closer to him while on earth is a mystery that will only be fully revealed in heaven. Just as the Transfiguration was only an instant, so too is this life on earth. And just as the three apostles heard the voice of God the Father on Mt. Tabor saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him" (Mt 17:5), the nuns listen to Christ for us and for the whole world. Heaven starting now...

By: Br. John Maria Devaney, O.P.



## **Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic**

*Central Province of St Albert the Great, Chicago, USA.*

The inaugural meeting of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic was held on June 25th at St. Vincent Ferrer Priory in River Forest (Province of St Albert the Great, USA). Seven diocesan priests, five of them under the age of 40, met with me as Provincial Promoter for a three-hour meeting with lunch. They were: Fr. Gary Blake (Peoria), Fr. Alan Guanella (LaCrosse), Fr. Michael Lane (Joliet), Fr. John Lovitsch (Joliet), Fr. Dennis Paul (Joliet), Fr. Matthew Pratscher (Joliet), Fr. Leoncio Santiago (Chicago).

A little bit of information about each one. Fr. Paul was a novice in our province from 1999-2000. Fr. Blake came into contact with the Dominicans through Fr. Cy Fabian in Winona. Fr. Guanella also knew Fr. Fabian and also studied at the Angelicum as did Frs. Lovitsch and Pratscher. Fr. Santiago, who is originally from the Philippines, studied at the University of Santo Tomas where he obtained the degree of Medical Doctor. Fr. Lane is the dean of the Joliet city deanery and started a large chapter of the Dominican laity in his parish, St. Jude. (The Nashville Dominican sisters teach at St. Jude School). Incidentally, Fr. Guanella is a fourth cousin to St. Luigi Guanella (died 1915), founder of the Servants of Charity and other groups.

Several things struck me about the group. All of them have had contact with the Dominicans and seem well aware of the Order's charism. They are particularly attracted to the fraternity dimension of the Dominican Family. (One of them said that his deanery has not met in six years and that he was craving contact with others). Some expressed an interest in preaching. One of them said that he had left the Church for several years and believed that the intercession of St. Dominic was instrumental in his return.

I was not expecting that the group would be so young and so much fun. The meeting and lunch were characterized by a lot of good laughs. Several of them said that they know of others who are interested in joining. Some of our future meetings will be in Joliet where the majority of members reside.

Two others from the Diocese of Lansing were not able to make it owing to distance and conflicts of activities: Fr. Ed Fride, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, and Fr. Anthony Strouse who will soon be a pastor in Adrian, MI. Anthony, who is doing an M.A. in liturgy at Mundelein, had lunch with me last week. Anthony was received into the formation program by Fr. Giles Dimock OP of the Eastern Province and Fr. Ed. is finally professed also through the auspices of the Eastern Province.

If all goes well, these men will make their final profession in February of 2016 at which time they will be constituted as a chapter and entitled to vote for councilors who in turn will elect a prior. Then they will be on their own, much like chapters of the Dominican Laity. As Promoter my role will be more supportive and advisory.

The formation program includes face-to-face meetings three times a year and conference-calls in between meetings. At this point we are discussing the Rule and reading Bede Jarrett's Life of St. Dominic.

I found the men very impressive. I felt honored that they wanted to join the Dominican family. Please pray that this new moment will bear fruit. Also, please get the word out to other diocesan priests who might be interested.

Fr Tom McDermott, OP (Provincial Promoter of the Priestly Fraternity, Province of St Albert the Great, USA)

## **Official News**

### **Events at Taizé in 2015**

The monastic community of Taizé in France will celebrate a Jubilee Year in 2015 to mark the centenary of the birth of Frère Roger and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the community by him. Two events might be of special interest to younger Dominicans.

From 5 to 12 July 2015 there will be a meeting of young people living the monastic or other forms of religious life to reflect on the place of these vocations in the Church and in the world today. 'Young' means up to 40 years of age. Major superiors of some of the main religious orders will participate, including brother



Bruno Cadoré, the Master of the Order, who grew up not far from Taizé. There will be representatives also from Orthodox and Protestant religious communities. You can find more information about this meeting at [http://www.taize.fr/fr\\_article16583.html](http://www.taize.fr/fr_article16583.html)

From 30 August to 6 September 2015 there will be an international gathering of young theologians (again, up to 40 years of age) to consider the theological aspects of brother Roger's life, spirituality and teaching. Information about this gathering can be found at [http://www.taize.fr/fr\\_article16584.html](http://www.taize.fr/fr_article16584.html)

Many Dominican brothers and sisters have visited Taizé during the 75 years of its existence, to experience its special atmosphere of prayer. These events in 2015 invite younger Dominicans to experience what Pope Saint John XXIII described as 'that little springtime'.

### **Institution of the Liturgical Commission of the Order of Preachers**

The Constitution and Ordinations of the Order (LCO 57) reminds us that, "...the celebration of the liturgy is the centre and heart of all our life, the basic source of our unity". This essential dimension of our life is further emphasized by the recent General Chapter of Trogir 2013 when it invited each community to, "celebrate the liturgy as an expression of the life of faith and an act of preaching" (ACG Trogir 2013, 63).

It is in this perspective that the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré institutes the new Liturgical Commission and appoints its members. The members are;

fr. José Filipe Da Costa (Province of Portugal) - President

fr. David Caron (Province of St Martin the Porres, USA)

fr. Thomas Moller (Province of Teutonia, Germany)

fr. Dominik Jurczak (Province of Poland)

sr. Ragnhild Bjelland. (The Dominican Sisters of Notre Dame de Grâce (Chatillon) Oslo)

Other assisting members are,

fr. Joseph Nguyễn Văn Hiên (Province of Vietnam)

fr. Manuel Eduardo Solórzano Zerpa (Vicariate of Venezuela, Province of the Holy Rosary)

The tasks of the commission includes;

- Promoting liturgical life and prayer in the Order, in particular the preparation of liturgical Latin editions and preparing the Ritual of the Order.
- As requested by the General Chapter of Trogir (Trogir ACG 2013, 64), the Commission specifically monitors the progress of the translations of the Proprium Ordinis Praedicatorum. The Commission advises the Master of the Order on the approval of these editions and presentation to the Holy See for confirmation.
- Informs the Order of important news and / or scientific data about liturgy.
- Maintain contacts with those responsible for initial and ongoing formation in the provinces, monasteries, congregations and groups of the Dominican family, to know what is going on in their liturgical life and prayer and/or to make suggestions.
- As part of the celebration of the Jubilee of the Order, the Commission will propose in early 2016 a dossier of significant texts published in the Order which could support the effort of the brothers, communities and provinces to advance this dimension of our liturgical tradition.



- To promote scientific research in the field of liturgy within the Order, especially on important matters concerning the liturgical history and patrimony of the Order.

- Promote liturgical creativity within the Order, encouraging the brothers to take account of the diversity of cultures in the Order.

The appointment is for a six year term.

### **Fr Roberto Giorgis has been appointed as the Secretary General of the General Chapter of Bologna 2016**

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr Roberto Giorgis as the Secretary General of the General Chapter of Bologna 2016. This is in accordance with LCO 414 which requires that the Master appointed a Secretary General of the Chapter who will, “have charge of everything that pertains to the preparation and organization of the Chapter”. Fr Roberto is of the Province of St Dominic in Italy.

He was born in 1968 in the city of Cuneo in the northern part of Italy. He made his first profession in 1990 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1996. He holds a Licentiate in Theology.

The next General Chapter will hold in Bologna in 2016. It will be a Chapter of Provincials. The Chapter is significant because it will mark the 800th Jubilee of the Order. The Province of St Dominic in Italy and the Patriarchal Convent of St Dominic in Bologna will host the Chapter under the coordination of Fr Roberto. fr Bonaventure Agbali, OP

### **Fr David Martínez De Aguirre Guinea, O.P. as been appointed as the Coadjutor Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado (Peru)**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has appointed Fr David Martínez De Aguirre Guinea, O.P. as the Coadjutor Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado (Peru).

The bishop-elect was born in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain in 1970. He had his primary and secondary education at Marianista Santa María Ikastetxea di Vitória-Gasteiz. He made his first profession of religious vows in the Order in 1993 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1999 after studying philosophy and theology at l’Istituto Superiore di Filosofia.ì, Valladolid (1993-1995) and La Facoltà di Teologia di San Esteban, Salamanca (1995-1998) respectively. He holds a licentiate in biblical theology from the University of Deusto, Bilbao and has also studied at the École Biblique in Jerusalem (1998-2000).

He has served in the apostolic vicariate of Puerto Maldonado, as lecturer in biblical theology in the seminary of the vicariate, as priest in the parish of “Inmaculada Concepcion de Kirigueti and as head of the mission of Kirigueti. He is currently head of the “San Pedro Martir de Timpia” mission, member of the directorate of the “Jose Pio Aza” cultural centre in Lima advisor of the regional Dominican vicariate Santa Rosa de Lima.

Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado has a total population of 324,000, among whom are, 259,000 Catholics, 56 priests and 67 religious.

### **Calendar of the Master of the Order for August 2014**

July 29-August 11: Summer Recess

12-16: JRD Dialogue Conference at Indonesia.

18-29: Visitation to Bolivia and Colombia.

*All articles are available on [www.op.org](http://www.op.org)*